



A Survey of Churches of Christ

We want to introduce you to an exciting and encouraging project to update and upgrade the directory Churches of Christ in the United States. The beginnings of this directory go back to the 1950s when Ruel Lemmons began gathering congregational information into *Where the Saints Meet*. Today, the **Churches of Christ in the United States**, published by 21st Century Christian since 1997, is the most comprehensive directory for all branches of the churches of Christ.

This year, a group of ministries, institutions, and individuals representing a broad spectrum of our fellowship are working together to collect the most accurate congregational information since the 1980s. So much has changed since 2000, and particularly since 2018. We need to know what is happening in churches of Christ. How are we faring? What are the bright spots? How can we encourage one another in God's work and mission?

Accompanying this letter is a survey for your congregation to complete.

- **Who should complete this survey?** This survey is best completed by a minister, staff member, or designated leader, someone who knows your congregation well.
- **What does the survey cover?** The survey is divided into two parts.
 - Part 1** is essential demographic information that identifies your congregation for inclusion in the printed directory.
 - Part 2** asks general information about meetings, ministries, ministers, and leadership. This information will be aggregated without congregational name or identification.

How can I complete the survey? You have two options:

- 1. Online.** You can complete this survey online at www.crc-CoC.org/survey This is the best way to enter your congregational data. You may find it helpful first to gather the data in the accompanying paper form so the information will be at your fingertips to enter it online.
- 2. Paper Form.** If you prefer, complete and return the paper survey using the enclosed pre-addressed envelope.

How will our information be used? Your information will be handled safely and securely. The only information that will be publicly attached to your congregation is what you share in Part 1 for the new edition of the Churches of Christ in the United States, like in previous editions. The information in Part 2 will be used in a general aggregate without specific identifying information to any congregation.

You may pre-order a copy of the 2025 print version of the Churches of Christ in the United States from 21st Century Christian at www.21stCC.com.

Dr. Stanley E. Granberg
Project Director
Church Research Council

Part 1 – Basic Demographic Information - It will take you about 10 minutes to complete.

Your participation in this survey is invaluable in helping to create an accurate picture of the state of our congregations today. Thank you for your participation and dedication to our shared journey of faith and fellowship.

- Our congregation would prefer not to be included in the database.

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

1. Who is completing this form?

Name _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Date of Completion _____

2. What is your role in the congregation?

- Minister
- Secretary
- Elder
- Deacon
- Other: _____

3. Please tell us the name of your congregation and where your congregation is located.

Congregational name: _____

Meeting Address: _____

Meeting City: _____

Meeting State: _____

Meeting Zip Code: _____

County: _____

4. Is your mailing address different from the address where you meet? If so, what is the mailing address?

Mailing Address: _____

Mailing City: _____

Mailing State: _____

Mailing Zip Code: _____

If this is a residential address, to whom should correspondence be addressed? _____

For each of the following forms of contact, if your congregation has it, please provide it.

5. Primary Telephone Number _____

6. Website URL address (if applicable):

7. Email Address _____

8. Does your congregation use social media? (YouTube, Instagram, Twitter X, etc.)

Yes

No

8a. Which social media platforms does your congregation use? (Check all that apply)

Facebook

YouTube

Twitter X

Instagram

Other _____

9. What is the average weekly attendance of your primary worship service(s)? _____

10. Do you count online viewers as part of your average weekly attendance?

No

Yes

If yes, how do you come up with the online count?

11. How many people are affiliated with the congregation, including members, children, and attenders who are not members?

12. How many members are in your congregation? This typically consists of all baptized persons currently in the congregation.

13. What year was your congregation established or began meeting?

14. Does your congregation meet in its own building?
- No
 - Yes
- If yes, what year was the building constructed (earliest portion, currently in use)? _____

The next set of questions is about characteristics of your congregation that help people who may wish to visit your church.

