



Exploring the Pandemic Impact on Congregations

Fall 2023

Clergy Health and Well-Being

Screening question

1. Are you the senior, co-senior, interim, or solo clergy leader of this congregation? Yes No
(If Q1=No, skip to end of survey and please forward the email invitation to the pastor, clergy person or interim functioning as the religious leader. This is a survey only for the leader of the congregation. Thank you!)
2. Which statement best describes the (religious) leadership of this congregation?
 - I am the interim.
 - I am the solo clergy leader (no assistant or associate clergy).
 - I am one of the co-leaders (two or more clergy sharing leadership equally).
 - I am the senior clergy leader with one or more assistant or associate clergy.
 - None of the above descriptions apply to our situation. _____

Church Characteristics

First, we want to ask some questions about the church you are currently serving.

3. Is your congregation a part of a denomination or religious group? Yes No
4. (if Q3=yes) What is the name of this denomination or religious group?

- American Baptist Churches USA
- Assemblies of God
- Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- Church of the Nazarene
- Churches of Christ
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
- Metropolitan Community Churches
- Orthodox Christian Churches
- Presbyterian Church (USA)
- Roman Catholic
- Seventh-day Adventist Church
- Southern Baptist Convention
- The Episcopal Church
- Unitarian Universalist Association
- United Church of Christ
- United Methodist Church
- Not listed above, please specify _____

5. In what ZIP code is this congregation's primary place of worship physically located? _____
6. Please estimate the total average **in-person** attendance **currently** at all of your regular weekend (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) worship service(s), including children.

7. Please estimate the total average **online/virtual** attendance **currently** at all of your regular weekend (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) worship service(s), including children.

8. Please estimate the total average attendance (BOTH **in person** and **virtual**) at all of your regular weekend (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) worship service(s) **in 2018** _____
9. **How many** people (including children) **currently regularly participate** (once a month or more including in-person and virtual) in worship or other religious activities in your congregation? _____
10. Of the current regular participants, **what number** are in each of the following age groups?
Children (ages 0-12):_____

Youth (ages 13-17):
 Young adults (ages 18-34).....
 Middle adults (ages 35-64).....
 Senior adults (ages 65 and older):
 Total (this should add up to the **regularly participate** total).....

11. Of the current regular participants, **what number** are in each of the following categories?

American Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)
 Asian (non-Hispanic).....
 Black or African American (non-Hispanic).....
 Hispanic or Latino(a).....
 Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)
 White (non-Hispanic)
 Multiracial
 Total (this should add up to the **regularly participate** total)

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

Are female? %
 Are new to this congregation since 2020? %
 Volunteer regularly at the congregation? %

13. How many full-time paid staff (in any capacity) does the congregation employ?

14. How many part-time paid staff does the congregation employ?

Your Demographic Characteristics

Next, we have some questions about you as the leader.

15. What is your age and gender?

Age: _____

Gender: _____

16. What is your race?

- ☐ American Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)
- ☐ Asian (non-Hispanic)
- ☐ Black or African American (non-Hispanic)
- ☐ Hispanic or Latino(a)
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)
- ☐ White (non-Hispanic)
- ☐ Multiracial
- ☐ Other _____

17. In what year did you start serving this congregation? (e.g., 2009) _____

18. Which best describes your employment status?

- ☐ Full-time
- ☐ Part-time

19. To what extent is there a good “fit” between you and the members?

- ☐ Not good
- ☐ Just okay
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Very good

20. Which of the following characteristics apply to you as the leader of this congregation?
(Select a response for each line.)

	Yes	No
Serves another congregation(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Serves as a chaplain	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has other paid employment outside of this congregation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has an MDiv degree	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Has had a sabbatical within the last 10 years	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Regularly schedules and takes a day off each week (from all paid employment)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Participates in a clergy peer group?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sought guidance from a spiritual director, counselor, or therapist in last 3 years.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Takes advantage of resources from denomination, judicatory, or region for your care and well-being?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

21. Since the start of 2020, how often have you...
(Select a response for each line.)

	Never	Once or twice	A few times	Fairly often	Very often
Doubted that you are called by God to ministry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seriously considered leaving pastoral ministry	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Seriously considered leaving this congregation for another one	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

22. In general, how would you rate your...
(Select a response for each line.)

	0 Poor	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Excellent
physical health?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
mental health?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
spiritual health?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
your relational health? (i.e. your relationships with other people)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
financial health?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

23. How true are the following statements of you?
(Select a response for each line.)

	0 Not true of me	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Completely True of me
Overall, I am satisfied with life as a whole these days	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In general, I usually feel happy.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Overall, I feel the things I do in my life are worthwhile.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand my purpose in life.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I always act to promote good in all circumstances, even in difficult and challenging situations.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am always able to give up some happiness now for greater happiness later.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am content with my friendships and relationships.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My relationships are as satisfying as I would want them to be.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I often feel lonely.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I feel connected to the broader community around me.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have enough people I feel comfortable with to ask for help at any time.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This congregation is a good match for my gifts and talents.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

24. Overall, how have the following changed (if at all) since the COVID-19 pandemic started?

(Select a response for each line.)

	Decreased since the pandemic	The same as before the pandemic	Increased since the pandemic
How often you pray or meditate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How often you read the scripture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How often you participate in or watch religious services besides your own church	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
How important your religious faith is to you in your everyday life	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The sense of connection or closeness you feel towards your congregational members	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Church Dynamics

We have a few more questions about the congregation you are serving.

25. All things considered, how would you compare the overall vitality and strength of your congregation before the pandemic and now?

- ☐ Much stronger now than before the pandemic
- ☐ Somewhat stronger now
- ☐ About the same
- ☐ Somewhat weaker now
- ☐ Much weaker now than before the pandemic

26. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

(Select a response for each line.)

Our congregation...	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
Has a clear mission and purpose	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is spiritually vital and alive	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is willing to change to meet new challenges	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Is actively involved in our local community	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

27. What was the total amount of money your congregation received from all sources in your most recent fiscal year? (in dollars)_____

28. How would you describe your congregation's financial health today and in 2018?

(Select a response for each line.)

	In serious difficulty	In some difficulty	Tight, but we manage	Good	Excellent	Not applicable
Today	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
In 2018	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

29. Since 2020, had your congregation experienced any disagreements or conflicts?
(Check all that apply.)

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

30. Please rate your level of agreement with each of the following statements about your congregation:
(Select a response for each line.)

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Agree	Strongly agree
Our church is emerging from the pandemic stronger than before.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
As a result of the pandemic, we are thinking in new ways about our future mission and direction.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
This church has identified and embraced new opportunities for ministry since the pandemic.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

31. Which of the following best describes your sense of this congregation's future?

- ☐ We are thriving and this should continue.
- ☐ We are doing okay and this should continue.
- ☐ We are doing okay now, but the future is very uncertain.
- ☐ We are struggling, but the future clearly looks better.
- ☐ We are struggling, and that is likely to continue for the foreseeable future.
- ☐ Not sure this congregation will survive much longer.

Finally, two open-ended questions for you to share your experiences.

32. What about your current ministry challenges you the most?

33. What aspects of your current ministry are the most enlivening and spiritually rewarding?

Optional

34. Would you like to receive a copy (PDF) of the National Summary Report? Yes No

35. May we contact you if we have questions about your responses or if we would like to know more about your congregation and/or ministry? Yes No

36. If you said yes to either of the above questions, please provide your name and email address below (we will not use your information for any other purpose):

Name: _____

Email Address: _____