

# Presbytery of Northern Plains

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DIRECTOR OF LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

SYNOD OF LAKES AND PRAIRIES

APRIL 2, 2022

# The Lewis and Clark expedition







## *Babe Ruth*

(1895–1948)

American baseball  
outfielder and pitcher  
who played 22 seasons  
in Major League  
Baseball (MLB),  
from 1914 to 1935.

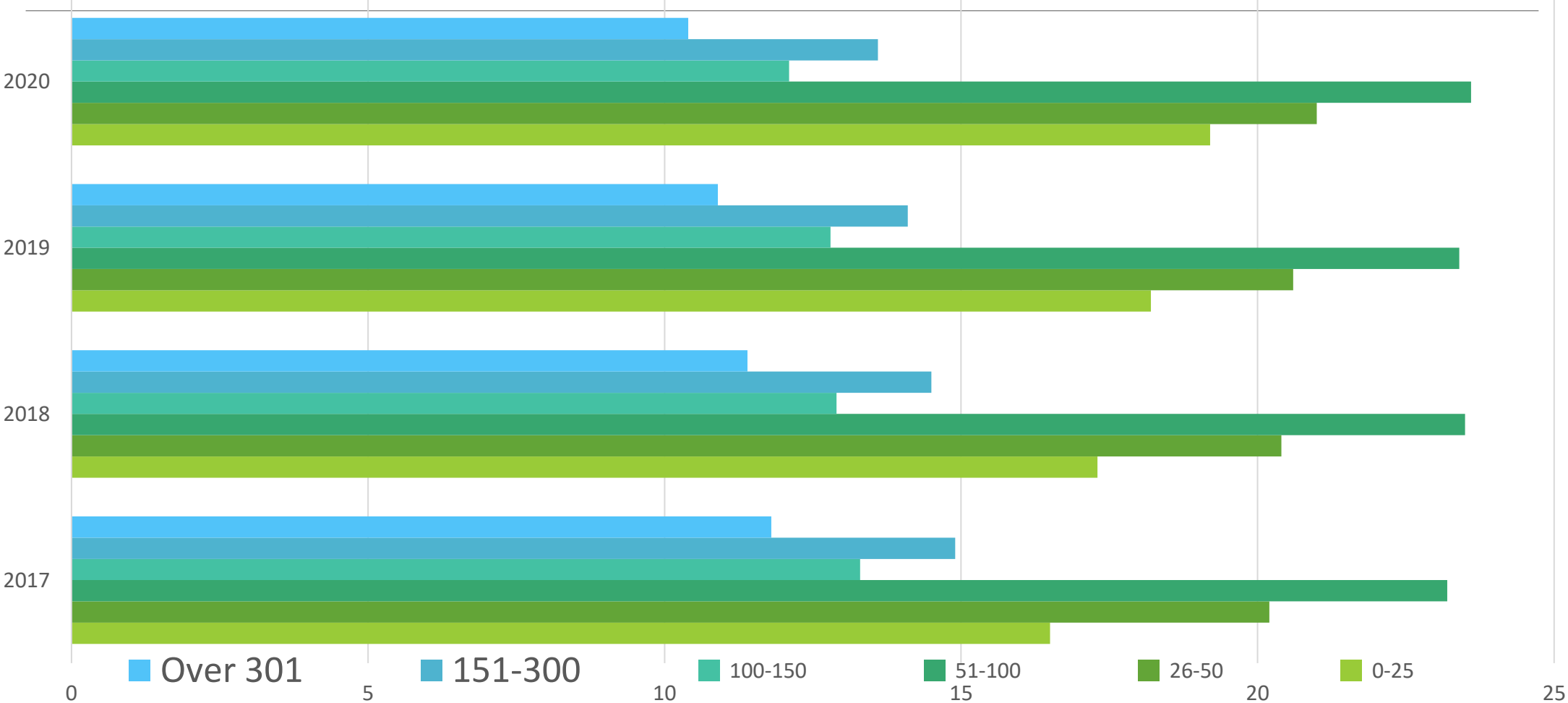
# Reflection Moment

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Where do we see God at work?

