

Faith Communities Today, 2005

Unitarian Universalist Responses

Survey: October, 2005
Report: June 2006

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Introduction

In the spring of 2000, more than forty faith groups participated in the first *Faith Communities Today* (FACT) survey. This was the largest survey of congregations ever conducted, and was the most inclusive, denominationally sanctioned program of interfaith cooperation in United States' history. The participating faith groups developed a core questionnaire of more than 200 questions covering six areas of church life. 500 of our congregations (almost 50%) responded.

An interactive workbook available at www.fact.hartsem.edu provided the first opportunity for individuals and congregations from differing faith groups to compare their actual practices with those of or differing faith traditions. Reports based on the 2000 FACT –UUA responses are available at <http://www.uua.org/cde/education/index.html> .

The Cooperative Congregational Studies Project (CCSP) was formed in 2003 to continue the cooperative approach to interfaith research into congregational life modeled by the 2000 FACT survey. In the spring of 2005, 16 of our congregations were randomly selected to be included in a national interfaith survey conducted by CCSP.

In October of 2005, the UUA contracted with Calvin College to use the 2005 FACT questionnaire to conduct a survey of all UUA congregations. The 2005 FACT survey was distributed electronically to all UU congregations for which we had valid email addresses and by regular mail for others. Follow up emails and letters were sent and district offices made numerous reminder phone calls, with a final result of 495 responses (47% of all North American congregations).

This report summarizes the responses of all UUA congregations participating in the FACT 2005 survey without regard to difference in size or growth/decline in membership between 2000 and 2005.

The actual survey questions and numerical responses are in the attached Appendix.

www.fact.hartsem.edu will soon provide an opportunity to compare UUA congregations' responses to the FACT-2005 survey with those of congregations from other faith traditions.

Reports comparing UUA congregations' 2005 responses by congregation size and growth/decline (2000-2005) are available at <http://www.uua.org/cde/education/index.html>.

Faith Communities Today: 2005 UUA Sample Overview

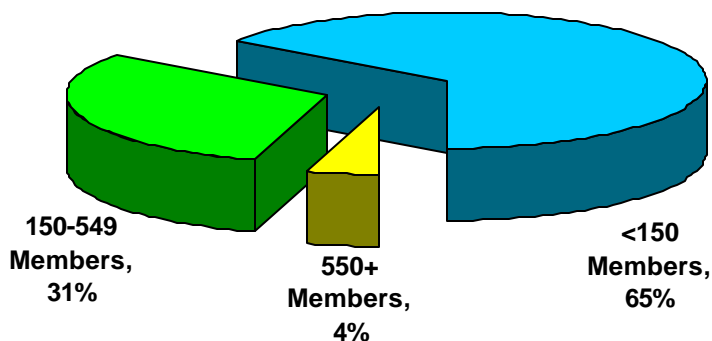
2005 UUA Survey 48% of all UUA congregations responded to the 2005 Faith Communities Today survey. As the following table shows, there was good participation from almost all Districts. Clara Barton district is under-represented at 24%, as are the international congregations and from the international congregations (also at 24%).

Table 1:

FACT, 2005 Participation by UUA District

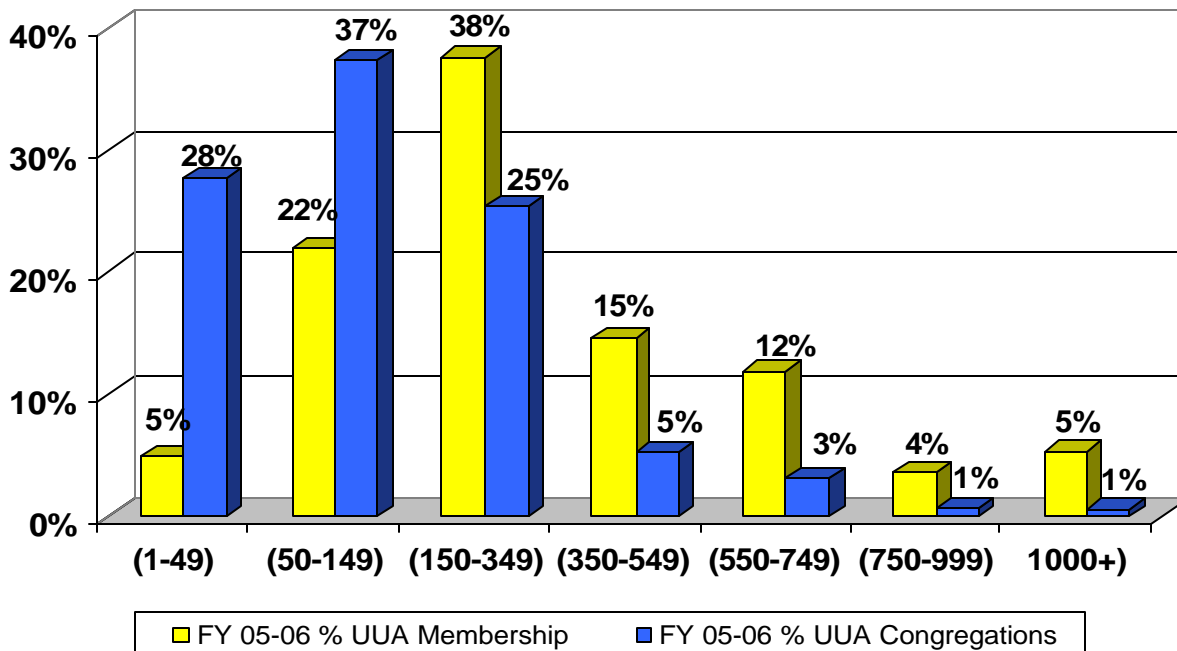
District	UUA 05-06 Total	FACT-05:Total	% FACT, 2005
Ballou Channing	47	23	49%
Central Midwest	71	40	56%
Clara Barton	63	15	24%
Florida	43	24	56%
Heartland	54	23	43%
Joseph Priestley	62	33	53%
Massachusetts Bay	55	24	44%
Metro New York	52	21	40%
Mid-South	32	18	56%
Mountain Desert	45	28	62%
New Hampshire-Vermont	43	22	51%
Northeast	29	12	41%
Ohio-Meadville	44	21	48%
Pacific Central	38	19	50%
Pacific Northwest	60	31	52%
Pacific Southwest	51	19	37%
Prairie Star	60	34	57%
Southwest	72	34	47%
St. Lawrence	34	19	56%
Thomas Jefferson	61	28	46%
CLF	1	1	100%
Total USA, 2005	1017	489	48%
International	25	6	24%

Size of UUA Congregations, FY 2005-2006



Size Category	FACT, 2005 Congregations	UUA 2005-06 Congregations	FACT, 2005 as percent of UUA Congregations
Very Large(1000+)	5	6	83%
Large I (550-749)	15	32	47%
Large II (750-999)	4	7	57%
Midsize I (150-349)	138	264	52%
Midsize II (350-549)	29	55	53%
Small (50-149)	189	390	48%
Very Small (1-49)	115	288	40%
Grand Total	495	1042	48%

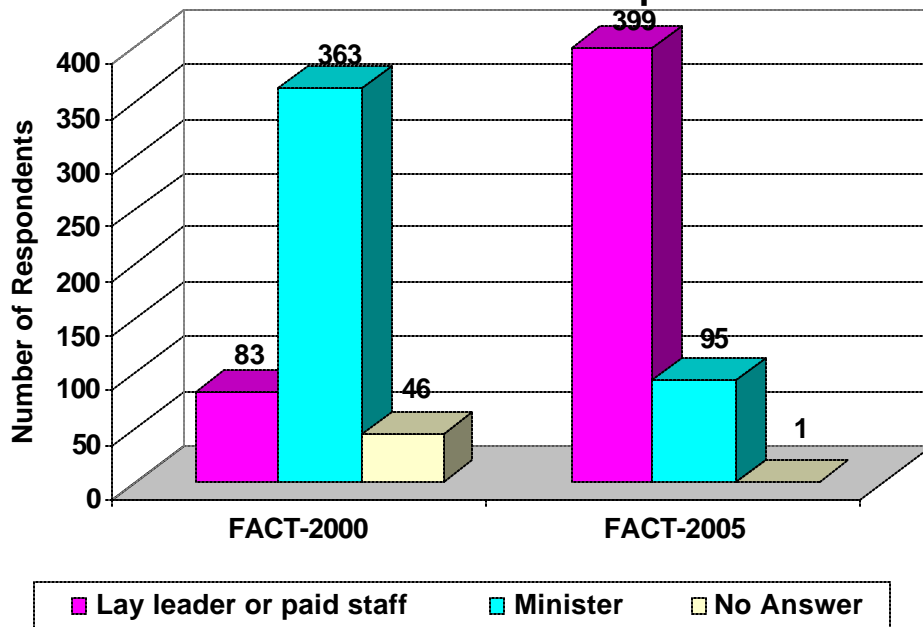
UUA Congregation Size and Adult Members (2005-2006)



FACT 2005 congregations represent 52% of all UUA adult members but only 48% of all UUA congregations. This is the result of a higher participation rate of larger UUA congregations in the FACT 2005 survey.

- **Very Small congregations** (fewer than 50 members) account for 28% of all UUA congregations, but serve only 5% of UUA adult members.
- **Small congregations** (fewer than 150 members) account for 65% of all UUA congregations but serve only 27% of all adult UUA members.
- **Large congregations** (550+ members) comprise only 5% of UUA congregations but also serve 5% of UUA adult members.
- **Midsize congregations** (150-549) account for 30% of all UUA congregations but serve over half of all adult UUA members (53%)

Comparison of UUA FACT 2000 and 2005 Respondents



FACT-2000 surveys were distributed by regular mail and were addressed to presidents of lay-led congregations and to the (senior) minister of congregations led by called or volunteer clergy. The recipient of the survey was asked to serve as the 'key respondent'.

