



August 1, 2015

Research Study Results

Confidential Survey of Our Restoration Movement Churches:
Independent Christian Churches/Churches of Christ

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Introduction

In their book *Legacy Churches*, Dr. Stephen Gray and Dr. Franklin Dumond state, “the vast majority of churches in America (roughly 80 percent) are in a state of plateau or decline.”¹ Thom Rainer, President of Lifeway Christian Resources, states that 90% of all churches in America are in denial about the current state of their church. He further writes that 8,000 to 10,000 churches may be closing each year.²

What about Restoration Movement churches? What trends are defining Independent Christian Churches/ Churches of Christ in America today? Kairos Legacy Partners is searching for this answer.

In April of 2014 Kairos launched Phase I of the *Confidential Survey of Our Restoration Movement Churches: Independent Christian Church/Church of Christ*. The goal was to collect information from as many of our congregations as possible. The Phase I collection of data was completed on May 12, 2015. Kairos is now reporting the statistics collected from the churches that responded to the survey.

(Note - For the purposes of this study, congregations which identify with the Disciples of Christ or affiliate with the A Capella Churches of Christ were excluded even though there is a common heritage with the Restoration Movement. This study targeted churches generally affiliated with the North American Christian Convention and/or listed in the *Directory of the Ministry*.)

Methodology

Questionnaire:

The research methodology for this study involved a survey document made available to potential respondents from April of 2014 through May of 2015. [Click here](#) to view or download a copy of the survey document. Respondents were given the option of completing the survey online or returning a written copy in the mail. Copies received in the mail were added to the online database by Kairos personnel.

Marketing:

It has been estimated that the Independent Christian Church/Church of Christ brotherhood consists of approximately 5,000 churches with about 1.3 million members. One of the survey goals was to invite as many of these churches as possible to participate.

Potential respondents were contacted using a variety of approaches:

- Multiple email blasts to addresses gathered from the *Directory of the Ministry* and other organization’s databases which Kairos was given access to without violating any privacy agreements.
- Articles in both the *Christian Standard* and the *Lookout* magazines.
- Exhibitor presence at the North American Christian Convention, the International Conference on Missions, the Eastern Christian Convention, the Oregon Christian Convention, the Missouri Christian Convention and the Michigan Christian Convention.

¹ Dumond, Franklin and Gray, Stephen. *Legacy Churches*, 2009, pg. 30

² Rainer, Thom. [13 Issues for Churches in 2013: Issues 1-6](#), December 31, 2012

Rainer, Thom. [Dangers of Denial for Dying Churches](#), May 16, 2014

- Distribution through a number of Christian Colleges - principally Johnson University, Ozark Christian College and Lincoln Christian University.
- Attendance at a variety of local preacher's meetings, seminars, and other leadership events.

Kairos did not, however, attempt to contact any churches through a direct mail campaign. While this approach may have increased the responses, the cost of mailing to over 5,000 churches was prohibitive. Kairos recognizes that the choice not to engage in direct mail marketing affected the number of responses that were received to the survey.

Response:

The Kairos marketing efforts resulted in 1,170 survey responses either online (1,140/97.4%) or via standard mail (30/2.6%). Because of the mass nature of the marketing, there were times when more than one respondent from the same congregation completed the survey. 268 duplicates were removed from the database together with entries from non-church entities.

In addition, there were respondents who chose not to provide certain data, or significantly failed to complete the survey. Any survey respondent who failed to provide the name of their congregation and its mailing address were eliminated from the survey. 29 incomplete surveys were removed from the database.

The final database for statistical analysis consists of 873 congregations. These congregations represent approximately 17.5% of the total estimated number of churches. Kairos was pleased with the response and is grateful to everyone who participated.

Confidence Level and Limitations:

Under normal research study design, confidence level is used to predict how accurately the subset of responses received in a study represent the whole. Typically, a response rate of 873 from a potential universe of over 5,000 with a Confidence Interval of 3.04 would yield a Confidence Level of 95%. This means that Kairos could project with 95% accuracy that the responses to this survey represented all of the churches in the Restoration Movement known to be Independent Christian Church/Church of Christ congregations. However, two research factors should be considered in making projections with this level of assurance:

1. The respondents do not represent a randomly selected subset of the whole. The survey respondents chose to take the questionnaire out of all the congregations contacted through the various marketing efforts and therefore may represent churches with greater brotherhood interest.
2. Because of the marketing methodology, churches that are on the fringe of the movement, that do not attend conventions or local preacher's meetings, do not read brotherhood publications, are not engaged with email and social media, were unfortunately excluded. Likely, these churches would lower the study results, not improve them. It may be safe to say that whatever the conclusions one draws from the study results, the truth may actually be more troublesome. Nevertheless, for the purposes of this report, Kairos will present the data with the confidence that it represents the majority of the churches in the brotherhood.

Notes on the Presentation

Form:

Statistics will be presented for the total 873 churches for each question. The statistics for some questions will also be presented for six categories of churches based on the following attendance breakdowns (Note - 55 churches did not provide their attendance data):

100 and Less	501-1,000
101-250	1,001–2,000
251-500	2,001 and Up

The usual form for the statistics will be the number of instances of the response followed by the percentage of the total survey. For example, in the 100 and Less category of church attendance there were 322 churches. 322 divided by 873 equals 36.9%, thus the presentation of 322/36.9%.