Where are the possibilities emerging?

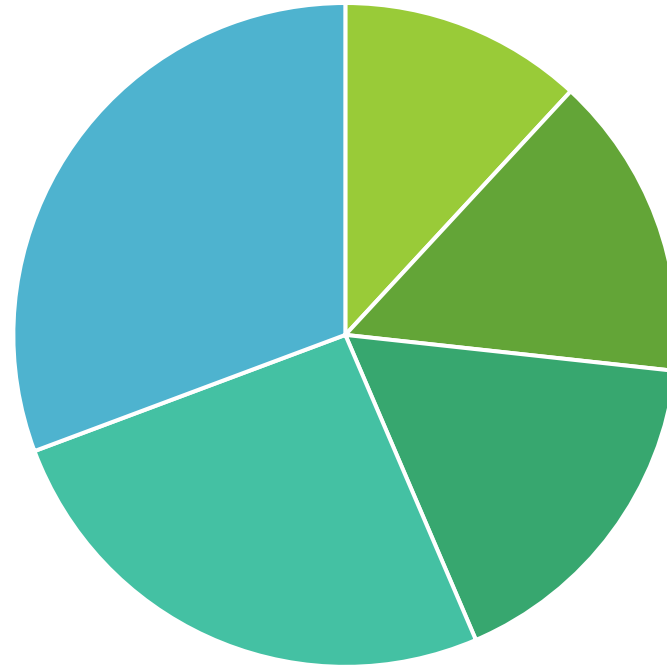
# PCUSA Church Size



# PCUSA Age of Members

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71 and over = 31%  
56-70 = 26%  
41-55 = 17%  
26-40 = 15%  
25 & under = 12%



■ 25 and under ■ 26-40 ■ 41-55 ■ 56-70 ■ 71 and over

# Changing Context Matters

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## NORTHERN PLAINS

25 & Under	<b>10%</b>	
26 - 40	<b>12.4%</b>	
41 - 55	<b>14.1%</b>	
56 - 70	<b>27.2%</b>	
Over 70		<b>36.2%</b>

## PC(USA)

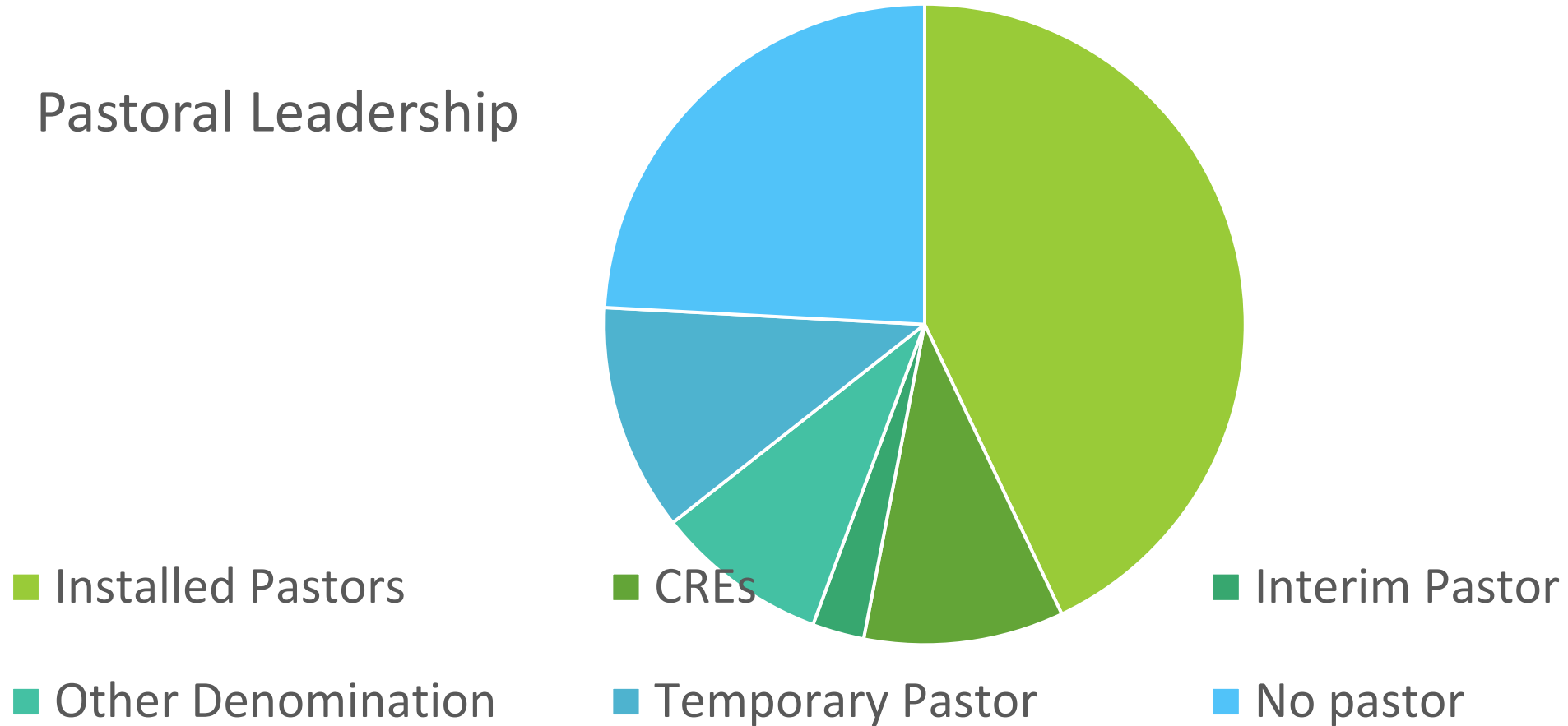
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# Synod 2019 Statistics

