

## Advocacy and Outreach: Are the Same Worshipers Involved in Both?

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About 300,000 worshipers in over 2,000 congregations participated in the U.S. Congregational Life Survey in April 2001. Congregations were selected using hyper-network sampling to be representative of congregations across the country. All worshipers in each participating congregation completed a survey in worship, providing extensive data from individuals actively involved in congregations. Comparing involvement in outreach activities (i.e., direct services to people) to involvement in advocacy activities (i.e., working for societal change) produced a typology of mission and ministry involvement. Four types emerged: advocates, almsgivers, activists, and abstainers (Lummis, 2005). Results show that almsgivers (50%) and activists (27%) are the largest groups.

### Involvement in Outreach/Service: (Coefficient alpha = .40)

- Are you involved in any community services or social service, groups not connected to this congregation?..... 27%
- In the past 12 months, have you done any of the following?
  - Loaned money to someone outside your family ..... 29%
  - Cared for someone outside your family who was very sick..... 21%
  - Helped someone outside your family find a job ..... 23%
  - Donated or prepared food for someone outside your family or congregation..... 48%
- Involved in any of the above: ..... 77%

### Involvement in Advocacy: (Coefficient alpha = .49)

- Are you involved in any advocacy groups not connected to this congregation?..... 5%
- In the past 12 months, have you done any of the following?
  - Worked with others to try to solve a community problem ..... 20%
  - Contacted an elected official about a public issue..... 18%
- Involved in any of the above ..... 31%

### Percentages of Worshipers Who Are Abstainers, Almsgivers, Advocates, and Activists

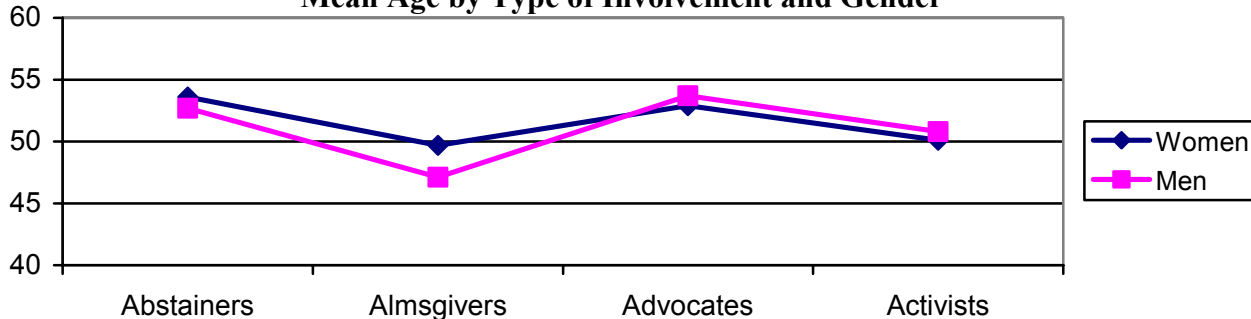
	Involved in Outreach/Service	
	Not Involved	Involved
<b>Involved in Advocacy:</b>		
<b>Involved</b>	Advocates: 4% (6%)	Activists: 27% (37%)
<b>Not Involved</b>	Abstainers: 19% (19%)	Almsgivers: 50% (38%)

Note. Percentages in parentheses from Lummis (2005); survey of Episcopal laity.

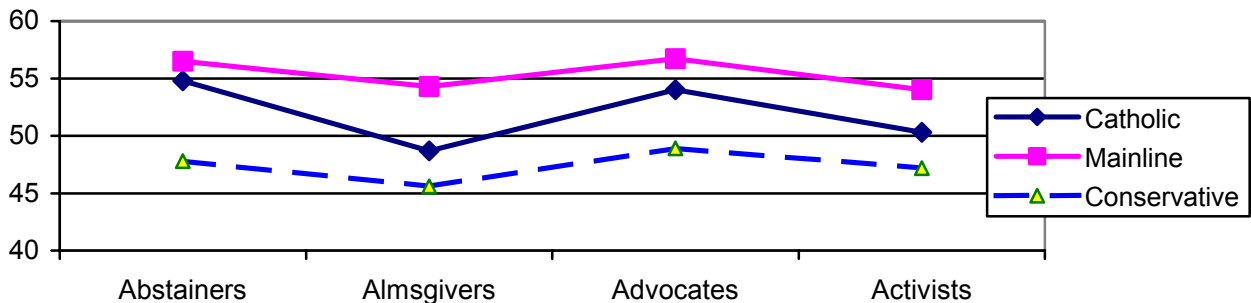
**Table 1**  
**Percentages of Worshipers by Congregational and Demographic Characteristics**

