

Wave II of the U.S. Congregational Life Survey

Change and Stability Among Congregations: 2001 to 2008

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U.S. Congregational Life Survey

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



Congregational Profile Survey

- Completed by a key informant (minister, administrator, treasurer, lay leader)
- Wave 1: 421 completed Profile surveys (excluding 10 historically black congregations and 17 congregations without weights)
- Wave 2: 145 completed Profile surveys (excluding 106 congregations participating in both 2001 and 2008)

Top Denominations Included

2001

- Roman Catholic (25%)
- United Methodist (14%)
- ELCA (11%)
- Southern Baptist (8%)
- Episcopal (4%)

2008

- Roman Catholic (22%)
- ELCA (14%)
- PC(USA) (14%)
- United Methodist (12%)
- UCC (6%)

Participation and Attendance

Number of people

Number of people	2001	2008
<i>Associated</i> with religious life of congregation	Mean: 487 Median: 200	Mean: 778* Median: 300
<i>Regularly participate</i> in religious life of congregation	Mean: 245 Median: 100	Mean: 370 Median: 130
<i>Average weekly attendance</i>	Mean: 183 Median: 80	Mean: 253 Median: 120



REVERSE EVANGELISM WAS DISCOVERED BY REV. DRAKE.
UTILISING STRATEGIES EMPLOYED BY NIGHTCLUBS,
HE DISCOVERED THAT TO ATTRACT YOUNG PEOPLE
THE CHURCH HAD TO BE VERY DIFFICULT TO GET IN TO.

Most Popular Outreach Activities

2001

- Encouraged people to invite new person (89%)
- Sent material to visitors (68%)
- Mailed newsletters (66%)
- Had activity to meet people in neighborhood (51%)
- Called visitors (52%)

2008

- Encouraged people to invite new person (83%)
- Sent material to visitors (76%)
- Mailed newsletters (72%)
- Had activity to meet people in neighborhood (67%)
- Established or maintained website for congregation (82%)

Congregational Identity

Political Affiliation

Politically, would this congregation be considered...	2001	2008
More on the conservative side	66%	48%
Right in the middle	25%	38%
More on the liberal side	9%	15%

Significance < 0.01

Political Affiliation

Change in Political Affiliation: 2001 to 2008	Catholic	MP	CP
More on the conservative side	-32%	+4%	-29%
Right in the middle	+44%	-1%	+5%
More on the liberal side	-11%	-3%	+23%

Theological Identity

Theologically, would this congregation be considered...	2001	2008
More on the conservative side	60%	46%
Right in the middle	29%	37%
More on the liberal side	11%	17%

Significance < 0.05

Theological Identity

Changes in Theological Identity: 2001 to 2008	Catholic	MP	CP
More on the conservative side	+3%	+6%	-26%
Right in the middle	-8%	-2%	+17%
More on the liberal side	+5%	-4%	+10%

