

2025
Becoming Five Multiplication Study

RESEARCH REPORT

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Introduction: Five Levels of Multiplication

Exponential developed a simple framework for helping churches think about multiplication. This framework integrates objective metrics into five levels: Subtracting (Level 1), Plateauing (Level 2), Adding (Level 3), Reproducing (Level 4), and Multiplying (Level 5).

The five levels are summarized as follows:

Level 1 - Level 1 churches are characterized by subtraction, scarcity, and survival. These churches experience some combination of declining attendance, staffing, income, and conversions. While some good may be occurring, such as people growing closer to Christ or a few coming to faith in Christ, progress is not sufficient to replace current people long term. Without a turnaround, Level 1 churches eventually close.

Level 2 - Level 2 churches are plateaued and in need of a catalyst to spark a season of growth. These churches experience some combination of flat attendance, staffing, income, and conversions. These churches may see temporary ups and downs, but their overall trend is flat.

Level 3 - Level 3 churches are characterized by addition, growth, and expansion of impact. These churches have a strong growth culture with some combination of increasing attendance, staffing, income, and new commitments to Christ. Leadership development and conquering the next growth barriers are often key priorities in these churches.

Level 4 - Level 4 churches are characterized by the value and priority they place on starting new churches. They are committed to a significant, ongoing investment in church planting. Rather than the fruit on their own tree, they count the harvest by the other trees they plant in the orchard (or the new orchards they start). These churches continually feel the tension pulling them toward investing in addition at their own church.

Level 5 - Level 5 churches are characterized by multiplying, releasing, and sending everyday missionaries and church planters. Multiplication is so deeply embedded in the DNA of these churches that they would need a strategy to stop the multiplication. These churches plant churches that plant churches for multiple generations.

All churches are assigned a core context of Level 1, 2 or 3. In other words, all churches can be characterized with a basic pattern of attendance, staffing, budget, and conversions that is subtracting, plateauing, or adding.

The additional behaviors of reproducing (Level 4) and multiplying (Level 5) are only exhibited by a small percentage of U.S. churches. These Level 4 and 5 behaviors can extend from the core context of Level 1, 2 or 3.

Methodology

The goal of the 2024 Becoming Five Multiplication Study was to objectively and statistically measure how many Protestant churches are at each of the five levels today, using a representative sample. The project was sponsored by Exponential and Thrivent.

Survey Protocol

- Phone survey of 1,001 Protestant pastors was conducted by Lifeway Research September 17 – October 8, 2024.
- The calling list used a random sample stratified by church size, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches.
- Quotas were used to maintain the correct proportion of each church size.
- Responses were weighted by region to more accurately reflect the population.
- Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest of the church called.
- The survey consisted of 19 questions used to determine level assignments, plus demographics and descriptive questions.
- Survey questions were designed to measure actual behaviors and not aspirations or good intentions.
- The completed sample is 1,001 surveys.
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed $\pm 4.1\%$. This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.
- Responses were analyzed through the lens of the five levels of multiplication based on observable behaviors.
 - Each church was placed into a core context of Subtracting (Level 1), Plateauing (Level 2), or Adding (Level 3).
 - Scoring also evaluates whether each church qualifies as Reproducing (Level 4) or Multiplying (Level 5).

Measuring Levels 1 – 3

To determine which Protestant churches should be categorized as Subtracting (Level 1), Plateauing (Level 2), or Adding (Level 3), participants were asked a series of questions to measure the presence of objective indicators of growth or decline. The assigned level describes a church's core context which reflects their current posture, orientation, and trajectory.

The most important metric is that of change in average worship attendance over the last two years. In the 2019 study attendance change over 3 years was utilized. However, to minimize the impact of the pandemic, a two-year change was used in 2024. For pastors unable to provide their attendance for 2022, an alternate calculation was used based on a 1-year change in attendance. Churches unable to provide any history on attendance were excluded from the scoring and categorization.

Attendance is not the only measure that indicates a church's core context. This starting position is modified based on a series of additional questions that include changes in offerings and spending, changes in staffing levels, the number of new commitments to Christ per attendee, opening new sites, and financially supporting church plants.

No one metric solely determines categorization. Two churches could have relatively stable attendance over the past 2 years, and one could be considered Level 1 and another Level 3 based on other measures of growth and decline. Likewise, a church that has grown in attendance and one that has declined could both be categorized as Level 2 based on the aggregation of additional context from other measures of addition and subtraction.

All churches were assigned a core growth context of Level 1, 2 or 3. All churches were also asked about their involvement in church planting. Churches that indicated any involvement in church planting were asked additional questions to discern whether Level 4 and 5 behaviors were present.

Measuring Levels 4 and 5

To determine which Protestant churches should also be categorized as Reproducing (Level 4) or Multiplying (Level 5), participants were asked additional questions to measure the presence of objective indicators of reproduction and multiplication. To be evaluated as Reproducing (Level 4), a church must be participating in church planting by providing ongoing, direct financial support to church plants and having been involved in opening an autonomous church in the last 3 years. (Note: the 2019 study required an autonomous church to have opened in the last year.)

The metrics that qualify a church as reproducing require being substantially involved in starting new churches beyond being minimally or aspirationally involved. Functionally, the threshold of investment for Level 4 categorization is intended to be greater than that required for a typical church to simply add a church service or campus.

To measure whether a church should be categorized as Multiplying (Level 5), the church must qualify as Reproducing (Level 4), be directly involved in opening a greater number of church plants, and show significant activity in raising up church planters, preparing them, sending them, and financially supporting them. Multiplying churches also plant churches that at least reproduce at Level 4 for multiple generations into the future.

Executive Summary

The primary purpose of this study is to measure the percentage of U.S. Protestant churches that exhibit Level 4 or 5 behaviors and to understand how these Level 4 and 5 behaviors align with the core context of Levels 1, 2 and 3.

Core Context of Church (Levels 1, 2 and 3)

According to the growth metrics utilized, most Protestant churches are not growing. This is true for finances, attendance, and staffing. We also see the majority of churches experiencing low rates of new people coming to follow Christ and a lack of involvement in church planting. Using scoring based on the metrics in the study, 19% of churches have been categorized as Subtracting, 43% as Plateauing, and 38% as Adding. Because many churches benefitted from post-pandemic rebounding attendance, fewer churches are Subtracting compared to the 2019 study (19% v. 35%). More churches are Adding compared to 2019 (38% v. 30%) and more are Plateauing (43 v. 35%).

Level 1 Subtracting	19%
Level 2 Plateauing	43%
Level 3 Adding	38%

Church Reproduction and Multiplication Behaviors (Levels 4 and 5)

36% of Protestant churches were at least minimally involved in planting churches in 2024, while 64% had no involvement. For most of these 36%, their investment in church planting was indirect or minimal. Based on the aggregation of responses to the church planting questions in the survey, 7% of Protestant churches are considered to be Reproducing (Level 4), and 0% are Multiplying (Level 5).

