

CRCC RCCI Leader Survey

Congregation Name:

Congregation Address:

Street

City

State

Zip

Case ID#

Date of Interview:

Name and Title of Interviewee:

Survey

Now I want to shift gears a little bit and spend the next several minutes doing an in-person survey about you and your congregation. All of the answers are typical survey-type check off answers, so this will go fairly quickly. (Some questions may repeat in brief form some of what we've already talked about.)

Ready?

Congregational Leader Information

1. Your age in years?

2. What is the highest level of (non-seminary/non-ministry/professional related) formal education that you have completed?

Less than high school graduate

High school graduate

Some college, trade, or vocational school

College degree

Post-graduate work

Post-graduate degree

3. In what field is your education/
college degree?

4. Do you have a professional ministerial degree such as from a seminary or other religious training school?

Yes

No

[If yes]: What is the degree?

[If yes]: What is the school?

5. What is your race or origin?

Asian or Pacific Islander

Black or African American

Hispanic Latino or Spanish origin

Indian American or Alaskan native

White or Caucasian

Mixed/Bi-Racial (please specify)

Some other race/ethnicity (please specify)

Comments about race if specified

6. What is your zip code where you live?

7. How long have you been a [pastor/rabbi/imam/minister/priest/other]?

8. How long have you been a [pastor/rabbi/imam/minister/priest/other] at this congregation (in years)?

9. Are you [ordained/certified/officially trained/designated] leader in your tradition?

Yes

No

Not Applicable

10. Have you been a [pastor/rabbi/imam/minister/priest/other] at any congregation other than this one?

Yes

No

11. In addition to being the [pastor/rabbi/imam/minister/priest/other] at this congregation, do you also have other employment?

Yes

No

12. Now I want to ask you several questions related to how you work and how you think about your congregational work:

	Always	Sometimes	Occasionally	Never
My peers often ask me for advice or information.				
I am generally cautious about accepting new ideas.				
I frequently improvise methods for solving a problem when an answer is not apparent.				
I consider myself to be creative and original in my thinking and behavior.				
I enjoy taking part in the leadership responsibilities of the groups I belong to.				
I find it stimulating to be original in my thinking and behavior.				
I tend to feel that the traditional way of living and doing things is the best way.				
I am uncomfortable with ambiguity and uncertainty.				
I prefer to see other people using new methods/innovations before I will consider them.				
I am receptive to new ideas.				

About Your Congregation

13. As you make decisions about worship, programs, and the like, to what extent do you take into account the ideas of those who attend/worship/pray here?

A great extent

Some extent

A small extent

Not at all

14. Would you say that most programs in your congregation are initiated by

Laypersons

Staff

Leadership [pastor/rabbi/imam/minister/other]

Combination of leadership and staff

Combination of laypersons and leadership/staff

15. How would you describe your style of leadership in this congregation?

You prefer to take charge

You prefer to inspire people to take action

You act on goals that people here have been involved in setting

Congregants / members start most things

Property and Geography

16. What year was [name of congregation] officially founded?

17. What year did [name of congregation] begin meeting at its current location?

18. Does this building belong to [name of congregation] or does it belong to another group that loans or rents space to you?

It belongs to our congregation or denomination

It belongs to another group, and we rent the space

It belongs to another group, but we do not pay rent or fees

19. Is [name of congregation] formally affiliated with a denomination, convention, or some similar kind of association?

Yes

No

Not sure

20. Is [name of congregation] affiliated with any local association of congregations such as a local council of [churches/synagogues/temples/mosques]?

Yes

No

Not sure

Membership and Attendance

21. Overall, how many people are associated with the religious life of this congregation to any degree at all? [Counting both adults and children, counting both regular and irregular participants, counting both official or registered members and also participating nonmembers]

22. How many people—including both adults and children— regularly participate in the religious life of [name of congregation] whether or not they are officially members of your congregation?

23. Thinking about age groups involved in your congregation, how many people regularly participate in the religious life of [name of congregation] who are:

Under 18:

19-35:

36-55:

Over 55:

24. So far this year, what is your best estimate of average weekly attendance at all worship/prayer/religious services here at [name of congregation] [combined attendance]?

Current Year:

In 2010?

We are interested in understanding where congregation members live relative to the location of your congregation.

