

NOW IS THE TIME FOR NEW CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

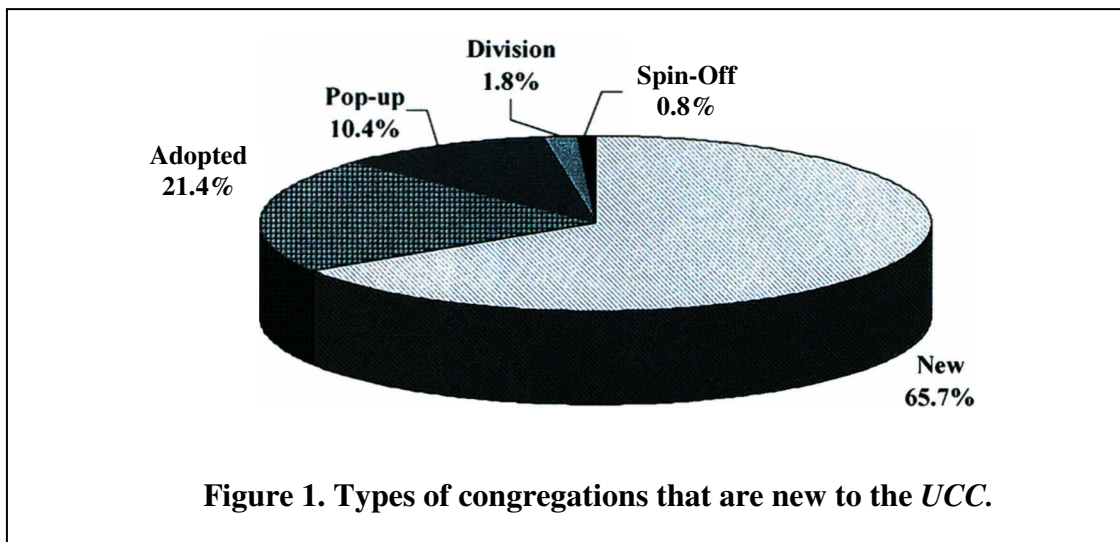
A Report on 50 Years of Church Development in the United Church of Christ

This report is a study of new church starts and adopted congregations new to the United Church of Christ compiled by Fed Ranches, and Marjorie Royle and Richard Taylor on 50 years of church development in the United Church of Christ. They compiled the record of all congregations received into the UCC during each year from 1957 – 2006. This report includes new churches planted by the UCC as well as affiliating congregations. This information comes from the UCC Yearbook. This report is not for greater distribution to respect the publication date of Prism Journal - Spring 08

Overall Statistics

50 years of Church Development in the UCC by Fed Ranches (Proposed congregations not included)	<i>The New United Church of Christ by Marjorie H. Royle and Richard H. Taylor to be published in the Prism Journal - Spring 08 (Proposed congregations included)</i>
<p>1139 New congregations joined the UCC since 1957-2006 in all 39 Conferences. New congregations are both new planted UCC congregations and congregations affiliating with the UCC.</p> <p>824 of those congregations are still active today, 72% of the new congregations started 14.6% of total UCC Congregations</p> <p>301 of those congregations closed or withdrew 26% of the new.</p> <p>13 of the congregations merged with other congregations, 1% of the new congregations</p>	<p>1197 Total Churches 1957-2006</p> <p>787 Churches are intentional new church start, 65.7% of new churches</p> <p>256 Churches are Adopted or Affiliated Congregations, 21.4% of new churches</p> <p>124 Churches Called "pop-ups"- group of people found each formed a local church - 10.4% of new churches</p> <p>21 Churches - Division of an existing church, a remnant loyal to UCC when a church withdrew. 1.8% of new churches</p> <p>9 Churches /Spin-off, that started a branch in a suburb that later became independent - 0.8% of new churches</p>

FIGURES



Current Membership of New Churches

142,451 members are reported by 753 of new congregations

11.6 % of total *UCC* membership in 13.4% of total *UCC* congregations An average of 189 members per new congregation

The average of all *UCC* congregations is 218 members.

The largest worship attendance, membership and *OCWM* giving congregation, Trinity *UCC* in Chicago, was a new church in 1962. Three of the largest *UCC* congregations; Trinity *UCC*, Victory *UCC*, and Cathedral of Hope have been new congregations in the past 50 years. Seven of the present fifteen present *UCC* congregations were new churches.