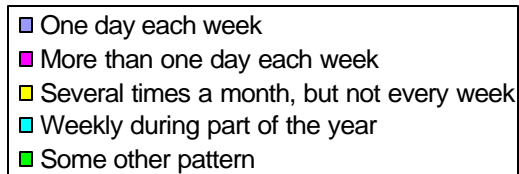
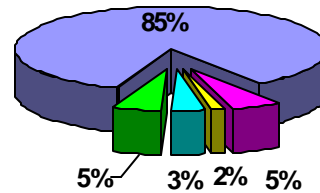
The FACT-2005 surveys were distributed electronically to all congregations for which we had valid minister, or congregational email addresses and by regular mail for other congregations. Choice of 'key respondent' was left to the discretion of the minister or president.

74% of UUA FACT-2000 surveys were completed by ministers while 81% of UUA FACT-2005 surveys were completed by lay leaders or paid staff. The differences in congregational roles of respondents may account for the differences in answers to subjective questions asked in both 2000 and 2005 FACT Surveys.

A. Your Congregation's Worship

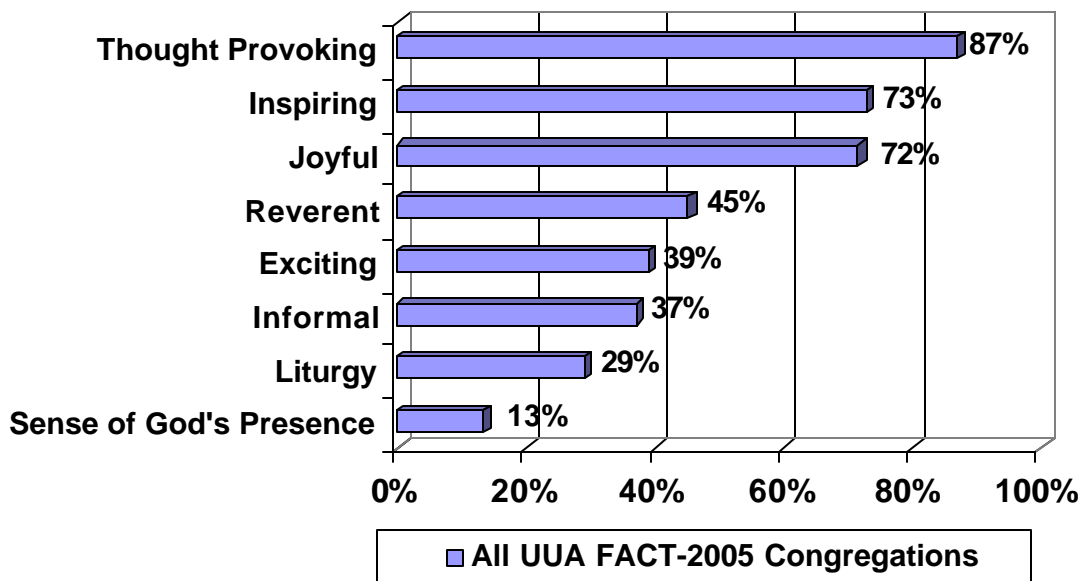
How often does your congregation hold worship services?

1. One day each week
2. More than one day each week
3. Several times a month, but not every week
4. Several times a year
5. Weekly during part of the year (such as summer or ski season)



UUA FACT-2005 congregations held an average of 1.3 worship services per week.

The following characteristics describe our congregation's largest weekend worship service 'Very Well' or 'Quite Well'



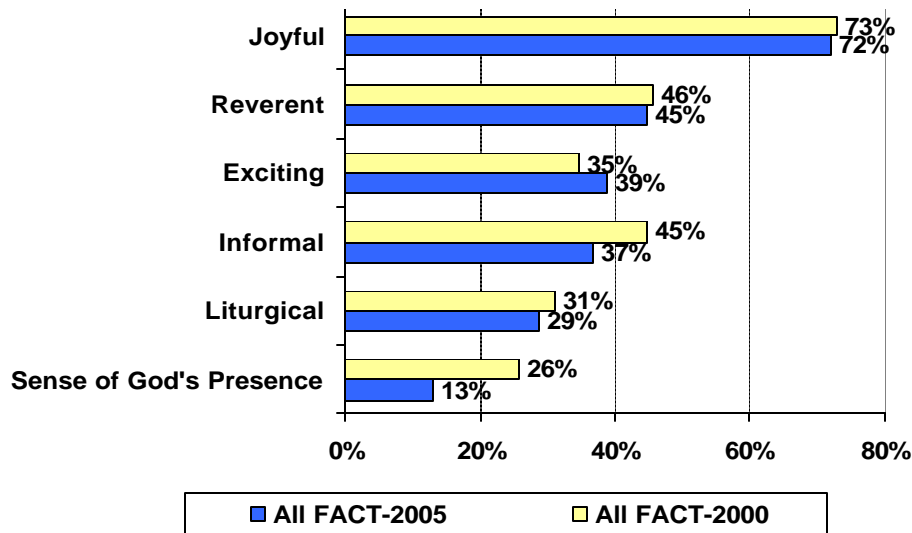
UUA FACT-2005 congregations were Most Likely to say the following describe their largest worship service 'Quite' or 'Very Well':

- Thought provoking (87%)
- Inspirational (73%)
- Joyful (72%)

UUA FACT-2005 congregations were Least Likely to describe their largest worship service as:

- Filled with a sense of God's presence (13%)
- Formal liturgy or ritual (29%)
- Informal (37%)

Comparison with UUA FACT 2000 Responses

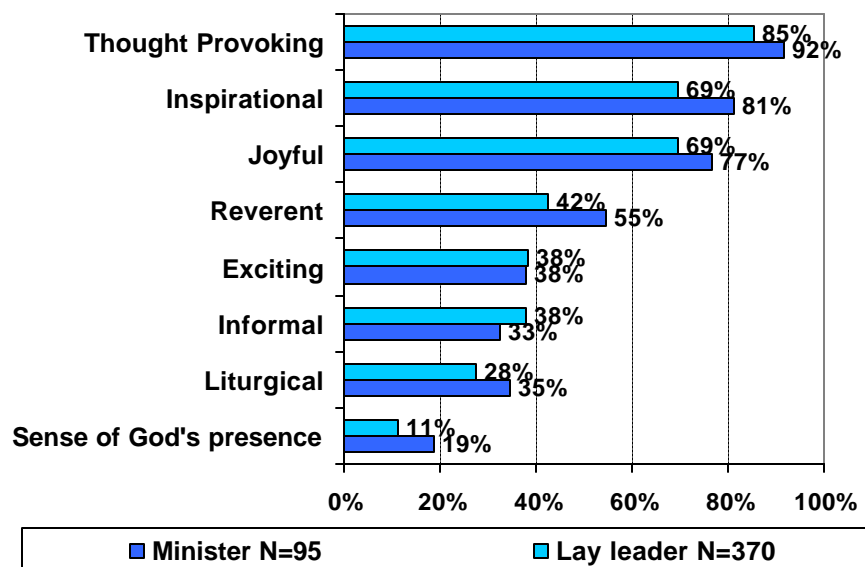


UUA FACT-2005 respondents were much less likely than UUA FACT-2000 respondents to describe their worship services as 'Informal (2000, 45%; 2005, 37%) or as having 'a sense of God's presence' (2000, 26%; 2005, 13%).

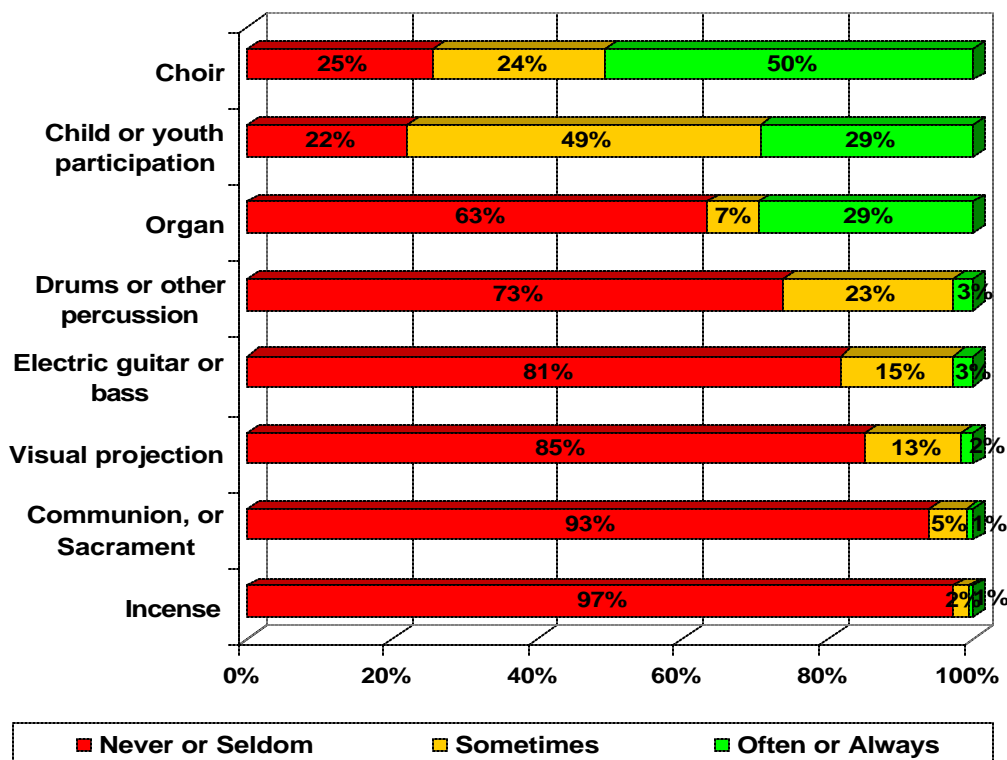
Note: 74% of UUAFACT-2000 respondents were ministers, but only 17% of UUA FACT-2005 respondents were ministers.

