

1001

WORSHIPING COMMUNITIES

2021 COMMUNITY 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
- 9-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 2021, 696 new worshiping communities have been raised up across the PC(USA). Of these, 554 (79%) were active at the end of 2021.

In 2021, 52 new worshiping communities joined 1001, 19 were dissolved, and 1 left for another denomination.

This report is based on results from the Leader Survey for 2021, which fielded from February to April of 2022 and had a 21% response rate, for a total of 119 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.

2021 data was collected from February to April of 2022.

As of the end of 2021, there were 554 NWCs (new worshiping communities). Of these, 119 responded to the survey, for a response rate of 21%. Of these,

- 8 reported in the survey that their community had closed (19 total NWCs closed in 2021)
- 2 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 June of 2022.

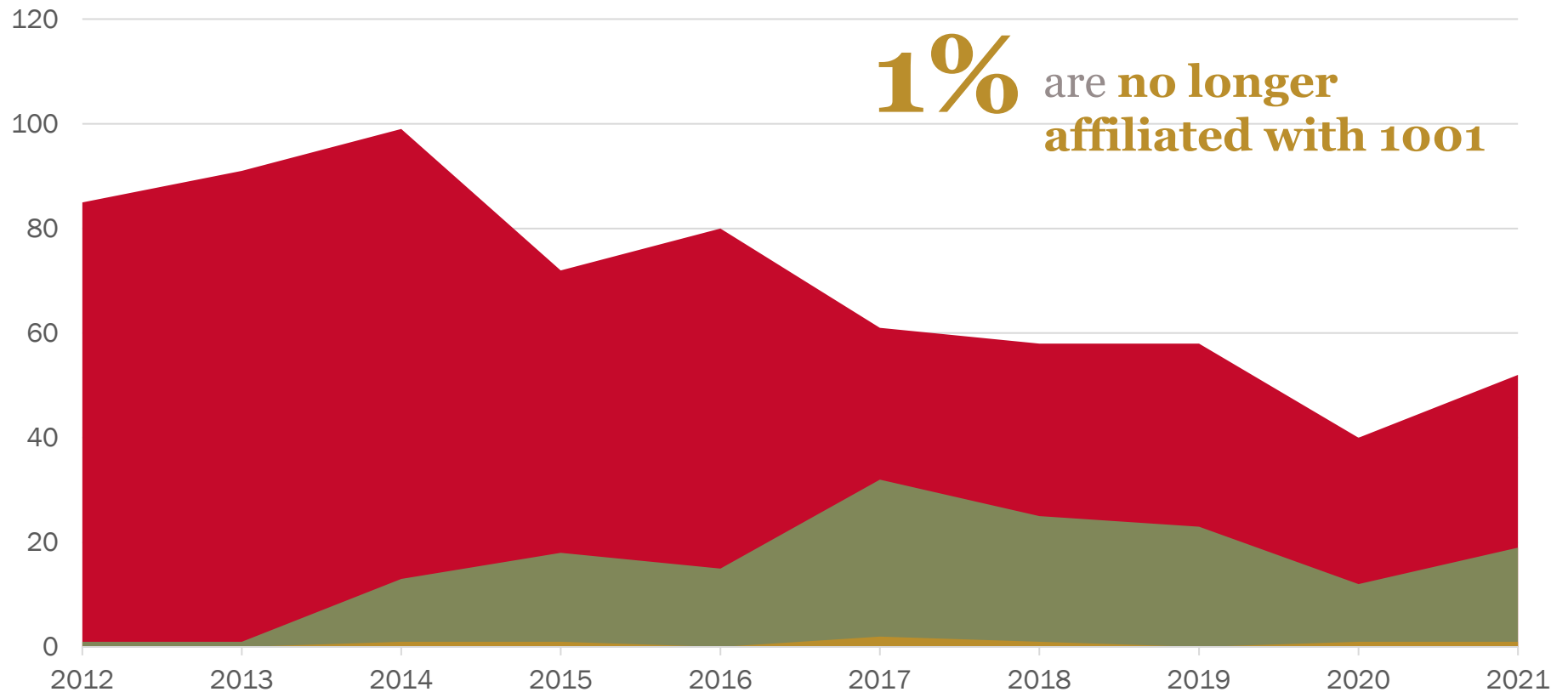
Nine years of 1001

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. As of the end of 2021,

696 New worshiping communities have been supported by 1001.

21% have **dissolved**

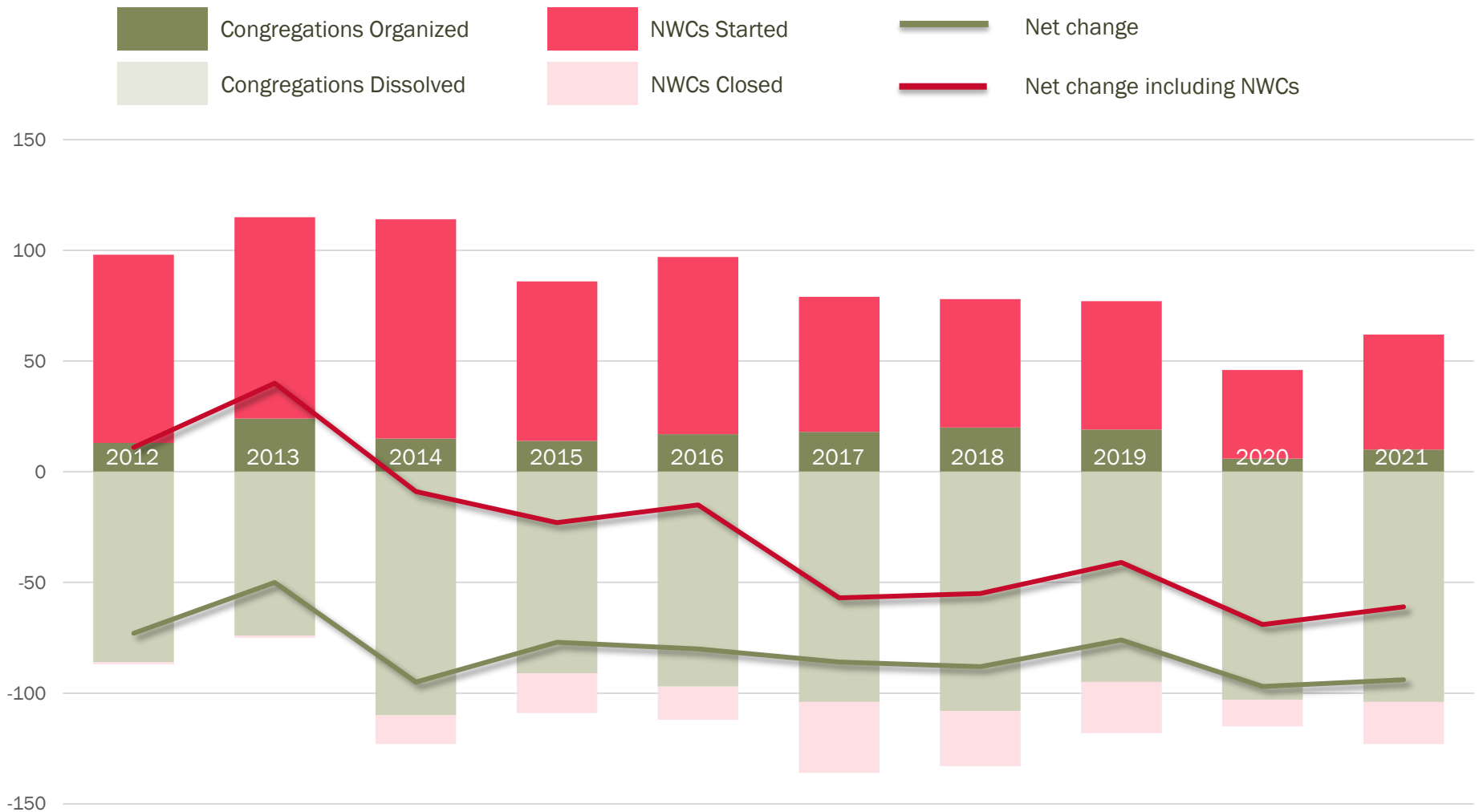
1% are **no longer affiliated with 1001**



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 People in 1001

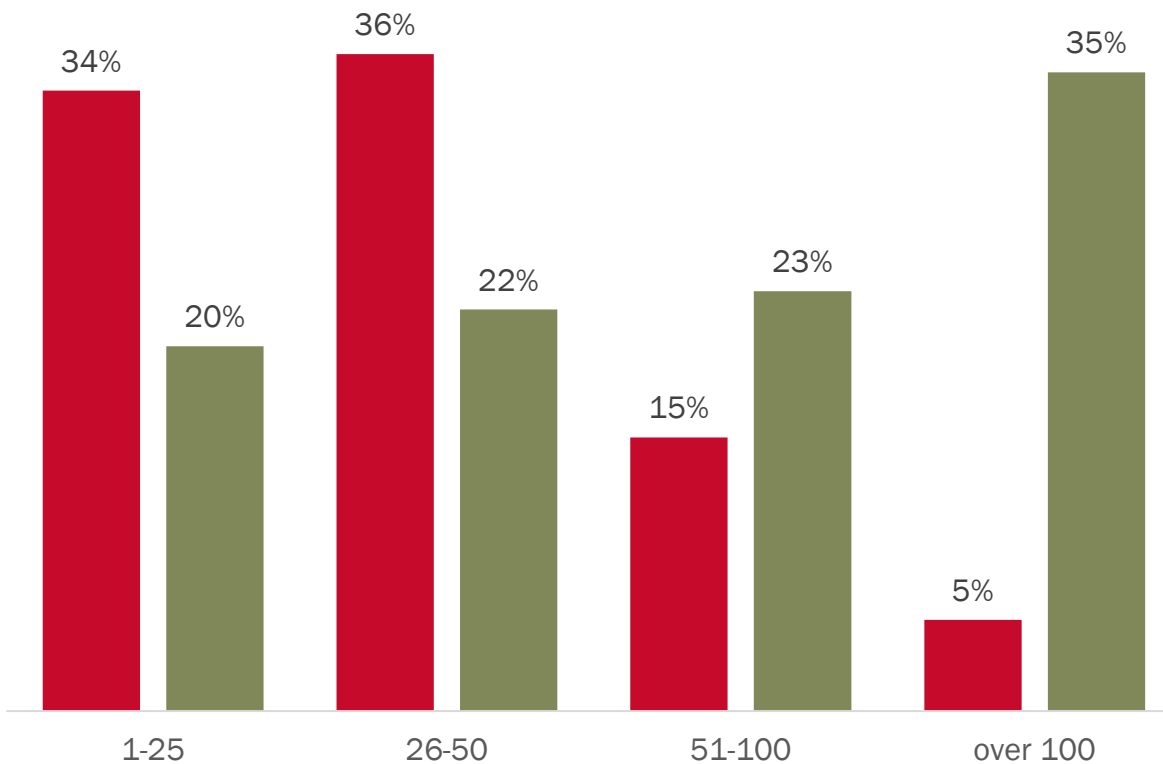
About the Worshipers

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

- Size of NWCs
- Religious background
- Demographics

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

Half of new worshiping communities have **30** or more regular participants



Whereas NWCs range from 1 - 1,000 participants with a median of 30, congregations range from 1 - 6,959 members with a median of 68.

