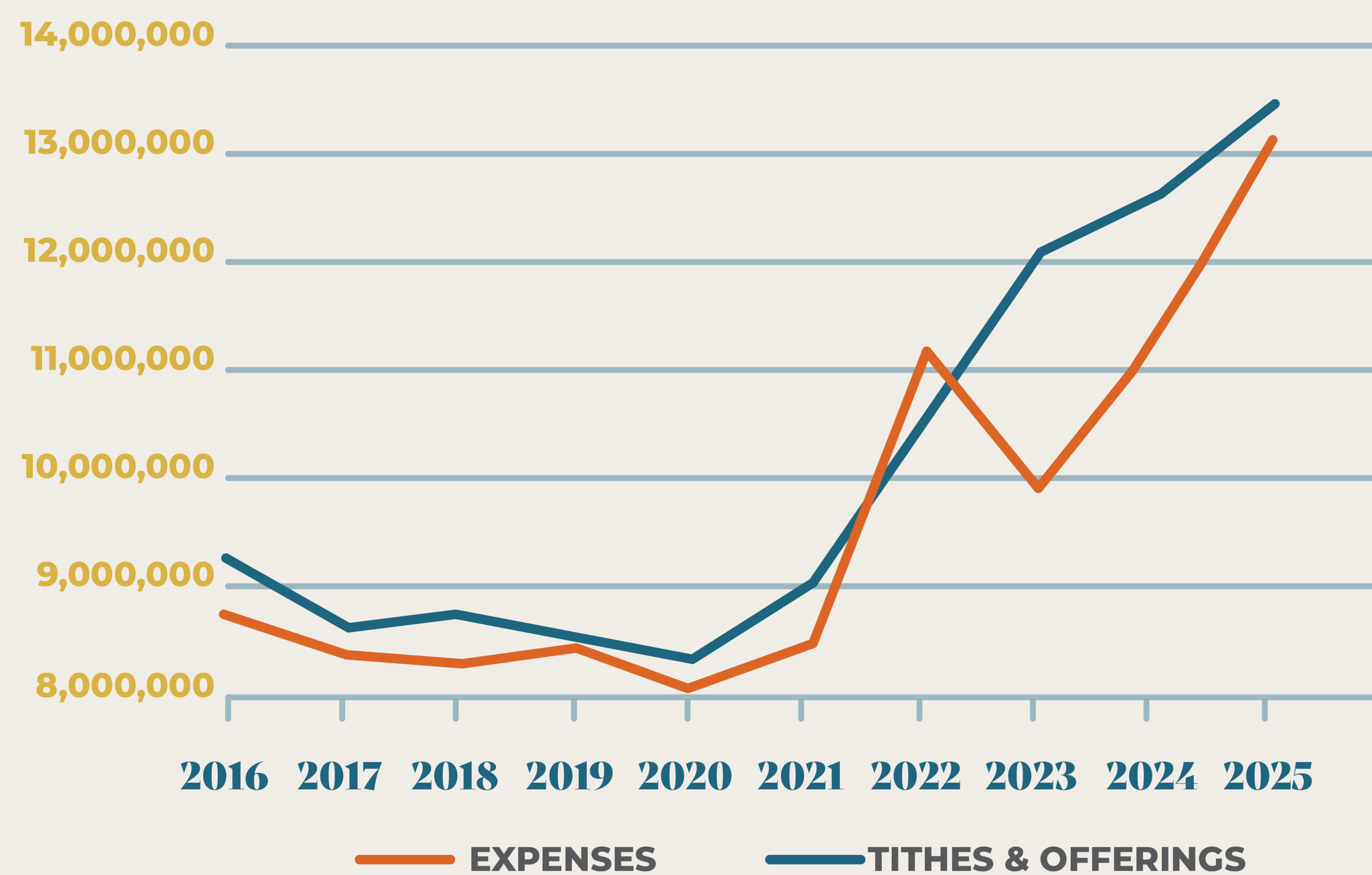




ASBURY

**ANNUAL
UPDATE**
2025

yearly tithes & offerings VS EXPENSES



giving by AGE CATEGORY

AGE	AMOUNT GIVEN	%
0-19	\$8,965	0.1%
20-29	\$66,325	0.5%
30-39	\$373,886	2.8%
40-49	\$879,674	6.5%
50-59	\$1,788,534	13.3%
60-69	\$2,454,616	18.2%
70-79	\$3,165,206	23.5%
80-89	\$2,075,351	15.4%
90+	\$483,796	3.6%
Unknown	\$2,173,275	16.1%
TOTAL	\$13,469,627	

2025 totals INCOME & EXPENSES

CALENDAR YEAR
2025 TITHES &
OFFERINGS

\$13,469,627

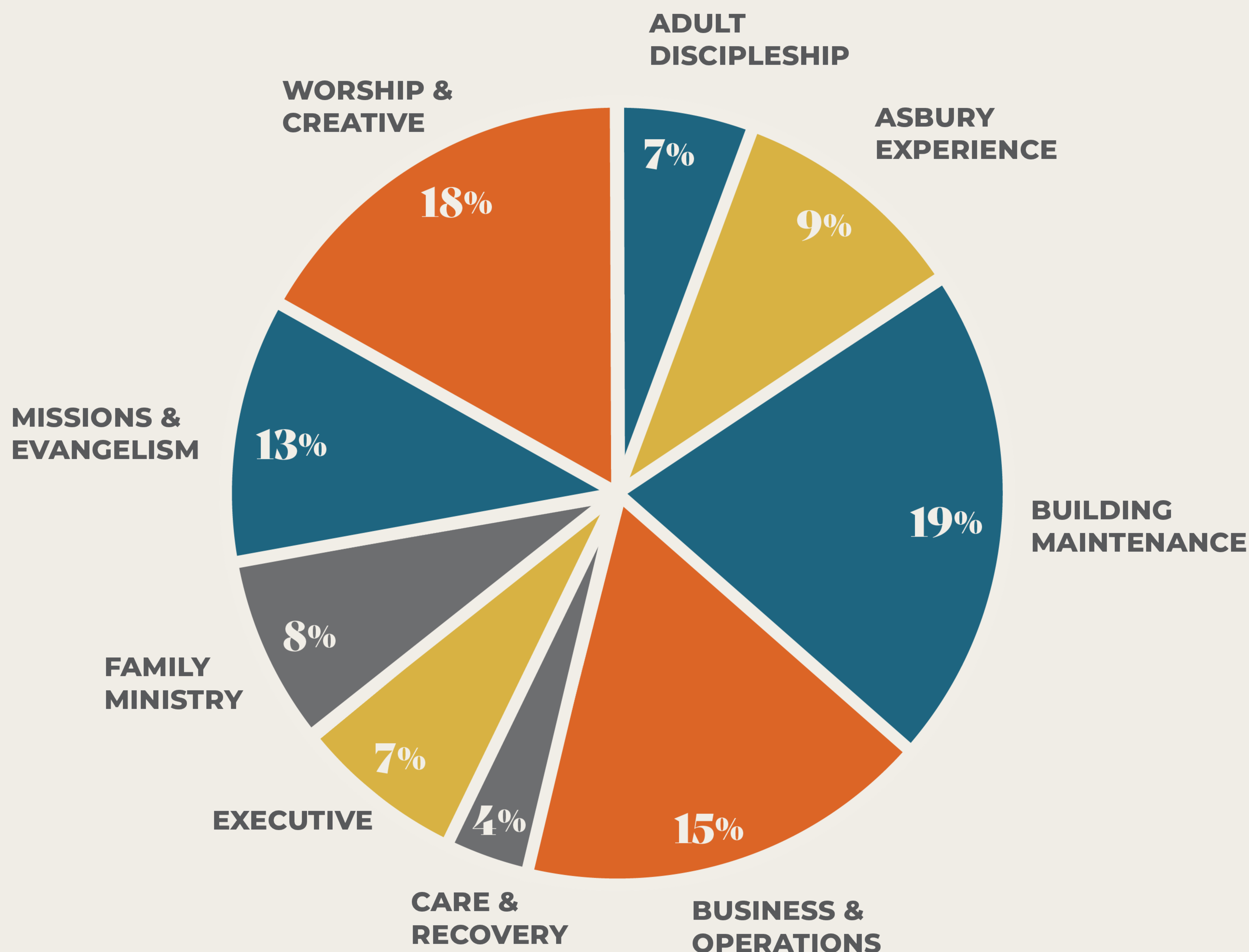
2025
EXPENSES
\$13,093,223

giving by MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

	AMOUNT GIVEN	%
Members	\$11,623,251	86.3%
Non-Members	\$1,846,376	13.7%

FY 2026 OPERATING BUDGET

\$13,191,625



The operating budget follows a fiscal year cycle and is developed each spring. Department leaders work with their teams to project needs for the upcoming year and submit budget requests to the CFO. The CFO and Executive Director review all requests to ensure alignment, efficiency, and cohesion across departments.

The proposed budget is then presented to the Church Council for review and approval before the start of the new fiscal year.

This chart reflects the current budget allocation by major functional area, with staff salaries and benefits assigned to their respective departments.

