

1001

WORSHIPING COMMUNITIES

2020 LEADER REPORT



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**RESEARCH
SERVICES**

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Overview of New Worshiping Communities

About NWCs

In this section we review the 1001 NWC movement and general trends including:

- About 1001
- About this survey
- 8-year overview of 1001
- The toll of the pandemic

About 1001 Worshiping Communities

1001 new worshiping communities is a movement happening in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Across the PC(USA), God is raising up leaders in churches and presbyteries who are creating new worshiping communities.

They are taking on new and varied forms of church for our changing culture. Primarily they are seeking to make and form new disciples of Jesus Christ, to change and transform the world.

In June 2012, the 220th General Assembly declared a commitment to a churchwide movement that results in the creation of 1,001 worshiping communities over the next 10 years. At a grassroots level, hundreds of diverse new worshiping communities have already formed across the nation.

The Presbyterian Mission Agency is coming alongside to fan the flames of this movement, to inspire and equip the wider church to participate in the creation of 1,001 new worshiping communities in the next 10 years.

As of the end of 2020, 677 new worshiping communities have been raised up across the PC(USA). Of these, 529 (78%) were active at the end of 2020.

In 2020, 37 new worshiping communities were formed, and 11 communities closed.

This report is based on results from the Leader Survey for 2020, which fielded from February to April of 2021 and had a 34% response rate, for a total of 182 respondents.

For a statistical summary of 1001 NWC, please see Appendix A.

About the Survey

1001 Worshiping Community leaders are asked once per year to provide information on their communities.

2020 data was collected from February to April of 2021.

As of the end of 2020, there were 529 NWCs (new worshiping communities). Of these, 182 responded to the survey, for a response rate of 34%. Of these,

- 10 reported in the survey that their community had closed (11 total NWCs closed in 2020)
- 4 were not previously in the 1001 database

This information is used to update the 1001 database, and to share information with the 1001 office regarding the state of the worshiping communities within their care.

You can find a list of past research reports on 1001, as well as other resources, by going to the following webpage:

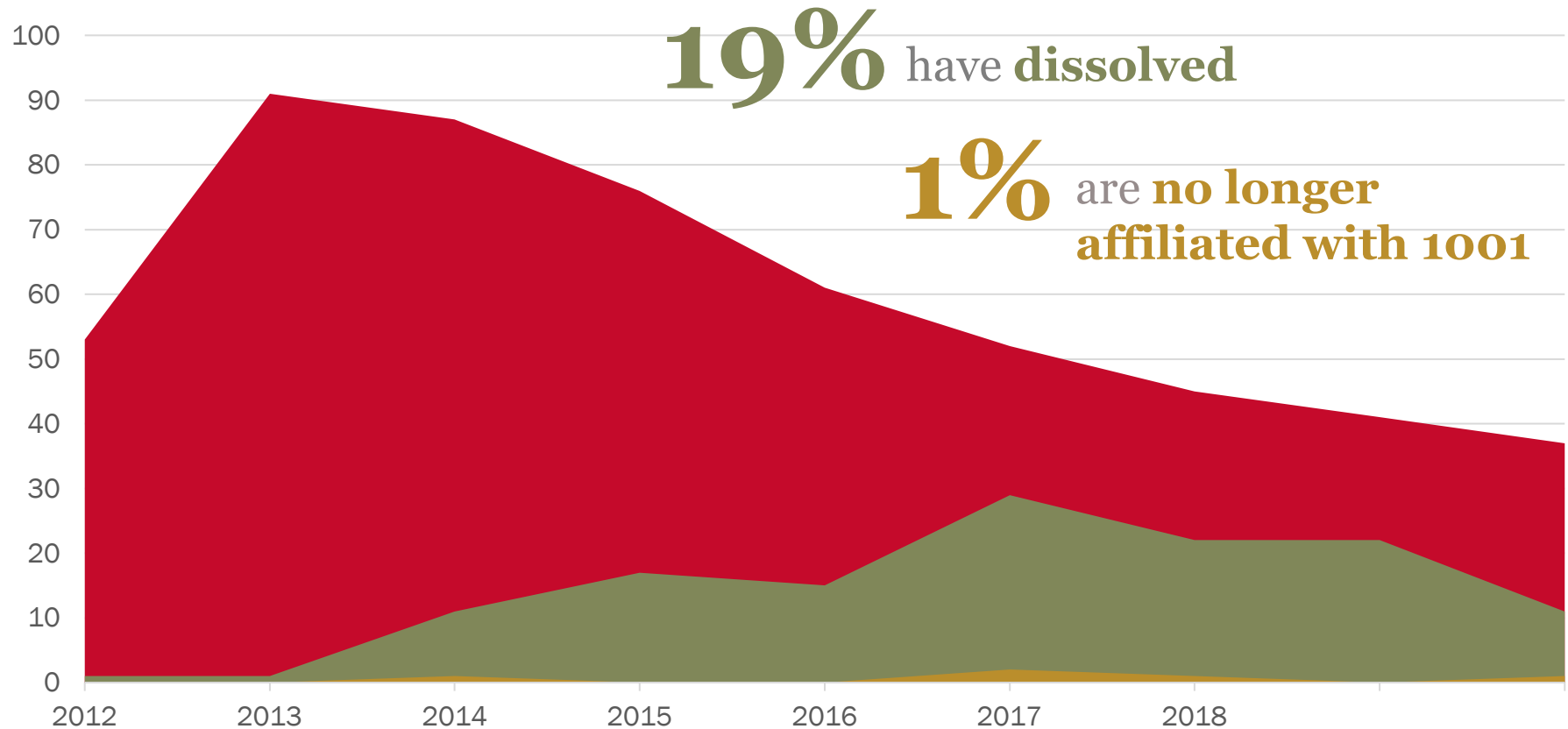
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resources/topics/1001-2/>

This report was released in September of 2021.