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Worship Services

Largest Worship Service: Most Common Features

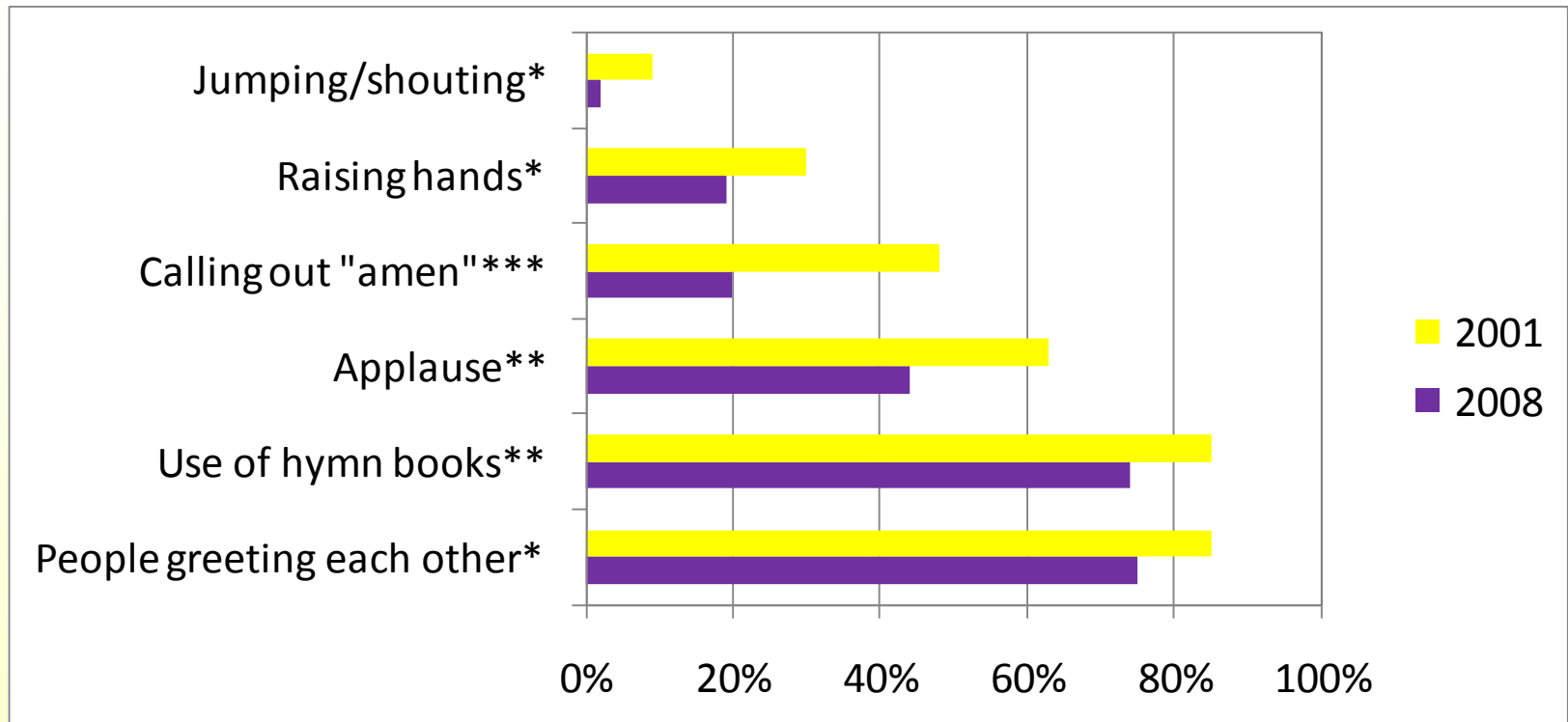
2001

- Taking collection (98%)
- Singing by congregation (95%)
- Singing by choir or soloist (86%)
- Piano (85%)
- Hymn books (85%)
- People greeting each other (85%)

2008

- Taking collection (96%)
- Singing by congregation (97%)
- Singing by choir or soloist (82%)
- Piano (87%)
- Amplification equipment (91%)

Changes in largest service



Sermon Length

Sermon length is...	2001	2008
10 minutes or less	7%	15%
11-20 minutes	51%	50%
21-30 minutes	21%	30%
31-60 minutes	21%	5%
More than an hour	0%	0%
No sermon or homily	0%	0%

Significance < 0.001

Service Structure

Type of order of service or program	2001	2008
Written liturgy or Prayer Book	18%	27%
Written service outline or bulletin	57%	64%
No written outline, but standard approach	17%	9%
Very flexible; varies	8%	1%
None	1%	0%

Significance = 0.01

Sermon Structure

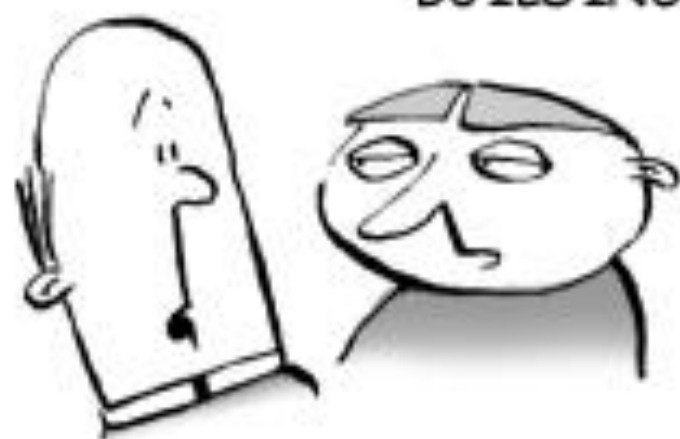
Type of order of service or program	Catholic	MP	CP
Written liturgy or Prayer Book	-2%	+8%	*
Written service outline or bulletin	+6%	+2%	+7%
No written outline, but standard approach	+1%	-6%	-3%
Very flexible; varies	-2%	-4%	-3%
None	-2%	0%	-1%

