

2020 Megachurch Questionnaire Frequencies

N=582

Date responding - Pre and Post March 13 COVID pandemic Pre- 96.5% Post 3.5%

Worship

Please estimate the total average attendance at all campuses (including children) at all of your regular weekend worship service(s): mean – 4092 median – 2779

Please estimate the total average attendance at all campuses (including children) at all of your regular weekend worship service(s) five years ago: mean – 3408 median – 2400

Average change in attendance -- mean - 33.6% growth in 5 years median - 20% growth in 5 years

Megachurch attendance change in 5 years	Percent of megachurches
Declined by -10% or more	9.8%
Declined by -2.1% to -10%	9.3%
Stable between -2% and 2%	6.9%
Increased 2.1% to 10%	10.9%
Increased 10.1% to 50%	43.7%
Increased 50.1% to 100%	13.5%
Increased more than 100%	6.0%

Average Attendance Profile

- 1800-2999 - 56%
- 3000-3999 – 15%
- 4000-4999 – 10%
- 5000-9999 – 14%
- 10,000 or more – 5%

Does your church offer worship services in multiple locations (satellite, off campus, multisite)?

Yes 70% No 17% Not yet, but thinking about it 10% We did but discontinued this approach 3%

How many site locations do you have? 2-28% 3-23% 4-19% 5-11% 6-10% 7+ 9%

How many total weekend worship services do you offer in all your locations? mean – 7.6 median – 6

Do you offer an online campus worship experience (i.e., more than just watching sermon video streaming)?

Yes 54% No 30% Not yet, but thinking about it 16%

In what Region is your church’s primary place of worship physically located?

- Northeast – 9%
- South – 49%
- Central – 19%
- West – 23%

Dominant Race of the Congregation:

- White – 40%
- Black/African American – 2%
- Multiracial (20% or more diversity) – 58%

What is the seating capacity where your primary services are held? mean – 1581 median – 1200

Is your church a part of a network, fellowship, or association?

51% Yes (please list all): Top mentioned Willow Creek Association n=69, ARC n=51, Northpoint n=9, Acts 29 n=7.
49% No

How often are the following a part of your church’s regular weekend worship services?

	Never	Seldom	Sometimes	Often	Always
Includes choir	43%	27%	13%	9%	8%
Video segments shown during worship	3	11	20	34	32
Image magnification projection of the preacher	11	5	3	6	75
Interactive use of social media during sermons	22	40	19	10	9
Includes communion	1	5	38	40	16

Does your congregation provide the following accommodations?

	Yes	No
Wheelchair access through the building	99%	1%
Hearing assistive devices	48	52
Sign Language interpreters	44	56
Large print worship materials	15	85

How well do the following describe your church’s largest weekend worship service?

	Not at all	Slightly	Somewhat	Well	Very well
Reverent	8%	24%	38%	23%	7%
Contemporary	1	2	7	31	59
Formal ritual or liturgy	60	28	9	2	1
Thought-provoking	0	1	14	40	45
Innovative	1	7	28	41	23
Joyful	0	1	7	42	50
Informal	1	4	17	32	46

Participants

Overall, how many persons (including children) **regularly participate** in worship or other religious activities in your congregation? mean – 5982 median – 4200

Of the above regular participants, **what percent** are in each of the following age groups?

children (ages 0-12):	18%
youth (ages 13-17):	11%
young adults (ages 18-34).....	19%
middle adults (ages 35-64).....	38%
senior adults (ages 65 and older):.....	15%

Of the above regular participants, **what percent** are in each of the following categories?

White (non-Hispanic)	72
Black or African American (non-Hispanic)	11
Asian (non-Hispanic)	4
Hispanic or Latino(a)	10
American Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)	<1
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)	<1
Multiracial	5

The percentage of megachurches that have 20% or greater level of racial diversity? 58%

Of all **regularly participating adults** (age 18 and over), what **percent** would you estimate:

- Are female?.....56%
- Are college graduates?56%
- Are new to this congregation in the last five years?35%
- Volunteer regularly at the congregation?34%
- Are immigrants (0-5 years in the U.S.)?5%
- Are persons with Special Needs (physical, mental, emotional challenges)? 4%

Overall, to what extent are your congregation’s regularly participating adults involved in recruiting new people?

0 Not at all 9 A little 38 Some 40 Quite a bit 13 A lot

Mission and Identity

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? *(Check one on each line.)*

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
<i>Our congregation:</i>					
Has a clear mission and purpose	1%	0%	3%	22%	74%
Is striving to be diverse (e.g. racially, ethnically, socio-economically)	1	5	16	42	36
Is good at incorporating new people into the congregation	0	3	11	55	31
Is spiritually vital and alive	0	1	3	47	49
Is willing to change to meet new challenges	0	1	8	52	39
Is actively involved in our local community	0	2	9	36	53

Since 2010, has your congregation experienced any of the following?

