

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



The Episcopal Church by the Numbers:

Analysis of the 2024 Parochial Report Data

Prepared for the Executive Officer of The Episcopal Church
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FOREWORD

This year's report represents a significant departure from the previous annual publications, because the content of the report form changed significantly for 2024.

The House of Deputies' Committee on the State of the Church, with the approval of Executive Council, significantly revised the questions included in the 2024 Parochial Report form to better capture the evolving needs and circumstances of Episcopal congregations. This means that certain data points collected in previous years may not be directly comparable to this year's findings. While this creates some discontinuity in the historical trend analysis, these changes were necessary to ensure the annual reporting remained relevant and responsive to the current landscape of congregational life. The few trends which can be tracked over time are included at the end of this report.

Overall the 2024 Parochial Report provides a broader insight into the life of congregations, sharing more about the various programs, initiatives, and activities that happen week after week. This is also the first year there has been consistent reporting of online worship engagement, which allows a more complete picture. Additionally, there are new questions about endowments, debt, and building usage to help provide a more holistic understanding of the financial life of parishes.

The 2024 Parochial Report data collection achieved a robust 94.1% response rate. This high level of participation suggests that the data presented in this report provides a comprehensive picture of The Episcopal Church.

CONGREGATIONS

6,707 Open Parishes and
Missions in 2024

6,310 (94.1%) Submitted
data to the 2024
Parochial Report





SERVICE ATTENDANCE

3

In-Person and Online

413,034

Total Average Sunday Attendance
In-Person

121,545

Total Average Sunday Attendance
Online (livestream)

183,156

Total Average Weekday Attendance
In-Person



75,103

Total Average Weekday Attendance
Online (livestream)



46.9% congregations report having people watch services online later in the week, with a median of **27** views per congregation per week

