

11. Church Health Report

Reporting period: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Church Name: _____

Church City: _____

The Florida Conference of the Global Methodist Church has grown to the point that it has become necessary for us to ask our local churches to share some metrics on the health of their congregation. We do this for two reasons: first, the denomination needs to know certain statistics such as membership and average worship attendance so in the future, delegations to the General Conference can be proportional in representation; second, this information helps the annual conference leadership to know how best to carry out its functions of shepherding, connecting, and equipping.

In deciding on these church health metrics, the Cabinet wanted to obtain helpful information with as small a burden as possible on the local church. Additionally, we are committed to tying in the reporting of these statistics to the annual charge conference, so there is only one reporting period for the year. We will NOT ask for additional numbers on a different date.

The annual reporting period is the 52 weeks of the Conference year: July 1 – June 30. For this first set, that's the period between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025. We fully understand that many of our churches won't have these metrics. Do the best you can, estimate if need be, and please feel free to put "N/A" or "not applicable" where you don't have them. PLEASE, however, begin tracking them for the current conference year so that you can have accurate statistics for the 2026 charge conference report.

Upon completion of this form, please input the numbers into the document in this link:

<https://forms.gle/LU5R8vMfpiUHVjGc7>

1. **Average Worship Attendance:** Average worship attendance includes the combined average attendance of a church's public worship services (Sunday morning worship, weekday worship (if applicable), Celebrate Recovery, etc.). It DOES NOT include online attendance. If children and youth participate in the Sunday morning service, please do not double count them by including a youth service on Sunday evening. NO CHURCH WILL INCREASE IN AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE EVERY YEAR, BUT WE BELIEVE A HEALTHY CHURCH SHOULD BE INCREASING IN ATTENDANCE AT LEAST THREE OF THE LAST FIVE YEARS.

AWA: _____

2. **Church Membership:** Church membership is defined in ¶411.2-3 of the *Book of Doctrines and Discipline*. It includes all baptized people who have come into membership by profession of faith through appropriate services of the baptismal covenant in the ritual or by transfer from other churches and who profess the vows of membership. WE WOULD MUCH RATHER HAVE ROLLS BE ACCURATE THAN HAVE AN INFLATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON YOUR ROLLS THAT NEVER SHOW UP. WE SAW HOW DANGEROUS THAT CAN BE DURING THE DISAFFILIATION SEASON. PLEASE USE THE PROCESS OUTLINED IN ¶422 OF THE *BOOK OF DOCTRINES AND DISCIPLINE* TO ENSURE YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS ACCURATE. IN THE EARLY DAYS OF METHODISM, AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE WAS ALMOST ALWAYS LARGER THAN MEMBERSHIP.

Church Members: _____

3. **Commitments to Christ:** Commitments to Christ is the number of people who gave their lives to Jesus within the reporting period. It includes those who have chosen to follow

(Over)

Jesus for the first time; those who have been baptized before but did not have a vital relationship with God and have recommitted their faith; and individuals who have, for some reason, fallen away from their faith journey and decided to recommit their lives to Jesus. It would also include new confirmands if they have never been counted before. It would include people who respond to an altar call or an invitation to follow Jesus. If could also include someone who reaffirms their faith at a baptismal renewal service if they have fallen away from Jesus. A HEALTHY CHURCH IS ONE THAT IS PROACTIVELY INVITING PEOPLE TO FOLLOW JESUS AND HAS A DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS TO ASSIST THEM. OUR INITIAL GOAL IS 1% OF AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE OR 1, WHICHEVER IS GREATER.

Commitments to Christ: _____

4. **Baptisms:** Please include both infants and adults combined. A HEALTHY CHURCH SHOULD HAVE MULTIPLE INFANT AND ADULT BAPTISMS (INCLUDING CONFIRMATION). OUR INITIAL GOAL IS 1% OF AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE OR 1, WHICHEVER IS GREATER.

Baptisms: _____

5. **Combined Number of Children and Youth Active in the Children's and Youth Ministries:** The children's ministry is birth through fifth grade. Youth ministry includes middle and high school. THE UNSTUCK GROUP AND MINISTRY ARCHITECTS SHARE THAT A HEALTHY LOCAL CHURCH SHOULD HAVE A CHILDREN'S MINISTRY WITH ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS EQUAL TO 10% OF THE AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE. THE SAME IS TRUE FOR A YOUTH MINISTRY (10% OF THE AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE).

Children and Youth: _____

6. **Number of People in Discipleship Groups:** A discipleship group includes a small group, life group, apprentice group, Sunday school class, or Bible study. It does not include other groups that have a brief devotion before they conduct their ministry (i.e., choir, praise band, trustees committee, etc.). A HEALTHY LOCAL CHURCH SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST 50% OF ITS AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE IN A DISCIPLESHIP GROUP.

Discipleship Groups: _____

7. **Number of First-Time Guests in a Year:** This is someone visiting your church for the first time. Many of our churches do not track first-time guests nor provide any follow-up. This metric is designed to start our churches doing so. This would include Easter and Christmas Eve worship. THE UNSTUCK GROUP SAYS A HEALTHY LOCAL CHURCH HAS FIRST-TIME GUESTS OVER 52 WEEKS EQUAL TO THEIR AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE. FOR EXAMPLE, IF A CHURCH AVERAGES 100 IN ATTENDANCE, IT SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST 100 FIRST-TIME GUESTS OVER A YEAR.

First Time Guests: _____

This Health of the Church form will be used to report to your Charge/church conference. You do not have to submit it IF you have put the figures into the document in the link:

Board/Council Chair: _____

Date: _____

Pastor: _____

Date: _____