Eight years of 1001

In June 2012, the 220th General Assembly declared a commitment to a churchwide movement that results in the creation of 1,001 worshiping communities over the next 10 years. Since then,

677 New worshiping communities have been supported by 1001. Of these, 612 **launched** since 2012.

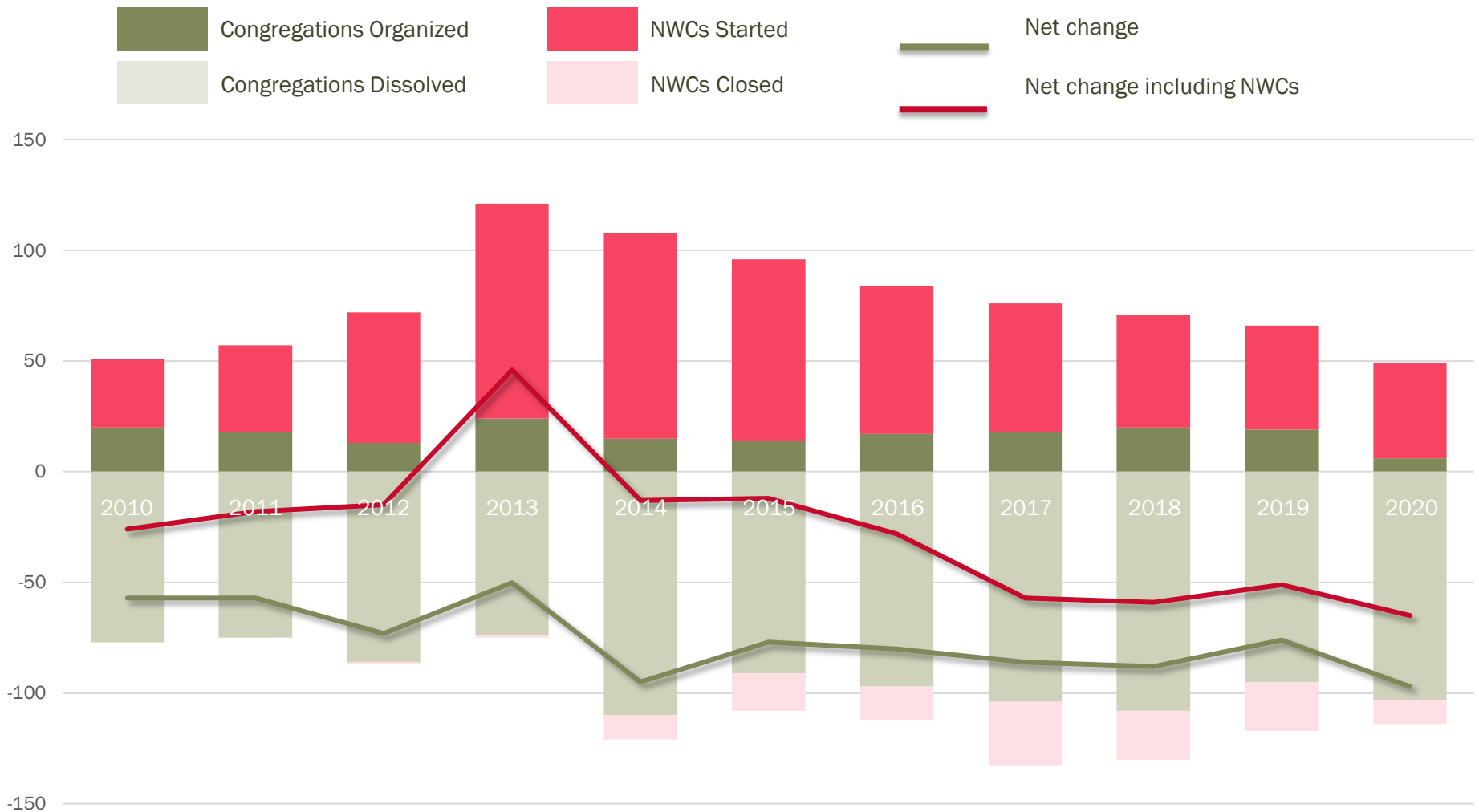


NOTE: The 65 communities that started before 2012 were young enough when 1001 started that they were taken under the initiative's wing.

Overview of New Worshiping Communities

NWCs mitigate decline in congregations

Although we consistently see more PC(USA) churches dissolve each year than we see organize, this net loss is mitigated by the inclusion of new worshiping communities. In fact, in 2013 - the first full year after the June 2012 launch of the 1001 New Worshiping Communities initiative - PC(USA) actually had a net gain of worshiping communities. This is likely due to the excitement surrounding the launch of 1001. Since then, each year more new worshiping communities start than close.



Note: This data isn't perfect. It is important to note that some of the congregations that organize each year started as new worshiping communities, and some new congregations are mergers of old congregations.

The Pandemic Takes its Toll

Eleven NWCs dissolved in 2020.

Of these, four specifically name the pandemic as their downfall.

We acknowledge this isn't a very large number of communities, so we hesitate to present this information in percentages. However, four out of the ten NWCs that reported closing give the pandemic as their reason.

There is hope, however. Of these, three have plans to try to restart after the pandemic ends, and therefore report their closure as temporary.

It is also important to keep in mind that this is still less than the 22 NWCs that dissolved in 2019, and 22 in 2018.

Reasons other than the pandemic that were cited were:

“The ministry took a turn in a new direction. We are now ministering to the spiritual, not religious by providing rituals.”

“Lost the support of the supporting congregations”

“It was merging into [another NWC]”