The following graph shows that although ministers were more likely than lay leaders to describe the worship services as having a sense of God's presence, (Ministers, 19%; Lay Leaders, 11%), and somewhat less likely to describe the worship services as 'Informal' (Minister, 33%; Lay Leaders, 38%) both groups of respondents were less likely to describe their worship services as 'Informal' or as having 'a sense of God's presence' in 2005 than they were in 2000. (UUA FACT-00: Informal, 45%; Sense of God's presence, 26%)

UUA FACT-05: Comparison of Minister' and Lay Leaders' responses

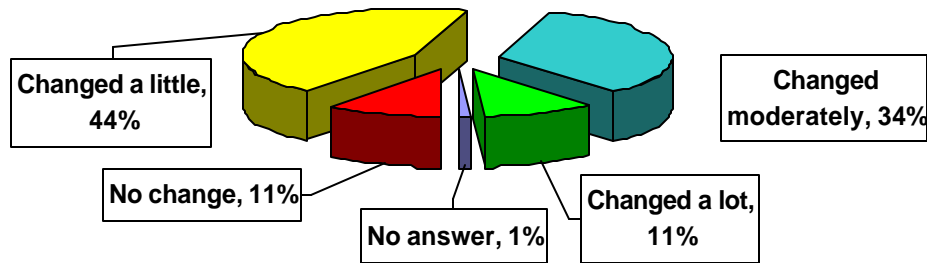


How often are the following a part of your congregation's worship services?



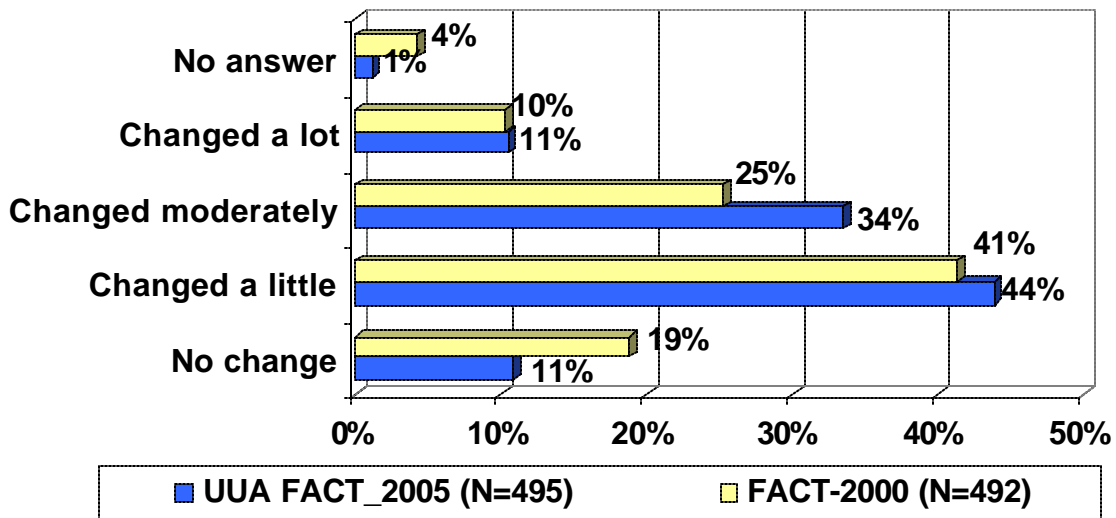
<p>UUA FACT 2005 Congregations were Most Likely to 'Often' or 'Always' include the following in their worship services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Choir (50%) ▪ Child or Youth Participation (29%) ▪ Organ (29%) 	<p>UUA FACT 2005 Congregations were Least Likely to include the following (*'Never or 'Seldom')</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Incense (*97% 'Never' or 'Seldom') ▪ Communion or other sacrament (*93%) ▪ Visual projection equipment (*85%)
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During the past 5 years, has your congregation changed the format or style of one or more weekend worship services?



45% of UUA FACT 2005 respondents reported that their worship service format or style had changed 'a lot' or 'moderately'. Between 2000 and 2005

Comparison with UUA FACT-2000 Responses



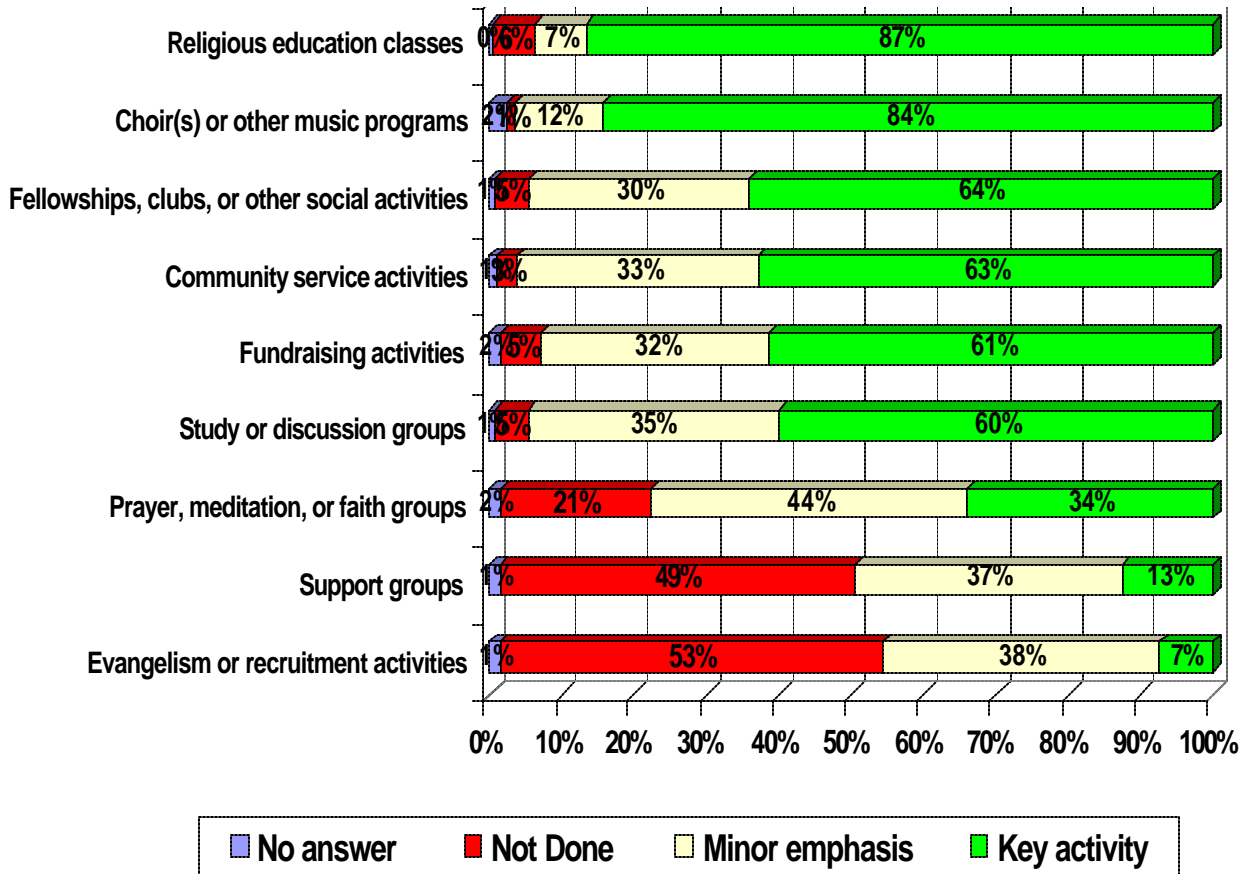
A larger proportion of UUA FACT congregations reported changes in worship service format or style between 2000 and 2005 than between 1995 and 2000:

- 89% of UUA FACT-2005 congregations changed the style or format of one or more weekend services between 2000 and 2005
- 76% of UUA FACT-2000 respondents reported a change of style or format of their worship services between 1995 and 2000..

B. Your Congregation's Programs

During the past 12 months, did your congregation have any of the following programs or activities?

(If yes, is it a relatively minor emphasis or a key program or activity of your congregation?)



