

## Background

- 292 congregations that currently use *The Presbyterian Hymnal* agreed to take part in the survey, having a pastor, musician, and member rate every hymn. Congregations agreeing to take part were somewhat larger than all congregations invited to participate (mean membership: recruited congregations—347; all congregations invited to participate—290).
- 853 names were submitted, and these individuals were invited directly in the fall of 2008 to complete a paper survey or to provide their responses via a Web-based survey.
- Characteristics of recruited congregations:
  - ✓ 69% hold just one worship service
  - ✓ 96% use only English in worship
  - ✓ 72% use an organ as their primary instrument during worship
  - ✓ 64% have a license to reprint or project hymns or other music
  - ✓ 45% consult a list of recommended hymns, most often *Call to Worship*

## Who Responded?

- 525 of 853 congregational contacts responded—46% returned paper survey and 54% completed the Web survey—for an overall response rate of 61%. Results for these respondents are shown in Appendix A.
- At least one response was received from 252 of the 292 congregations agreeing to participate (86%). Congregations that responded were somewhat larger than the 40 that did not (mean membership: responding congregations—359; non-responding congregations—223).
- Six in ten congregational respondents are women (61%).
- The largest numbers of congregational respondents are between 50 and 69 years of age (47%). One-quarter (26%) are younger than 50, and 27% are 70 or older.
- 50% of respondents say they are members of PC(USA) congregations. Many also reported they are elders or congregational staff. (Respondents could mark more than one position.)
- Almost half of congregational respondents (46%) have been attending or serving their congregations for 10 years or less; 23% have been there for more than 30 years.
- Table 1 shows differences among three groups: congregational respondents who completed Web and paper surveys and hymnal committee respondents. Compared to paper survey respondents, Web respondents are younger and have been at their current congregations fewer years.

**Table 1**  
**Demographic Characteristics of Respondents**

	<b>Congregational Respondents</b>		<b>Hymnal Committee</b>
	<b>Paper Survey</b>	<b>Web Survey</b>	
Female.....	65%	57%	38%
Age:			
Under 50 years of age .....	19%	32%	46%
50-69 years.....	39%	55%	54%
70 years or older .....	42%	13%	0%
Mean Age.....	62 years	56 years	48 years
Positions Held in the Congregation:			
Member.....	54%	46%	54%
Elder.....	40%	35%	15%
Staff.....	38%	32%	46%
Pastor .....	23%	33%	23%
Deacon .....	10%	3%	0%
CLP .....	1%	1%	0%
Other .....	23%	21%	8%
Years Attending or Serving			
Current Congregation:			
1-10 years.....	39%	52%	62%
11-30 years.....	28%	34%	31%
31 years or more .....	32%	14%	8%
Mean Years Attending or Serving			
Current Congregation .....	23 years	15 years	12 years

## Highlights from Congregational Respondents: Frequency of Singing Hymns

**Table 2**  
**Q1: How Often Sung in Worship in Last Year?**

<b>Most Sung Hymns</b>	<b>Smallest Percentages Reporting “Never” Singing Each</b>
Hymn 40: Joy to the World! .....	2%
Hymn 41: O Come, All Ye Faithful .....	2%
Hymn 9: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel .....	3%
Hymn 60: Silent Night, Holy Night.....	3%
Hymn 123: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today.....	3%
Hymn 280: Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound .....	3%
Hymn 464: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee.....	3%
Hymn 23: Angels We Have Heard on High.....	4%
Hymn 31: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing .....	4%
Hymn 138: Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!.....	4%
Hymn 339: Be Thou My Vision .....	4%
<b>Most Frequently Sung Hymns</b>	<b>Largest Percentages Reporting Singing Each “More Often” Than “Once or Twice”</b>
Hymn 280: Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound .....	66%
Hymn 592: Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow .....	65%
Hymn 339: Be Thou My Vision .....	58%
Hymn 579: Glory Be to the Father .....	57%
Hymn 276: Great Is Thy Faithfulness .....	56%
Hymn 138: Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!.....	54%
Hymn 464: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee.....	54%
Hymn 525: Here I Am, Lord .....	53%
<b>Least Sung Hymns</b>	<b>Largest Percentages Reporting “Never” Singing Each</b>
Hymn 287: God Folds the Mountains Out of Rock.....	96%
Hymn 547: When Twilight Comes – Awit Sa Dapit Hapon .....	96%
Hymn 152: Earth’s Scattered Isles and Contoured Hills .....	95%
Hymn 157: Our King and Our Sovereign, Lord Jesus – Jesús Es Mi Rey Soberano.....	95%
Hymn 410: When I Had Not Yet Learned of Jesus – Yee Jun Ae Joo Nim Eul Nae Ka Mol La.....	94%
Hymn 33: Holy Night, Blessed Night – Sheng Ye Qing, Sheng Ye Jing .....	94%
Hymn 65: Midnight Stars Make Bright the Sky .....	94%
Hymn 156: You, Living Christ, Our Eyes Behold .....	94%
Hymn 201: Praise Is Your Right, O God, in Zion – Psalm 65 .....	94%
Hymn 202: Psalm 67 .....	94%
Hymn 204: Psalm 72 .....	94%
Hymn 232: Psalm 118:19-29 .....	94%

## Highlights from Congregational Respondents: Hymns to Keep or Drop

**Table 3**  
**Q2: Include in New Hymnal?**

### Hymns to Keep

	<b>Largest Percentages Responding “Definitely Keep”</b>
Hymn 40: Joy to the World! .....	99%
Hymn 41: O Come, All Ye Faithful .....	99%
Hymn 23: Angels We Have Heard on High .....	99%
Hymn 60: Silent Night, Holy Night.....	98%
Hymn 123: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today.....	98%
Hymn 280: Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound .....	97%
Hymn 138: Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!.....	97%
Hymn 464: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee.....	97%
Hymn 102: Were You There?.....	97%
Hymn 9: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel .....	96%
Hymn 31: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing .....	96%

### Hymns to Drop

	<b>Largest Percentages Responding “Definitely Drop”</b>
Hymn 254: Psalm 146 .....	38%
Hymn 208: Psalm 84 .....	38%
Hymn 547: When Twilight Comes – Awit Sa Dapit Hapon .....	38%
Hymn 373: Lonely the Boat – Kahm Kahm hahn Bom Sanaoon.....	37%
Hymn 204: Psalm 72 .....	37%
Hymn 134: Creating God, Your Fingers Trace .....	36%
Hymn 222: Psalm 103 .....	35%
Hymn 202: Psalm 67 .....	35%
Hymn 232: Psalm 118:19-29 .....	35%
Hymn 190: Psalm 42 .....	35%
Hymn 231: Psalm 118:14-24.....	35%
Hymn 33: Holy Night, Blessed Night – Sheng Ye Qing, Sheng Ye Jing.....	35%
Hymn 193: Psalm 46 .....	35%

### Hymns Respondents Are Ambivalent About

	<b>Largest Percentages Responding “No Opinion”</b>
Hymn 598: This Is the Good News .....	32%
Hymn 605: Song of Simeon .....	31%
Hymn 596: May the Lord, Mighty God .....	30%
Hymn 604: Song of Simeon .....	30%
Hymn 437: Our Cities Cry to You, O God.....	29%
Hymn 590: Our Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth .....	29%
Hymn 424: O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns Be Rising .....	29%