2025 average attendance BY SERVICE



THURSDAY - 6 PM **148**



SUNDAY - 8 AM **163**



SUNDAY - 9 AM **1,271**



SUNDAY - 11 AM **1,016**
(12% INCREASE YEAR OVER YEAR)

TOTAL WEEKLY AVERAGE
2,577

YEAR-OVER-YEAR INCREASE ▲ **5%**

DISCIPLESHIP COMMUNITIES **897**

ASBURY KIDS **219**

STUDENT SUNDAY MORNINGS **87**

STUDENT WEDNESDAY NIGHTS **89**

christmas eve ATTENDANCE

year	attendance
2018	7051
2019	7872
2020	2893*
2021	6399
2022	6462
2023	7339
2024	8125
2025	8259

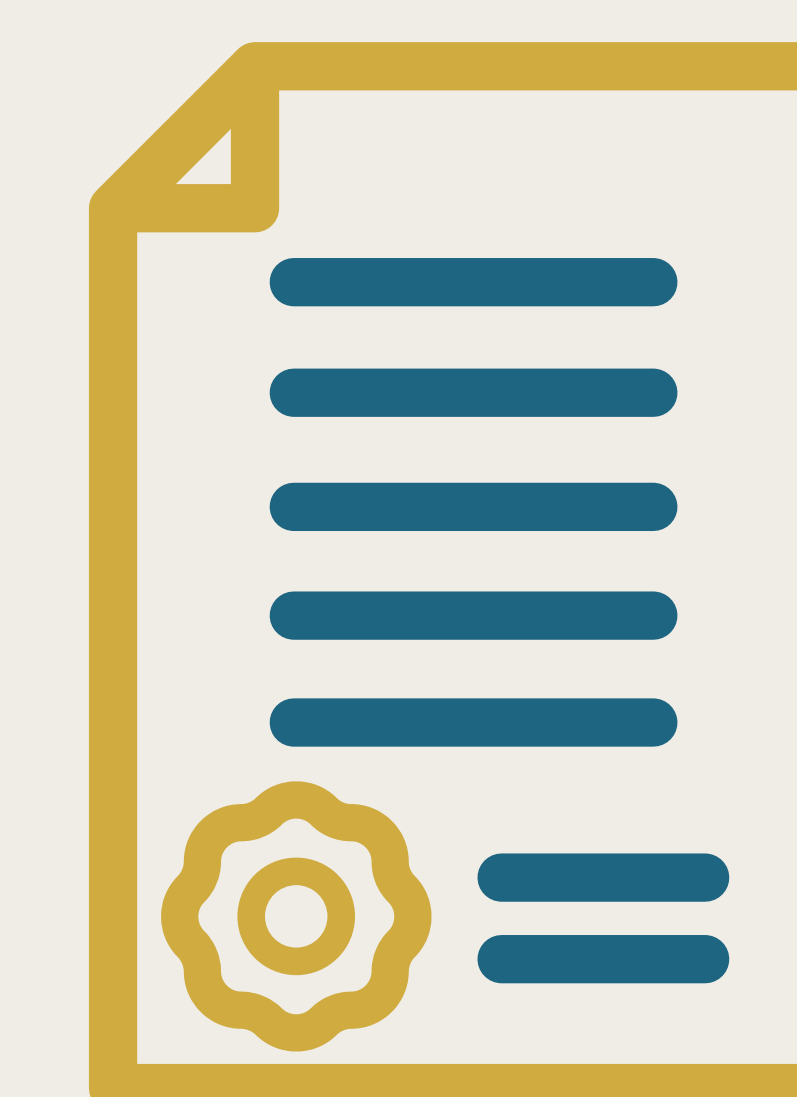
*COVID: IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE.
EXCLUDES ONLINE ATTENDANCE.

noteworthy STATS

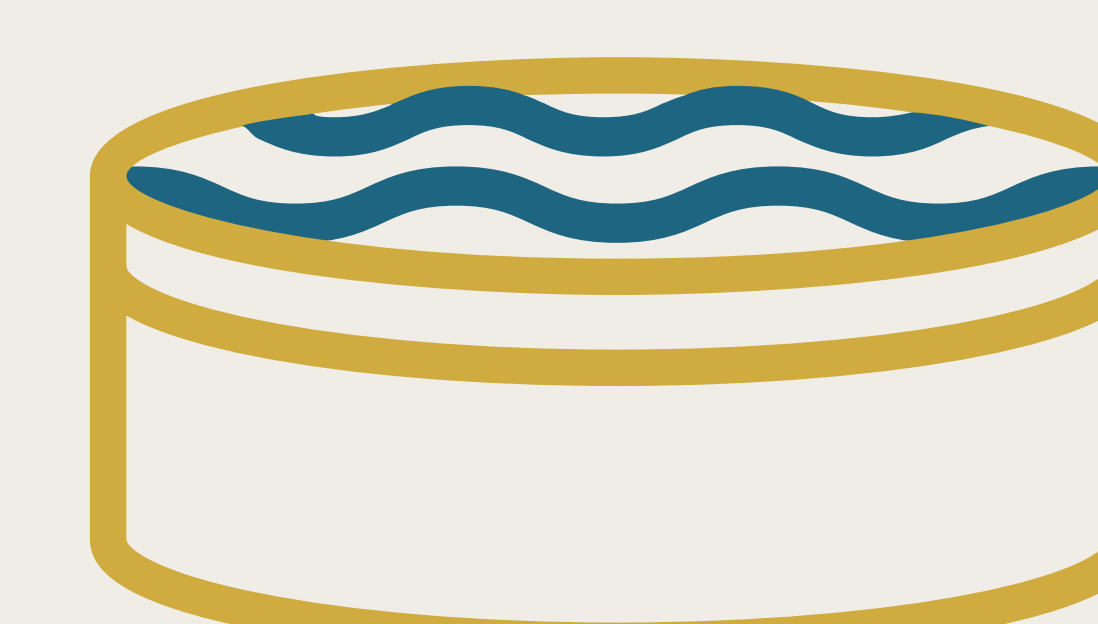


FIRST-TIME
GUEST IN
WORSHIP
844*

*does not include Christmas Eve or Easter



NEW
MEMBERS
275



BAPTISMS
65

church life in
AMERICA

On November 19, 2025, Asbury Church hosted a Vision Night focused on two central questions:

- **WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATE OF THE CHURCH IN AMERICA?**
- **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ASBURY?**

The data and analysis presented that evening have generated significant interest and follow-up across the congregation. The following pages of this report include selected highlights from that presentation, along with commentary to provide context for the accompanying charts and graphs. As we reflect on this information, we should be asking ourselves this question:

WHAT IS THE NEXT
faithful step for asbury?

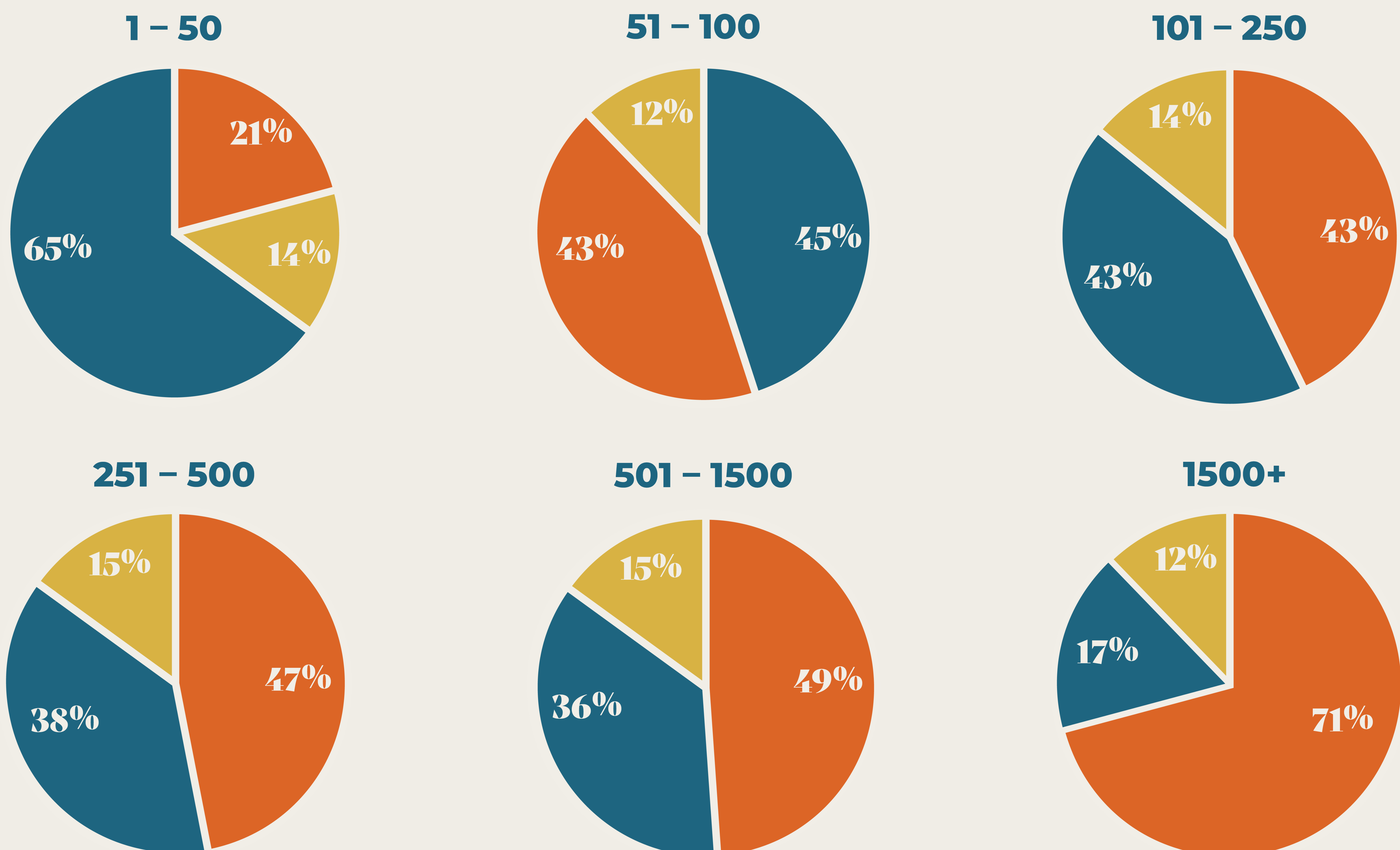
congregation size & PATTERNS OF GROWTH

Church size strongly correlates with patterns of growth and decline. Congregations with average weekly attendance under 50 are significantly more likely to be declining, with nearly two-thirds experiencing losses of 5% or more. By contrast, churches with attendance above 250 are substantially more likely to be growing, and this trend strengthens as congregations increase in size. Among churches with attendance over 1,500, more than seven in ten report growth of 5% or more, while fewer than one in five are declining.

Mid-sized churches (roughly 50–250 in attendance) show a more mixed picture, with growth and decline occurring at nearly equal rates. This suggests that size itself does not guarantee growth, but scale appears to provide structural and momentum-related advantages that smaller congregations often lack.