The pandemic is still affecting church attendance: 24% of congregations did not report attendance for 2021. This an improvement from the 27% that did not report attendance in 2020.

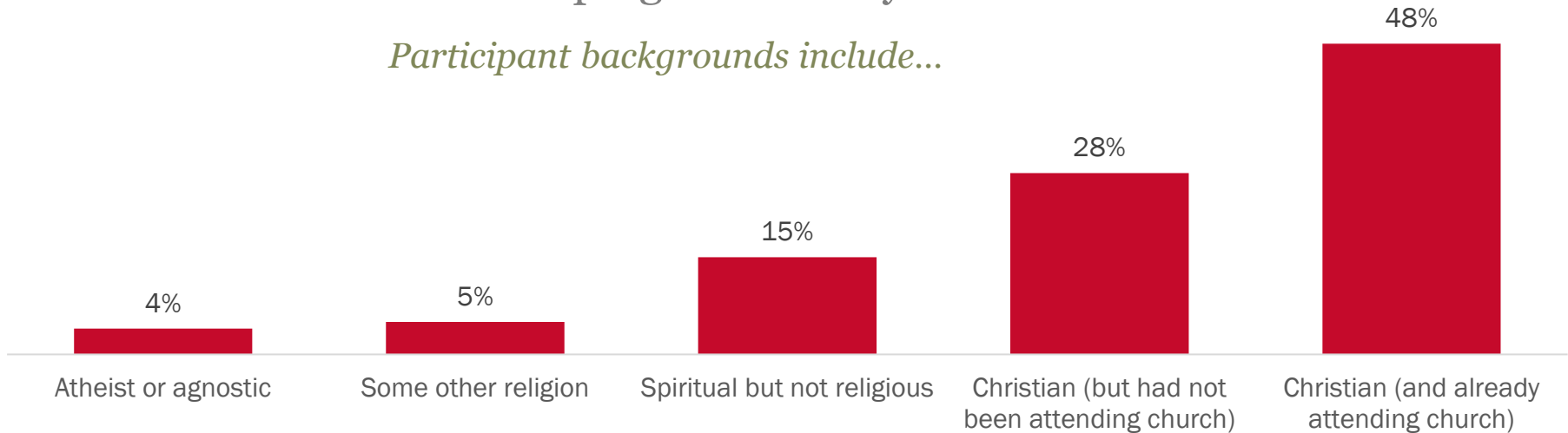
Of those congregations that did report, median attendance in 2021 was 35, which is the same as it was in 2020. In comparison, median attendance in 2019 was 45 with 21% reporting.

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

52%

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

Participant backgrounds include...



12%

of new worshiping community leaders say that the people in their community are still figuring out their faith

22%

of new worshiping community leaders say that there is no overarching religious identity among their participants

66%

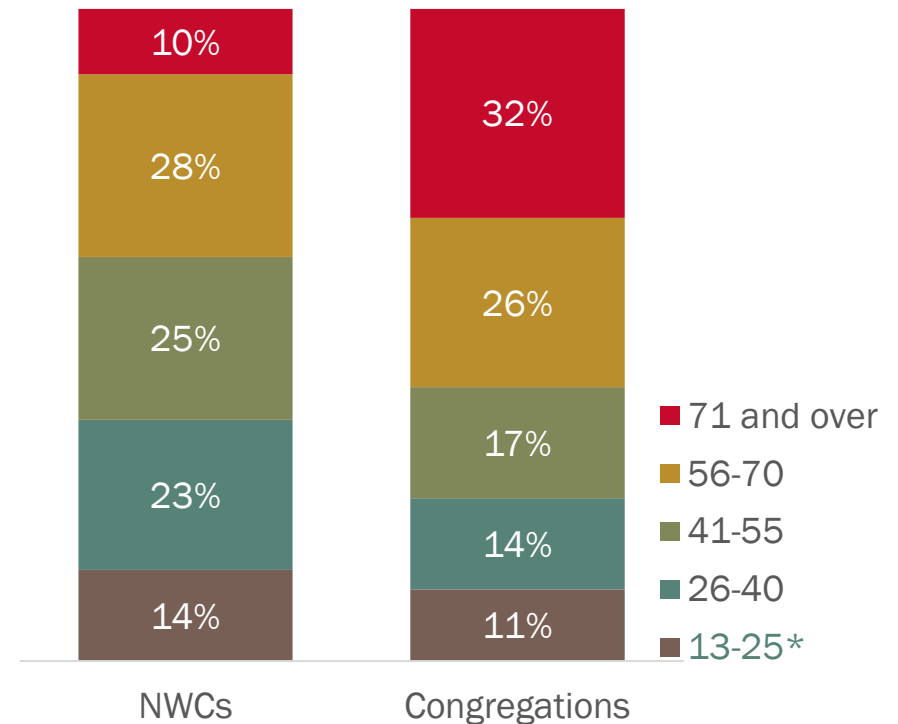
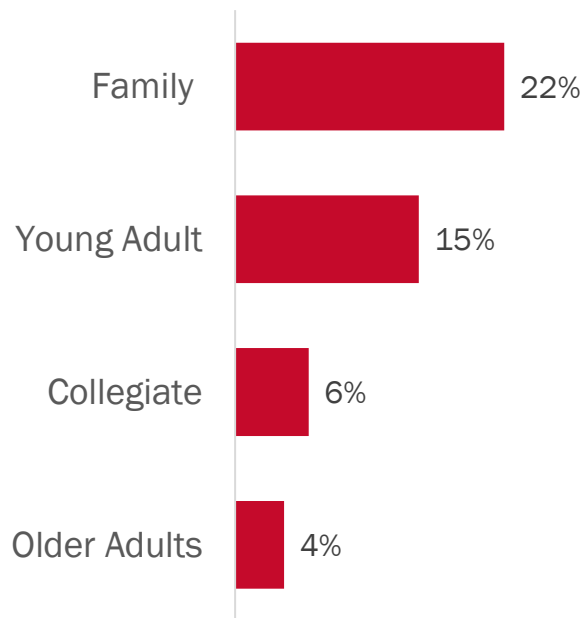
of new worshiping community leaders describe their worshiping community as Christian