15. With what stream or group is your congregation most closely associated?
- Mainstream** (typically have both Bible classes and paid preacher)
 - Non-class** (do not have separate Bible classes) - **with** located preacher, minister, evangelist
 - Non-class** (do not have separate Bible classes) - **without** located preacher, minister, evangelist?
 - Non-institutional or Congregational** (do not follow church support of institutions or the sponsoring church concept for benevolence or missions)
 - Mutual edification** (do not use a paid preacher or located evangelist to present sermons)
 - One cup** (use one container in communion, using either fermented or unfermented juice, broken or unbroken bread)
 - Other** _____
16. Does your congregation identify as:
- Primarily **white** or Caucasian
 - Primarily **Black** or African American
 - Primarily **Hispanic** or Latino
 - Serving **military** installations or has significant number of active-duty military members
 - Significantly **integrated** racially/ethnically, at least 25% multi-ethnic
 - Other** _____

Part 2 – Congregational Insight Information - Part 2 will take you about 25-30 minutes to complete.

Thank you for completing the basic demographic information about your congregation. With the changes we see in our society, we are also interested in learning about trends within our tradition. This information will not be publicly available. The data will be aggregated for research purposes without individual congregational identification.

- Our congregation would prefer not to participate in this part of the survey.
17. How many baptisms did you have in the 2023 calendar year? _____
18. Approximately what percent of the people who attend your church are, enter the approximate percentage for each age range.
- Under 12 _____
 - 13 to 17 _____
 - 18 to 24 _____
 - 25 to 44 _____
 - 45 to 64 _____
 - 65 to 79 _____
 - 80 and older _____
19. In what type of area is your church located?
- Urban** (typically a central city location, mixed business, residential, and apartments)
 - Suburban** (in or near residential neighborhoods, single-family dwellings primarily)
 - Small town** (a community separated from other population areas)
 - Rural** (community setting, in the midst of farm or other rural setting)

WORSHIP

20. Which of the following best characterizes your congregation's worship?

- Traditional** (hymnals, more formal)
 - Contemporary** (may use contemporary Christian songs, have a worship leader and praise team, employ a variety of visual and stage props, etc.)
 - Innovative** (includes different worship practices and experiences)
 - Non-Traditional** (not a typical congregational approach to organization or worship gatherings)
 - Something else**
-

21. In your worship does your congregation consider itself:

- A cappella**
- Instrumental**
- Blended**, offering both a *cappella* and instrumental options

22. Of the following ministries, please select all those that your church participates in and/or financially supports?

- Campus/College Ministry** (includes both congregational college ministry and formal campus ministries to one or more local colleges). If checked,
 - Financial support only
 - Member participation
- Church Planting** (church financially supports or is actively involved in planting new congregations) If checked,
 - Financial support only
 - Member participation
- Foreign Missions** (church financially supports or sponsors a missionary or a mission endeavor) If checked,
 - Financial support only
 - Member participation (mission trips, personal visits, etc.)

Humanitarian service (homeless, addictions, grief, school programs, etc.). If checked,

- Financial support only
- Member participation

Prison (church within a prison or a congregation with a prison ministry). If checked,

- Financial support only
- Member participation

Multiple Campuses (church has multiple worship campuses, defined as one church meeting in two or more locations under one overall leadership and budget)

What are the addresses of the other campuses:

Deaf (signed services for the hearing impaired)

Bi-lingual services or ministries

Which language? _____

DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

23. Does your congregation offer Bible classes?

- No
- Yes

23a. Which Bible classes does your congregation offer, choose all that apply.

- Senior adults
- Adults
- College
- Young adult age
- Youth group
- School age
- Pre-school
- Other _____

24. Does your congregation offer small fellowship or Bible study groups (any kind of small groups, auxiliary classes, or ongoing group activities)?

- No
- Yes

If yes, about what percent of your congregation participates in small group activities? _____

25. Does your congregation offer Sunday evening worship (excluding small groups)?

- No
- Yes

26. Does your congregation offer mid-week worship (excluding small groups)?

- No
- Yes

27. Does your congregation have special event activities, for example: marriage retreats, men's and women's retreats, training events, Lads to Leaders, etc.?

- No
- Yes

If yes, about what percent of your congregation participates in these special event activities?

28a. In the Discipleship Opportunities covered in questions 23 to 27, what percent of your congregation participates in these activities?

28b. Is the percent of members participating in Discipleship Opportunities more, about the same, or fewer than before COVID (2020)?

