

GENERAL TREND OF DECLINE

Statistics Canada & Barna Group

Decline in 'Religious Affiliation' : 68% in 2020 (first time below 70% since tracking began in 1985)

Decline in 'Christian Affiliation' : 2011 = 67.3%, 2020 = 63.2

People who attend at least once/month: 2000 = 30%, 2020 = 23% (Anglican = 19%)

People who attend 'not at all': 53%

Generation Gap: Born 1940-1959 = 83%, Born 1980-1999 = 32%

Comparison Points with the 1st & 2nd largest Denominations in Canada:

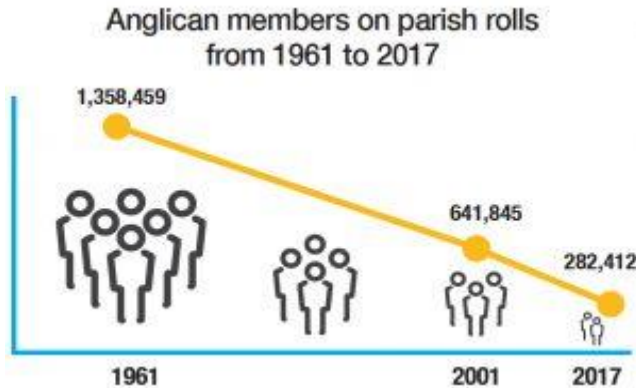
Roman Catholic 1996 = 46.9%, 2020 = 32%

United Church of Canada: 1985 = 14.6 %, 1996 = 9.7%, 2020 = 3.8%

Comparison with the United States: Regular Church Attendance 2000 = 45%, 2020 = 25%

Barna Group data shows Bible Reading, Prayer and Faith importance only slight decline

The Anglican Church in Canada



StatsCan data shows that in 1986, 10.4 per cent of all Canadians were Anglican. That dropped to 7.0 per cent in 1996 and to 3.8 per cent in 2019. The Anglican Church of Canada has been reduced from 1.3 million in 1961 to 282,000 in 2017. A 2019 analysis estimated that 9,000 church buildings will close in Canada in the next decade.

Neil Elliot, the Anglican Church of Canada's statistics and research officer, produced a report intended to show church elders what this would mean for its future.

After a membership decline between 1961 and 2001 of 50 per cent, and a similar decline between 1991 and 2015, Elliot projected the Anglican Church would run out of members completely by 2040.

Baptisms and confirmations had showed churches were "not drawing in substantial quantities of new members" and figures for funerals showed "we are not just losing members, we are losing the opportunities to draw in members, we are losing contacts with our communities."

Anglican Church of Canada continued...

The pandemic had brought about an impetus for change, he says, but it remains to be seen if that will result in an influx of new members. Elliot says the Anglican Church must adapt to survive. He says that his role is to try to drill this into the minds of clergy across Canada.

“I think of it very much like climate change, and people’s responses to climate change,” Elliot says.

“There’s three main responses to climate change: there’s denial ... then there’s people who say we can stop it. And then there’s people who say, we can adapt...that’s what I’m trying to get us to do within the Anglican Church, it’s how do we adapt to it?”

<https://globalnews.ca/news/8471086/religion-decline-canada/>

Gone by 2040’: Why some religions are declining in Canada faster than ever

By Ashleigh Stewart Global News, January 8, 2022

TRENDS in Decline

1. BUNGLED TRANSITIONS FROM CHRISTENDOM

Unable to support the way the Religious Institution has engaged its diminishing privilege within society in issues such as science, equality, religious freedom, employment patterns, participation expectations, worship practices etc.

2. IRRELEVANCE

Usually expressed as the church not 'meeting my needs'; people do not perceive a personal or community benefit to church involvement.

3. INSTITUTIONAL CONFIDENCE

Trend of decline also seen in Government, corporate and media institutions. Common complaints are authoritarianism, hypocrisy, abuse of power.

TRENDS in Retention

1. EXCLUSION/INCLUSION: Religious Institutions that adopt teachings to enforce inclusion and vilify exclusion.
2. OBLIGATION: This takes 2 forms. Religious Institution teaches that its members are obligated to attend (usually worship service) or donate (usually a 10% tithe).
3. ACTIVISM: Religious institution is active in the community in a way that attracts and retains participants; community service, social justice, politics.
4. SHIFTING: People born and raised in mainline Protestant denominations shift into Evangelical churches offering modern programming. Evangelical decline trends are delayed due to shifting.
5. 'GREY POWER': People returning to active church engagement in their retirement years such that the 'newly' retired replace the 'elder' retired. Can slow rate of decline but are always one generation from extinction.
6. THE RURAL EFFECT: Rural churches have slower rates of decline compared to urban.

THE PANDEMIC EFFECT... Barna/Nieuwhof 2021 Statistics

- Prior to the pandemic, only 21% of churches had digital ministry
- 35% say they enjoy their churches online services as well as the in-person
- 9% preferred online only
- 52 % preferred in-person only
- 71% of Boomers wanted in-person only (X, Millennial & Z ranged from 41% to 46%)
- 50% of churches saw average attendance grow online as compared to in-person
- 70% of churches saw online donations increase due to online services
- Average in-person attendance in 2021 was only 36% of pre-pandemic levels

TRENDS IN ADAPTATION

Edited from : 12 Disruptive Church Trends That Will Rule 2022 by Carey Nieuwhof

1. Transitioning away from the old model of Church
2. Innovation beyond weekend services
3. Valuing and empowering innovative leaders
4. Attendance will normalize at a level less than pre-pandemic
5. Online & in-person hybrid church will become the norm
6. In-person will become smaller and more interactive
7. Authority of leaders will decrease in importance
8. Clergy shortages will require innovation
9. Money/giving will be directed toward a purpose

“Simply put, growing churches approach outreach, services, and attendance barriers differently than stuck or declining churches. In other words, The real reasons churches don’t move past barriers aren’t spiritual – They’re structural.”