38

Median Average
Sunday Attendance
In-Person

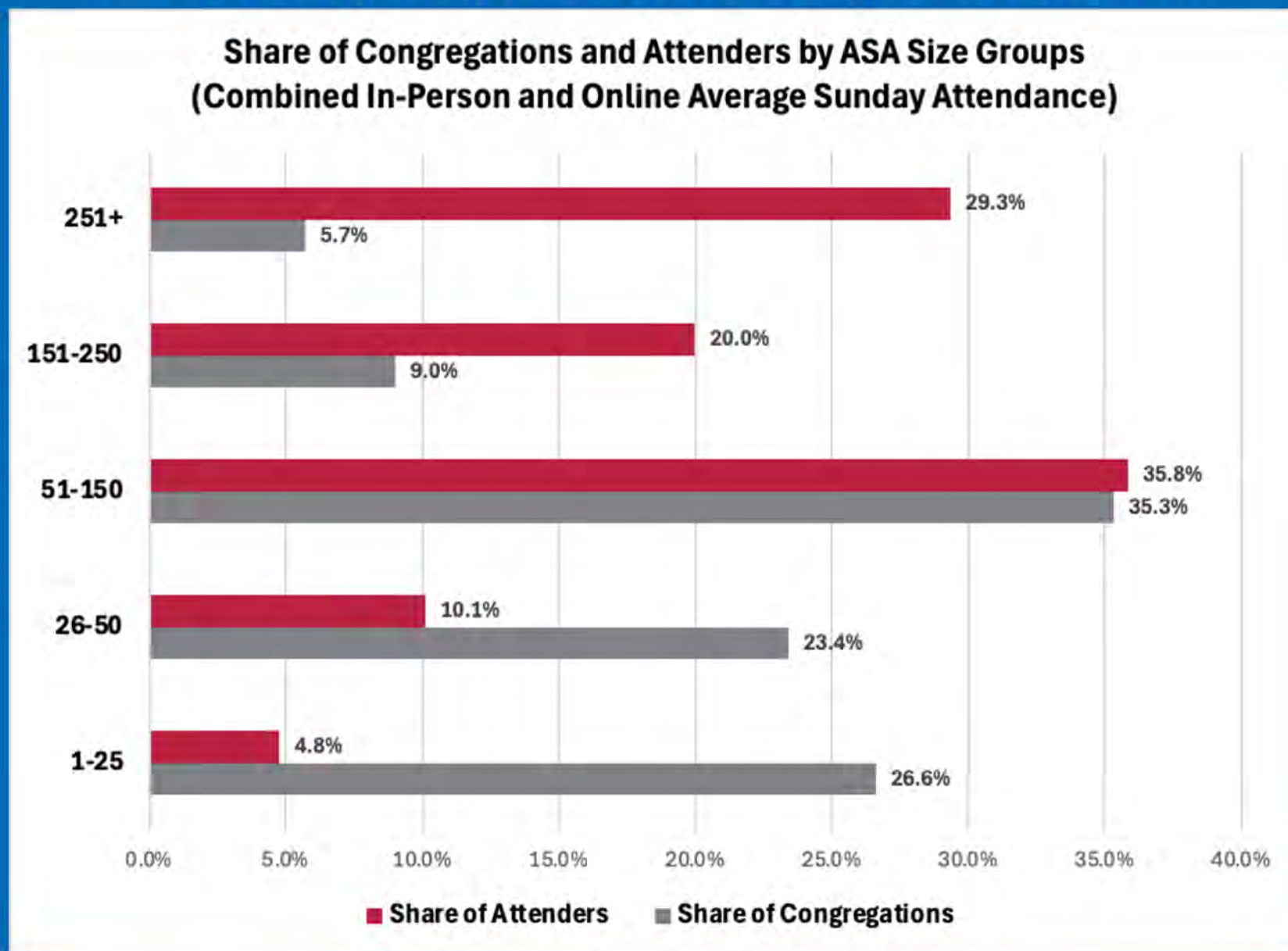
3

Median Average
Sunday Attendance
Online

46

Median Average Sunday
Attendance Combined
(*In-Person and Online*)