The People in 1001

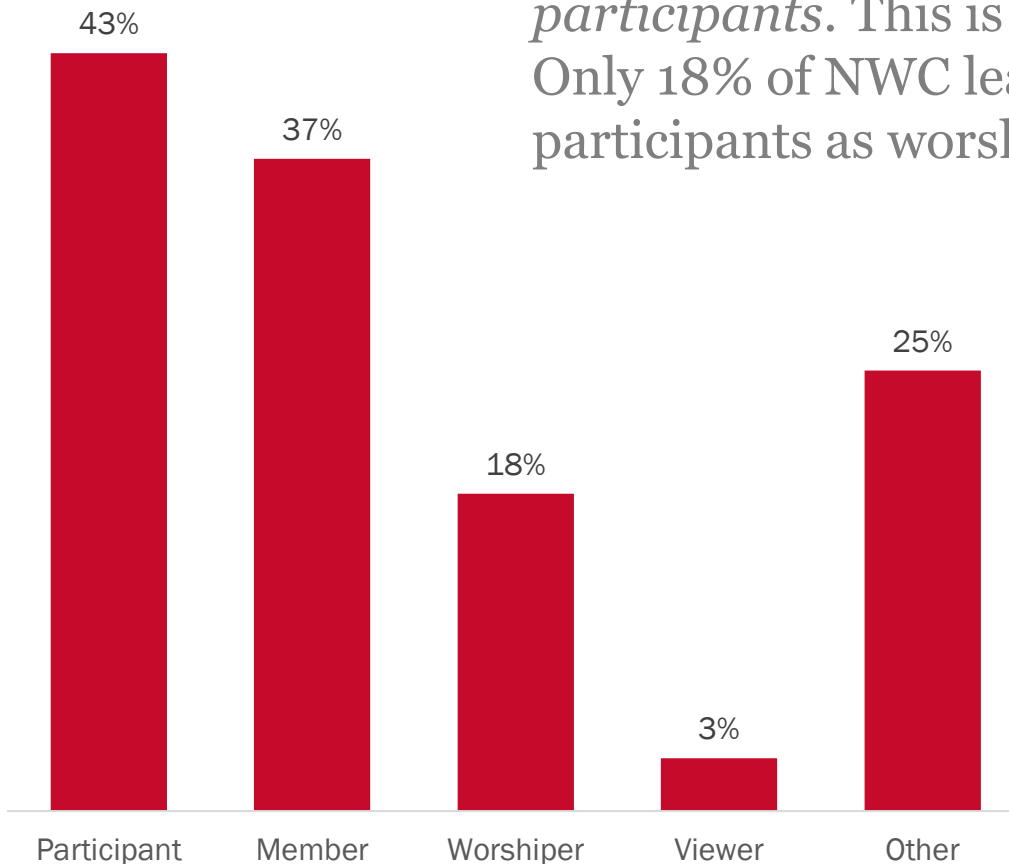
About the Worshipers

In this section we review the people who attend new worshipping communities. We cover

- Size of NWCs
- Religious background
- Demographics

NWC leaders use many words to refer to the people who regularly participate with them

The most used term for people who participate in new worshiping communities is *participants*. This is followed by *members*. Only 18% of NWC leaders refer to their participants as worshipers.



Other terms include:

- Attendees
- Family
- Friends
- Congregants
- Covenant partners
- Disciples
- “Everyday chicks colliding with Jesus”

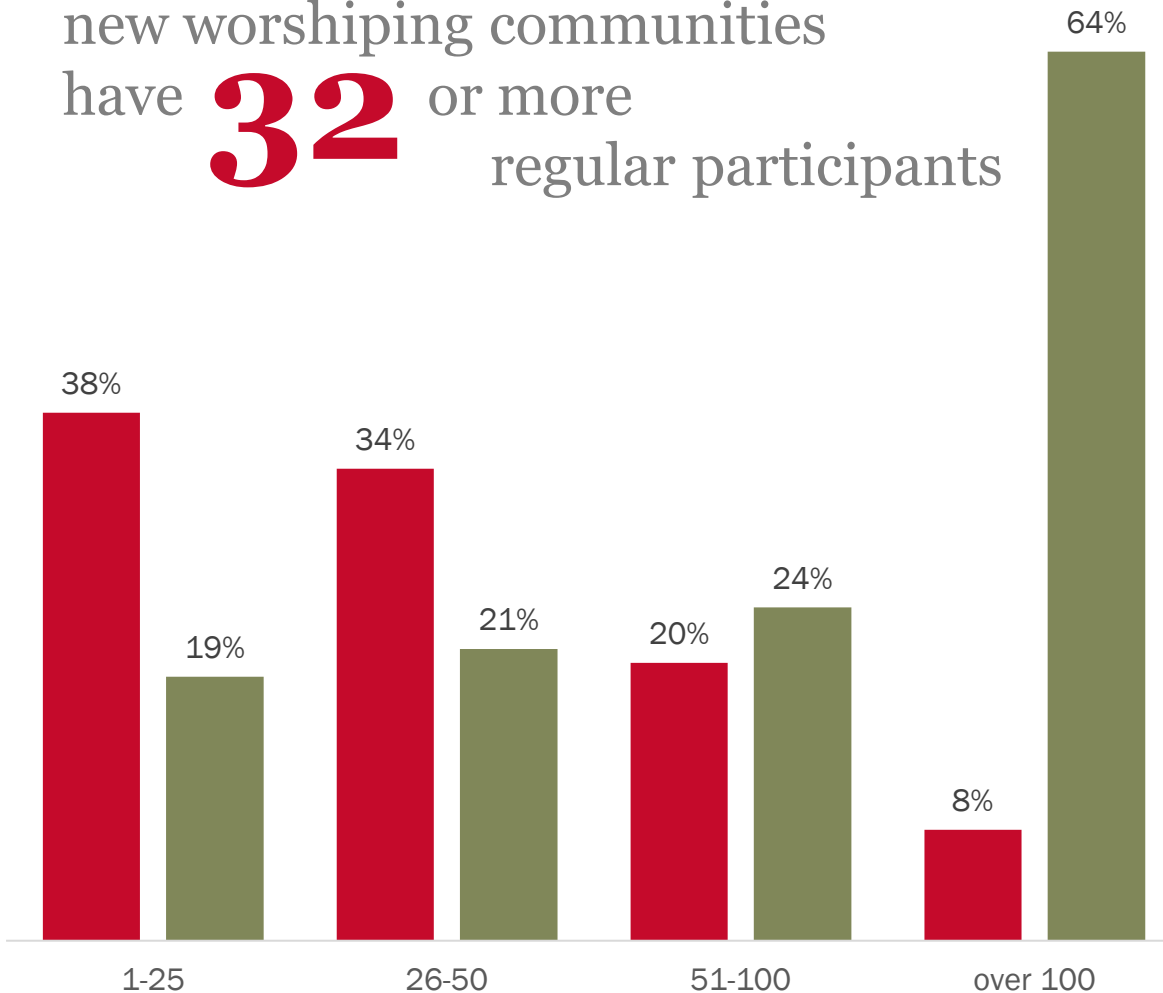
What does it mean to participate?

When asked what it means to be a regular participant in their community, leaders focus on active involvement, but also connecting outside of worship.



New worshiping communities are smaller than PC(USA) congregations.

Half of new worshiping communities have **32** or more regular participants



Whereas NWCs range from 1 - 1,000 participants with a median of 32, congregations range from 1 - 6,959 members with a median of 68.