SIZE MAKES A SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCE IN GROWTH & DECLINE

■ DECLINE 5% OR MORE ■ MAINTAIN BETWEEN 4.9% & -4.9% ■ GROWTH 5% OR MORE

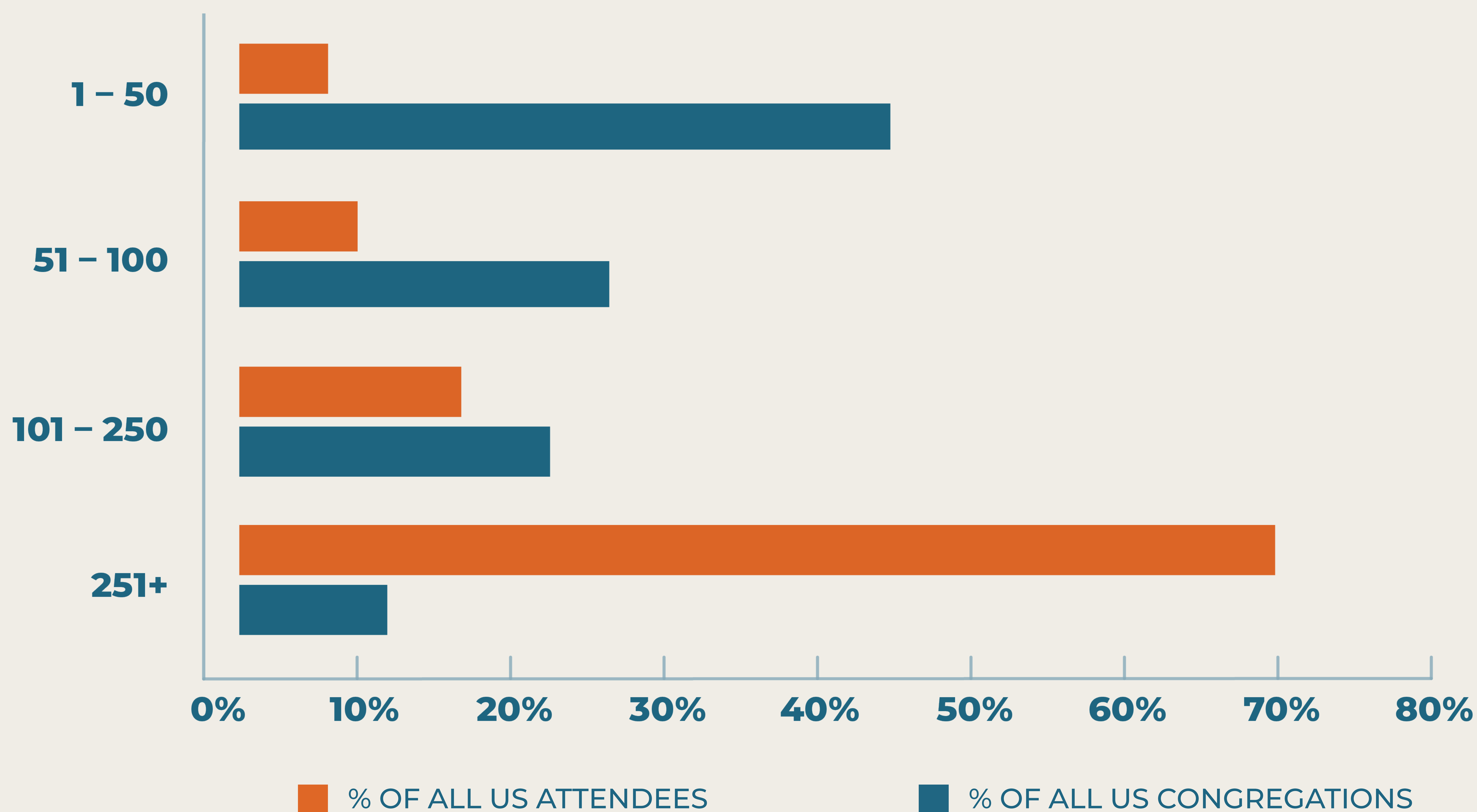


distribution of & PATTERNS OF GROWTH

While small churches make up the majority of congregations in the United States, they serve a relatively small share of total churchgoers. Congregations with 50 or fewer attendees represent approximately 44% of all churches, yet account for only about 6% of all attendees nationwide. In contrast, churches with attendance of 251 or more comprise just 10% of congregations but include roughly 70% of all church attendees.

This imbalance highlights a key structural reality of the American church landscape: most churches are small, but most people attend large churches.

PLENTY OF SMALL CONGREGATIONS BUT FEW PEOPLE IN THEM

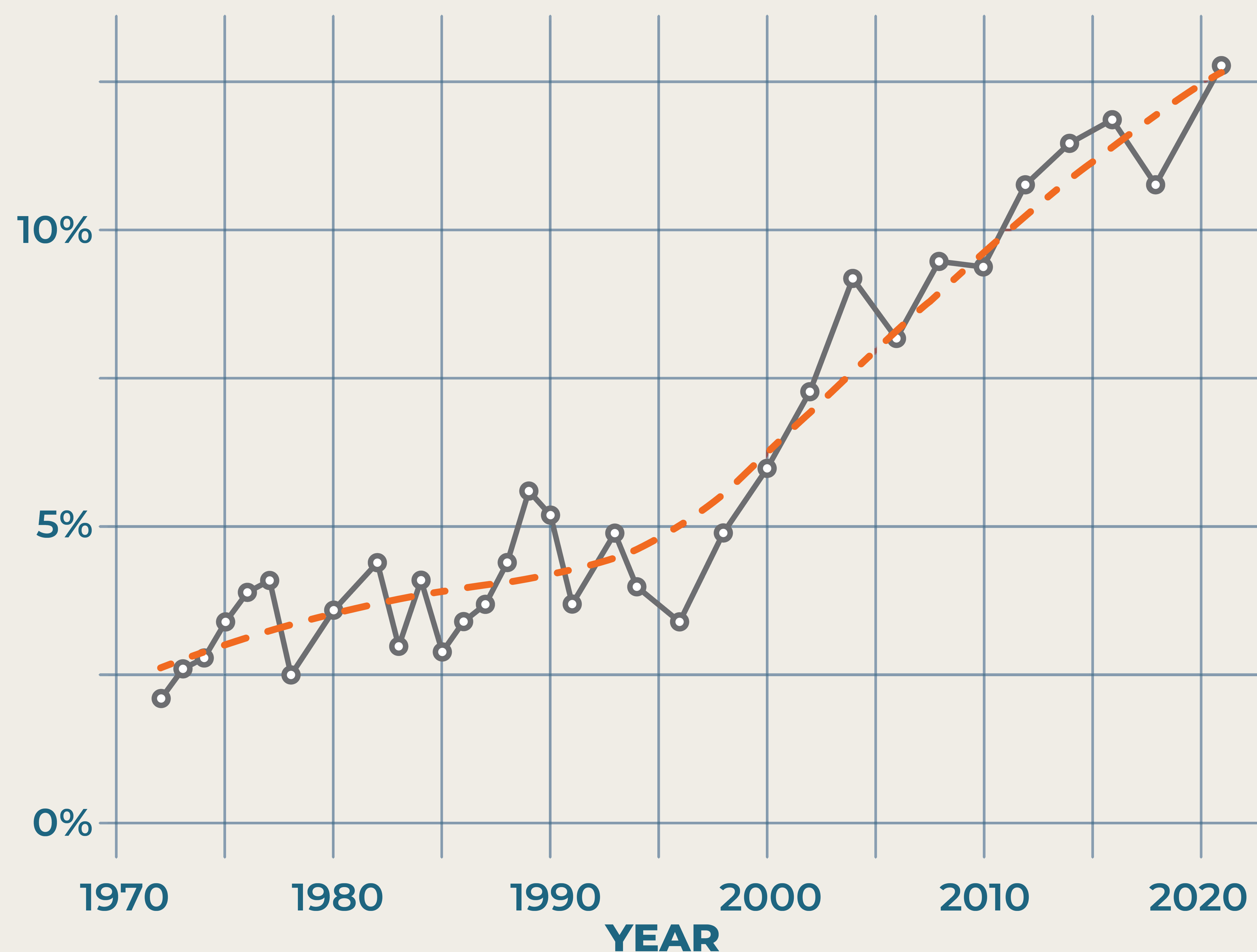


rise of non-denominational IDENTIFICATION

Over the past five decades, the share of Americans who identify as non-denominational has steadily increased. Beginning at roughly 2–3% in the early 1970s, non-denominational identification has grown consistently, accelerating after the mid-1990s and reaching approximately 12% by 2020. Short-term fluctuations appear throughout the data, but the long-term trajectory is clearly upward.

This trend reflects a broader reconfiguration of religious affiliation in the United States, with growing numbers of individuals disengaging from formal denominational identities while remaining open to church participation.

SHARE OF ALL AMERICANS WHO IDENTIFY AS NON-DENOMINATIONAL

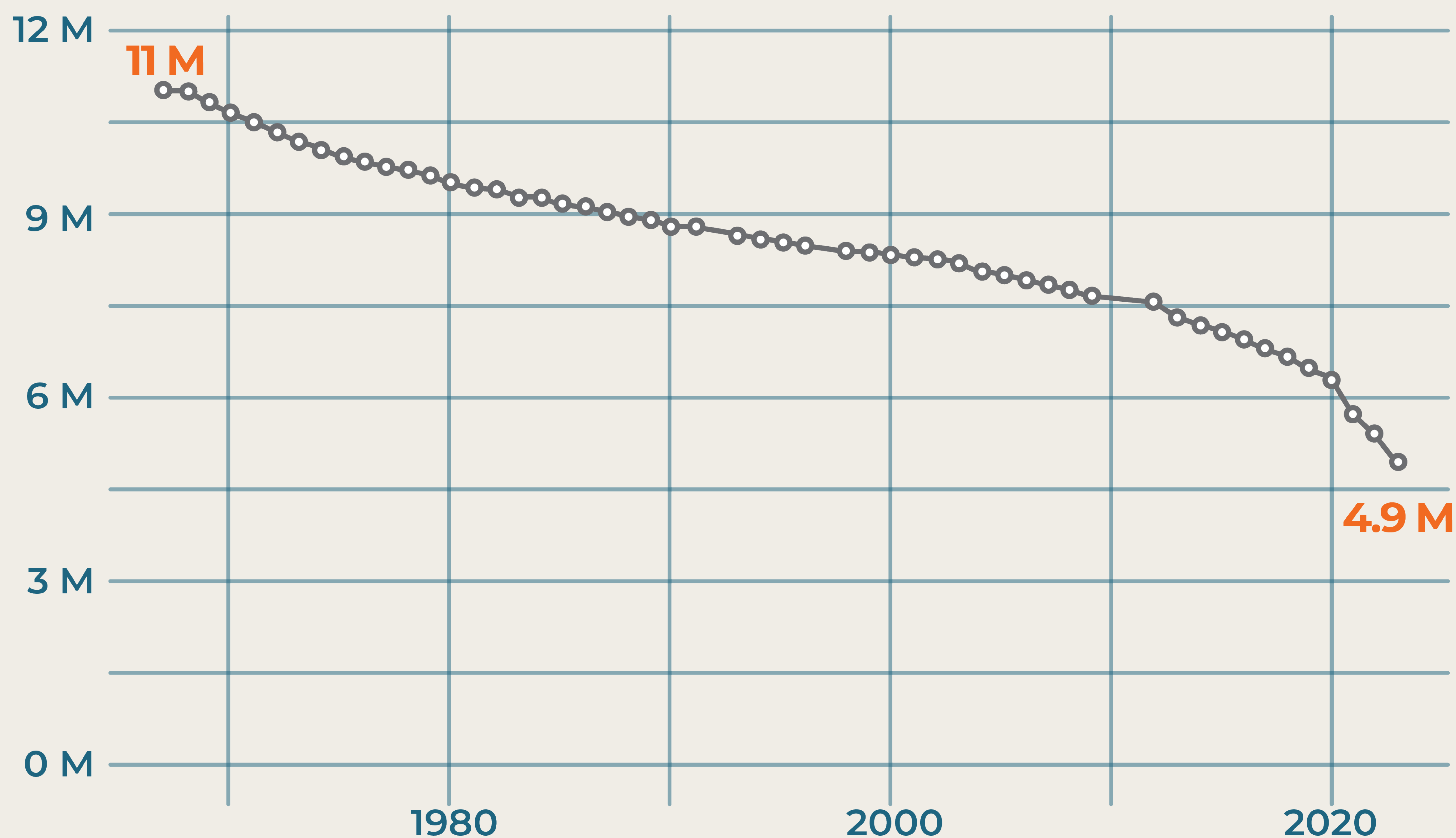


long-term membership decline in THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A statistic much closer to home: Reported membership in the United Methodist Church declined steadily for more than five decades. In fact, the UMC never had a growth year after its founding in 1968.

