

National Congregations Study

Summary Tables

Table 1. Continuity and Change in American Congregations: Attendees' Perspective 1

Compares results from 1998, 2006-07, and 2012

Table 2. Continuity and Change in American Congregations: Congregations' Perspective..... 14

Compares results from 1998, 2006-07, and 2012

Table 3. 2012 National Congregations Study Basic Findings..... 27

Compares 2012 findings from attendee and congregation perspectives

**TABLE 1: CONTINUITY AND CHANGE IN AMERICAN CONGREGATIONS
ATTENDEES' PERSPECTIVE**

This table provides descriptive statistics for many items contained in multiple NCS waves. Values for a single variable in different years that are followed by the same lower case letter are not different from one another at the .01 level of statistical significance.¹ All comparisons are t-tests of means, even when medians are reported. Where differences are not statistically significant, letters are omitted. Sometimes a mean difference between years is statistically significant even when the median is unchanged.

We use a slightly updated version of the 1998 and 2006-07 datasets, so these numbers may not exactly match values produced from the previously available datasets. Means and medians refer to the congregation attended by the average participant (attendee) in religious services.² Percentages give the percentage of attendees in congregations with the stated characteristic.

	1998	2006-07	2012
AGE AND SIZE			
Median founding date	1924 ^a	1940 ^b	1946 ^c
Median congregation age (yrs)	74	66	66
Number of people associated in any way with the congregation's religious life ³			
Mean	2558 ^a	2399 ^a	3278 ^b
Median	750	700	800
Number of people regularly participating in the congregation's religious life			
Mean	1183 ^a	1167 ^a	1540 ^b
Median	400	400	400
Number of <i>adults</i> regularly participating in the congregation's religious life			
Mean	779 ^a	794 ^a	1068 ^b
Median	275	280	310
Percent for whom the number of regularly participating adults in the last two years has:			
Increased	--	49.2 ^a	31.4 ^b

	1998	2006-07	2012
Remained about the same	--	36.2	34.0
Decreased	--	14.6 ^a	34.6 ^b
RELIGIOUS TRADITION⁴			
Roman Catholic	28.8	27.9	27.7
White evangelical/conservative	33.4	37.3	37.6
White moderate/liberal	24.0 ^a	20.0 ^{ab}	17.1 ^b
African American Protestant	10.5	11.4	12.9
Non-Christian	3.4	3.3	4.7
Percent with no denominational affiliation	10.4 ^a	14.0 ^b	15.0 ^b
BUILDING AND FINANCE			
Percent owning their own building	94.9	94.9	92.6
Percent meeting in a:			
Church, synagogue, temple, or mosque	92.9 ^a	97.3 ^b	95.7 ^b
School	3.3 ^a	0.8 ^b	1.0 ^b
Other kind of building	3.8 ^a	2.0 ^b	3.3 ^{ab}
Percent with a formal written budget	87.7	88.8	90.8
Median income in past year	\$260,000 ^a	\$379,200 ^b	\$450,000 ^c
Median income from individuals in past year	\$230,000 ^a	\$328,800 ^b	\$400,000 ^c
Median budget for past year	\$250,000 ^a	\$350,000 ^b	\$450,000 ^c
Percent receiving income in the past year from sale or rent of building or property ⁵	37.9 ^a	30.6 ^b	35.2
Median amount of income from rental or sale of building or property in past year ⁶	\$4,900	\$9,000	\$10,000
Percent giving money to denomination in the past year	82.8 ^a	80.2 ^a	74.8 ^b
Median amount given to denominations in past year ⁷	\$20,800 ^a	\$25,000 ^a	\$32,000 ^b

	1998	2006-07	2012
Percent with an endowment, savings account, or reserve fund	73.9	73.3	77.2
Median amount in endowment, savings, or reserve ⁸	\$70,000 ^a	\$100,000 ^{ab}	\$150,000 ^b
LEADERSHIP			
Percent with a head clergyperson or leader	95.5	97.0	95.7
Percent with full-time head clergyperson or leader	--	87.0	89.9
Percent with female head clergyperson or leader	5.5	4.6	6.2
Percent with head clergyperson or leader of each race or ethnicity:			
White	83.9 ^a	79.5 ^b	75.5 ^b
Black	11.9	13.0	14.6
Hispanic	2.1 ^a	3.3 ^a	6.0 ^b
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.4 ^a	3.1 ^b	3.5 ^b
Other	0.7	1.1	0.5
Median number of years senior clergyperson in current position	6.0	6.0	6.0
Median age of senior clergyperson	51 ^a	54 ^b	55 ^b
Percent for whom head clergyperson has highest education level of:			
Less than high school	1.4	--	0.9
High school diploma or GED, with or without one or more years of college	9.4	--	12.1
Bachelor's degree	15.0	--	15.4
Graduate Degree	74.2	--	71.6

	1998	2006-07	2012
Percent for whom head clergy person has following characteristics:			
Currently attends seminary or theological school	--	13.0 ^a	7.6 ^b
Ordained to full clergy status	--	97.1	96.9
Paid for work in congregation	--	92.5	94.3
Also serves another congregation	--	11.2	11.1
Also holds another job	--	17.4	17.7
PAID STAFF			
Percent with the following characteristics:			
No paid staff ⁹	6.9 ^a	5.1 ^{ab}	5.2 ^b
No full-time staff	14.7	11.5	11.9
1 full-time staff person	20.4	22.6	21.5
2 or more full-time staff people	65.0	65.9	66.6
No full-time ministerial staff ¹⁰	--	12.6	13.3
1 full-time ministerial staff person	--	32.9	31.4
2 or more full-time ministerial staff people	--	54.5	55.3
No part-time staff	17.0	16.7	15.5
1 part-time staff person	10.0	9.7	10.1
2 or more part-time staff people	73.0	73.6	74.4
Number of full-time paid staff:			
Mean	7.8	9.1	9.6
Median	3.0	3.0	3.0

	1998	2006-07	2012
Number of full-time paid ministerial staff:			
Mean	--	3.6 ^a	4.6 ^b
Median	--	2.0	2.0
Percent of full-time staff whose positions are ministerial or religious in nature	--	66.4	65.9
Number of part-time paid staff:			
Mean	5.9 ^a	5.8 ^a	7.4 ^b
Median	3.0	4.0	4.0
Percent for whom the number of full-time paid staff in past year has:			
Increased	--	17.5	14.3
Stayed the same	--	74.5	76.0
Decreased	--	7.9	9.7
For congregations with at least two full-time paid ministerial staff, percent of staff (not including head clergy person), with following characteristics: ¹¹			
Are male	--	55.6	61.7
Graduated from seminary or theological school	--	43.3	38.4
Currently attend seminary or theological school	--	9.4	9.5
Are ordained to full clergy status	--	42.6	45.3
Were regular members or participants before current position	--	34.5	49.5
WORSHIP			
Percent with 1 service in typical week	14.3	14.5	17.8
Percent with 2 or more services in typical week	85.6	85.3	82.2

	1998	2006-07	2012
Percent reporting important differences between services on typical weekend	--	50.9 ^a	42.5 ^b
Median length of most recent main service (minutes)	70	70	70
Median length of most recent sermon (minutes)	20	20	22
Median number of minutes of music at most recent main service	20	20	20
Median number of socializing minutes before/after typical service	30	30	30
Median attendance at most recent main service	230	200	225
Median total attendance (adults and children) at <i>all</i> services during the past weekend	--	325 ^a	400 ^b
Median number of regularly participating adults attending more than one service in past week ¹²	50	45	50
Percent of most recent main services with each characteristic:			
Sermon or speech	97.2	98.0	98.4
Speaker came down from the chancel during sermon	--	43.4	42.3
Singing by congregation	98.1	97.1	98.4
Singing by choir	72.3 ^a	58.0 ^b	57.2 ^b
Time to greet one another	84.6 ^a	86.7 ^{ab}	88.2 ^b
Congregants joining hands	--	38.0 ^a	43.2 ^b
Leader wearing robe or special garments	--	52.2 ^a	46.3 ^b
People saying "amen"	52.8 ^a	60.4 ^b	59.5 ^b
Applause	58.7	59.1	62.2
Adults jump, shout, or dance spontaneously	13.1 ^a	17.3 ^b	22.1 ^c