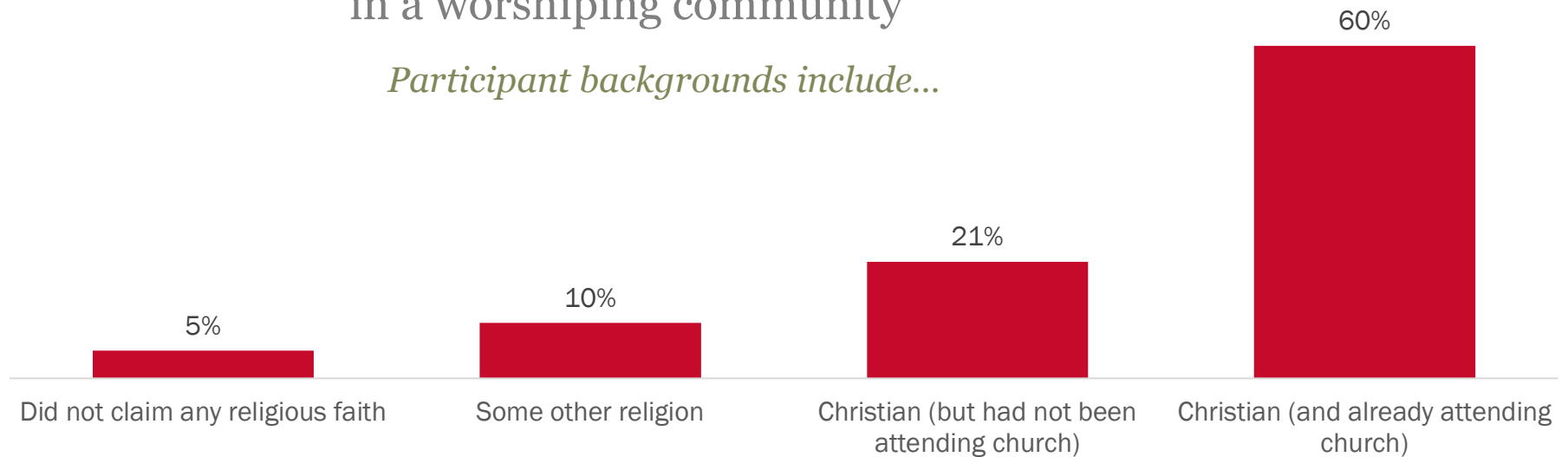
The annual 1001 report typically also compares the number of NWC regular participants to average congregational attendance, since this is a more accurate comparison.

However, the pandemic greatly affected attendance: 2,405 (27%) of congregations did not even report attendance for 2020. Of those that did, average attendance was 41; slightly higher than the number of regular participants in NWCs.

New worshiping communities serve people in various stages of their Christian formation.

40% of NWC participants were not attending a Christian church before participating in a worshiping community

Participant backgrounds include...



34%

of new worshiping community leaders describe their community as **unchurched**

33%

of new worshiping community leaders say that the people in their community think of themselves as **Presbyterian**

73%

of new worshiping community leaders think of their worshiping community as **Presbyterian**

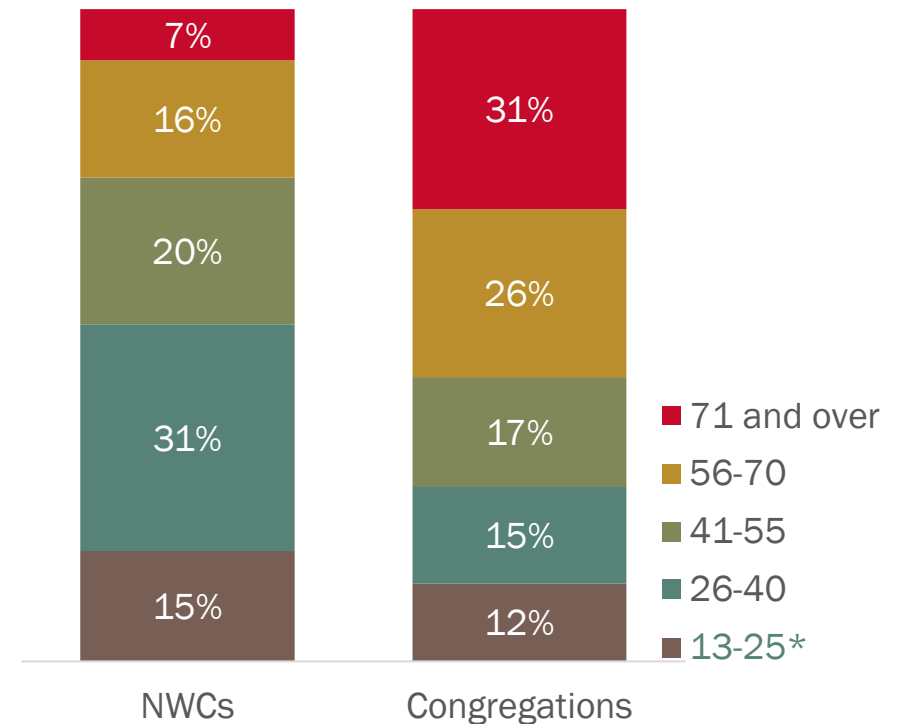
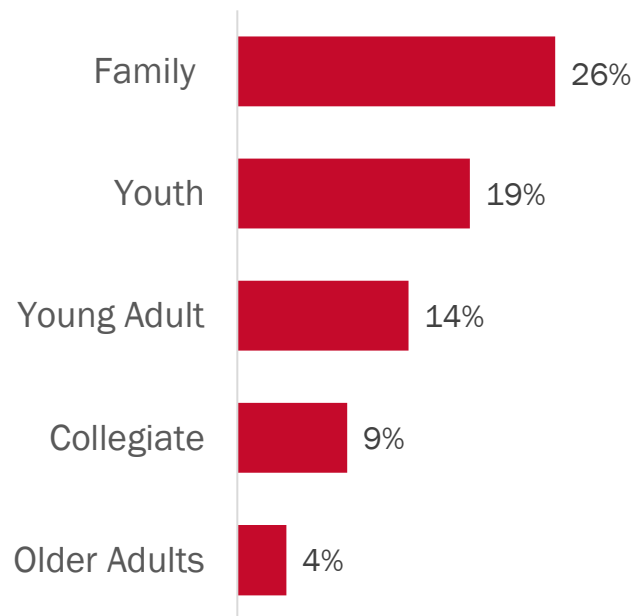
Statistics in this box are from the 2019 survey

The People in 1001

NWC participants tend to be younger than PC(USA) members as a whole.