	<b>Abstainers Not Involved</b>	<b>Almsgivers Charity Only</b>	<b>Advocates Advocacy Only</b>	<b>Activists Both</b>
Percentage of all worshipers.....	19%	50%	4%	27%
<b>Percentage of Worshipers by Congregational Characteristics:</b>				
<b>Denominational Family***</b>				
Catholic.....	21%	50%	4%	25%
Mainline Protestant.....	16%	47%	4%	33%
Conservative Protestant.....	17%	53%	4%	26%
Historically Black.....	11%	52%	3%	34%
Other.....	12%	40%	4%	44%
<b>Size***</b>				
100 or fewer in worship.....	18%	52%	3%	27%
101 to 350 in worship.....	16%	48%	4%	31%
More than 350 in worship.....	20%	50%	4%	26%
<b>Percentage of Worshipers by Worshiper Demographics:</b>				
Average Age***.....	53.8	49.2	53.7	50.6
<b>Gender***</b>				
Female.....	18%	53%	3%	26%
Male.....	20%	45%	5%	30%
<b>Marital Status***</b>				
Single.....	19%	54%	4%	24%
Married.....	18%	48%	4%	30%
<b>Employment***</b>				
Employed (full-time, part-time, self-employed).....	16%	49%	4%	30%
Not employed.....	22%	50%	4%	23%
<b>Highest educational level completed***</b>				
No college degree.....	22%	54%	4%	21%
College/advanced degree.....	14%	43%	5%	38%
<b>Total annual household income***</b>				
Less than \$50,000.....	21%	52%	4%	23%
\$50,000 or more.....	15%	46%	4%	35%
<b>Time attending the congregation***</b>				
Visitor.....	20%	49%	4%	27%
Up to 5 years.....	19%	52%	4%	26%
6 years or more.....	19%	48%	4%	28%

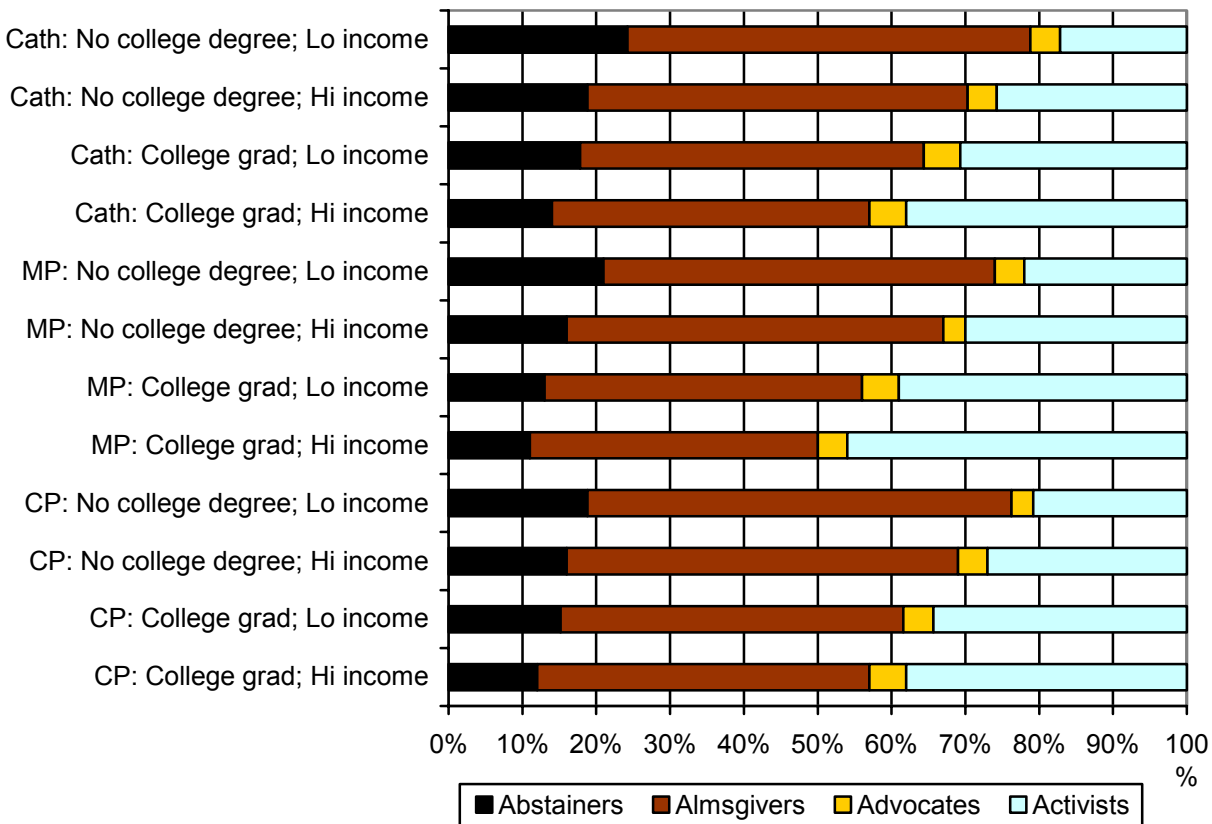
**Figure 1**  
**Mean Age by Type of Involvement and Gender**



