



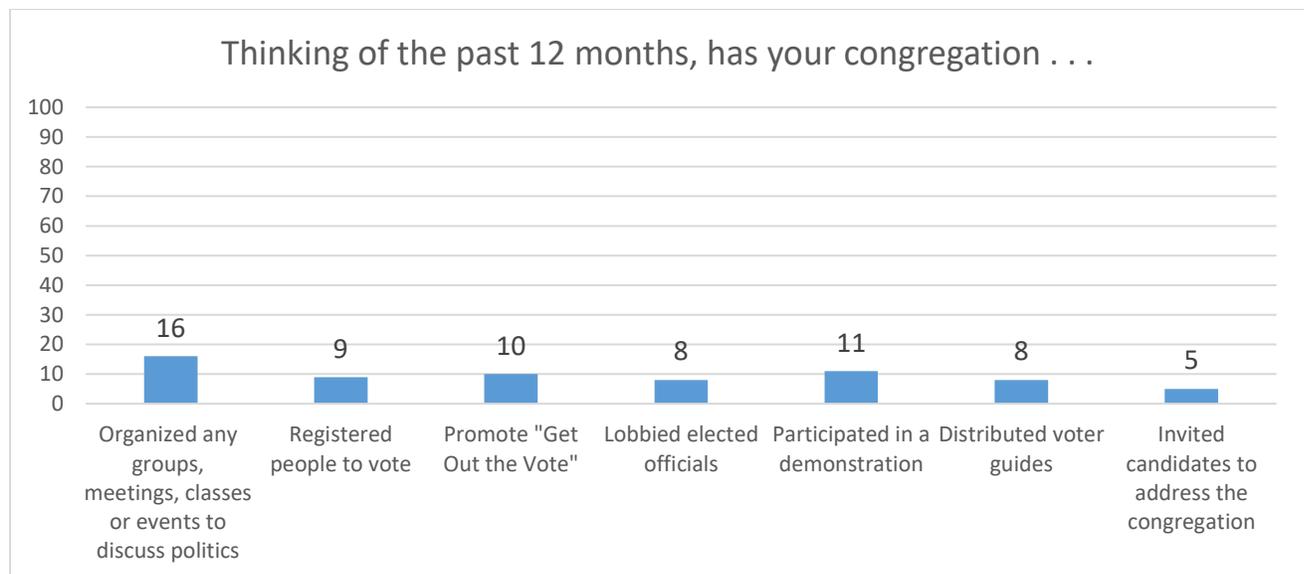
## UMC FACT Report – Political Activism

### Key Findings:

1. United Methodist churches report low levels of political activity. Few congregations participate in demonstrations, lobby officials, or work to get out the vote. Only one church in six have organized any groups for political discussion during 2019.
2. The majority of churches also avoid political discussions. These churches appear to intentionally circumvent conflict that might come from offering political opinions. Churches rarely report that members have similar political views.