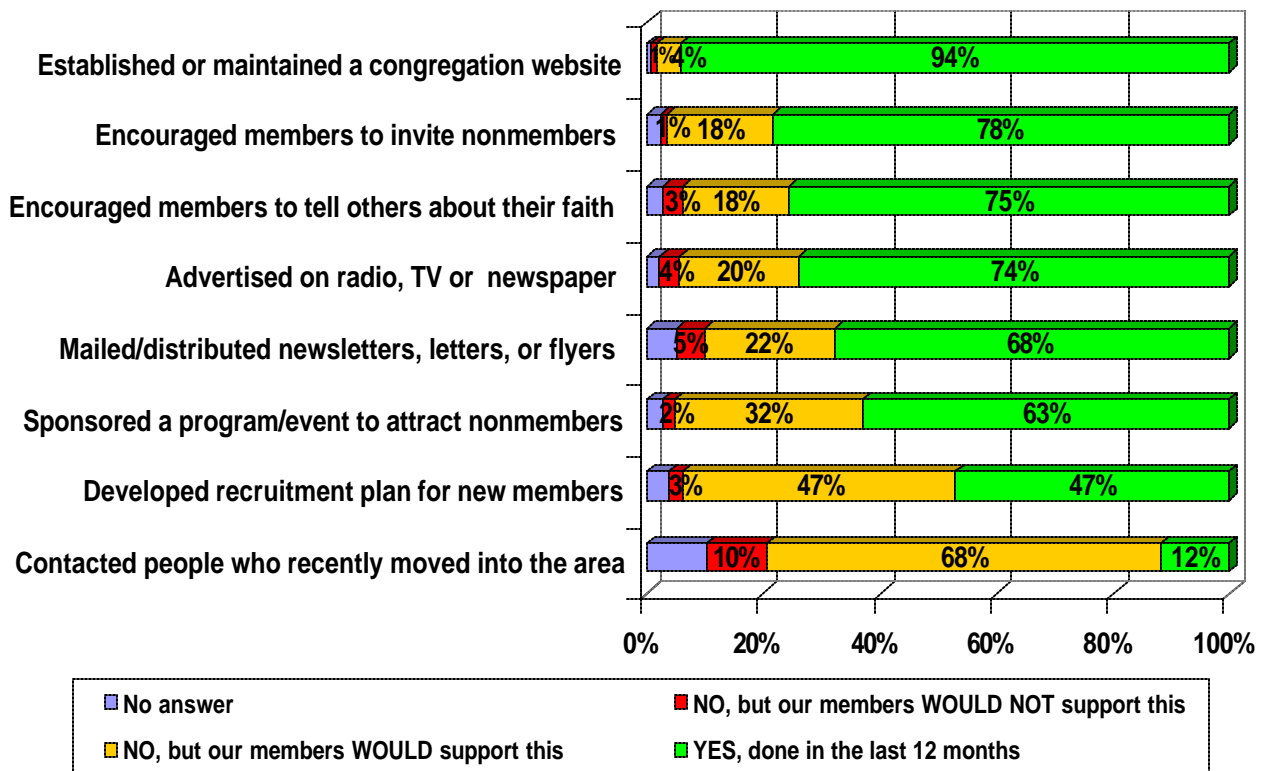
<p>The three most likely undertakings to be rated as 'Key Activities' by UUA FACT-2005 Congregations were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Religious education classes (87%) ▪ Choirs or other music programs (84%) ▪ Clubs or other social activities (64%) 	<p>The three least likely undertakings to be rated as 'Key Activities' by UUA FACT-2005 Congregations were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evangelism or recruitment activities (7%) ▪ Support Groups (13%) ▪ Prayer, meditation or faith groups (34%)
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Interfaith activities engaged in during the past 12 months

The vast majority of UUA FACT-2005 Congregations engaged in interfaith activities during the prior year:

- 73% participated in community service activities
- 51% participated in educational or fellowship activities, and
- Over 40% participated in interfaith celebrations or worship services.

Outreach to nonmembers or to make your congregation better known in the community during the past 12 months



UUA FACT-2005 congregations were **most likely to reach out to non-members by:**

- Establishing or maintaining a congregational website (94%)
- Encouraging members to invite non-members

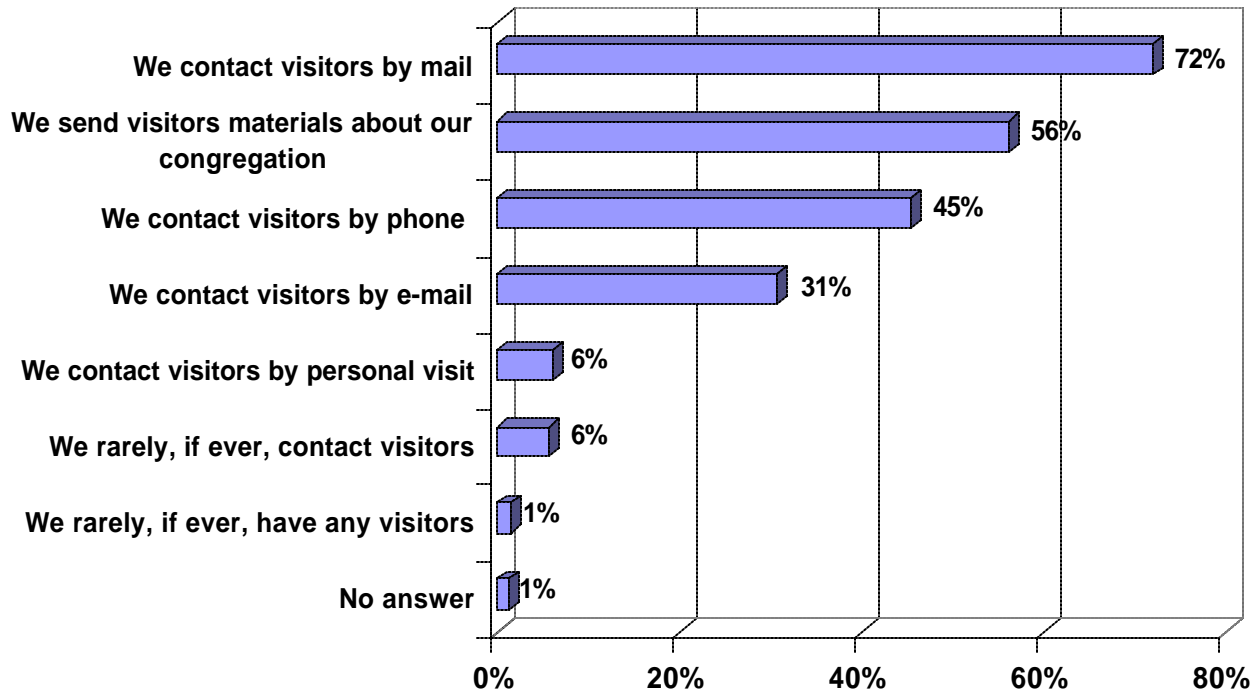
UUA FACT-2005 congregations were **least likely to reach out to non-members by:**

- Contacting people who recently moved into the area (12%)
- Developing a recruitment plan for new members (47%)

UUA FACT-2005 respondents said that **most members in their congregations would support:**

- Developing a recruitment plan for new members (96%), but only 47% of responding congregations had done this in the prior year.
- Contacting people who recently moved into the area (80%), but only 12% of responding congregations had done this in the prior year.

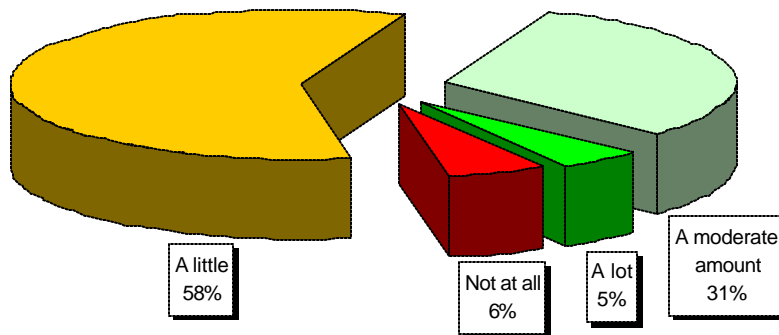
How are visitors contacted after they attend your worship services or other activities?



Percent of UUA FACT-2005 Congregations

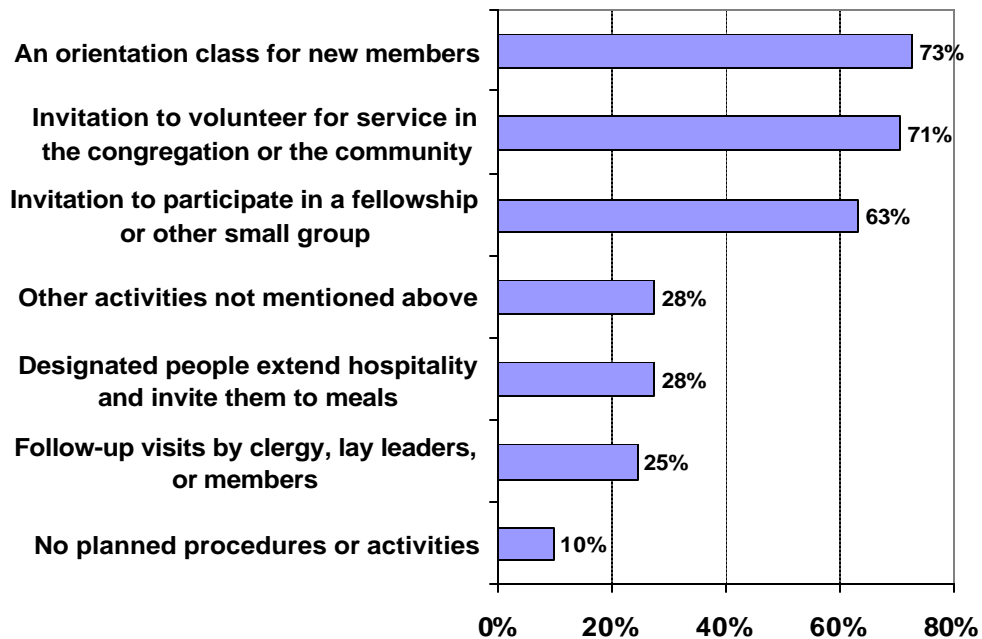
UUA FACT-2005 congregations contacted visitors most often by Mail (72%) or phone (45%) They were less likely to contact visitors by email (31%), and Least likely to contact visitors in person (6%)

To what extent are your congregation’s members involved in recruiting new members?



36% of UUA FACT-2005 congregations reported that current members were involved ‘a moderate amount ‘ or ‘a lot’ in the recruitment of new members

How are new members integrated into the life of the congregation?



