

New Southern Baptist Anglo Churches

by

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NEW SOUTHERN BAPTIST ANGLO CHURCHES

Median New Anglo Church and Median SBC Church

This brief paper examines the characteristics of SBC Anglo churches organized since 1985. Analysis of these churches is based on a comparison of the median new Anglo church with the median SBC church in 1991.

According to data from the 1991 Uniform Church Letters (UCL), 2,113 churches reported dates of organization 1985 or later. Anglos (white, non-Hispanics) were the largest racial/ethnic group in 1,614 of these churches. The data in this paper are based on 1,541 new Anglo churches that submitted a 1991 UCL. (Note: 73 new Anglo churches did not submit a 1991 UCL; however, they are still included in the count of existing SBC churches.)

Table 1 compares the median new Anglo church with the median profile for all SBC churches in 1991. The median SBC church has 238 total members of which 168 are resident members. Logically, new Anglo churches tend to be much smaller than the typical SBC church. The median new Anglo church has 87 total members of which 78 are resident members. Thus the median new Anglo church is about one-third the size of the SBC median total membership and one-half the size of the SBC median resident membership.

As churches age, the percentage of non-resident members tends to increase. Only 10 percent of the members in the median new Anglo church are non-resident compared with 29 percent in the median SBC church.

The size gap between new Anglo churches and the median SBC church narrows with Sunday School programming. The median SBC church has 107 enrolled in Sunday School and 60 in average attendance. The median new Anglo church has 81 enrolled in Sunday School and 40 in average attendance.

Sunday School enrollment tends to be higher than resident membership in new Anglo churches. In contrast, enrollment in the median SBC church is less than two-thirds of the resident membership. The high enrollment suggests that Sunday School is a prime means of outreach for new Anglo churches. Based on a weekly average, half of the resident members in new Anglo churches attend Sunday School; only about a third of resident members attend Sunday School in the typical SBC church.

The financial picture tends to be brighter in new Anglo churches. Even though the median new Anglo resident membership is half the size of the median SBC church, total receipts are not far behind the SBC median. Median total receipts in new Anglo churches are \$45,005 compared with an SBC median of \$54,035.

On a per capita basis, resident members in the median new Anglo church give \$577 compared with \$322 in the median SBC church. Because new churches are more likely to be in urban settings (54% urban compared with 41% urban for all SBC churches), some of the difference in per capita giving may be due to higher incomes in urban areas. However, it is also likely that financial support for new churches tends to be greater than in older churches.

There is a similar trend regarding mission expenditures. The median new Anglo church reports \$4,265 total mission expenditures compared with \$6,928 for the median SBC church. Per capita mission expenditures are \$55 for the median new Anglo church and \$41 for the median SBC church. However, total mission expenditures represent only 9 percent of total receipts in the median new Anglo church against 13 percent in the median SBC church. It is likely the new Anglo church must spend a larger portion of its money on local expenditures such as facilities, construction, debt, etc.

Perhaps the best measures of church outreach are baptisms and additions by letter. New churches excel on both counts. In 1991 the median new church received 15 new members: 6 by baptism and 9 by letter. The median SBC church received 11 new members: 5 by baptism and 6 by letter.

Using ratios to account for church size, the difference between the median new Anglo church and the median SBC church is even greater. For every 100 resident members in 1991, the median new Anglo church added 20 people: 8 by baptism and 12 by letter. For every 100 resident members the median SBC church added 7 people: 3 by baptism and 4 by letter.

The findings above confirm those of previous studies: newer churches are more efficient than older churches in reaching new members both by baptism and by addition.

Median New Anglo Churches in Older Versus Newer State Conventions

Two-thirds of the new Anglo churches are located in older state conventions and one-third are in the newer states. Table 2 shows the median size new Anglo church by age of state convention. New Anglo churches in newer state conventions tend to be much smaller than new Anglo churches in older state convention.

The median new Anglo church in older states has 104 total members and 94 resident members. Its counterpart in newer states has 61 total members and 53 resident members.

In terms of Sunday School the size of the median new Anglo church in older states is not much smaller than the SBC median: 90 enrolled and 46 average attendance. In newer states the median enrollment is 65 and average attendance is 32.

The median new Anglo church in newer states also lags behind in total receipts and mission expenditures. However, their per capita receipts are almost \$100 higher. Total receipts per resident member is \$652 in the median new Anglo church in newer states compared with \$558 in the median new Anglo church in older states.

In 1991 the median new Anglo church in older states added 19 members: 7 by baptism and 12 by addition. The median new Anglo in newer states added 11 members: 5 by baptism and 6 and by letter.

For both older and newer states the median new Anglo church added 20 members for every 100 resident members. However, more of the growth in older states can be attributed to transfer growth rather than conversion growth. For every 100 resident members the median new Anglo church in older states gained 13 by letter and 7 by baptism. In the newer states the median new Anglo church gained 11 by letter and 9 by baptism.

Sunday School Average Attendance as a Measure of Size

Table 3 was compiled to show the normative size of new Anglo churches. The table gives the distribution of new Anglo churches by size of Sunday School average attendance. Approximately 23 percent of all new Anglo churches average fewer than 25 in Sunday School attendance, 35 percent average 25 to 49, 26 percent average 50 to 99, and only 16 percent average 100 or more.

The size difference between new Anglo churches in older and newer states is most evident at the extremes. In older states 17 percent of new Anglo churches average fewer than 25 in Sunday School, compared with 36 percent of new Anglo churches in newer states. Twenty percent of the new Anglo churches in older states average 100 or more in Sunday School attendance, compared with only 8 percent of the new Anglo churches in newer states.

Summary

1. The normative size of new Anglo churches is small. The median size of Anglo churches organized since 1985 is 87, compared with a median of 238 for all SBC churches. Fifty-eight percent of new Anglo churches average fewer than 50 in Sunday School average attendance. In old convention states 52 percent of new Anglo churches average fewer than 50 in Sunday School attendance; in new convention states 71 percent average fewer than 50. The size of new Anglo churches should be recognized and affirmed by denominational leaders. Appropriate models and training should be provided that address issues faced by small churches.

2. New Anglo churches appear to use Sunday School as a prime means of outreach. Sunday School enrollment in these churches is generally about the same as resident membership. About half of the resident members attend Sunday School on any given Sunday. In contrast, about one-third of the resident members attend Sunday School in the typical SBC church. Given their relatively small size, new churches could benefit from training that helps them more effectively do Sunday School programming.

3. While the per capita receipts are relatively high in new Anglo churches, the median new Anglo church receives \$45,000 in total receipts. Because this money must meet operating costs, debt retirement, salaries, and programming costs, new churches face tremendous financial stress. New churches could be helped through financial planning, supplemental financial support and/or bivocational options.

4. Accounting for church size, new Anglo churches are two to three times more efficient in reaching people with the gospel. For every 100 resident members, the typical SBC church baptizes 3 people while the new Anglo church baptizes 8 people. This difference forms a strong rationale for beginning new work.

5. As noted earlier, there is a significant size difference between new Anglo churches in old and new states. Part of the reason for this difference is due to regional church affiliation patterns. Two-thirds of the growth in new Anglo churches in older states comes from transfer growth compared with half the growth in new Anglo churches in newer states. Newer state conventions may need increased leadership and financial support in establishing and growing new Anglo churches.

6. It is clear that more study is needed. Some new Anglo churches have shown significant growth. The 246 new Anglo churches that average more than 100 in Sunday School attendance should be studied to see if their growth experiences can benefit other new churches. There is also a need to examine the potential growth of new churches. It is likely that only a limited portion of new rural churches will ever reach 100 in Sunday School attendance. Most new urban churches will eventually have 100 in Sunday School attendance; however, it may take 40 years before half of them reach this goal.

