THE NATIONAL STUDY OF CONGREGATIONS’ ECONOMIC PRACTICES (NSCEP)

Congregations continue to receive the largest percentage of charitable giving in the U.S. - 29 percent of all charitable dollars ($124.52 billion in 2018). Most research on charitable giving, particularly faith-based giving, has focused on individuals (the givers) rather than institutions (the recipients of the giving).

In September 2019, Lake Institute on Faith & Giving will release the most comprehensive national study of congregational finances in over a generation. The NSCEP report provides an in-depth look at how congregations receive, manage, and spend their financial resources. Delving underneath the numbers, we begin to show how congregations regard financial resources: how theological, cultural, and practical orientations toward money relate to finance, giving cultures, and economic practices.
NCEP also breaks down congregations by radical composition and age of congregation (founding date), majority generational cohort, and community type (urban, suburban and rural).

**FIRST FINDINGS**

**Receive:** On average, congregations receive 81% of their income from regular individual contributions, and the vast majority of those funds are given during a worship service (75%).

**Manage:** 75% of congregations discuss giving in worship services quarterly or less. 94% of congregations acknowledge donors’ gifts quarterly or less.

**Spend:** On average, nearly three-quarters of congregations’ budgets go toward salary and facilities, with on average 21% going toward missions and programs combined.

**LAKE INSTITUTE ON FAITH & GIVING**

Lake Institute fosters a deeper understanding of the dynamic relationship between faith and giving, through research, education, and public conversation. Studying, teaching, and understanding religious motivations for giving allows for more effective fundraising and outreach across the nonprofit sector. We pair groundbreaking research with on-the-ground knowledge of religious traditions, helping practitioners translate statistics and trends into practical tools and strategies. Learn more about our programs at www.philanthropy.iupui.edu/lake-institute.

Lake Institute on Faith & Giving
317-278-8998
LFI@iupui.edu