

## Conference Statistician's Report, 2009

*"Take a census of the entire assembly of the people of Israel, by clans and families."  
Numbers 1:2a, Complete Jewish Bible*

Greetings, Members and Friends of Annual Conference Session. I present to you this year's edition of the Statistician's Report. This will be the last year for the particular Table 1 we have been using in this quadrennium. Next year we will have a new form with fewer lines – I know many of you will be glad of that! I want to thank those of you who use the GCF&A site for reporting your Tables on line. That action makes my job much easier. I know the same can be said by many of you as I read your letters and heard your calls saying as much.

Before I get to the bottom line I want to say we had good news in the reporting area this year. We only had 11 churches that did not submit a Table 1, as opposed to 32 last year!!!<sup>1</sup> Thank you so much for those that got these forms in. A special thanks to those that did so by the January deadline. I have a personal fantasy that one year – just one year! – we would receive all 357 of the Table 1 Reports. Perhaps next year....

Let's get to it; how did we do this year?

For the eleventh straight year we saw a loss in Membership. Our Conference Membership now stands at 82,229, down 832 from the previous year. There is good news in the fact that this loss is less than last year, when we saw a decline of 1,443. For the seventh straight year we have a loss in our Average Attendance. That category now stands at 38,142, down 1,072 from last year. Unlike Membership, there is no good news here – as this loss is greater than last year, when we saw a decline of 680.

There is good news when looking at churches individually. 234 of our churches received 1 or more new members through Profession of Faith, as opposed to 206 last year. 235 of our churches Baptized 1 or more persons this year, as compared to 224 in 2007. 152 churches had people in the Sunday Schools or Formation Groups join their Membership; 144 did so in 2007. And 148 of our churches grew in Worship Attendance, as opposed to 127 the previous year. These are good numbers! Baptisms, Profession of Faith, new people in Worship, and people from our Education network 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!"

We did not close any churches this year – Whoo-Hoo! At the same time we added five new Fellowships to our ranks! I send a happy greeting and welcome to the churches of Sacramento: Tongan, Clovis: Korean Fellowship, Reno: First Tongan, San Francisco: Epworth, and Fremont: First Korean. May God bless you in your ministries!!

Unfortunately, these positives did not stem the tide of our Conference losses.

In the area of Membership, although we had 234 churches bring in new Members, when counting the losses due to cleaning the rolls, withdrawals, transfers, or death, the number of churches that grew in 2008 drops to 115. Our single largest loss of Members came through Charge Conference Action – churches cleaning their rolls. In that category we had a decline of 1,989 persons. The second highest cause for loss was death, where we lost 1,261. After that came losses due to withdrawals; there we see a number of 596. When all of these numbers are added, including those persons who transferred to other denominations in 2008, we lost 4,151 Members.

We did have two Districts with Membership growth this year: **congratulations to Delta and Golden Gate** with 25 and 122 respectively.

In the area of Worship Attendance, which I have many times said is a better barometer than that of Membership, I see a dark reality. Yes, we did have 21 more churches grow in 2008 than '07, but with a loss of 1,072 in Worship we have to go back to 2003 to see a greater loss. In that year we lost 1,686 persons. In 2000 we lost 1210 in Worship. This year's loss is the third highest for us since 1972.

We had one District with Attendance growth this year: **congratulations to Fresno** with a gain of 198 in Worship!

What does the loss of 1,072 in Worship mean? A greater question might be "Why?" Why did we lose so many in Worship this past year? I could offer an answer but that would be mere speculation.

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<sup>1</sup> Churches not submitting a report this year were Oakland: Korean, Oakland: Taylor, Sacramento: Central, Soulsbyville, Palo Alto: First Tongan, Arbuckle, Guinda, Klamath, Lakeport United, Maxwell, and Middletown. Of these only Sacramento: Central submitted a report in 2007. I don't understand why these churches won't fill out these reports.

Unless I talk to a good number of those people who left I will never know, nor will anyone else. However, I can highlight some statistical math that will give an illustration of what this loss means.