The results will be presented in the order that the questions were asked in the survey. (Note – The paper survey document did not have question numbers but the online survey document did.) The questions represent five categories of information: Basic Church Information, Pastoral Staff, Attendance, Financial, and Impressions. Some questions will not be included in the report as they asked for personal confidential information that Kairos is keeping private.

Statistics:

Much of the statistical information will be presented in five ways: Low, High, Mean, Median, and Mode.

- Mean: The "mean" is the "average" you're used to, where you add up all the numbers and then divide by the number of numbers.
- Median: The "median" is the "middle" value in the list of numbers. To find the median, your numbers have to be listed in numerical order then locate the exact center of the list. The median is particularly useful in projecting trends over time because its volatility is lower than other statistics.
- Mode: The "mode" is the value that occurs most often in a list. If no value is repeated, then there is no mode for the list. There may be more than one mode in a list if two or more values occur at the same rate, and if there are, all modes are presented. The form for the presentation of the mode will be "item name or value/number of occurrences."

The charts that are presenting statistical information will have a line for 'All Churches' in the survey and then a breakdown into the six sub-categories based upon attendance. Please note that the numbers in the sub-categories will not add up to the numbers in the 'All Churches' line. This is not an error in the study nor in the presentation. There were 55 churches that did not answer the attendance questions, however, they may have answered other questions. Because Kairos did not know the attendance, other information the church may have provided could not be included in the appropriate sub-category.

Questionnaire Responses

Overview:

The total number of churches represented in this study is 873. This total number may be broken down into the following categories based on average weekly worship attendance:

100 and Less – 322/36.9%	1,001–2,000 – 33/3.8%
101-250 – 238/27.3%	2,001 and Up – 26/3.0%
251-500 – 125/14.3%	No Response – 55/6.3%
501-1,000 – 74/8.5%	

If these percentages are applied to the universe of Christian Churches (5,000) then the breakdown would suggest the number of churches in each category would be:

100 and Less – 1,845	1,001–2,000 – 190
101-250 – 1,365	2,001 and Up – 150
251-500 – 715	Unknown – 315
501-1,000 – 425	

These numbers are interesting but probably overinflated in the larger the attendance categories. The *Christian Standard* in their [Megachurches and More: The 2014 Lists](#) article posted on May 4, 2015 included the following number of churches in the larger categories (Note - the *Christian Standard* annual survey did not address churches with an average attendance under 250):

251-500 – 105
501-1,000 – 106
1,001–2,000 – 70
2,001 and Up – 64

[**Editorial Comment:** Kairos believes it is safe to assume that, in reality, there are more churches in the two smallest categories than is suggested by the percentages in this study. Again, this is likely the result of the marketing methodology.]

Question by Question Analysis:

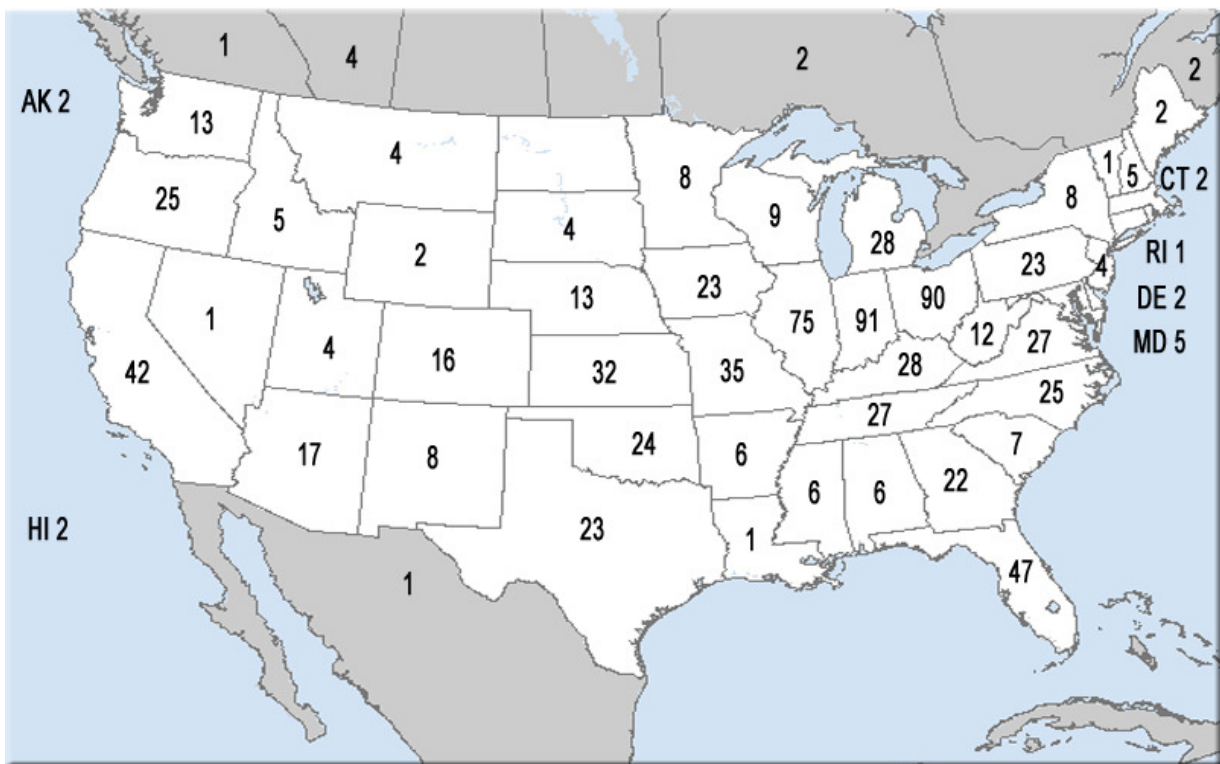
1. **Today's Date?** – The first question asked respondents to enter the date that they completed the survey. No further statistical analysis is provided for this question.
2. **What is the name of your church?**
 - Christian Church in Name – 677/77.6%
 - Church of Christ in Name – 136/15.6%
 - Christ's Church in Name – 18/2.1%
 - Other Structure to Name – 42/4.8%
 - First Christian Church – 89/10.2% - Most common name