TABLE 1

MEDIAN CHURCH PROFILE FOR ALL SBC CHURCHES
AND FOR NEW ANGLO SBC CHURCHES, 1991

| | SBC | Anglo Churches Organized 1985 to 1991 |
|-------------------------------------|----------|---|
| Number of Churches = | 36,196 | 1,541 |
| Total Members | 238 | 87 |
| Resident Members | 168 | 78 |
| Sunday School Enrollment | 107 | 81 |
| S.S. Average Attendance | 60 | 40 |
| Total Receipts | \$54,035 | \$45,005 |
| Per Capita Receipts (Res. Mem.) | \$322 | \$577 |
| Mission Expenditures | \$6,928 | \$4,265 |
| Per Capita Mission Exp. (Res. Mem.) | \$41 | \$55 |
| Mission Exp. as Percent of Receipts | 13% | 9% |
| Baptisms | 5 | 6 |
| Additions | 6 | 9 |
| Baptisms per 100 Resident Members | 3 | 8 |
| Additions per 100 Resident Members | 4 | 12 |

Source: 1991 Uniform Church Letters; compiled by Program Research Department, Home Mission Board, September 1992.

TABLE 2

MEDIAN CHURCH PROFILE FOR NEW ANGLO SBC
CHURCHES BY AGE OF STATE CONVENTION, 1991

| | Anglo Churches Organized 1985 to 1991 by Age of State Convention | |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------|
| | Old States | New States |
| Number of Churches = | 1,032 | 509 |
| Total Members | 104 | 61 |
| Resident Members | 94 | 53 |
| Sunday School Enrollment | 90 | 65 |
| S.S. Average Attendance | 46 | 32 |
| Total Receipts | \$52,475 | \$34,555 |
| Per Capita Receipts (Res. Mem.) | \$558 | \$652 |
| Mission Expenditures | \$4,717 | \$3,483 |
| Per Capita Mission Exp. (Res. Mem.) | \$50 | \$66 |
| Mission Exp. as Percent of Receipts | 9% | 10% |
| Baptisms | 7 | 5 |
| Additions | 12 | 6 |
| Baptisms per 100 Resident Members | 7 | 9 |
| Additions per 100 Resident Members | 13 | 11 |

Source: 1991 Uniform Church Letters; compiled by Program Research Department, Home Mission Board, September 1992.

Older state conventions: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

TABLE 3

NEW ANGLO SBC CHURCHES BY SIZE OF SUNDAY SCHOOL AVERAGE
ATTENDANCE AND AGE OF STATE CONVENTION, 1991

| Sunday School Average Attendance | All New Anglo Churches | | New Churches in Old States | | New Churches in New States | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|---------|----------------------------|---------|----------------------------|---------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Under 25 | 361 | 23.4% | 180 | 17.4% | 181 | 35.6% |
| 25-49 | 538 | 34.9% | 357 | 34.6% | 181 | 35.6% |
| 50-74 | 264 | 17.1% | 189 | 18.3% | 75 | 14.7% |
| 75-99 | 132 | 8.6% | 102 | 9.9% | 30 | 5.9% |
| 100 or More | 246 | 16.0% | 204 | 19.8% | 42 | 8.3% |
| Total | 1,541 | 100.0% | 1,032 | 100.0% | 509 | 100.0% |

Source: 1991 Uniform Church Letters; compiled by Program Research Department, Home Mission Board, September 1992.

CHARACTERISTICS OF NEW ANGLO SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCHES

Methodology

During 1992 a questionnaire was developed and mailed to 845 Anglo Southern Baptist Churches that had organized between 1987 and 1989. The purpose of the questionnaire was to gather information that is not available from annual Uniform Church Letters. Content and design of the questionnaire were developed by Henry Smart in the New Church Extension Division and Clay Price in the Program Research Department of the Home Mission Board. Additional feedback came from other elected staff in the New Church Extension Division.

The initial mailing resulted in 184 usable questionnaires. A second mailing to a smaller sample of the original churches yielded another 32 survey questionnaires. The final analysis was made on 216 churches, representing 26 percent of the original group of new Anglo churches. There were 120 churches from older Baptist state conventions and 96 from newer Baptist conventions.¹

Results of the survey are shown on the attached table. Findings are given for all 216 new Anglo churches and for new Anglo churches in older versus newer state conventions. The last section of the report analyzes characteristics that contribute to church growth. Results are shown as percentage distributions or as medians.

Findings

Years as mission: The survey asked churches to identify the year they started as a mission and the year they organized as a church. The median difference between these two periods of time was 2 years (185 churches responded to both items). Eighty percent of the churches spent 7 years or less as a mission. Two-thirds of the churches spending more than 7 years as a mission were located in newer convention states and had a median size in 1991 of 80 total members.

Years to reach self-support: Seventy-seven percent of the churches indicated they were self-supporting. The median difference between the year started as a mission and the year reaching self-support was 2 years (142 churches responded to both items).

Thirty-six churches (25% of those reaching self-support) took 5 years or more to reach self-support. The median size of these churches was 127 total members in 1991; two-thirds of these churches were in newer convention states.

¹For this report older states conventions were Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

Forty-eight churches (33% of those reaching self-support) took less than 1 year to reach self-support; i.e., the year started as a mission and the year reaching self-support were identical. The median size of these churches was 205 total members in 1991; three-fourths of these churches were in older convention states.

Almost one-fourth of the churches in the survey indicated they were not currently self-supporting. Only 8 percent of the churches in older states had not yet reached self-support. In contrast, 43 percent of the churches in newer states were still not self-supporting.

Facilities: About half of the churches indicated they were in a church building with adequate space for Sunday School and worship. One-third were in a church building with inadequate space. Most of the remaining churches were located in schools or in shopping centers/office buildings/store fronts. Churches in older states were slightly more likely than churches in newer states to be in a church building with adequate space.

The median age of church buildings was 4 years (3 years for churches in older states and 6 years for churches in newer states). The median seating capacity was 180 (225 for churches in older states and 125 for churches in newer states).

Sixty-one percent of the churches indicated they were located on a main street; 27 percent were located on a secondary street. Churches in newer states were more likely than churches in older states to be located on a main street (67% versus 56%).

About half of the churches had a professionally produced, permanent sign. Another one-third had a permanent sign that was not professionally produced. Churches in older states were much more likely to have a professionally produced, permanent sign.

Membership growth: The median new Anglo church reported 63 total members in its first year as a church. It more than doubled to 138 members by its fourth year. Churches in older states tended to be about twice as large as those in newer states. The median new Anglo church in older states started with 86 members in its first year and grew to 200 by its fourth year. The median church in newer states grew from 48 members in its first year to 81 members in its fourth year. Resident membership showed a similar pattern.

Sunday School enrollment and attendance: Sunday School enrollment tended to be slightly higher than total membership in the first three years, suggesting that Sunday School is a prime means of outreach. Enrollment grew from 69 in the first year to 133 in the fourth year.

The rate of growth for average Sunday School attendance was well behind membership and enrollment growth. The median church grew from 43 in average attendance in its

first year to 68 in its fourth year. Attendance was 62 percent of enrollment in the first year, dropping to 51 percent of enrollment in the fourth year.

Baptisms and additions: The median new church baptized 8 persons in its first year, 10 in the second, 11 in the third, and 12 in the fourth. Based on the median, the typical new Anglo church baptized 13 persons for every 100 resident members in its first year. Combining all reports for 1991, the survey showed that the median new Anglo church baptized 10 persons for every 100 resident members. In comparison, the SBC church baptized 3 persons for every 100 resident members in 1991.

When looking at the total survey sample, additions by letter accounted for a greater portion of growth than baptisms. However, it is clear that transfer growth was much more significant for new churches in older states. The median church in older states added 27 persons by letter in its first year, 23 in the second, 25 in the third, and 21 in the fourth. Baptisms for the median church in older states numbered 10 in the first year, 12 in the second, 14 in the third and 15 in the fourth. Thus transfers accounted for two-thirds of the growth of the median church in older states in the first 4 years.

Baptisms and additions accounted for an equal amount of growth for the median church in newer states (annual average of 7 baptisms and 8 additions by letter).