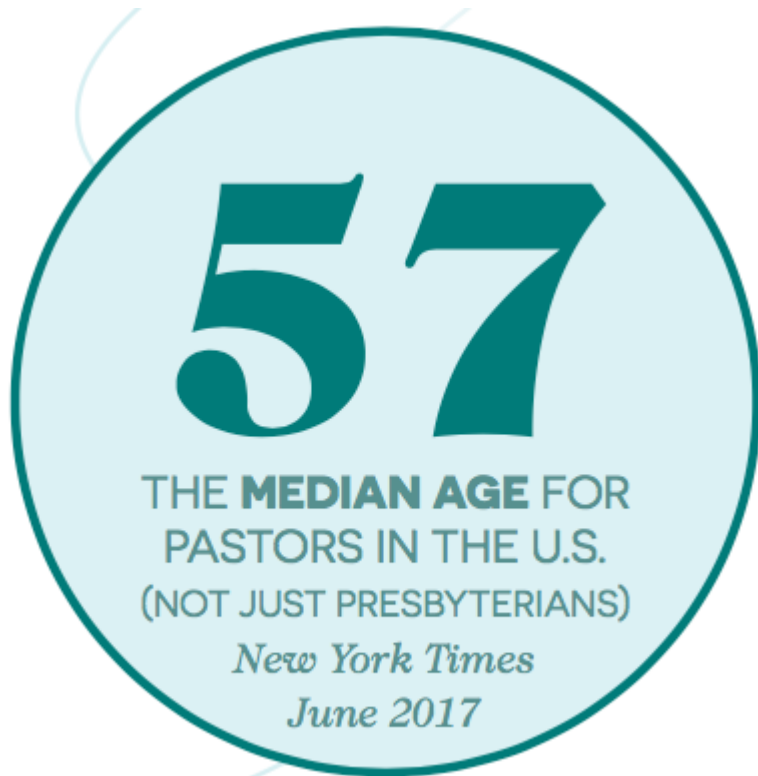
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## Pastoral Leadership