3. **Has your church ever changed its name?** This question is combined with question 4 which asked what the previous name of the church was before the change.

- Yes – 244/27.9%
- No – 629/72.1%
- The most frequent change was Church of Christ to Christian Church – 88/36.1% of the 244

[**Editorial Comment:** In 1968, the International Convention of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) adopted the Commission's proposed "Provisional Design of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)." The restructuring was implemented in 1969 by the first General Assembly, and the name officially changed to the "Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)." This restructuring has been described as an "overt recognition of the body's denominational status," and the modern Disciples have been described as "a Reformed North American Mainstream Moderate Denomination."³ In the period both before and after restructuring, a number of congregations changed their name and requested that their churches be deleted from any Disciples of Christ affiliation.]

5. **In what state is your church located?** Responses were included from the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The following graphic represents the responses per state or province:



[**Editorial Comment:** The survey includes responses from every state in the US except North Dakota and Massachusetts. Kairos wishes a cost effective way could have been found to hear the voice of every Christian Church/Church of Christ.]

6. **Does your church have a website?** Question #7 went on to ask their website address.

- Yes – 749/85.8%
 - No – 107/12.3%
 - No Response – 17/1.9%
- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| • 100 and Less – Yes/70.5% | • 501-1,000 – Yes/100% |
| • 101-250 – Yes/93.7% | • 1,001–2,000 – Yes/100% |
| • 251-500 – Yes/94.4% | • 2,001 and Up – Yes/100% |

³ Wikipedia, Last Edited: June 12, 2015 – [Restoration Movement: Restructuring and development of the Christian Church \(Disciples of Christ\)](#)

8. What year was your church established?

Age Comparison	Mean	Median	Mode	Earliest	Latest	No Response
All Churches	1940	1956	1964/18	1798	2014	35/4.0%
100 & Less	1937	1950	1964/12	1798	2014	11/3.4%
101-250	1935	1948	1960 & 1971/6	1815	2014	3/1.3%
251-500	1940	1960	1962/5	1800	2014	3/2.4%
501-1,000	1949	1956	1955 & 1956/3	1826	2009	0/0.0%
1,001-2,000	1947	1967	1968 & 1981/3	1830	1999	0/0.0%
2,001 & Up	1953	1963	1962 & 1989/3	1824	1995	4/13.8%

- **1700's** – 1/0.4%
- **1800's** – 212/24.3%
- **1900 – 1929** – 109/12.5%
- **1930 – 1949** – 45/5.2%
- **1950 – 1969** – 181/20.7%
- **1970 – 1989** – 139/15.9%
- **1990 – 2009** – 123/14.1%
- **2009 – 2014** – 28/3.2%

[Editorial Comment: Over 63% of the churches that provided their establishment year were started prior to 1970 and 25% of those churches are 100-200 years old.]

9. Has your congregation ever experienced a “Church Split”?

Church Split?	Yes	No	No Response
All Churches	303/34.7%	548/62.8%	22/2.5%
100 & Less	118/36.6%	202/62.7%	2/.6%
101-250	78/32.8%	156/65.5%	4/1.7%
251-500	48/38.4%	75/60.0%	2/1.6%
501-1,000	26/35.1%	48/64.9%	0/0.0%
1,001-2,000	9/27.3%	24/72.7%	0/0.0%
2,001 & Up	5/17.9%	23/82.1%	0/0.0%

[Editorial Comment: Churches in every attendance category experienced a split suggesting that the existence of a split, in and of itself, need not be a barrier to church growth.]

10. Was your church started by one of the following?

- **An evangelistic association** – 91/10.4%
- **A church planting group** – 107/12.3%
- **A parenting church** – 101/11.6%
- **A group leaving another church** – 230/26.3%
- **Other** – 417/47.8%
- **No Response** – 73/8.4%

[Editorial Comment: The category “A group leaving another church” would include church splits but it should not be assumed that all congregations in this category were the result of a split.]

11. Is your church ...?

- **A Single Entity** – 795/91.1%
- **A Multi-Site Entity** – 46/5.3%
- **A Missional Group** – 8/0.9%
- **A House Church** – 3/0.3%
- **No Response** – 21/2.4%

12. Questions 12 to 16 asked for information specific to the church such as names of individuals, phone numbers and email addresses. That information will remain confidential from this report.

