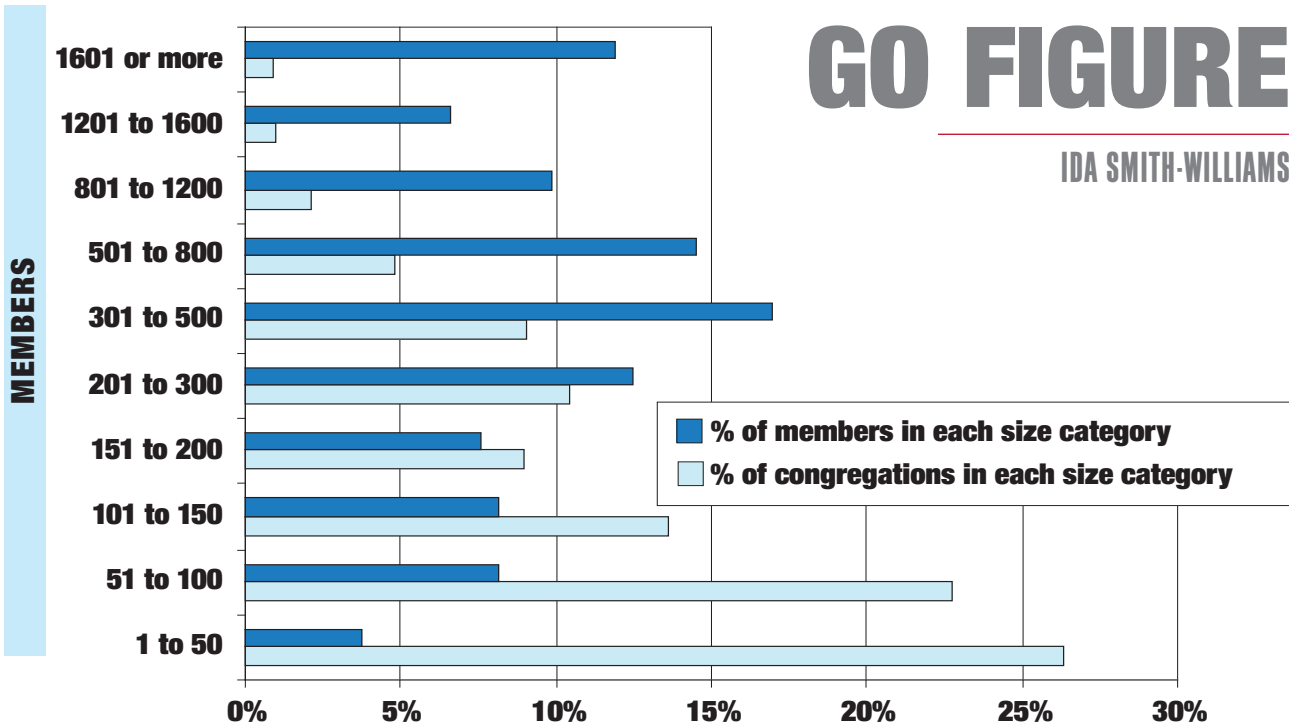


Congregations and members by size of church—2007

GO FIGURE

IDA SMITH-WILLIAMS



Give me 10

As a denominational researcher I am often asked to compile lists: the 10 churches with the largest membership, the fastest-growing churches, congregations with the most giving, etc. Here are the 10 most frequently asked questions, with answers using the most recent data (2007):

- **How many members and how many congregations do we have?** 2,209,546 members in 10,820 congregations.
- **How has the membership changed over the last 10 years?** The PC(USA) has had a net loss of nearly 400,000 members since 1997 (about 15 percent) and a net loss of nearly 500 congregations.
- **How big is the average Presbyterian church?** In a word, small. The average or mean is 204 members; the median is 103. (As the figure shows, most congregations are small, but most members belong to larger congregations.)
- **What is the largest Presbyterian church?** Peachtree Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, with 8,667 members, has been the largest since 1988.
- **What is the average worship**

attendance? The mean number in worship is 114; the median is 67.

- **What is the racial-ethnic make-up of the church?** Most members are white (91.5 percent).
- **How many ministers are women?** A total of 4,219 are women (31 percent), out of 13,615 active ministers.
- **Are congregations growing?** Overall, 30 percent grew by at least one member from 2006 to 2007.
- **How many vacant pulpits are there?** Approximately 30 percent of congregations do not have installed pastoral leadership.
- **How does my congregation compare to others in the denomination?** Our Ten-Year Trend report answers this question (www.pcusa.org/tenyeartrends), providing a 10-year history for each congregation.

What the research shows

These questions reflect the topics that interest Presbyterians. A comparison with previous top 10 questions from 1988 shows consistency, with eight remaining on the list. Two other previous questions (average contributions by members and Presbyterians by state) have been replaced by interest in growing congregations and vacant pulpits.

How will the questions change in the future? That will depend on you and others like you who are curious about our church. So ask away. We'll continue to do our best to supply the answers.

You can find answers to many other questions on our Web site:

www.pcusa.org/research

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