OCWM Giving of New Churches

- \$5,376,496 in total *OCWM* contributions reported from 580 of new congregations 10% of total *OCWM* contributed by 10% of total congregations
- An average of \$9,270 per new congregation
- The average of all *UCC* congregation is \$9462
- 577 (70%) of the new congregations report special *OCWM* giving

Ten Year Period	Churches (active)	Conferences	OCWM	Worship	Membership
1957 - 1966	317 (197)	36	\$2,475,500	23,147	46,853
		Average	\$13,907	137	238
1967 - 1976	188 (136)	34	\$1,125,309	8,006	30,711
		Average	\$10,230	105	234
1977 - 1986	169 (108)	35	\$680,302	6,683	20,557
		Average	\$7,820	134	194
1987 - 1996	160 (119)	32	\$585,791	4,741	15,246
		Average	\$7,232	79	133
1997 - 2006	305 (264)	37	\$509,594	10,107	29,084
		Average	\$4,110	121	143

Location of New Churches

Confs	New Churches	Active	Total Conference Congregations	Confs	New Churches	Active	Total Conference Congregations
SCNC	93	65	131	IL	61	57	286
FL	87	66	103	NY	53	25	284
NCNC	71	54	121	OH	49	31	396
HI	71	54	108	CAC	47	37	173
SOC	63	44	233	SW	38	32	44

Top 5 Conferences had 385 new churches - 33% of all the new congregations

Top 10 Conferences had 633 new churches - 55% of all the new congregations

Conrs	New Churches	Active	Total Conference Congregations	Conrs	New Churches	Active	Total Conference Congregations
MMS	34	24	167	SC	30	23	85
PNW	34	24	77	MA	30	24	404
SE	32	19	47	MI	27	22	163
RM	32	21	80	PSE	27	24	188
IK	31	24	167	PR	26		66

Top 15 Conferences had 796 new churches - 70 % of all new congregations

Top 20 Conferences had 936 new churches - 82 % of all new congregations.

All these 20 Conferences had more than 25 new congregations from 1957 - 2006.

The remaining 19 Conferences had from 19 down to 4 new congregations.