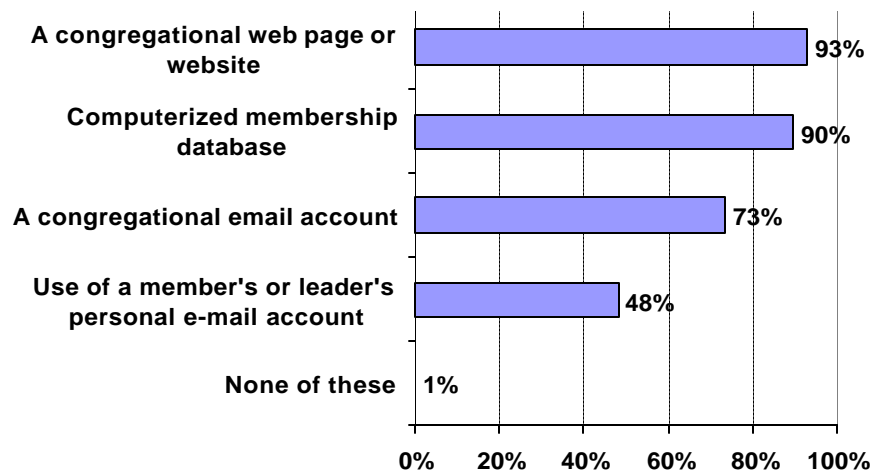
UUA FACT-2005 Congregations are **most likely to assist new members' integration by:**

- Providing an orientation class (73%)
- Inviting new members to provide volunteer service (71%)

They are **least likely to assist new member integration by:**

- Follow-up visits by clergy or lay people

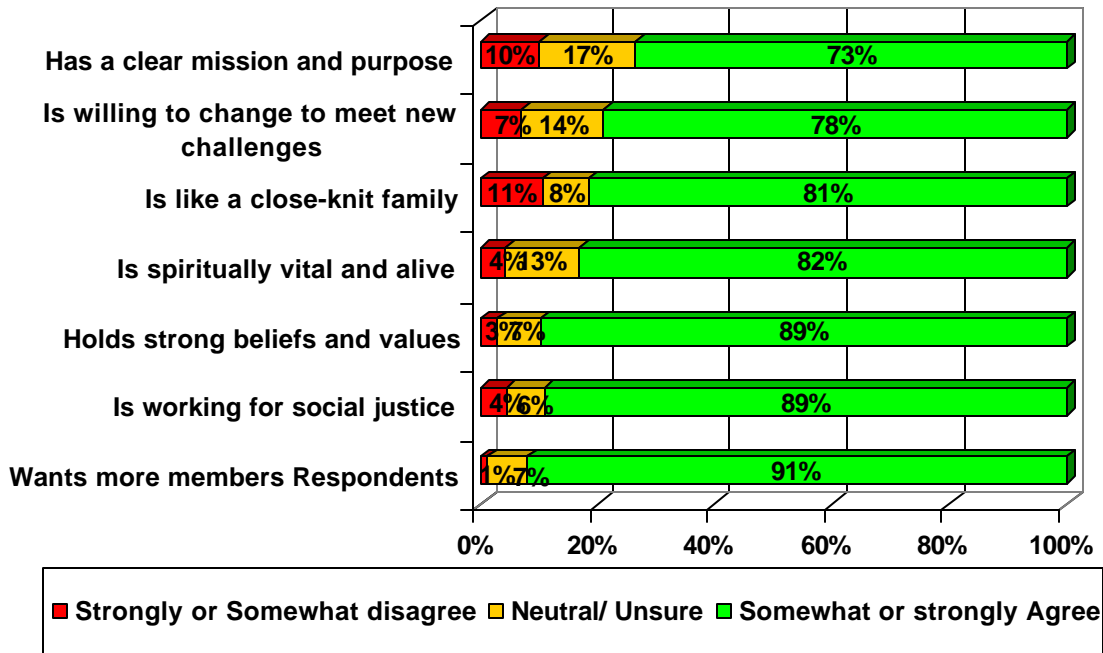
Does your congregation have any of the following?



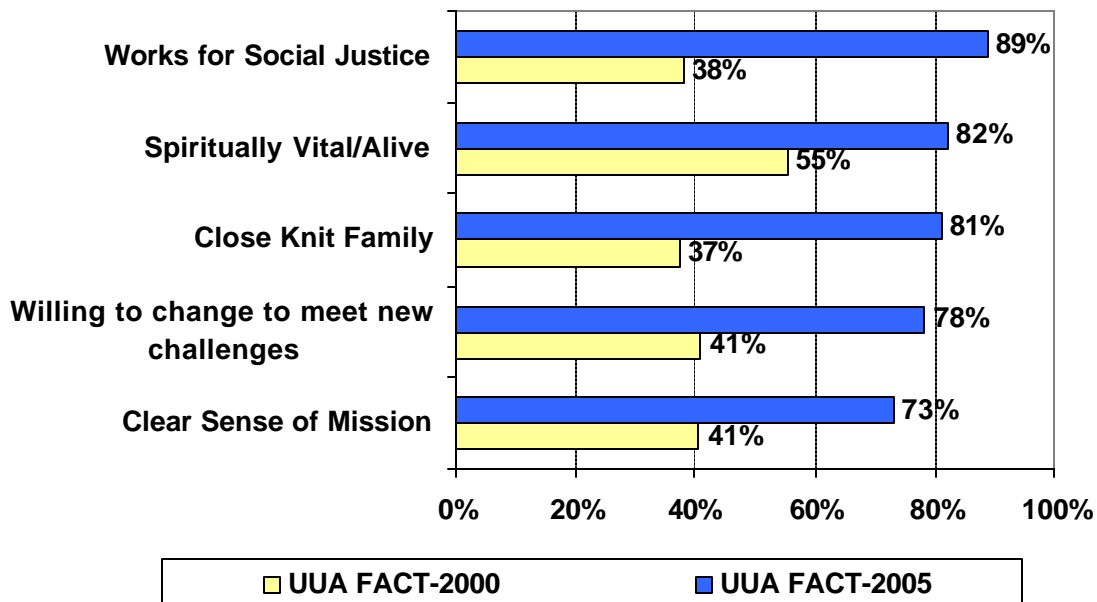
99% of UUA FACT-2005 congregations use computers for maintaining a membership database and/or web based internal or external communications.

C. Your Congregation's Identity

The following statements are true of your congregation

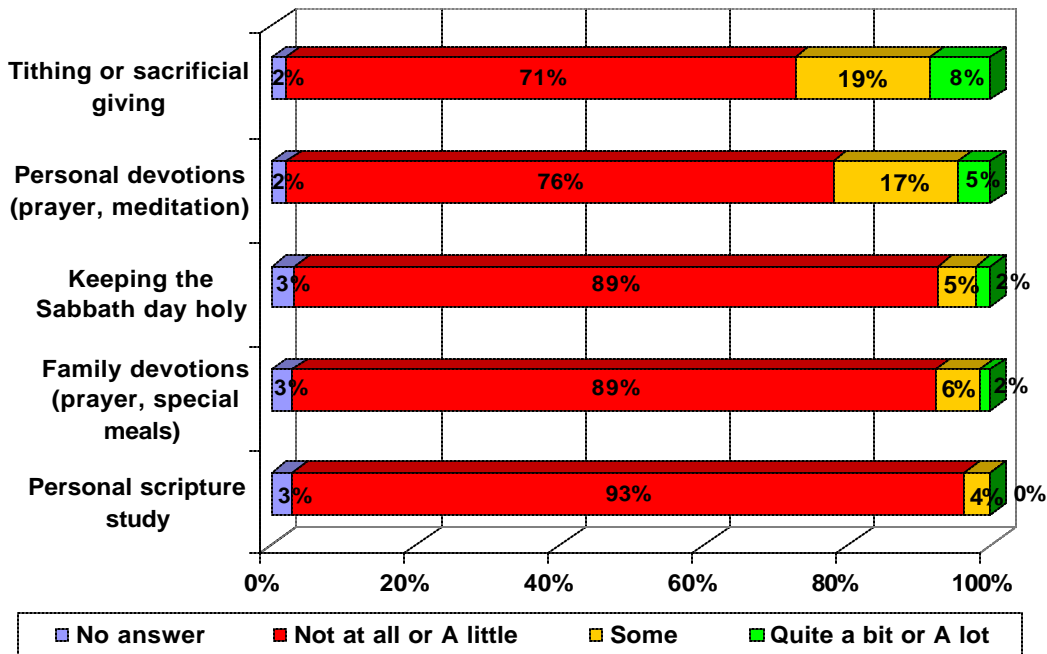


Comparison with UUA FACT 2000 Responses



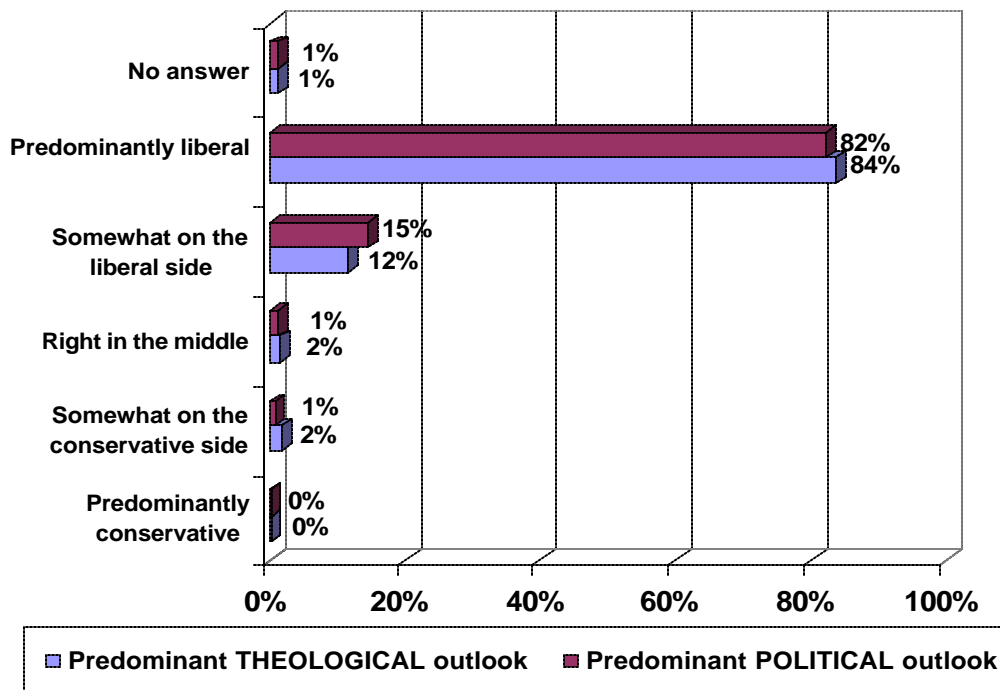
UUA FACT 2005 respondents (81% Lay leaders or non-clerical paid staff) were much more likely than 2000 respondents (74% ministers) to 'Strongly' or 'Somewhat' agree with all of these statements.