Most **churches** are small,
but most **people** attend larger churches





SERVICES

5



523,133

Eucharist
Services

&

258,004

Daily
Offices



Christmas
Attendance **960,207**



950,275 Easter
Attendance



Burial
Services **24,165**



4,951 Marriage
Services

THE PEOPLE

12,600 confirmations

5,441 receptions

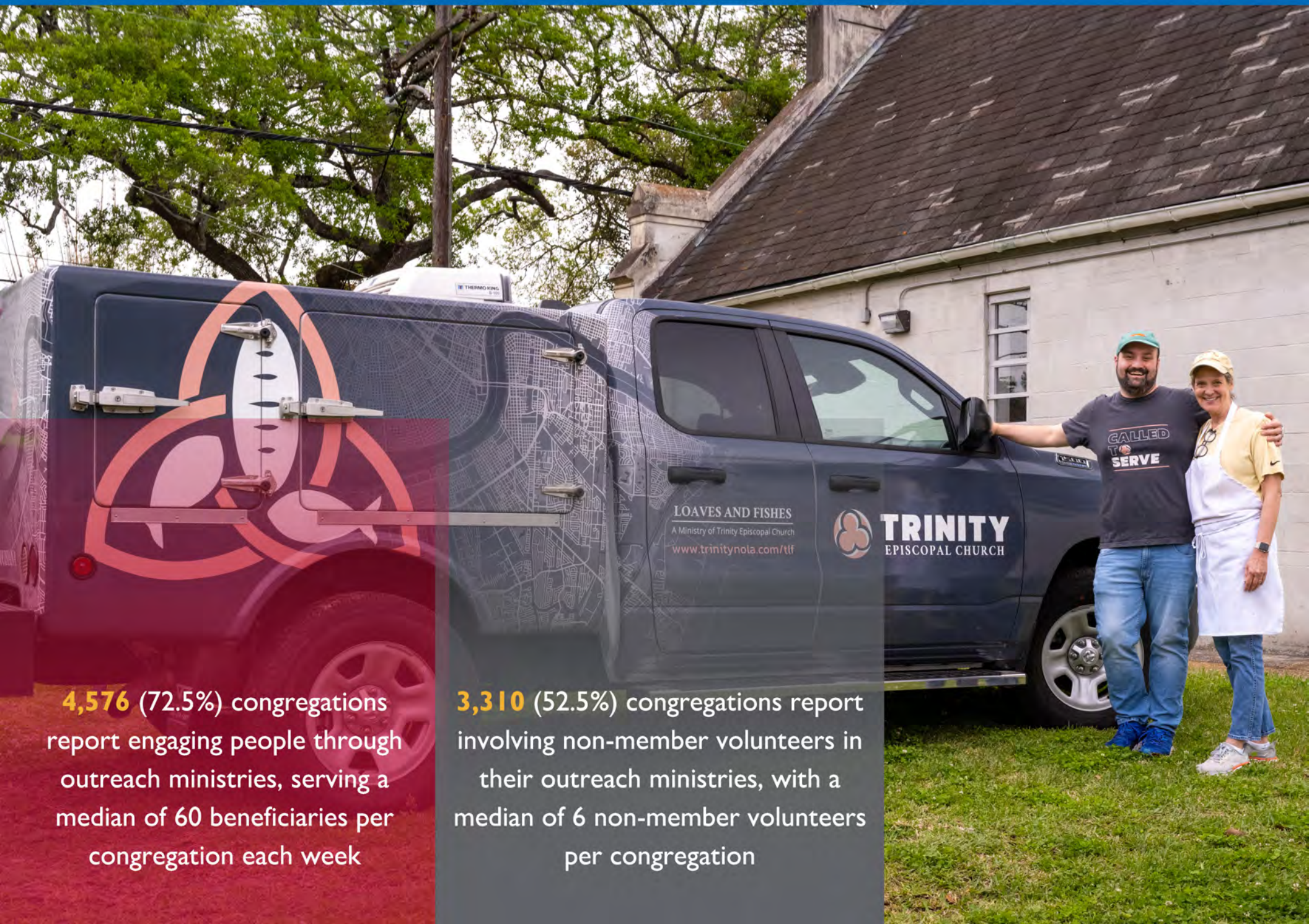
19,624 baptisms



Median average age is
60 years old

Median percent
White is **95%**

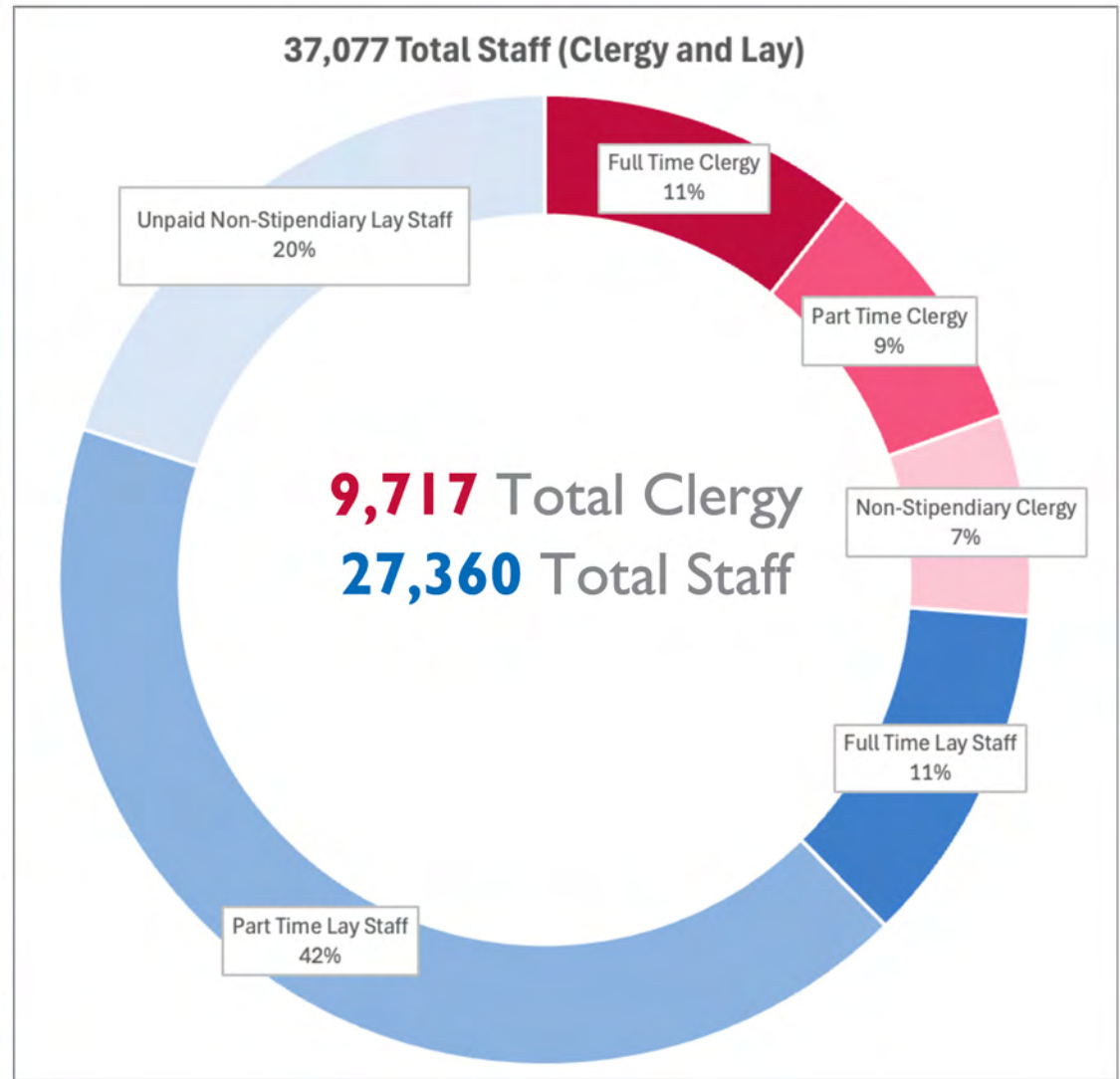




4,576 (72.5%) congregations report engaging people through outreach ministries, serving a median of 60 beneficiaries per congregation each week

3,310 (52.5%) congregations report involving non-member volunteers in their outreach ministries, with a median of 6 non-member volunteers per congregation

