

Appendix D: African American Groups

Historically, church bodies focused on the African American population have been less focused on gathering statistics than those composed of European Americans. This has made it difficult for such groups to take part in religion censuses relying on congregational locations and size.

For the 2020 U.S. Religion Census, we identified 24 historically African American denominations and sought congregation locations and statistics directly from them.

One such group, United Holy Church of America, Inc., provided a directory and statistics.

We obtained church address lists from two companies, and these lists had denominational affiliation and approximate membership or attendance figures for many of the congregations they identified. While willing to use these lists, we preferred to see if there were online listings from any of the 23 remaining religious bodies.

Fourteen groups had online church directories; for these, we identified county locations of congregations. None of these reported membership or attendance figures on their websites.

Eight of the ten groups with online church directories had congregations on the address lists. The groups' online lists, rather than our mailing lists, were considered definitive, so address list information was only included for those congregations that were listed online. Again, we eliminated duplicates before applying membership or attendance data.

Analysis of address list data for groups that had provided their own data gave the typical size for congregations that either had no membership/attendance data or that were not included on either address list. Again, we found metropolitan/micropolitan status to affect those typical sizes, and hence applied appropriate ratios to each group in determining membership or attendance.

Of the fourteen groups with online church directories, six smaller groups had no congregations in the address lists. With no membership or attendance figures, these groups only have congregational numbers in the 2020 count.

Ten groups did not have online directories for their churches.

Seven of the ten groups without online directories had congregations listed on at least one of the address lists. We eliminated duplicate entries and obtained approximate size information for many of these congregations. For these bodies, we were usually able to obtain approximate size information for a large majority of congregations.

By analyzing address list data for other groups that provided their own complete data, we were able to identify the typical size of missing-data congregations in various community sizes as defined by their metropolitan/micropolitan status. We applied that formula to the missing-data congregations in each of the eight bodies, based upon the relative sizes of the congregations that did have information. We then used that data used to estimate adherents for congregations in all seven groups.

Three of the ten groups without online directories were not in our address lists, so we could not include them in the 2020 Religion Census.

Summary

One group provided a church directory and membership figures; this group should have accurate congregation and adherent data in the 2020 U.S. Religion Census.

United Holy Church of America, Inc.

Eight groups had online directories and address list congregational locations and sizes; these groups should have accurate congregational counts and reasonably accurate adherent figures in the 2020 U.S. Religion Census.

African Methodist Episcopal Church

Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of Apostolic Faith

Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America

Full Gospel Full Baptist Church Fellowship

National Primitive Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.

Reformed Zion Union Apostolic Church

United House of Prayer

Six groups had online directories but no congregational information in the address lists. These groups should have accurate congregational counts in the 2020 U.S. Religion Census.

Church of the Living God (Christian Workers for Fellowship)

Church of the Living God: Pillar and Ground of the Truth, Which He Purchased with His Own Blood, Inc.

House of God, Which is the Church of the Living God, the Pillar and Ground of the Truth, Inc.

North Carolina Congregational Conference

Union American Methodist Episcopal Church

United American Free Will Baptist Denomination, Inc.

Seven groups had no online listings but had address list locations and congregational sizes. These groups are known to be underrepresented in the 2020 U.S. Religion Census.

African Methodist Episcopal Zion

Church of God in Christ

National Baptist Convention-USA

National Baptist Convention of America

National Missionary Baptist Convention, Inc.

Pentecostal Assemblies of the World

Progressive National Baptist Convention

Three groups had neither online listings nor address list information. As such, we could not include these groups in the 2020 U.S. Religion Census.

Pentecostal Church of Christ

Reformed Methodist Union Episcopal Church

United Pentecostal Council of the Assemblies of God

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