Level 4 Reproducing	7%
Level 5 Multiplying	0%

Key Findings

Level 1 Subtracting Churches

Level 1 Subtracting churches are characterized by subtraction, scarcity, and survival. These churches experience some combination of declining attendance, staffing, income, and conversions. While some good may be occurring, such as people growing closer to Christ or a few coming to faith in Christ, progress is not sufficient to replace current people long term. Without a turnaround, these churches eventually close. 19% of all Protestant churches are Subtracting (Level 1) according to the scoring protocol utilized in this study.

19% of all Protestant Churches are Subtracting

Responses from all Protestant churches that fit with subtraction:

Declining Attendance

14% of Protestant churches report average worship attendance dropping by 4% or more compared to 2 years ago. Had there not been rebounding attendance from the pandemic in almost all churches, this likely would be much higher. In the last year 8% of Protestant churches report average worship attendance dropping by 2% or more.

Declining 2024 Income

While recent inflation has hurt consumers, as wages grow it should be helping year-over-year offerings in churches. However, 16% of pastors report their calendar year offerings in 2024 were below 2023's. This includes 11% whose offerings dropped by 10% or more compared to 2023.

Projected Decline in 2025 Spending

For the next 12 months, 10% of pastors say that spending will be more than 3% lower than the last year.

Decline in Paid Staff

9% of churches decreased their paid staff in 2024 compared to 2023. Very few churches are planning to decrease their staffing level in 2025, with only 3% saying the number of paid staff will decrease.

New Commitments to Jesus Christ as Savior

Almost half of Protestant churches (48%) had less than 10 people indicate a new commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior in the past 12 months.

26% of churches have had less than 5 people indicate a new commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior through their church in the past 12 months, including 6% who have had no new commitments to Christ. Since different size churches have different numbers of people to share the gospel, a measure of new commitments per 100 attendees was used in the analysis. 30% of churches had between 0 and 4 new commitments per 100 attendees.

Level 2 Plateauing Churches

Level 2 Plateauing churches may feel “stuck” and are often looking for the next catalyst to spark a season of growth. They seek momentum in the direction of growth. These churches experience some combination of flat attendance, staffing, income, and conversions. These churches may see temporary ups and downs, but their overall trend is flat. 43% of all Protestant churches are Level 2 according to the scoring protocol utilized in this study.

43% of all Protestant Churches are Plateauing

Responses from all Protestant churches that fit with plateauing:

Plateaued Attendance

12% of Protestant churches report average worship attendance within 4% of attendance 2 years ago. Again, this is greatly aided by people slowly returning after the pandemic. In the last year 37% of Protestant churches report average worship attendance staying within 2% of attendance a year ago.

Plateaued 2024 Income

34% of pastors report their calendar year offerings in 2024 were the same as 2023's.

Projected Plateau in 2025 Spending

For the next 12 months, 41% of pastors say that spending will be within 3% of expenditures this last year.

Plateau in Paid Staff

71% of pastors say that the number of paid staff stayed the same in 2024. Most Protestant churches are smaller churches including 33% with less than 100 in average worship attendance. For smaller churches it would take growth far beyond the typical 2-3% growth in income to pay for an additional part-time or full-time staff member. 73% of churches expect their paid staff count to stay the same in 2025.

New Commitments to Jesus Christ as Savior

32% of churches had between 5 and 9 new commitments per 100 attendees. Combined with the 30% indicating less than 5 new commitments per 100 attendees, this means that 62% of churches have less than 10 new commitments for every 100 attendees.

Participation in Helping Start New Churches

64% of Protestant churches indicated no involvement in participating in helping start new churches in the last 12 months.

Opening New Sites

6% of churches opened a new multi-site campus in the past 3 years.

Level 3 Adding Churches

Level 3 Adding churches are characterized by addition, growth, and expansion of impact. These churches have a strong growth culture with some combination of increasing attendance, staffing, income, and new commitments to Christ. Leadership development and conquering the next growth barriers are often key priorities in these churches. 38% of all Protestant churches are Level 3 according to the scoring protocol utilized in this study.

38% of all Protestant Churches are Adding

Responses from all Protestant churches that fit with addition:

Growing Attendance

74% of Protestant churches report average in-person worship attendance growing by 4% or more compared to 2 years ago. Clearly, this growth is aided by people returning to regular attendance after being away since the start of the pandemic. The ease that churches achieved the growing attendance marker raises the importance of other elements that determine whether a church is an Adding Church.

Growing 2024 Income

Despite higher attendance growth, only 46% of pastors report their calendar year offerings in 2024 were above 2023's. This includes 26% whose offerings grew by 10% or more compared to 2023.

Projected Growth in Spending

Similarly, for the next 12 months, 43% of pastors say that spending will be more than 3% higher than in the last year.

Growth in Paid Staff

18% of churches increased their paid staff in 2024 compared to 2023. 22% plan to increase their staffing level in 2025.

New Commitments to Jesus Christ as Savior

38% of churches had 10 or more new commitments per 100 attendees, including 8% who reported 25 or more new commitments per 100 attendees.

Participation in Helping Start New Churches

36% of Protestant churches indicated they participated in helping start new churches in the last 12 months.

Opening New Sites

6% of churches have opened at least one new multi-site campus in the past 3 years. This includes 1% who have opened more than one new multi-site campus in the past 3 years.

Level 4 and 5 Reproducing and Multiplying Churches

Level 4 Reproducing churches are characterized by the value and priority they place on starting new churches. They invest in church planting and have established strong ongoing relational and financial support for starting new churches. Rather than the fruit on their own tree, they count the harvest by the other trees they plant in the orchard (or the new orchards they start). These churches continually feel the tension pulling them toward investing in addition at their own church. 7% of all Protestant churches are Level 4 according to the scoring protocol utilized in this study.

7% of all Protestant Churches are Reproducing

Direct Involvement in Church Plant Openings

Among all Protestant churches, 17% were directly or substantially involved in opening an autonomous church in the last 3 years. This is far fewer at this level of involvement compared to the 36% who indicate they had some involvement in helping start new churches this last year. The difference is those whose involvement is indirect or is with a church plant that has not yet launched or launched in previous years.

Financial Sponsorship of Church Plants

2% of Protestant churches accepted financial responsibility as the church's primary sponsor and 8% provided ongoing, financial support to the church plant in partnership with other churches.

Direct Giving to Church Plants

Among Protestant churches 25% say that more than 1% of their budget went directly to church plants or church planting ministries in the last 12 months.

Level 5 Multiplying churches are characterized by multiplying, releasing, and sending everyday missionaries and church planters. Multiplication is so deeply embedded in the DNA of these churches that they would need a strategy to stop the multiplication. These churches plant churches that plant churches for multiple generations. None of the 1,001 churches analyzed in the study were categorized as Level 5.

0% of all Protestant Churches are Multiplying

Church Planting Activities

Among Protestant churches, the most common church planting activities in the last year are providing support services to planters (21%) and participating in a church planting network (21%). The types of "support services" were not specified on the survey, but likely include help with technology, accounting, space, etc. Developing church planters through assessing, training, and coaching is engaged in by 7-14% of Protestant churches.