Home or personal practices emphasized by your congregation



Fewer than 10% of UUA FACT-2005 congregations reported that any personal or home religious practices were emphasized 'Quite a bit' or 'A lot'. Tithing or sacrificial giving was most likely to be emphasized (8%)

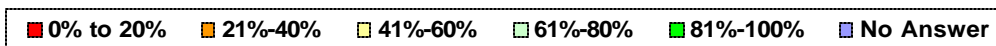
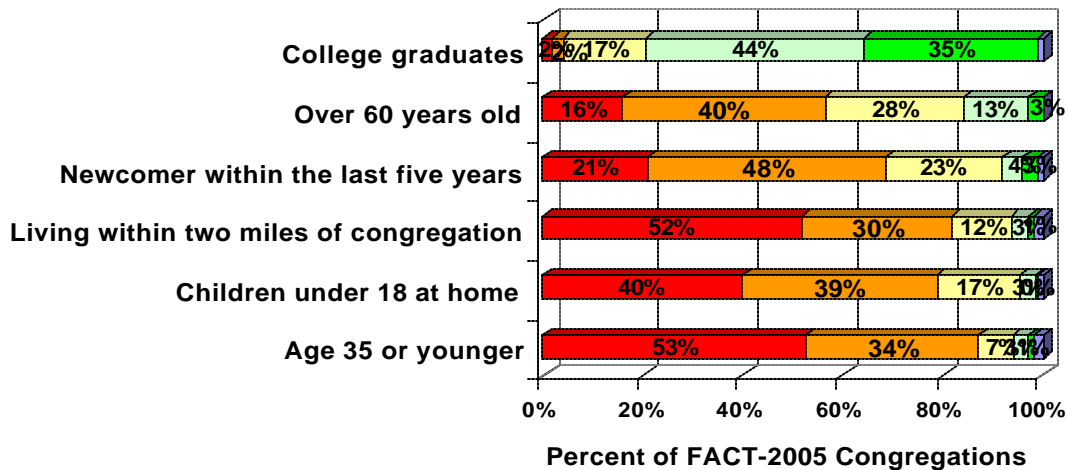
Theological and the political outlooks of the majority of your congregation



Respondents overwhelmingly reported that the majority of their congregations' regularly participating adults were predominantly liberal, both theologically and politically.

D. Your Congregation's Participants

UUA FACT_2005 Congregations: Demographics of regularly participating adults



	0%	Over 40%	Over 60%
Hispanic or Latino/a	35.2%	0.0%	0.0%
Asian	33.3%	0.2%	0.2%
American Indian or Alaska Native	62.4%	0.2%	0.0%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	77.6%	0.2%	0.2%
Black or African American	32.3%	0.4%	0.0%
Biracial or multiracial	21.2%	0.6%	0.4%
Under Age 35	2.0%	10.9%	4.0%
Live within 2 miles	1.0%	16.4%	4.4%
Have children under age 18 at home	3.2%	20.4%	3.6%
Newcomer within last 5 years	0.0%	30.3%	7.1%
Over Age 60	0.4%	43.4%	15.8%
With college degree(s)	0.2%	95.4%	78.6%
White	0.4%	95.6%	93.7%

Participating adults in UUA FACT-2005 congregations were **Least likely** to be:

- Persons of color
- Under age 35
- Living within 2 miles

Participating adults in UUA FACT-2005 congregations were **Most likely** to be:

- White
- College educated
- Over age 60

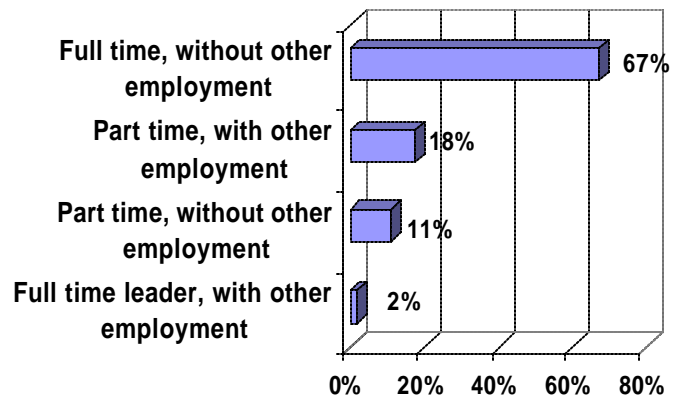
UUA FACT_2005 Congregations: Ethnicity of participating adults (N=495)

	0%	1-10%	11-20%	21-40%	41-60%	61-80%	81-100%	No answer
Hispanic or Latino/a	174	296	18	3	0	0	0	4
Black or African American	160	305	18	6	2	0	0	4
Asian	165	310	12	2	0	0	1	5
American Indian or Alaska Native	309	167	4	0	1	0	0	14
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	384	97	0	0	0	0	1	13
Biracial or multiracial	105	309	53	11	1	0	2	14
White	2	2	0	2	9	79	385	16

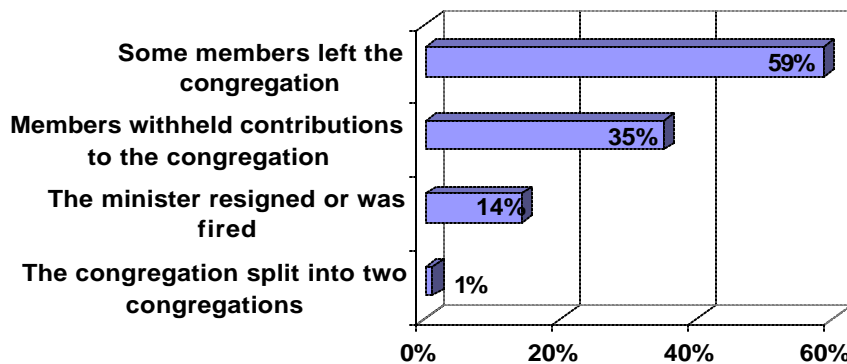
E. Your Congregation's Leadership

Ministers of UUA FACT-2005 congregations

- 17% had no minister
- 81% were served by senior or co-ministers
- 49.8% of Ministers were female
- Mean age of ministers was 53 (ranging from 27 to 79 years)
- Average number of ministers over the last 10 years was 2.8



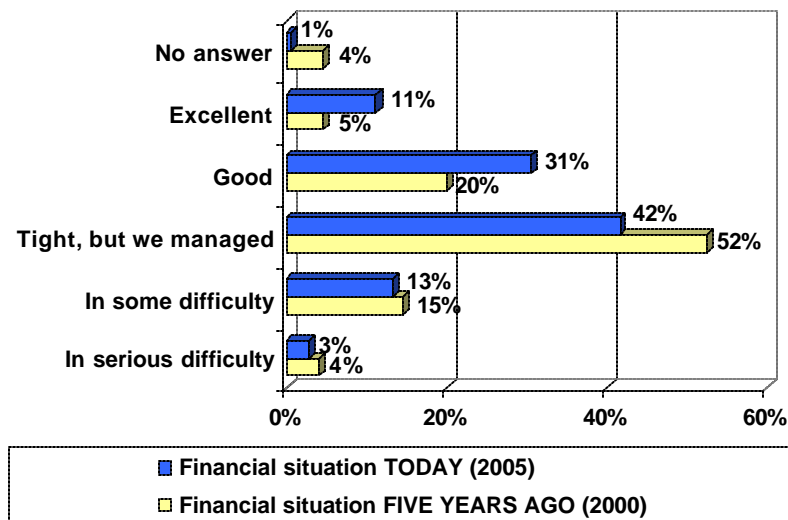
Congregational Conflict



In congregations that experienced conflict:

- 59% lost members
- 35% had members withhold pledges
- 14% the minister resigned or was fired

Congregation's financial situation today compared to five years ago.



UUA FACT-2005 respondents reported that their congregations' **financial situations were healthier in 2005 than in 2000.**

- 42% said their 2005 financial situation was 'Excellent' or 'good' (25% for 2000)
- 42% said their 2005 financial situation was 'Tight' (52% for 2000)



Appendix A: 2005 National Survey of Congregations UUA Congregational Profile

All UUA congregations are requested to participate in this national study of religion in America. To have a complete picture, we need to hear from every congregation.

The survey can be completed by the leader of the congregation, a paid staff member, or a lay leader. Some questions may not apply to the UUA. If so, just skip the question and go to the next one.

