

## Conference Statistician's Report, 2010

*"I am exceedingly afflicted; Revive me, O Lord, according to Your word."*

*Psalm 119:107, NASB, Updated Edition*

Greetings Members and Friends of Annual Conference Session. I present to you the Statistician's Report for 2010, which reports the Membership and Worship Activity of our churches in 2009. We used new Table Report Forms this year, but they did not help with the number of reporting churches. We had 18 churches not submit reports, as opposed to only 11 last year. While the lack of reporting continues to dismay me, I do thank the remaining 339 churches and pastors that did work to get your reports in, the majority of those meeting the January deadline.

With 18 new Line Items added to Table 1, and an almost equal number being deleted, there are many Lines that will have no comparison with the previous year. Some of the new Lines can be compared to the previous year, but many are totally new so nothing can really be made of their contributions to our total picture until next year. However, the basics are still there: Membership, Attendance, Baptisms, gains and losses. How did we do in 2009?

For the twelfth straight year we saw a loss in Membership. Our Conference Membership now stands at 80,375, down 1,854 from the previous year. That huge loss is 1,022 *more* than 2008, and is the largest loss in a single year since 1981 when we lost 2,118! The second highest year is 2005 when we lost 1,822, of which 531 were from the closing of Fresno – St. Luke's. We did have one church close this year, but that only accounts for 71 persons. Where did these losses come from?

Many people will quickly say, "From death; we are losing a lot of people through the death of our members." There is truth in that statement. We lost 1,244 people through death, 17 less than the previous year. But we also add new members every year. The losses through death are almost equaled by those we added through transfer from non-UM churches, plus restorations and corrections: +1,198. We brought in 1,735 new members through Profession of Faith, plus another 678 through transfer from UM Churches. We did have positive growth, and those certainly cancel the losses we have through death. Through what, then, are we losing members?

Our greatest category of loss was through Charge Conference Removals, -1,959. That is 30 less than 2008, however, the new Table 1 added the category "Corrected through subtraction" that was previously included in the Charge Conference Removal Line. In that new line we removed 765. When added to the numbers of C.C. Removals, we have a total loss of 2,724, 795 greater than 2008. There were an additional 860 persons that transferred from our churches to other UM or non-UM Churches, plus another 637 people who withdrew their memberships. These numbers represent people who are no longer with us. They either could not be accounted for, were removed from an inactive list, transferred to another church, or simply withdrew their membership. Whichever was the case, *they left our churches.*

While trying to track down the Membership loss greater than this year's I perused a number of my past Statistician's Reports. It caught my attention how many times I reported our single largest loss as being through Charge Conference Removal. It was also redundant how many times I said, "Our churches are clearing their roles; eventually these losses will diminish." We do we need to clean the roles? Because members have left and we have not removed their names. I think after 13 years of collecting our Conference's information it's time for me to say, "As long as people are leaving our churches we will see losses. These categories are demonstrative of the fact that people are choosing to leave."

Ten years ago we had a Membership of 92,420, 12,045 more than we do now. The last time our Conference Membership grew was 1997 when we increased by 115 people.

For the eighth straight year we have a loss in our Average Attendance. That category now stands at 37,424, down 718 from last year. That loss is less than 2008's loss of 1,072, but I cannot celebrate what is in essence the loss of 6.8 of our average churches in the area of worship. (Our average worship size is 105 per church.) It is my opinion that we are losing Worship Attendance in the same way that we are losing Members: people are leaving our churches. With a loss of 3% of our '08 Membership, and 70% of that loss coming by way other than death, is it coincidental that we lost 2% of our Attendance? I don't think so.

Ten years ago we had a Worship Attendance of 45,984, 8,560 more than we do now. The last year our Attendance saw growth was 2001 when we grew by 123.

When looking at individual churches our numbers slumped as well. 208 of our churches received 1 or more new members through Profession of Faith, down from 234 last year. 225 of our churches baptized 1 or more persons this year as compared to 235 in 2008. 127 of our churches grew in Worship Attendance whereas 148 did the previous year. 88 of our churches had Confirmation Classes this year versus 115 in '08.

On a positive note, 118 churches grew in Membership as opposed to 115 doing so last year. Even in a down year, Baptisms, Professions of Faith, new people in Worship, and people from our Confirmation Classes joining our churches are signs of good Discipleship. They are also signs of new people coming to know Jesus as Savior! For the churches that grew in these categories I say, "Good for you! Keep up the good work!"

District-wise, only one grew in membership, Golden Gate by 82, and only Delta increased in Worship Attendance by 13.

We closed one church, San Francisco: Epworth, and saw the Chartering of another, Sacramento: Cho Un Korean. That means that the number of our Chartered Churches stayed the same, 357.