* = Less than 0.5; rounds to zero

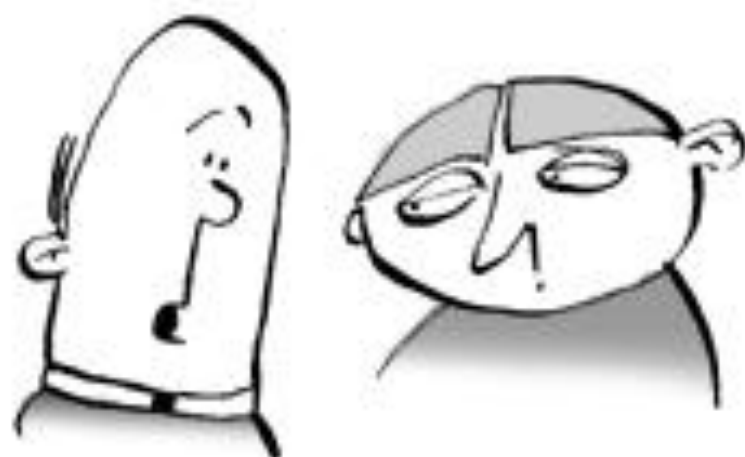


Community

OH, WE MOSTLY
WORSHIP IN
EACH OTHER'S
HOMES AND THE
CHURCH
BUILDING ?



THAT CONTINUES
TO BE USED FOR
TEACHING ENGLISH,
PLAYGROUPO, CRAFT
AND TABLE TENNIS



x

Building Used or Rented by Community Groups

Frequency	2001	2008
At least weekly	39%	52%
At least monthly	8%	26%
Less often	30%	10%
Never	23%	11%

Significance < 0.001

Most popular social service activities

2001

- Emergency relief / material assistance (74%)
- Counseling/support groups (61%)
- Other social/recreational/leisure activities (42%)
- Other programs for children/youth (31%)
- Other senior citizen programs (29%)

2008

- Emergency relief / material assistance (92%)
- Counseling/support groups (57%)
- Other social/recreational/leisure activities (52%)
- Other programs for children/youth (51%)
- Transportation to worship services (48%)

Social Service or Community Activities

In the past 12 months, provided...	2001	2008
Substance abuse/12-step programs	14%	25%**
Other programs for children/youth	31%	51%***
Emergency relief/material assistance	74%	92%***
Health-related programs/activities	28%	40%*
Political or social justice activities	14%	23%*