This year I wanted to see what the average, median, and mean of our numbers were. The last time I did this I was told by a mathematician in the Conference that I misused these words. So, since I majored in History, I'll put it in easy English. When all of our churches are divided by the total number of our churches (357) I get 230 Members and 107 in Worship. When finding the exact middle church of the 357 I get 137 in Membership and 70 in Worship. When taking all of the numbers as individual groups, like numbers are one group each, and then finding the middle, I came up with 189 in Membership and 101 in Worship.

Using the first calculation, the loss of 1072 people would be akin to closing 4.6 churches Membership-wise, or 10 using Attendance. Doing the same with the other two calculations, we would lose 7.8 and 5.6 churches using Membership, and 15.3 and 10.6 churches using Worship. This loss would be the same as 4 to 15 of our churches closing! When looking at numbers alone this loss is frightening. We had an average of 38,142 in Worship on every Sunday in 2008. If we lose 1072 people a year, our Conference will be closed in thirty-five and a half years!

To sum up, we do have some churches that are growing in Membership and Attendance – Praise be to God! - but as a Conference we continue to decline. At the end of this year's General Conference many people lamented the possibility of the Western Jurisdiction losing delegates, or even a Bishop. But the reality is that we are shrinking as a Conference, a Jurisdiction, and a Denomination. I do draw one positive out of this, and that is in the area of integrity. All we would need to do is to lie about our numbers and report huge growth areas.... But since we are reporting the decline, we are being people of integrity: good for us. I mean that sincerely.

Can we turn this around? I don't know. We have a new Bishop, and he comes to us with new ideas and a desire to see us make Disciples and grow our churches! I wish Bishop Brown and us luck and God's Speed!

I have provided the Summary of the Table 1 Report for your perusal. I have also provided the Annual Top Twenty with the new categories I added last year, the Top 20 from Baptisms and Persons Joining in Membership from Church School and Formation Groups. I have also submitted a fun item I have not done in the past two years – the Hall of Fame! I hope you may find your church on one or more of these lists.

Once again, I thank those of you who worked to get your Table 1 in, on time or late. I also 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.

Respectfully Submitted  
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## 2008 Statistician's *Hall of Fame*

### "Growing the Kingdom" Awards

Most Members Received by Profession of Faith:	135, Glide Memorial
Most People Baptized:	85, Arcata
Most People Enrolled in Confirmation Classes:	59, Palo Alto: First
Largest Number of Sunday School Attendees Joining in Membership:	66, Oakland: Fale Maama
Largest Total Number involved in Christian Formation	2747, Alamo

### "Making Disciples" Awards<sup>2</sup>

Most Children in Sunday School:	461, Los Altos
Most Youth in Sunday School:	110, San Jose: Korean
Most Adults in Sunday School:	724, Walnut Creek: First
Highest Sunday School Average Attendance:	500, San Jose: Korean
Most Children in Other Groups:	235, Los Altos
Most Youth in Other Groups:	578, Alamo
Most Adults in Other Groups:	1382, Alamo
Highest Average Attendance Other Groups:	650, San Jose: Korean

### "The Future" Award

Highest Number of Active Young Adults:	418, Los Altos
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### "If I Had a Hammer" Award

Largest Number of STVIM Teams:	40, San Jose: Korean
Largest Number of STVIM Participants:	168, Alamo

### "Packing 'em In" Awards

Largest Percentage of Attendance to Membership for a Church...	
...with fewer than 50 Members:	210%, Pacific Grove Forest Hill, 21/10
...50 – 100 Members:	127%, Walnut Creek Formosan, 95/75
...100 – 150 Members:	79%, LeMoore, 92/117
...150 – 200 Members:	125%, Santa Clara Bethel Korean, 208/167
...200 – 250 Members:	78%, Chico: Aldersgate, 160/205
...250 – 400 Members:	114%, Point Pleasant, 322/283
...over 400 Members:	72%, Bakersfield First, 368/512
...that is Federated:	606%, Healdsburg, 188/31