Starting Church Plants that Plant

9% of all Protestant churches indicate that any of the church plants they have helped start have directly started a new, autonomous church in the last 5 years. Note: This estimate may be slightly low since it was only asked of churches currently doing anything to help church plants. It is possible for a church to have ceased their church planting efforts, but their daughter church could have birthed another in the last 5 years.

Lay Leaders Becoming Church Planters

5% of all Protestant churches opened a church plant in the last 3 years with one or more lay leaders leaving to be the church planter of a new, autonomous church. Most of the church planting that churches are engaged with is not through church planters that they disciplined and trained from within their own church.

Levels by Church Size

While churches of all sizes are eligible to be categorized in any level, there are certain behaviors in the categorization associated with churches of different sizes, and churches with a sustained growth pattern are naturally going to tend to also be larger in size. Below is an examination of the percentage of churches in each level among different sized churches.

Among Churches with an Average Attendance Less than 50

- 35% are Subtracting (Level 1)
- 48% are Plateauing (Level 2)
- 17% are Adding (Level 3)
- 2% are Reproducing (Level 4)
- Churches with worship attendance of Less than 50 are the least likely to be Adding.
- Churches with worship attendance of Less than 50 are the most likely to be Subtracting.

Among Churches with an Average Attendance 50-99

- 22% are Subtracting (Level 1)
- 47% are Plateauing (Level 2)
- 31% are Adding (Level 3)
- 5% are Reproducing (Level 4)
- Churches with worship attendance of 50-99 are more likely to be Adding than those with attendance of Less than 50.
- Churches with worship attendance of 50-99 are more likely to be Subtracting than those with attendance of 250+.

Among Churches with an Average Attendance 100-249

- 16% are Subtracting (Level 1)
- 40% are Plateauing (Level 2)
- 44% are Adding (Level 3) – In 2019 30% were Adding.
- 10% are Reproducing (Level 4)
- Churches with worship attendance of 100-249 are more likely to be Adding than those with attendance of Less than 50 and 50-99.
- Churches with worship attendance of 100-249 are more likely to be Reproducing than those with attendance of Less than 50.

Among Churches with an Average Attendance 250 or More

- 12% are Subtracting (Level 1)
- 42% are Plateauing (Level 2)
- 46% are Adding (Level 3)
- 8% are Reproducing (Level 4) – In 2019 19% were Reproducing.
- Churches with worship attendance of 250+ are more likely to be Adding than those with attendance of Less than 50 and 50-99.
- Churches with worship attendance of 250+ are less likely to be Subtracting than those with attendance of Less than 50 and 50-99.
- Churches with worship attendance of 250+ are more likely to be Reproducing than those with attendance of Less than 50.

Detailed Findings

Levels 1, 2 and 3 Categorization

Changes in Attendance

Looking at answers to all worship attendance questions, 52% of churches are categorized as having growing attendance of 4% or more compared to 2 years ago. The attendance of 48% of Protestant churches is plateaued or declining.

Table 1 – Growth Assignment n= 979 Change in average worship attendance in-person currently (Fall 2024) compared to two years ago (Fall 2022). *Pastors unable to provide a 2022 attendance were included using 2023 attendance (2% change needed). Churches missing both 2022 and 2023 were excluded.*

Growing (4%+ in 2 years)	52%
Plateaued	33%
Declining (4%+ in 2 years)	15%

Additional Table 1 Observations:

- Pastors age 65+ are the most likely to be “Declining” (22%).
- Those in the Northeast (19%) are more likely to be “Declining” than those in the West (9%).
- Pastors who are African American (35%) are more likely to be “Declining” than those who are White (13%) or Hispanic/Other Ethnicities (15%).
- Those with a bachelor’s degrees (60%) are more likely to be leading “Growing” than those with no college degree (47%) and those with a master’s degree (51%).
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 100-249 (59%) or 250+ (62%) are more likely to be “Growing” than those with attendance of 0-49 (23%) or 50-99 (45%).
- Baptist (59%), Pentecostal (62%), and Holiness churches (63%) are more likely to be “Growing” than Lutherans (37%) and Methodists (43%).
- Evangelical pastors (57%) are more likely to be “Growing” than Mainline pastors (46%).

Table 1A – Change in average worship attendance Fall 2024 compared to Fall 2022. “Two years ago (Fall 2022), what was your church’s average worship attendance **in-person** on a typical weekend (including all ages from babies to adults but not counting anyone twice)?” n= 889

Growing (4%+ in 2 years)	74%
Plateaued	12%
Declining (4%+ in 2 years)	14%

Table 1B – Change in average worship attendance Fall 2024 compared to Fall 2023. “Last year (Fall 2023), what was your church’s average worship attendance **in-person** on a typical weekend (including all ages from babies to adults but not counting anyone twice)?” n= 975

Growing (2%+ in 1 year)	55%
Plateaued	37%
Declining (2%+ in 1 year)	8%

Changes in 2024 Income

46% of pastors say that total offerings for 2024 were above 2023 (Table 2). While recent inflation has hurt consumers, as wages grow it should be helping year-over-year offerings in churches. However, 50% of pastors report their offerings in 2024 were the same or less than 2023’s. Among those pastors able to estimate the percentage change in offerings, the mean was +3.9% and the median 0%.

Table 2 – “Compared to your calendar year 2023 offerings, have your total offerings so far for 2024 been ... ” n=1,001

Above 2023’s	46%
Below 2023’s	16%
The same as 2023	34%
Not sure	4%

Additional Table 2 Observations:

- Pastors age 55-64 are the least likely to select “The same as 2023’s offerings” (26%).
- Male pastors (49%) are more likely to select “Above 2023’s” than Female pastors (35%).
- Those in the Midwest (37%) are more likely to select “The same as 2023’s offerings” than those in the West (27%).
- Pastors with a Doctoral degree are the most likely to select “The same as 2023’s offerings” (45%).
- Pastors with a Bachelor’s degree (49%) or a Master’s degree (53%) are more likely to select “Above 2023’s” than those with no college degree (31%) or a Doctoral degree (32%).
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 0-49 are the least likely to select “Above 2023’s” (30%).
- Holiness churches (58%) are more likely to select “Above 2023’s” than Pentecostal churches (37%).
- Mainline pastors (40%) are more likely to select “The same as 2023’s offerings” than Evangelical pastors (30%).

Table 3 – “Approximately what percentage were your calendar year 2024 offerings above/below 2023’s offerings?” n=877

Below 2023 by 25% or more	3%
Below 2023 by 10-24%	8%
Below 2023 by 1-9%	5%
Same as 2023	40%
Above 2023 by 1-9%	18%
Above 2023 by 10-24%	20%
Above 2023 by 25% or more	6%

Additional Table 3 Observations:

- Pastors age 55-64 (26%) are more likely to select “Above by 10-24%” than those age 45-54 (15%).
- Pastors who are White (20%) or Hispanic/Other Ethnicities (15%) are more likely to select “Above by 1-9%” than African Americans (3%).