Total receipts: The median new Anglo church reported \$49,740 in total receipts in its first year and \$87,863 in its fourth year. Per capita resident member receipts dropped from \$858 in the first year to \$757 in the fourth year.

As with membership, receipts for the median church in older states were about twice as high as receipts for the median church in newer states. Receipts for the median church in older states grew from \$66,000 in the first year to \$117,000 in the fourth. Receipts for the median church in newer states grew from \$38,000 in the first year to \$49,000 in the fourth. This difference was clearly tied with the finding that 43 percent of the new Anglo churches in newer states have not yet achieved self-support.

Impact of church programs and activities on church growth: The survey asked whether churches offered any of 24 various programs and activities. If a program or activity was offered, the church was asked to rate it on a scale of 1=low effect to 5=high effect on growth in the church. Programs/activities offered most were: Sunday morning worship (100% of churches responding), Sunday School (99%), Wednesday prayer meeting (90%), Vacation Bible Schools (90%), youth organizations (84%), Sunday evening worship (84%), weekly visitation (82%), and advertising (79%). Least offered were: Lay Evangelism School (only 21% of the churches reported LES), Continuing Witness Training (28%), Sunday School Growth Spiral (34%), telephone surveys (34%), and youth choir (38%).

Of the 24 programs/activities offered, few were perceived to have an effective rating on church growth. Only three programs/activities received a rating of 4 or 5 by more than half of the churches: Sunday morning worship (92% rated as 4 or 5), Sunday School (67% rated as 4 or 5), and weekly visitation (57% rated as 4 or 5).

Telephone surveys, direct mail, and advertising were all perceived as having a low effect on church growth. WMU, Brotherhood, RAs, GAs, singles ministries, and youth choir were also seen as having a low effect on growth. Likewise, LES and CWT were rated low on their effects on church growth.

In general, new Anglo churches in older states were more likely than churches in newer states to offer most of the programs and activities, particularly RAs, GAs, singles' ministry, adult choir, and youth choir.

For programs/activities offered by more than half the churches, churches in older states were more likely to perceive weekly visitation as effective. Churches in newer states were more likely to perceive Discipleship Training, small groups, and community ministries as effective.

Effectiveness of groups/committees: The new Anglo churches were asked whether they had a church council, missions development council, evangelism council, stewardship committee, or deacon group. Churches were also asked to rate the effectiveness of each of these groups in fulfilling their assignments.

Deacon groups were present in 75 percent of the churches, but slightly less than half perceived them as effective (rating of 4 or 5) in their assignment. Stewardship committees were present in 69 percent of the churches and, again, less than half the churches felt these committees were effective. Church councils also were present in 69 percent of the churches, but slightly over half felt the councils were effective. Churches in older states were more likely to have deacon groups than churches in newer states.

Missions development councils and evangelism councils were offered by about 30 percent of the new churches. These two councils were perceived as effective by 22 percent and 36 percent of the churches, respectively.

About two-thirds of the churches indicated they held monthly business meetings; one-fourth held quarterly meetings. Churches in older states were more likely than those in newer states to hold monthly meetings (70% versus 57%), while churches in newer states were more likely to hold quarterly meetings (31% versus 21%).

Characteristics of church membership: New Anglo churches reported that half their members were long-term church members and half were relatively new converts. As expected, new converts make up a greater portion of membership for churches in newer states. The distribution of membership for churches in newer states was 65 percent

relatively new converts and 35 percent long-term church members. For churches in older states the distribution was 40 percent new converts and 60 percent long-term members.

Forty-three percent of the churches indicated the largest age group in the church was 30 to 44 year olds; 23 percent said 45 to 64 year olds were the largest group. There was no difference in age distribution between churches in older states and churches in newer states.

Publicity and visitors: The type of publicity used by the largest percentage of new churches was newspaper ads, reported by 58 percent of the respondents. Other types of publicity were: yellow pages (47% of the respondents), weekly community paper (33%), and direct mail or telemarketing (32%). Only 21 percent used radio, and 6 percent used television. Churches in newer states were more likely to use yellow pages than churches in older states (56% versus 39%).

The median new church averaged 6 visitors in a regular Sunday morning worship service. Churches in older states averaged 8 visitors while churches in newer states averaged 5 visitors.

Follow-up contacts with visitors included: pastoral visit (in 84% of the new churches), card or letter (80%), and pastoral call (67%). Deacon visits were made by only 30 percent of the churches, and these were more likely to be churches in older states.

Style of worship service: Almost two-thirds of new churches offered traditional worship services while just over one-third had non-traditional services. There was no statistical difference in worship style between churches in older states and those in newer states.

When asked what elements made their services non-traditional, a majority of churches reported use of choruses. Other non-traditional elements were testimonies, casual dress, use of guitar, worship at other than 11 a.m. on Sunday, and intercessory prayer.

Elements that were routinely used in worship services were: piano (89%), music solos (88%), and scripture songs/choruses (78%). Less than half the churches used vocal ensembles, instrumental ensembles, choir anthems, organ, guitar, keyboard, or other instruments. Less than 10 percent used liturgy. Churches in older states were more likely than those in newer states to use choir anthems or keyboard.

Characteristics of church community: According to the survey, 36 percent of new Anglo churches were located in areas of 50,000 or more population; 18 percent were in areas of 10,000 to 49,999; 20 percent were in areas of 2,500 to 9,999; and 27 percent were in rural areas with less than 2,500 population. Churches in older states were slightly more likely to be in medium and large cities, while churches in newer states were more likely to be in small cities.

The median new Anglo church reported a church field of 12,000 people. The median church field was 14,000 in older states and 10,000 in newer states.

Population growth was another factor that distinguished new Anglo churches in older states from those in newer states. Seventy percent of the churches in older states reported church fields that were growing, compared with only 48 percent of the churches in newer states. Apparently, church starting in older states must be more selective in finding sites in growing areas. Thus, new churches in older states benefit from growing populations as well as Baptist dominance (see below). Because of the scarcity of Southern Baptist work outside the South, church starting is not as selective in new work areas; i.e., some new churches are started in non-growing communities that need a Southern Baptist witness. Consequently, new churches in newer states are less likely to benefit from population growth than new churches in older states.

Three-fourths of the churches reported there was no significant population transition taking place in their church field. Only 8 percent were in communities that were changing from middle income to lower income and 5 percent were in communities that were changing from white to some other racial or ethnic group.

Churches in older and newer states differed greatly in the percentage of population with a Southern Baptist preference. The median church in older states had a church field that was 30 percent Southern Baptist. The median for churches in newer states was a mere 3 percent.

When asked about the dominant denomination in their church field, 53 percent of churches in older states indicated Baptist, 15 percent said Catholic, and 22 percent indicated no dominant denomination. In newer states, 45 percent of the churches reported Catholics as the dominant group, 20 percent said other (non-evangelistic) Protestant, and 17 percent indicated no dominant group.

The median church estimated 50 percent of the people in its church field were unchurched. The percentage unchurched was 60 percent in newer states.

Characteristics of the pastor: The median age of the pastor in new Anglo churches was 43. Almost three-fourths of the pastors were full-time; one-fourth were bivocational. Less than 5 percent indicated they were retired.

Regarding highest education level, 60 percent of the pastors in new Anglo churches had seminary degrees, 14 percent had some seminary, 9 percent had a college degree, 6 percent had some college, 4 percent had gone to a Bible college, and 9 percent had a high school education or less. Pastors in older states were more likely than those in newer states to have post-seminary degrees (17% versus 2%).

The median pastor had spent 10 years in the pastoral ministry, including 4 years in the present church. The median pastor had served in 3 different churches. About one-third of the pastors were in their first pastorate; pastors in newer states were slightly more likely to be in their first pastorate than those in older states (36% versus 29%).

Half of the pastors indicated that personal counseling was a major part of their ministry.