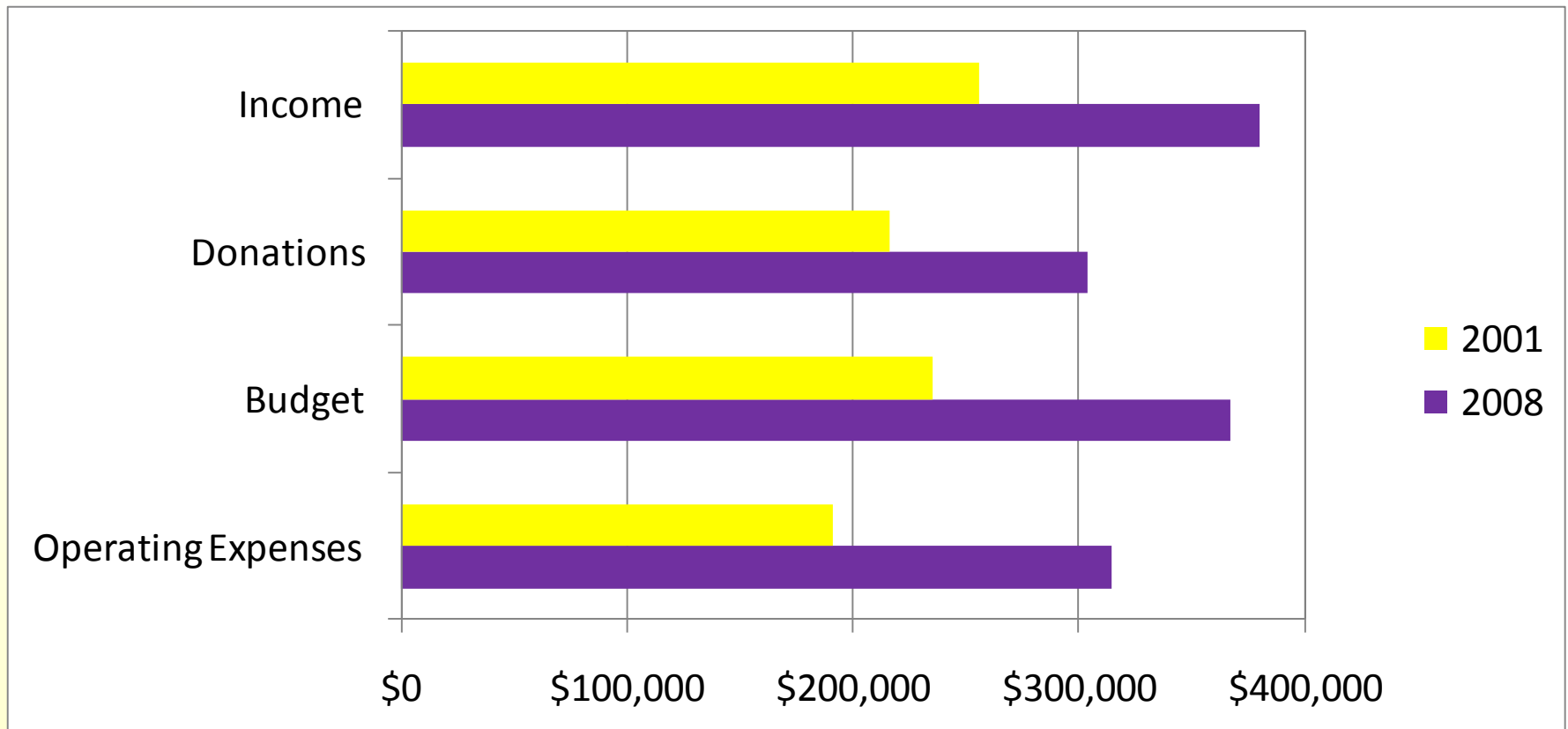
Social Service or Community Activities

In the past 12 months, provided...	2001	2008
Animal welfare/environmental activities	4%	13%**
Other welfare/community service/ social action activities	17%	31%**
Arts/music/cultural activities	28%	44%***
Hobby/craft groups	16%	28%**
Other social/recreational/leisure activities	42%	52%*



Finances

Finances



*2001 figures adjusted for inflation

Income and Donations: Significance < 0.05

Budget and Operating Expenses: Significance < 0.01

Financial Situation

Congregations' financial situation	2001	2008
Increasing financial base	29%	9%
Essentially stable financial base	52%	51%
Declining financial base	17%	38%
Financial situation is serious threat	2%	2%

Significance < 0.001

Financial Situation

Congregations' financial situation	Catholic	MP	CP
Increasing financial base	-7%	-25%	-23%
Essentially stable financial base	+8%	+12%	-12%
Declining financial base	+2%	+13%	+35%
Financial situation is serious threat	-2%	*	0%

* = Less than 0.5; rounds to zero

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Leadership

Paid Ordained Professionals

Number of Paid Ordained Professionals	2001	2008
Full-time	Mean=1.22 Median=1.00	Mean=1.12 Median=1.00
Part-time	Mean=0.97 Median=1.00	Mean=0.47** Median=0.00

Paid Lay Professionals

Number of Paid Lay Professionals	2001	2008
Full-time	Mean=1.28 Median=1.00	Mean=0.55** Median=0.00
Part-time	Mean=1.71 Median=1.00	Mean=0.61*** Median=0.00

Conclusions

- Congregational Identity
 - ◆ Catholic congregations are more politically moderate; CP congregations are more politically liberal
 - ◆ CP congregations are more theologically moderate/liberal
- Worship Services
 - ◆ Less boisterous
 - ◆ Shorter sermons
 - ◆ More written structure

Conclusions

- Community
 - ◆ Congregation building more often used by outside community groups
 - ◆ More often reported social service activities
- Finances
 - ◆ Higher income, donations, budget, operating expenses
 - ◆ Less frequently report *increasing* financial base, more often report *essentially stable* or *declining* financial base
- Leadership
 - ◆ Congregations report less part-time paid ordained professionals and full-time/part-time paid lay professionals