- Pastors who are African American (18%) are more likely to select “Above by 25+” than White pastors (5%).
- Pastors with a Bachelor’s degree are the most likely to select “Above by 10-24%” (31%).
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to select “Above by 1-9%” (27%).
- Baptist churches (26%) are more likely to select “Above by 10-24%” than Lutherans (12%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (16%).

Projected Changes in Spending

For the next 12 months, 43% of pastors say that spending will be more than 3% higher than last year (Table 4). This is very similar to the 46% who estimated their 2024 offerings were the same as 2023. Overall, churches are very optimistic about giving in the upcoming year.

Table 4 – “For the next 12 months, is your church planning or budgeting to spend a higher or lower amount than the last year?” n=1,001

Spending will be more than 3% higher than the last 12 months	43%
Spending will be more than 3% lower than the last 12 months	10%
Spending will be within 3% of expenditures for the last 12 months	41%
Not sure	6%

Additional Table 4 Observations:

- Pastors age 65+ (50%) are more likely to select “More than 3% higher” than the last 12 months” than those age 45-54 (40%).
- Male pastors (46%) are more likely to select “More than 3% higher” than Female pastors (34%).
- Those in the Midwest (44%) are more likely to select “Within 3% of the last 12 months” than those in the South (32%).
- African American pastors (58%) are more likely to select “More than 3% higher” than the last 12 months” than Whites (44%) and Hispanic/Other Ethnicities (38%).
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 100-249 (48%) are more likely to select “More than 3% higher than the last 12 months” than those with attendance of 0-49 (38%) and 50-99 (37%).
- Lutheran (49%) and Pentecostal (51%) churches are more likely to select “More than 3% higher” than Presbyterian/Reformed churches (33%).

Changes in Paid Staff

18% of pastors say the number of paid staff increased. This is higher than what pastors reported in 2018 (12%). 71% of pastors say that the number of paid staff stayed the same in 2024 (Table 5). Most Protestant churches are smaller churches including 33% that have less than 100 in average worship attendance. For smaller churches it would take growth far beyond the typical 2-3% growth in income to pay for an additional part-time or full-time staff member.

Table 5 – “How did your church’s total number of paid staff in 2024 compare to 2023?” n=1,001

The number of paid staff increased	18%
The number of paid staff decreased	9%
The number of paid staff stayed the same	71%
Our church has no paid staff including no paid pastor	1%
Not sure	<1%

Additional Table 5 Observations:

- Pastors age 65+ are the least likely to select “Increased (11%).
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to select “Increased” (35%).
- Holiness churches (21%) are more likely to select “Decreased” than Baptist (8%), Lutheran (10%), Pentecostal (8%), Presbyterian/Reformed (6%), and Other Evangelical churches (6%).

Few churches are planning to decrease their staffing level in 2025 (Table 6), and most expect their paid staff count to stay the same. More pastors expect their paid staff to increase than in 2019 (22% v. 15%).

Table 6 – “For 2025, do you anticipate the number of paid staff to be more or less than 2024?”
n=1,001

The number of paid staff will increase	22%
The number of paid staff will decrease	3%
The number of paid staff will stay the same	73%
Our church has no paid staff including no pastor	1%
Not sure	1%

Additional Table 6 Observations:

- Those in the South (28%) are more likely to select “Will increase” than those in the Northeast (16%) and West (18%).
- Pastors who are African American (39%) are more likely to select “Will increase” than those who are White (21%) and Hispanic/Other Ethnicities (24%).
- Those pastors with a Doctoral degree (30%) are more likely to select “Will increase” than those with no college degree (16%).
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 0-49 are the most likely to select “Will stay the same” (86%).
- Holiness churches (38%) are more likely to select “Will increase” than Baptist (24%), Lutheran (24%), Methodist (21%), Presbyterian/Reformed (19%), and Other Evangelical churches (19%).

New Commitments to Jesus Christ as Savior

Almost half of Protestant churches (48%) had less than 10 people indicate a new commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior in the past 12 months (Table 7). More churches reported 20+ than in 2019 (28% v. 17%).

Table 7 – “In the past 12 months, how many people have indicated a new commitment to Jesus Christ as Savior through your church?” n=920 *Not sure responses were removed from the percentages.*

0	6%
1-4	21%
5-9	21%
10-19	24%
20+	28%

Since different size churches have different numbers of people to share the gospel, Table 8 standardizes each congregation’s number into new commitments per 100 worship attendees. Fewer churches report 0-4 new commitments per 100 attendees than in 2019 (30% v. 35%). Only 8% of all churches are seeing 25 new people come to Christ per 100 attendees. The mean is 13.4 new commitments per 100 attendees and the median is 7.5.

Using this ratio of new commitments per 100 attendees, in total smaller churches are more effective per person in seeing new people make a commitment to Christ. 10 or more commitments per 100 is seen by 48% of churches with attendance of 0-49, 37% with attendance of 50-99, 36% with attendance of 100-249, and 36% with attendance of 250+.

Table 8 – New commitments to Jesus Christ/Average Worship Attendance n=917

0-4 per 100 attendees	30%
5-9 per 100 attendees	32%
10-24 per 100 attendees	29%
25+ per 100 attendees	8%

Additional Table 8 Observations:

- Those in the Northeast (38%) are more likely to have “0 to <5 per 100 attendees” than those in the South (25%).
- Those in the Midwest (36%) are more likely to have “5 to <10 per 100 attendees” than those in the Northeast (24%).

- Those in the South (35%) are more likely to have “10 to <25 per 100 attendees” than those in the Midwest (24%).
- Pastors who are African Americans (25%) are more likely to have “25+ per 100 attendees” than Whites (6%) and Hispanic/Other Ethnicities (10%).
- Pastors with a Master’s degree (36%) are more likely to have “0 to<5 per 100 attendees” than those with a Bachelor’s degree (23%) or a Doctoral degree (23%).
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 0-49 are the least likely to have “5 to<10 per 100 attendees” (19%).
- Pentecostal churches are the most likely to have “25+ per 100 attendees” (23%).

Participation in Helping Start New Churches

Over 1 in 3 Protestant churches (36%) participated in helping start new churches in the last 12 months (Table 9). It is much more common for churches to be praying for missions and missionaries or even going on short-term mission trips.

Data from questions beginning with Table 11 explore how involved the 36% are in church planting.

Table 9 – “During the past 12 months, has your church ...” n=1,001

Conducted one or more short-term mission trips	45%
Sent out long-term (ten or more weeks) missionaries from your congregation	17%
Prayed at least once a month for missionaries as a church	84%
Prayed at least once a month for a specific mission field or people group as a church	80%
Participated in helping start new churches	36%
None of these	4%
Not sure	<1%

Additional Table 9 Observations:

Conducted One or More Short-Term Mission Trips

- Pastors age 65+ are the least likely to select (29%).
- Pastors in the South (53%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (36%) and West (38%).
- Those with a Master's degree (48%) are more likely to select than those with no college degree (35%).
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to select (71%).
- Baptist (50%) and Pentecostal (53%) churches are more likely to select than Lutheran churches (38%).