From a peak of approximately 11 million members in 1968, membership decreased gradually through the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, followed by a more pronounced drop in the years after 2010. By the early 2020s, reported membership had fallen to roughly 4.9 million—representing a loss of more than half of the denomination's membership over this period.

REPORTED MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



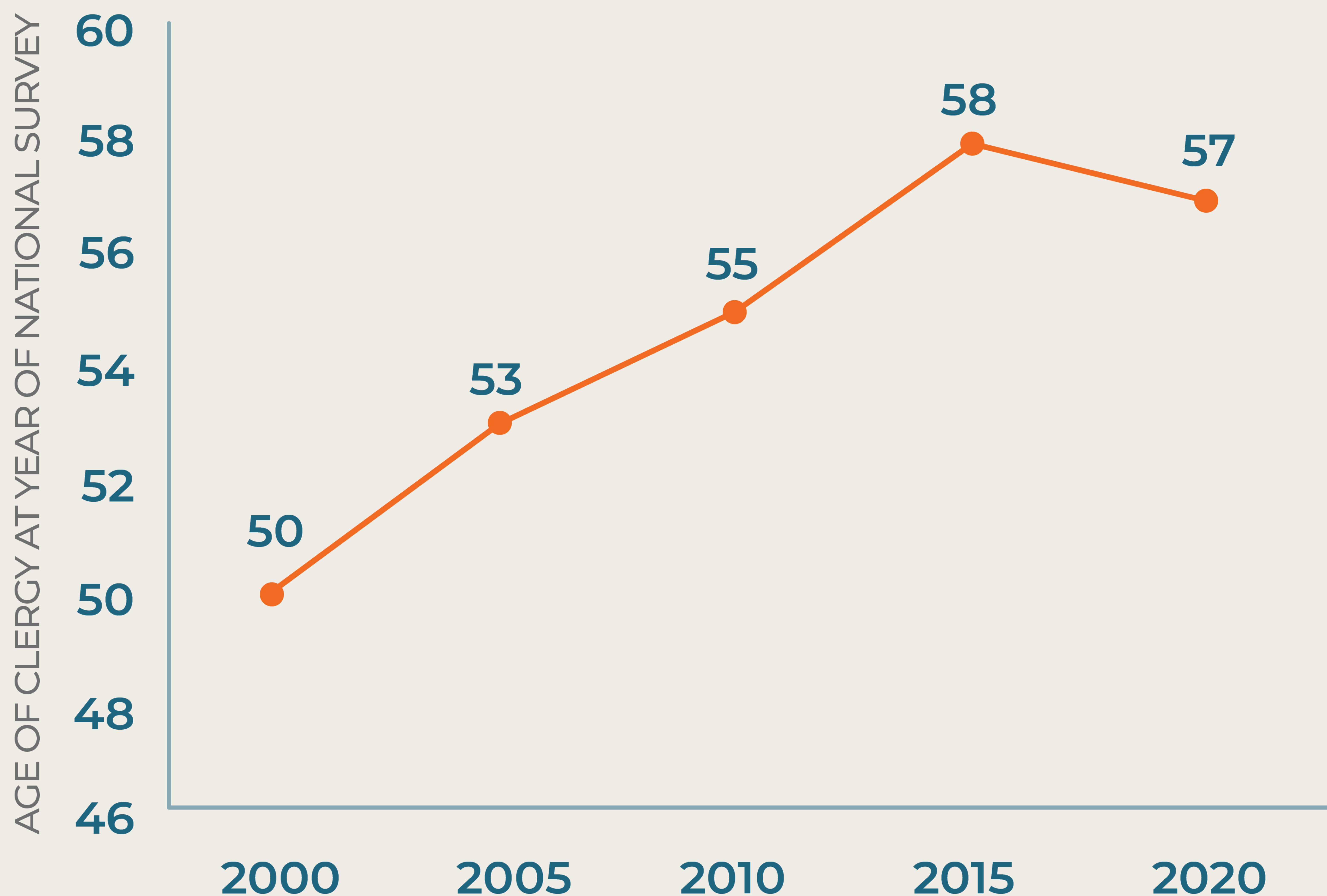
average age of clergy is GENERALLY ON THE RISE

The average age of clergy has increased consistently over the past two decades. Around the year 2000, the average clergy age was approximately 50. By 2015, it had risen to nearly 58, with only a slight decline by 2020. Overall, clergy today are, on average, seven years older than they were at the turn of the century.

This pattern points to challenges in leadership pipeline development and younger clergy recruitment.

CHURCHES IN AMERICA ARE SIMPLY not producing enough pastors.