78% of NWC participants are age 55 or under

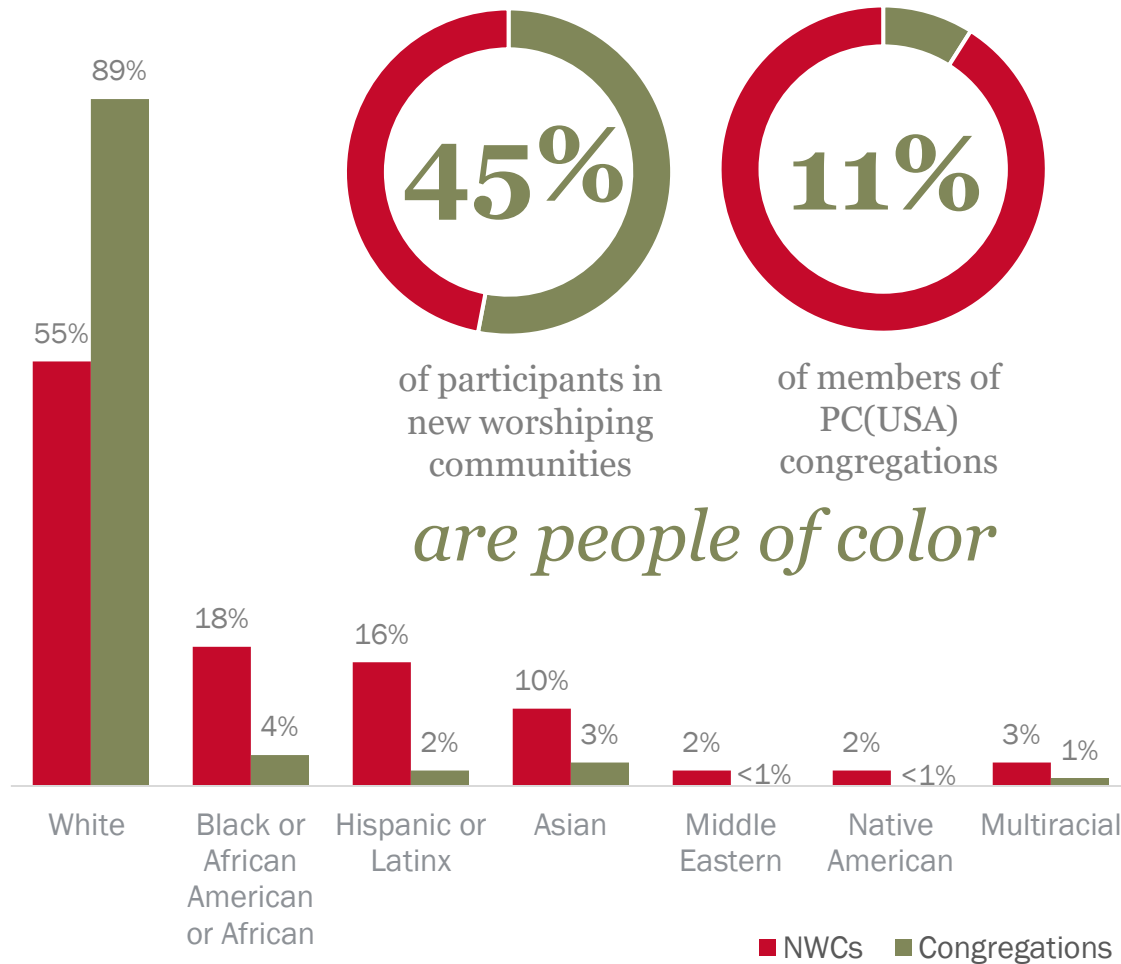
72% of NWCs have an age group focus:



The largest age group in PC(USA) congregations is over 70. In contrast, the largest age group within NWCs is 26-40. This indicates that NWCs are attracting younger participants.

*Since membership in PC(USA) is typically limited to those who have completed confirmation, which is usually in 8th grade, when most children are 13-14, analysis of new worshiping community participant age has been limited to those 13 and above. The 78% statistic in the title includes the 12% of worshiping community participants under the age of 13.

NWC participants are more racially diverse than PC(USA) members



In addition to having more overall diversity, NWCs are also more likely to have a diverse membership within any given community.

Only 4% of PC(USA) congregations have no single race comprising more than 79% of its membership. In contrast, 49% of NWCs are racially diverse in this way.

Also, only 72% of the 165 leaders who responded to the community state that their community's primary language is English; in addition, 11% speak Spanish, 6% Korean, 4% Arabic, 2% Portuguese, and 6% speak other languages. In total NWCs represent 12 language groups.

Getting to know the Communities

About the NWCs

In this section we review the new worshipping communities. Topics covered include:

- Types of communities
- Sacraments
- Where NWCs meet
- Mission and Outreach

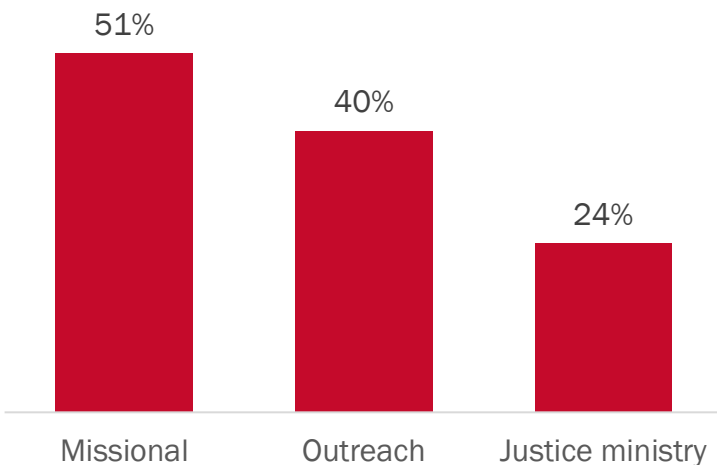
Getting to know the communities

79% of NWCs engage in mission or outreach efforts.

The number of people any given NWC reports reaching per year ranges from zero to 500,000 and includes local neighbors as well as international partnerships. The median number of people reached is 113, meaning that half of NWCs reach more than 113 and half reach less than this number of people.