Please note that the survey may also be completed on the Internet at <http://www.calvin.edu/go/fact2005uua>

Thank you for your willingness to be a part of this important national study.

A. Your Congregation's Worship

1. How often does your congregation hold worship services?

Table 2: How often does your congregation hold worship services?

	Count	Percent
One day each week	421	85.1%
More than one day each week	24	4.9%
Several times a month, but not every week	9	1.8%
Weekly during part of the year (summer, ski season, etc.)	16	3.2%
Some other pattern	25	5.1%
Total Responses	495	100.0%

2. How many worship services does your congregation usually hold each weekend? *Do not include special services, weddings, or funerals; please write just one number:*

UUA FACT Mean=1.3 (N=495)

3. How well do the following describe your congregation's largest weekend worship service?

Table 3: How well do the following describe your congregation's largest weekend worship service?

	NOT AT ALL	SLIGHTLY	SOMEWHAT	QUITE WELL	VERY WELL	NO ANSWER
A3 - A. Reverent	13	61	189	159	65	8
A3 - B. Informal	26	97	181	119	64	8
A3 - C. Filled with a sense of God's presence	96	161	115	55	11	57
A3 - D. Joyful	0	17	114	230	124	10
A3 - E. Formal liturgy or ritual	38	124	185	97	46	5
A3 - F. Exciting	8	70	216	142	50	9
A3 - G. Inspirational	2	18	107	203	157	8
A3 - H. Thought-provoking	1	5	38	154	276	21

4. How often are the following a part of your congregation's worship services?

Table 4: How often are the following part of your congregation's worship services?

CHECK ONE OPTION ON EACH LINE

NEVER SELDOM SOMETIMES OFTEN ALWAYS NO ANSWER

	NEVER	SELDOM	SOMETIMES	OFTEN	ALWAYS	NO ANSWER
A4 - A. Choir	72	54	118	191	58	2
A4 - B. Organ	261	50	34	55	90	5
A4 - C. Electric guitar or bass	220	182	76	13	1	3
A4 - D. Drums or other percussion instruments	132	229	114	14	2	4
A4 - E. Visual projection equipment	212	208	65	7	2	1
A4 - F. Incense	411	67	11	1	2	3
A4 - G. Communion, Lord's Supper, or Sacrament	364	98	25	5		3
A4 - H. Participation by children or youth (speaking, reading, performing)	23	82	241	110	35	4

5. During the past 5 years, has your congregation changed the format or style of one or more weekend worship services?

Table 5: During the past 5 years, has your congregation changed the format or style of one or more weekend worship services?

	Count	Percent
No change	54	10.9%
Changed a little	217	43.8%
Changed moderately	166	33.5%
Changed a lot	52	10.5%
No answer	6	1.2%
Total Responses	495	100.0%

B. Your Congregation's Programs

1. During the past 12 months, did your congregation have any of the following programs or activities? *If yes*, is it a relatively minor emphasis or a key program or activity of your congregation?

CHECK ONE OPTION ON EACH LINE

Table 6: Did your congregation have any of the following programs/activities during the last 12 months?

	No	Minor emphasis	Key activity	No answer	Total UUA FACT-05
B1 - A. Religious education classes	30	34	429	2	495
B1 - B. Prayer, meditation, or faith sharing groups	103	103	168	8	495
B1 - C. Study or discussion groups	23	172	297	3	495
B1 - D. Fellowships, clubs, or other social activities	24	150	318	3	495
B1 - E. Support groups (such as bereavement, marriage, divorced, wellness, 12-step)	243	183	62	7	495
B1 - F. Evangelism or recruitment activities	262	190	36	7	495
B1 - G. Community service activities	14	165	311	5	495
B1 - H. Choir(s) or other music programs	57	143	289	6	495
B1 - I. Fundraising activities (including capital campaigns)	27	156	304	8	495

2. During the past 12 months, did your congregation participate in any interfaith activities?

Count any time your congregation participated together in a joint activity with a congregation or group from a different faith tradition (such as Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and so on). Do not count events where congregations of the same faith tradition but different denominations participated in a joint activity (such as a Presbyterian and a Catholic congregation).

CHECK ONE OPTION ON EACH LINE

Table 7: Did your congregation participate in any interfaith activities during the last 12 months?

	Yes	No	No answer	Total UUA FACT-05
B2 - A. Worship services	202	282	11	495
B2 - B. Celebrations	209	270	16	495
B2 - C. Educational or fellowship activities	254	223	18	495
B2 - D. Community service activities	359	122	14	495

3. During the past 12 months, did your congregation do any of the following to reach out to nonmembers or to make your congregation better known in the community?

CHECK ONE OPTION ON EACH LINE

Table 8: Has your congregation done any of the following to reach out to non-members during the last 12 months?

	YES, done in the last 12 months	NO, but our members WOULD support this	NO, but our members WOULD NOT support this	No answer	Total UUA FACT-05
B3 - A. Advertised on radio or TV or in a newspaper	365	101	18	11	495
B3 - B. Mailed or distributed newsletters, letters, or flyers	336	109	25	25	495
B3 - C. Established or maintained a website for the congregation	465	21	4	5	495
B3 - D. Developed a plan to recruit new members	232	232	13	18	495
B3 - E. Contacted people who recently moved into the area	58	335	51	51	495
B3 - F. Encouraged members to tell nonmembers about their faith	373	91	16	15	495
B3 - G. Encouraged members to invite nonmembers to worship services or other activities	388	90	4	13	495
B3 - H. Sponsored a program or event to attract nonmembers	311	160	9	15	495

4. How are visitors contacted after they attend your worship services or other activities?

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

Table 9: How are visitors contacted after they attend your worship services or other activities?

	Count N=495	Percent
We rarely, if ever, have any visitors	7	1.4%
We rarely, if ever, contact visitors	28	5.7%
We contact visitors by mail	356	71.9%
We contact visitors by phone	225	45.5%
We contact visitors by e-mail	152	30.7%
We contact visitors by personal visit	30	6.1%
We send visitors materials about our congregation	278	56.2%
No answer	6	1.2%

5. About how many visits or phone calls do leaders of your congregation usually make each month to visitors, prospective members, or newcomers to the community?

Visits or phone calls: UUA Average=8.31

6. To what extent are your congregation's members involved in recruiting new members?

Table 10: To what extent are your members involved in recruiting new members?

	Count	Percent
Not at all	28	5.7%
A little	290	58.6%
A moderate amount	154	30.9%
A lot	24	4.9%
Total UUA FACT-05	496	100.0%

7. Once a person has joined your congregation, are there any planned procedures to ensure the new member becomes integrated into the congregation?

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

Table 11: What planned procedures are there to ensure a new member becomes integrated into the congregation? (N=495)

Follow-up visits by clergy, lay leaders, or members	122	24.7%
Designated people extend hospitality and invite them to meals	137	27.7%
An orientation class for new members	361	72.9%
Invitation to participate in a fellowship or other small group	314	63.4%
Invitation to volunteer for service in the congregation or the community	350	70.7%
Other activities not mentioned above	137	27.7%
No planned procedures or activities	48	9.7%
No answer	2	0.4%

8. Does your congregation have any of the following?

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

Table 12: Electronic communication and record keeping in your congregation

Use of a member's or leader's personal e-mail account	239	48.3%
A congregational email account	363	73.3%
A congregational web page or website	461	93.1%
A computer database that holds the names and addresses of your members	444	89.7%
None of these	3	0.6%

C. Your Congregation's Identity

1. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

CHECK ONE OPTION ON EACH LINE

Table 13: Do you agree or disagree with the following descriptions for your congregation?

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neutral/ Unsure	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	No answer	Total UUA FACT-05
Is like a close-knit family	10	42	40	267	134	2	495
Has a clear mission and purpose	12	38	82	201	161	1	495
Is willing to change to meet new challenges	4	31	70	237	151	2	495
Is working for social justice	3	19	32	188	252	1	495
Is spiritually vital and alive	3	18	62	209	199	4	495
Holds strong beliefs and values	5	9	36	178	262	5	495
Wants more members	3	3	33	142	307	7	495

2. How much does your congregation emphasize the following home or personal practices?

CHECK ONE OPTION ON EACH LINE

Table 14: How much does your congregation emphasize the following home or personal practices?

	Not at all	A little	Some	Quite a bit	A lot	No answer	Total UUA FACT-05
C2 - A. Personal devotions (prayer, meditation)	230	145	86	18	5	11	495
C2 - B. Personal scripture study	406	55	19	0	0	15	495
C2 - C. Family devotions (prayer, special meals)	328	114	30	6	2	15	495
C2 - D. Family scripture study	446	25	5	2	17	495	495
C2 - E. Tithing or sacrificial giving	230	120	93	34	8	10	495
C2 - F. Keeping the Sabbath or other worship day holy	374	68	26	9	2	16	495

3. How would you describe the theological outlook of the majority of your congregation's regularly participating adults?

Table 15: Predominant THEOLOGICAL orientation of your congregation's regularly participating adults. (N=495)

Predominantly conservative	1	0%
Somewhat on the conservative side	9	2%
Right in the middle	8	2%
Somewhat on the liberal side	57	12%
Predominantly liberal	414	84%
No answer	6	1%
Total UUA FACT-2005	495	100%

4. How would you describe the political outlook of the majority of your congregation's regularly participating adults?

Table 16: Predominant POLITICAL orientation of your congregation's regularly participating adults. (N=495)

Predominantly conservative	0	0%
Somewhat on the conservative side	4	1%
Right in the middle	6	1%
Somewhat on the liberal side	72	15%
Predominantly liberal	407	82%
No answer	6	1%
Total Responses	495	100%

D. Your Congregation's Participants

1. How many people regularly participate in the worship services or other activities of your congregation?

(Count adults, youth, and children including those who are not official members)

	WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	RESPONDENTS
<i>WRITE ONE NUMBER ON EACH LINE</i>		
A. Adults (age 18 and older)	Average: 124.56	(N=488)
B. Youth (age 12 – 17)	Average: 14.77	(N=482)
C. Children (age 0 – 11)	Average: 33.28	(N=484)

2. So far this year and for each of the last 5 years, what is your best estimate of the average weekly attendance at your congregation's weekend worship services?