Sent Out Long-Term (Ten or More Weeks) Missionaries from Your Congregation

- Those in the South (21%) and West (22%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (10%).
- Pastors who are Hispanic/Other Ethnicities (29%) are more likely to select than those who are White (16%).
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to select (32%).
- Baptist (20%), Pentecostal (28%), and Other Evangelical churches (30%) are more likely to select than Lutheran (7%) and Methodist churches (9%).
- Evangelical pastors (18%) are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (8%).

Prayed at Least Once a Month for Missionaries as a Church

- Pastors who have no college degree (88%) and those with a Bachelor's degree (91%) are more likely to select than those with a Doctoral degree (78%).
- Baptist (91%), Pentecostal (92%), and Holiness (95%) churches are more likely to select than Lutheran (79%), Methodist (69%), and Presbyterian/Reformed churches (79%).
- Evangelical pastors (89%) are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (78%).

Prayed at Least Once a Month for a Specific Mission Field or People Group as a Church

- Pastors who are White (80%) or Hispanic/Other Ethnicities (84%) are more likely to select than African Americans (69%).
- Pastors who have no college degree (85%) and those with a Bachelor's degree (86%) are more likely to select than those with a Master's degree (77%) and a Doctoral degree (74%).
- Baptist (86%), Pentecostal (90%), and Holiness (88%) churches are more likely to select than Lutheran (73%) and Methodist churches (73%).
- Evangelical pastors (84%) are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (78%).

Participated in Helping Start New Churches

- Male pastors (39%) are more likely to select than Female pastors (28%).

- Pastors in the South (44%) and West (40%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (28%).
- Pastors who are Hispanic/Other Ethnicities (58%) are more likely to select than Whites (34%) and African Americans (36%).
- Those with a Bachelor’s degree (49%) are more likely to select than those with no college degree (32%) and those with a Master’s degree (32%).
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 100-249 (38%) and 250+ (43%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 0-49 (26%).
- Baptist (44%) and Pentecostal churches (53%) are more likely to select than Lutheran (24%), Methodist (19%), and Presbyterian/Reformed churches (29%).
- Evangelical pastors (40%) are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (30%).

Opening New Sites

6% of churches opened a new multi-site campus in the past 3 years.

Table 10–“In the past 3 years, how many new multisite campuses did your church open?” n=985

0	94%
1	5%
2	1%
3+	1%

Additional Table 10 Observations:

- Those in the West are the most likely to select “1” (11%).
- Pentecostal churches (16%) are more likely to select “1” than Baptist (2%), Lutheran (2%), Presbyterian/Reformed (3%), Holiness (2%), and Other Evangelical churches (3%).

Level 4 Reproducing Churches

Most of the following questions were asked among a subset of churches participating in church planting. Where relevant an estimate is shown for all Protestant churches.

Direct Involvement in Church Plant Openings

Among churches participating in church planting, 49% say that their church did open an autonomous church plant in the last 3 years. 27% opened more than one church in this period. However, 51% did not open any in the last 3 years.

It is estimated that among all Protestant churches, 17% were directly or substantially involved in opening an autonomous church in the last 3 years. This is far fewer than the 36% who indicate they had some involvement in helping start new churches (Table 9) this last year. The difference is the involvement of many is indirect or is with a church plant that has not yet launched or launched in previous years.

Table 11 – “In the last 3 years, how many autonomous church plants opened that your church was directly or substantially involved in?” n=327 Answered by 327 whose church participated in helping start new churches during the past 12 months. The estimate for all Protestant churches assumes a response of zero for all others.

Number of Church Plants that opened in last 3 years that your church was directly involved in	Among churches participating in church planting	Estimate for all Protestant churches
0	51%	83%
1	22%	7%
2	18%	6%
3+	9%	3%

Additional Table 11 Observations among churches participating in church planting:

- Pastors with a Doctoral degree (33%) are more likely to select “2” than those with a Master’s degree (17%) and those with No college degree (11%).
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 100-249 (22%) and 250+ (23%) are more likely to select “2” than those at churches with attendance of 0-49 (6%) and 50-99 (7%).
- Lutheran (85%), Methodist (73%), and Holiness churches (68%) are more likely to select “0” than Baptist (40%) and Presbyterian/Reformed churches (35%).

Types of Church Plant Sponsorship

Among churches opening at least 1 church plant in the last 3 years, 11% say that their church accepted direct financial responsibility for the new church as primary sponsor, and 45% provided financial support in partnership with other churches (Table 12).

It is estimated that 10% of all Protestant churches were directly involved in opening a church plant in the last 3 years and were a primary sponsor or ongoing financial sponsor of a church plant. These two thresholds of ongoing financial support directly to a church plant and opening a church plant in the last 3 years greatly narrow the number of churches who are reproducing.

Table 12 – “Which of the following best describes your church’s highest level of sponsorship or help of a new church that opened in the last 3 years?” n=149 Answered by 149 whose church was directly or substantially involved in opening 1 or more autonomous church plants in the last 3 years. The estimate for all Protestant churches assumes no financial or in-kind support for all others.

Directly involved in opening a church plant in the last 3 years AND...	Among churches directly involved in opening 1 or more church plants in last 3 years	Estimate for all Protestant churches
Our church accepted direct financial responsibility for the new church as primary sponsor.	11%	2%
Our church provided ongoing, financial support directly to the church plant, in partnership with other churches.	45%	8%
Our church provided one-time financial support directly to the church plant (for example, a one-time cash gift)	20%	3%
Our church did not directly help financially but contributed to a network or denomination that supports church planting	9%	1%
Our church did not help financially but provided other tangible in-kind support such as a donation of equipment, conducting a mission trip to assist the new church or providing rent-free meeting space	13%	2%
Not sure	2%	<1%
Not asked	0%	83%

No significant differences due to small sample size.

Direct Giving to Church Plants

Funds to Church Planting in last 12 months- Among churches participating in church planting, almost half (47%) spent more than 1% of their budget on funds that went directly to church plants or church planting ministries in the last 12 months.

Among all Protestant churches 25% gave more than 1% of their budget directly to church plants or church planting ministries in the last 12 months.

Table 13 – “In the last 12 months, approximately what percentage of your budget or spending went directly to church plants or church planting ministries? This does not include general contributions to a network or denomination, but financial support exclusively for church planting” n=901 *The percentage of all Protestant churches giving directly to church plants is higher than future intentions in Table 13 because a few churches with no church planting activity in Table 9 indicated direct financial support here but were not asked the question for Table 14. Churches with no response were assumed to have no giving to church plants.

Percent of budget that went directly to church plants	Among churches participating in church planting	Among all Protestant churches*
0-1%	53%	75%
2-3%	14%	7%
4-5%	12%	7%
6-7%	2%	1%
8-9%	2%	1%
10%+	17%	10%

Additional Table 13 Observations among all Protestant churches:

- Pastors age 18-44 are the most likely to select “4-5%” (15%).
- Female pastors (83%) are more likely to select “0-1%” than Male pastors (69%).