**Figure 2**  
**Mean Age by Type of Involvement and Faith Group**



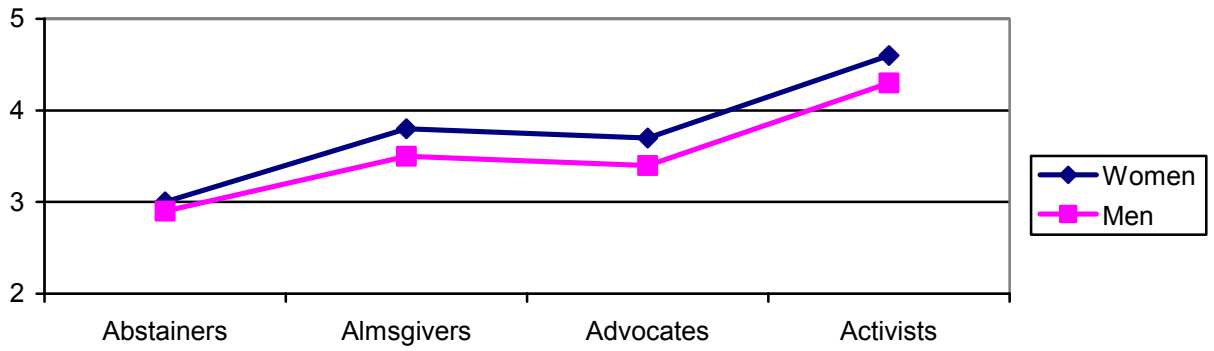
**Figure 3**  
**Percentages of Worshipers by Income, Education, and Faith Group**



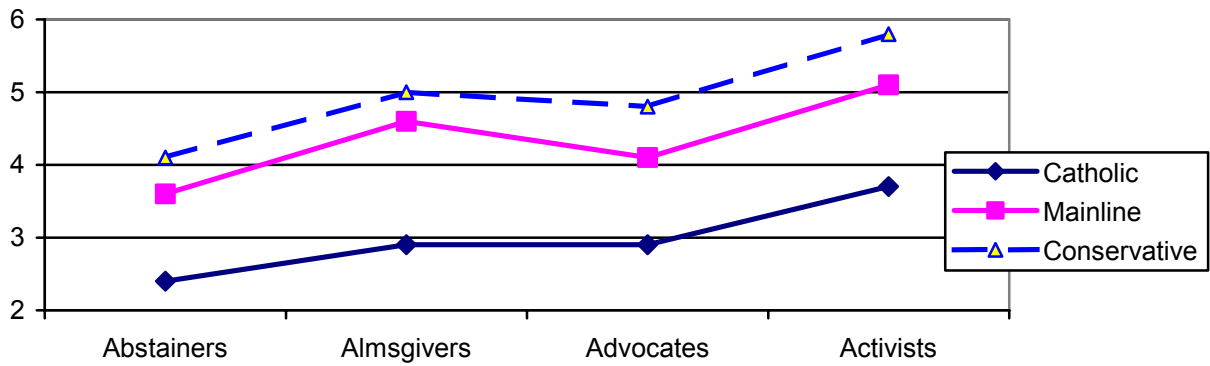
**Table 2**  
**Percentages of Worshipers by Measures of Congregational Involvement**