If you have more than one weekend worship service, use the average attendance for all worship services combined. Do not include special services, weddings, or funerals.

WRITE ONE NUMBER ON EACH LINE YEAR	WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	NUMBER of RESPONDENTS
A. 2005	104.82	484
B. 2004	99.47	476
C. 2003	96.06	463
D. 2002	95.38	436
E. 2001	92.83	428
F. 2000	89.82	418

3. Of the total number of regularly participating adults, what percent would you estimate are:

CHECK ONE OPTION ON EACH LINE

Table 17: Demographic characteristics of regularly participating adults

	None 0%	Hardly any 1- 10%	Few 11- 20%	Some 21- 40%	Many 41- 60%	Most 61- 80%	All or nearly all 81- 100%	No answe r	All UUA FACT- 05
A. Female	0	0	0	6	379	104	3	3	495
B. College graduates	1	3	4	11	83	216	173	4	495
C. Under Age 35	10	83	7	170	34	16	4	1	495
D. Over 60 years old	2	15	61	200	137	64	14	2	495
E. New in the last five years	0	14	90	236	115	20	15	5	495
F. Living within two miles of the congregation	5	104	8	149	59	17	5	8	495
G. In households with children under age 18 at home	16	67	5	193	83	16	2	3	495
H. Hispanic or Latino/a	174	296	18	3	0	0	0	4	495
I. Black or African American	160	305	18	6	2	0	0	4	495
J. Asian	165	310	12	2	0	0	1	5	495
K. American Indian or Alaska Native	309	167	4	0	1	0	0	14	495
L. Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	384	97	0	0	0	0	1	13	495
M. White	2	2	0	2	9	79	385	16	495
N. Biracial or multiracial	105	309	53	11	1	0	2	14	495

E. Your Congregation’s Leadership

1. Our congregation has:

Table 18: Ordained leadership in the congregation

	Count	Percent
A principal leader (senior minister, pastor, priest, rabbi, imam)	365	73.7%
Co-principal leaders	37	7.5%
No principal leader at present	84	17.0%
No answer	9	1.8%
Total UUA FACT-05	495	100.0%

In Questions 2 through 7, please describe the principal (ordained) leader of your congregation. If you have co-leaders, please describe the oldest of the co-leaders.

2. (Ordained) Leader’s age in years: Average Age: 53.13 years old (N=395)

3. (Ordained) Leader's Employment Status

Table 19: How is this (ordained) leader employed?

	Count (N=411)	Percent
Full time leader, without other employment	275	66.9%
Full time leader, with other employment	8	2.0%
Part time leader, without other employment	46	11.2%
Part time leader, with other employment	72	17.5%
No answer	10	2.4%
Total Responses	411	100.0%

4. Leader's Gender

Table 20: (Ordained) leader's gender

	Count (N=411)	Percent
Male	200	48.7%
Female	205	49.9%
No answer	6	1.5%
Total Responses	411	100.0%

5. Leader's race or ethnicity:

6. Leader's highest level of education:

Table 21: (Ordained) Leader's highest level of education

	Count (N=411)	Percent
Some college or technical school	4	1.0%
College Bachelor's degree	21	5.1%
Masters Degree (including M.Div.)	285	69.3%
Doctoral Degree (Ph.D., D.Min.)	91	22.1%
No answer	10	2.4%
Total Responses	411	100.0%

7. This person became the leader in what year? Mean: 2000(N=405)

8. During the past 10 years, how many principal leaders (including the current one and all interims) have served this congregation?

Average number of principal leaders since 1995: 2.82 N=488

9. How many paid staff positions do you have in your congregation?

Count only full-and part-time leadership staff - not support or maintenance staff. Count all positions whether currently filled or not. **WRITE ONE NUMBER ON EACH LINE**

A. Total full-time	Mean = 1.06	(N=480)
B. Total part-time	Mean = 2.13	(N=493)

10. During the past two years, has your congregation experienced any disagreements or conflicts?

Table 22: Has your congregation experienced any conflict during the past 2 years?

	Count	Percent
No conflict I am aware of (you will go to Question F1)	124	25.1%
Some minor conflict	281	56.8%
Major conflict	86	17.4%
No answer	4	0.8%
Total Responses	495	1

11. If your congregation experienced conflict, did any of the following occur?

Table 23: If your congregation experienced conflict, did any of the following occur?

	Yes	No	No answer	Total UUA FACT-05
E11 - A. Some members left the congregation	218	133	20	371
E11 - C. The leader resigned or was fired	4	350	17	371
E11 - D. Members withheld contributions to the congregation	131	191	49	371

F. Your Congregation’s Finances

1. How would you describe your congregation’s financial situation today compared to five years ago?

Table 24: Financial situation today (2005)

	Count	Percent
In serious difficulty	14	2.8%
In some difficulty	66	13.3%
Tight, but we manage	206	41.6%
Good	151	30.5%
Excellent	55	11.1%
No answer	3	0.6%
Total Responses	495	100.0%

Table 25: Financial situation five years ago (2000)

	Count	Percent
In serious difficulty	20	4.0%
In some difficulty	72	14.6%
Tight, but we managed	259	52.3%
Good	99	20.0%
Excellent	23	4.7%
No answer	22	4.4%
Total Responses	495	100.0%

2. **What is the total amount of income your congregation received from all sources during your most recent fiscal year?**

Average = \$206,412.52 (N=460)

3. **How much of the above amount came from voluntary or required individual contributions (tithes, dues, or other offerings)?**

Average = \$145,256.15 (N=458)

G. Your Congregation’s History and Affiliation

1. **In what year was your congregation officially organized or founded?**

Average = 1923 (N=476)

1 *Because this survey is for UUA congregations only, we omit questions 2 and 3 of the national questionnaire*

2 *Because this survey is for UUA congregations only, we omit questions 2 and 3 of the national questionnaire*

4. **During the past 20 years, has your congregation experienced any of the following?**

Table 26: Has your congregation experienced any of the following during the past 20 years?

	No	1985-1989	1990-1994	1995-1999	2000-2005	No answer	UUA FACT-05
A. Merged with another congregation	482	3	2	3		6	496
B. Absorbed another congregation that closed	480	2	3	1	3	7	496
C. Split into two or more congregations	453	8	11	9	10	7	498
D. Helped plant or grow a new congregation	430	10	15	15	20	9	499
E. Established satellite or branch locations	486			3	1	6	496
F. Became a part of a congregational cluster that shares a principal leader	460	9	9	6	10	9	503
G. Changed denominational affiliation	485			1		9	495
H. Became an independent or unaffiliated congregation	486	1		1	1	6	495
I. Changed the name of your congregation	397	14	16	26	35	8	496

5. **What is the zip code of the place where your principal place of worship is located?**
6. **How would you describe the place where your principal place of worship is located?**

Table 27: Location of UUA FACT-2005 congregations

City (50,000+)	246
Town (2,500 - 50,000)	221
Rural (Less than 2,500)	28
All UUA FACT-2005 congregations	495

7. **If in or near a large city, is your place of worship located in:**

Table 28: Area of the city of 50,000+ in which the UUA FACT-2005 congregation is located

A downtown or central area of the city	67
An older residential area in the city	69
An older suburb around the city	66
A newer suburb around the city	36
No answer	8
Total	246

8. **What is the approximate seating capacity of the space where your largest worship service is held?**

Average = 188.51 (N=493)

9. **What is the role of the person who completed the majority of this form?**

?1 Leader of the congregation (minister, pastor, priest, rabbi, imam)

?2 Administrator or other paid staff member

?3 Clerk, treasurer, or other lay leader

H. Your Congregation's Future

- 1 **What is the most important issue or challenge currently facing your congregation?**
- 2 **What is your congregation's greatest strength?**

I. Contact Information (optional)

If we need additional information about your answers or your congregation, can we contact you or someone else in the congregation?

Name of the contact person:

Phone number: ()

Best times to reach this person at this phone number:

Email address:

Thank you very much for completing the questionnaire! You may use the remaining space to write additional notes.

To send in your answers, please do one of the following:

1. Help us conserve resources: use the Internet to enter your congregation's data through the UUA Faith Communities Today web site, at <http://www.calvin.edu/go/fact2005uua>. Your online response will save both postage and data entry costs.

—OR—

2. **Mail** the questionnaire back to the Center for Social Research at this address:

FAITH COMMUNITIES TODAY
CENTER FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH
3201 BURTON ST. SE
GRAND RAPIDS MI 49546

If you have any comments or questions about the survey, please contact the Calvin College Center for Social Research at 616 526-6420 or csr@calvin.edu. Information about the project is also available at <http://fact.hartsem.edu>. **Thank you again!**

UUA FACT- 2005: This describes our largest weekend worship service 'Quite Well' or 'Very Well' and Roles of Respondents

	Lay leader N=370	Minister N=95	Paid staff N=25	Other N=3	No answer N=1	All UUA FACT-05 N=495
Reverent	157	52	12	2	1	224
Informal	140	31	10	1	1	183
Sense of God's presence	42	18	6			66
Joyful	257	73	20	3	1	354
Liturgical	102	33	6	2		143
Exciting	142	36	12	1	1	192
Inspirational	257	77	23	2	1	360
Thought Provoking	316	87	24	2	1	430