New UCC Congregations Compared to State Population Change
1960-2006

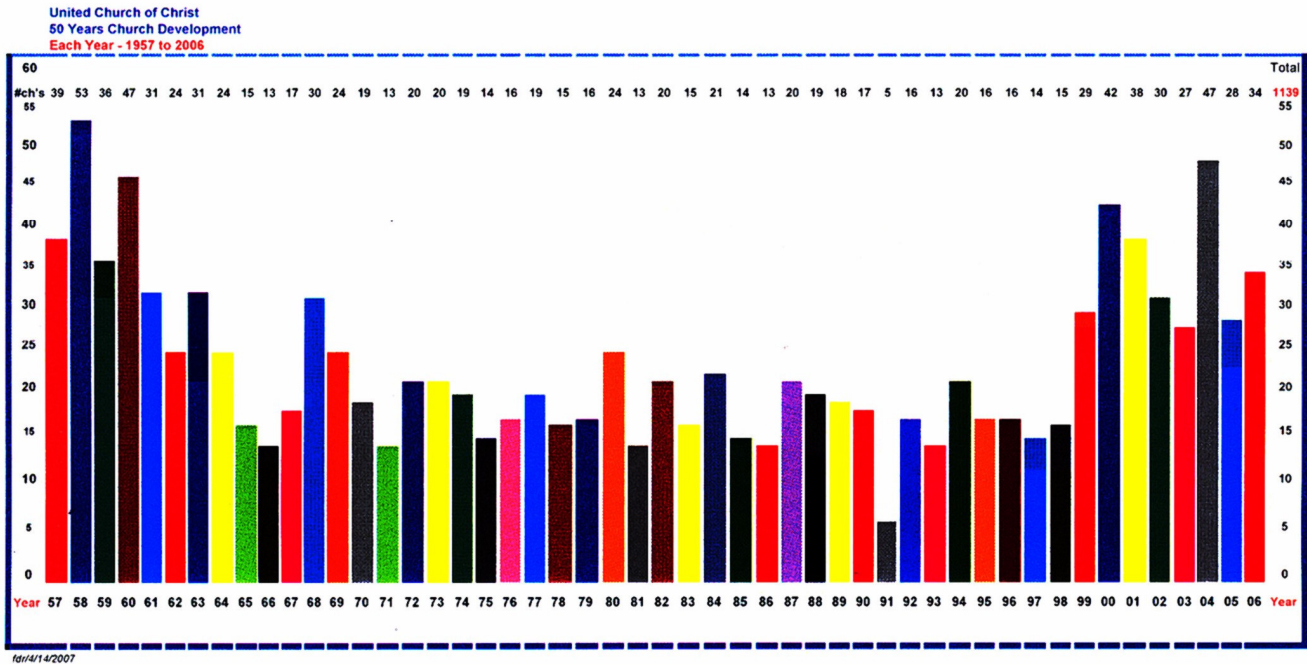
STATE	Net Population Change in 1000's, 1960-2006	Rank Absolute Growth	Pct Growth/ Decline	Number New Church Starts/ Adoptions	Rank Number New Churches	New Churches/ 100,000 Population	Rank New/ 100,000
AK	444	40	196.46	5	41	1.13	23
AL	1,332	26	40.77	9	28	0.68	41
AR	1,025	32	57.39	3	45	0.29	46
AZ	4,864	5	373.58	30	13	0.62	42
CA	20,741	1	131.97	172	1	0.83	30
CO	2,999	9	170.98	32	10	1.07	25
CT	970	34	38.26	21	19	2.16	15
DC	-182	52	-23.82	3	45	-1.65	1
DE	407	41	91.26	3	45	0.74	35
FL	13,138	3	265.31	107	2	0.81	32
GA	5,421	4	137.48	19	24	0.35	45
HI	652	38	103	70	4	10.74	4
IA	224	46	8.12	6	35	2.68	13
ID	799	35	119.79	6	35	0.75	34
IL	2,751	10	27.29	77	3	2.8	11
IN	1,652	22	35.44	20	20	1.21	22
KS	585	39	26.85	6	35	1.03	26
KY	1,168	29	38.45	8	32	0.68	39
LA	1,031	31	31.65	4	43	0.39	43
MA	1,288	27	25.01	31	12	2.41	14
MD	2,515	13	81.1	19	22	0.8	33
ME	353	43	36.43	20	20	5.67	6
MI	2,273	15	29.06	29	16	1.28	20
MN	1,753	20	51.35	12	26	0.68	40
MO	1,523	25	35.25	27	17	1.77	18
MS	733	36	33.65	1	51	0.14	49
MT	270	44	40.00	9	28	3.33	10
NC	4,301	6	94.40	46	7	-1.07	24
NO	4	50	0.63	4	43	100.00	3
NE	357	42	25.30	6	35	1.68	19
NH	708	37	116.64	6	35	0.85	29
NJ	2,658	11	43.81	23	18	0.87	28
NM	1,004	33	105.57	7	33	0.70	38
NV	2,211	16	775.79	5	41	0.23	48
NY	2,524	12	15.04	50	5	1.98	16
OH	1,772	19	18.26	48	6	2.71	12
OK	1,251	28	53.74	9	28	0.72	37
OR	1,932	18	109.21	14	25	0.72	36
PA	1,122	30	9.91	43	8	3.83	8
PR	1,578	24	67.15	30	13	1.90	17
RI	209	47	24.33	7	33	3.35	9
SC	1,938	17	81.33	2	48	0.10	51
O	101	49	14.83	6	35	5.94	5
N	2,472	14	69.30	9	28	0.36	44
X	13,928	2	145.39	32	10	0.23	47
UT	1,659	21	186.20	2	48	0.12	50
VA	3,676	7	92.66	30	13	0.82	31
VT	234	45	60.00	12	26	5.13	7
WA	3,543	8	124.19	33	9	0.93	27
WI	1,605	23	40.61	20	20	1.25	21
WV	-42	51	-2.26	2	48	-4.76	2
WY	185	48	56.06	0	52	0.00	52
CANADA				2			
TOTAL	120,075		66.96	1197		1.00	

* The District of Columbia and Puerto Rico were included as "states." Information for the churches in Canada was not included.

Years of Formation of New Churches

The highest number of new churches (53) received was in 1958.
 The second highest for new churches (47) was in 1960 and 2004.
 The least number of new churches (5) received was in 1991.

From 1958 until 1991 there was a steady decline in new churches.
 After 1991 there has been an increase in new churches.



