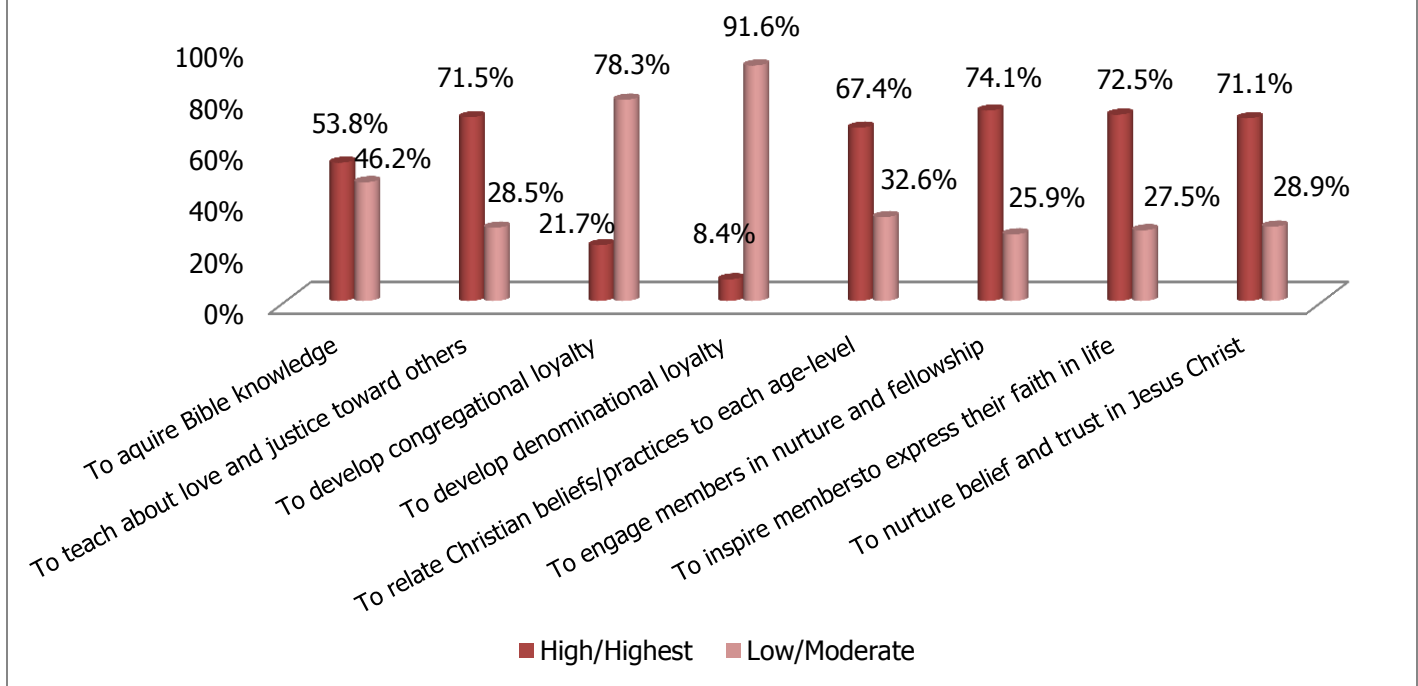


# FACTs ON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION/FAITH FORMATION

Findings from the United Church of Christ 2015 Faith Communities Today (FACT) Survey of Congregations

**Figure 1: Purposes of Faith Formation Programs**



- Nearly three out of four congregations (74.1%) indicated that engaging members in nurture and fellowship was either a “high priority” or the “highest priority.” Other high priority functions of faith formation programs included inspiring members to express their faith in everyday life, teaching about love and justice toward others, and nurturing belief and trust in Jesus Christ. (Figure 1)
- One characteristic of lower priority for congregational faith formation programs was acquiring knowledge of the Bible, with only half of congregations (53.8%) placing a high or the highest priority on this. Developing congregational loyalty and denominational loyalty were rated as the lowest priorities overall (21.7% and 8.4% with low/moderate priority, respectively).
- The average number of people (including children) who regularly participate in Christian Education/Faith Formation programs/classes in UCC churches is roughly 33 individuals. (Actual numbers are dependent largely upon a congregation’s size.)
- In over half of UCC congregations (51.8%), the pastor is primarily responsible for organizing the educational ministries within the church. In 32.8% of churches, lay volunteers are primarily responsible; and in 15.4% of churches, other paid staff are responsible for this aspect of church life.
- Churches were asked to indicate the level of emphasis applied toward personal and family religious practices. Living out one’s faith in all aspects of daily living was most emphasized with 79.8% of congregations indicating “a lot/quite a bit” of emphasis. The least amount of emphasis was placed on fasting with 93.2% of churches indicating “not at all/a little” emphasis.