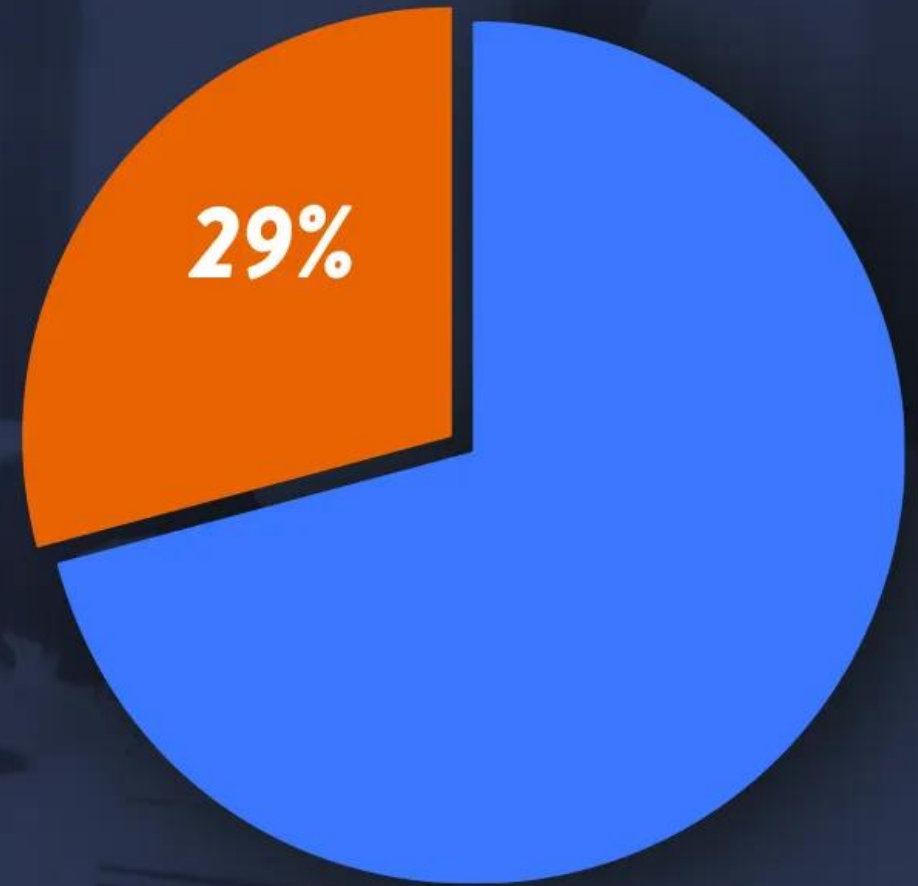
# Stimulating the Thinking of Congregational Members

Who is available and for how long?



- $\frac{3}{4}$  eligible to retire by 2027
- 2016 in the PCUSA, 49% were 66 or over. By 2026, only 25% will be under 66.
- Students of color from 9% to 41%
- 2006=375 ordinations; 2016 = 215 2020 = 145

**29% OF PASTORS HAVE  
GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION  
TO QUITTING FULL TIME  
MINISTRY IN THE LAST YEAR.**