Table 1 (Cont.) Continuity and Change, Attendees' Perspective

2015-01

	1998	2006-07	2012
Raise hands in praise	48.1 ^a	55.2 ^b	59.0 ^b
Written order of service	84.2 ^a	75.4 ^b	69.1 ^c
Visual projection equipment	14.8 ^a	32.4 ^b	45.0 ^c
Organ used	70.1 ^a	--	56.0 ^b
Drums used	25.1 ^a	36.4 ^b	45.5 ^c
Guitar used	--	43.7 ^a	49.2 ^b
Percent with the following in any worship in past year:			
Speaking in tongues	19.5 ^a	20.6 ^{ab}	24.6 ^b
People told of opportunities for political activity	36.8 ^a	29.5 ^b	24.3 ^c
People told of opportunities for volunteer activity	--	96.2	95.3
Time for people other than leaders to testify	72.1 ^a	78.7 ^b	74.4 ^a
Percent with Spanish or bilingual service(s) in typical week	--	16.3	19.4
DOCTRINE AND CULTURE			
Percent encouraging use of NIV Bible rather than other translations	21.9 ^a	--	15.7 ^b
Percent considering Bible to be literal and inerrant	63.0 ^a	70.7 ^b	71.3 ^b
Percent saying their congregation would be considered <i>politically</i> :			
More on the conservative side	55.1	54.1	52.2
Right in the middle	37.0	38.7	37.8
More on the liberal side	7.8	7.2	10.0
Percent saying their congregation would be considered <i>theologically</i> :			
More on the conservative side	52.7 ^a	57.8 ^b	59.0 ^b

	1998	2006-07	2012
Right in the middle	37.6 ^a	33.4 ^a	28.8 ^b
More on the liberal side	9.8 ^{ab}	8.8 ^a	12.2 ^b
GROUPS AND SPEAKERS			
Number of regularly participating teenagers			
Mean	--	100 ^a	144 ^b
Median	--	30	35
Percent with youth minister	--	77.2	76.6
Percent with a group in the past year focused on the following:			
Discuss politics	12.5	15.5	13.2
Voter registration	12.4 ^a	27.3 ^b	23.4 ^b
Get out the vote during an election	--	25.0	26.4
English as a second language	9.0 ^a	14.2 ^b	15.5 ^b
Receive or practice gifts of spirit	19.7 ^a	15.6 ^b	19.0 ^{ab}
Class to train new teachers	67.6	65.1	69.1
Discuss/learn about another religion	29.8 ^a	37.4 ^b	37.8 ^b
Discuss/learn about managing personal finances	33.1 ^a	--	47.7 ^b
Discuss management of congregation's money	55.6 ^a	--	72.2 ^b
Assess community needs	48.1 ^a	57.1 ^b	67.8 ^c
Volunteer/service project with people from another faith	--	51.9 ^a	65.5 ^b
Strategic planning and future goals of congregation	--	89.0 ^a	93.8 ^b
Travel in U.S. to assist people in need	--	49.8 ^a	44.7 ^b
Travel abroad to assist people in need	--	42.2	41.8
Percent with organized effort to help members of congregation	--	89.2 ^a	85.4 ^b

Table 1 (Cont.) Continuity and Change, Attendees' Perspective

2015-01

	1998	2006-07	2012
Percent with organized effort to provide members with health-focused programs	--	41.3	42.8
Percent having any visiting speakers in the past year	89.6 ^a	86.2 ^b	86.7 ^{ab}
Speaker was: ¹³			
Elected government official	13.8	14.3	12.9
Denominational representative	69.2	74.6	70.9
Representatives of social service organization	44.0	54.0	54.9
Someone running for office	7.1	7.5	6.9
Percent with members serving on denominational committees in past year	--	77.9	75.4
POLITICAL ACTIVITIES			
Percent distributing voter guides ¹⁴	26.5	25.6	24.2
Group met in past year to lobby an elected official	12.0 ^a	14.5 ^{ab}	15.7 ^b
Group met in past year to participate in demonstration or march	21.5 ^{ab}	20.2 ^a	24.8 ^b
Group lobby/march activities related to: ¹⁵			
Immigration	--	18.1	24.1
Abortion	--	53.4	63.4
Poverty/welfare, social services support	--	15.7	--
Poverty	--	--	42.0
Gay and lesbian issues	--	13.7	--
Same-sex marriage	--	--	24.3
SOCIAL SERVICES			
Percent participating in any social service programs in past year	--	89.3	91.7
Median amount spent on social service programs in the past year ¹⁶	--	\$5,000	\$10,000

	1998	2006-07	2012
Percent with anyone on paid staff spending more than 25% of their time on congregation's social service projects	--	20.8	23.5
Percent with outside funding support for social service programs	--	16.5	14.3
Percent with outside funding support from local, state, or federal government	--	5.8	3.9
Percent who have applied in past two years for a government grant	--	9.5	9.2
Percent who have started a separate non-profit organization in past two years for human services or outreach ministries	--	10.1	12.3
SOCIAL COMPOSITION			
Median percent of regular adult participants:			
Who are female	60.0	60.0	60.0
With a four-year college degree or higher education	30.0 ^a	40.0 ^b	40.0 ^b
Over 60 years old	25.0 ^a	30.0 ^b	30.0 ^c
Under 35 years old	25.0	25.0	25.0
Who live more than a 30 minute drive from meeting place	5.0	5.0	5.0
With household income under \$25,000/year	20.0 ^a	10.0 ^b	--
With household income under \$35,000/year	--	--	20.0
With household income higher than \$100,000/year	5.0 ^a	10.0 ^b	--
With household income higher than \$140,000/year	--	--	10.0
Living in households with two parents and at least one child	50.0 ^a	50.0 ^{ab}	45.0 ^b
Serving in leadership role in past year	20.0	20.0	20.0

	1998	2006-07	2012
Percent of congregations:			
At least 80% white and non-Hispanic	71.6 ^a	65.6 ^b	57.4 ^c
At least 80% black	12.1	12.0	13.6
More than 0% Hispanic	57.0 ^a	64.0 ^b	65.4 ^b
At least 80% Hispanic	1.5 ^a	4.0 ^b	7.7 ^c
More than 0% Asian or Pacific Islander	41.0 ^a	49.7 ^b	48.8 ^b
More than 0% American Indian	--	21.0 ^a	15.8 ^b
With more than 0% immigrated to the U.S. in past five years	39.4 ^a	50.7 ^b	48.1 ^b
MEMBERS AND LAY LEADERS			
Percent allowing openly gay or lesbian couple in committed relationship to:			
Hold full-fledged membership	--	48.8	51.1
Hold any volunteer leadership positions open to other members	--	21.9 ^a	27.0 ^b
Percent allowing women to:			
Hold all volunteer leadership positions that men can hold	--	79.6	82.0
Serve as full-fledged members of main governing body	--	86.1	87.8
Teach by themselves a class with adult men in it	--	87.8	89.7
Preach at a main worship service	--	56.7	53.6
Be head clergy person or primary religious leader	--	39.3	42.3
GEOGRAPHY			
Percent in each region: ¹⁷			
Northeast and Mid-Atlantic	19.5 ^a	15.4 ^b	12.7 ^b

Table 1 (Cont.) Continuity and Change, Attendees' Perspective

2015-01

	1998	2006-07	2012
East North Central and West North Central	24.3	24.4	25.9
South Atlantic, East South Central, and West South Central	38.5	38.7	42.3
Mountain and Pacific	17.7	21.5	19.1
NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTERISTICS			
Percent in census tracts with at least 30% of individuals below the poverty line	10.1 ^a	10.4 ^a	14.4 ^b
Percent in census tracts where at least 5% of people are Hispanic	29.2 ^a	39.6 ^b	55.8 ^c
Percent in census tracts where at least 80% of people are African-American	5.0	4.0	3.6
Percent in predominantly urban census tracts	60.9 ^a	66.8 ^b	73.1 ^c
Percent in predominantly rural census tracts	23.3 ^a	17.8 ^b	14.7 ^b
OTHER			
Percent with an elementary or high school	23.4	20.9	23.5
Percent with a website	28.7 ^a	74.3 ^b	83.0 ^c
Percent with member publicly acknowledging HIV infection	--	9.4	11.6

¹ For example, the average (mean) number of people associated in any way with the congregation is not significantly different between 1998 and 2006, but 2012 is different from both previous waves. Hence, the 1998 and 2006 values are followed by the same letter ("a"), and 2012 is followed by a different one ("b"). In a different example, the percent of congregations with no denominational affiliation is not different between the years 1998 and 2006 (both followed by "a") or between 2006 and 2012 (both followed by "b"), but 1998 and 2012 are significantly different from one another.

