



SUNDAY SCHOOL
Make the Connection

Guidelines for Reporting Morning Worship Attendance

Why do we count morning worship attendance?

Tracking the weekly morning worship attendance serves the following purposes:

- Provides an indicator of the potential growth of Sunday School ministries. Those persons who attend worship services but are not involved in a Sunday School ministry should be considered prospects of the Sunday School. Each Christian should be encouraged to grow spiritually by becoming involved in a reaching, teaching, and soul-winning ministry.
- Reports growth/decline within the local church and denomination so trends can be addressed.
- Encourages accountability at all levels the church (local, district, general). District leadership should be aware of variances in morning worship attendance and should help local churches assess current strategies and programs used to reach people for Christ.

What is included in the Morning Worship attendance?

For churches which hold more than one morning worship service, it is important that even though some persons may attend more than one Sunday morning service, they shall be counted only once in the Sunday morning worship attendance.

Morning Worship attendance constitutes those persons who attend a weekly worship service on the weekend. This includes the following:

- Traditional multi-generational Sunday morning worship services.
- Children's church, nursery, and youth services held concurrently with the morning worship service.
- Worship Services which are held at non-traditional times for the purpose of ministering to those who are unable to attend a worship service on Sunday morning. (e.g., Saturday evening services which provide an alternate time for worship)
- Church-sponsored Function: Regular attenders of a local church shall be considered present in his or her local church when attending on that Sunday a local, zone, district, region, or general church-sponsored function such as a retreat, assembly, camp meeting, etc., as long as he or she is not counted in the attendance of another local church.

The following are **not** to be included in the Sunday morning worship attendance:

- Sunday afternoon/evening services which are designed to supplement the morning worship service (rather than as an alternate for the morning service).
- Weekday/weeknight services
- Outreach services which are not held at regularly scheduled hours at the church on the weekend.

What if Morning Worship does not meet due to a special event?

- **Weather or Emergency Cancellation:** If weather conditions or emergency situations prohibit a morning worship service from meeting, that church's attendance from that week shall be dropped from the monthly average, after approval from the District Superintendent.

These and other reporting guidelines are available at www.nazarene.org/ssm/statistics.