CLERGY & STAFF

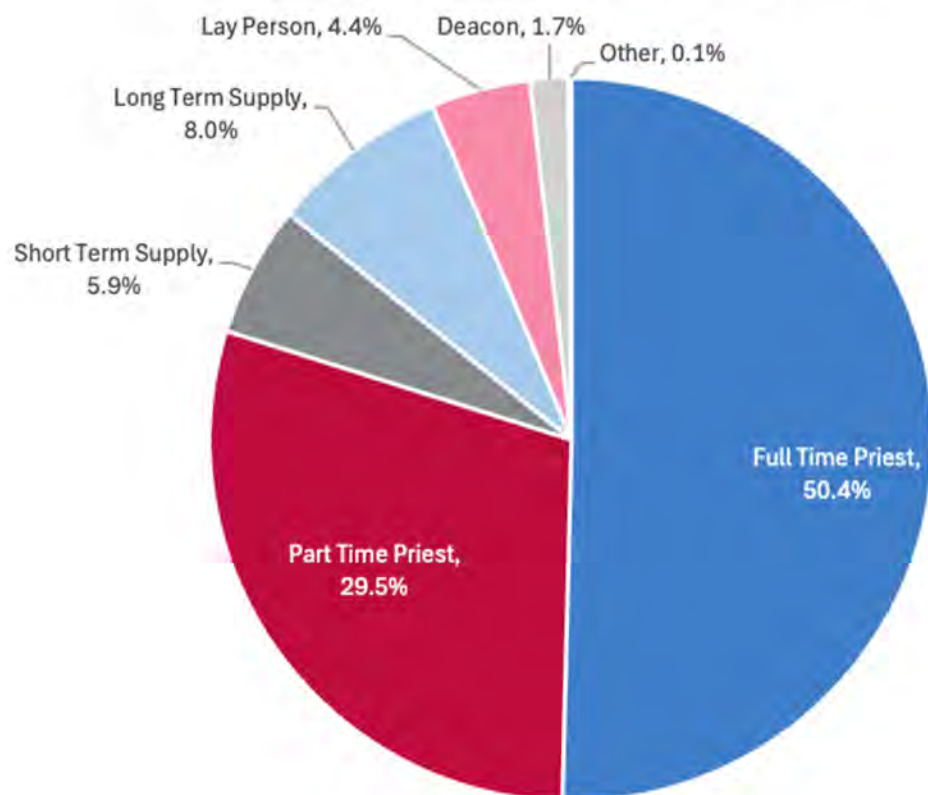


1,803 Total Parishes
with a Deacon

WORSHIP LEADERS

9

Leader of Primary Worship Services



Unique Clergy Situations

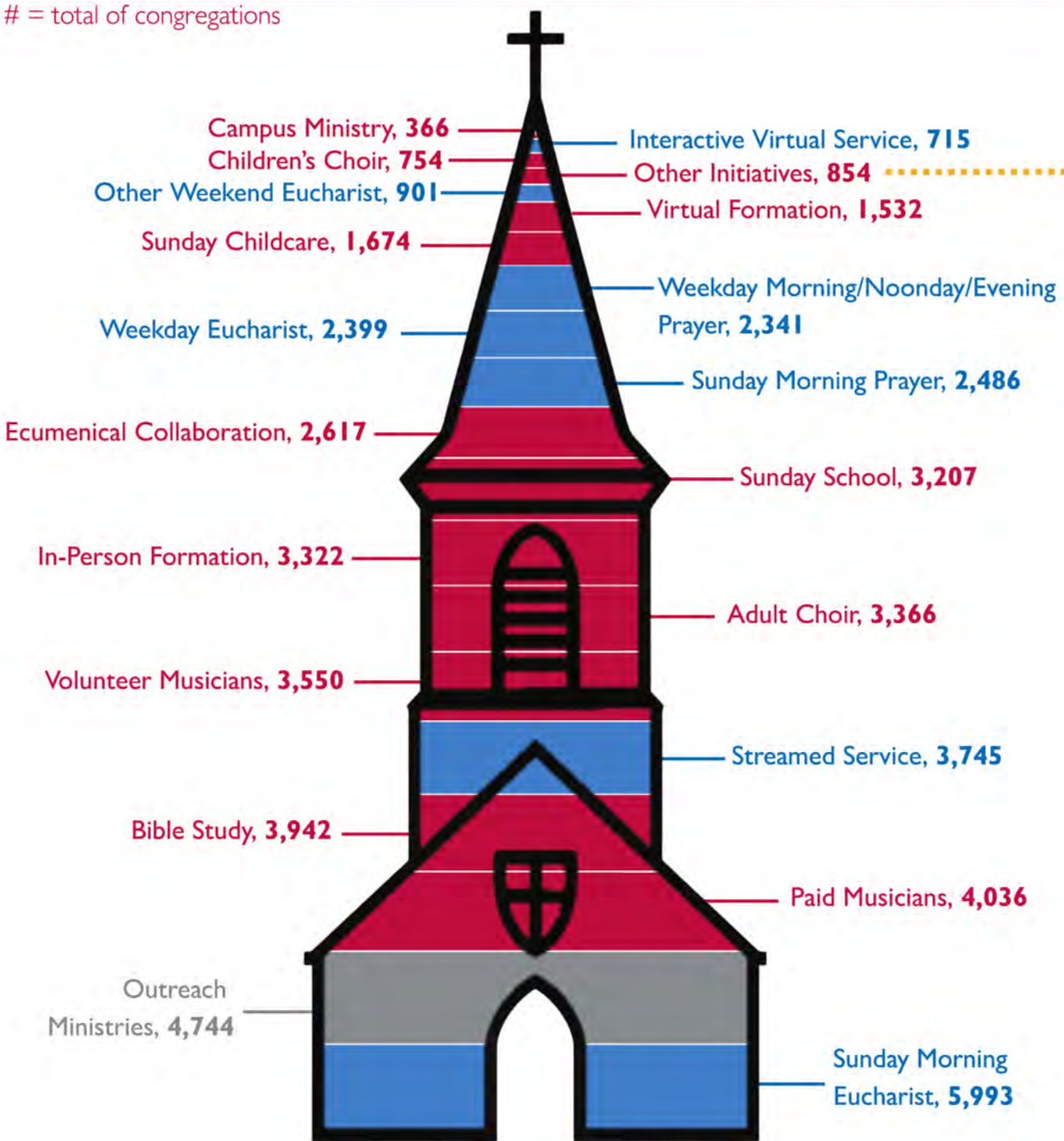
> Long Term Supply or Interim
1,017

> Call to Common Ministry
225

> Clergy from Anglican Communion
158

> Other Arrangements
852

= total of congregations



- Other Initiatives Include:**
- **Worship:** Traditional & contemporary services, online ministry, healing services, compline, Taizé
 - **Outreach:** Food pantries, thrift shops, homeless assistance, prison ministry, refugee support
 - **Education:** Adult formation, youth programs, VBS, children's ministries, day schools
 - **Pastoral Care:** Home communion, sick visits, grief support, senior/veteran ministries
 - **Arts:** Choirs, concerts, theater, handbell groups, community cultural events
 - **Justice:** Anti-racism, LGBTQ+ support, creation care, immigration assistance
 - **Partnerships:** 12-step hosting, school collaboration, interfaith cooperation, civic engagement

SCHOOLS & PARTNERSHIPS

11



CONGREGATIONS WITH SCHOOLS



Preschool or Nursery Program	765
K-8 School	170
9-12 School	62



SUBSIDIARY or ASSOCIATED ORGANIZATIONS



1,646 congregations with a
Subsidiary or Associated
Outreach Ministry or
Other Organization

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDE:

- **Community partnerships:** Space rental or specialty schools
- **Social services:** Thrift shops, food pantries, shelters, or clinics
- **Support groups:** AA/NA meetings, mental health services
- **Youth activities:** After-school care or summer camps
- **Specialized ministries:** Prison ministry or missions
- **Arts & culture:** Music schools or dance programs

PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