Leaders were asked who their worshiping community engaged with in its mission and outreach efforts and invited to write in their answers, and 133 provided responses. The following table breaks down the most common categories of people being reached by NWCs.

Percentage of NWCs reporting missional, outreach, or justice ministry as a focus

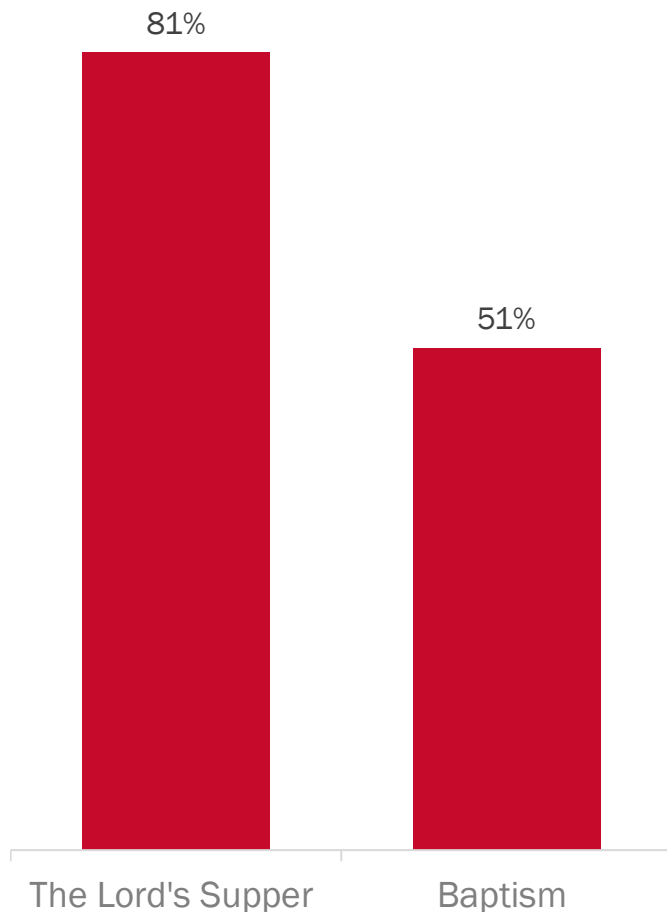


Who does your worshiping community engage with in its mission and outreach efforts?

Category	n (%)
The poor or homeless	54 (41%)
Children and youth	3 (15%)
Immigrants and refugees	11%
Social justice work	12 (9%)
The sick or elderly	11 (8%)
Prisoners	4 (3%)

Holy sacraments in new worshipping communities

83% of NWCs celebrate the sacraments.



Half (51%) of NWCs report that they had at least one baptism in the last year, and 52% of these baptisms were of people over the age of 12. Additionally, 15% report performing adult baptisms, compared to only 5% of PC(USA) congregations.* In total, there were 69 baptisms of those 12 and younger, and 212 baptisms of those over the age of 12. However, because only 34% of new worshipping communities responded to the survey, the number of actual baptisms that occurred in 2020 may be much higher than reported.

If we assume that nonresponding NWCs and PC(USA) congregations are similar to the ones that did respond, we can tentatively extrapolate that there may have been as many as 624 adult baptisms in NWCs in 2020. In comparison, PC(USA) reported 703 “other” baptisms (adult baptisms would fall into this category). With 82% of churches submitting statistical data, we can extrapolate that there were potentially around 857 baptisms of individuals likely over the age of 12.

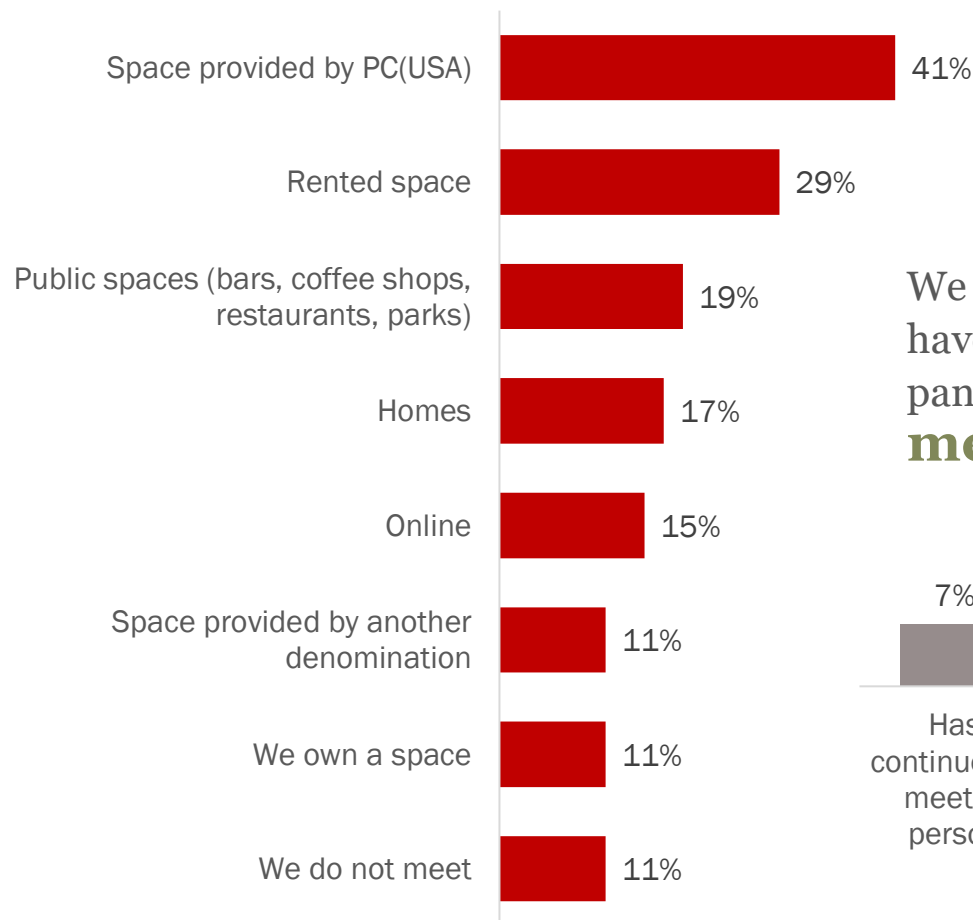
**PC(USA) baptisms are reported in three categories: “presented by others” (typically babies and children), “at confirmation” (typically around 8th grade), and “all others” (typically those past confirmation age, including adults).*

