

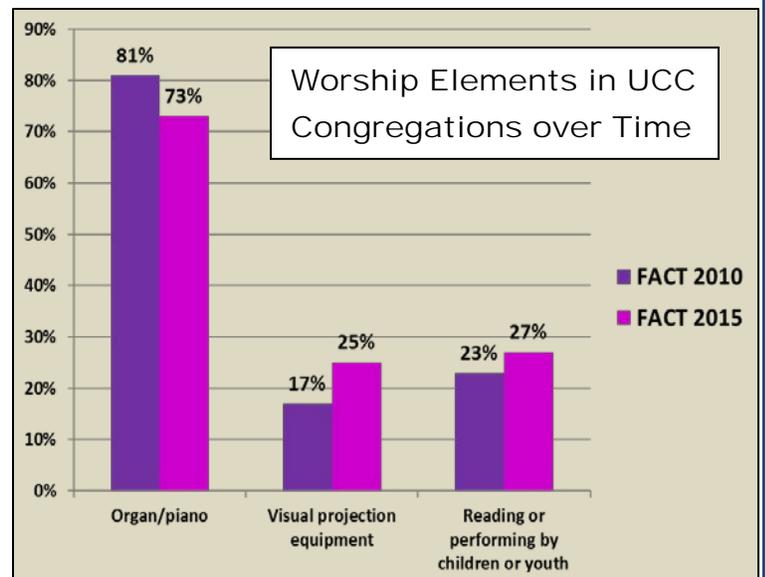
FACTs ON WORSHIP

Findings from the United Church of Christ 2015 Faith Communities Today (FACT) Survey of Congregations

Worship in the United Church of Christ is highly diverse and multi-faceted depending on context; however, there are some interesting commonalities and evolving trends occurring within UCC congregations.

Describing UCC Worship

- Overall, worship was most often described as thought-provoking (85.4%), filled with a sense of God's presence (85.1%), nurturing of people's faith (84.3%), joyful and inspirational (79.0%), and reverent (69.0%).
- Just over one-half (54.0%) of congregations described their worship as intergenerational, and one-third (33.7%) described worship as innovative.
- In just the past five years, the percentage of congregations that use an organ regularly in worship decreased by nearly 10% (from 81% to 73%). Over this same time period, the percentage of churches that use visual projection equipment regularly in worship increased by 47% (from 17% to 25%).
- Roughly 27% of congregations regularly have reading or performing by children or youth in the context of worship, a 17% increase since 2010 (from 23% to 27%).
- Theologically conservative UCC congregations were more likely to describe their worship as reverent than theologically moderate or liberal congregations.



Diversity and Change in Worship

- One in five congregations (20.0%) holds more than one weekly worship service. Of those churches, nearly eight in ten churches (79.0%) reported that these services vary in style from their other services. Types of diverse worship services named included bilingual (8.3%), contemporary (42.5%), musical style variation (11.5%), prayer/meditation (12.2%), and youth (7.1%) services.
- In the past five years, one-third (33.8%) of UCC congregations changed their style of worship somewhat or a lot or added a new service with a different style of worship. Two-thirds (66.2%) changed their style of worship a little or not at all.
- Theologically liberal congregations were more likely to have changed their worship style or added a new service than theologically moderate or conservative congregations.
- For the 4.5% of UCC congregations that reported holding a weekly worship service in a language other than English, the following languages were named more than once: Spanish, Korean, Samoan, Marshallese, German, Hungarian, and Hawaiian.