The People in 1001

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

75% of NWC participants are age 55 or under

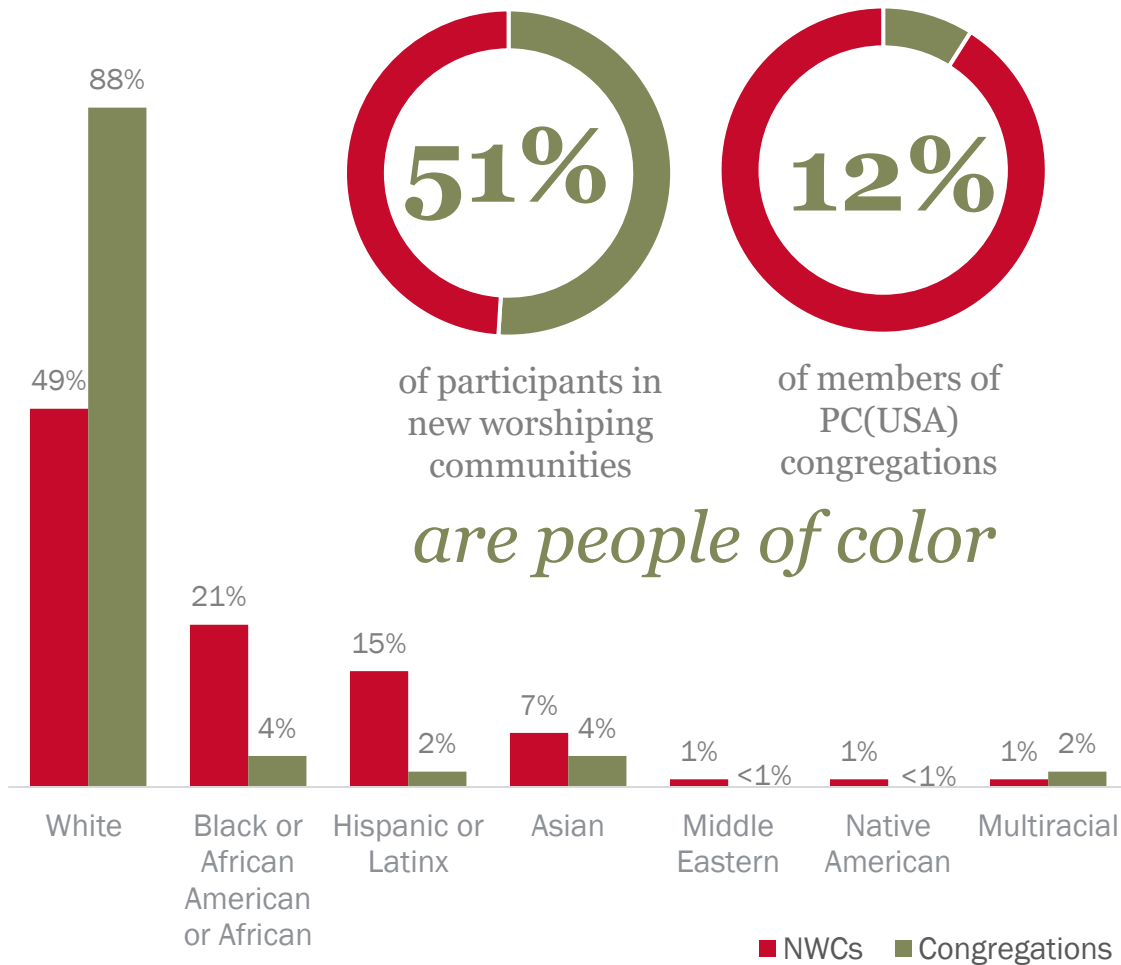
44% of NWCs have an age group focus:



The largest age group in PC(USA) congregations is over 70. In contrast, the largest age group within NWCs is 56-70. 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 worshipping community participant age has been limited to those 13 and above. The 75% statistic in the title includes the 8% of worshipping 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 6% of PC(USA) congregations are racially diverse, meaning that they have no single race comprising more than 79% of its membership. In contrast, 38% of NWCs are racially diverse in this way.