	<b>Abstainers Not Involved</b>	<b>Almsgivers Charity Only</b>	<b>Advocates Advocacy Only</b>	<b>Activists Both</b>
Percentage of all worshipers .....	19%	50%	4%	27%
<b>Percentage of Worshipers by Involvement in the Congregation:</b>				
Attendance at worship services				
Weekly or more .....	19%	50%	4%	28%
Less than weekly.....	18%	50%	5%	28%
Hold a leadership position***				
Yes .....	12%	48%	4%	36%
No .....	23%	50%	4%	22%
Involved in Sunday school or church school***				
Involved .....	12%	50%	3%	34%
Not involved .....	21%	49%	4%	26%
Involved in prayer, discussion, or Bible study groups***				
Involved .....	11%	49%	4%	36%
Not involved .....	21%	50%	4%	25%
Involved in fellowship, clubs, or social groups***				
Involved .....	11%	49%	4%	37%
Not involved .....	22%	50%	4%	24%
Currently a member of this congregation***				
Yes .....	18%	49%	4%	28%
No .....	21%	51%	4%	24%
Involved in decision making in congregation***				
Often/occasionally .....	11%	47%	4%	38%
Less often/never.....	21%	51%	4%	24%
Involved in congregation's evangelism and outreach***				
Involved .....	8%	49%	3%	40%
Not involved .....	21%	50%	4%	26%
Involved in congregation's community service***				
Involved .....	6%	44%	3%	46%
Not involved .....	22%	50%	4%	23%
How much did you give financially to congregation***				
About 5% or more .....	16%	50%	4%	31%
Less than 5% or none.....	20%	50%	4%	26%
Involvement Scale (alpha = .78)				
Mean number of ways involved in congregation (of above ten)*** .....	3.0	3.7	3.5	4.5

**Figure 4**  
**Mean Number of Ways Involved in the Congregation by Type and Gender**



**Figure 5**  
**Mean Number of Ways Involved in Congregation by Type and Faith Group**



**Table 3**  
**Percentages of Worshipers by Measures of Faith Development Through the Congregation**

	<b>Abstainers Not Involved</b>	<b>Almsgivers Charity Only</b>	<b>Advocates Advocacy Only</b>	<b>Activists Both</b>
Percentage of all worshipers .....	19%	50%	4%	27%

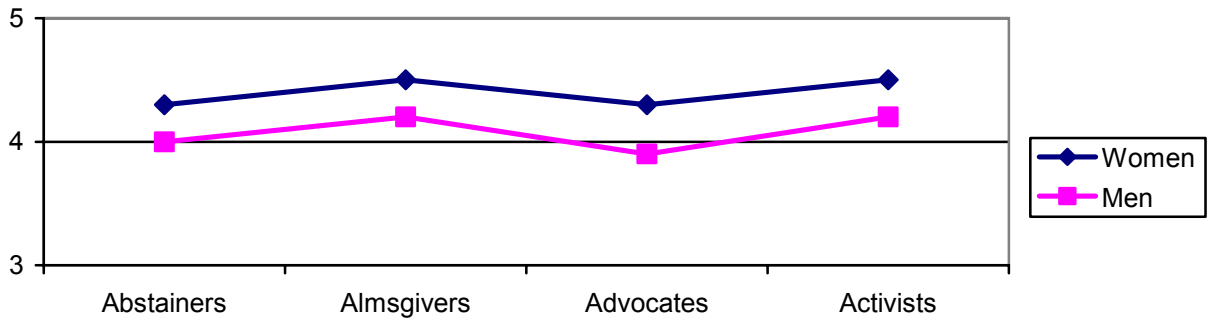
**Percentage of Worshipers by Faith Development Through the Congregation:**

Spiritual needs are met in the congregation***				
Agree.....	19%	50%	4%	27%
Disagree or not sure .....	19%	48%	4%	29%
Growth in faith over the last year***				
Much growth through congregation .....	16%	52%	4%	28%
Other .....	20%	48%	4%	27%
Services of congregation help with everyday living***				
Great/some extent .....	18%	50%	4%	28%
Small extent/not at all .....	22%	50%	5%	24%
Experience God's presence during worship***				
Always or usually .....	18%	50%	4%	28%
Less often.....	19%	48%	5%	28%
Experience inspiration during worship***				
Always or usually .....	17%	50%	4%	30%
Less often.....	19%	47%	5%	29%
Experience joy during worship***				
Always or usually .....	17%	50%	4%	29%
Less often/never.....	20%	47%	5%	29%
Spirituality Scale (alpha=.72)				
Mean number of ways congregation meets spiritual needs (of above six)*** .....	4.2	4.4	4.1	4.4