- Pastors who are White (74%) are more likely to select “0-1%” than Hispanic/Other Ethnicities (51%).
- Pastors who are Hispanic/ Other ethnicities (25%) are more likely to select “10%+” than Whites (9%).
- Pastors who have no college degree (76%) and those with a Master’s degree (79%) are more likely to select “0-1%” than those with a Bachelor’s degree (56%) or a Doctoral degree (64%).
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 0-49 (80%) are more likely to select “0-1%” than those with attendance of 100-249 (70%) and 250+ (68%).
- Baptist churches are the most likely to select “10%+” (22%).
- Lutheran (90%), Methodist (86%), and Presbyterian/Reformed churches (80%) are more likely to select “0-1%” than Baptist (60%), Pentecostal (63%), and Other Evangelical churches (61%).
- Mainline pastors (81%) are more likely to select “0-1%” than Evangelical pastors (67%).

Funds to Church Planting in next 12 months - Among churches participating in church planting, 45% say more than 1% of their budget for the next 12 months is designated directly to church planting.

Table 14 – “In the next 12 months, approximately what percentage of your budget is designated directly to church planting? This does not include general contributions to a network or denomination, but financial support exclusively for church planting.” n=310
*Answered by 310 whose church participated in helping start new churches during the past 12 months. The estimate for all Protestant churches assumes a response of zero for all others. *Estimate for all Protestant churches not comparable to Table 13. See explanation above.*

Percent of next 12 months’ budget designated directly to church plants	Among churches participating in church planting	Estimate for all Protestant churches
0-1%	55%	84%
2-3%	14%	5%
4-5%	11%	4%
6-7%	2%	1%
8-9%	1%	<1%
10%+	16%	6%

Additional Table 14 Observations among churches participating in church planting:

- Pastors age 18-44 (17%) are more likely to select “4-5%” than those age 65+ (7%).
- Female pastors (75%) are more likely to select “0-1%” than Male pastors (51%).
- Pastors in the West (17%) are more likely to select “4-5%” than those in the Midwest (8%).
- Pastors who are Hispanic/Other Ethnicities (38%) are more likely to select “10%+” than White pastors (14%).
- Pastors with a Master’s degree are the least likely to select “10%+” (7%).
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 250+ (20%) are more likely to select “2-3%” than pastors at churches with attendance of 100-249 (11%).
- Baptist (22%) and Pentecostal churches (26%) are more likely to select “10%+” than Lutheran churches (4%).
- Mainline pastors (62%) are more likely to select “0-1%” than Evangelical pastors (50%).

Laying the Groundwork for Reproduction

Equipping and Training Leaders

Among Protestant pastors, 81% agree their church has an intentional process to move people from participating to leading ministry. However, this includes only 39% who strongly agree indicating that the majority of those investing in this type of process believe it could be working better. 18% of pastors do not have such a process.

Table 15 – “Please indicate your level of agreement with this statement:

Our church has an intentional process that equips and trains believers to move from participating to leading a small group or team, to leading a ministry inside or outside our church.” n=1,001

	Among churches participating in church planting	Among all Protestant churches
Strongly agree	48%	39%
Somewhat agree	38%	41%
Somewhat disagree	9%	12%
Strongly disagree	4%	5%
Not sure	1%	2%

Additional Table 15 Observations among all Protestant churches:

- Pastors in the Northeast (86%) and South (88%) are more likely to Agree than those in the Midwest (76%).
- Pastors who are African American (95%) and Hispanic/Other Ethnicities (91%) are more likely to Agree than Whites (79%).
- Pastors with no college degree (88%) or a Bachelor’s degree (86%) are more likely to Agree than those with a Master’s degree (76%).
- Lutheran pastors are the most likely to Disagree (41%).
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to Agree (94%).
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 0-49 are the least likely to Agree (64%).
- Evangelical pastors (84%) are more likely to Agree than Mainline pastors (78%).

Leadership Development

Among all Protestant churches, 57% have some kind of leadership development program in place (Table 16). 43% are training at least one person for less than a year to lead a specific ministry and 37% are training someone for a year or more a year to lead a specific ministry. The training opportunities include both on-the-job training for volunteers and paid residency programs.

Table 16 – “Which, if any, of the following leadership development programs does your church currently have in place? (Choose all that apply)” n=1,001

	Among churches participating in church planting	Among all Protestant churches
A summer internship program	26%	21%
A program designed to train individuals to lead a specific ministry by working in the ministry at least part-time for less than a year	54%	43%
A program designed to train individuals to lead a specific ministry by working in the ministry at least part-time for a year or more	43%	37%
None of these	35%	43%
Not sure	0%	<1%

Additional Table 16 Observations among all Protestant churches:

A summer internship program

- Pastors with a Master’s degree are the least likely to select (16%).
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to select (42%).
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 0-49 are the least likely to select (4%).
- Lutheran churches are the least likely to select (1%).
- Evangelical pastors (24%) are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (14%).

A program designed to train individuals to lead a specific ministry by working in the ministry at least part-time for less than a year

- Those in the West (50%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (38%).
- Pastors who are African American (71%) are more likely to select than Whites (40%) and Hispanic/Other ethnicities (43%).
- Pastors with a Doctoral degree (51%) are more likely to select than those with a Master’s degree (40%).
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to select (57%).
- Lutheran churches are the least likely to select (27%).
- Evangelical pastors (45%) are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (37%).

A program designed to train individuals to lead a specific ministry by working in the ministry at least part-time for a year or more

- Pastors in the South (42%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (31%).
- Pastors who are African American (64%) are more likely to select than Whites (34%) and Hispanic/Other Ethnicities (48%).
- Pastors with a Doctoral degree (47%) are more likely to select than those with a Master’s degree (33%).

- Pastors at churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to select (49%).
- Baptist (45%), Pentecostal (43%), and Other Evangelical churches (49%) are more likely to select than Lutheran (29%), Methodist (33%), and Presbyterian/Reformed churches (21%).

Sources of Funding

Among those churches funding church plants and who directly helped open a church plant in the last 3 years, the money to do these typically came from the church’s main budget (81%). This reflects how integral church planting is to these churches that they budget for it and communicate to the congregation that their tithes and offerings support church plants. However, the majority of these churches also raise funds specifically for church planting through designated gifts (54%) and/or church planters making direct appeals to people within the congregation (59%).

Table 17 – “In which of the following ways has your church funded its church planting efforts? (Choose all that apply) n=125 Answered by 125 whose church was directly or substantially involved in opening 1 or more autonomous church plants in the last 3 years (Table 11) and indicated a form of financial support directly to a church plant or to a network or denomination that supports church planting (Table 12).