The median pastor made 11 visits each week: 5 were church member visits, 4 were prospect visits, and 2 were evangelism visits. There was no difference in number or type of visits by pastors in older states and pastors in newer states.

Pastors of new Anglo churches felt a strong call to their present position. Over 90 percent of the pastors rated their call high (6 or 7 on a scale of 1=low, to 7=high). Three-fourths of the pastors thought they would stay in their present church for 5 or more years; only 1 in 8 planned to stay less than 2 years. Pastors of churches in newer states were more likely than those in older states to feel they would be in their present position for 5 or more years (81% versus 71%).

The survey asked pastors to note their preaching styles. Eighty-seven percent said their preaching was oriented to the needs of the congregation; 82 percent said their preaching was expository; and 70 percent indicated they used notes. Sixty-one percent indicated their preaching style was evangelistic.

Church staff: About two-thirds of the survey respondents indicated their church had a music minister; just under two-thirds had a church secretary. One in 5 had a minister of education. Two in 5 had some other church staff position; the majority of these were youth ministers. About half of the church secretaries and ministers of education were volunteers.

Because of their larger size, churches in older states were more likely than churches in newer states to have staff in any given position. Churches in older states also were more likely to have full-time staff while churches in newer states were more likely to have volunteer staff.

Perceptions of denominational support: Respondents were asked to rate how helpful SBC organizations had been in assisting the church during its formative years (scale 1=very helpful, to 5=not helpful). Sixty percent felt the state convention was helpful (rating of 1 or 2), and 53 percent felt the association was helpful. Forty-eight percent saw the Home Mission Board (HMB) as helpful, and 37 percent indicated the Sunday School Board was helpful. Only about 20 percent felt the Brotherhood Commission or WMU were helpful.

There was a marked difference between churches in newer states and older states regarding the HMB. Sixty-five percent of the churches in newer states rated the HMB as helpful, compared with 33 percent of the churches in older states. It is more likely that new Anglo churches in newer states have a formal relationship with the HMB.

Characteristics of New Anglo Churches Experiencing High Growth

An additional facet of the survey of new Anglo churches was to examine factors that contribute to growth. Annual percentage and net growth rates were calculated for the churches in the survey. Thirty-eight churches had an annual growth rate of 40 percent or more *and* a net annual gain of 20 members or more. This group represented 18 percent of the total 216 respondents. Following are the characteristics that were more pronounced for these high growth churches. Because 30 of the 38 high growth churches were located in older states, much of their profile mirrored the overall profile for new Anglo churches in older state conventions.

Even with their high rates of growth, the high growth churches were still slightly smaller than the profile of new Anglo churches in older states. The median high growth church had 52 members in its first year and grew to 198 members in its fourth year. Because of their rates of growth, 45 percent of these churches indicated they were in a church building with inadequate space for Sunday School and worship. The implication is that having adequate space is not a prerequisite for growth.

Location played a major role in the success of high growth churches. Forty-three percent of the high growth churches were located in cities of 10,000 to 49,999 or in the urban fringe of cities with 50,000 or more population (compared with 30% for all new Anglo churches). Only 11 percent were in rural areas (versus 27% for all new Anglo churches). Consequently, high growth churches had a larger church field: 24,000, twice as large as the median for all new Anglo churches. And, as with new churches in older states, the high growth churches benefitted from their location in areas of growing population—73 percent reported the population in their church field grew 10 percent or more in five years.

Outreach efforts appeared to be more extensive in high growth churches. High growth churches were more likely to have a yellow page listing (58% versus 47% for all new Anglo churches). They were more likely to use direct mail or telemarketing (45% versus 32%). Thirty-nine percent of the high growth churches perceived advertising as having an effect on church growth, compared with 22 percent for all new Anglo churches. Seventy-six percent of high growth churches felt that weekly visitation was important for growth, compared with 61 percent for the survey total. As a consequence, high growth churches averaged 10 visitors per week versus 8 for the survey total. A related outreach factor was community ministries: 46 percent of the high growth churches felt that community ministries had a high effect on church growth—this compares with 26 percent for the total survey.

Because of their outreach efforts, high growth churches reached people both through conversion and transfer of membership. The median high growth church baptized 6 persons in its first year, but baptized 27 in its fourth year—much higher than the 15 persons baptized in the fourth year of all new Anglo churches in older states. High growth churches also were more likely to experience growth through transfers, adding about 35 persons per year by letter (compared with 24 per year for all new Anglo churches in older states). The membership composition of high growth churches was 55 percent long-term church members and 45 percent relatively new converts.

High growth churches were more likely than other new Anglo churches to reach baby boomers. Over half of the high growth churches indicated 30 to 44 years olds were the largest age group in the church; this compared with 43 percent for all new Anglo churches. Part of the difference may be attributed to location.

High growth churches were more likely to hold non-traditional worship services. Fifty-five percent reported their worship tended to be non-traditional; the comparative percentage for all new Anglo churches was 36 percent.

Pastors of high growth churches tended to be younger and more evangelistic with a stronger commitment to the local church. The median age of pastors in high growth churches was 39 versus 43 for all new Anglo churches. Seventy-one percent reported their preaching style was evangelistic, compared with 61 percent for all new Anglo churches. The pastor in the median high growth church averaged 4 evangelistic visits per week, compared with 2 per week in the median church for all new Anglo churches. Eighty-nine percent of the pastors in high growth churches felt they would remain in the church 5 years or more (versus 71% for all).

High growth pastors were more likely to be full-time and in their first pastorate. Ninety-two percent of the high growth pastors reported they were full-time (72% for all). Thirty-nine percent indicated they were in their first pastorate (29% for all).

High growth churches tended to have more staff even though, as a group, they were slightly smaller than new Anglo churches. Seventy-nine percent employed a minister of music, 79 percent had a church secretary, 39 percent had a minister of education, and 63 percent had some other staff position. About half of all additional staff were part-time positions.

Finally, high growth churches were more likely to feel the denomination was very helpful (rating of 1) during their formative years. Fifty-five percent perceived the state convention as very helpful (versus 36% for all); 47 percent saw the association as very helpful (versus 36% for all); and 41 percent reported the Sunday School Board as very helpful (versus 20% for all).

Conclusions

Several overall conclusions arise from this study:

1. There are significant differences between new Anglo churches in newer convention areas and those in older convention areas. New Anglo churches in newer areas are smaller, take longer to organize, are slower to reach self-support, and are less likely to be located in areas of growing population. After four years the median size church has 81 members and \$49,000 total receipts. Clearly, new Anglo churches in newer areas have a great need for denominational support. These churches need financial support (perhaps for an extended period of time), help with training, and help with outreach. They need to feel that the denomination understands and affirms who they are.
2. Another conclusion from this study is that church location continues to play a major role in numerical church growth. Churches are more likely to grow if they are located in areas of population growth, especially if the growth is among young baby boom families. As a corollary, areas experiencing population growth may need new churches.
3. While location is important, it is tempered by a perceived need for Christian witness. Regardless of population growth, some areas may need Christian witness and ministry that can best be provided by a new church or mission. Such a need would be based on the absence of evangelical churches and the presence of unreached people groups. The need for Christian witness appears to take precedence over population growth as a rationale for placing new Anglo Baptist churches outside the South.
4. New Anglo churches that are experiencing significant numerical growth have several distinct characteristics. Although most of the high growth churches are in older state conventions, the traits that characterize these churches can be applied to any church: 1) a focus on outreach, 2) a willingness to try non-traditional worship styles, 3) a strongly committed, evangelistic pastor, 4) a tendency to hire additional part-time church staff, and 5) a tendency to turn to denominational structures for support.

Starting churches and church-type missions is a priority for Southern Baptists. It is hoped that the insights from this study will provide a more focused direction for meeting this priority.

CHARACTERISTICS OF NEW ANGLO SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCHES

Methodology

During 1992, a questionnaire was developed and mailed to 845 Anglo Southern Baptist churches organized between 1987 and 1989. The purpose of the questionnaire was to gather information that is not requested on annual Uniform Church Letters. Content and design of the questionnaire were developed by Henry Smart in the New Church Extension Division and Clay Price of the Program Research Department of the Home Mission Board. Additional feedback came from other elected staff in the New Church Extension Division.