² To get results that represent the average attendee, data weighting ignores the over-representation of larger congregations, but consider duplicate nominations (congregations nominated by more than one person in the GSS), the 2012 oversample of Hispanic congregations, and other relevant characteristics of the survey. The weighting variable used for this table is termed "wt_all3_attendee" in the publicly available dataset. For more information on weights, see the NCS Cumulative Codebook for Waves I, II, and III, available at <http://www.soc.duke.edu/natcong/>.

³ One extreme outlying observation in 2012 has been removed from this and the following two size variables.

⁴ The largest groups in the moderate/liberal category are, in size order beginning with the largest, the United

Methodist Church (334 congregations), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (155), Presbyterian Church (USA) (112), Episcopal Church (103), United Church of Christ (71), American Baptist Churches in the USA (38), Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) (20), and Unitarian Universalist (23). The largest groups in the evangelical/conservative category are nondenominational congregations (319 congregations), the Southern Baptist Convention (382), Assemblies of God (75), Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (73), Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints (63), Jehovah's Witness (35), Churches of Christ (28), Seventh Day Adventists (26), Baptist General Conference/Convention (24), Church of the Nazarene (22), Christian Missionary Alliance (19), Baptist Missionary Association of America (19), Evangelical Free Church (17), and Church of God (Anderson) (16). No other group in either category is represented by more than 15 congregations in the NCS sample. The African American Protestant category includes all predominantly African American Protestant churches, whatever their denominational affiliation. The largest groups are the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. (54 congregations), Church of God in Christ (38), and African Methodist Episcopal (30). Predominantly white Protestant congregations that are unaffiliated with any denomination are included in the conservative/evangelical category unless we have good reason to include them elsewhere.

⁵ In 1998 and 2006, this question asked about both rental and sale income, but in 2012 it asked only about rental income. Therefore, statistical comparison is only possible between the first two waves.

⁶ Calculated only for those congregations that earned rental or sale income from property in past year.

⁷ Calculated only for those congregations that gave any money to their denominations.

⁸ Calculated only for those congregations with an endowment, savings, or reserve account.

⁹ Although respondents were asked in all waves how many people work in the congregation as paid staff, in 2006-07 and 2012 the question was prefaced with "including you" (if the respondent was an employee), and interviewers were trained in 2006-07 and 2012 to probe to make sure that informants included themselves. We believe this difference is behind the initial decrease in the percent of congregations with no paid staff.

¹⁰ Ministerial staff members are those primarily engaged in religious work, that is, not secretaries or custodians.

¹¹ Calculated only for those congregations with two or more full-time paid ministerial staff. Values given are the proportion of all full-time paid ministerial staff who are not the head clergy person. One congregation with extreme values in FT ministry staff was removed from these analyses.

¹² Calculated only for those congregations that report two or more services in a typical week.

¹³ Calculated only for those congregations that hosted a visiting speaker in the past year.

¹⁴ In 1998 respondents were asked if their congregation had ever distributed voter guides; in 2006-07 and 2012, respondents were asked if their congregation had distributed voter guides *within the past two years*.

¹⁵ Calculated only for those congregations that lobbied elected officials or demonstrated/marched.

¹⁶ This item and the following social service values are calculated only for those congregations that participated in social service programs or projects in the past year.

¹⁷ Northeast states are ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT. Mid-Atlantic states are NY, NJ, PA. East North Central states are OH, IN, IL, MI, WI. West North Central states are MN, IA, MO, ND, SD, NE, KS. South Atlantic states are DE, MD, DC, VA, WV, NC, SC, GA, FL. East South Central states are KY, TE, AL, MS. West South Central states are AR, LA, OK, TX. Mountain states are MT, ID, WY, CO, NM, AZ, UT, NV. Pacific states are WA, OR, CA, AK, HI.

**TABLE 2: CONTINUITY AND CHANGE IN AMERICAN CONGREGATIONS
CONGREGATIONS' PERSPECTIVE**

This table provides descriptive statistics for many items contained in more than one NCS wave. Values for a single variable in different years that are followed by the same lower case letter are not different from one another at the .01 level of statistical significance.¹ All comparisons are t-tests of means, even when medians are reported. Where differences are not statistically significant, letters are omitted. Sometimes a mean difference between years is statistically significant even when the median is unchanged.

We use a slightly updated version of the 1998 and 2006-07 datasets, so these numbers may not exactly match values produced from the previously available datasets. Means and medians refer to the average congregation.² Percentages give the percentage of congregations with the stated characteristic.

	1998	2006-07	2012
AGE AND SIZE			
Median founding date	1938 ^a	1944 ^b	1954 ^c
Median congregation age (yrs)	60	62	58
Number of people associated in any way with the congregation's religious life ³			
Mean	414	396	404
Median	150	150	135
Number of people regularly participating in the congregation's religious life			
Mean	185	184	183
Median	80	75	70
Number of <i>adults</i> regularly participating in the congregation's religious life			
Mean	120	124	120
Median	50	50	50
Percent for whom the number of regularly participating adults in the last two years has:			
Increased	--	42.5	38.2

Table 2 (Cont.) Continuity and Change, Congregations' Perspective

2015-01

	1998	2006-07	2012
Remained about the same	--	40.3	36.5
Decreased	--	17.2 ^a	25.3 ^b
RELIGIOUS TRADITION⁴			
Roman Catholic	7.3	6.0	5.5
White evangelical/conservative	45.7	47.8	46.1
White moderate/liberal	26.3 ^a	19.7 ^b	20.3 ^b
African American Protestant	15.8 ^a	23.4 ^b	21.4 ^b
Non-Christian	4.9 ^{ab}	3.1 ^a	6.7 ^b
Percent with no denominational affiliation	18.1 ^a	20.4 ^{ab}	23.5 ^b
BUILDING AND FINANCE			
Percent owning their own building	87.6 ^{ab}	89.7 ^a	84.6 ^b
Percent meeting in a:			
Church, synagogue, temple, or mosque	87.3 ^a	92.7 ^b	88.9 ^a
School	5.0 ^a	1.0 ^b	1.8 ^b
Other kind of building	7.8 ^{ab}	6.3 ^a	9.3 ^b
Percent with a formal written budget	72.8	75.3	76.4
Median income in past year	\$60,000 ^a	\$96,000 ^b	\$95,000 ^b
Median income from individuals in past year	\$55,000 ^a	\$85,000 ^b	\$83,600 ^b
Median budget for past year	\$60,000 ^a	\$94,000 ^b	\$85,000 ^b
Percent receiving income in the past year from sale or rent of building or property ⁵	24.0	21.3	22.3
Median amount of income from rental or sale of building or property in past year ⁶	\$1,500	\$7,000	\$5,000
Percent giving money to denomination in the past year	73.6 ^a	74.2 ^a	62.7 ^b
Median amount given to denominations in past year ⁷	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$7,400