	Among churches directly involved in opening 1 or more church plants in last 3 years and contributing some financial support for church planting
Funds came from appeals to tithe and give to the church’s main budget	81%
Funds were raised separately with gifts designated for church planting	54%
Church planters obtained funds from donors within our church	59%
Monies were placed in an endowment or investments whose earnings provide the church planting funds	9%
None of these	5%

No significant differences due to small sample size

Barriers to Giving to Church Planting

All Protestant churches were asked about barriers to giving more money to church plants (Table 18). Funding for church planting competes with commitments churches make to fund missionaries (65%), ministries (79%), and their denomination/network (75%). In addition, more than a quarter of churches (27%) say they don't have enough money to cover their own church's monthly expenses, so they cannot give more to others.

Table 18 – “What prevents your church from giving more financially to church planting?
(Choose all that apply) n=1,001

	Among churches participating in church planting	Among all Protestant churches
We don't have enough money to cover our own church's monthly expenses	30%	27%
We have existing commitments to fund missionaries directly	73%	65%
We have existing commitments to fund specific ministries	83%	79%
We choose to give to our network or denomination who does similar activities	75%	75%
None of these	4%	4%
Not sure	<1%	1%

Additional Table 18 Observations among all Protestant churches:

We don't have enough money to cover our own church's monthly expenses

- Pastors age 65+ (37%) are more likely to select than those 18-44 (23%) and 45-54 (23%).
- Those in the West (39%) are more likely to select than those in the South (24%) and Midwest (25%).
- Pastors who are African American (41%) are more likely to select than Whites (26%).
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 0-49 are the most likely to select (50%).
- Methodist (34%) and Pentecostal churches (36%) are more likely to select than Baptist (23%) and Presbyterian/Reformed churches (24%).

We have existing commitments to fund missionaries directly

- Pastors who are White (66%) are more likely to select than African Americans (54%).
- Pastors with no college degree (76%) or a Bachelor's degree (73%) are more likely to select than those with a Master's degree (60%) or a Doctoral degree (58%).
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 100-249 (69%) or 250+ (76%) are more likely to select than those with attendance of 0-49 (51%) and 50-99 (54%).
- Evangelical pastors (74%) are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (52%).
- Pentecostal churches are the most likely to select (90%).

We have existing commitments to fund specific ministries

- Female pastors (84%) are more likely to select than Male pastors (77%).
- Pastors in the Northeast are the least likely to select (68%).
- Pastors who are White (80%) are more likely to select than African Americans (70%).
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 250+ (84%) are more likely to select than those with attendance of 0-49 (76%) and 50-99 (74%).
- Pentecostal churches (88%) are more likely to select than Baptist (77%), Lutheran (75%), Methodist (77%) and Presbyterian/Reformed churches (77%).

We choose to give to our network or denomination who does similar activities

- Pastors age 55-64 (79%) are more likely to select than pastors age 65+ (71%)
- Pastors in the Midwest (77%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (67%).
- Pastors with a Master's degree are the most likely to select (80%).
- Mainline pastors (85%) are more likely to select than Evangelical pastors (74%).
- Lutheran churches are the most likely to select (96%).
- Other Evangelical churches are the least likely to select (49%).

Motivators to Giving to Church Planting

Connections to the person or the need are stronger motivators for churches to give more to church planting than overcoming financial difficulties. Knowing the church planter personally would motivate 66% and if the congregation connected with the need for a church plant would motivate 72% to give more. Meeting budget (47%) and more in their congregation tithing (51%) would motivate others to give more to church planting. Only 10% say none of these would motivate them. 2% were not sure.

Table 19 – “What would motivate your church to give more financially to church planting?
(Choose all that apply) n=1,001

	Among churches participating in church planting	Among all Protestant churches
If we knew the church planter personally that we were asked to support	76%	66%
If our congregation connected with the need for a church plant for a specific area or people	80%	72%
If we started meeting our budget level of giving	50%	47%
If more of our congregation tithed	59%	51%
None of these	5%	10%
Not sure	2%	2%

Additional Table 19 Observations among all Protestant churches:

If we knew the church planter personally that we were asked to support

- Pastors age 18-44 are the most likely to select (79%).
- Male pastors (70%) are more likely to select than Female pastors (56%).
- Pastors who are White (68%) are more likely to select than African American pastors (54%).
- Pastors with a Bachelor’s degree are the most likely to select (77%).
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 100-249 (69%) or 250+ (71%) are more likely to select than pastors at churches with attendance of 0-49 (56%).
- Baptist (75%), Pentecostal (73%), and Holiness churches (73%) are more likely to select than Lutheran (56%) and Methodist churches (54%).
- Evangelical pastors (73%) are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (61%).

If our congregation connected with the need for a church plant for a specific area or people

- Male pastors (74%) are more likely to select than Female pastors (67%).
- Pastors age 18-44 are the most likely to select (83%).
- Pastors age 65+ are the least likely to select (63%).
- Pastors in the Northeast are least likely to select (59%).
- Pastors with a Bachelor’s degree (79%) are more likely to select than those with a Doctoral degree (65%).
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 100-249 (76%) or 250+ (77%) are more likely to select than pastors at churches with attendance of 0-49 (58%).

- Baptist churches (77%) are more likely to select than Lutheran (68%) and Methodist churches (66%).

If we started meeting our budget level of giving

- Pastors who are African American (64%) and Hispanic/Other Ethnicities (58%) are more likely to select than White pastors (45%).
- Pastors with a Master's degree are the least likely to select (41%).
- Other Evangelical churches (66%) are more likely to select than Baptist (51%), Lutheran (39%), Methodist (47%), Presbyterian/Reformed (37%), and Holiness churches (38%).

If more of our congregation tithed

- Pastors age 45-54 are the least likely to select (41%).
- Those in the South (54%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (43%).
- Pastors who are African American (65%) and Hispanic/Other Ethnicities (63%) are more likely to select than White pastors (50%).
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 250+ (37%) are less likely to select than pastors at churches with attendance of 50-99 (56%) and 100-249 (57%).
- Other Evangelical churches (69%) are more likely to select than Lutheran (44%), Methodist (53%), and Presbyterian/Reformed churches (40%).

Levels 5 Multiplying Churches

The following questions were asked among a subset of churches to whom the questions would be applicable. Where relevant an estimate is shown for all Protestant churches.

Church Planting Activities

The majority of churches involved in church planting provide support services (57%) and participate in a church planting network (57%). The types of “support services” were not specified on the survey, but likely include help with technology, accounting, space, etc.

More of these churches involved in church planting are developing church planters through assessing (30% v. 23%), training (31% v. 21%), coaching (38% v. 29%), and church planting intern/residency (13% v. 8%) than in 2019.

Table 20 – “In the last 12 months, which if any of the following church planting activities did your church actively have in place? (Choose all that apply)” n=344 Asked among the 344 whose church participated in helping start new churches during the past 12 months. Estimate for all Protestant churches assumes no activities for all others.