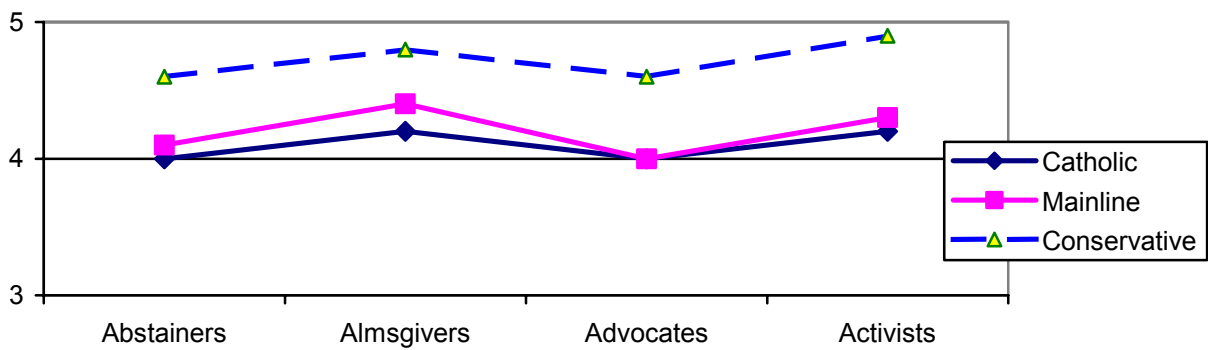
**Percentage of Worshipers by Personal Experiences and Values:**

Time spent in private devotional acts***				
At least weekly .....	17%	49%	4%	30%
Less than weekly or never .....	23%	50%	5%	23%

**Figure 6**  
**Mean Number of Ways Congregation Meets Spiritual Needs by Type and Gender**



**Figure 7**  
**Mean Number of Ways Congregation Meets Spiritual Needs by Type and Faith Group**



**Table 4**  
**Percentages of Worshipers by Other Variables**

	<b>Abstainers Not Involved</b>	<b>Almsgivers Charity Only</b>	<b>Advocates Advocacy Only</b>	<b>Activists Both</b>
Percentage of all worshipers.....	19%	50%	4%	27%
<b>Values:</b>				
Wider community care or social justice emphasis*** .....	12%	46%	4%	38%
Openness to social diversity*** .....	14%	47%	4%	35%
Practical care for one another*** .....	15%	50%	4%	32%
Contemporary style of worship/music*** ..	17%	50%	4%	30%
Social activities*** .....	15%	51%	4%	30%
Bible study or prayer groups*** .....	14%	52%	4%	30%
Ministry for children or youth*** .....	15%	51%	4%	30%
Prayer ministry*** .....	15%	51%	4%	30%
Congregation's school or pre-school*** ...	16%	49%	4%	30%
Sermons/preaching*** .....	18%	48%	4%	29%
Sharing in Holy Communion*** .....	19%	49%	4%	28%
Traditional style of worship/music*** .....	20%	49%	5%	26%
Adult church school*** .....	17%	52%	4%	27%
Reaching the unchurched*** .....	17%	55%	4%	24%
<b>Approach to Faith:</b>				
Overall results for these respondents: .....	16%	50%	4%	30%
Liberal*** .....	9%	35%	6%	50%
New Age*** .....	12%	46%	4%	39%
Moderate*** .....	12%	45%	4%	38%
Reformed*** .....	14%	45%	4%	37%
Fundamentalist*** .....	16%	46%	5%	34%
Traditionalist*** .....	14%	47%	4%	34%
Evangelical*** .....	15%	48%	4%	33%
Charismatic*** .....	14%	50%	4%	33%
Catholic** .....	17%	51%	4%	28%
Pentecostal*** .....	16%	54%	3%	28%
None*** .....	17%	51%	4%	28%
<b>Other Issues:</b>				
<b>Leaders encouraged you to use gifts and skills***</b>				
Great or some extent.....	18%	50%	4%	28%
Less or not at all.....	20%	47%	5%	28%
<b>Congregation strongly focused on serving wider community***</b>				
Strongly agree or agree .....	16%	50%	4%	31%
Disagree or unsure .....	22%	50%	4%	24%