Also, only 76% of the 117 leaders who responded to the survey state that their community's primary language is English; in addition, 11% speak Spanish, 4% Korean, 2% Arabic, and 8% 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

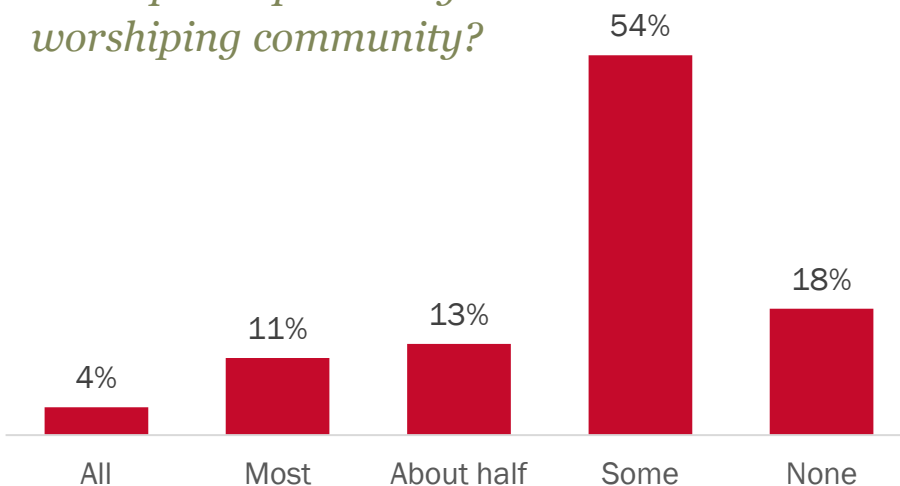
Getting to know the communities

88% of NWCs engage in mission or outreach efforts.

The number of people any given NWC reports reaching per year ranges from zero to 30,000 and includes local neighbors as well as international partnerships. The median number of people reached is 100, meaning that half of NWCs reach more than 100 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 82 provided responses. The following table breaks down the most common categories of people being reached by NWCs.

How many of those you serve in mission and outreach become active participants in your worshiping community?



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

Category	n (%)
The poor or homeless	29 (30%)
Children and youth	12 (12%)
The sick, elderly, disabled, addicted	12 (12%)
Social justice work	8 (8%)
Immigrants and refugees	5 (5%)
Prisoners	4 (3%)

N=98

Mission and Outreach

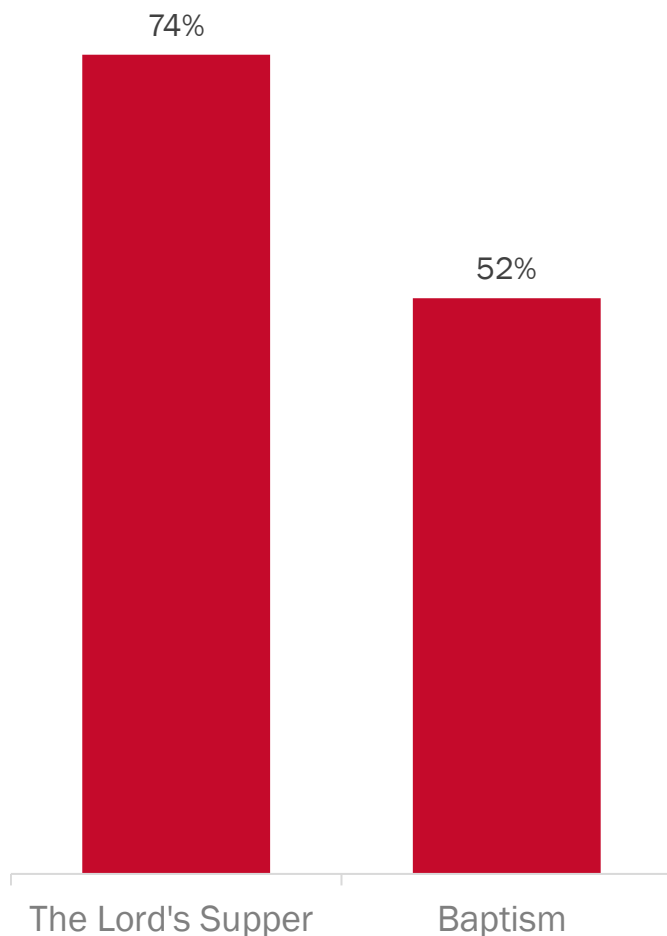
When asked what causes NWCs to engage, leaders had the following things to say.



Getting to know the communities

Holy sacraments in new worshiping communities

76% of NWCs celebrate the sacraments.



22% of NWCs report that they had at least one baptism in the last year, and 48% of these baptisms were of people over the age of 12. Additionally, 9% report performing adult baptisms, compared to 7% of PC(USA) congregations.* In total, there were 40 baptisms of those 12 and younger, and 37 baptisms of those over the age of 12. However, because only 15% of new worshiping communities responded to this part of 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 247 adult baptisms in NWCs in 2021. In comparison, PC(USA) reported 1,287 “other” baptisms (adult baptisms would fall into this category). With 82% of churches submitting statistical data, we can extrapolate that there were potentially around 1,570 baptisms of individuals likely over the age of 12.

