

**CREATING A VISION FOR THE FUTURE
WORKING TOGETHER AS THE CHURCHES OF THE GETTYSBURG ASSOCIATION**

QUICK SUMMARY OF UCC STATISTICS

MEMBERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

CONGREGATIONS: 4,724
MEMBERS: 745,230
AVERAGE MEMBERSHIP: 160*
MEDIAN MEMBERSHIP: 101
AVERAGE IN-PERSON WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: 52**
MEDIAN IN-PERSON WORSHIP ATTENDANCE: 36**
AVERAGE CONFIRMATIONS: 1.1
AVERAGE CONFESSIONS: 0.7
AVERAGE TRANSFERS IN: 0.9
AVERAGE REAFFIRMATIONS: 0.9
AVERAGE DEATHS: 3.9
AVERAGE TRANSFERS OUT: 1.2
AVERAGE CHILD BAPTISMS: 1.2
AVERAGE ADULT BAPTISMS: 0.2
OPEN AND AFFIRMING: 34.6%
ACCESSIBLE: 86.2%
WEB PRESENCE: 70.4%

RACE/ETHNICITY BY CONGREGATION

WHITE/EURO-AMERICAN: 83.4%
AFRICAN AMERICAN: 4.9%
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER: 3.9%
HISPANIC/LATINO(A): 0.4%
NATIVE AMERICAN: 0.6%
BI-RACIAL/MULTI-RACIAL: 6.4%
OTHER: 0.5%

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCES

AVERAGE BASIC SUPPORT: \$3,985
AVERAGE OTHER UCC GIVING: \$1,962***
AVERAGE TOTAL OCWM: \$5,946
AVERAGE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: \$321
AVERAGE NEIGHBORS IN NEED: \$198
AVERAGE CHRISTMAS FUND: \$209
AVERAGE STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH: \$111
5 FOR 5 CHURCHES: 25.6%
AVERAGE OTHER GIFTS: \$9,792
AVERAGE OPERATING EXPENSES: \$176,720
AVERAGE TOTAL INCOME: \$236,670

**Silent: 1928-1945; Boomers: 1946-1964; Generation X: 1965-1980.
Millennials: 1981-1996; Generation Z: 1997-2012.**

TRENDS IN CHURCHES RIGHT NOW

(Thom Rainer, Baby Boomer, Church Consultant)

Church adoptions. An adopted church is a congregation that comes into the family, care, and authority of another, usually healthier, church.

Of course, more churches will seek adoption because they are about to die and close.

Pastors are leaving the ministry due to burnout. (1 in 4 pastors will retire in the next seven years)

The time between pastors for churches will be longer than ever. Today, many churches have these interim periods for two to three years or more. The number of interim pastors will be greater than ever.

More pastors and staff will become bi-vocational. Bi-vocational pastors are those who have work outside the church because their church could not compensate them with full-time pay.

More pastors and staff will get their theological and ministry training in the local church or online.

(Lindsay Baker Bower, Millennial, consultant)

A hybrid church model is still necessary.

Congregants are looking for more church leadership diversity.

Millennials are coming back. (born 1981-1996)

Doing good in the community is the key to Gen Z (born 1997-2012)

Volunteer numbers will continue to decline.

HOPES FOR THE FUTURE

The church will always gather, because what Christians can do together far surpasses what we can do alone.

The future church will become bigger and smaller at the same time.

More churches will be using technology to connect with their congregation and community.

Social media will continue to play a significant role in how churches communicate with their members and the community.

Churches will be focusing more on mental health and wellness programs for all ages.

Churches will be looking for ways to become more environmentally friendly.

There will be a continued focus on economic justice and racial reconciliation within the church.

THOUGHTS AND COMMENTS ABOUT THE UCC DATA, THE TRENDS, AND THE HOPES

Which ones concern you and your local congregation the most?

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

What are the strengths of our Gettysburg Association churches right now?

What are the opportunities of our Gettysburg Association churches right now?

How can we work together to help our Gettysburg Association congregations, church leadership, and pastors support one another in our shared covenant?