	1998	2006-07	2012
Percent with an endowment, savings account, or reserve fund	59.8	57.3	60.5
Median amount in endowment, savings, or reserve ⁸	\$19,700 ^a	\$30,000 ^{ab}	\$32,900 ^b
LEADERSHIP			
Percent with a head clergy person or leader	92.3 ^a	95.0 ^b	94.2 ^{ab}
Percent with full-time head clergy person or leader	--	63.2 ^a	71.4 ^b
Percent with female head clergy person or leader	10.6	7.9	11.4
Percent with head clergy person or leader of each race or ethnicity:			
White	76.9 ^a	69.2 ^b	67.5 ^b
Black	18.6 ^a	25.0 ^b	23.3 ^b
Hispanic	1.8 ^a	1.9 ^a	5.7 ^b
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.7	2.5	2.7
Other	0.9	1.4	0.9
Median number of years senior clergy person in current position	4.0 ^a	5.0 ^b	6.0 ^c
Median age of senior clergy person	49 ^a	53 ^b	55 ^c
Percent for whom head clergy person has highest education level of:			
Less than high school	5.7	--	3.2
High school diploma or GED, with or without one or more years of college	22.3	--	25.1
Bachelor's degree	19.8	--	23.0
Graduate Degree	52.2	--	48.7

	1998	2006-07	2012
Percent with head clergyperson having following characteristics:			
Currently attends seminary or theological school	--	11.7 ^a	7.0 ^b
Ordained to full clergy status	--	94.0	92.6
Paid for work in congregation	--	80.7 ^a	86.2 ^b
Also serves another congregation	--	13.6	16.3
Also holds another job	--	37.0	34.3
PAID STAFF			
Percent with the following characteristics:			
No paid staff ⁹	22.4 ^a	13.4 ^b	15.9 ^b
No full-time staff	39.3	34.6	35.5
1 full-time staff person	34.5	36.0	39.2
2 or more full-time staff people	26.3	29.4	25.3
No full-time ministerial staff ¹⁰	--	36.8	37.3
1 full-time ministerial staff person	--	43.8	45.4
2 or more full-time ministerial staff people	--	19.5	17.3
No part-time staff	41.6 ^a	34.5 ^b	37.0 ^{ab}
1 part-time staff person	17.3	18.4	18.1
2 or more part-time staff people	41.1 ^a	47.1 ^b	44.9 ^{ab}
Number of full-time paid staff:			
Mean	1.8 ^a	1.9 ^a	3.0 ^b
Median	1.0	1.0	1.0

	1998	2006-07	2012
Number of full-time paid ministerial staff:			
Mean	--	1.1 ^a	2.2 ^b
Median	--	1.0	1.0
Percent of full-time staff whose positions are ministerial or religious in nature	--	80.1	83.0
Number of part-time paid staff:			
Mean	2.2	2.4	2.3
Median	1.0	1.0	1.0
Percent for whom the number of full-time paid staff in past year has:			
Increased	--	6.8	6.4
Stayed the same	--	86.9	89.9
Decreased	--	6.3 ^a	3.8 ^b
For congregations with at least two full-time paid ministerial staff, percent of staff (not including head clergy person) with following characteristics: ¹¹			
Male	--	59.9	59.4
Graduated from seminary or theological school	--	44.2	44.7
Currently attend seminary or theological school	--	13.1	8.7
Are ordained to full clergy status	--	45.6	53.7
Were regular members or participants before current position	--	36.1	53.5
WORSHIP			
Percent with 1 service in typical week	26.6 ^a	28.5 ^a	38.1 ^b

Table 2 (Cont.) Continuity and Change, Congregations' Perspective

2015-01

	1998	2006-07	2012
Percent with 2 or more services in typical week	72.8 ^a	71.4 ^a	61.9 ^b
Percent reporting important differences between services on typical weekend	--	48.8 ^a	30.6 ^b
Median length of most recent main service (minutes)	75	75	75
Median length of most recent sermon (minutes)	25 ^a	30 ^b	30 ^{ab}
Median number of minutes of music at most recent main service	20	20	20
Median number of socializing minutes before/after typical service	30	30	30
Median attendance at most recent main service	70	65	60
Median total attendance (adults and children) at <i>all</i> services during the past weekend	--	90	76
Median number of regularly participating adults attending more than one service in past week ¹²	25	25	25
Percent of most recent main services with each characteristic:			
Sermon or speech	95.3	95.3	96.5
Speaker came down from the chancel during sermon	--	50.6	48.6
Singing by congregation	96.8	97.2	96.4
Singing by choir	53.9 ^a	44.1 ^b	45.3 ^b
Time to greet one another	78.4	80.7	81.4
Congregants joining hands	--	34.0 ^a	40.3 ^b
Leader wearing robe or special garments	--	32.1	30.1
People saying "amen"	60.7 ^a	70.7 ^b	66.7 ^b

Table 2 (Cont.) Continuity and Change, Congregations' Perspective

2015-01

	1998	2006-07	2012
Applause	54.6 ^a	61.3 ^b	65.3 ^b
Adults jump, shout, or dance spontaneously	19.2 ^a	25.8 ^b	26.5 ^b
Raise hands in praise	44.6 ^a	56.7 ^b	59.4 ^b
Written order of service	72.0 ^a	67.8 ^a	62.2 ^b
Visual projection equipment	11.9 ^a	26.5 ^b	35.3 ^c
Organ used	53.0 ^a	--	42.0 ^b
Drums used	19.9 ^a	32.5 ^b	34.3 ^b
Guitar used	--	33.5	29.3
Percent with the following in any worship in past year:			
Speaking in tongues	24.0 ^a	27.0 ^{ab}	29.8 ^b
People told of opportunities for political activity	26.2 ^a	21.4 ^b	14.5 ^c
People told of opportunities for volunteer activity	--	93.6	91.8
Time for people other than leaders to testify	77.6 ^a	85.0 ^b	84.9 ^b
Percent with Spanish or bilingual services	--	6.3	8.8
DOCTRINE AND CULTURE			
Percent encouraging use of NIV Bible rather than other translations	20.8	--	21.2
Percent considering Bible to be literal and inerrant	76.2 ^a	82.6 ^b	83.3 ^b
Percent saying their congregation would be considered <i>politically</i> :			
More on the conservative side	62.0 ^a	58.1 ^a	54.9 ^b
Right in the middle	30.6	34.6	33.7
More on the liberal side	7.4 ^a	7.4 ^a	11.5 ^b

	1998	2006-07	2012
Percent saying their congregation would be considered <i>theologically</i> :			
More on the conservative side	59.8	62.8	62.8
Right in the middle	29.9 ^a	29.5 ^a	25.0 ^b
More on the liberal side	10.3 ^{ab}	7.7 ^a	12.2 ^b
GROUPS AND SPEAKERS			
Number of regularly participating teenagers			
Mean	--	19.9	22.3
Median	--	10.0	8.0
Percent with youth minister	--	55.6	54.9
Percent with a group in the past year focused on the following:			
Discuss politics	6.4	6.3	5.8
Voter registration	8.3 ^a	17.8 ^b	11.1 ^a
Get out the vote during an election	--	22.8	19.8
English as a second language	3.6 ^a	5.8 ^b	4.8 ^a
Receive or practice gifts of spirit	13.4 ^{ab}	11.1 ^a	15.9 ^b
Class to train new teachers	38.0	39.4	41.3
Discuss/learn about another religion	20.3 ^a	25.2 ^b	25.9 ^b
Discuss/learn about managing personal finances	21.9 ^a	--	30.6 ^b
Discuss management of congregation's money	46.9 ^a	--	66.2 ^b
Assess community needs	36.9 ^a	48.4 ^b	56.7 ^c
Volunteer/service project with people from another faith	--	34.8 ^a	51.5 ^b
Strategic planning and future goals of congregation	--	82.4 ^a	86.1 ^b

Table 2 (Cont.) Continuity and Change, Congregations' Perspective

2015-01

	1998	2006-07	2012
Travel in U.S. to assist people in need	--	30.9	34.2
Travel abroad to assist people in need	--	25.2	27.3
Percent with organized effort to help members of congregation	--	80.8	80.0
Percent with organized effort to provide members with health-focused programs	--	22.0 ^a	28.1 ^b
Percent having any visiting speakers in the past year	83.1	81.4	78.6
Speaker was: ¹³			
Elected government official	8.0 ^{ab}	10.1 ^a	6.6 ^b
Denominational representative	62.5 ^a	68.6 ^b	71.4 ^b
Representatives of social service organization	26.7 ^a	37.6 ^b	39.9 ^b
Someone running for office	5.5	6.8	6.7
Percent with members serving on denominational committees in past year	--	66.1	62.8
POLITICAL ACTIVITIES			
Percent distributing voter guides ¹⁴	17.0 ^a	17.2 ^a	12.9 ^b
Group met in past year to lobby an elected official	4.4 ^a	7.9 ^b	6.6 ^a
Group met in past year to participate in demonstration or march	9.2 ^a	8.3 ^a	12.5 ^b
Group lobby/march activities related to: ¹⁵			
Immigration	--	8.8	13.0
Abortion	--	32.9	33.3
Poverty/welfare, social services support	--	17.0	--
Poverty	--	--	37.4
Gay and lesbian issues	--	15.8	--
Same-sex marriage	--	--	29.0