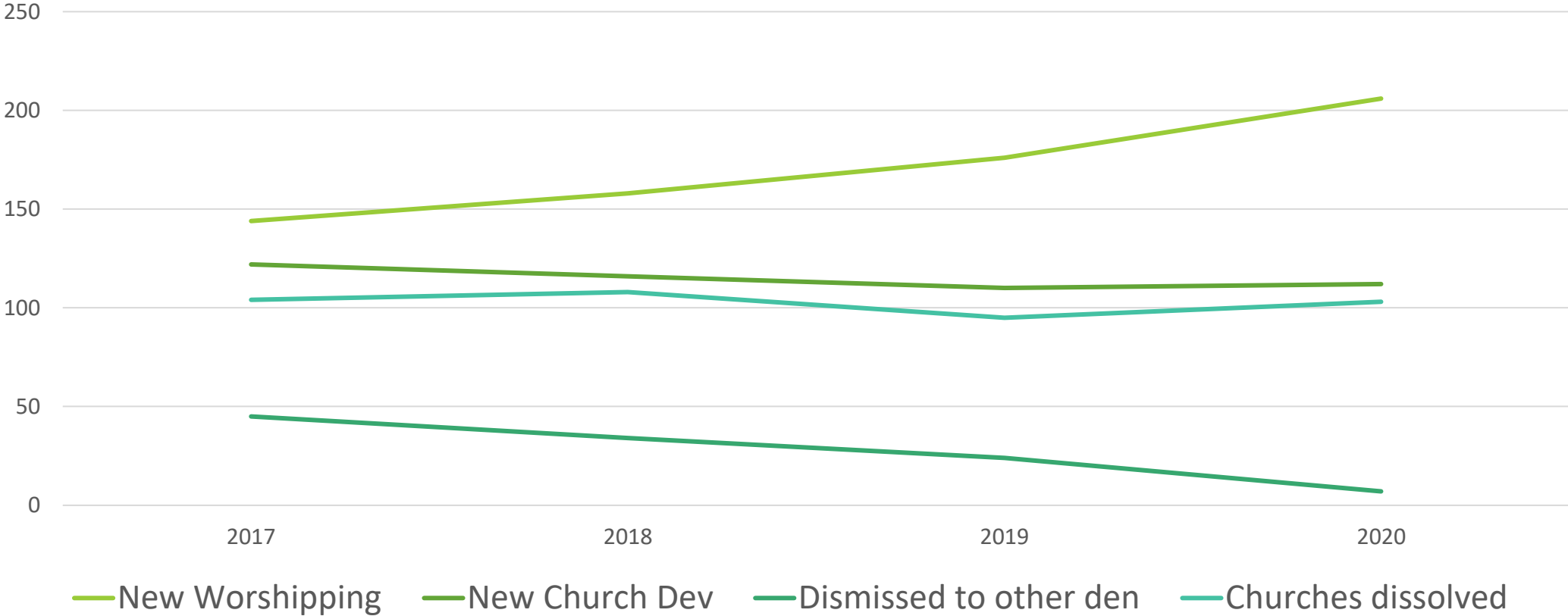


Creativity does not happen when we are focused on the problem.

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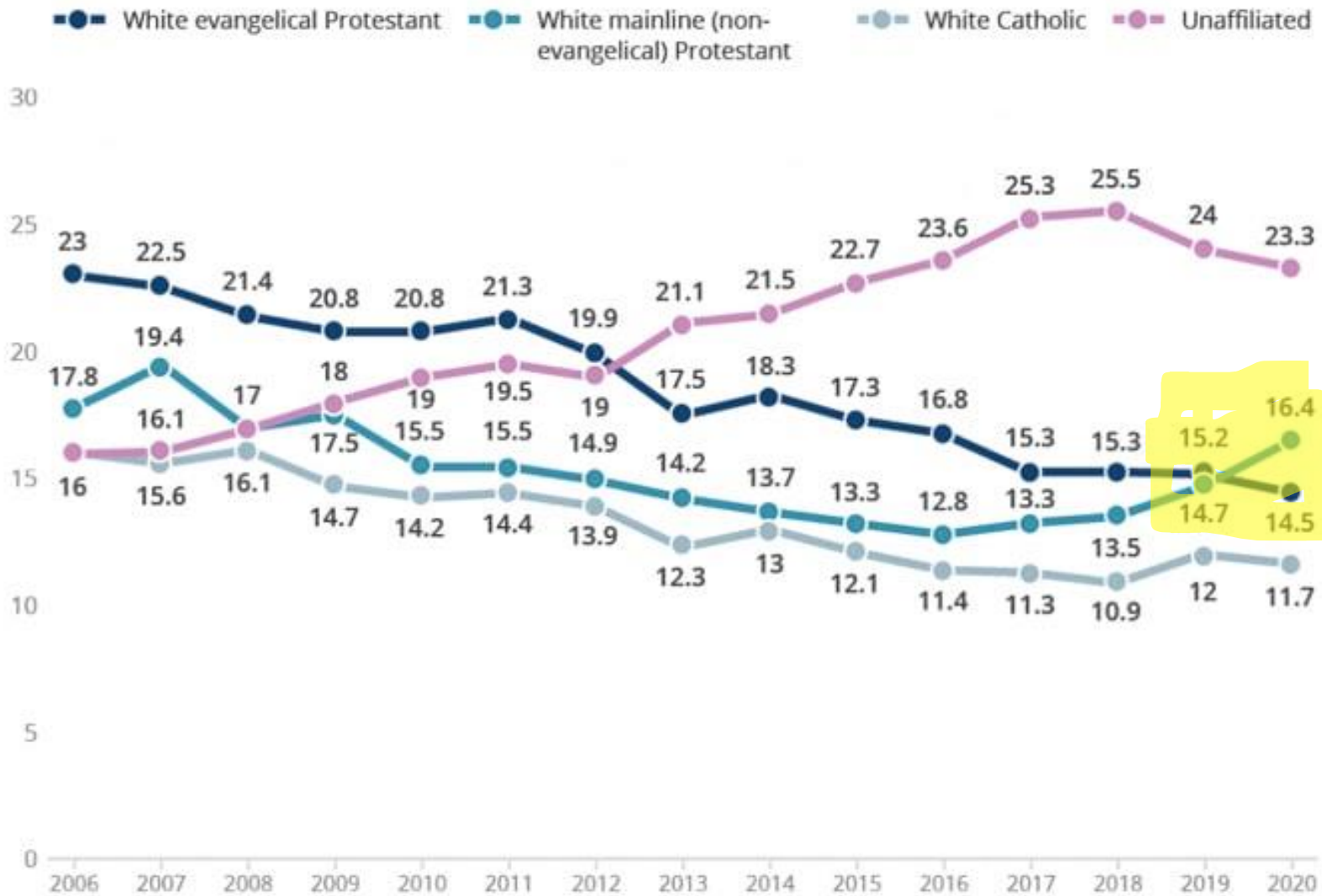