17. Is your Senior Minister ...?

Senior Minister	Full-time	Part-time	Volunteer	No Response
All Churches	757/86.7%	76/8.7%	15/1.7%	25/2.9%
100 & Less	238/73.9%	70/21.7%	11/3.4%	3/0.9%
101-250	233/97.9%	1/0.4%	2/0.8%	2/0.8%
251-500	124/99.2%	1/0.8%	0/0.0%	1/0.8%
501-1,000	74/100.0%	0/0.0%	0/0.0%	0/0.0%
1,001-2,000	33/100.0%	0/0.0%	0/0.0%	0/0.0%
2,001 & Up	24/92.9%	0/0.0%	0/0.0%	2/7.1%

[Editorial Comment: While 25% of churches 100 & Less utilize part-time or volunteer Senior Ministers, 75% are able to retain the services of Full-time ministerial leadership.]

18. What is the ethnicity of your Senior Minister?

- **Caucasian** – 831/95.2%
- **Black/African American** – 4/0.5%
- **Hispanic** – 5/0.6%
- **Asian** – 3/0.3%
- **Other** – 6/0.7%
- **No Response** – 24/2.7%

19. Did your Senior Minister attend or graduate from a Christian College?

Christian College	Yes	No	No Response
All Churches	768/89.1%	68/7.6%	34/4.2%
100 & Less	287/89.1%	29/9.0%	6/1.9%
101-250	218/91.6%	18/7.6%	2/0.8%
251-500	115/92.0%	8/6.4%	2/4.6%
501-1,000	70/94.6%	4/5.4%	0/0.0%
1,001-2,000	31/93.9%	2/6.1%	0/0.0%
2,001 & Up	23/82.1%	3/10.70%	2/7.1%

[Editorial Comment: Historically, Christian Churches of all sizes selected their Senior Ministers from the ranks of Christian College Bible, Preaching and Youth Ministry majors. This statistic is changing as more Christian Colleges graduate students with Liberal Arts degrees and as larger churches recruit staff internally.]

20. What college did your Senior Minister graduate from?

Cincinnati Christian University – 97/11.1%
Ozark Christian University – 95/10.9%
Johnson University – 82/9.4%
Lincoln Christian University – 67/7.7%
Kentucky Christian University – 51/5.8%
Great Lakes Christian College – 32/3.7%

Mid-Atlantic Christian University - 30/3.9%
St Louis Christian College – 22/2.5%
Nebraska Christian College – 27/3.1%
Central Christian of the Bible – 16/1.8%
Dallas Christian College – 19/2.2%
Manhattan Christian College – 15/1.7%

Point University – 13/1.5%
Crossroads College – 9/1.0%
Milligan College – 12/1.4%
Bluefield College of Evangelism – 6/0.7%
Boise Bible College – 7/0.8%
Hope International University – 31/3.6%
Louisville Bible College – 7/0.8%
Puget Sound Christian College – 7/0.8%

Northwest Christian College – 9/1.0%
Abilene University – 5/0.6%
Alberta Bible College – 5/0.6%
Midwestern School of Evangelism – 5/0.6%
Platte Valley Bible College – 5/0.6%
Other – 84/9.6%
No Response – 116/13%

21. Did your Senior Minister attend a graduate program?

Graduate School	Yes	No	No Response
All Churches	476/54.5%	342/39.2%	55/6.3%
100 & Less	160/49.7%	152/47.2%	10/3.1%
101-250	128/53.8%	104/43.7%	6/2.5%
251-500	78/62.4%	41/32.8%	6/4.8%
501-1,000	45/60.8%	25/33.8%	4/5.40%
1,001-2,000	29/87.9%	4/12.1%	0/0.0%
2,001 & Up	18/64.3%	7/25.0%	3/10.7%

[Editorial Comment: This question only addressed post-graduate attendance, not graduate degrees.]

22. Name of the graduate school the Senior Minister attended?

Cincinnati Bible Seminary – 88/10.1%
Lincoln Christian Seminary – 76/8.7%
Emmanuel Christian Seminary – 45/5.2%
Kentucky Christian University – 46/5.3%
Johnson University – 32/3.7%
Hope International University – 30/3.4%
Fuller Theological Seminary – 10/1.2%

Summit Theological Seminary – 6/0.7%
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School – 6/0.7%
Wheaton Graduate School – 6/0.7%
Pepperdine University – 5/0.6%
Other – 115/13.2%
No Response – 408/46.7%

23. What is the total number of ministry staff members employed by your church?

All Churches	Total Staff	Full-time Staff	Part-time Staff
Mean	6.3	4.1	2.6
Median	3	2	1
Mode	1.0/193	1.0/270	1.0/231
No Response	42/4.8%		
Staff Average	Full-time	Part-time	No Response
100 & Less	1	0.9	96/29.8%
101-250	1.7	1.5	37/15.5%
251-500	3.9	2.4	12/9.6%
501-1,000	6.3	3.2	3/4.1%
1,001-2,000	11.9	8.1	1/3.0%
2,001 & Up	46.4	24	4/15.4%

[Editorial Comment: Conventional wisdom has suggested that it takes an average attendance of approximately 150 to support the first Full-time ministry staff member and an additional average attendance of 125 for each ministry staff member thereafter.]

