

Racial-ethnic diversity in congregations

Racial-ethnic Diversity in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



Membership of the PC(USA) by race/ethnicity, 2012



Diverse but not always multicultural

In **45%** of the PC(USA)'s 10,262 congregations, every member shares the same race/ethnicity.



98% of white Presbyterians belong to mostly white (80%+) congregations.

.1% of white Presbyterians belong to predominantly racial-ethnic congregations (where fewer than 20% of members are white).

In recent years the percentage of racial-ethnic PC(USA) members has been growing gradually (in Presbyterian parlance, *racial-ethnic* refers to anyone who is not white). This diversity is not spread evenly across congregations, however. As the graphic shows, many Presbyterians—especially whites—are in congregations where their own racial-ethnic group represents a large share of the membership. Most of the rest are in congregations where their own group is a small fraction of the total.

In other words, few Presbyterians find themselves in genuinely multicultural congregations where no single racial-ethnic group makes up 80 percent of the membership. Much of the racial-ethnic diversity, therefore, in the PC(USA) is *between* congregations rather than *within* them.

Comparing data from 2005 and 2012 shows that there has been some movement toward greater diversity in congregations. One in four members (26 percent) report in a recent survey that their congregation has made it a priority to become more racially and ethnically diverse.

Would your congregation like to join them? Check out relevant resources from the PC(USA): pcusa.org/multicultural.

The actions you and other Presbyterians take will determine how closely PC(USA) congregations resemble—or differ from—the growing multicultural makeup of American society.

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