# National Trends – PC(USA)



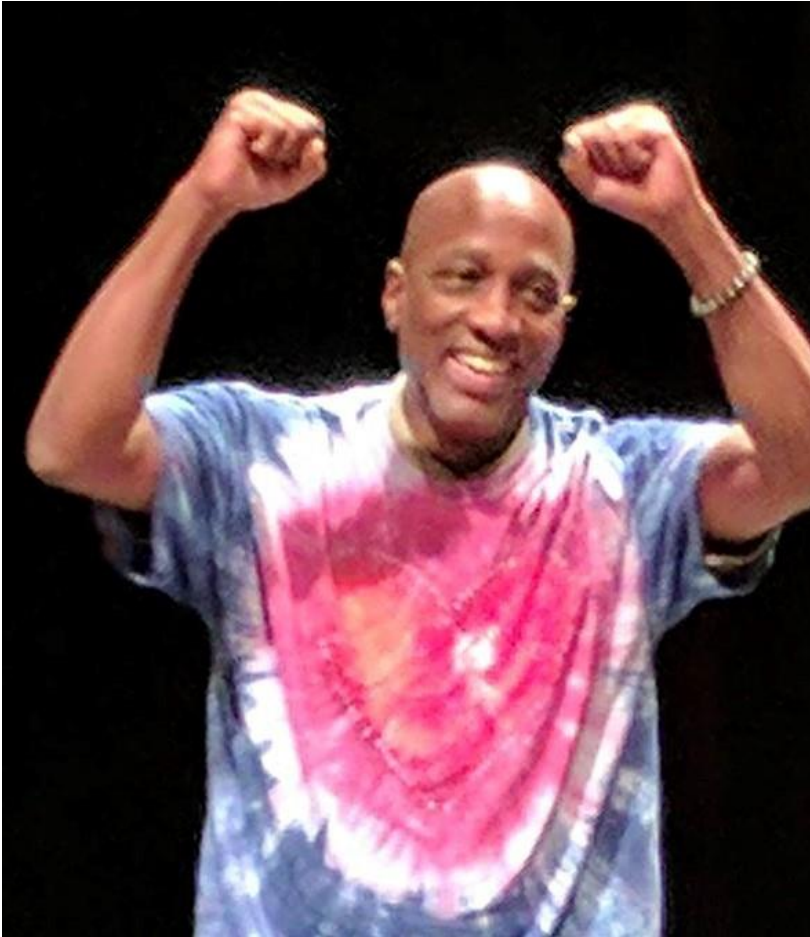
**FIGURE 2. Decline of White Christians, Rise of the Unaffiliated Trends Stabilize**