24. What was the congregation's average weekend worship attendance for 2013?

Attendance	Mean	Median	Mode	Low	High	No Response
All Churches	412	135	85/24	8	22,198	55/6.3%
100 & Less	61	60	85/25	8	100	0
101-250	163	150	250/19	101	250	0
251-500	352	330	300 & 325/8	252	500	0
501-1,000	722	729	550 & 800/4	502	1000	0
1,001-2,000	1406	1325	N/A	1002	2000	0
2,001 & Up	5152	3350	N/A	2077	22198	0

25. How does your 2013 average attendance compare to 2008?

Attendance	Higher	Slightly Higher	About the Same	Slightly Lower	Lower	No Response
All Churches	256/29.3%	138/15.8%	141/16.2%	139/15.9%	131/15.0%	68/7.8%
100 & Less	63/19.6%	54/16.8%	65/20.2%	62/19.3%	67/20.8%	11/3.4%
101-250	64/26.9%	40/16.8%	41/17.2%	54/22.7%	34/14.3%	5/2.1%
251-500	45/36.0%	26/20.8%	17/13.6%	12/9.6%	22/17.6%	3/2.4%
501-1,000	45/60.8%	6/8.1%	11/14.9%	3/4.1%	7/9.5%	8/11.4%
1,001-2,000	19/57.6%	6/18.2%	1/3.0%	6/18.2%	1/3.0%	0/0.0%
2,001 & Up	19/73.1%	4/15.4%	3/11.5%	0/0.0%	0/0.0%	0/0.0%

[Editorial Comment: 45% of the churches reported increasing attendance over a period of five years. 47% of the churches reported being plateaued or in decline over the same period.]

26. Please provide your approximate average weekly worship attendance for the following five years:

All Churches	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Gross Total	297,703	299,561	277,791	264,344	252,419
High	22,745	22,198	21,600	20,906	19,534
Low	4	0	5	0	0
Mean	428	426	412	404	393
Median	140	142	140	140	143
Mode	50/15	40/50	75/11	70/15	80/17
No Response	178	170	198	216	230
Average Attendance	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
100 & Less	65	63	64	64	64
101-250	164	159	157	156	158
251-500	359	340	340	328	332
501-1,000	737	707	673	663	617
1,001-2,000	1419	1367	1371	1325	1249
2,001 & Up	5721	5594	5178	4989	4719

[Editorial Comment: Notice that the median attendance has remained consistent over the five year period. Because the median statistic is such a stable predictor of trends over time, attendance overall could be said to be plateaued or slightly in decline.]

27. What percentage of your congregation attends worship and at least one additional church event every week (such as Sunday school, small groups, midweek services, Bible studies, etc.)?

Worship + 1 Percentage	Mean	Median	Mode	Low	High	No Response
All Churches	51.50%	50%	50%/156	1%	100%	121/13.9%
100 & Less	49.70%	50%	58%/50	1%	100%	19/5.9%
101-250	53.10%	50%	50%/50	5%	93%	17/7.1%
251-500	54.10%	50%	50%/22	10%	85%	15/12.0%
501-1,000	50.00%	50%	50%/15	15%	84%	8/10.8%
1,001-2,000	49.50%	50%	60%/7	10%	70%	5/15.2%
2,001 & Up	53.30%	50%	50%/5	14.50%	90%	4/15.4%

28. What percentage of your congregation actively serves in the ministries offered by the congregation?

Worship + Service	Mean	Median	Mode	Low	High	No Response
All Churches	42.2%	40%	50%/118	0%	100%	127/14.5%
100 & Less	39.7%	35%	50%/44	0%	100%	21/6.5%
101-250	44.7%	45%	50%/39	5%	100%	17/7.1%
251-500	44.9%	40%	40%/19	10%	80%	8/6.4%
501-1,000	41.4%	40%	30%/40%/50%/10	15%	80%	8/10.8%
1,001-2,000	40.1%	40%	50%/6	19%	65%	5/15.2%
2,001 & Up	39.3%	40%	40%/60%/4	8.3%	60%	4/15.4%

29. What do you believe is the approximate average age of those who attend your worship services?

Age	Mean	Median	Mode	Low	High	No Response
All Churches	45.3	45	40/133	17	79	113/12.9%
100 & Less	49.6	50	50/56	25	79	16/5.0%
101-250	43.6	45	40/45	17	65	18/7.6%
251-500	42.1	44	45/28	23	65	13/10.4%
501-1,000	40.3	40	45/15	28	50	7/9.5%
1,001-2,000	40.8	40	40/8	35	65	4/12.1%
2,001 & Up	38.7	40	40/5	30	45	2/7.7%

[Editorial Comment: Kairos' experience in working with churches is that leaders frequently understate the average age of the members of their congregation.]

30. What do you believe is the approximate average age of the church compared to your community?

Age	Higher	Slightly Higher	About the Same	Slightly Lower	Lower	No Response
All Churches	69/7.9%	174/19.9%	383/43.9%	104/11.9%	43/4.9%	100/11.5%
100 & Less	50/15.5%	74/23.0%	148/46.0%	21/6.5%	13/4.0%	16/5.0%
101-250	16/6.7%	44/18.5%	117/49.2%	36/15.1%	13/5.5%	12/5.0%
251-500	1/0.8%	28/22.4%	51/40.8%	23/18.4%	9/7.2%	13/10.4%
501-1,000	2/2.7%	14/18.9%	35/47.3%	14/18.9%	3/4.1%	6/8.1%
1,001-2,000	0/0.0%	7/21.2%	16/48.5%	5/15.2%	1/3.0%	4/12.1%
2,001 & Up	0/0.0%	6/23.1%	13/50.0%	3/11.5%	4/15.4%	0/0.0%

[Editorial Comment: Kairos' experience is that church leaders frequently do not have an accurate awareness of the age and other demographics of their church members compared to the age and other demographics of people living in their community.]