	1998	2006-07	2012
SOCIAL SERVICES			
Percent participating in any social service programs in past year	--	80.8	83.1
Median amount spent on social service programs in the past year ¹⁶	--	\$1,400	\$1,500
Percent with anyone on paid staff spending more than 25% of their time on congregation's social service projects	--	13.6	16.9
Percent with outside funding support for social service programs	--	13.3	10.8
Percent with outside funding support from local, state, or federal government	--	5.0 ^a	1.9 ^b
Percent who have applied in past two years for a government grant	--	3.6	4.9
Percent who have started a separate non-profit organization in past two years for human services or outreach ministries	--	6.1 ^a	8.9 ^b
SOCIAL COMPOSITION			
Median percent of regular adult participants:			
Who are female	60	60	60
With a four-year college degree or higher education	15.4 ^a	20.0 ^b	25.0 ^c
Over 60 years old	25.0 ^a	30.0 ^b	30.0 ^b
Under 35 years old	25.0 ^a	20.0 ^b	20.0 ^b
Who live more than a 30 minute drive from meeting place	5.0	5.0	5.0
With household income under \$25,000/year	30.0 ^a	20.0 ^b	--
With household income under \$35,000/year	--	--	30.0

Table 2 (Cont.) Continuity and Change, Congregations' Perspective

2015-01

	1998	2006-07	2012
With household income higher than \$100,000/year	0.0 ^a	2.0 ^b	--
With household income higher than \$140,000/year	--	--	1.0
Living in households with two parents and at least one child	40.0 ^a	30.0 ^b	30.0 ^b
Serving in leadership role in past year	33.3 ^a	30.0 ^b	28.6 ^b
Percent of congregations:			
At least 80% white and non-Hispanic	71.2 ^a	62.6 ^b	57.1 ^c
At least 80% black	17.0 ^a	23.8 ^b	21.2 ^b
More than 0% Hispanic	33.3	35.7	37.6
At least 80% Hispanic	1.4 ^a	2.2 ^a	6.0 ^b
More than 0% Asian or Pacific Islander	18.2 ^a	22.6 ^b	23.9 ^b
More than 0% American Indian	--	11.1	11.2
With more than 0% immigrated to the U.S. in past five years	17.9	20.4	18.4
MEMBERS AND LAY LEADERS			
Percent allowing openly gay or lesbian couple in committed relationship to:			
Hold full-fledged membership	--	37.4 ^a	48.0 ^b
Hold any volunteer leadership positions open to other members	--	17.8 ^a	26.5 ^b
Percent allowing women to:			
Hold all volunteer leadership positions that men can hold	--	73.7 ^a	79.3 ^b
Serve as full-fledged members of main governing body	--	84.0	86.4
Teach by themselves a class with adult men in it	--	83.7	85.7
Preach at a main worship service	--	65.3	67.8

Table 2 (Cont.) Continuity and Change, Congregations' Perspective

2015-01

	1998	2006-07	2012
Be head clergyperson or primary religious leader	--	46.8 ^a	57.7 ^b
GEOGRAPHY			
Percent in each region: ¹⁷			
Northeast and Mid-Atlantic	12.7	12.9	12.1
East North Central and West North Central	20.1 ^a	25.0 ^b	22.9 ^{ab}
South Atlantic, East South Central, and West South Central	48.8	47.7	50.8
Mountain and Pacific	18.5 ^a	14.4 ^b	14.2 ^b
NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTERISTICS			
Percent in census tracts with at least 30% of individuals below the poverty line	11.8 ^a	14.1 ^{ab}	17.1 ^b
Percent in census tracts with at least 5% Hispanics	25.4 ^a	28.2 ^a	50.2 ^c
Percent in census tracts with at least 80% African-Americans	3.7 ^{ab}	5.2 ^a	2.8 ^b
Percent in predominantly urban census tracts	41.8 ^a	44.1 ^a	50.2 ^b
Percent in predominantly rural census tracts	43.4 ^a	32.6 ^b	31.7 ^b
OTHER			
Percent with an elementary or high school	6.1	4.7	5.6
Percent with a website	17.1 ^a	44.3 ^b	55.7 ^c
Percent with member publicly acknowledging HIV infection	--	4.4 ^a	7.3 ^b

¹ For example, the mean number of people associated in any way with the congregation is not significantly different between 1998 and 2006, but 2012 is different from both previous waves. Hence, the 1998 and 2006 values are followed by the same letter ("a"), and 2012 is followed by a different one ("b"). In a different example, the percent

of congregations with no denominational affiliation is not different between the years 1998 and 2006 (both followed by "a") or between 2006 and 2012 (both followed by "b"), but 1998 and 2012 are significantly different from one another.

² To get results that represent the average congregation, data are weighted to account for a larger congregation having an increased probability of being in the survey. Therefore, using this weighting, the information from smaller congregations counts as much as that from larger ones. Weight adjustments also consider duplicate nominations (congregations nominated by more than one person in the GSS), the 2012 oversample of Hispanic congregations, and other relevant characteristics of the survey. The weighting variable used for this table is termed "wt_all3_cong_dup" in the publicly available dataset. For more information on weights, see the NCS Cumulative Codebook for Waves I, II, and III, available at <http://www.soc.duke.edu/natcong/>.

³ One extreme outlying observation in 2012 has been removed from this and the following two size variables.

⁴ Congregations are placed within a religious tradition, even if they do not have a formal denominational affiliation. The largest groups in the moderate/liberal category are, in size order beginning with the largest, the United Methodist Church (334 congregations), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (155), Presbyterian Church (USA) (112), Episcopal Church (103), United Church of Christ (71), American Baptist Churches in the USA (38), Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) (20), and Unitarian Universalist (23). The largest groups in the evangelical/conservative category are nondenominational congregations (319 congregations), the Southern Baptist Convention (382), Assemblies of God (75), Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (73), Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints (63), Jehovah's Witness (35), Churches of Christ (28), Seventh Day Adventists (26), Baptist General Conference/Convention (24), Church of the Nazarene (22), Christian Missionary Alliance (19), Baptist Missionary Association of America (19), Evangelical Free Church (17), and Church of God (Anderson) (16). No other group in either category is represented by more than 15 congregations in the NCS sample. The African American Protestant category includes all predominantly African American Protestant churches, whatever their denominational affiliation. The largest groups are the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. (54 congregations), Church of God in Christ (38), and African Methodist Episcopal (30). Predominantly white Protestant congregations that are unaffiliated with any denomination are included in the conservative/evangelical category unless we have good reason to include them elsewhere.

⁵ In 1998 and 2006, this question asked about both rental and sale income, but in 2012 it asked only about rental income.

⁶ Calculated only for those congregations that earned rental or sale income from property in past year.

⁷ Calculated only for those congregations that gave any money to their denominations.

⁸ Calculated only for those congregations with an endowment, savings, or reserve account.

⁹ Although respondents were asked in all waves how many people work in the congregation as paid staff, in 2006-07 and 2012 the question was prefaced with "including you" (if the respondent was an employee), and interviewers were trained in 2006-07 and 2012 to probe to make sure that informants included themselves. We believe this difference is behind the initial decrease in the percent of congregations with no paid staff.

¹⁰ Ministerial staff members are those primarily engaged in religious work, that is, not secretaries or custodians.

¹¹ Calculated only for those congregations with two or more full-time paid ministerial staff. Values given are the proportion of all full-time paid ministerial staff who are not the head clergy person. One congregation with extreme values in FT ministry staff was removed from these analyses.