New Congregations by Decade

Decade	Number of New Congregations	Number of New Congregations, Excluding Proposed and Synod Only
1957-66	378	376
1967-76	170	170
1977-86	180	174
1987-96	186	154
1997-2006	255	139
2007 (-2016)	28	0

Sources of New Congregations by Decade

Decade	Source of Congregation									
	Adoptions		Pop-ups		Intentional New		Spin-offs		Divisions	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
1957-66	84	22.2	9	2.4	280	74.1	2	0.5	3	0.8
1967-76	42	24.7	13	7.6	109	64.1	0	0.0	6	3.5
1977-86	29	16.1	12	6.7	132	73.3	2	1.1	5	2.8
1987-96	33	17.7	27	14.5	118	63.4	4	2.2	4	2.2
1997-2006	58	22.7	55	21.6	138	54.1	1	0.4	3	1.2
2007 (-16)	10	35.7	8	28.6	10	35.7	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total	256	21.4	124	10.4	787	65.7	9	0.8	21	1.8

Ethnicity Composition of New Churches

State	Race/Ethnicity						Total
	African/African. American	European	Hispanic	Multi-Ethnic	Native American	Pacific/Asian	
AK	-	3	-	-	-	2	5
AL	3	5	-	1	-	-	9
AR	1	-	-	-	-	2	3
AZ	-	26	1	-	-	3	30
CA	6	80	5	5	-	76	172
Canada	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
CO	2	26	1	-	-	3	32
CT	3	7	8	-	-	3	21
DC	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
DE	1	1	-	1	-	-	3
FL	6	94	5	1	-	1	107
GA	8	9	-	-	-	2	19
HI	-	6	-	-	-	64	70
IA	-	6	-	-	-	-	6
ID	-	6	-	-	-	-	6
IL	10	47	8	2	-	10	77
IN	2	17	1	-	-	-	20
KS	1	4	-	-	-	1	6
KY	-	8	-	-	-	-	8
LA	1	2	-	1	-	-	4
MA	1	16	7	2	-	5	31
MD	5	12	-	-	-	2	19
ME	-	20	-	-	-	-	20
MI	5	20	1	-	-	3	29
MN	1	10	-	-	1	-	12
MO	2	21	2	-	-	2	27
MS	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
MT	-	9	-	-	-	-	9
NC	16	28	2	-	-	-	46
ND	1	1	-	-	2	-	4
NE	-	6	-	-	-	-	6
NH	-	5	-	-	-	1	6
NJ	1	16	1	-	-	5	23
NM	-	7	-	-	-	-	7
NV	-	3	-	-	-	2	5
NY	10	23	7	-	-	10	50
OH	5	38	1	2	-	2	48
OK	1	6	-	-	-	2	9
OR	1	10	-	-	-	3	14
PA	12	24	3	2	-	2	43
PR	-	-	30	-	-	-	30
RI	-	4	1	-	-	2	7
SC	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
SD	2	3	-	-	1	-	6
TN	1	8	-	-	-	-	9
TX	3	19	2	1	-	7	32
UT	-	1	-	-	-	1	2
VA	8	17	-	2	-	3	30
VT	-	12	-	-	-	-	12
WA	1	20	1	-	-	11	33
WI	2	18	-	-	-	-	20
WV	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
WY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	125	730	87	20	4	231	1197

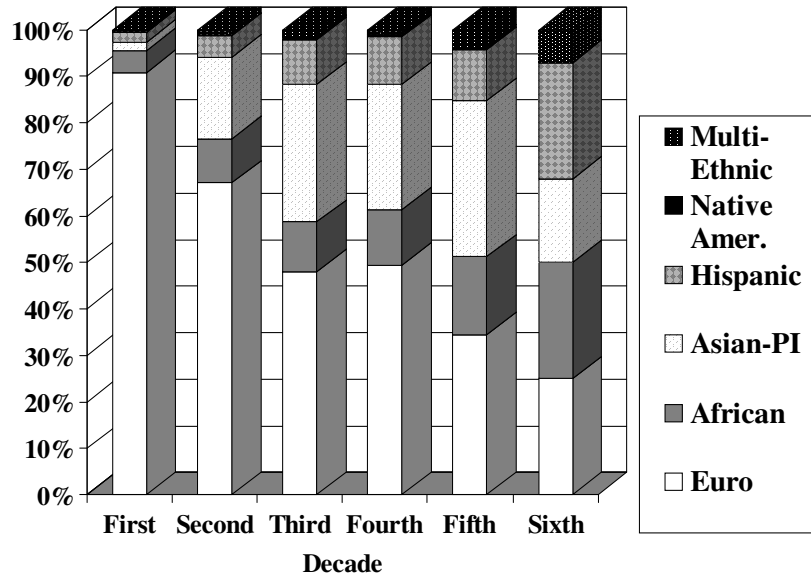


Figure 2. Changes by decade in racial/ethnic new churches.