Getting to know the communities

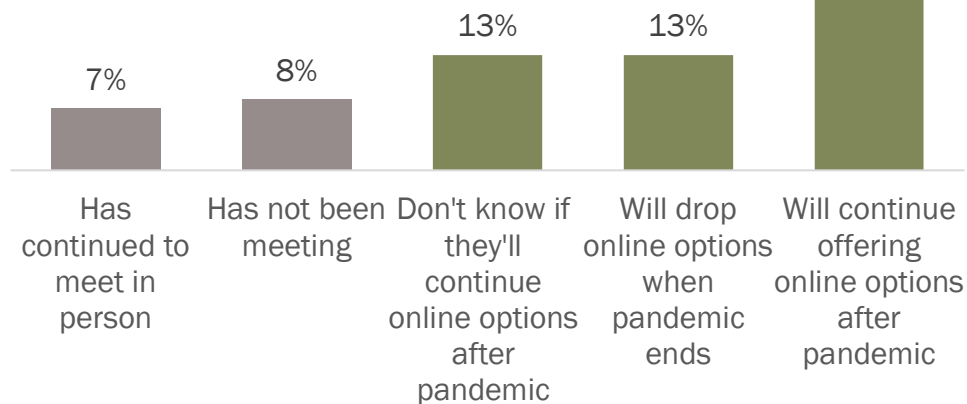
Where new worshiping communities gather

85% of new worshiping communities have a regular gathering space

These gathering places include...



We also asked whether NWCs have been meeting during the pandemic. **86% have been meeting online.**

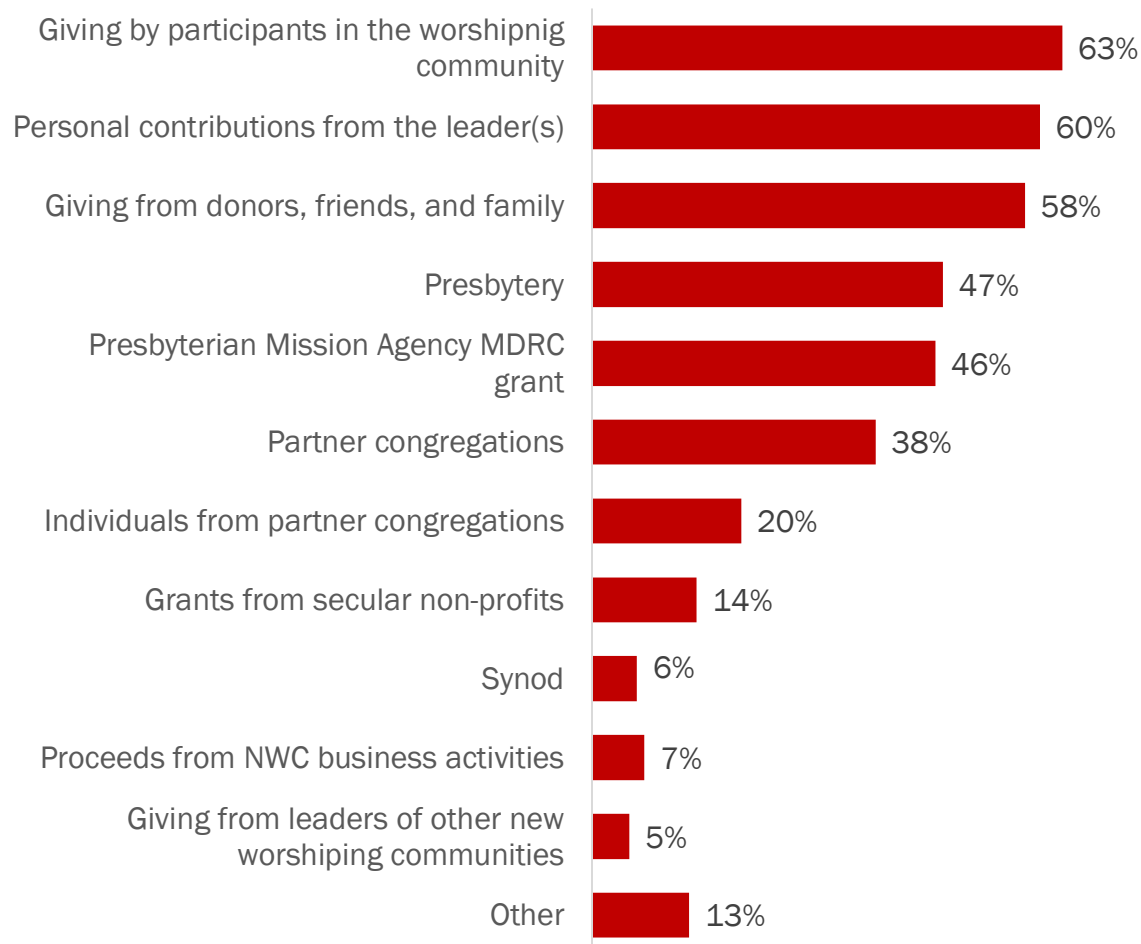


Getting to know the communities

New Worshiping Community funding sources

53% of new worshiping communities have three or more sources of funding

Funding sources include...



The most common source of funding is giving by participants in the worshiping community. This is followed by personal contributions from the leaders, and giving from donors, friends and family.

Other sources of funding include giving from other Presbyterian churches and presbyteries that are not partners and giving from other religious organizations and nonprofits.

Getting to know the communities

New Worshiping Community Budgets

New worshiping communities have a wide range of budgets.

Budget item	% with a budget	Median*	Average*	Minimum	Maximum
Staff Salaries	79%	\$29,000	\$45,419	\$70	\$250,000
Building/Property costs (rent, utilities, etc.)	57%	\$6,000	\$17,233	\$50	\$340,000
Software/Tech/Office supplies	74%	\$2,000	\$2,950	\$100	\$24,000
Mission and community service	78%	\$3,000	\$9,586	\$50	\$200,000
Advertising	43%	\$931	\$1,688	\$50	\$11,000
Other	39%	\$3,000	\$6,090	\$83	\$31,000

**Medians and averages are out of those that have a budget for that item.*

Staff salaries tend to be the largest expense for new worshiping communities. Of course, these numbers are for 2020, which was a pandemic year. Many leaders comment that their budgets for this past year were different than normal as a result.