Percent who identify as:

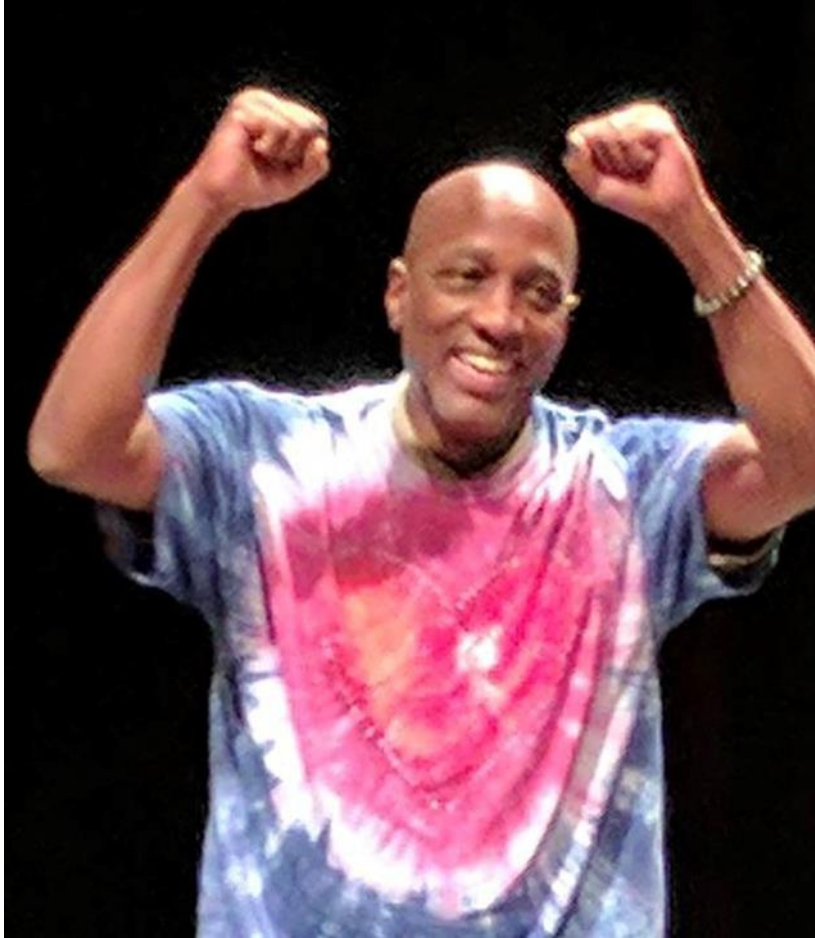


Sources: Pew Religion and Public Life Survey, 2006-2009; PRRI Surveys 2010-2012; PRRI, PRRI American Values Atlas, 2013-2020.