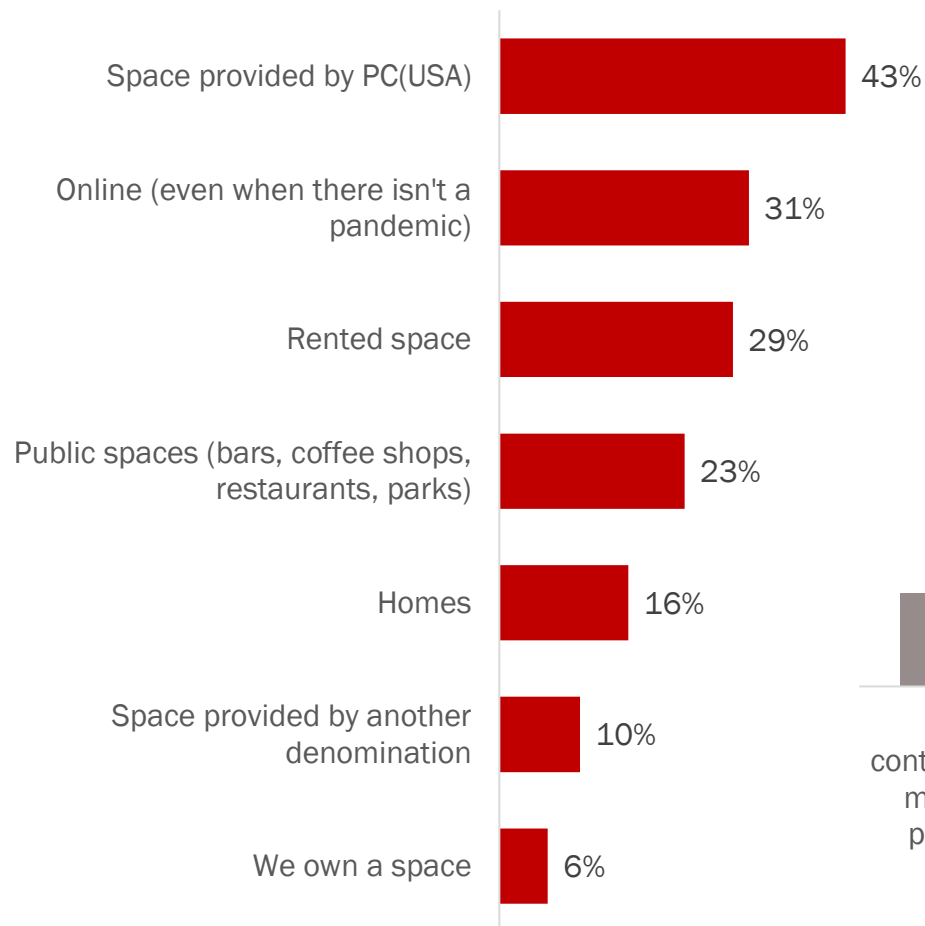
**PC(USA) baptisms are reported in three categories: “presented by others” (typically babies and children), “at confirmation” (typically around 8th grade), and “all others” (typically those past confirmation age, including adults).*

Getting to know the communities

Where new worshiping communities gather

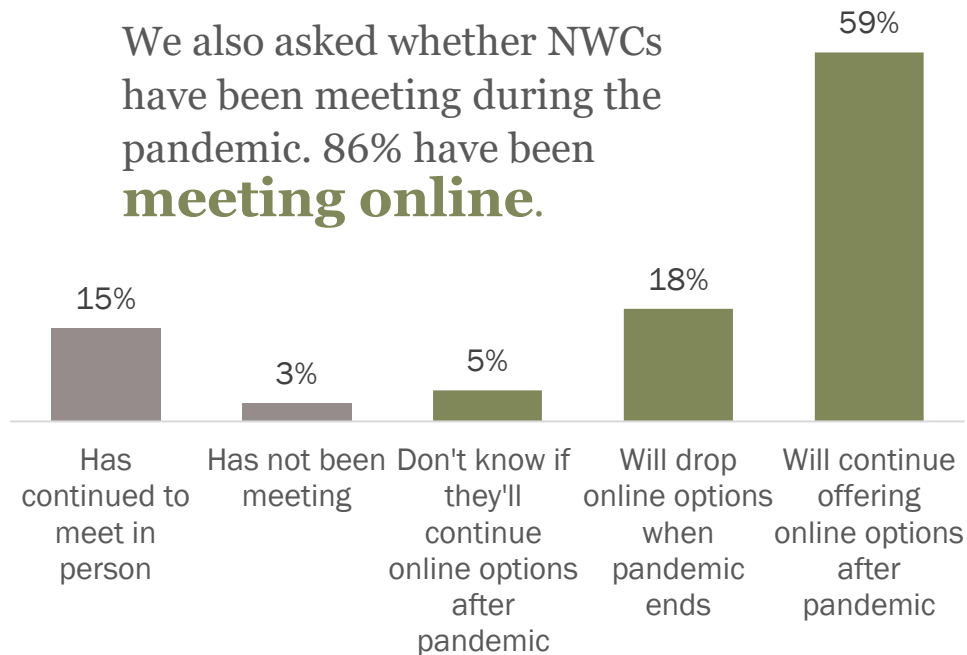
81% of new worshiping communities have a regular gathering space

These gathering places include...