### "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:	Sanger, 6 times!
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**Table 1: Summary and the Average Church**

	2007	2008	+/-	Average
1. Membership Last Year	84504	83061	-1443	233
2a. Received on Profession of Faith	1578	2166	588	6
2b. Restored by Affirmation	495	512	17	1
3. Received from UM Churches	649	664	15	2
4. Received from Other Denominations	495	486	-9	1
5a. Removed by Charge Conference	2086	1989	-97	6
5b. Withdrawn	534	596	62	2
6. Transferred to UM Churches	663	509	-154	1
7. Transferred to Other Denominations	234	305	71	1
8. Removed by Death	1143	1261	118	4

9.	TOTAL FULL MEMBERSHIP	83061	82229	-832	230
9a.	Asian Members	10024	10536	512	30
9b.	African American/Black Members	4778	5586	808	16
9c.	Hispanic Members	1761	1906	145	5
9d.	Native American Members	346	398	52	1
9e.	Pacific Island Members	2587	3059	472	9
9f.	White Members	56318	55598	-720	156
9g.	Mixed Race	685	1284	599	4
9h.	Female Members	38033	39622	1589	111
9i.	Male Members	23537	23756	219	67
10.	AVERAGE WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	39214	38142	-1072	107
11.	Total Baptized	1120	1158	38	3
12.	Baptized Members Not Professing	9706	8785	-921	25
13.	Constituency Roll	45069	51049	5980	143
14.	Total in Confirmation Classes	817	935	118	3
THE CHURCH SCHOOL					
15a.	Number of Leaders in Sunday CS	3432	3629	197	10
15b.	Number of Leaders in Other Groups	3148	3623	475	10
16a.	Children in Sunday Church School	6907	7135	228	20
16b.	Children in Other Groups	4407	4913	506	14
17a.	Youth in Sunday Church School	3027	3384	357	9
17b.	Youth in Other Groups	3833	3960	127	11
18a.	Adults in Sunday Church School	5602	5642	40	16
18b.	Adults in Other Groups	14008	16184	2176	45
19i.	Total in Sunday Church School	14920	19760	4840	56
19ii.	Total in Other Groups	19188	28675	9487	80
19.	TOTAL CHURCH SCHOOL	41732	48435	6703	136
19a.	Active Young Adults	4155	4701	546	13
20.	AVE. C. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE	8835	9175	340	26
21.	Ave. Attendance in Ongoing Classes	8504	9306	802	26
22.	Ave. Attendance in Short-Term Groups	8631	9810	1179	27
23a.	Children	330	451	121	1
23b.	Youth	428	437	9	1
23c.	Adults	1479	1665	186	5
23.	Christian Formation Groups	2130	2336	206	7
24.	Profession of Faith from Church School	1220	1033	-187	3
STVIM					
25a.	Number of UMVIM Teams Sent	83	116	33	0
25b.	Number of UMVIM Participants	663	881	218	2
UNITED METHODIST FELLOWSHIP GROUPS					
26.	Members in United Methodist Men	2293	2654	361	7
27.	Amount Paid for Projects	90836	99888	9052	280
28.	Members in United Methodist Women	8353	8745	392	24
29.	Amount Paid for Projects	1870083	646150	<sup>2</sup>	1810
30.	Members in United Methodist Youth	3682	3596	-86	10
31.	Amount Paid for Projects	336344	198777	-137567	557
WEEKDAY					
32a.	Number of Weekday Ministry Programs	637	793	156	2
32b.	Total Persons Served	24436	33612	9176	94
PROPERTY VALUES AND INDEBTEDNESS					
33.	Value of Church Land and Equity	935208684	927424465	-7784219	2597828
34.	Value of Parsonages and Furniture	122363827	119296495	-3067332	334164
35.	Value of Other Assets	109259485	122750701	13491216	343839
36.	Indebtedness on Lines 32-34	96036655	33844992	-62191663	94804
37.	Other Indebtedness	1588685	1592955	4270	4462

<sup>2</sup> A number in excess of \$1,000,000 was accidentally inserted in last year's report.