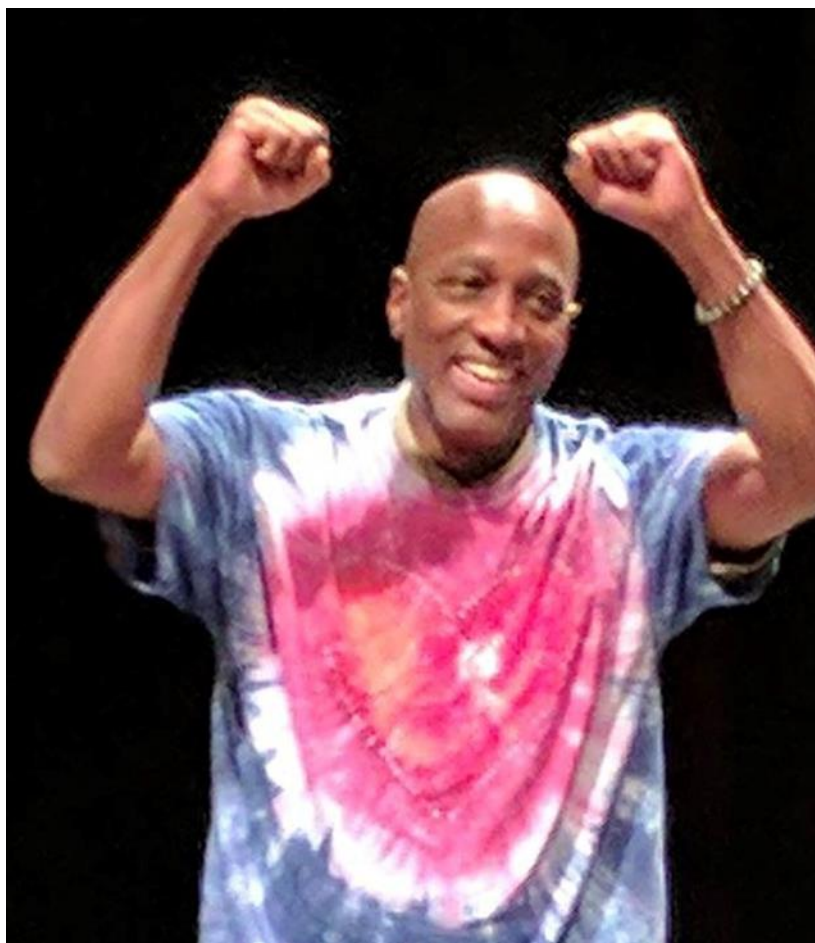
I have said how grateful I was for these television preachers and the fact that we would never become television evangelists. Yet, as soon as the pandemic hit, every preacher turned into a television evangelist in one week. That's the kind of energy, intelligence, imagination and love that we have to have for the gospel — the willingness to know that we're going to hit some walls, we're going to have some tough times.



...there is a God who is far greater than any of us, and there is a savior who reminded us that you can go to the poor and the broken and the lost and the widow and all of the other folks who seem to be left out and yet make a difference. And I'm convinced that is where the church has to be.

We cannot be locked inside of our buildings, and I believe even through this virus we have come to find out that the building is not essential to the work we have to do. It is good to have one, but it is not essential to share the love of Jesus Christ and our heart for Christ in the work that we are being called to do.”





And I believe we are not dying. We are reforming and becoming the church that God wants us to be. ...

Every now and then, you think about that Kool-Aid that does not taste good until you stir it up a little bit. We're being stirred up now by a spirit that calls us to be the church we have to be in the 21st century, and until the stirring is over, it will not have what is needed to taste as good as it should. But it will taste good. Just keep stirring, find the right answer, and keep walking by faith."

# Tools of Navigation

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# Table Conversations

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Introduce yourself.

Share a story about some aspect of your congregation's ministry that has been either energizing or something that makes you proud to be a part of this particular faith community.

# Table conversations Part 2: Reflections on the vision

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The mission of the Presbytery of the Northern Plains as we seek to be a faithful witness to the good news of Jesus Christ, is three-fold:

1. To CARE for the congregations and members of Presbytery by providing guidance, encouragement and resources for their ministries;
2. To CONNECT congregations and members of Presbytery with one another and with the church beyond our denominational and geographical bounds;
3. To CHALLENGE the congregations and members of Presbytery with a vision of faithfulness so that, with God's help, our witness on the plains can grow.

What is most important to you in the care, connection and challenges your congregation has received from the Presbytery?

# Table conversations Part 3: Reflections on the vision

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What is most important to you in the care, connection and challenges your congregation has received from the Presbytery?

What would you like it to be? i.e., Describe your own dream/vision/hope for how you wish the Presbytery would care for, connect with and challenge our congregations.  
What would be helpful?

# Table conversations Part 3

## Dreaming together

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Scenario: Your small group has \$100,000 to spend for the coming year to help you live out your mission to care for, connect with and help challenge the congregations of this presbytery to be engaged in the ever-changing strategies of the ministry of Christ for which you exist.

- What would you prioritize?
- What do you hope you would experience as a result of these priorities?
- What would energize you and your congregation?