31. How many individuals were added to the membership of your church in the calendar year 2013?

All Churches	Total	Baptism	Transfer	No Response
Total	28,575	19,101	9,474	219
High	3111	1893	1218	
Low	-3	1	0	
Mean	40.6	29.2	17.4	
Median	13	8	6	
Mode	10/44	5/61	2/94	
Total Additions	Total	Baptism	Transfer	No Response
100 & Less	2,102/7.4%	1,086/5.7%	943/10.0%	132/41.0%
101-250	3,402/11.9%	1,934/10.1%	1,385/14.6%	37/15.5%
251-500	3,225/11.3%	1,976/10.3%	1,152/12.2%	40/32.0%
501-1,000	4,558/16.0%	2,653/13.9%	1,921/20.3%	24/32.4%
1,001-2,000	3,118/10.9%	3,055/16.0%	943/10.0%	16/48.5%
2,001 & Up	10,163/35.6%	8,393/43.9%	3,130/33.0%	15/57.7%

[Editorial Comment: Historical wisdom has been that 40% of all additions happen in churches over 1,000 in attendance. This survey reveals that 56% of additions were in churches 1,000 and larger, showing the greater impact that the megachurch movement is having on our brotherhood. And this is with just 50% of churches over 1,000 providing statistics.]

32. What was the congregation's approximate total income for 2013?

Income	Mean	Median	Mode	Low	High	No Response
All Churches	\$691,734.67	\$205,000.00	\$100,000/20	\$25.00	\$43,314,235.00	214/24.5%
100 & Less	\$97,339.00	\$102,000.00	\$100,000.00/19	\$25.00	\$500,000.00	76/23.6%
101-250	\$246,487.00	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00/11	\$400.00	\$896,000.00	43/18.1%
251-500	\$574,822.00	\$600,000.00	\$500,000.00/8	\$400.00	\$2,500,000.00	24/19.2%
501-1,000	\$1,334,838.00	\$1,165,000.00	\$1,100,000.00/7	\$400,000.00	\$13,356,000.00	5/6.8%
1,001-2,000	\$1,830,849.00	\$2,000,000.00	\$1,300,000.00/2	\$76,556.00	\$4,000,000.00	5/15.1%
2,001 & Up	\$9,395,833.00	\$7,400,000.00	\$7,000,000.00/2	\$2,392,772.00	\$43,314,235.00	6/23.1%

32a. Per capita breakdown based on mean and median attendance for each category.

Income	Mean	Median	Av Attendance	Per Capita/Mean	Per Capita/Median
All Churches	\$691,734.67	\$205,000.00	428	\$31.08	\$9.21
100 & Less	\$97,339.00	\$102,000.00	61	\$30.69	\$32.16
101-250	\$246,487.00	\$250,000.00	163	\$29.08	\$29.50
251-500	\$574,822.00	\$600,000.00	352	\$31.40	\$32.78
501-1,000	\$1,334,838.00	\$1,165,000.00	722	\$35.55	\$31.03
1,001-2,000	\$1,830,849.00	\$2,000,000.00	1406	\$25.04	\$27.36
2,001 & Up	\$9,395,833.00	\$7,400,000.00	5152	\$35.07	\$27.62

[Editorial Comment: Kairos' experience is that in churches under 100, per capita giving is higher because members are trying to ensure the survival of their congregation. It can also be observed that megachurch per capita income is lower because of the younger families and younger spiritual development in the membership.]

33. How does your total approximate income for 2013 compare to your total income five years ago, 2008?

Total Income	Higher	Slightly Higher	About the Same	Slightly Lower	Lower	No Response
All Churches	304/34.8%	149/17.1%	111/12.7%	71/8.1%	80/9.2%	158/18.1%
100 & Less	73/22.7%	52/16.1%	63/19.6%	42/13.0%	41/12.7%	51/15.8%
101-250	84/35.3%	58/24.4%	26/10.9%	17/7.1%	26/10.9%	27/11.3%
251-500	55/44.0%	24/19.2%	10/8.0%	8/6.4%	8/6.4%	20/16.0%
501-1,000	46/62.2%	8/10.8%	8/10.8%	2/2.7%	4/5.4%	6/8.1%
1,001-2,000	23/69.7%	5/15.2%	1/3.0%	2/6.1%	0/0.0%	2/6.1%
2,001 & Up	21/80.8%	2/7.7%	1/3.8%	0/0.0%	0/0.0%	2/7.7%

[Editorial Comment: Only half of the churches reported an increase in income from 2008-2013. This period represented the most recent recession and the years of modest recovery. This also means half of the churches have not experienced an increase in giving during this recession and recovery period, and therefore are funding their ministries with fewer real dollars.]