I fear this is not a very positive report, but there are not many positives to highlight. Our total number of Baptisms, our number of Constituents, the number of people attending Confirmation Classes, the Average Weekly Attendance in Sunday Church School, the reported Amounts paid for Projects on the UMW and UMM, plus the number of teams and people sent on VIMs all were down from 2008. I am personally saddened that I did not perform a single Baptism, nor did I bring in any new Members in 2009 in the church I serve. (I am happy that I have done one Baptism and brought in two new Members in 2010.) As a Conference we are in a huge state of decline, numerically. We are being asked by our General Conference, by Bishop Brown, and by our District

Superintendents to “Re-Think Church.” I hope we all take this challenge seriously because our numbers indicate something needs to change. Every year I hope to be able to write that we have grown! What will I be able to write next year?

I have provided the Summary of the Table 1 Report for your perusal. I have also provided the Annual Top Twenty with one new category added this year, the Top 20 Churches with People in Confirmation Classes. I also received a number of letters thanking me for returning the Hall of Fame last year, so it is with us again! I hope you may find your church on one or more of these lists.

I want to thank Clare Powell in the Conference Office for her invaluable work in the collecting and correlating of these reports for me and for Diane Knudsen. I also want to thank each of the District Administrative Assistants for their work in calling Pastors and following up on those that were late or missing. Your work is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted  
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## 2009 Statistician’s *Hall of Fame*

### “Growing the Kingdom” Awards

Most Members Received by Profession of Faith:	174, Glide Memorial
Most People Baptized:	35, Los Altos
Most People Enrolled in Confirmation Classes:	26, Stockton St. Paul’s
Largest Total Number involved in Christian Formation Groups:	1077, Los Altos

### “Making Disciples” Awards

Most Children in Christian Formation Groups:	427, Los Altos
Most Youth in Christian Formation Groups:	198, Los Altos
Most Young Adults in Christian Formation Groups:	113, Oakland Berkeley Korean
Most Adults in Christian Formation Groups:	437, Los Altos
Highest Sunday School Average Attendance:	250, San Jose: Korean
Most Active persons in Covenant Discipleship Groups:	310, San Jose, Korean
Highest number of ongoing Classes for Learning (other than Sundays):	61, San Jose: Wesley

### “If I Had a Hammer” Award

Largest Number of STVIM Teams:	12, San Jose: Wesley
Largest Number of STVIM Participants:	79, Alamo
Largest Number of other mission teams:	29, McKinleyville
Largest Number of other mission teams Participants:	200, McKinleyville

### “Packing ‘em In” Awards

Largest Percentage of Attendance to Membership for a Church...	
...with less than 50 Members:	270%, Pacific Grove Forest Hill, 27/10
...50 – 100 Members:	177%, Oakland, Berkeley Korean, 145/82
...100 – 150 Members:	104%, Truckee, 105/101
...150 – 200 Members:	113%, Porterville, Grand Avenue, 191/169
...200 – 250 Members:	91%, Fremont: First Korean, 191/210
...250 – 400 Members:	95%, Point Pleasant, 284/300
...over 400 Members:	73%, Bakersfield First, 367/505
...that is Federated:	567%, Healdsburg, 170/30

### “We’re Doing Well” Award

District with the Most Appearances in the Top 20:	Delta, 36!
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### “The Top Twenty’s Top” Award

The church that appeared the most in the Top Twenty:	Three tied with 5 times! Los Altos, Alamo, and Korean of Santa Clara Valley
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**Table 1: Summary and the Average Church**