The initial mailing resulted in 184 usable responses. A second mailing to a smaller sample of the original churches yielded another 32 survey responses. The final analysis was made on 216 churches, representing 26 percent of the 845 new Anglo churches. Of the 216 churches, 120 were from older Baptist state conventions and 96 from newer Baptist conventions.¹

Characteristics of New Anglo Churches Experiencing High Growth

An additional facet of the survey for new Anglo churches was identifying factors that contribute to growth. Annual percentage and net growth rates were calculated for the churches in the survey. Thirty-eight churches had an annual growth rate of more than 40 percent and a net annual gain of 20 members or more. This group represented 18 percent of the total 216 respondents. Following are the characteristics that were more pronounced for these high-growth churches: Because 30 of the 38 high-growth churches were located in older state conventions, much of their profile mirrored the overall profile of new Anglo churches in older state conventions. **1. Facilities.** Even with their high rates of growth, the high-growth churches were still slightly smaller than the profile of new Anglo churches in older states. The median high-growth church had 52 members in its first year and grew to 198 members in its fourth year. Because of their rates of growth, 45 percent of these churches indicated they were in a church building with inadequate space for Sunday School and worship. The implication is that having adequate space is not a prerequisite for growth.

Annual percentage and net growth rates were calculated for the churches in the survey. Thirty-eight churches had an annual growth rate of more than 40 percent and a net annual gain of 20 members or more. This group represented 18 percent of the total 216 respondents. Following are the characteristics that were more pronounced for these high-growth churches: Because 30 of the 38 high-growth churches were located in older state conventions, much of their profile mirrored the overall profile of new Anglo churches in older states. **1. For this report, older state conventions were Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.**

2. Location played a major role in the success of high-growth churches. Forty-three percent of the high-growth churches were located in cities of 10,000 to 49,999 or in the urban fringe of cities with 50,000 or more population (compared with 30% of all new Anglo churches). Only 11 percent were in rural areas (versus 27% for all new Anglo churches). Consequently, high-growth churches had larger church fields—population of 24,000, twice as large as the median for all new Anglo churches. And, as with new churches in older states, the high-growth churches benefitted from their location in areas of growing population—73 percent reported the population in their church fields grew 10 percent or more in five years.

3. Outreach efforts appeared to be more extensive in high-growth churches. High-growth churches were more likely to have a yellow-page listing (58% versus 47% for all new Anglo churches). They were more likely to use direct mail or telemarketing (45% versus 32%). Thirty-nine percent of the high-growth churches perceived advertising as having an effect on church growth, compared with 22 percent for all new Anglo churches. Seventy-six percent of high-growth churches felt that weekly visitation was important for growth, compared with 61 percent for all new Anglo churches. As a consequence, high-growth churches averaged 10 visitors per week versus 8 for all new Anglo churches. A related outreach factor was community ministries: 46 percent of the high-growth churches felt that community ministries had a high effect on church growth—this compares with 26 percent for all new Anglo churches. Because of their outreach efforts, high-growth churches reached people both through conversion and transfer of membership. The median high-growth church baptized 6 persons in its first year, but baptized 27 in its fourth year—much higher than the 15 persons baptized in the fourth year of all new Anglo churches in older state conventions. High-growth churches also were more likely to experience growth through transfers, adding about 35 persons per year by letter (compared with 24 per year for all new Anglo churches in older states). The membership composition of high-growth churches was 55 percent long-term church members and 45 percent relatively new converts.

4. Baby boomers. High-growth churches were more likely than other new Anglo churches to reach baby boomers. Over half of the high-growth churches indicated 30- to 44-year-olds were the largest age group in the church; this compared with 43 percent for all new Anglo churches. Part of the difference may be attributed to location.

5. Non-traditional services. High-growth churches were more likely to hold non-traditional worship services. Fifty-five percent reported their worship tended to be non-traditional; the comparative percentage for all new Anglo churches was 36 percent.

6. Pastors of high-growth churches tended to be younger and more evangelistic with a stronger commitment to the local church. The median age of pastors in high-growth churches was 39 versus 43 for all new Anglo churches. Seventy-one percent reported their preaching style was evangelistic, compared with 61 percent for all new Anglo churches. The pastor in the median-high-growth church averaged 4 evangelistic visits per week, compared with 2 per week in the median church for all new Anglo churches. Eighty-nine percent of the pastors in high-growth churches felt they would remain in the church 5 years or more (versus 71% for all).

Pastors of high-growth churches were more likely to be full-time pastors. Ninety-two percent of the high-growth church pastors reported they were full-time (72% of all). Thirty-nine percent indicated they were in their first pastorate (29% for all).

7. Staff. High-growth churches tended to have more staff even though, as a group, they were slightly smaller than new Anglo churches. Seventy-nine percent employed a minister of music, 79 percent had a church secretary, 39 percent had a minister of education, and 63 percent had some other staff position. About half of all additional staff were part-time positions.

8. Supportive relationships. Finally, high-growth churches were more likely to feel the denomination was very helpful (rating of 1) during their formative years. Fifty-five percent perceived the state convention as very helpful (versus 36% for all); 47 percent saw the association as very helpful (versus 36% for all); and 41 percent reported the Sunday School Board as very helpful (versus 20% for all).

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HOME MISSION BOARD SURVEY OF NEW ANGLO BAPTIST CHURCHES

27

22

The following results are based on 216 questionnaires: 120 in older states and 96 in newer states. The survey was originally mailed to 845 Anglo churches organized from 1987 to 1989 (26% return).

INFORMATION ON THE CHURCH

1. Median time between year started as a mission and year organized as church 2 years 3 yrs

2. Median time to reach self-support: 2 years 2 yrs

3. Check here if church is not currently self-supporting:

| Total | Old | New |
|-------|-----|-----|
| 23% | 8% | 43% |

4. Which of the following best describes your current meeting place? Check one.

| | Total | Old | New | |
|------|-------|-----|-----|---|
| 55 1 | 48% | 51% | 45% | Church building owned by congregation with adequate space for Sunday School and worship |
| 22 2 | 32% | 33% | 31% | Church building owned by congregation with inadequate space for Sunday School & worship |
| 2 3 | 1% | 1% | 0% | Shared space with another Baptist congregation |
| — 4 | 1% | 0% | 2% | Rented church building space from another denomination |
| 2 5 | 5% | 3% | 7% | School |
| 6 6 | 5% | 5% | 5% | Space in shopping center/store front |
| 7 7 | 0% | 0% | 0% | Space in a residential building |
| 8 8 | 1% | 1% | 2% | House |
| 12 9 | 7% | 7% | 7% | Other; describe: |

5. If your congregation meets in a church building, approximately how old is the building? Median

| Total | Old | New |
|-------|-----|-----|
| 4 | 3 | 6 |

years 5

6. If your congregation meets in a church building, what is the approximate seating capacity of the auditorium?

| Total | Old | New |
|-------|-----|-----|
| 180 | 225 | 125 |

120

7. Would you say your church's meeting place is located:

| | Total | Old | New | |
|------|-------|-----|-----|-----------------------|
| 60 1 | 61% | 56% | 67% | On a main street |
| 25 2 | 27% | 29% | 24% | On a secondary street |
| 15 3 | 13% | 16% | 9% | Other |

8. What type of sign does the church have? Check response that best fits.

| | Total | Old | New | |
|---|-------|-----|-----|--|
| 1 | 54% | 64% | 41% | Professionally produced, permanent sign |
| 2 | 7% | 6% | 9% | Professionally produced, mobile sign |
| 3 | 30% | 22% | 41% | Nonprofessionally produced, permanent sign |
| 4 | 5% | 6% | 4% | Nonprofessionally produced mobile sign |
| 5 | 4% | 3% | 5% | No sign |

