



LCMS

INSIGHTS

A Quarterly Review of Religious Research • Vol. 3 No. 2 • March 2007

TOPIC INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

- “FACTs on Growth”

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In 2000, the LCMS participated in the Cooperative Congregational Studies Partnership (CCSP), sponsored by the Hartford Seminary’s Institute for Religion Research. CCSP conducted a national survey of over 14,000 congregations in the United States called FACT2000 (Faith Communities Today). The FACT2000 report provided a snapshot of religion in America in the new millennium. The congregations surveyed represented a variety of different denominations and faiths represented in the United States. The results from the FACT2000 report can be viewed at:

<http://fact.hartsem.edu/research/fact2000/index.html>.

As a follow up, in 2005 the CCSP conducted another survey (FACT2005) to look at changes and to learn more about congregations (including the LCMS) in the United States. The first report published from the FACT2005 survey highlights congregational growth (FACTs on Growth). Below are some of the key findings from the report.

■ Congregations that grew tended to have one or more of the following characteristics:

- Built near new suburbs or in the inner city.
- Have more children and young adults involved with the church.
- Consist of two or more racial/ethnic groups.
- Had a healthy mix of different age groups.
- Were clear about why they exist and took active steps to encourage growth.
- Were open to change.
- Used drums and other percussions in worship.
- Members were actively involved in recruiting.
- Maintained a Web site.
- Followed-up with visitors through mail, phone calls, e-mails, personal visits, mailed materials and etc.

■ Congregations that declined tended to have one or more of the following characteristics:

- Experienced a major conflict in their church.
- Did not have children involved in worship.
- Members were predominately older adults.

For more Information

For more information on the “FACTs on Growth” report, visit <http://fact.hartsem.edu/products/index.html> or contact the LCMS Research Services Department at **Jessica Paul@lcms.org**.



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