



Small Is Big Again: Reclaiming Small Church Ministry

Although megachurches garner a great deal of attention, these supersized congregations comprise only a small fraction of all worshiping communities in the U.S. The current estimate is that only about 1,650 megachurches (worship attendance exceeds 2,000) dot the landscape out of a total 330,000 congregations across America. In fact, most churches are small: two out of three Protestant churches attract less than 100 worshipers in a typical week. Some scholars predicted that megachurches would essentially put small churches out of business. But the percentage of large churches as part of all churches is growing slowly while the number of small churches has remained stable. While the church's larger mission continues to be carried out by many small worshiping communities, small churches may get locked into self-criticism. However, more congregations are embracing the strengths associated with their small size. As one congregation proclaims: "We're not just any small church. We're the small church that's here!"¹

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OUR OLDER DEMOGRAPHIC INTERPRETED
"AN ELECTRONIC PRESENCE TO INCREASE VISIBILITY"
AS STRINGING TWINKLE LIGHTS AROUND THE STEEPLE.

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