9. Check any of the following that are used in church publicity:

| | Total | Old | New | |
|---|-------|-----|-----|------------------------------|
| 1 | 58% | 57% | 60% | Newspaper ads |
| 2 | 21% | 22% | 20% | Radio ads |
| 3 | 6% | 7% | 4% | Television ads |
| 4 | 33% | 33% | 33% | Weekly community paper |
| 5 | 47% | 39% | 56% | Yellow pages |
| 6 | 32% | 35% | 28% | Direct mail or telemarketing |

10. Please provide the following for appropriate church years: **MEDIANS**

| | | 1st Year | 2nd Year | 3rd Year | 4th Year |
|--|-------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Total Membership | Total | 63 44 | 81 50 | 115 59 | 138 61 |
| | Old | 86 | 116 | 158 | 200 |
| | New | 48 | 57 | 68 | 81 |
| Resident Membership | Total | 58 34 | 75 36 | 101 50 | 116 54 |
| | Old | 88 | 116 | 147 | 191 |
| | New | 38 | 51 | 61 | 75 |
| Sunday School Enrollment | Total | 69 45 | 92 53 | 117 57 | 133 56 |
| | Old | 98 | 120 | 162 | 200 |
| | New | 52 | 63 | 81 | 87 |
| Sunday School Average Weekly Attendance | Total | 43 31 | 51 33 | 63 36 | 68 32 |
| | Old | 55 | 62 | 78 | 98 |
| | New | 31 | 36 | 44 | 43 |
| Baptisms | Total | 8 7 | 10 6 | 11 6 | 12 4 |
| | Old | 10 | 12 | 14 | 15 |
| | New | 6 | 7 | 9 | 8 |
| Other Additions | Total | 17 11 | 16 10 | 15 8 | 16 6 |
| | Old | 27 | 23 | 25 | 21 |
| | New | 8 | 8 | 8 | 9 |
| Total Receipts | Total | 49,740 30,939 | 59,417 33,830 | 75,744 34,004 | 87,863 35,606 |
| | Old | 65,802 | 87,025 | 115,000 | 117,000 |
| | New | 37,865 | 37,099 | 45,200 | 49,226 |

11. Please rate each of the following in terms of its effect on growth in your church. Circle the appropriate number from 1=low effect to 5=high effect; circle 6 if program/event not offered by church.

| | | Low | <-----> | | | High | Not |
|--------------------------|-------|--------|---------|-----|-----|--------|---------|
| | | Effect | | | | Effect | Offered |
| Sunday Morning Worship | Total | 1% | 1% | 5% | 26% | 66% | 0% |
| | Old | 2% | 1% | 5% | 21% | 71% | 0% |
| | New | 1% | 2% | 5% | 32% | 60% | 0% |
| Sunday Evening Worship | Total | 12% | 22% | 32% | 23% | 11% | 16% |
| | Old | 13% | 20% | 31% | 21% | 15% | 9% |
| | New | 11% | 25% | 35% | 25% | 4% | 24% |
| Sunday School | Total | 5% | 4% | 24% | 38% | 29% | 1% |
| | Old | 5% | 4% | 22% | 34% | 35% | 1% |
| | New | 5% | 4% | 27% | 43% | 21% | 0% |
| Woman's Missionary Union | Total | 38% | 25% | 22% | 12% | 2% | 41% |
| | Old | 40% | 26% | 19% | 15% | 0% | 36% |
| | New | 35% | 23% | 27% | 8% | 6% | 47% |
| Brotherhood | Total | 53% | 26% | 15% | 5% | 0% | 55% |
| | Old | 57% | 24% | 14% | 5% | 0% | 50% |
| | New | 47% | 29% | 18% | 6% | 0% | 63% |
| Discipleship Training | Total | 21% | 20% | 32% | 17% | 10% | 32% |
| | Old | 24% | 28% | 28% | 13% | 6% | 32% |
| | New | 17% | 11% | 36% | 22% | 14% | 31% |
| RAs | Total | 33% | 32% | 21% | 10% | 4% | 48% |
| | Old | 32% | 32% | 24% | 8% | 3% | 38% |
| | New | 33% | 31% | 17% | 14% | 6% | 61% |
| GAs | Total | 31% | 25% | 26% | 14% | 4% | 48% |
| | Old | 29% | 24% | 32% | 14% | 1% | 37% |
| | New | 34% | 29% | 14% | 14% | 9% | 62% |
| Youth organizations | Total | 10% | 23% | 24% | 24% | 20% | 16% |
| | Old | 13% | 20% | 20% | 24% | 24% | 13% |
| | New | 5% | 27% | 29% | 25% | 14% | 21% |
| Singles' ministry | Total | 33% | 24% | 29% | 7% | 7% | 57% |
| | Old | 35% | 18% | 32% | 9% | 7% | 49% |
| | New | 28% | 38% | 24% | 3% | 7% | 68% |
| Vacation Bible Schools | Total | 9% | 23% | 24% | 24% | 19% | 10% |
| | Old | 12% | 17% | 29% | 22% | 20% | 12% |
| | New | 7% | 31% | 18% | 26% | 17% | 7% |
| Adult Choir | Total | 17% | 22% | 30% | 21% | 10% | 29% |
| | Old | 15% | 21% | 30% | 24% | 9% | 15% |
| | New | 21% | 23% | 29% | 15% | 13% | 47% |

| | | Low Effect | <-----> | High Effect | Not Offered | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|---------------|---------|----------------|----------------|-----|-----|
| Youth Choir | Total | 40% | 26% | 18% | 10% | 5% | 62% |
| | Old | 41% | 24% | 20% | 10% | 6% | 55% |
| | New | 38% | 31% | 15% | 12% | 4% | 71% |
| Sunday School Growth Spiral | Total | 19% | 24% | 22% | 16% | 18% | 66% |
| | Old | 18% | 13% | 21% | 28% | 21% | 64% |
| | New | 21% | 39% | 25% | 0% | 14% | 69% |
| Weekly Visitation | Total | 5% | 15% | 24% | 33% | 23% | 18% |
| | Old | 5% | 14% | 20% | 41% | 20% | 16% |
| | New | 5% | 16% | 29% | 22% | 27% | 22% |
| Advertising | Total | 28% | 30% | 21% | 15% | 7% | 21% |
| | Old | 29% | 29% | 20% | 17% | 5% | 25% |
| | New | 27% | 31% | 21% | 12% | 9% | 17% |
| Direct mail | Total | 34% | 25% | 19% | 10% | 13% | 45% |
| | Old | 28% | 26% | 23% | 13% | 10% | 47% |
| | New | 40% | 23% | 13% | 6% | 17% | 43% |
| Telephone surveys | Total | 48% | 34% | 10% | 4% | 4% | 66% |
| | Old | 41% | 41% | 12% | 2% | 2% | 64% |
| | New | 57% | 23% | 7% | 7% | 7% | 67% |
| Recreation programs | Total | 28% | 20% | 27% | 20% | 6% | 41% |
| | Old | 24% | 24% | 23% | 21% | 7% | 39% |
| | New | 33% | 13% | 33% | 17% | 4% | 42% |
| Small Groups | Total | 14% | 13% | 29% | 23% | 20% | 37% |
| | Old | 17% | 15% | 32% | 17% | 18% | 42% |
| | New | 11% | 11% | 26% | 29% | 23% | 30% |
| (CWT) Continuing Witness Training | Total | 32% | 30% | 16% | 14% | 9% | 72% |
| | Old | 30% | 27% | 17% | 17% | 10% | 74% |
| | New | 33% | 33% | 15% | 11% | 7% | 70% |
| Lay Evangelism School (LES) | Total | 35% | 19% | 26% | 14% | 7% | 79% |
| | Old | 39% | 17% | 17% | 17% | 11% | 84% |
| | New | 32% | 20% | 32% | 12% | 4% | 73% |
| Community ministries | Total | 19% | 22% | 30% | 20% | 9% | 27% |
| | Old | 18% | 27% | 29% | 13% | 13% | 31% |
| | New | 20% | 16% | 30% | 29% | 4% | 23% |
| Wednesday Prayer Meeting | Total | 13% | 23% | 32% | 20% | 13% | 10% |
| | Old | 14% | 15% | 35% | 23% | 14% | 7% |
| | New | 11% | 33% | 28% | 17% | 11% | 14% |