	No	Yes, in 2010-2015	Yes, in 2016-2020	Planning soon
Merged with another congregation	78%	5%	16%	1%
Split into two or more congregations	96	2	2	0
Helped start or plant a new congregation	30	18	48	4
Opened satellite or branch location(s)	27	22	47	4
Changed the name of the congregation	84	6	8	1
Changed denominational affiliation	96	2	1	1
Left a denomination (to become independent or unaffiliated)	96	3	1	0
Joined a denomination (no longer independent or unaffiliated)	99	1	0	0

What is your church’s specific denomination or faith group?

Nondenom – 40%, SBC – 15%, AOG – 5%, IndepCOC, UMC, EF, Converge, CMA - 2%, other groups 1% or less

Whether part of a denomination or independent, Is your church a part of a network, fellowship, or association (e.g., ARC, , Acts 29)? Yes 51% No 49% What networks listed the most times ?

Willow Creek Association - 69 times, ARC – 51 times, Northpoint – 9 times, Acts29 – 7 times, and many others listed 1-4 times.

If your church is nondenominational or independent, was it founded that way? Yes 60% No 40%

Which label comes closest to describing the theological outlook of the majority of your regularly participating adults?

.3% Fundamentalist	7% Pentecostal	5% Moderate	2% Progressive	12% Missional
65% Evangelical	5% Charismatic	0% Liberal	4% Seeker	

Programs and Functioning

Does your congregation have any of the following programs or activities? If “Yes,” how much emphasis is given to the activity? (*Check one on each line.*)

	No	Yes	
		Some emphasis	A lot of emphasis
Religious education for adults (e.g., scripture studies)	5%	45%	50%
Sports groups	50	38	12
Recovery ministries	8	54	38
Community service activities	2	38	60
Young adult (18-34) activities or programs	8	54	38
Senior (65+) activities or programs	23	55	22
International/Global ministry activities (mission trips)	0	30	70
Social justice/advocacy groups	42	42	16
Preschool and/or daycare center	58	18	25
Elementary (Primary) school	77	6	17
High (Secondary) school	81	5	14
Special needs ministry	17	53	30

Many churches make use of small groups for fellowship, spiritual nurture and religious education (in addition to church school or mission groups, etc.). Which statement best describes the situation in your church?

0% Such groups do not exist within our church

11% A few such groups meet, but they are not central to our church’s program

89% We have many such groups; they are central to our strategy of Christian nurture and spiritual formation.

What percentage of the adult participants are typically involved in a small group? 45% mean 42% median

How much does your congregation emphasize the following personal and family religious practices? (*Check one on each line.*)

	Not at all	A Little	Some	Quite a Bit	A Lot
Regular worship attendance	0%	1%	9%	34%	56%
Tithing (giving 10% or more of one’s income)	2	10	32	34	22
Personal religious practices	0	1	14	40	45
Talking about one’s faith with those who are not a part of your congregation	0	4	22	38	36
Parents talking with children about faith	0	2	20	41	37
Living out one’s faith in all aspects of one’s daily life (e.g., work, family, civic engagement)	0	1	9	31	59

During the past 12 months, has your congregation been involved in any of the following activities with other faith groups? (Check all that apply on each line.)

	No	-----Yes-----	
		With Other Christian Groups	With Other Faith Traditions
Worship Services	51%	29%	4%
Educational or social activities	32	44	11
Community service activities	19	51	21

To what extent is your congregation concerned about personal safety and security when you gather?

- 7% Not at all concerned
- 18% A little concerned
- 27% Somewhat concerned
- 48% Very concerned

Does your congregation use, or do, any of the following regarding security when you gather for services? (Check all that apply.)

	No	Yes, before 2015	Yes, since 2015
Alarm systems	13%	55%	24%
Volunteer security team or ministry from congregation	4	53	38
Security cameras	7	46	41
Paid, professional security personnel	25	37	28
Locking doors during services	52	16	18

Does your congregation use, or do, any of the following? (Check all that apply.)

	No	Yes, before 2015	Yes, since 2015
Check-in procedures for infants and children	0	76	22
Background checks for volunteers with children	0	77	21
Safe conduct training for those working with children	1	70	26
Training on general safety and security	5	63	26

Thinking about the past 12 months, has your congregation organized any groups, meetings, classes, or events specifically focused on the following purposes or activities?

	No	Yes
To discuss politics.....	93%	7%
An effort to get people registered to vote	86	14
To get out the vote during an election	90	11
To organize or participate in efforts to lobby elected officials of any sort	97	3
To organize or participate in a demonstration or march either in support of or opposition to some public issue or policy	93	7
Distribute voter guides	86	14

To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? (Check one on each line.)

