

## 2022 Annual Church Profile:

### Analysis of Active 2021 Congregations Not Active in 2022

Summary: Among the 50,423 active Southern Baptist congregations in 2021, 2% disbanded or closed and 0.5% left or were disaffiliated from the SBC by the time 2022 data was compiled.

Final ACP congregation files for 2022 that include both churches and church-type missions were compared to 2021. Postmortem analysis was conducted by Lifeway Research to determine what happened to each congregation in the 2021 dataset not found in the 2022 dataset.

The primary sources used for this analysis were:

1. The reason codes and notes provided by state conventions when congregations were marked inactive
2. Affiliation data in SBCWorkspace for active congregations

1,272 congregations in 2021 were not found in the 2022 dataset. 19 should not be on this list due to errors in either 2022 or 2021. These include 5 whose SBCID was corrected, 5 that should not have been in the 2021 file because they are duplicates of other congregations, and 9 that we have since learned should have been active in the 2022 file.

1,253 is the accurate number of congregations in the 2021 dataset that are not in the 2022 dataset. Below are the reasons they are no longer active Southern Baptist congregations:

984	Disbanded/closed	79%	Disbanded/closed
10	Disbanded/closed – Reason is unknown	1%	Reason is unknown
228	Left/disaffiliated from SBC	18%	Left/disaffiliated from SBC
29	New church work; not yet a church	2%	Not yet a church
<u>2</u>	Exist as a ministry not a congregation	<1%	Exist as a ministry
1,253			

Among the congregations that closed and a reason was obtained, below is a breakdown of what occurred (to the best of our knowledge).

813	Disbanded/closed	83%	Disbanded/closed
136	Merged into a Southern Baptist church	14%	Merged into a Southern Baptist church
17	Merged into a non-Southern Baptist church	2%	Merged into a non-Southern Baptist church
8	Never got started	1%	Never got started
10	Now a campus of a church	1%	No longer a church record
984			

Information for the closure of congregations is not always obtained when it happens. For example, among the 813 disbanded/closed congregations 164 were identified as closing in 2021 or prior.

Special thanks to the data administrators and clerks in each state convention that entered this data in SBCWorkspace and provided notes to Lifeway.