One major change from last year is that the percentage meeting online increased from 15% to 31%, even though we added the qualifier (even when there isn't a pandemic) to the option. This is also in keeping with the fact that 50% indicate they will continue offering online options after the pandemic.

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

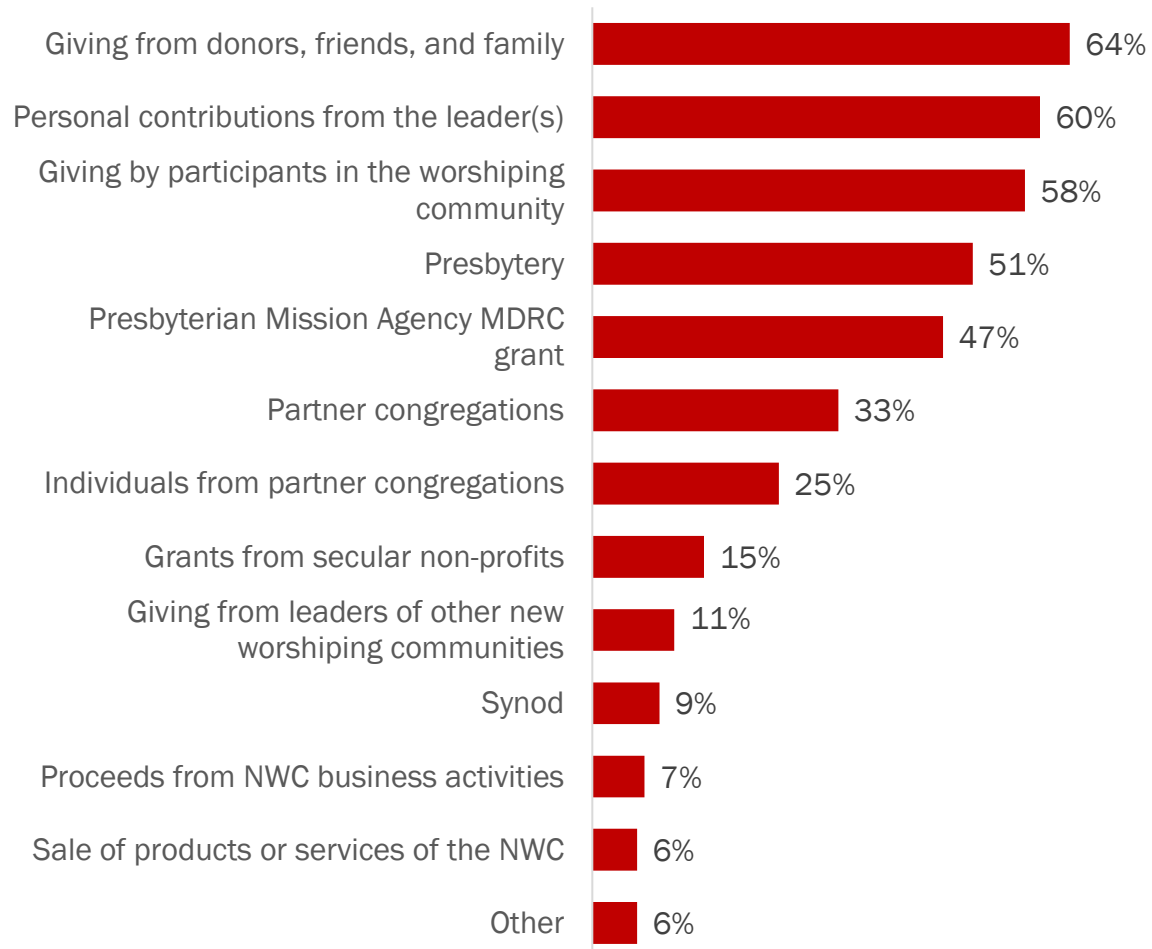


Getting to know the communities

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 from donors, friends, and family. This is followed by personal contributions from the leaders and giving by participants in the worshiping community.

Other sources of funding listed by participants include a UCC grant, the Presbyterian Foundation, a grant from Racial Ethnic & Women's Intercultural Ministry, a local college, a grant from a participant, and Facebook.

Getting to know the communities

95% of new worshiping communities report receiving oversight

Oversight provided by:	%
Presbytery:	
Standing committee (like COM)	32%
Designated committee (like NCD)	33%
Administrative commission	10%
Task force	4%
Partner Congregation:	
Committee	10%
Session	26%
Other sources	13%
No one provides oversight	5%

The most common sources of oversight are from a presbytery committee. At the congregation level, oversight is most frequently a matter of session.

Of those who cited other sources, some mention general presbytery or congregation (no specific committee or group), a Board of Directors, or an Advisory Board.

Of those who reported no source of oversight, two included a comment explaining why. One stated that they are a chartered congregation and a member of the presbytery. The other stated that their partner congregation closed, and they are struggling to find a new one.

Getting to know the communities

Staffing and Budgets

78% of new worshipping communities report having paid staff
48% only have paid part-time staff.

New worshipping communities are more likely to be led by volunteers than by paid staff. 86% of NWCs report having volunteers. The median number of volunteers in a community is 30 –the same as the median number of participants.

Staffing is the most frequently budgeted expense, and the one to which the most money is allotted. The second largest amount of budget dollars are spent towards mission and community service.