### Political Activities at Church

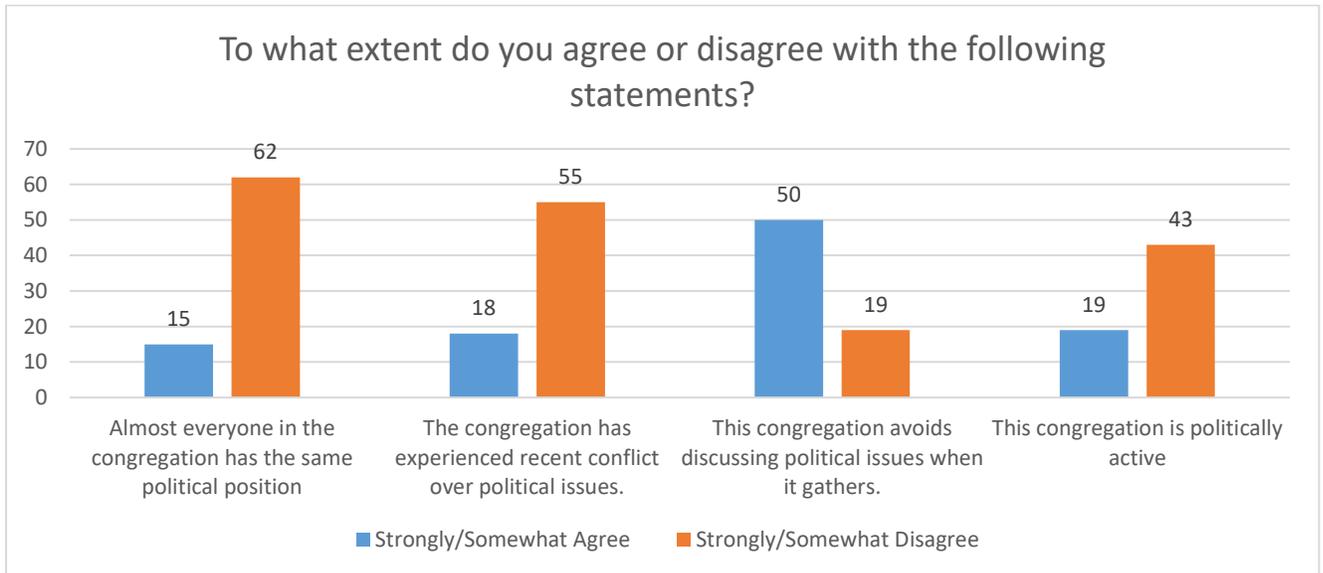
Generally, few United Methodist churches participate in activities associated with politics. Only, 16%, organize groups or meetings to discuss politics. The percentage declines when asked about church participation in demonstrations, lobbying, or voter registration or education programs.



Larger churches, those 250 and above in average attendance, are more likely to have meetings or classes to discuss politics but that percentage does not exceed 25%. Similarly, larger churches are more likely to participate in demonstrations. Approximately 16% of churches with 250 or more in attendance say they have participated in a demonstration in 2019.

## Congregational Political Activism

Churches with more than 500 in attendance are more likely to report recent conflict over political issues with 30% reporting problems.



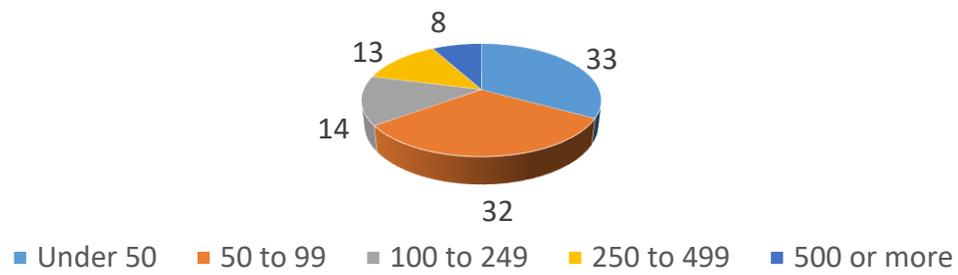
### About this Study:

Since 2000, The United Methodist Church has participated every ten years in a joint survey with other religious groups, Christian and non-Christian. The study is coordinated by the Faith Communities Today group (FACT) of which United Methodist Communications is a member.

UMCOM sent the survey to all pastors and church offices in the United Methodist Communications (UMCOM) database, approximately 20,000 in total. The survey was in the field from mid-January to February 9. Data from these questions were not forward to the FACT group and are not included in upcoming reports from that organization.

Approximately 2770 churches responded to the questions referenced in this report. Of the pastors involved in the study, 28% serve more than one church. The survey instructed them to answer for the largest of their congregations only. The size of churches involved in this section of the study are provided below. There is a slight, but expected, under-representation of smaller churches which are part of multi-church charges.

Average attendance of FACT participants Involved in questions related to the connection



If you have questions about FACT or this report, please contact me at [cniedringhaus@umcom.org](mailto:cniedringhaus@umcom.org).