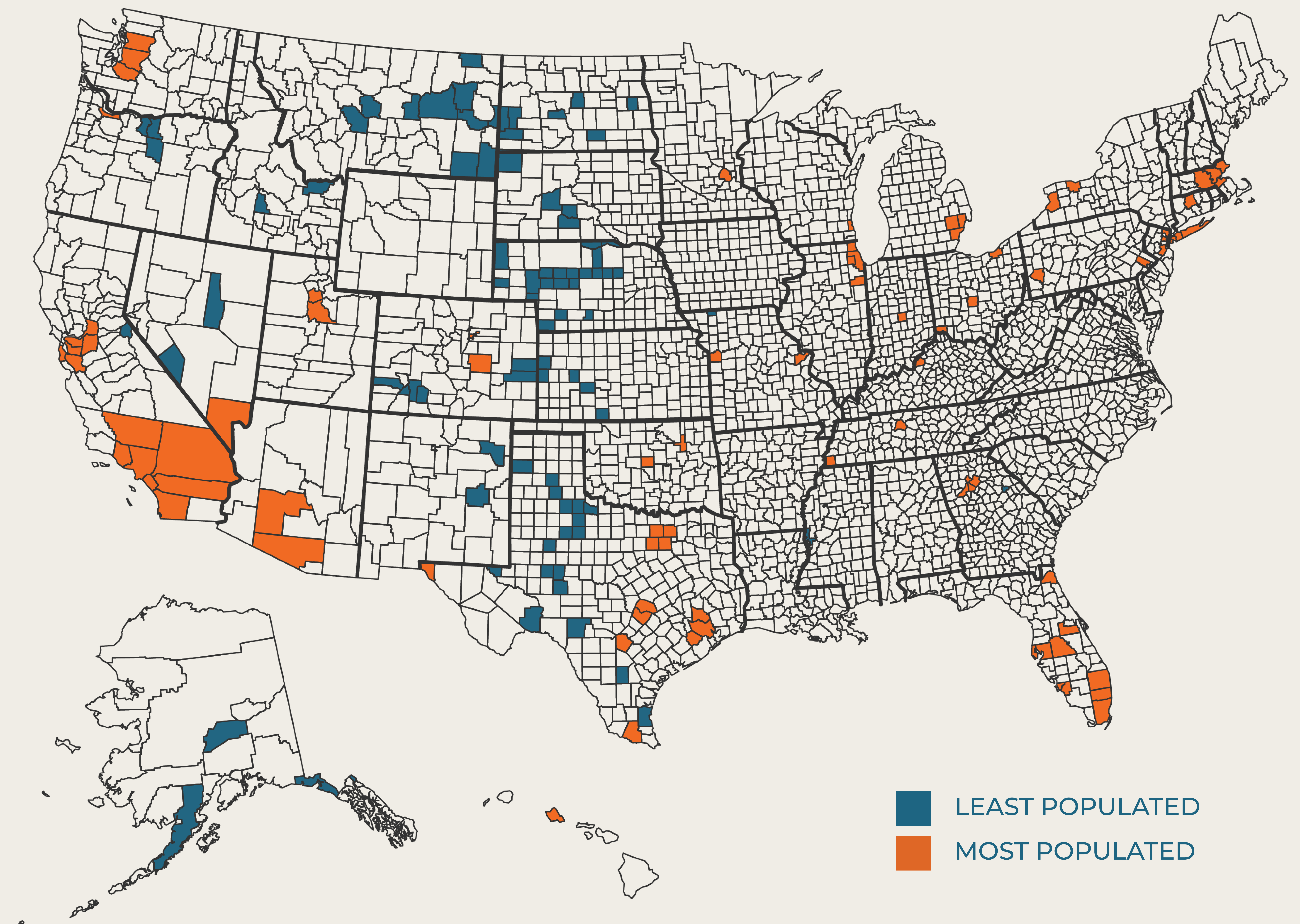
THE AVERAGE AGE OF CLERGY IS GENERALLY ON THE RISE



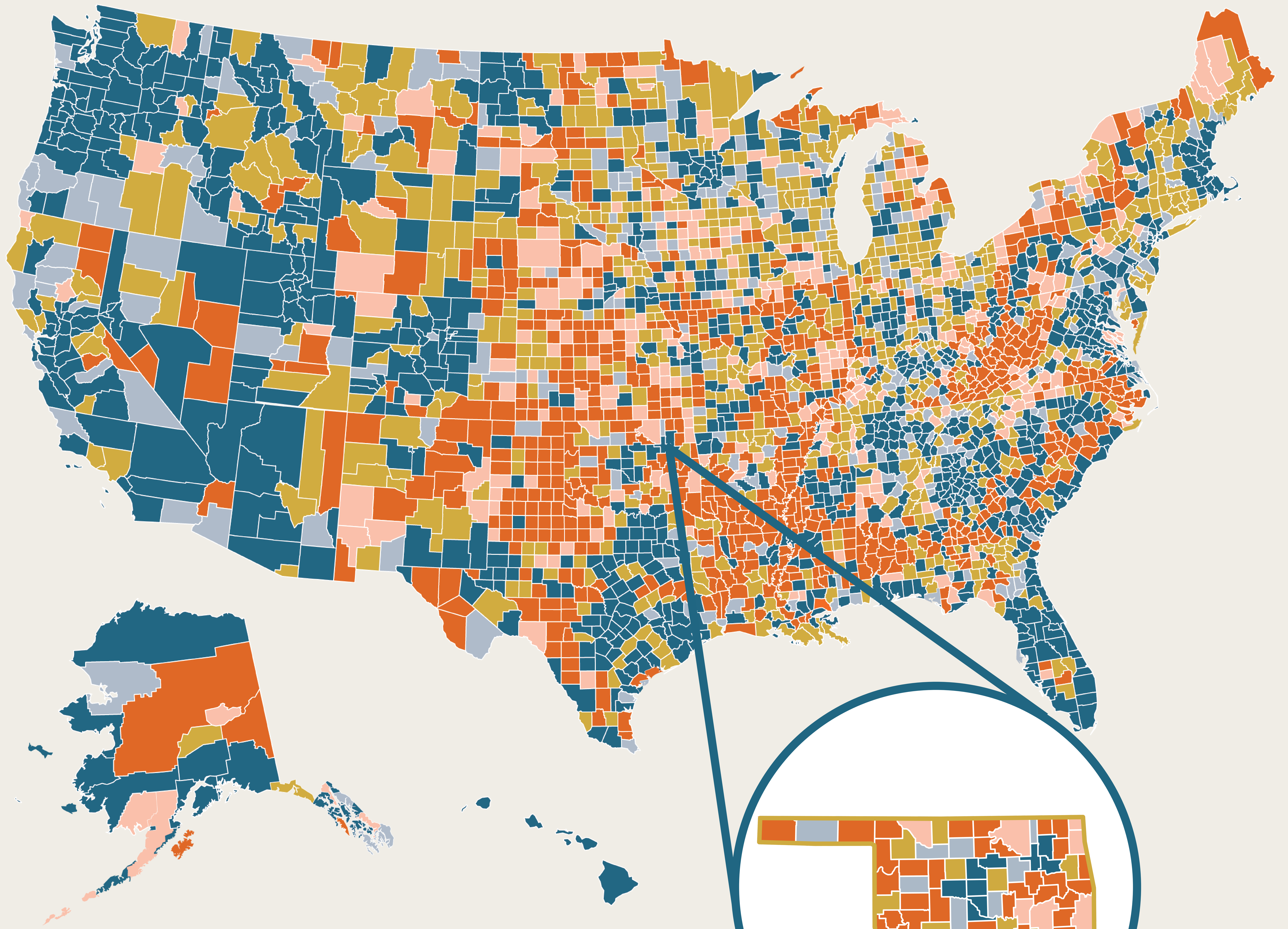
population distribution IN THE UNITED STATES

You can see in these next two images that population distribution in the United States is highly uneven. The most populated counties are clustered around major metropolitan areas, while large portions of the country—particularly rural regions—remain lightly populated, and the trend toward urbanization is not slowing down.

MOST AND LEAST POPULATED COUNTIES IN AMERICA

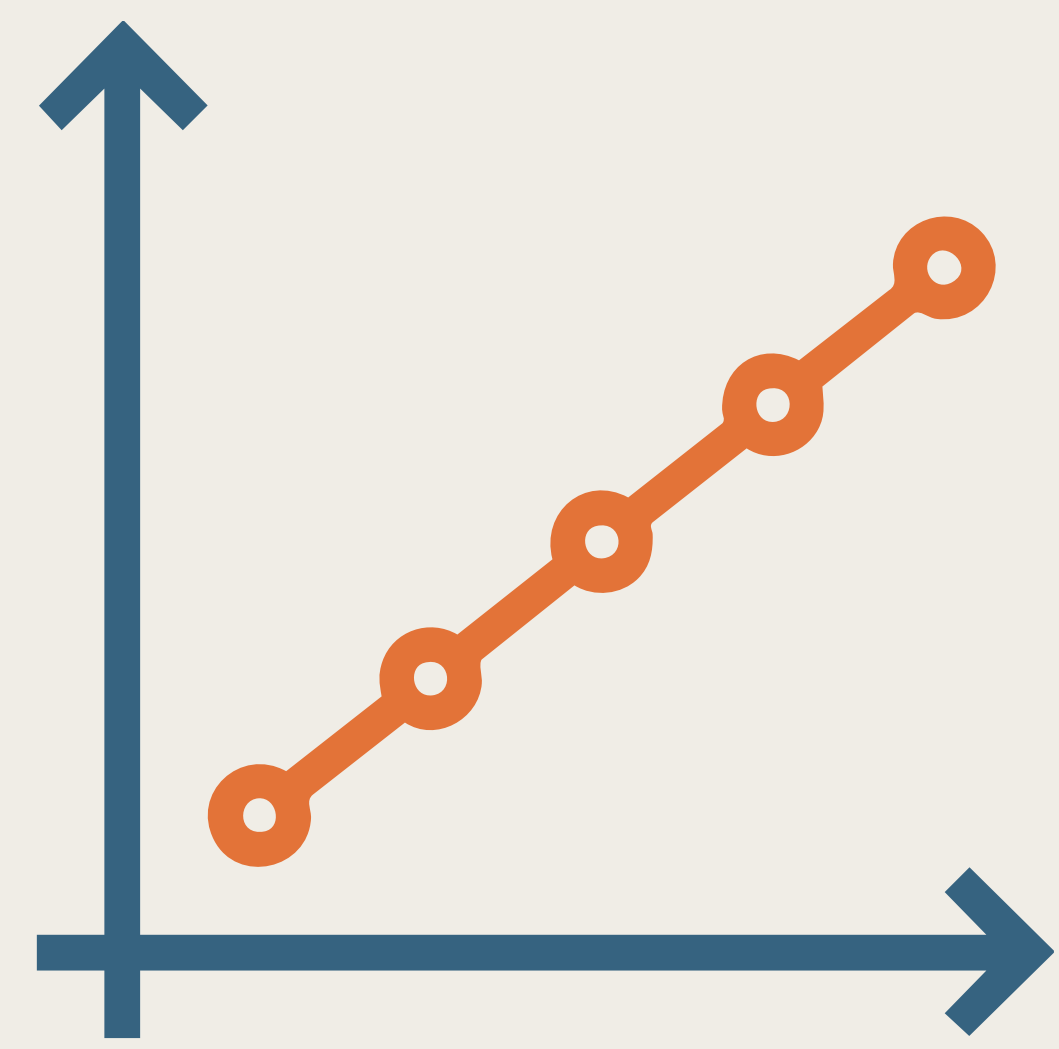


COUNTY LEVEL POPULATION CHANGE, 2010 VS. 2020



- UP 5%+
- UP 2.5% TO 5%
- LITTLE CHANGE
- DOWN 2.5% TO 5%
- DOWN 5%+

WHAT DEMOGRAPHIC FORMULA MOST CLOSELY correlates with church growth?



1

POPULATION GROWTH

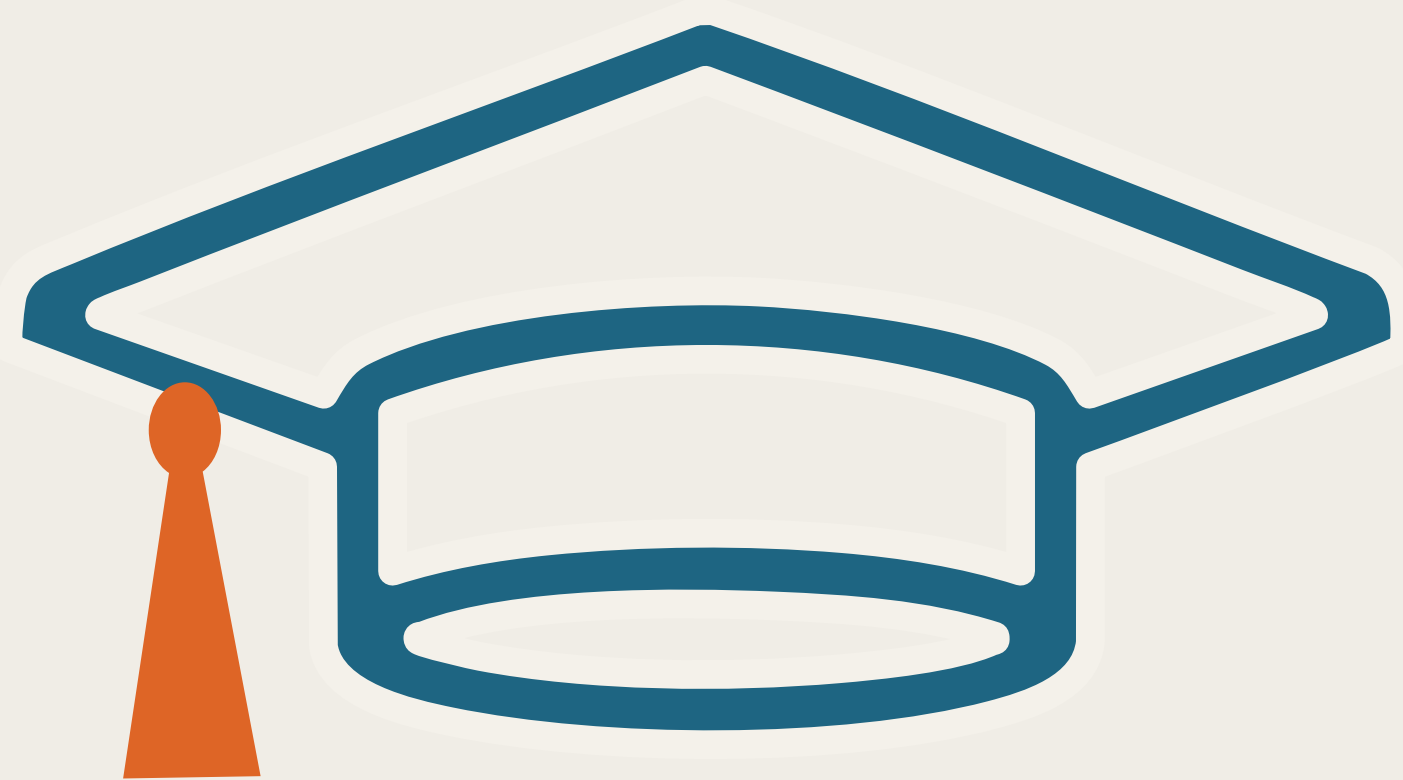
Look for a county with at least 10% population growth between 2010 and 2020.