34. Does your congregation own or rent its worship facilities?

Worship Facilities	Own	Rent	No Response
All Churches	715/81.9%	53/6.1%	105/12.0%
100 & Less	276/85.7%	26/8.1%	20/6.2%
101-250	211/88.7%	11/4.6%	16/6.7%
251-500	99/79.2%	9/7.2%	17/13.6%
501-1,000	66/89.2%	5/6.8%	3/4.1%
1,001-2,000	32/97.0%	0/0.0%	1/3.0%
2,001 & Up	26/100%	0/0.0%	0/0.0%

35. If your congregation owns its worships facilities, what do you believe is the approximate current market value of all land and buildings?

Property Value	Total	Mean	Median	Mode	Low	High	No Response
All Churches	\$1,805,424,365	\$3,060,041	\$1,205,000	\$1,000,000/38	\$250	\$150,000,000	283/32.4%
100 & Less	\$182,526,139	\$829,664	\$450,000	\$500,000/20	\$250	\$8,000,000	102/31.7%
101-250	\$282,447,874	\$1,604,817	\$1,200,000	\$1,000,000 – \$1,500,000/16	\$102,989	\$15,000,000	61/25.6%
251-500	\$330,030,370	\$3,619,895	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000/10	\$600,000	\$17,000,000	33/26.4%
501-1,000	\$292,946,656	\$5,231,190	\$5,000,000	\$6,000,000/6	\$4,000,000	\$14,000,000	18/24.3%
1,001-2,000	\$229,450,185	\$8,194,649	\$6,000,000	\$5,000,000/6	\$675,000	\$20,000,000	5/15.2%
2,001 & Up	\$484,318,140	\$30,269,884	\$17,750,000	None	\$3,500,000	\$150,000,000	10/38.5%

[Editorial Comment: Nearly \$2 billion in real estate assets are owned by just 715 of our 5,000 churches, suggesting that the total property ownership by Christian Churches/Churches of Christ could approach \$10 billion. This highlights the magnitude of the stewardship responsibility our churches have for their Kingdom assets.]

36. Does your congregation have a mortgage on its property?

Mortgage	Yes	No	No Response
All Churches	310/35.5%	450/51.5%	113/12.9%
100 & Less	157/48.8%	141/51.5%	24/7.5%
101-250	97/40.8%	124/52.1%	17/7.1%
251-500	35/28.0%	74/59.2%	16/12.8%
501-1,000	10/13.5%	59/79.7%	5/6.8%
1,001-2,000	5/15.2%	26/78.8%	1/3.0%
2,001 & Up	3/11.5%	23/88.5%	0/0.0%

[Editorial Comment: Notice that a higher percentage of the smaller churches are carrying mortgage debt on their property.]

37. If yes, indicate the remaining amount on the mortgage:

Mortgage Value	Total	Mean	Median	Mode	Low	High	No Response
All Churches	\$397,906,612	\$1,396,164	\$520,000	\$300,000/9	\$5,000	\$18,000,000	25/8.1%
100 & Less	\$9,373,547	\$180,261	\$120,000	\$150,000/3	\$5,000	\$700,000	270/83.9%
101-250	\$38,128,034	\$464,976	\$307,000	\$300,000- \$400,000/4	\$5,000	\$2,500,000	156/65.6%
251-500	\$80,378,933	\$1,275,856	\$420,000	\$1,000,000/4	\$30,000	\$9,000,000	62/49.6%
501-1,000	\$95,435,543	\$1,908,711	\$1,800,000	\$1,500,000 - \$2,000,000/3	\$120,000	\$4,611,000	24/32.4%
1,001-2,000	\$79,340,343	\$3,606,379	\$2,700,000	\$1,300,000- \$2,000,000/2	\$1,300,000	\$12,300,000	11/33.3%
2,001 & Up	\$94,600,212	\$6,306,681	\$5,186,512	\$5,500,000/2	\$2,400,000	\$18,000,000	11/42.3%

[Editorial Comment: Church lending ministries report approximately \$750,000,000 in mortgage debt being carried by Christian Churches/Churches of Christ. Therefore, including debt owed to banks, the total of debt owed by Restoration Movement Churches would be substantially larger than the figures represented by this survey, likely approaching \$3 billion.]

38. If your congregation has a mortgage on its property, is that debt owed to (select all that apply):

Mortgage Source	Individual	Bank	Bond Company	Church Lending Ministry	Other	No Response
All Churches	12/3.7%	213/65.3%	4/102%	93/28.5%	4/1.2%	326/37.3%
100 & Less	5/1.6%	38/11.8%	0/0.0%	16/5.0%	2/0.6%	261/71.1%
101-250	3/1.3%	61/25.6%	1/0.4%	22/9.2%	0/0.0%	151/63.4%
251-500	2/1.6%	45/36.0%	2/1.6%	23/18.4%	1/0.8%	52/41.6%
501-1,000	2/2.7%	38/51.4%	1/1.4%	15/20.3%	1/1.4%	17/23.0%
1,001-2,000	0/0.0%	18/54.5%	0/0.0%	6/18.2%	0/0.0%	9/27.3%
2,001 & Up	0/0.0%	13/50.0%	0/0.0%	9/34.6%	0/0.0%	4/15.4%

39. If your congregation owns its worship facilities, what year was the most recent building constructed?

Last Building Project Year	Mean	Median	Mode	Earliest	Latest	No Response
All Churches	1991	2000	2005/33	1856	2015	201/23.05
100 & Less	1980	1985	1960-1996/8	1856	2015	68/21.1%
101-250	1995	2000	2000/16	1900	2015	37/15.6%
251-500	1998	2003	2006/10	1940	2015	27/21.6%
501-1,000	2004	2006	2008/9	1976	2015	9/12.2%
1,001-2,000	2005	2007	2007/4	1984	2014	5/15.2%
2,001 & Up	2008	2009	2006-2013-2014/3	1995	2015	2/7.7%

[Editorial Comment: Since the year 2000, 344 new construction projects were reported representing 39% of all churches.]