Out of the **4,718** responses to the question, "What is one program or initiative at your Church that you feel best exemplifies your congregation?" congregations across parishes identified four top themes.

- **Food & Clothing Ministries:** involves creating or expanding food and clothing programs by establishing pantries, preparing and distributing meals, or creating informal thrift shops and clothing exchange opportunities.

2,694

- **Special Worship & Cultural Events:** encompasses special events hosted by the church for the congregation and community, featuring worship elements and resources, such as Christmas services, fundraisers, and community meals.

1,202

- **Housing & Shelter Initiatives:** includes programs that assist individuals in finding housing after reentering society from prison and provide resources for the unhoused.

336

- **Christian Education & Formation:** emphasizes the importance of Christian education for children, youth, and adults, including Sunday School and catechism, which align with both mission and identity.

291

PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

The most frequently mentioned are the development or expansion of **food and clothing ministries**, where congregations are providing groceries, meals, clothing, and household supplies.

*“Feeding Bodies and Souls... best exemplifies our congregation's heart and mission. This ministry began with the simple passion to do Christ's work by “feeding the least of these” - our neighbors in need. **Beyond providing food, we create a safe, judgment-free environment** where people receive Christ's love through conversation and encouragement. In 2024, our fifth year of operation, the pantry **served over 407 different households** representing 1,405 individuals. Of those served, **35% were children and youth under 18**, while **23% were seniors over 60**. Our reach extends across **54 different zip codes**, with **24% of recipients residing in our immediate neighborhood.**”*