¹² Calculated only for those congregations that report two or more services in a typical week.

¹³ Calculated only for those congregations that hosted a visiting speaker in the past year.

¹⁴ In 1998 respondents were asked if their congregation had ever distributed voter guides; in 2006-07 and 2012, respondents were asked if their congregation had distributed voter guides *within the past two years*.

¹⁵ Calculated only for those congregations that lobbied elected officials or demonstrated/marched.

¹⁶ This item and the following social service values are calculated only for those congregations that participated in social service programs or projects in the past year.

¹⁷ Northeast states are ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT. Mid-Atlantic states are NY, NJ, PA. East North Central states are OH, IN, IL, MI, WI. West North Central states are MN, IA, MO, ND, SD, NE, KS. South Atlantic states are DE, MD, DC, VA, WV, NC, SC, GA, FL. East South Central states are KY, TE, AL, MS. West South Central states are AR, LA, OK, TX. Mountain states are MT, ID, WY, CO, NM, AZ, UT, NV. Pacific states are WA, OR, CA, AK, HI.

TABLE 3: 2012 NATIONAL CONGREGATIONS STUDY BASIC FINDINGS

This table provides descriptive statistics for all items contained in the 2012 NCS (Wave III). Values for each variable are presented from two different perspectives. In the “Attendees’ Perspective” column, the means and medians refer to the congregation attended by the average participant (attendee) in religious services. Percentages give the percentage of attendees in congregations with the stated characteristic. In the “Congregations’ Perspective” column, means and medians refer to the average congregation. Percentages give the percentage of congregations with the stated characteristic.

	ATTENDEES’ PERSPECTIVE ¹	CONGREGATIONS’ PERSPECTIVE ²
AGE AND SIZE		
Median founding date	1946	1954
Median congregation age (yrs)	66	58
Number of people associated in any way with the congregation’s religious life: ³		
Mean	3278	404
Median	800	135
Number of people regularly participating in the congregation’s religious life:		
Mean	1540	183
Median	400	70
Number of <i>adults</i> regularly participating in the congregation’s religious life:		
Mean	1068	120
Median	310	50
Percent for whom the number of regularly participating adults in the last two years has:		
Increased	31.4	38.2
Remained about the same	34.0	36.5
Decreased	34.6	25.3
RELIGIOUS TRADITION⁴		
Percent with no denominational affiliation	15.0	23.5

	ATTENDEES' PERSPECTIVE¹	CONGREGATIONS' PERSPECTIVE²
Percent associated with each denomination or tradition:		
Roman Catholic	27.7	5.5
Baptist conventions/denominations	19.1	23.3
Methodist denominations	7.9	12.8
Lutheran/Episcopal denominations	6.5	6.2
Pentecostal	8.2	13.1
Denominations in the reformed tradition	5.3	4.7
Other Christian	19.2	27.7
Jewish	2.1	1.6
Non-Christian and Non-Jewish	2.6	5.1
Percent belonging to each broad religious tradition: ⁵		
Roman Catholic	27.7	5.5
African American Protestant	12.9	21.4
White evangelical/conservative Protestant	37.6	46.1
White moderate/liberal Protestant	17.1	20.3
Non-Christian	4.7	6.7
BUILDING AND FINANCE		
Percent owning their own building	92.6	84.6
Percent meeting in the following:		
Church, temple, or mosque	95.7	88.9
School	1.0	1.8
Storefront	0.7	2.9
Other kind of building	2.6	6.4

	ATTENDEES' PERSPECTIVE¹	CONGREGATIONS' PERSPECTIVE²
Percent whose building is also used by another congregation for worship services ⁶	8.4	9.7
Other congregation is primarily recent immigrants to U.S. (%) ⁷	51.5	39.3
Percent with worship services at more than one location	10.3	3.4
Median number of locations ⁸	2.0	3.0
Percent who have the same sermon for different locations	50.0	58.7
Percent who have the same music for different locations	31.2	69.6
Percent with a formal written budget	90.8	76.4
Median income in past year	\$450,000	\$95,000
Median income from individuals in past year	\$400,000	\$83,600
Percent for whom income over past two fiscal years ago has:		
Increased	51.6	41.3
Stayed the same	27.7	32.2
Decreased	20.7	26.6
Median budget for past year	\$450,000	\$85,000
Percent who held a capital campaign in past five years	37.9	19.5
Median amount raised in capital campaign, past five years ⁹	\$700,000	\$84,700
Percent with mortgage, loan, or other outstanding debt	40.4	25.5
Median current balance on debt ¹⁰	\$500,000	\$170,000
Percent receiving income in the past year from rental of building or property	35.2	22.3

	ATTENDEES' PERSPECTIVE¹	CONGREGATIONS' PERSPECTIVE²
Median income from rental of building or property in past fiscal year ¹¹	\$10,000	\$5,000
Percent giving money to denomination in the past year	74.8	62.7
Median amount given to denominations in past year ¹²	\$32,000	\$7,400
Percent with an endowment, savings account, or reserve fund	77.2	60.5
Median amount in endowment, savings, or reserve ¹³	\$150,000	\$32,900
Percent sending money directly to any congregation outside the U.S.	30.2	18.7
LEADERSHIP		
Percent with a head clergy person or leader	95.7	94.2
Percent with full-time head clergy person or leader ¹⁴	89.9	71.4
Percent with female head clergy person or leader	6.2	11.4
Percent with head clergy person or leader of each race or ethnicity:		
White	75.5	67.5
Black	14.6	23.3
Hispanic	6.0	5.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	3.5	2.7
Other	0.5	0.9
Percent with head clergy person born in U.S.	88.0	90.5
Median number of years head clergy person in current position	6.0	6.0
Median age of head clergy person or leader	55	55

	ATTENDEES' PERSPECTIVE¹	CONGREGATIONS' PERSPECTIVE²
Percent for whom head clergy person has highest education level of:		
Less than high school	0.9	3.2
High school diploma or GED	10.1	20.1
Jr. College, Associate's degree, or Bible college diploma or certificate	2.1	5.0
Bachelor's degree	15.4	23.0
Graduate Degree	71.6	48.7
Median years of college and post-graduate education for head clergy person	8.0	6.0
Percent for whom head clergy person has following characteristics:		
Ordained to full clergy status	96.9	92.6
Paid for work in congregation	94.3	86.2
Took pay cut in past two years	9.2	13.7
Also serves another congregation	11.1	16.3
Also holds another job	17.7	34.3
PAID STAFF		
Percent with the following characteristics:		
No paid staff	5.2	15.9
No full-time staff	11.9	35.5
1 full-time staff person	21.5	39.2
2 or more full-time staff	66.6	25.3
No full-time ministerial staff	13.3	37.3
1 full-time ministerial staff person	31.4	45.4
2 or more full-time ministerial staff people	55.3	17.3
No part-time staff	15.5	37.0

	ATTENDEES' PERSPECTIVE¹	CONGREGATIONS' PERSPECTIVE²
1 part-time staff person	10.1	18.1
2 or more part-time staff people	74.4	44.9
No part-time ministerial staff	44.0	56.6
1 part-time ministerial staff person	23.0	28.9
2 or more part-time ministerial staff people	33.1	14.6
Number of full-time paid staff:		
Mean	9.6	3.0
Median	3.0	1.0
Number of full-time paid ministerial staff:		
Mean	4.6	2.2
Median	2.0	1.0
Percent of full-time staff whose positions are ministerial or religious in nature	65.9	83.0
Number of part-time paid staff:		
Mean	7.4	2.3
Median	4.0	1.0
Number of part-time paid ministerial staff:		
Mean	2.1	0.8
Median	1.0	0.0
Percent of part-time staff whose positions are ministerial or religious in nature	34.6	40.8
Percent for whom the number of full-time paid staff has:		
Increased in the past year	14.3	6.4
Stayed the same in the past year	76.0	89.9
Decreased in the past year	9.7	3.8