NUMBER OF NEW CHURCHES <sup>3</sup>	0	5	5
NUMBER OF CHURCHES REPORTING	324	346	22
NUMBER OF CHURCHES CLOSED	0	0	-3
NUMBER OF CHURCHES AT END OF YEAR	352	357	5

## THE TOP TWENTY

### NEW MEMBERS THROUGH PROFESSION OF FAITH

<b>District</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Total</b>
GG	San Francisco – Glide	135
SJ	Alamo	43
GG	San Francisco – Calvary	37
FR	Clovis: Memorial	36
SJ	Los Altos	29
FR	Sanger	37
DL	Point Pleasant	24
DL	Sacramento – Trinity	23
NS	Reno – South Reno	23
SH	McKinleyville	20
GG	Redwood City – Woodside Road	20
NS	Gardnerville	19
GG	San Francisco – Korean	18
DL	Cameron Park	18
FR	Bakersfield – First	18
SJ	San Jose – Wesley	18
DL	Rocklin	16
BV	Vallejo – Fellowship	15
DL	Sacramento – St. Mark's	15
SJ	Los Gatos	15

### NUMBER OF PERSONS BAPTIZED

<b>District</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Total</b>
SH	Arcata	85
SJ	Los Altos	50
FR	Sanger	24
SH	McKinleyville	20
SJ	San Jose – Korean	18
DL	Sacramento – First	17
SJ	Alamo	17
GG	San Francisco – Glide	17
DL	Lodi – First	16
SH	Redding	15
GG	San Francisco – Chinese	15
SJ	Santa Clara – Bethel Korean	13
BV	Alameda – Buena Vista	13
FR	Clovis – United Japanese	13
SJ	Los Gatos	11
BV	Walnut Creek – First	11
DL	Point Pleasant	10
SJ	Fremont – St. Paul's	10
BV	Berkeley – United	10
NS	Reno – First	10

<sup>3</sup> Five Fellowships were added to our list: Sacramento: Tongan, Clovis: Korean Fellowship, Reno: First Tongan, San Francisco: Epworth, and Fremont: First Korean.

PERSONS FROM CHURCH SCHOOL/FORMATION GROUPS BECOMING MEMBERS

<b>District</b>	<b>Church</b>	
BV	Oakland – Fale Maama	66
DL	Jackson	32
FR	Bakersfield – First	31
SJ	Los Altos	29
FR	Sanger	28
BV	Walnut Creek – First	24
NS	Reno – South Reno	23
DL	Lodi – First	23
GG	San Bruno First Tongan	20
SJ	Fremont – St. Paul's	18
BV	Pleasanton	18
DL	Cameron Park	18
NS	Carson City	15
BV	Vallejo – Fellowship	15
DL	Modesto – First	14
SJ	San Jose – Willow Glen	14
NS	Grass Valley – Sierra Pines	13
DL	Sacramento – Tongan	13
--	four tied <sup>4</sup>	12

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE GAIN

<b>District</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Gain</b>	<b>%Gain</b>
FR	Clovis – Memorial	63	48
FR	Porterville – Grand Avenue	62	42
FR	Fresno – St. Mark's	52	325!
FR	Sanger	38	26
BV	Concord – Korean	31	34
SJ	Gilroy	28	122!
SH	Montague	26	173!
DL	Loomis	26	12
DL	Sacramento – First	26	16
BV	Dixon	23	21
DL	Lincoln	22	31
SJ	Salinas – First	22	27
SJ	San Jose – Calvary	20	34
GG	Santa Rosa – First	17	3
GG	San Francisco – Temple	17	14
FR	Lindsay	16	31
GG	San Mateo – Shoreview	15	17
GG	San Francisco – Korean	15	10
DL	Point Pleasant	14	5
--	five tied <sup>5</sup>	13	--