Changes in Racial/Ethnic Composition of New Churches by Decade

Racial/Ethnic Group	Decade												Total	
	1		2		3		4		5		6			
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
African-American	18	4.8	16	9.4	18	10.1	22	11.8	37	14.5	7	25.0	118	9.9
Afro/Caribbean	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.6	0	0.0	6	2.3	0	0.0	7	0.6
Euro	343	90.7	114	67.1	86	48.0	92	49.5	88	34.4	7	25.0	730	61.0
Hispanic	8	2.1	8	4.7	17	9.5	19	10.2	28	10.9	7	25.0	87	7.3
Multi-Ethnic	1	0.3	2	1.2	3	1.7	2	1.1	10	3.9	2	7.1	20	1.7
Native American	1	0.3	0	0.0	1	0.6	1	0.5	1	0.4	0	0.0	4	0.3
Pacific Isl./Asian	7	1.9	30	17.6	53	29.6	50	26.9	86	33.6	5	17.9	231	19.3

Hispanic Congregations on the Mainland and in Puerto Rico

Category and Measure	Mainland	PR before withdrawal	Total	PR after withdrawal	Total
Total Churches	57	30	87	30	87
Alive w/members	16	23	39	0	16
Total members	972	1,575	2,547	0	972
Average Membership	61	68	65	0	61
Alive/no member data	12	4	16	0	12
Total % Alive	49.1%	90.0%	63.2%	0	32.2%
Churches merged	2	2	4	2	4
% Merged	3.5%	6.7%	4.6%	6.7%	4.6%
Churches withdrew	5	0	5	27	32
% Withdrew	8.8%	0%	5.7%	90.0%	36.8%
Churches closed	22	1	23	1	23
% Closed	38.6%	3.3%	26.4%	3.3%	26.4%
Living Merged Churches	2	2	4	0	2
Total members	304	277	581	0	304
Average Membership	152	138	145	0	152

Location of Pacific Islander and Asian American Congregations

State	Pacific/Asian Group										Total	
	Chinese	Mixed Asian	Filipino	Hawaiian	Asian Indian	Japanese	Korean	Micro-nesian	Other Asian	Samoan		Taiwanese
AK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
AR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
AZ	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	3
CA	-	-	14	-	-	-	4	1	-	56	1	76
CO	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	3
CT	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	3
FL	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
GA	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2
HI	-	4	3	3	-	5	3	14	1	31	-	64
IL	-	-	5	-	1	-	4	-	-	-	-	10
KS	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
MA	1	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	-	5
MD	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
MI	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
MO	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
NH	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
NJ	1	-	1	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	5
NV	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
NY	3	-	1	-	4	-	2	-	-	-	-	10
OH	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
OK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
OR	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	3
PA	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
RI	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2
TX	-	-	3	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	7
UT	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
VA	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
WA	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	2	11
Canada	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total	6	5	33	3	14	6	24	24	4	108	4	231

Survival of New Congregations

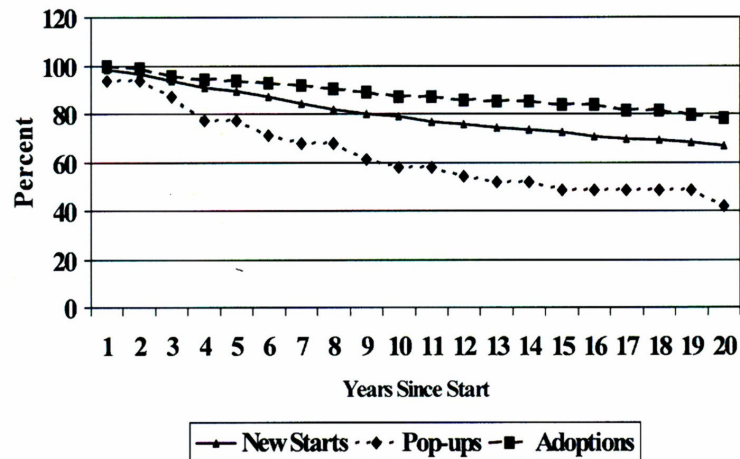


Figure 3. 20-year survival rates of all new churches (churches founded before 1987 only).