2

MOBILITY

Aim for a place where 2.5%–5% of the population has moved within the last 12 months.



3

EDUCATION

This is crucial. Target a county where at least 30% of adults have a college degree.

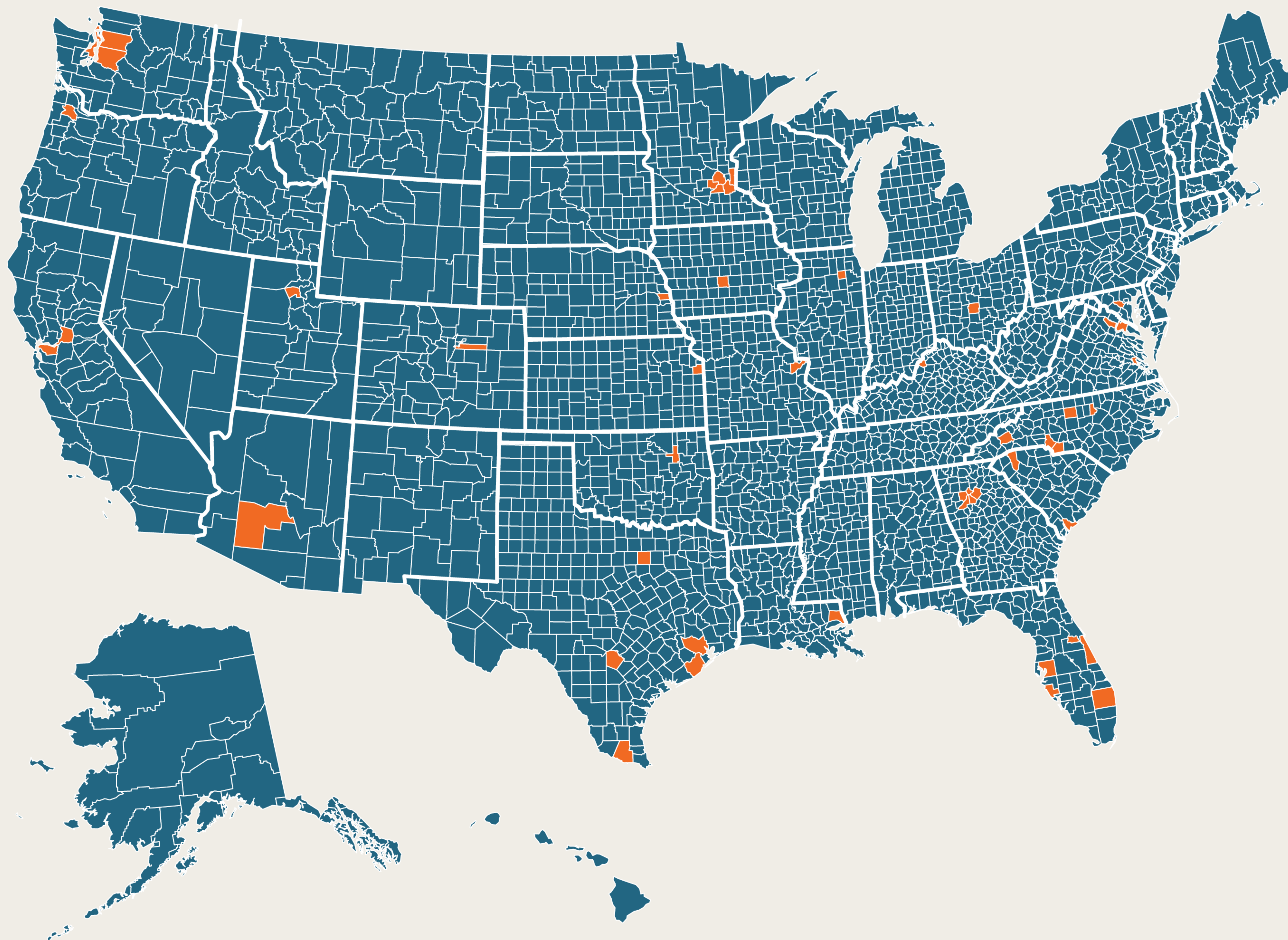


4

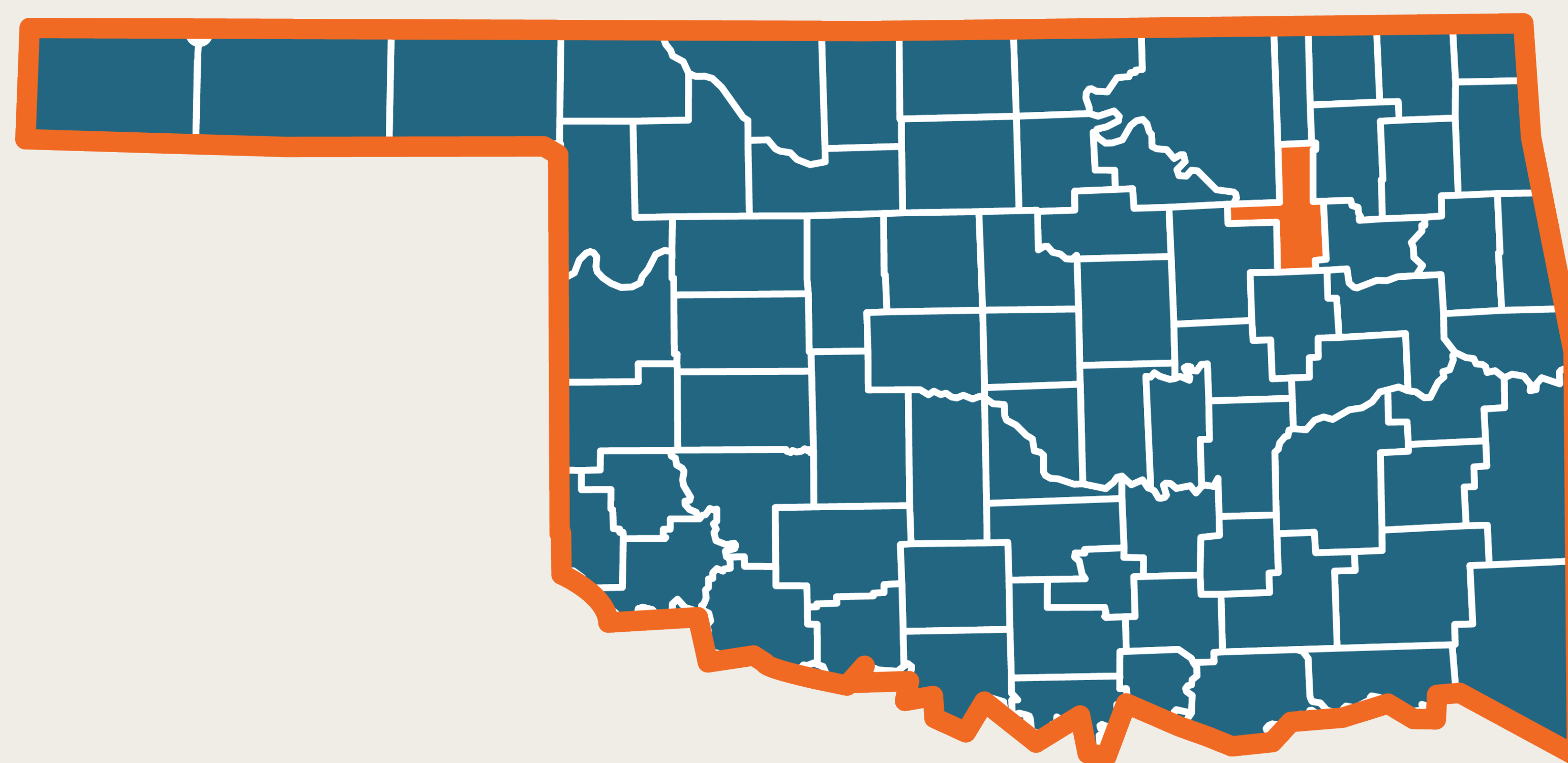
POPULATION DENSITY

Ideally, seek areas with at least 50 people per square mile.

THERE ARE **47** COUNTIES IN AMERICA THAT
meet all four criteria...



AND ONLY
1 IN
OKLAHOMA.