	2008	2009	+/-	Average
1. Total Professing Members Last Year	83061	82229	-832	230
2a. Received on Profession of Faith	2166	1735	431	5
2b. Restored by Affirmation	512	254	258	1
2c. Corrected 2008 Report by Addition	0	451	New <sup>1</sup>	1
3. Received from other UM Churches	664	678	14	2
4. Received from non-UM Churches	486	493	-7	1
5a. Removed by Charge Conference	1989	1959	-30	6
5b. Withdrawn	53596	591	41	2
5c. Corrected 2008 Report by Subtraction	0	765	New	2
6. Transferred to UM Churches	509	515	6	1
7. Transferred to non-UM Churches	305	345	40	1
8. Removed by Death	1261	1244	-17	3
9. TOTAL PROFESSING MEMBERSHIP	82229	80375	-1854	225
9a. Members who are Asian	10536	10756	220	30
9b. Members who are African American/Black	5586	6318	732	18
9c. Members who are Hispanic/Latino	1906	1983	77	6
9d. Members who are Native American	398	376	-22	1
9e. Members who are Pacific Islanders	3059	3095	36	9
9f. Members who are White	55598	54390	-1208	152
9g. Members who are Multi-Racial	1284	1383	99	4
9h. Females	39622	39094	-528	110
9i. Males	23756	24418	662	68
10. AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	38142	37424	-718	105
11. Total Persons Baptized	1158	975	-183	3
12. Baptized Members Not Professing	8785	8660	-125	24
13. Constituency Roll	51049	50488	-561	141
14. Total in Confirmation Classes	935	653	-282	2
<b>THE CHURCH SCHOOL</b>				
15. Children in all Christian Formation Groups	0	5756	New	16
16. Youth in all Christian Formation Groups	0	3938	New	11
17. Young Adults in all Christian Formation Groups	0	1551	New	4
18. Adults in all Christian Formation Groups	0	12071	New	34
19. TOTAL CHRISTIAN FORMATION GROUPS	0	23316	New	65
20. Average in Sunday Church School	9175	8150	-1025	23
21. Persons in Covenant Discipleship Groups	0	2752	New	8
22. Participants in Vacation Bible School	0	8111	New	23
23. Ongoing Classes, Sunday Church School	0	1284	New	4
24. Other Ongoing Classes	0	1075	New	3
25. Short-term Classes and Groups	0	1074	New	3
26. Members in United Methodist Men	2654	3498	844	10
27. Amount Paid for Projects	99888	89084	-10804	249
28. Members in United Methodist Women	8745	9685	940	27
29. Amount Paid for Projects	646150	535748	-110402	1497
<b>MISSION PROGRAMS</b>				
30a. Number of UMVIM Teams Sent	116	84	-32	0
30b. Number of UMVIM Participants	881	722	-159	2
31a. Number of Other Mission Teams	0	181	New	1
31b. Other Mission Team Participants	0	1930	New	5
32. Community Ministries, i.e. Daycare	0	246	New	1
33. Persons Served Community Ministries	0	9205	New	26
34. Ministries for Outreach, Justice, & Mercy	0	995	New	3
35. Persons Served by Above Ministries	0	245100	New	685
<b>NUMBER OF NEW CHURCHES<sup>2</sup></b>	5	1	-1	

<sup>1</sup> = New Category for 2009<sup>2</sup> Sacramento – Cho Un Korean

NUMBER OF CHURCHES REPORTING	346	339	-7
NUMBER OF CHURCHES CLOSED <sup>3</sup>	0	1	1
NUMBER OF CHURCHES AT END OF YEAR	357	357	0

## THE TOP TWENTY

### NEW MEMBERS THROUGH PROFESSION OF FAITH

District	Church	Total
GG	San Francisco – Glide	174
GG	San Francisco – Calvary	42
SJ	Los Altos	36
BV	Alamo	36
DL	Sacramento – Oak Park	31
DL	Sacramento – St. Mark's	25
GG	Half Moon Bay	25
SJ	Campbell	24
SJ	San Jose – Korean of Santa Clara Valley	22
GG	San Francisco – Temple	20
DL	Woodland	19
FR	Fresno – Wesley	19
DL	Sacramento – Tongan	19
NS	Carson City	18
DL	Point Pleasant	18
BV	Oakland – Laurel	18
DL	Stockton – Central	17
FR	Visalia	16
SH	Oroville	16
--	four tied <sup>4</sup>	15

### NUMBER OF PERSONS BAPTIZED

District	Church	Total
SJ	Los Altos	35
SJ	San Jose – Korean of Santa Clara Valley	22
SH	McKinleyville	19
GG	San Francisco – Glide	17
SH	Oroville	17
DL	Stockton – Central	16
BV	Pleasanton	16
SJ	Campbell	15
SH	Chico – Aldersgate	15
BV	Alamo	14
DL	Modesto – First	14
BV	Livermore	14
DL	Point Pleasant	12
GG	Santa Rosa – First	12
SH	Yreka	11
SH	Middletown	11
DL	Woodland	10
SJ	San Jose – Willow Glen	10
SH	Biggs	10
--	three tied <sup>5</sup>	9

<sup>3</sup> San Francisco – Epworth, listed last year as new church.

<sup>4</sup> Antioch, Sparks, Loomis, and San Jose – Cambrian Park

<sup>5</sup> Los Gatos, Gilroy, South Reno

## TOTAL ENROLLED IN CONFIRMATION CLASSES

District	Church	Total
DL	Stockton – St. Paul's	26
BV	Alamo	23
BV	Oakland – Laurel	22
SJ	Los Altos	21
SJ	San Jose – Korean of Santa Clara Valley	20
DL	Sacramento – Tongan	18
DL	Oakdale	18
BV	Oakland – Berkeley Korean	17
SH	Oroville	16
DL	Woodland	15
DL	Point Pleasant	15
GG	Fale Hufanga	15
SJ	Genesis	15
BV	Vallejo – Fellowship	14
BV	Richmond – Easter Hill	13
GG	Half Moon Bay	12
DL	Sacramento – Cho Un Korean	12
DL	Stockton – Central	11
SH	Clearlake – Community	11
GG	Sonoma	11