	ATTENDEES' PERSPECTIVE¹	CONGREGATIONS' PERSPECTIVE²
For congregations with at least two full-time paid ministerial staff, percent of full-time staff (not including head clergyperson) with following characteristics: ¹⁵		
Race or ethnicity: ¹⁶		
White	77.9	79.8
Black	8.1	9.6
Hispanic	10.7	7.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	3.3	3.1
Age category:		
Under 40	41.7	41.7
40 to 60	45.5	45.3
Over 60	12.8	12.9
Male	61.7	59.4
Graduated from seminary or theological school	38.4	44.7
Currently attend seminary or theological school	9.5	8.7
Ordained to full clergy status	45.3	53.7
Were regular members or participants before current position	49.5	53.5
With a pay cut in past 2 years	16.3	15.3
Percent of part-time paid ministerial staff (not including head clergyperson) with following characteristics:		
Race or ethnicity:		
White	69.5	68.3
Black	13.5	23.2
Hispanic	15.7	8.0

	ATTENDEES' PERSPECTIVE¹	CONGREGATIONS' PERSPECTIVE²
Asian/Pacific Islander	1.5	0.6
Age category:		
Under 40	47.6	37.8
40 to 60	41.9	48.8
Over 60	10.5	13.5
Male	38.0	46.2
Graduated from seminary or theological school	13.8	18.0
Currently attending seminary or theological school	5.5	6.4
Ordained to full clergy status	10.4	19.2
Were regular members or participants before current position	68.8	59.6
With a pay cut in past 2 years	22.1	22.7
WORSHIP		
Percent with 1 service in typical week	17.8	38.1
Percent with 2 or more services in typical week	82.2	61.9
Percent reporting important differences between services in typical weekend ¹⁷	42.5	30.6
Important difference is: ¹⁸		
Level of formality	57.3	69.2
Languages used during service	35.2	10.4
Kind of music during service	71.8	45.8
Median length of most recent main service (minutes)	70	75
Median length of most recent sermon (minutes)	22	30
Median number of minutes of music at most recent main service	20	20

	ATTENDEES' PERSPECTIVE¹	CONGREGATIONS' PERSPECTIVE²
Median number of socializing minutes before/after typical service	30	30
Median attendance at most recent main service	225	60
Median total attendance at <i>all</i> services during the past weekend	400	76
Median number of regularly participating adults attending more than one service in the past week ¹⁹	50	25
Percent of most recent main services with each characteristic:		
Sermon or speech	98.4	96.5
Speaker came down from the chancel during sermon	42.3	48.6
Singing by congregation	98.4	96.4
Singing by choir	57.2	45.3
Time to greet one another	88.2	81.4
Congregants joining hands	43.2	40.3
Leader wearing robe or special garments	46.3	30.1
People saying "amen"	59.5	66.7
Applause	62.2	65.3
Adults jump, shout, or dance spontaneously	22.1	26.5
Raise hands in praise	59.0	59.4
Written order of service	69.1	62.2
Visual projection equipment	45.0	35.3
Song lyrics projected on wall or screen	42.1	31.5
Song lyrics provided on handout or flyer	31.6	26.1
Reading from the Bible	97.8	98.3
Watched video recorded at or broadcast	7.2	3.0

	ATTENDEES' PERSPECTIVE¹	CONGREGATIONS' PERSPECTIVE²
from another location		
Organ used	56.0	42.0
Drums used	45.5	34.3
Guitar used	49.2	29.3
Number of people paid to sing or perform at most recent main service:		
None	52.7	76.1
One	27.5	15.7
Two or more	19.8	8.2
Percent with the following in any worship in the past year:		
Speaking in tongues	24.6	29.8
People told of opportunities for political activity	24.3	14.5
People told of opportunities for volunteer activity	95.3	91.8
Time for people other than leaders to testify	74.4	84.9
Praying over or laying hands on people in effort to cure from injury or illness	60.1	57.8
Percent with the following characteristics:		
Copyright agreement to sing certain songs	73.8	51.1
Bibles in pews for people to use during services	49.8	66.3
Encourage people to bring their own Bibles to worship services	60.6	78.8
Follow lectionary or other schedule of scripture readings	53.0	40.3

	ATTENDEES' PERSPECTIVE ¹	CONGREGATIONS' PERSPECTIVE ²
Event in past year during which children in congregation recite scripture from memory	60.3	63.9
Percent with any Spanish or bilingual service in typical week	19.4	8.8
Percent with main service Spanish or bilingual	8.3	5.9
DOCTRINE AND CULTURE		
Percent encouraging use of NIV Bible rather than other translations	15.7	21.2
Percent considering Bible to be literal and inerrant	71.3	83.3
Percent saying their congregation would be considered <i>politically</i> :		
More on the conservative side	52.2	54.9
Right in the middle	37.8	33.7
More on the liberal side	10.0	11.5
Percent saying their congregation would be considered <i>theologically</i> :		
More on the conservative side	59.0	62.8
Right in the middle	28.8	25.0
More on the liberal side	12.2	12.2
GROUPS AND SPEAKERS		
Number of regularly participating teenagers:		
Mean	144	22.3
Median	35	8.0
Percent with a youth minister	76.6	54.9
Percent for whom one or more youth ministers: ²⁰		
Are paid for work in congregation	66.4	36.1

	ATTENDEES' PERSPECTIVE¹	CONGREGATIONS' PERSPECTIVE²
Work full-time as youth leader(s) in congregation	41.6	17.1
Percent with a group in the past year focused on the following:		
Discuss politics	13.2	5.8
Read and discuss the Bible	95.9	90.4
Voter registration	23.4	11.1
Get out the vote during an election	26.4	19.8
English as a second language	15.5	4.8
Offer services for immigrants	22.9	9.5
Receive or practice gifts of spirit	19.0	15.9
Class to train new teachers	69.1	41.3
Discuss/learn about another religion	37.8	25.9
Discuss/learn about managing personal finances	47.7	30.6
Discuss management of congregation's money	72.2	66.2
Assess community needs	67.8	56.7
Volunteer or service project with people from another faith	65.5	51.5
Strategic planning and future goals of congregation	93.8	86.1
Travel in U.S. to assist people in need	44.7	34.2
Travel abroad to assist people in need	41.8	27.3
Specifically for women	86.5	74.9
Specifically for men	77.6	58.4
Support military veterans and their families	40.2	27.3
Exercise or promote physical activity	47.7	29.1

	ATTENDEES' PERSPECTIVE¹	CONGREGATIONS' PERSPECTIVE²
Help people who are unemployed	51.0	34.9
Support people with terminal illness or chronic health problems	61.6	46.5
Support people struggling with drug/alcohol abuse	52.1	37.6
Support people with mental illness	31.4	23.0
Prevent HIV transmission, teach prevention, or promote testing	12.2	8.6
Raise awareness about HIV/AIDS in other ways	12.6	7.4
Percent with organized effort to help members of congregation	85.4	80.0
Percent with organized effort to provide members with health-focused programs	42.8	28.1
Percent hosting clergyperson or preacher in past year who lives in another country	49.9	29.5
Percent having any visiting speakers in the past year	86.7	78.6
Speaker was: ²¹		
Elected government official	12.9	6.6
Denominational representative	70.9	71.4
Representatives of social service organization	54.9	39.9
Someone running for office	6.9	6.7
Percent with members serving on denominational committees in past year	75.4	62.8
POLITICAL ACTIVITIES		
Percent distributing voter guides ²²	24.2	12.9
Group met in the past year to lobby an elected official	15.7	6.6

	ATTENDEES' PERSPECTIVE¹	CONGREGATIONS' PERSPECTIVE²
Group met in the past year to participate in demonstration or march	24.8	12.5
Group lobby/march activities related to: ²³		
Immigration	24.1	13.0
Abortion	63.4	33.3
Poverty	42.0	37.4
Same-sex marriage	24.3	29.0
SOCIAL SERVICES		
Percent applied for a grant from government agency in past 2 years	9.2	4.9
Percent established a separate nonprofit organization in past two years to conduct human services or outreach ministries	12.3	8.9
Percent giving financial or in-kind donations to organization(s) that help people with HIV/AIDS or work to prevent transmission	12.4	7.6
Percent reporting participation in social service programs in the past year	91.7	83.1
Median number of social service programs (all inquiries) ²⁴	4.0	3.0
Percent with one of top four programs focused on:		
Victims of rape or domestic violence	3.8	2.5
Cleaning highways or parks	6.1	6.2
Clothing, blankets, rummage sales	22.7	20.9
College students or young adults	0.9	0.5
Disaster relief	4.4	6.4
Non-religious education or training	21.5	16.4
Senior citizens	11.3	10.0
Feeding the hungry	69.4	62.6