25. Thinking about the regular adult participants in your congregation, what percentage would you say live within a ten-minute walk from your congregation meeting place?

or out of total members/ attendees

26. Thinking about the regular adult participants in your congregation, what percentage would you say live within a ten-minute drive from your congregation meeting place?

or out of total members/ attendees

27. Thinking about the regular adult participants in your congregation, what percentage would you say live more than a 30 minute drive your from your congregation meeting place?

or out of total members/ attendees

28. Thinking about the regular adult participants in your congregation, what percentage would you say use public transportation to reach your congregation meeting place?

or out of total members/ attendees

29. Do you maintain a spreadsheet of congregation members/attendees by zip code?

Yes

No

[if yes] Would you be willing to provide us with a list of only zip codes only for each member?
(We don't need any other information than the zip code for each member)

Yes

No

30. How would you characterize the racial/ethnic makeup of [name of congregation]?
[Interviewer: Don't read categories to leader, just fill in from responses given]

Asian or Pacific Islander

Black or African American

Hispanic Latino or Spanish origin

Indian American or Alaskan native

Middle Eastern

South Asian

White or Caucasian

Other

31. In the last year, has your congregation participated in a joint [worship/prayer/religious] service with any other congregation?

Yes

No

32. Does [name of congregation] reach out to nonmembers through advertisements, mailings, or other similar means?

Yes

No

33. How often is this congregation's building or facilities used or rented by community groups not connected to the congregation?

Daily or most days

At least weekly

At least monthly

Occasionally

Never

Not Applicable [esp. if congregation rents space]

Activities, Finances, General View of Congregation

34. How many times over the past twelve months has your congregation engaged in any outreach, social service, or community projects in collaboration with other community groups such as local businesses, other congregations, or non-profit/community organizations?

None

1-3 times

4-5 times

6-7 times

8-9 times

10 or more

35. Does your congregation use e-mail, the internet or other digital/social media to communicate with attendees?

Yes

No

36. Politically, would your congregation be considered,

More on the conservative side

Right in the middle

More on the liberal side

Don't Know/Not Applicable

37. Theologically, would your congregation be considered,

More on the conservative side

Right in the middle

More on the liberal side

Don't Know/Not Applicable

38. What are the biggest sources of income for this congregation?

Offerings, pledges, donations, dues

Income from charges for use of the congregation's facilities or buildings

Financial support from the denomination or outside the congregation

Other (specify)

Comments about other sources if specified

39. Does your congregation operate with a formal, written annual budget?

Yes

No

40. Which one of the following best describes your congregation's financial situation?

An increasing financial base

An essentially stable financial base

A declining financial base

Our financial situation is a serious threat to our ability to continue as a viable congregation

Staffing

41. How many full-time staff members are employed by your congregation? [actual number]

42. How many part-time staff members are employed by your congregation? [actual number]

43. What percentage of all individuals involved in the operation of your congregation are unpaid volunteers? [percent]

Religious Service, Prayer and Worship

In this last section I have several questions based on the [worship/prayer/religious/meditation] service with the largest attendance.

44. How long does this [worship/prayer/meditation/religious] service generally last?

Up to 1 hour

Between 1 and 1.5 hours

Between 1.5 and 2 hours

Over 2 hours

45. What type of order of service or program is used (if any)?

Written liturgy or Prayer Book

Written service outline or bulletin

No written outline, but a standard approach is used

Very flexible, varies from week to week

None

Not Applicable

46. Is there a sermon, homily, or speech of some type in this [worship/prayer/religious] service?

Yes

No

47. In a *typical* week, how many [worship/prayer/religious] services does your congregation hold?

48. How would you characterize the main service of your congregation:

Traditional

Contemporary

Both Traditional and Contemporary

Not Applicable

49. Thinking about either your own congregation or congregations more generally, do you think congregations should:

	Always	Sometimes	Occasionally	Never
Be open to new management techniques and practices to run operations?				
Be wary of impulses to change religious practices?				
Should reinterpret your religious tradition in light of current times?				
Be places where their [members/ congregants] can advance new ideas for new [programs, ministries, outreaches, worship, liturgies, groups]?				
Be open to using new technology to reach people?				
Be open to changing how you operate based on insights and methods from other fields (such as business, media, etc.)?				

That's all the questions I have for you. Do you have anything you would like to add? Is there anything that you think is important for us to know about [congregation name] that we haven't talked about?

Thank you again for your time and for answering all of my questions. If possible, once we've gotten to know [name of congregation], talked to members and attended events, I may want to schedule a follow up conversation with you, if that would be alright.

If you have any questions or comments that you think of after I leave, feel free to contact me [hand business card]