“Last year we had no budget , we survived by the \$25,000 grant from PDA and \$6,000 pandemic assistance from PDA towards our refugee program. We also receive a pivot grant of \$1,000 from 1001 NWC and a \$700 technology grant. The members were not contributing because many lost their jobs during pandemic.”

Getting to know the communities

Use of 1001 NWC Resources

New worshipping community leaders are being trained to lead their communities.

Resource	%
Coaching	53%
Conversations with Regional Associates or 1001 Staff	50%
Discerning Missional Leadership Assessment	44%
Cohort Group	27%
Exploring Missional Leadership Event	23%
New Church New Way Podcast	22%
Missional Leadership Quiz	20%
Apprenticeship	14%
Residency	11%
NWC Accelerator	10%
Core Leadership Training Program	9%

The most used resource is coaching, with over half of NWC leaders reporting either having or having had a 1001 coach. This is followed closely by conversations with regional associates or 1001 staff, and cohort groups. It is worth noting that all the top three resources are people- and relationship- focused. This is reflected in some of the comments, for example one leader says, “The conversations are probably the most helpful over the course of the time we've been together.”

Leaders were asked which resource was particularly helpful, and the most common answer is all of them.

“All of the events I attended were very helpful in understanding the purpose and expectations of a NWC in addition to strengthening my leadership and community building skills.”

Appendix

Comparative Summary of Statistics

This document provides an overall statistical view of data related to the 1001 NWC movement from its beginning to 2020.

1001 NWC Comparative Summaries of Statistics, p1

Types of communities served by 1001	unknown	pre-2012	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
New church developments	1	3	10	7	5	10	8	5	8	8	1
Immigrant fellowships	8	19	7	9	7	5	10	4	5	4	1
Campus ministries	9	4	4	15	5	13	3	1	2	1	0
Congregations	2	5	7	6	4	1	2	0	0	1	0
All other new worshipping communities*	45	32	29	58	69	49	42	42	32	28	35
TOTAL NWCS**	65	134	187	278	365	441	502	554	599	640	677
NWCs Organized		69	53	91	87	76	61	52	45	41	37
NWCs Dissolved			1	1	11	17	15	29	22	22	11
NWCs Dismissed (no longer 1001)			0	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	1

NWCs by size	2015	2016	2018	2019	2020	
1-24	45%	40%	-	46%	38%	32%
25-49	17%	28%	-	30%	22%	34%
50-74	17%	14%	-	12%	14%	15%
75-99	6%	7%	-	6%	11%	7%
100 or more	15%	12%	-	6%	16%	12%

Age of regular participants	2015	2016	2018	2019	2020
up to 12	12%	up to 12 12%	up to 12 11%	14%	up to 12 12%
13-18	9%	13-25 14%	13-25 13%	11%	13-25 15%
19-39	43%	26-39 24%	26-35 22%	21%	26-40 31%
40-64	27%	40-55 28%	36-55 37%	13%	41-55 20%
65 and over	9%	over 55 21%	over 55 18%	12%	56-70 16%
					over 70 7%

Race of regular participants	2015	2016	2018	2019	2020	
Asian	12%	12%	-	13%	10%	10%
Black, African American, or African Immigrant	17%	12%	-	22%	22%	18%
Hispanic or Latino/a/x	18%	16%	-	14%	15%	16%
Middle Eastern	4%	2%	-	1%	3%	2%
Native American	<1%	<1%	-	<1%	<1%	2%
Multiracial	2%	2%	-	2%	2%	3%
White	47%	53%	-	46%	46%	55%

Religious background of regular participants	2015	2016	2018	2019	2020	
Christian (and already attending church)	63%	58%	-	56%	51%	60%
Christian (but had not been attending church)	20%	21%	-	20%	33%	21%
Some other religion	7%	9%	-	12%	7%	10%
Did not claim any religious faith	17%	12%	-	12%	9%	5%

1001 NWC Comparative Summaries of Statistics, p2

Languages	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
English	65%	71%	-	75%	69%	72%
Arabic	3%	4%	-	1%	3%	4%
Korean	4%	6%	-	4%	4%	6%
Spanish	17%	9%	-	12%	9%	11%
Other	12%	11%	-	8%	15%	8%
Geographic setting					2019	2020
Urban	48%	33%	-	26%	26%	38%
Suburban	22%	21%	-	20%	14%	40%
Inner City	---	14%	-	17%	12%	22%
Small town	17%	11%	-	16%	10%	26%
Rural	2%	3%	-	6%	9%	14%
Meeting location					2019	2020
Space provided by PC(USA)	43%	41%	-	54%	52%	41%
Space provided by other denomination	7%	7%	-	5%	6%	11%
Home	18%	21%	-	28%	21%	17%
Public space	27%	25%	-	25%	29%	19%
Rented space	---	5%	-	6%	5%	29%
Owns space	---	4%	-	1%	4%	11%
Online (even when there is not a pandemic)	---	---	-	---	---	15%
Other details					2019	2020
Has regular gathering space	80%	89%	-	89%	87%	85%
Runs a business	9%	6%	-	10%	12%	---
Sacraments					2019	2020
Communities offering baptisms	54%	67%	-	56%	59%	51%
Percent reporting baptisms of age 12 and younger within past year	54%	54%	-	47%	54%	52%
Percent reporting baptisms of age 13 and older within past year	48%	46%	-	43%	48%	51%
Communities offering communion	80%	86%	-	78%	80%	81%

- The 2015 survey fielded January to February of 2015 and had a 33% response rate.
- The 2016 survey fielded September to October of 2016 and had a 31% response rate.
- There was no 2017 survey
- The 2018 survey fielded March to April of 2018 and had a 32% response rate.
- The 2019 survey fielded April to May of 2019 and had a 27% response rate.
- The 2020 survey fielded February to April of 2021 and had a 34% response rate.

*We use the term "new worshipping community" (NWC) to refer to any community that is connected to and served by the 1001 office.
 **NWCs can fit more than one category, so numbers will not add up to total. Those with no known start date accumulate from the beginning.



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We are social scientists with backgrounds in sociology, public policy, and economics. We serve congregations, presbyteries and synods, PC(USA) national agencies, and other PC(USA)-related organizations. Research Services is a ministry of the Administrative Services Group.

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