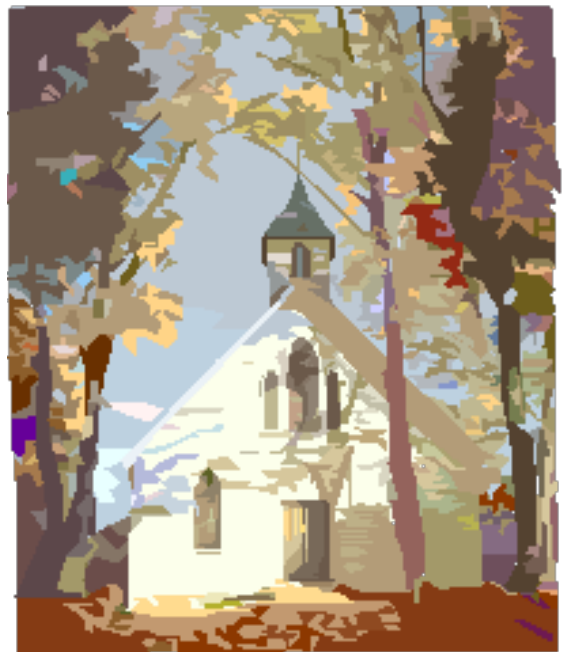


FACTS ON SMALLER CONGREGATIONS

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

Nearly half (46.5%) of all UCC congregations have 50 or fewer people in attendance at worship each week, and nearly 8 in 10 congregations (79.5%) have 100 or fewer people in weekly worship. Because of these statistics, it can be concluded that the United Church of Christ is a denomination of smaller congregations. When comparing these smaller congregations to churches that have an average weekly worship attendance of over 100 people, the following characteristics and attributes were discovered about the UCC's smaller churches:

- Possessed greater percentages of older adults (age 50 or older) and smaller percentages of younger people (including children and youth)*
- Were less likely to have changed worship styles in the past five years*
- Placed greater emphasis on developing denominational loyalty in Christian Education/Faith Formation programs; also celebrated denominational heritage as part of the congregation's mission and identity
- Possessed an identity of their church as being a close-knit family*
- Was slightly more likely to have considered changing denominations or becoming independent in the last 10 years
- Had fewer church participants who were daily internet/social media users*
- Had fewer church participants who were involved in evangelism and outreach to new people*
- Were more likely to have a majority of participants possessing conservative theological outlooks*
- Were less likely to have grown in average weekly worship attendance over the last five years*
- Were more likely to have an older female pastor*
- Were more likely to have a part-time and/or bi-vocational pastor, as well as a shorter-tenured pastor*
- Adapted less readily to change/not as willing to make changes*
- Were less likely to have a website or use electronic technology or internet/social media*
- Were more likely to be a newer congregation
- Were more uncertain about their future as a congregation*
- Located in less populated geographic areas*



All characteristics with an asterisk (*) were statistically significantly different than what was reported for congregations with an average weekly worship attendance of over 100 people.