	ATTENDEES' PERSPECTIVE¹	CONGREGATIONS' PERSPECTIVE²
Males or females in particular	12.0	7.6
Habitat for Humanity projects	7.9	3.8
Individuals' physical health needs	27.0	25.4
Homeless or transients	22.4	14.2
Home building, repair, maintenance	32.0	21.8
Immigrants, migrants, or refugees	4.1	1.3
Beneficiaries outside the U.S.	8.7	7.6
Job placement	3.9	2.2
Youth and children	38.1	37.3
People in legal trouble or their families	3.8	2.4
Substance abusers	4.7	5.2
St. Vincent de Paul	4.8	0.1
Other	3.5	6.8
Percent collaborating on social service projects	81.0	74.5
Median amount spent on social service programs in the past year	\$10,000	\$1,500
Percent with anyone on paid staff spending more than 25% of their time on congregation's social service projects	23.5	16.9
Percent with outside funding support for social service programs	14.3	10.8
Percent with outside funding support from local, state, or federal government	3.9	1.9
TECHNOLOGY		
Percent with a website	83.0	55.7
Percent with a Facebook page	55.9	40.1

	ATTENDEES' PERSPECTIVE¹	CONGREGATIONS' PERSPECTIVE²
SOCIAL COMPOSITION		
Median percent of regular adult participants:		
Who are female	60.0	60.0
With a college degree	40.0	25.0
More than 60 years old	30.0	30.0
Less than 35 years old	25.0	20.0
Who live more than a 30 minute drive from meeting place	5.0	5.0
With household income under \$35,000/year	20.0	30.0
With household income higher than \$140,000/year	10.0	1.0
Living in households with two parents and children at home	45.0	30.0
Serving in leadership role in the past year	20.0	28.6
Percent of congregations:		
At least 80% white and non-Hispanic	57.4	57.1
At least 80% black	13.6	21.2
More than 0% Hispanic	65.4	37.6
At least 80% Hispanic	7.7	6.0
More than 0% Asian or Pacific Islander	48.8	23.9
More than 0% American Indian	15.8	11.2
With more than 0% immigrated to the U.S. in the past five years	48.1	18.4
MEMBERS AND LAY LEADERS		
Percent allowing openly gay or lesbian couple in committed relationship to:		
Hold full-fledged membership	51.1	48.0

	ATTENDEES' PERSPECTIVE¹	CONGREGATIONS' PERSPECTIVE²
Hold any volunteer leadership positions open to other members	27.0	26.5
Percent allowing women to:		
Hold all volunteer leadership positions that men can hold	82.0	79.3
Serve as full-fledged members of main governing body	87.8	86.4
Teach by themselves a class with adult men in it	89.7	85.7
Preach at a main worship service	53.6	67.8
Be head clergyperson or primary religious leader	42.3	57.7
GEOGRAPHY		
Percent in each region: ²⁵		
Northeast and Mid-Atlantic	12.7	12.1
East North Central and West North Central	25.9	22.9
South Atlantic, East South Central, and West South Central	42.3	50.8
Mountain and Pacific	19.1	14.2
NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTERISTICS		
Percent in census tracts with at least 30% of individuals below the poverty line	14.4	17.1
Percent in census tracts where at least 5% of people are Hispanic	55.8	50.2
Percent in census tracts where at least 80% of people are African-American	3.6	2.8
Percent in predominantly urban census tracts	73.1	50.2
Percent in predominantly rural census tracts	14.7	31.7

	ATTENDEES' PERSPECTIVE ¹	CONGREGATIONS' PERSPECTIVE ²
OTHER		
Percent with an elementary or high school	23.5	5.6
Percent with member publicly acknowledging HIV infection	11.6	7.3
Percent affiliated with nationally recognized community organizing group, organization or network	10.2	6.9

¹ Means and medians in the “attendees” column refer to the congregation attended by the average participant (attendee) in religious services. Percentages give the percentage of attendees in congregations with the stated characteristic. For more information on weights, see the NCS Cumulative Codebook for Waves I, II, and III, available at <http://www.soc.duke.edu/natcong/>.

² Means and medians in the “congregations” column refer to the average congregation. Percentages give the percentage of congregations with the stated characteristic.

³ One extreme outlying observation in 2012 has been removed from this and the following two size variables.

⁴ Non-Christian congregations are categorized as such even if they said they have no denomination.

⁵ The largest groups in the moderate/liberal category are, in size order beginning with the largest, the United Methodist Church (334 congregations), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (155), Presbyterian Church (USA) (112), Episcopal Church (103), United Church of Christ (71), American Baptist Churches in the USA (38), Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) (20), and Unitarian Universalist (23). The largest groups in the evangelical/conservative category are nondenominational congregations (319 congregations), the Southern Baptist Convention (382), Assemblies of God (75), Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (73), Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints (63), Jehovah’s Witness (35), Churches of Christ (28), Seventh Day Adventists (26), Baptist General Conference/Convention (24), Church of the Nazarene (22), Christian Missionary Alliance (19), Baptist Missionary Association of America (19), Evangelical Free Church (17), and Church of God (Anderson) (16). No other group in either category is represented by more than 15 congregations in the NCS sample. The African American Protestant category includes all predominantly African American Protestant churches, whatever their denominational affiliation. The largest groups are the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. (54 congregations), Church of God in Christ (38), and African Methodist Episcopal (30). Predominantly white Protestant congregations that are unaffiliated with any denomination are included in the conservative/evangelical category unless we have good reason to include them elsewhere.

⁶ Calculated only for those congregations who own their own building.

⁷ Calculated only for those congregations whose building is used by another congregation.

⁸ This and the following two items are calculated only for those congregations who have worship services at more than one location.

⁹ Calculated only for those congregations who held a capital campaign in past five years.

¹⁰ Calculated only for those congregations with mortgage, loan, or other outstanding debt.

¹¹ Calculated only for those congregations with income from the sale or rent of their building or property.

¹² Calculated only for those congregations who gave any money to their denominations.

¹³ Calculated only for those congregations with an endowment, savings, or reserve account.

¹⁴ This item and following characteristics are calculated only for those congregations with one head clergy person or leader.

¹⁵ Calculated only for those congregations with two or more full-time paid ministerial staff. Values given are the proportion of all full-time paid ministerial staff who are not the head clergy person. One congregation with extreme values in FT ministry staff was removed from these analyses.

¹⁶ Total of the four race/ethnicity categories is less than 100% because of some staff members of “other” race/ethnicity not listed.

¹⁷ Calculated only for those congregations that report two or more services in a typical week.

¹⁸ Calculated only for those congregations that report important differences between weekend services.

¹⁹ Calculated only for those congregations that report two or more services in a typical week.

²⁰ Calculated only for those congregations with one or more youth ministers.

²¹ Calculated only for those congregations that had a visiting speaker in the past year.

²² In 1998 respondents were asked if their congregation had ever distributed voter guides; in 2006-07 and 2012, respondents were asked if their congregation had distributed voter guides *within the past two years*.

²³ Calculated only for those congregations that lobbied elected officials or demonstrated/marched.

²⁴ This item and the following social service values are calculated only for those congregations that participated in social service programs and projects in the past year.

²⁵ Northeast states are ME, NH, VT, MA, RI, CT. Mid-Atlantic states are NY, NJ, PA. East North Central states are OH, IN, IL, MI, WI. West North Central states are MN, IA, MO, ND, SD, NE, KS. South Atlantic states are DE, MD, DC, VA, WV, NC, SC, GA, FL. East South Central states are KY, TE, AL, MS. West South Central states are AR, LA, OK, TX. Mountain states are MT, ID, WY, CO, NM, AZ, UT, NV. Pacific states are WA, OR, CA, AK, HI.