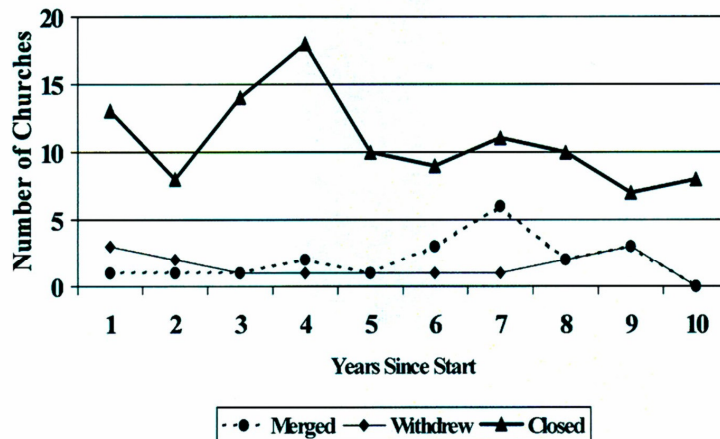


Figure 4. Losses of intentional new church starts in the first ten years (churches founded before 1997 only).

Church Planting Success by Geographical Area (for Congregations Started in the First Four Decades)

Conference/Group	Currently Active Churches		Churches Withdrawing		Churches Closing		Membership*	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Mean	Median
Southern	18	41%	6	14%	17	39%	94	74
Sunbelt (SC, SE)	19	43%	3	7%	22	50%	140	118
Northwest (PNW, CPC)	19	46%	4	10%	15	37%	87	90
Plains (IA, KS, NE, SO, NO, MT)	16	48%	2	6%	13	39%	171	155
Ohio	19	48%	5	12%	14	35%	452	150
Illinois	30	49%	7	12%	14	23%	526	84
So. Cal.	39	52%	12	16%	17	23%	139	117

Great Lakes (MI, MN, WI)	31	54%	8	14%	15	26%	220	151
Penn. (PC, PNE, PSE, PW, Calvin)	18	54%	5	15%	7	21%	316	170
No. Cal.	34	55%	3	5%	21	34%	128	104
Rivers (ILSO,IK, MOMidSo)	29	59%	2	4%	16	33%	183	194
Hawaii	26	60%	8	19%	8	19%	158	116
Florida	60	63%	6	6%	28	30%	262	178
So. New Eng. (CT, MA, RI-)	27	63%	7	16%	8	19%	112	82
Central Atlantic	29	66%	4	9%	9	20%	227	141
No. New Eng. (ME, NH, VT)	22	68%	6	19%	2	6%	89	49
Rocky Mt/SW	40	68%	4	7%	12	23%	253	172
New York	28	72%	5	13%	5	13%	129	108
Puerto Rico	16°	84%	0	0%	1	0.4%	73	62

Surviving New Churches by Racial/Ethnic Group

Ethnic Group	Total Number	Living New Churches (intact)					Living Merged Churches		
		With membership totals			Churches without member data	% Alive	(Including at least one part from a new church)		
		Churches	Total Members	Average Members			Churches	Total Members	Average Members
African-American	118	54	28,834	534	25	66.9	2	123	62
African-Caribbean	7	3	180	60	1	57.1	0		
European	730	405	80,020	198	28	59.3	26	7070	272
Hispanic*	87	39	2,547	65	12	58.5	4	581	145
Multi-Ethnic	20	11	933	85	6	85.0	3	345	115
Native American	4	1	142	142	0	25.0	0		
Asian-Pacific	231	120	14,511	121	53	74.9	5	736	147
TOTAL	1,197	633	127,167	201	125	63.3	40	8855	221

* *The United Evangelical Church of Puerto Rico voted to withdraw from the United Church in 2006 voted by 2007 GIS, but were listed here because they are in the 2007 United Church Yearbook.*