Budget item	% with a budget	Median*	Average*	Minimum	Maximum
Staff Salaries	79%	\$38,000	\$41,103	\$80	\$210,000
Building/Property costs (rent, utilities, etc.)	54%	\$6,000	\$5,121	\$10	\$49,000
Software/Tech/Office supplies	75%	\$1,100	\$1,966	\$100	\$15,000 N=68
Mission and community service	71%	\$4,000	\$7,297	\$128	\$188,000
Advertising	40%	\$1,200	\$993	\$99	\$11,000
Other	44%	\$2,400	\$2,488	\$150	\$30,637

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

Some of the 'other' costs include hospitality expenses (food, welcoming), fundraising costs, professional fees.

Appendix

Comparative Summary of Statistics

This document provides an overall statistical view of data related to the 1001 NWC movement from its beginning through 2021.

1001 NWC Comparative Summaries of Statistics, p1

Types of communities served by 1001	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
New church developments	11	6	5	11	8	4	7	12	3	0
Immigrant fellowships	20	15	16	14	11	11	15	9	6	7
Campus ministries	4	16	7	10	12	3	2	1	1	1
Congregations	11	7	5	1	4	0	0	0	1	0
All other new worshipping communities*	47	54	71	42	48	43	38	42	31	44
TOTAL NWCS**	85	176	275	347	427	488	546	604	644	696
Joined 1001	85	91	99	72	80	61	58	58	40	52
Dissolved	1	1	13	18	15	32	25	23	12	19
Dismissed (no longer 1001)		0	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	1
Total mission program grant funds given (\$)		1,029,500	1,785,167	1,077,840	1,412,858	1,506,405	1,439,710	1,340,700	1,512,346	1,461,340
NWCS by size				2015	2016		2018	2019	2020	2021
1-24				45%	40%	-	46%	38%	32%	34%
25-49				17%	28%	-	30%	22%	34%	36%
50-74				17%	14%	-	12%	14%	15%	15%
75-99				6%	7%	-	6%	11%	7%	5%
100 or more				15%	12%	-	6%	16%	12%	11%
Age of regular participants		2015		2016			2018	2019	2020	2021
up to 12		12%	up to 12	12%	up to 12	11%	14%	up to 12	12%	8%
13-18		9%	13-25	14%	13-25	13%	11%	13-25	15%	13%
19-39		43%	26-39	24%	26-35	22%	21%	26-40	31%	21%
40-64		27%	40-55	28%	36-55	37%	13%	41-55	20%	23%
65 and over		9%	over 55	21%	over 55	18%	12%	56-70	16%	26%
								over 70	7%	9%
Race of regular participants				2015	2016		2018	2019	2020	2021
Asian				12%	12%	-	13%	10%	10%	7%
Black, African American, or African Immigrant				17%	12%	-	22%	22%	18%	21%
Hispanic or Latino/a/x				18%	16%	-	14%	15%	16%	15%
Middle Eastern				4%	2%	-	1%	3%	2%	1%
Native American				<1%	<1%	-	<1%	<1%	2%	1%
Multiracial				2%	2%	-	2%	2%	3%	4%
White				47%	53%	-	46%	46%	55%	49%
Religious background of regular participants				2015	2016		2018	2019	2020	2021
Christian (and already attending church)				63%	58%	-	56%	51%	60%	48%
Christian (but had not been attending church)				20%	21%	-	20%	33%	21%	28%
Some other religion				7%	9%	-	12%	7%	10%	5%
Did not claim any religious faith				17%	12%	-	12%	9%	5%	19%

1001 NWC Comparative Summaries of Statistics, p2

Languages	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
English	65%	71%	-	75%	69%	72%	76%
Arabic	3%	4%	-	1%	3%	4%	2%
Korean	4%	6%	-	4%	4%	6%	4%
Spanish	17%	9%	-	12%	9%	11%	11%
Other	12%	11%	-	8%	15%	8%	8%
Geographic setting					2019	2020	2021
Urban	48%	33%	-	26%	26%	38%	29%
Suburban	22%	21%	-	20%	14%	40%	38%
Inner City	---	14%	-	17%	12%	22%	20%
Small town	17%	11%	-	16%	10%	26%	21%
Rural	2%	3%	-	6%	9%	14%	11%
Meeting location					2019	2020	2021
Space provided by PC(USA)	43%	41%	-	54%	52%	41%	43%
Space provided by other denomination	7%	7%	-	5%	6%	11%	10%
Home	18%	21%	-	28%	21%	17%	17%
Public space	27%	25%	-	25%	29%	19%	23%
Rented space	---	5%	-	6%	5%	29%	29%
Owns space	---	4%	-	1%	4%	11%	6%
Online (even when there is not a pandemic)	---	---	-	---	---	15%	31%
Other details					2019	2020	2021
Has regular gathering space	80%	89%	-	89%	87%	85%	86%
Runs a business	9%	6%	-	10%	12%	---	12%
Sacraments					2019	2020	2021
Communities offering baptisms	54%	67%	-	56%	59%	51%	52%
Percent reporting baptisms of age 12 and younger within past year	54%	54%	-	47%	54%	52%	33%
Percent reporting baptisms of age 13 and older within past year	48%	46%	-	43%	48%	51%	17%
Communities offering communion	80%	86%	-	78%	80%	81%	74%

-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.

-The 2021 survey fielded March to May of 2022 and had a 25% 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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