12. How effective are the following groups/committees in fulfilling their assignments?
 Circle the appropriate number from 1 = not effective to 5 = very effective;
 circle 6 if the church does not have the group/committee.

| | | Not Effective | <-----> | | Very Effective | Not Offered |
|------------------------------|-------|---------------|---------|-----|----------------|-------------|
| Church Council | Total | 9% | 10% | 28% | 29% | 31% |
| | Old | 9% | 13% | 26% | 27% | 33% |
| | New | 9% | 8% | 30% | 30% | 29% |
| Missions Development Council | Total | 27% | 21% | 29% | 11% | 69% |
| | Old | 24% | 21% | 28% | 10% | 73% |
| | New | 30% | 21% | 30% | 12% | 64% |
| Evangelism Council | Total | 20% | 18% | 27% | 27% | 72% |
| | Old | 8% | 12% | 35% | 31% | 76% |
| | New | 30% | 23% | 20% | 23% | 68% |
| Stewardship Committee | Total | 10% | 20% | 26% | 25% | 31% |
| | Old | 10% | 17% | 27% | 26% | 28% |
| | New | 10% | 25% | 25% | 25% | 35% |
| Deacons | Total | 10% | 14% | 30% | 25% | 25% |
| | Old | 6% | 14% | 34% | 24% | 17% |
| | New | 15% | 14% | 24% | 27% | 36% |

13. How often are church business meetings typically held? Check one.

| | Total | Old | New | |
|---|-------|-----|-----|-----------------------------|
| 1 | 64% | 70% | 57% | Monthly |
| 2 | 25% | 21% | 31% | Quarterly |
| 3 | 1% | 0% | 2% | Semi-annually |
| 4 | 3% | 2% | 5% | Annually |
| 5 | 5% | 5% | 5% | As needed |
| 6 | 1% | 2% | 0% | Never (skip to question 15) |

14. Approximately what percentage of your membership are long term Southern Baptists and what percentage are new converts (baptized within past five years).
 (The two percentages should add to 100%.)

| | Total | Old | New | |
|--|-------|-----|-----|-----------------------------|
| | 50% | 60% | 35% | Long-term church members 50 |
| | 50% | 40% | 65% | Relatively new converts 50 |

15. On average, how many visitors are present during a regular Sunday morning worship service:

| | Total | Old | New |
|--------|-------|-----|-----|
| Median | 6 | 8 | 5 |

4

16. How are contacts with visitors followed–up? Check all that apply.

| | Total | Old | New | |
|---|-------|-----|-----|----------------|
| 1 | 80% | 80% | 79% | Card or letter |
| 2 | 67% | 68% | 65% | Pastoral call |
| 3 | 84% | 85% | 83% | Pastoral visit |
| 4 | 15% | 16% | 15% | Deacon call |
| 5 | 30% | 35% | 23% | Deacon visit |

17. what are the two largest age groups in your church worship services?

Write "1" for the largest group and "2" for the second largest group.

| | Total | | Old | | New | |
|-------------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | % #1 | % #2 | % #1 | % #2 | % #1 | % #2 |
| Under 12 | 8% | 17% | 8% | 15% | 8% | 20% |
| 12 to 17 | 1% | 8% | 1% | 9% | 2% | 7% |
| 18 to 29 | 8% | 13% | 8% | 15% | 7% | 10% |
| 30 to 44 | 43% | 23% | 42% | 22% | 45% | 24% |
| 45 to 64 | 20% | 20% | 21% | 21% | 19% | 19% |
| 65 and over | 4% | 3% | 3% | 3% | 4% | 4% |

18. Would you say your worship services tend to be traditional or non–traditional?

| | Total | Old | New | |
|------|-------|-----|-----|-----------------|
| 79 1 | 64% | 62% | 64% | Traditional |
| 21 2 | 36% | 39% | 36% | Non–traditional |

19. If non–traditional, what are some of the elements that make the service non–traditional?

20. Check any of the following that are routinely used during your worship services:

| | Total | Old | New | |
|----|-------|-----|-----|----------------------------------|
| 1 | 7% | 6% | 8% | Liturgy |
| 2 | 78% | 80% | 76% | Scripture songs/choruses |
| 3 | 41% | 53% | 27% | Choir anthems |
| 4 | 88% | 91% | 84% | Music solos |
| 5 | 44% | 48% | 40% | Ensembles, vocal or instrumental |
| 6 | 89% | 94% | 83% | Piano |
| 7 | 38% | 39% | 36% | Organ |
| 8 | 28% | 34% | 20% | Keyboard |
| 9 | 33% | 31% | 35% | Guitar |
| 10 | 26% | 28% | 23% | Other musical instruments |

38. How many years do you think you might stay in your present position?

| | Total | Old | New | |
|----|-------|-----|-----|-------------------|
| 16 | 13% | 14% | 12% | Less than 2 years |
| 10 | 11% | 14% | 7% | 2 to 4 years |
| 74 | 76% | 71% | 81% | 5 or more years |

39. What other staff positions does your church employ?

| | Total | Old | New | | Full-time | | | Part-time | | | Volunteer | |
|---|-------|-----|-----|----------------|-----------|-----|-----|-----------|-----|-----|-----------|-----|
| | | | | | Total | Old | New | Total | Old | New | Total | Old |
| 1 | 63% | 70% | 53% | Secretary | 19% | 21% | 15% | 32% | 36% | 27% | 48% | 43% |
| 2 | 21% | 27% | 13% | Education Min. | 22% | 25% | 15% | 24% | 25% | 23% | 51% | 50% |
| 3 | 65% | 75% | 52% | Music minister | 13% | 16% | 8% | 33% | 40% | 20% | 54% | 44% |
| 4 | 42% | 52% | 29% | Other: | 19% | 23% | 10% | 52% | 58% | 38% | 28% | 18% |

40. Check any of the following that would describe your usual style of preaching:

| | Total | Old | New | |
|---|-------|-----|-----|---|
| 1 | 61% | 62% | 60% | Evangelistic preaching |
| 2 | 82% | 84% | 80% | Expository preaching |
| 3 | 34% | 32% | 38% | Topical preaching |
| 4 | 70% | 69% | 71% | Preach from notes |
| 5 | 15% | 12% | 20% | Preach from manuscript |
| 6 | 87% | 86% | 88% | Preaching oriented to the needs of the congregation |
| 7 | 41% | 43% | 38% | Preaching oriented to contemporary issues |

DENOMINATIONAL ASSISTANCE

41. On a scale of 1=very helpful to 5=not helpful, how helpful have the following SBC organizations been in assisting your church during its formative years.

| | | Very <-----> | | | | Not | Don't |
|-----------------------|-------|--------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------|
| | Total | Helpful | Helpful | Helpful | Helpful | Helpful | Know |
| | Total | 29 33% | 12 15% | 14 12% | 7 11% | 38 22% | 8% |
| | Old | 20% | 13% | 15% | 11% | 27% | 13% |
| Home Mission Board | New | 47% | 18% | 0% | 10% | 15% | 1% |
| | Total | 20% | 17% | 20% | 16% | 20% | 7% |
| | Old | 20% | 14% | 19% | 18% | 22% | 8% |
| Sunday School Board | New | 21% | 21% | 22% | 13% | 17% | 6% |
| | Total | 9% | 8% | 9% | 15% | 45% | 15% |
| | Old | 9% | 6% | 8% | 18% | 49% | 10% |
| Brotherhood Commissi | New | 9% | 11% | 9% | 12% | 40% | 20% |
| | Total | 9% | 11% | 13% | 17% | 38% | 14% |
| | Old | 11% | 7% | 11% | 21% | 40% | 10% |
| Woman's Missionary Ur | New | 6% | 14% | 14% | 12% | 36% | 18% |
| | Total | 36% | 17% | 19% | 15% | 12% | 1% |
| | Old | 35% | 16% | 19% | 14% | 14% | 1% |
| Your association | New | 36% | 19% | 19% | 16% | 9% | 1% |
| | Total | 36% | 24% | 18% | 11% | 10% | 1% |
| | Old | 35% | 24% | 18% | 11% | 9% | 3% |
| Your state convention | New | 37% | 24% | 17% | 12% | 11% | 0% |