- St. Andrews, Birmingham, AL



WORSHIP SERVICE LANGUAGES

5,828 congregations offer
services in English

243 offer a service that is
simultaneously
conducted in more than
one language

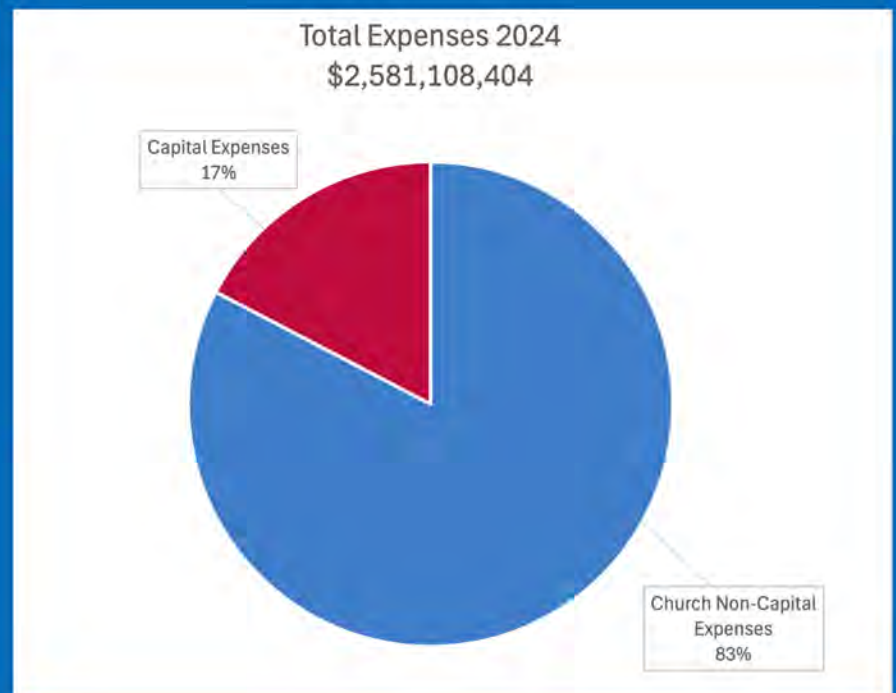
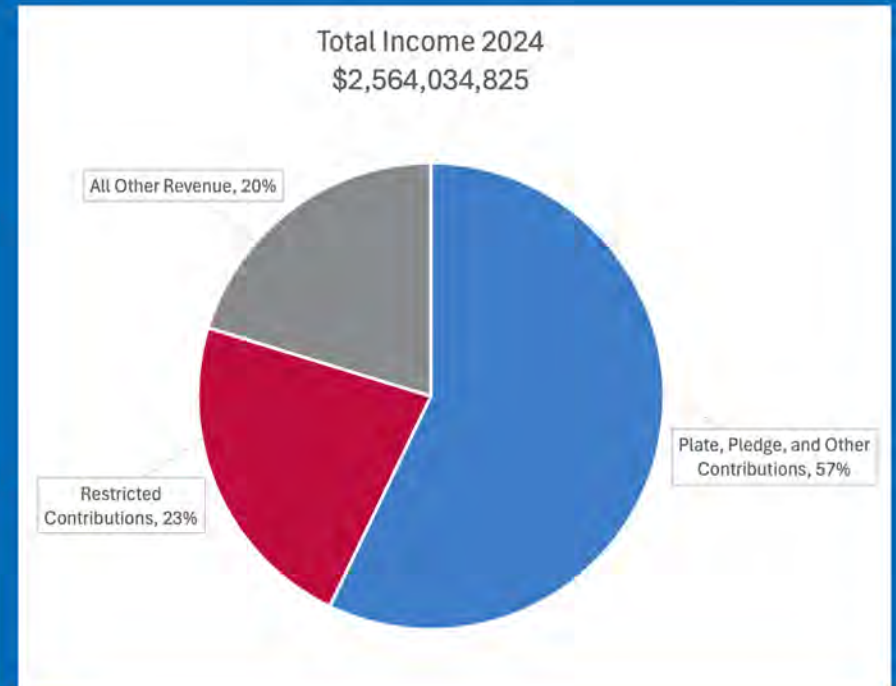
Spanish	673	Arabic	6	Telugu	2
French	139	Italian	5	Urdu	2
Haitian Creole	130	Malayalam	4	Vietnamese	2
Lakota	44	Hmong	4	Amharic	1
Dakota	19	Hindi	3	Bengali	1
Hawaiian	19	Ilokano	3	Dutch	1
Dinka	14	Tongan	3	Filipino	1
Tagalog	10	Chinese (Simplified)	2	Greek	1
Korean	9	Chuukese	2	Gujarati	1
Navajo	9	Farsi	2	Kannada	1
Chinese (Traditional)	8	Georgian	2	Khmer	1
German	8	Igbo	2	Marshallese	1
Karen	8	Inupiaq	2	Ojibwe	1
Latin	7	Luganda	2	Samoan	1
Swahili	7	Portuguese	2	S'gaw Karen	1

FINANCES

> Total income of \$2.5 Billion including \$1.4 Billion plate and pledge contributions

> **314,193** total pledge cards with a median average pledge amount of \$3,093

> Total expenses of \$2.5 Billion including 17% capital expenses



ENDOWMENTS & INVESTMENTS



74.5% of congregations report having an endowment or investment account

Total of **\$5.2 Billion** in endowments and **\$1.6 Billion** in investments

Median endowment size of around **\$202,000** and median investments of about **\$54,000**

Median draw rate from endowment of **3.3%**



21.1% of congregations report having outstanding debt totaling around \$375 million with a median of around \$55,000.