- More
- About the same
- Fewer

29a. Does your congregation have service activities whose focus is ministering to or serving those outside the congregation? For example, food and clothing, resourcing a local school, neighborhood events and block parties, etc.

- No
- Yes

29b. Of the following service activities whose focus is ministering to or serving those outside the congregation, which ones does your congregation have? (Choose all that apply)

- Food distribution
- Clothing distribution
- Local school support activities (tutoring, backpacks, etc.)
- Neighborhood block parties
- Encouragement activities for first responders
- Homeless help
- Life skills help
- House and yard clean up, painting, lawn care, etc.
- Shut-in help or services
- Services held in a senior living facility
- Daycare activities or school
- Other: _____

29c. In all the service activities covered above in question 29b, approximately what percent of your congregation participates in these activities?

29d. Is the percent of members participating in service activities more, about the same, or fewer than before COVID (2020)?

- More
- About the same
- Fewer

- 30a. Does your congregation engage in civic or community activities?
- Yes
 - No
- 30b. Which of the following civic or community activities does your congregation engage in? Choose all that apply
- Local school support activities (tutoring, backpacks, etc.)
 - Election/voting location
 - Site for community meetings
 - Public policy/political engagement
 - Extreme weather or disaster relief station
 - Other _____
- 30c. In all the civic or community opportunities covered above in questions 30, approximately what percent of your congregation participates in these activities? _____
- 30d. Is this more, fewer or about the same number of civic or community activities than before COVID (2020)?
- More
 - About the same
 - Fewer

CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Now we would like to know a little about your minister(s) and congregational leadership. We are interested in the person(s) who formally serve as minister, whether paid or unpaid.

31. Do you have someone serving in the formal role of minister?
- Yes
 - No
32. What year did your primary minister begin working for the congregation? _____

33. What education level does your primary minister have?
- Less than a high school diploma or GED
 - High school diploma or GED
 - Preaching school or certificate
 - Undergraduate degree
 - Master's degree
 - Doctoral degree
34. What is the age of your primary minister
- 18 to 25
 - 26 to 35
 - 36 to 45
 - 46 to 55
 - 56 to 65
 - 66 to 75
 - Over 75
- 35a. Do you have more than one paid minister?
- No
 - Yes
- 35b. How many full-time, paid ministers do you have?

- 35c. What are the titles of your full-time, paid ministers?

- 35d. How many part-time paid ministers do you have?

- 35e. What are the titles of your part-time, paid ministers?

- 36a. Does your church have paid support staff (administrative assistants, building maintenance, bookkeeping, etc.)?
- No
 - Yes

36b. How many paid support staff do you have (administrative assistants, building maintenance, bookkeeping, etc.)?

36c. What are the titles of your paid support staff?

37. What does your congregation call the group that leads the congregation?

- Elders
- Shepherds
- Overseers
- Other, please specify _____

38. How many leaders considered above (elders, shepherds, overseers, etc.) does your congregation have?

39. Does your congregation have deacons or their equivalent?

- No
- Yes

If yes, how many? _____

40. Are there any other formal leadership roles in your congregation? Examples are a ministry coordination team and board of directors.

- No
- Yes

If yes, what are they called _____

41. In which of the following ways are women invited to participate in the life of the congregation? Select all that apply.

- Teaching young children's classes
- Teaching middle school or high school classes with girls
- Teaching middle school or high school classes with both boys and girls

- Teaching adult classes with only women present
 - Teaching adult classes with both men and women present
 - Lead other kinds ministries (for example prayer ministry among women, funeral or grieving ministry, benevolence outreach. etc.)
 - Leading a prayer in the Sunday morning worship service
 - Reading scripture aloud during the Sunday morning worship service
 - Serving communion during a Sunday morning worship service
 - Leading singing in the Sunday morning worship service
 - Participating on a praise team or worship team during the Sunday morning worship service
 - Preach a sermon during the Sunday morning worship service
 - Serve the congregation as an elder/shepherd or equivalent
42. What were the total regular financial contributions in 2023? _____

Thank you for your time and willingness to complete your congregation's survey. Please mail these pages to:

Church Research Council
ACU Box 29405
Abilene, TX 79699

You may also wish to pre-order your copy of *Churches of Christ in the United States* at www.21stcc.com.