40. How would you describe the ethnic composition of your church?

Church Ethnicity	Caucasian	African American	Hispanic	Asian	Other
High	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	98.00%
Low	2.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Mean	89.30%	5.40%	7.00%	4.40%	3.60%
Median	95.00%	2.00%	3.00%	1.00%	1.00%
Mode	100.0%/125	1.0%/135	1.0%/96	1.0%/94	1.0%/78
No Response	130/14.9%	360/41.2%	407/46.6%	544/62.3%	603/69.1%

41. How would you describe the ethnic composition of your community?

Community Ethnicity	Caucasian	African American	Hispanic	Asian	Other
High	100.00%	95.00%	90.00%	99.00%	99.00%
Low	1.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Mean	76.90%	10.70%	11.40%	4.60%	4.30%
Median	81.00%	5.00%	7.00%	2.00%	1.00%
Mode	90.0%/64	1.0%/116	10.0%/90	1.0%/109	1.0%/78
No Response	113/12.9%	232/26.6%	273/31.3%	440/50.4%	574/65.7%

42. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being low and 5 being high, how do you respond to the following statement? I am confident in the future of our congregation:

Confident in the Future	1 - Lowest	2 - Low	3 - Neutral	4 - High	5 - Highest	No Response
All Churches	20/2.3%	36/4.1%	94/10.8%	206/23.6%	393/14.2%	76/14.2%
100 & Less	16/5.0%	26/8.1%	58/18.0%	92/28.6%	101/31.4%	29/9.0%
101-250	0/0.0%	8/3.4%	28/11.8%	65/27.3%	119/50.0%	18/7.6%
251-500	1/0.8%	0/0.0%	4/3.2%	32/25.6%	69/55.2%	19/15.2%
501-1,000	1/1.4%	2/2.7%	4/5.4%	8/10.8%	57/77.0%	3/4.1%
1,001-2,000	0/0.0%	0/0.0%	0/0.0%	6/18.25%	23/69.7%	4/12.1%
2,001 & Up	0/0.0%	0/0.0%	0/0.0%	2/7.7%	22/84.6%	2/7.7%

43. How do you respond to the following statement? The best days of our congregation are ...

Best Days of the Congregation	In the Past	Presently being Experienced	In the Future	No Response
All Churches	78/8.9%	106/12.1%	563/64.5%	76/14.4%
100 & Less	61/18.9%	42/13.0%	189/58.7%	30/9.3%
101-250	12/5.0%	32/13.4%	176/73.9%	18/7.6%
251-500	3/2.4%	14/11.2%	88/70.4%	20/16.0%
501-1,000	1/1.4%	9/12.2%	60/81.1%	4/5.4%
1,001-2,000	0/0.0%	3/9.1%	27/81.8%	3/9.1%
2,001 & Up	0/0.0%	4/15.4%	20/76.9%	2/7.7%

44. All of the responses to this survey, whether completed online by you, or received in the mail to us, will be input into this same database for analysis. As a result, the following question does make sense even though it may be confusing at first.

- I Completed this Survey Online?
- This survey was mailed to Kairos Legacy Partners?

How Survey was Completed	Online	Through the Mail
All Churches	843/96.6%	30/3.4%
100 & Less	300/93.2%	22/6.8%
101-250	233/97.9%	5/2.1%
251-500	124/99.2%	1/0.8%
501-1,000	72/97.3%	2/2.7%
1,001-2,000	33/100.0%	0/0.0%
2,001 & Up	26/100.0%	0/0.0%

Final Thoughts

Kairos Legacy Partners is hopeful that the reader of this report will spend time analyzing the statistics presented and reading through the editorial comments provided. The reader is encouraged to respond to Kairos with any additional thoughts or observations.

Kairos intends to conduct a Phase 2 survey to explore in greater depth issues and trends surfaced within the churches response to these Phase 1 questions. In particular, Kairos will be interested in discovering specific ministry activities (present or absent) among the various church sizes to determine what difference (if any) those activities have on church growth. Attention will also be given to exploring common trends present in churches that are plateaued or in decline as opposed to those that are experiencing growth. Once again, the reader is invited to provide Kairos with questions or suggestions for further study in the Phase 2 effort.

The best way to communicate your thoughts about the study results is to [click here](#) and post your comment(s) on the Christian Church Research Results Page of the Kairos Legacy Partners website. If you have any questions about a particular part of the study, you may contact R. Paige Mathews, Vice President of Kairos at pmathews@klp.email.

Kairos would like to thank the churches who participated in this Phase 1 Survey as well as those individuals who provided the information on behalf of each congregation. Kairos is also grateful to the nationwide group of Christian church leaders who endorsed this project and encouraged local churches to participate.