The most common reasons for these debts are building infrastructure maintenance (particularly roof replacements and HVAC system upgrades), property mortgages on church buildings and rectories, and capital improvement projects.

Many parishes also carry debt from COVID-19 pandemic relief loans and energy efficiency investments.

Many churches rely on low-interest diocesan loan programs for financing these initiatives.

BUILDINGS, LAND, & RENTAL INCOME

18



82.8% of congregations own buildings and/or land with the rest renting or borrowing space.



Just over half (55%) of these congregations rent or lease a portion of their building(s) or land to groups outside of the congregation.



Among those who rent out their buildings, the median revenue earned annually is about \$13,000 and the median expenses incurred are about \$700 annually.

REDUCING CARBON FOOTPRINT

19

Out of the **4,216** responses to the question, "**How is your parish reducing your carbon footprint?**" congregations across parishes identified four top themes.

- **Energy Efficiency:** upgrading to LED lighting, reducing energy use, balancing thermostats to minimize consumption, updating HVAC systems, adding insulation, and replacing windows.



- **Recycling & Waste Reduction:** recycling paper, plastic, aluminum, and clothing; decreasing single-use items and switching to reusables; using less Styrofoam; and opting for more biodegradable and reusable materials like glass.



- **Water Conservation:** decreasing water usage and maintaining building systems (e.g., plumbing) to prevent leaks in toilets, sinks, etc.




- **Paper Reduction & Digital Communication:** digitizing newsletters, reusing church bulletin inserts, reducing page counts, and using QR codes.



REDUCING CARBON FOOTPRINT

The most frequently mentioned are efforts towards **energy efficiency**. Ultimately, congregations are taking action to update infrastructure to reduce the amount of energy used by upgrading HVAC units, adding insulation, replacing windows, and updating to LED lighting.



Within the last five years, our parish significantly remodeled our church. As part of the remodeling, our parish installed a new, efficient HVAC system. The system is controlled by programmable thermostats that can be controlled through a wireless connection. This ensures that we are only heating or cooling our building when we are using it...our parish used individual cups to distribute wine during communion. A parishioner found small paper cups suitable for communion. This parishioner takes the cups and composts them after the service.

St. Peters, Chicago, IL

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

21

Out of the **4,444** responses to the question, "What is one program or initiative at your Church that represents your hope for the future of your congregation or the greater Episcopal Church?" congregations across parishes identified four top themes.

- **Social Justice Initiatives:** describes addressing social inequality through various programs/collaborations, like hosting food pantries, clothing exchanges, and recovery groups like AA, as well as offering meals, showers to the unhoused, and Narcan training.



- **Youth & Children's Ministry:** emphasizes developing or expanding programs that engage children, youth, and families through worship, education, service, and fellowship (e.g., youth group and confirmation preparation).



- **Worship & Music:** expresses the importance of communal worship (e.g., congregational singing, choirs, and instrumental), new worship opportunities for the church and community, and the joy of music after disruptions caused by COVID-19.



- **Christian Education & Lifelong Discipleship:** describes Christian education as a lifelong journey, emphasizing understanding scripture, liturgy, and theology, and integrating faith into daily life



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

The most frequently mentioned are efforts toward **social justice**. Ultimately, congregations and the wider community are collaborating and working toward shared social justice initiatives, fighting against societal ills like food insecurity, and developing programs teaching mental health awareness.

Over the past few years, St. Paul's has committed itself to the **work of racial justice**, not only by what we preach but also how we engage in the broader community. Many of our parishioners have participated in Sacred Ground. Our youth participate in a Youth for Justice pilgrimage with youth from the MLK Center. We formed a **Racial Justice Team** to facilitate our learning, to challenge our comfort and privilege, and to focus our initiatives. Our music ministry has sought out Black and female composers to ensure **greater diversity in the music** that is heard and sung in worship. With **community partners**, we developed a **mentoring program** called Puentes for Latino youth in Central Indiana.