	Among churches participating in church planting	Estimate for all Protestant churches
Recruiting church planters	21%	7%
Assessing church planters	30%	11%
Training church planters	31%	11%
Coaching church planters	38%	14%
Providing support services to church planters	57%	21%
Conducting a church planting intern or residency process	13%	5%
Participating in a church planting network or ministry	57%	21%
None of these	25%	9%
Not Asked	0%	64%

Additional Table 20 Observations among churches participating in church planting

Recruiting Church Planters

- Male pastors (23%) are more likely to select than Female pastors (11%).
- Pastors who are African American (45%) are more likely to select than White (20%) and Hispanic/Other Ethnicities pastors (16%).
- Pastors with a Bachelor's degree (26%) are more likely to select than those with a Master's degree (16%).
- Baptist (27%), Pentecostal (35%), and Holiness churches (35%) are more likely to select than Lutheran (12%) and Presbyterian/Reformed churches (4%).

Assessing Church Planters

- Male pastors (34%) are more likely to select than Female pastors (15%).
- Pastors in the South (38%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (26%).
- Those with a Bachelor's degree (38%) or a Doctoral degree (50%) are more likely to select than those with no college degree (19%) or a Master's degree (22%).
- Lutheran churches are the least likely to select (1%).

Training Church Planters

- Pastors in the South (39%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (26%).
- Pastors who are African American (58%) are more likely to select than White (27%) and Hispanic/Other Ethnicities pastors (32%).
- Those with a Bachelor's degree (38%) or a Doctoral degree (41%) are more likely to select than those with a Master's degree (23%).
- Baptist (39%), Pentecostal (44%), and Holiness churches (53%) are more likely to select than Methodist (8%) and Presbyterian/Reformed churches (19%).

Coaching Church Planters

- Pastors who are African American (60%) are more likely to select than White pastors (34%).
- Those with a Doctoral degree (53%) are more likely to select than those with a Master's degree (32%).
- Baptist (49%) and Pentecostal churches (56%) are more likely to select than Lutheran (13%), Methodist (24%) and Other Evangelical churches (23%).

Providing Support Services to Church Planters

- Male pastors (62%) are more likely to select than Female pastors (38%).
- Pastors in the South (65%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (53%).
- Pastors who are African American (76%) are more likely to select than White pastors (55%).
- Baptist (69%) and Pentecostal churches (66%) are more likely to select than Lutheran (34%), Presbyterian/Reformed (42%) and Other Evangelical churches (39%).

Conducting a Church Planting Intern or Residency Process

- Pastors in the Northeast (23%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (10%).
- Pastors who are African American (34%) and Hispanic/Other Ethnicities (26%) are more likely to select than White pastors (10%).
- Baptist (15%), Lutheran (13%), and Pentecostal churches (21%) are more likely to select than Presbyterian/Reformed churches (1%).

Participating in a Church Planting Network or Ministry

- Male pastors (60%) are more likely to select than Female pastors (45%).
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 100-249 (65%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 50-99 (49%) and 250+ (47%).
- Baptist (66%) and Pentecostal churches (64%) are more likely to select than Methodist (26%) and Other Evangelical churches (25%).

Lay Leaders Equipped to Plant Churches

In the past 3 years among churches opening at least 1 church plant, 70% say that their church had 0 lay leaders leave to be the church planter of a new, autonomous church. Most of the church planting that churches are engaged with is not through church planters that they disciplined and trained from within their own church.

Table 21 – “In the past 3 years, how many lay leaders from your church left to be the leader of a new, autonomous church?” n= 145 *Answered by 145 whose church was directly or substantially involved in opening 1 or more autonomous church plants in the last 3 years. Estimate for all Protestant churches assumes a response of 0 of these for all others.*

Directly involved in opening a church plant in last 3 years AND had lay leaders leave to be the leader of a new church	Among churches directly involved in opening 1 or more churches in last 3 years	Estimate for all Protestant churches
0	70%	95%
1	18%	3%
2	9%	1%
3+	3%	<1%

No significant differences due to small sample size

Starting Churches that Plant Churches

Among churches participating in church planting, 68% say that none (0%) of the church plants they've helped start in the last 5 years have directly started other new, autonomous churches.

Only 9% of all Protestant churches indicate that any of the church plants they have helped start have directly started a new, autonomous church in the last 5 years (Table 22). Note: This estimate may be slightly low since it was only asked of churches currently doing anything to help church plants. It is possible for a church to have ceased their church planting efforts while their daughter church could have birthed another in the last 5 years.

Table 22 – “Approximately what percentage of the church plants that your church has helped start in the last 5 years have directly started other new, autonomous churches?” n= 270
Asked among the 270 whose church participated in helping start new churches during the past 12 months. Estimate for all Protestant churches assumes a response of 0% for all others.

	Among churches participating in church planting	Estimate for all Protestant churches
0%	68%	91%
1-24%	23%	6%
25-49%	2%	1%
50-74%	3%	1%
75%-99%	<1%	<1%
100%	4%	1%

Additional Table 22 Observations among churches participating in church planting:

- Female pastors (81%) are more likely to select “0%” than Male pastors (65%).
- Pastors with a Master’s degree (77%) are more likely to select “0%” than those with a Bachelor’s degree (57%) or a Doctoral degree (56%).

- Pastors at churches with attendance of 250+ (81%) are more likely to select “0%” than those at churches with attendance of 100-249 (60%).

Generations of Church Plants

Among churches participating in church planting, 9% can trace their church planting efforts to four or more generations.

Table 23 – “How many generations of church plants, if any, can you trace to your church’s church planting efforts so far? (Select one) n= 344 Asked among the 344 whose church participated in helping start new churches during the past 12 months. Estimate for all Protestant churches assumes no response for all others.

	Among churches participating in church planting	Estimate for all Protestant churches
Zero: we have not sponsored a church plant or it hasn’t launched yet	27%	10%
One: we sponsored a church plant	33%	12%
Two: a grandchild church has started	14%	5%
Three generations of churches	10%	4%
Four or more generations of churches	9%	3%
Not sure	8%	3%
Not asked	0%	64%

Additional Table 23 Observations among churches participating in church planting:

- Female pastors (37%) are more likely to select “Zero” than Male pastors (24%).
- Pastors age 65+ are the least likely to select “One” (20%).
- Those in the Midwest (32%) are more likely to select “Zero” than those in the South (20%).
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 0-49 are the most likely to select “Zero” (44%).
- Other Evangelical churches (38%) are more likely to select “Zero” than Baptist churches (19%).

Types of Churches Planted

Among churches directly involved in opening 1 or more autonomous church plants in the last 3 years, micro churches (56%) and hybrid churches (44%) are the most common descriptors of their plants (Table 24).

Table 24 – “For the new autonomous church plant(s) opened in the last 3 years by your church, which of the following descriptors, if any, fit one or more of them? (Choose all that apply) n= 149 Answered by 149 whose church was directly or substantially involved in opening 1 or more autonomous church plants in the last 3 years.

	Among churches directly involved in opening 1 or more churches in last 3 years
A Large Launch with a launch team of 50 or more	20%
A Micro Church that is intentionally a simple spiritual family	56%
A church that both meets physically and intentionally invests in digital or online participants	44%
A Digital Church that intends to add physical locations	23%
A Digital church that does not intend to add physical locations	7%
None of these	23%
Not sure	1%

No significant differences due to small sample size