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE PERCENTAGE GAIN

<b>District</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>%Gain</b>	<b>Gain</b>
FR	Fresno – St. Mark's	325	52
SH	Montague	173	26
SJ	Gilroy	122	28
SH	Durham	67	10
BV	Richmond – St. Luke's	60	12
FR	Clovis – Memorial	48	63

<sup>4</sup> Alamo, Yuba City: First, Reedley: First, Fale Hufanga

<sup>5</sup> Cameron Park, Marysville: First, Bakersfield: First, Aptos, Fremont: First

DL	Lodi – Salem	43	9
FR	Porterville – Grand Avenue	42	62
SJ	San Jose – Calvary	34	20
BV	Concord – Korean	34	31
GG	Round Valley	33	10
FR	Lindsay	31	16
DL	Lincoln	31	22
SH	Biggs	30	8
SJ	Salinas – First	27	22
FR	Sanger	26	38
BV	Vacaville – St. Paul's	25	5
BV	Dixon	21	23
SH	Etna	21	11
SH	Gridley	21	4

#### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP GAIN

<b>District</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Gain</b>	<b>%Gain</b>
GG	San Francisco – Glide	229	2
FR	Dos Palos	68	136!
GG	Santa Rosa – First	43	6
DL	Hughson	40	23
FR	Clovis – Memorial	40	12
GG	San Francisco – Calvary	37	48
FR	Fresno – St. Mark's	36	200!
NS	Reno – South Reno	31	4
DL	Sacramento – Trinity	31	30
BV	Oakland – Fale Maama	22	10
GG	San Mateo	21	12
DL	Linden	21	21
DL	Lincoln	21	19
FR	Sanger	20	9
BV	Vallejo – Fellowship	19	7
GG	Redwood City – Woodside Road	19	16
SH	McKinleyville	18	10
DL	Point Pleasant	18	7
SJ	Pacific Grove – First	15	9
DL	Loomis	15	2

#### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP PERCENTAGE GAIN

<b>District</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>%Gain</b>	<b>Gain</b>
FR	Fresno – St. Mark's	200	36
FR	Dos Palos	136	68
GG	San Francisco – Calvary	48	37
SJ	Pacific Grove – Forest Hill	43	3
SH	Montague	32	10
DL	Sacramento – Trinity	30	31
DL	Hughson	23	40
DL	Linden	21	21
DL	Lincoln	19	21
SH	Durham	18	4
FR	Taft	17	14
FR	Corcoran	17	7
DL	Patterson Federated	16	13
GG	Redwood City – Woodside Road	16	19
DL	Ione	15	10
DL	Jamestown	13	6
FR	Clovis – Memorial	12	40

GG	Fort Bragg	12	10
GG	San Mateo - Shoreview	12	21
--	four tied <sup>6</sup>	10	--

TOTAL WORSHIP ATTENDANCE<sup>7</sup>

<b>District</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Increase</b>
SJ	San Jose – Korean	700	10
GG	Santa Rosa – First	555	17
FR	Visalia	494	3
FR	Bakersfield – First	368	13
DL	Point Pleasant	322	14
GG	San Bruno – First Tongan	290	10
SJ	Fremont – St. Paul's	275	8
DL	Sacramento – Centennial	274	5

TOTAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP<sup>8</sup>

<b>District</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Members</b>	<b>Increase</b>
GG	San Francisco – Glide Memorial	11859	229
BV	Alamo	1138	1
NS	Reno – South Reno	870	31
SJ	San Jose – Wesley	827	1
GG	Santa Rosa – First	806	43
DL	Sacramento – St. Mark's	725	2
DL	Loomis	619	15
SJ	Los Gatos	573	2

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<sup>6</sup> McKinleyville, Milpitas, Oakland: Fale Maama, Citrus Heights

<sup>7</sup> These are the top 20 churches that saw increases in Attendance in 2008. Those that saw no growth or decline are not entered.

<sup>8</sup> These are the top 20 churches that saw increases in Membership in 2008. Those that saw no growth or decline are not entered.