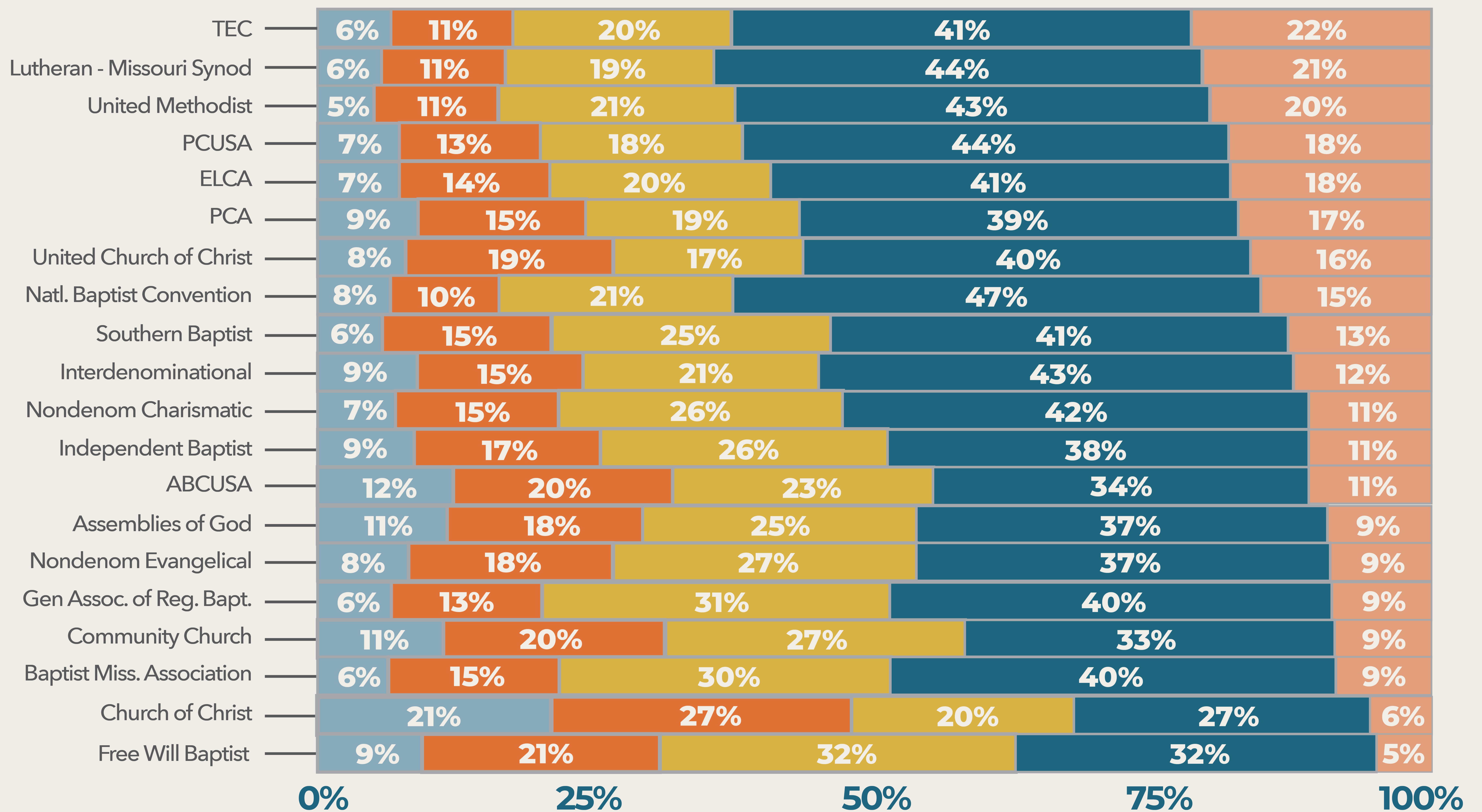


age distribution of the TOP 20 DENOMINATIONS

Across the top 20 Christian denominations, most members are older. In nearly every group, the largest share of people are between ages 60 and 74, and a sizable number are 75 or older. Younger adults—ages 18 to 44 combined—make up a much smaller portion of total membership, often less than one quarter. This trend is consistent across mainline, evangelical, and non-denominational churches. It is not limited to one tradition.

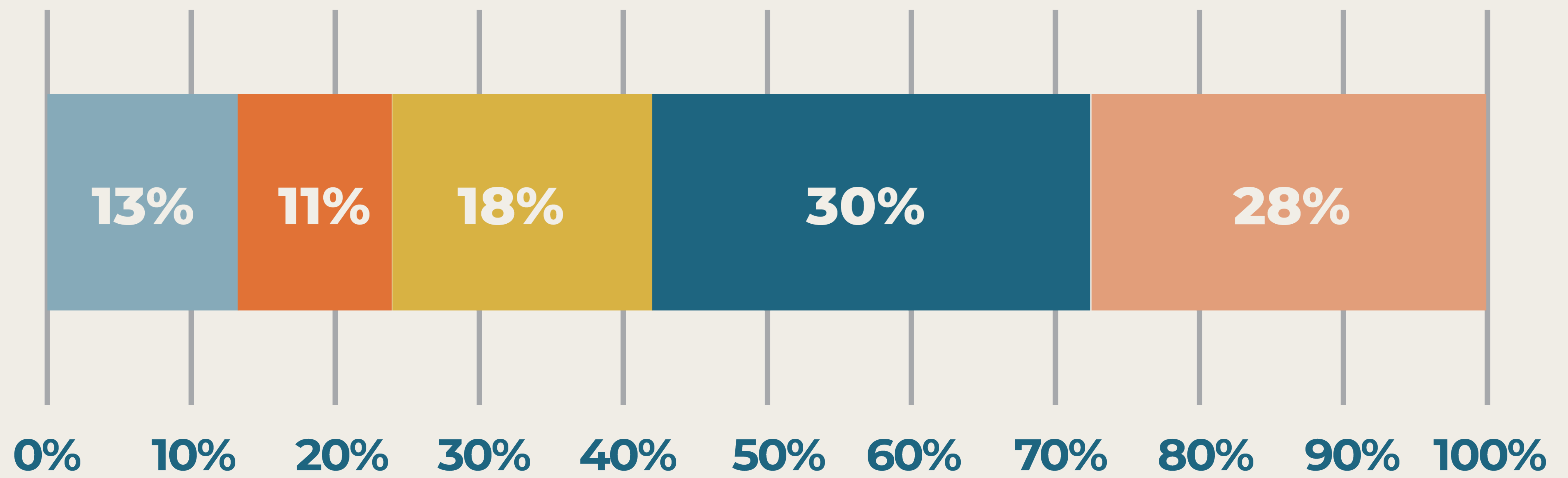
AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE TOP 20 DENOMINATIONS

PERCENT OF GROUP ■ 18-29 ■ 30-44 ■ 45-59 ■ 60-74 ■ 75+



ASBURY AGE DISTRIBUTION

PERCENT OF GROUP 18-29 30-44 45-59 60-74 75+

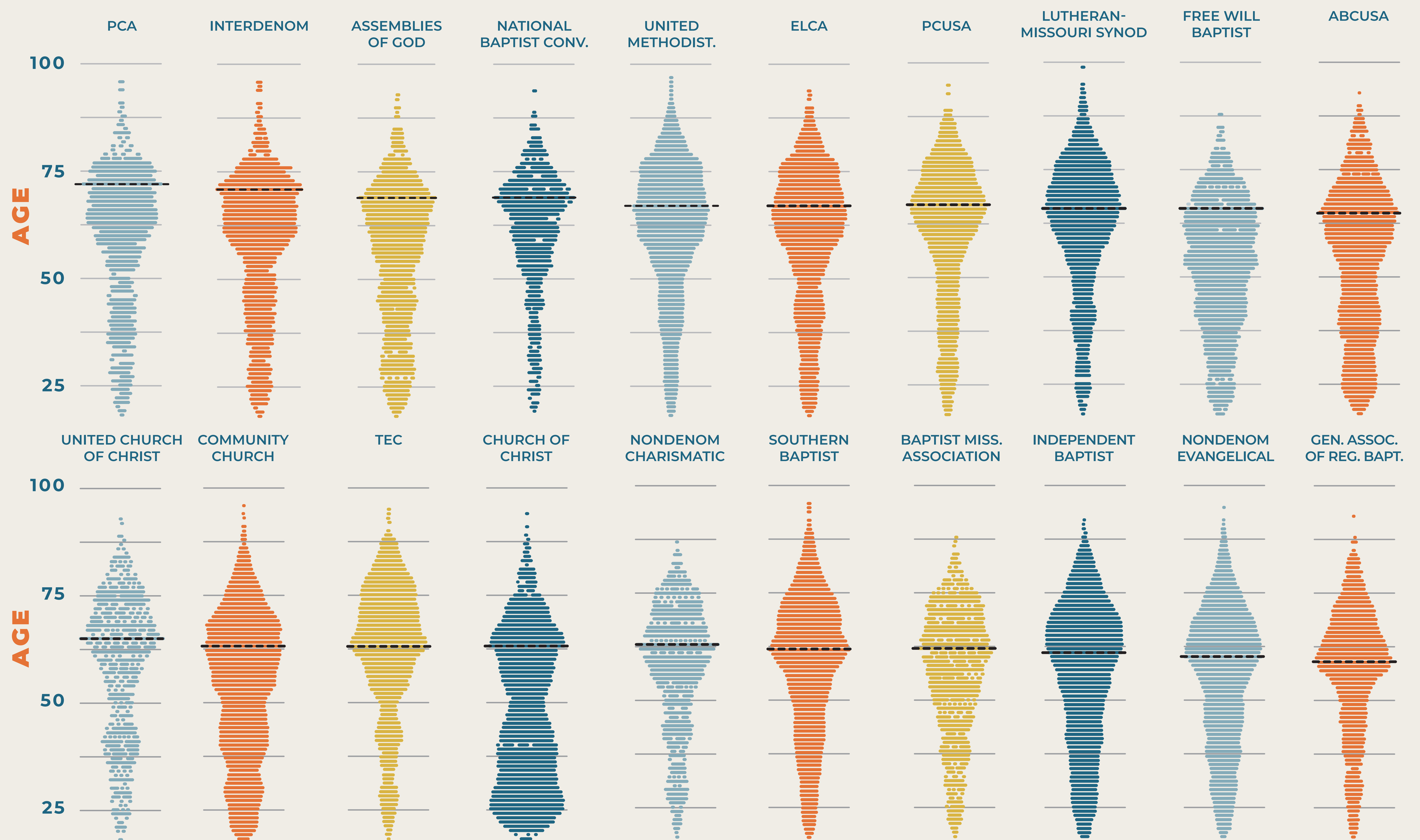


This chart shows Asbury's membership broken out by the same age categories as the chart on the previous page. 58% of Asbury members have celebrated their 60th birthday!

age distribution by DENOMINATIONS

These “Beeswarm plots” visually display the age distribution within each denomination. The horizontal black line marks the modal age—the age that appears most frequently. Wider clusters indicate where a larger share of congregants fall, while thinner areas reflect fewer individuals in those age ranges. Across most U.S. denominations, the distribution skews heavily older, with the majority of members age 60 and above and modal ages commonly in the 70s.