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE GAIN

District	Church	Gain	%Gain
BV	Martinez	110	367
SJ	Fremont – First Korean	97	103
BV	Hayward – First	66	74
DL	Oakdale	41	55
BV	Oakland – Berkeley Korean	40	38
DL	Stockton – Grace	33	52
BV	Richmond – St. Luke's	30	94
DL	Stockton – Central	27	9
SJ	Sunnyvale – First	26	23
SJ	San Jose – Wesley	25	9
DL	Sacramento – Japanese	24	18
SH	Redding	24	8
GG	San Francisco – Calvary	23	46
BV	Walnut Creek – E.B. Formosan	20	21
GG	San Francisco – Grace	19	28
BV	Saint Helena	19	112
SJ	Genesis	18	36
GG	San Francisco – Temple	17	13
GG	Burlingame	17	10
--	three tied <sup>6</sup>	16	--

## WORSHIP ATTENDANCE PERCENTAGE GAIN

District	Church	%Gain	Gain
BV	Martinez	367	110
BV	Saint Helena	112	19
SJ	Fremont – First Korean	103	97
BV	Richmond – St. Luke's	94	30
BV	Hayward – First	74	66
GG	Ohnnury Mission	58	7
DL	Oakdale	55	41
DL	Stockton – Grace	52	33
NS	Schurz	47	7

<sup>6</sup> Clearlake – Community, Santa Rosa –First, Windsor

GG	San Francisco – Calvary	46	23
BV	Oakland – Berkeley Korean	38	40
SJ	Genesis	36	18
GG	Windsor	31	16
SH	Biggs	29	10
SJ	Pacific Grove – Forest Hill	29	6
GG	San Francisco – Grace	28	19
SH	Clearlake – Community	27	16
SJ	Marina – Canaan Korean	25	10
FR	Corcoran	25	7
SJ	Sunnyvale – First	23	26

## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP GAIN

### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP PERCENTAGE GAIN

Statistician's Note: I chose not to include these two categories this year. 13 of the top 20 churches added 10 or more new members under Line 2c: "Corrected previous year's reporting error by addition." Of those 13, 3 made corrections of 50 or more. While I applaud and thank these churches for performing good Membership Audits, the numbers of new members do not represent true church growth. (The numbers are corrections; not new people joining the churches.) To view a better representation of churches growing with new members, see the Top 20 list of NEW MEMBERS THROUGH PROFESSION OF FAITH.

### TOTAL WORSHIP ATTENDANCE<sup>7</sup>

District	Church	Average Increase/Decrease	
GG	San Francisco – Glide Memorial	3000	0
SJ	Los Altos	935	-60
SJ	San Jose – Korean of Santa Clara Valley	579	-121
GG	Santa Rosa – First	571	16
FR	Visalia	425	-69
BV	Alamo	401	8
FR	Bakersfield – First	367	-1
DL	Modesto – Centenary	359	-14
DL	Placerville Federated	350	0
DL	Stockton – Central	315	27
SH	Redding	313	24
NS	Carson City	306	-3
NS	Reno – South Reno	302	-88
SJ	San Jose – Wesley	298	25
DL	Sacramento – St. Mark's	293	0
GG	San Bruno First Tongan	290	0
DL	Point Pleasant	284	-38
SJ	Campbell	275	6
GG	San Francisco – Jones Memorial	260	-40
SJ	Palo Alto – First	260	0

### TOTAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

District	Church	Members	Increase/Decrease
GG	San Francisco – Glide Memorial	12090	231
SJ	Los Altos	2572	26
BV	Alamo	1133	-5
SJ	San Jose – Korean of Santa Clara Valley	924	-84
BV	Oakland – Downs Memorial	870	-70 <sup>8</sup>
GG	Santa Rosa – First	815	9
BV	Oakland – Taylor	744	-85
SJ	San Jose – Wesley	738	-89
NS	Reno – South Reno	732	-138
DL	Sacramento – St. Mark's	729	4
FR	Visalia	719	-219

<sup>7</sup> In recent years I have only listed the Top 20 Churches that have grown in each category. I decided to print the entire list this year.

<sup>8</sup> Listed 70 as having died in 2009

DL	Stockton – Central	710	-17
GG	San Francisco – Jones Memorial	692	3
DL	Modesto – Centenary	674	-56
DL	Lodi – First	617	-9
NS	Reno – First	600	-48
SJ	Campbell	590	27
DL	Modesto – First	584	13
DL	Manteca	553	-3
DL	Loomis	546	-73