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Almost everyone in this congregation has the same political position.	30%	36%	23%	10%	1%
This congregation has experienced recent conflict over political issues.	38	33	20	8	1
This congregation avoids discussing political issues when it gathers.	4	12	21	41	23
This congregation is politically active.	20	22	38	18	2

During the past 5 years, has your congregation experienced any disagreements or conflicts? (Check all that apply.)

- 29% No
- 29% Yes, but it/they were not serious
- 25% Yes, and in at least one instance some people left
- 13% Yes, and in at least one instance some people withheld donations
- 18% Yes, and in at least one instance, a clergy leader or staff member left

Leadership

Please describe the **senior** or **sole clergy leader** of this congregation (if co-leaders, answer only about the oldest co-leader).

Age: average age 53 years old, span 33 years to 83 years old

Leader's race/ethnicity (check all that apply):

White (non-Hispanic)	94%
Black or African American (non-Hispanic)	3%
Hispanic or Latino(a)	1%
Asian (non-Hispanic)	0.3%
Multiracial	1%
Other.....	0.7%

In what year did the senior leader start serving this congregation? Median 2005 span 1974 to 2020

Did the church's most dramatic growth occur during the tenure of this senior leader? Yes 73% No 27%

Which of the following characteristics apply to the clergy leader of this congregation? (Check either "yes" or "no" for each characteristic.)

- 5% Yes Serves as a chaplain
- 45% Yes Has an MDiv degree
- 49% Yes Has had a sabbatical within the last 10 years
- 73% Yes Regularly schedules and takes a day off each week (from all paid employment)
- 1% Yes Is a first generation immigrant

How would you rate efforts at planning for the senior pastor's eventual succession from this church, relative to where you feel that planning should be at this point?

Poor 10%	Fair 22%	Good 32%	Very good 24%	Outstanding 12%
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Technology

Does your congregation use any of the following technology? (Check one on each line.)

	No	A Little	Some	A Lot
App(s) (e.g. congregational or denominational)	11%	8%	24%	57%
Facebook	1	3	21	75
Twitter	22	19	30	29
Blogging	42	26	21	11
Texting	7	25	40	28
Live streaming of worship service/sermon	16	2	7	75
Electronic/ACH/online giving	0	0	8	92
Other technology used that you believe is important to your congregation (please describe): Results to be released later				

Do you track how many people watch the live stream of your worship service/sermon?

18% No, we don't do live-streaming

10% No, we don't keep track of online audiences

72% Yes (please provide an approximate average number): median 2607 mean, 648 median pre-COVID

Approximately, what percentage of your regular monthly giving is received through online giving? 52% mean 50% median pre-COVID

Finances

What was the approximate dollar amount of your congregation's total budget for 2019? \$ mean – 7,011,563 median – 5,300,000

Approximately, what percentage of your congregation's annual income are from the following?

Median figures

___96%___ Participant contributions (e.g. tithes, offerings, dues)

___<1%___ Fund raising events

___1%___ Rental income

___<1%___ Endowments

___<1%___ Investments

___<1%___ School tuition

___3%___ Capital campaign income

___<1%___ Other income

What was the total amount of money your congregation spent in your most recent fiscal year? (Do not include funds for capital improvements or primary/secondary schools.)

\$ mean – 7,331,699 median – 5,302,235

Approximately, what percentage of your congregation's annual expenditures in your most recent fiscal year were for the following?

Median Percent

50% Total staff salaries and benefits (clergy and non-clergy)

20% Buildings and operations (e.g. utilities, mortgage, insurance)

15% Program support and materials (e.g. education, evangelism)

11% Mission and benevolence (include denominational assessments)

5% All other expenditures

How would you describe your congregation's financial health today and five years ago? (Check one in each column.)

Today	Five years ago
0% In serious difficulty	1% In serious difficulty
2% In some difficulty	6% In some difficulty
14% Tight, but we manage	21% Tight, but we manage
42% Good	42% Good
42% Excellent	30% Excellent

Are church's financial statements audited each year by external/independent CPA? 78% Yes 20% No 2% DK

What Board format does your church have to guide the congregation and assist the senior pastor?

- 83% An internal board of members
- 4% An external board
- 7% A mixed board of members and external persons
- 6% Both an internal board and an external board
- <1% A different board configuration

Does your church governance structure require a majority of "independent" board members (i.e., nonfamily and nonstaff) to ensure proper accountability? 76% Yes 20% No 4% Don't Know

What are your top 2 concerns about the future of your church's ministry? Results to be released later

What are the top 2 aspects of your church's ministry that you are most proud of? Results to be released later