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CHURCH COMMUNITY

total 216
 By vote. 49
 22.7%

21. Which of the following best describes your church community? Check one.

| | Total | Old | New | |
|------|-------|-----|-----|--|
| 2 1 | 1% | 1% | 1% | Inner City, Population 50,000 or more |
| 2 2 | 2% | 1% | 3% | Older neighborhood in city of 50,000 or more |
| 3 3 | 5% | 5% | 4% | Newer neighborhood in city of 50,000 or more |
| 4 4 | 2% | 1% | 3% | Older suburb in city of 50,000 or more |
| 4 5 | 14% | 16% | 12% | Newer suburb in city of 50,000 or more |
| 15 6 | 12% | 13% | 11% | Urban fringe in city of 50,000 or more |
| 8 7 | 18% | 20% | 15% | City of 10,000 to 49,999 |
| 13 8 | 20% | 16% | 26% | Small city, population 2,500 to 9,999 |
| 56 9 | 27% | 28% | 25% | Rural, population less than 2,500 |

22. What is the approximate population living in your church field?

| | Total | Old | New |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Median | 12,000 | 14,000 | 10,000 |

2500

23. Is the population in your church field:

| | Total | Old | New | |
|------|-------|-----|-----|---|
| 50 1 | 60% | 70% | 48% | Growing (i.e., 10 percent or more gain in five years) |
| 46 2 | 34% | 27% | 43% | Remaining about the same |
| 4 3 | 6% | 3% | 8% | Declining (10 percent or more loss in five years) |

24. Is the population in your church field changing significantly? Check all that apply.

| | Total | Old | New | |
|---|-------|-----|-----|---|
| 1 | 72% | 73% | 71% | no significant change, skip to next question. |
| 2 | 3% | 3% | 3% | white to black |
| 3 | 1% | 1% | 1% | white to Hispanic |
| 4 | 1% | 1% | 2% | white to other |
| 5 | 1% | 2% | 1% | residential to commercial |
| 6 | 8% | 5% | 11% | middle income to lower income |
| 7 | 13% | 13% | 14% | other; what: |

25. In your opinion, what percentage of the people in your church field have a Southern Baptist preference?

| | Total | Old | New |
|--------|-------|-----|-----|
| Median | 15% | 30% | 3% |

15%

26. In your opinion, what percentage of the people in your church field are not members of any church?

| | Total | Old | New |
|--------|-------|-----|-----|
| Median | 50% | 50% | 60% |

50%

27. What is the dominant denomination in your church field? Check one.

| | Total | Old | New | |
|------|-------|-----|-----|-----------------------------|
| 28 1 | 28% | 15% | 45% | Catholic |
| 36 2 | 33% | 53% | 8% | Baptist |
| 8 3 | 5% | 5% | 6% | Evangelistic Protestant |
| 11 4 | 12% | 5% | 20% | Other Protestant |
| 23 5 | 20% | 22% | 17% | No denomination is dominant |

INFORMATION ON THE PASTOR

28. Pastor's age: Median

| Total | Old | New |
|-------|-----|-----|
| 43 | 43 | 43 |

49

29. Check which one of the following best describes the position of pastor:

| | Total | Old | New | |
|---|-------|-----|-----|---------------------------|
| 1 | 72% | 74% | 69% | Full-time paid position |
| 2 | 24% | 23% | 24% | Bivocational position |
| 3 | 0% | 0% | 0% | Lay or Volunteer position |
| 4 | 5% | 3% | 8% | Other; what: |

30. Please check the pastor's highest level of education attainment:

| | Total | Old | New | |
|------|-------|-----|-----|----------------------|
| 16 1 | 9% | 10% | 7% | High School or less |
| 6 2 | 4% | 4% | 3% | Bible college |
| 6 3 | 6% | 6% | 5% | Some college |
| 12 4 | 9% | 10% | 7% | College degree |
| 20 5 | 14% | 10% | 19% | Some Seminary |
| 33 6 | 49% | 43% | 55% | Seminary degree |
| 6 7 | 11% | 17% | 2% | Post-Seminary degree |

31. Years spent in the pastoral ministry: Median

| Total | Old | New |
|-------|-----|-----|
| 10 | 12 | 10 |

10

32. Years spent as pastor of this church: Median

| Total | Old | New |
|-------|-----|-----|
| 4 | 4 | 4 |

4

33. Is this your first pastorate?

| | Total | Old | New | |
|------|-------|-----|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 35 1 | 32% | 29% | 36% | Yes; if yes, skip to question 35. |
| 65 2 | 68% | 71% | 64% | No |

34. Number of different churches pastored: Median

| Total | Old | New |
|-------|-----|-----|
| 3 | 3 | 3 |

4

35. On average, how many of the following kinds of visits do you make each week?

| | Total | Old | New | |
|-----------------------|----------|-----|-----|---|
| Evangelism visits: | Median 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Prospect visits: | Median 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 |
| Church member visits: | Median 5 | 4 | 5 | 3 |

36. Would you say personal counseling is a major part of your ministry?

| | Total | Old | New | |
|------|-------|-----|-----|-----|
| 54 1 | 50% | 46% | 54% | Yes |
| 46 2 | 50% | 54% | 46% | No |

37. On a scale of 1 (low) to 7 (high) how strong is your sense of call to your present position?

| | Low | -----> | | | | | High |
|-------|-----|--------|----|----|----|-----|------|
| Total | 0% | 1% | 2% | 2% | 2% | 21% | 72% |
| Old | 0% | 1% | 3% | 1% | 3% | 20% | 74% |
| New | 0% | 0% | 1% | 3% | 2% | 23% | 70% |

0 2 4 4 0 25 65

| STATE | Frequency | Percent | Cumulative Frequency | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|-----------|---------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| AK | 3 | 6.1 | 3 | 6.1 |
| AR | 2 | 4.1 | 5 | 10.2 |
| AZ | 1 | 2.0 | 6 | 12.2 |
| CA | 3 | 6.1 | 9 | 18.4 |
| CO | 1 | 2.0 | 10 | 20.4 |
| FL | 1 | 2.0 | 11 | 22.4 |
| GA | 2 | 4.1 | 13 | 26.5 |
| IL | 1 | 2.0 | 14 | 28.6 |
| KS | 1 | 2.0 | 15 | 30.6 |
| KY | 3 | 6.1 | 18 | 36.7 |
| MI | 3 | 6.1 | 21 | 42.9 |
| MO | 5 | 10.2 | 26 | 53.1 |
| MS | 1 | 2.0 | 27 | 55.1 |
| MT | 2 | 4.1 | 29 | 59.2 |
| NC | 3 | 6.1 | 32 | 65.3 |
| NV | 1 | 2.0 | 33 | 67.3 |
| NY | 1 | 2.0 | 34 | 69.4 |
| OH | 1 | 2.0 | 35 | 71.4 |
| OK | 2 | 4.1 | 37 | 75.5 |
| SC | 3 | 6.1 | 40 | 81.6 |
| TN | 2 | 4.1 | 42 | 85.7 |
| TX | 3 | 6.1 | 45 | 91.8 |
| WA | 2 | 4.1 | 47 | 95.9 |
| WY | 2 | 4.1 | 49 | 100.0 |

27 of 49 old states