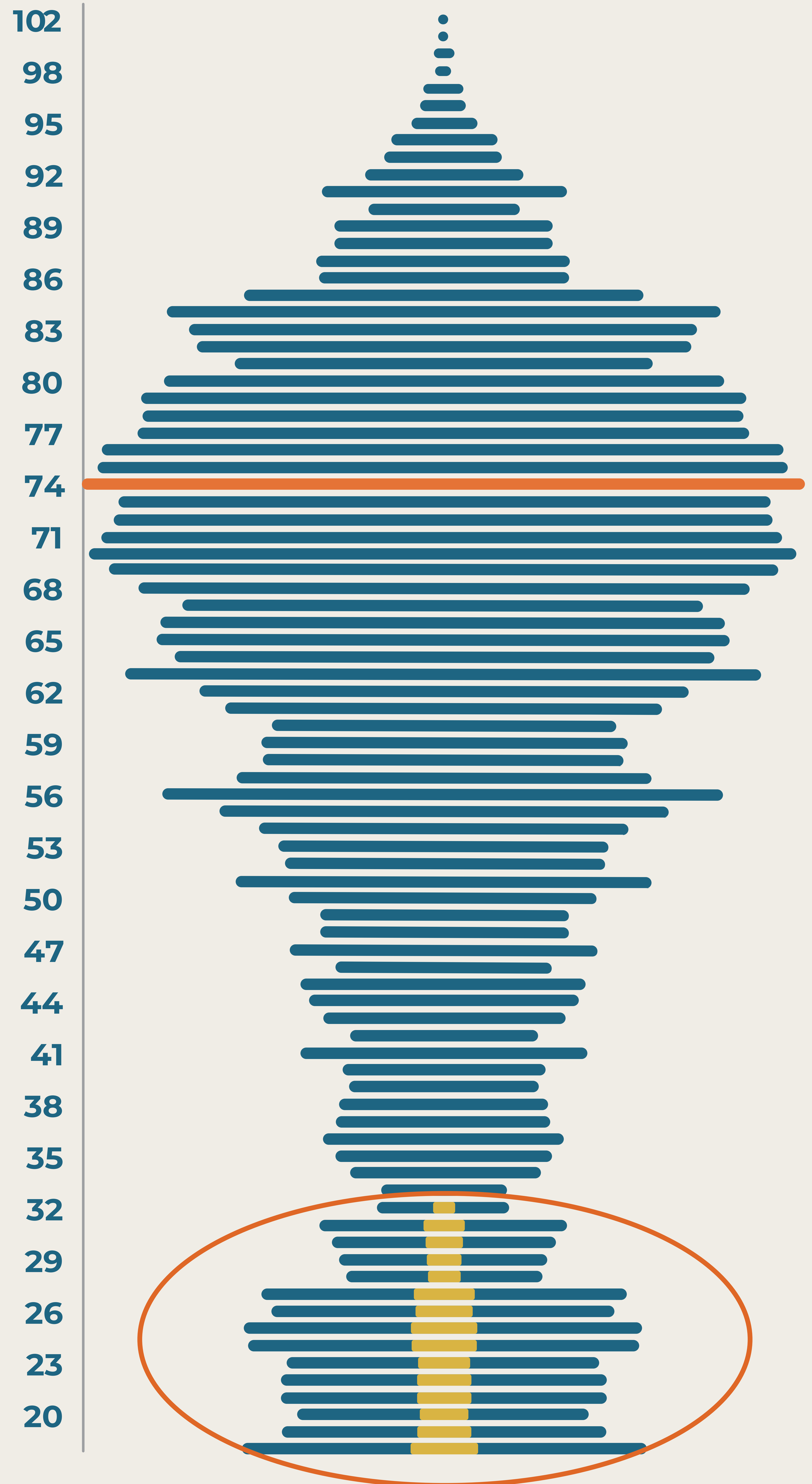
BEESWARM AGE DISTRIBUTION BY DENOMINATION



beeswarm age DISTRIBUTION AT ASBURY

We applied the same beeswarm plot analysis to Asbury's membership data. Our modal age is 74, with 111 members at that age, and a significant portion of the congregation clustered around it.

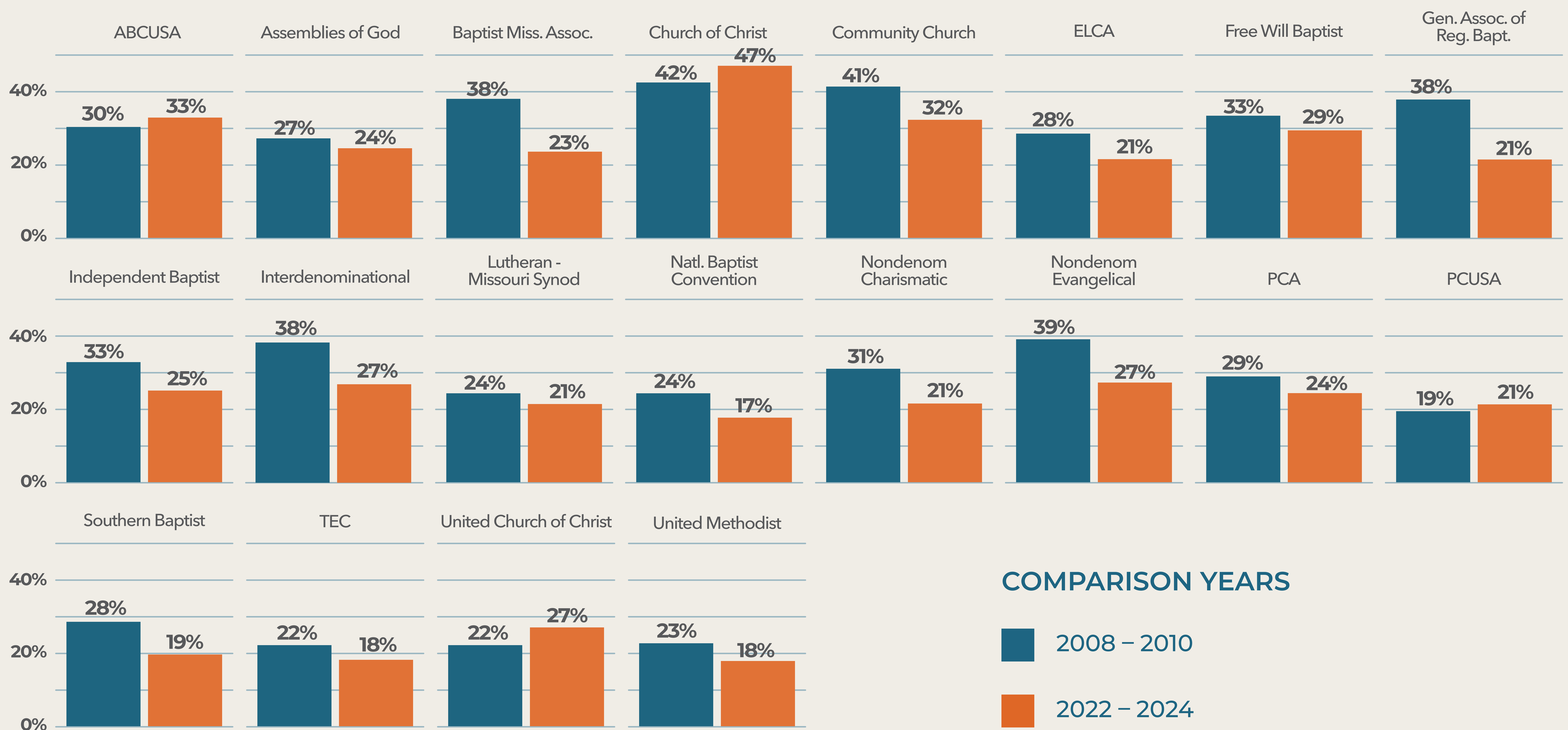
The red-circled section highlights what appears to be a substantial young adult population. However, this chart reflects membership—not engagement. For example, we have 32 members who are age 29 on our membership rolls, but only 6 have attended worship, given, or participated in an event in the past year. When engagement data is considered, the actual number of active 20-somethings is closer to one-sixth of what the membership plot suggests (*shown in yellow*).



share of each denomination THAT IS AGE 18-40

This study considers ages 18–40 to be “peak fertility” years. These are the people in the church “most likely to bring new life into the church through the nursery.” The blue bars in the chart represent the percentage of the respective denomination that is made up of these “peak fertility” ages in period 2008–2010, while the orange bars show the same demographics by denomination as of 2022–2024. You can see that most denominations in this study have declined in the “peak fertility” category.

SHARE OF EACH DENOMINATION THAT IS AGE 18 – 40



COMPARISON YEARS



ASBURY CHURCH IS currently at **20%**

what conclusions can we draw

FROM THIS INFORMATION?

- **ASBURY CHURCH IS DEEPLY BLESSED BY THE STRENGTH AND FAITHFULNESS OF ITS OLDER GENERATIONS.** THIS PAST YEAR ALONE WE CELEBRATED 261 COUPLES WHO HAVE BEEN MARRIED 50 YEARS OR MORE! THE PRESENCE OF SO MANY SEASONED BELIEVERS UNDER ONE ROOF IS NOT ONLY A GIFT, BUT A FOUNDATION.
- AT THE SAME TIME, SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC REALITIES OF AMERICA PRESENT SIGNIFICANT HEADWINDS THAT ARE WORKING AGAINST THE CHURCH IN AMERICA. HOWEVER, IN TULSA, CONDITIONS ARE RIPE FOR OUR CHURCH TO GROW. **ASBURY IS GOING TO BE A LARGE CHURCH.**
- BUT WE MUST NOT TAKE IT FOR GRANTED OR REST ON OUR LAURELS. GOD HAS RICHLY BLESSED OUR CHURCH, SO **WE MUST REACH EVERY GENERATION.**
- AMERICA'S CHURCHES ARE NOT PRODUCING ENOUGH PASTORS FOR THE FUTURE. **ASBURY MUST RAISE UP A NEW GENERATION OF PASTORS.** IF WE DON'T DO IT, WHO WILL?

where did this information come from?

The charts and graphs presented in this section of the report have come from two primary sources. The main source is Ryan Burge's website [Graphs About Religion](#). Ryan is a former pastor and current professor at the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics at Washington University in St. Louis. We found much of this data from two articles that Ryan wrote in the past year. You can find them [here](#) and [here](#). The church in America owes a great debt to Ryan for his contributions to understanding current church trends. Some of the data that he has drawn from can be found in the Cooperative Election Study 2022–2024.

We also pulled information from the "20 Years of Congregational Change" report produced by Faith Communities Today.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP **staff**



andrew forrest
SENIOR PASTOR



rodney adams
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



kevin watson
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF
CHRISTIAN FORMATION



curtis ralston
CFO / SENIOR DIRECTOR
OF OPERATIONS



marty taylor
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF
CREATIVE ARTS



adam barnett
SENIOR DIRECTOR OF
MISSIONS & EVANGELISM



graeme collett
PASTOR TO FAMILIES

ASBURY church council

The strategy and operations of Asbury Church are staff-led, and governed by a Church Council made up of 13 members from our congregation. The Church Council is responsible for hiring and evaluating our senior pastor and executive staff, providing strategic direction, ensuring our church's financial integrity, and is accountable for Asbury's spiritual fruitfulness and doctrinal faithfulness. For more information on our Church Council please visit asburychurch.info/governance.



TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT: JOHN CELONI (PAST CHAIR), TIM CARNEY, BILL ABERNATHY, TREY COOPER (CHAIR), STEVE ZENTHOEFER, KARA VINCENT, WES HOLMES

BOTTOM, LEFT TO RIGHT: RACHEL FISH, PAIGE MILLER, BECKY WILLIAMSON, JANELL CARTER, SARA ROGERS (VICE CHAIR), TOMMY KEETER

ASBURY