Non-Surviving Churches by Racial/Ethnic Group

Ethnic Group	Total Number	Merged Churches	Percent	Withdrew Churches	Percent	Closed Churches	Percent
African- American	118	3	2.5	10	8.5	26	22.0
African-Caribbean	7	0		0		3	42.9
European	730	38	5.2	68	9.3	191	26.2
Hispanic*	87	4	4.6	9	10.3	23	26.4
Multi-Ethnic	20	0		0		3	15.0
Native American	4	0		0		3	75.0
Asian-Pacific	231	6	2.6	22	9.5	30	13.0
TOTAL	1,197	51	4.3	109	9.1	279	23.3%

* *The United Evangelical Church of Puerto Rico voted to withdraw from the United Church in 2006 voted by 2007 GIS, but were listed here because they are in the 2007 United Church Yearbook.*

Current Status of New Congregations

Current Status by Sources of New Congregations (From Those Started in the First Four Decades)

Source	Current Status of Congregation									
	Alive		Proposed		Merged		Withdrew		Closed	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Adoptions	118	62.8	0	0.0	8	4.3	39	20.7	23	12.2
Pop-ups	20	32.8	2	3.3	0	0.0	12	19.7	27	44.3
Intentional New Starts	349	54.5	3	0.5	39	6.1	41	6.4	190	29.8
Spin-offs	5	62.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	37.5	0	0.0
Divisions	12	66.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	11.1	4	22.2
Total	504	55.2	5	0.5	47	5.1	97	10.6	244	26.7

LCM/UCBHM Funding for New Congregations since 1999 - 2006

Since 1999 LCM has supported 115 New Churches in
34 Conferences

Total Support \$4,973,266

Active New Churches 89 \$3,824,616 77%
Merged 3 \$ 152,000
Closed/Withdrew 25 \$ 996,650 22%
(Including 3 in PR \$172,000)

Top Eight Conferences in New Churches Funded by LCM/UCBHM

<u>Conference</u>	<u>New Churches</u>	<u>Voted Amount</u>
Southern	11	\$494,000
Southeast	7	\$508,000
SCNC	8	\$410,000
CAC	7	\$383,650
Illinois	6	\$304,000
Florida	6	\$225,000
Southwest	6	\$156,000
Central Pacific	5	\$300,000

These Eight Conferences represent 50% of all new churches funded by LCM
And 50% of all voted funding for new churches.

Insights from Studies

Both studies support many conclusions that have been reached:

1. New Church Development dramatically declined after the first ten years.
2. The decline in membership and contributions in the UCC can in part be seen as a result of the decline in new church development in the 60's; 70's; and 80's.
3. Although the recent increase in new church development is positive, the continued vitality and witness of the UCC in the future depends on ever increased new church development.

Other Insights

1. The new churches received into the UCC during the past 50 years are a very significant and pivotal factor in our Conferences and Denomination representing 14.6 % of total UCC congregations.
2. New churches that were received in the first 20 years of the UCC are now contributing to the vitality of the UCC in membership and OCWM at a greater level than the UCC average.

3. The vitality of new congregations is represented by a larger worship attendance percentage in the total UCC attendance, as compared to their percentage of the total UCC congregations.
4. The success rate of 72% over 50 years is a positive record.
5. New church development dramatically declined after the first ten years hitting its lowest point in 1991. From 1986 - 1997 the numbers declined to half of the number of new churches in the first ten years.
6. The most recent ten year period has seen new church development return to the level of the first ten years.
7. The decline in membership and contributions in the UCC can in part be seen as a result of the decline in new church development in the 60's, 70's, and 80's. Imagine if the UCC had started 300 - 400 more new churches during those years, that would now be coming into the fullness of vitality in giving and membership as shown by the churches today from our first twenty years.
8. Although the recent increase in new church development is positive, the continued vitality and witness of the UCC in the future depends on even greater increased new church development.
9. To increase the number of new churches there must be a renewed effort in planting new congregations.
10. We will not reach a level of new church development needed until existing vital congregations get excited and involved in congregation multiplication.
11. The new churches in the recent ten year period represent more affiliating congregations than during the past periods.
12. There is a need for increased attention to welcoming affiliating congregations.
13. The location of the new churches reflects the sun-belt and now southern strategy for new church development in the UCC.
14. In several sun-belt Conferences half or more of their current congregations were founded in the last 50 years, in particular the SW Conference where 75% of their congregations were new congregations in the UCC.
15. The ethnicity of new congregations in the past ten years has completely reversed from the first ten years with more than 70% of new congregations being POC or M/M. How are we prepared for such diversity and where does new leadership come from.