St. Paul's, Indianapolis, IN



Province I

Total Congregations: 556

Total ASA (in-person): 29,949

Total ASA (online): 8,036

Total income: \$202,406,429

Total Clergy Staff: 823

Total Lay Staff: 2,274

Province II

Total Congregations: 1,077

Total ASA (in-person): 58,881

Total ASA (online): 16,233

Total income: \$279,955,345

Total Clergy Staff: 1,314

Total Lay Staff: 3,619

Province III

Total Congregations: 948

Total ASA (in-person): 61,047

Total ASA (online): 25,443

Total income: \$408,792,524

Total Clergy Staff: 1,378

Total Lay Staff: 4,110

Province IV

Total Congregations: 1,240

Total ASA (in-person): 105,033

Total ASA (online): 31,190

Total income: \$673,283,605

Total Clergy Staff: 1,910

Total Lay Staff: 6,041

Province V

Total Congregations: 704

Total ASA (in-person): 35,009

Total ASA (online): 8,583

Total income: \$212,933,792

Total Clergy Staff: 1,039

Total Lay Staff: 2,714

Province VI

Total Congregations: 461

Total ASA (in-person): 17,772

Total ASA (online): 4,333

Total income: \$112,074,269

Total Clergy Staff: 661

Total Lay Staff: 1,323

Province VII

Total Congregations: 657

Total ASA (in-person): 51,380

Total ASA (online): 13,816

Total income: \$359,271,770

Total Clergy Staff: 1,045

Total Lay Staff: 3,419

Province VIII

Total Congregations: 808

Total ASA (in-person): 46,204

Total ASA (online): 13,176

Total income: \$286,368,906

Total Clergy Staff: 1,337

Total Lay Staff: 3,377

Province IX

Total Congregations: 256

Total ASA (in-person): 7,759

Total ASA (online): 735

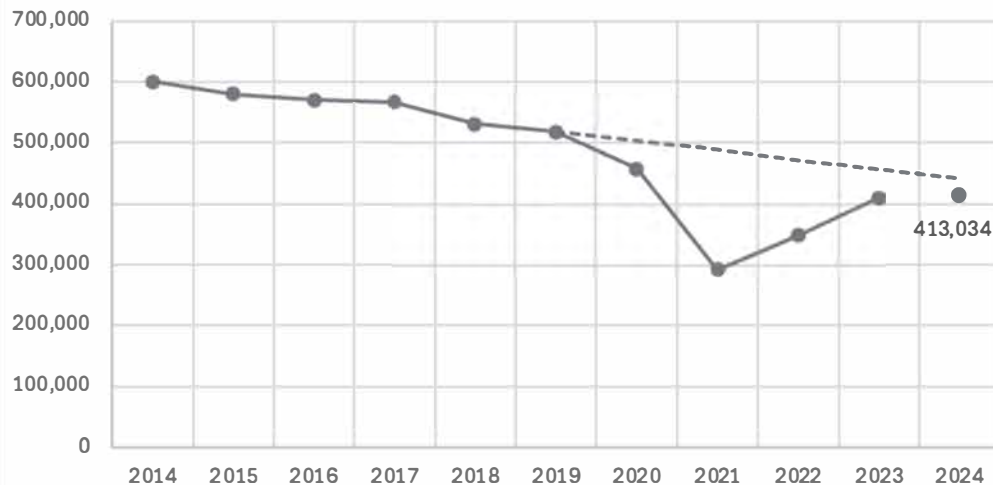
Total income: \$28,948,185

Total Clergy Staff: 210

Total Lay Staff: 483

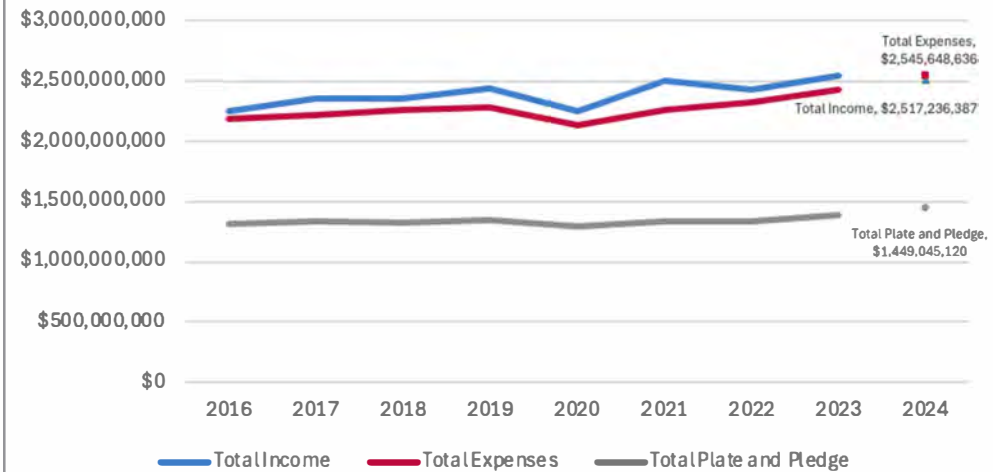
As mentioned in the foreword, this year's report is significantly different from the reports from previous years. Due to changes in the questionnaire as well as in the data handling process, most data are not able to be compared over time. However, there are a few trends which can be looked at over time—with great caution. The few comparable trends are Average Sunday Attendance (in-person only) and finances.¹ Below are the graphs but note the disconnect in the graph to depict the trend is not continuable due to changes in the data management process.

Average Sunday Attendance (In Person)



In-person ASA continues to rebound after the dip it took during the pandemic. However, the recovery is only back to the previous point of decline.

Finances Over Time



For the first time, total expenses are greater than the total income. Plate and pledge income continues to rise, but only accounts for just over half of the income received.

¹ For comparability over time, financial data reported for filing congregations in the USA, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Micronesia, and Europe only.