

**Comments to supplement the numbers for December 31, 2010 and previous years**

References:

- 1. Comparison of Selected Year Book Items for Pastoral Charges and rankings**
- 2. Halton Presbytery Year Book trend of selected line items**
- 3. Selected YB trends with Presbytery/Conference assessments**

**General:**

- Four line items from the Year Book (32A, 16-17, 5 and 6) provide initial insight as to the health of a pastoral charge. Comparing these numbers to previous years and against other pastoral charges increases insight.
- Relating one significant number to another sometimes adds to understanding of the data. In reference #1, for example:
  - ✓ A descending trend in members per household over a period of time may have some relationship to a congregation's success or difficulty in recruiting lay leadership. Think 'membership = ownership'.
  - ✓ Givings per financial supporter allows for easy comparison with other units of comparable size and in comparable geographic areas.
  - ✓ The relationship between households under care and financial supporters provide possible questions about criteria for defining pastoral care and clues about authenticity of numbers submitted.
- Significant variation in trend of Line 32A of a pc likely connotes a capital campaign.
- Variation in trend of other number columns of a pc may indicate purging of roll or other adjustments where inquiry might be advisable.
- One factor in looking at growth and health of a congregations is tenure of the minister.
- "Demographics explains about two-thirds of everything" - David Foot -Boom, Bust and Echo circa 1996.

**Presbytery:**

- Reference #1 some numbers jump off the page, so to speak, when compared to similar data from previous years.
- One number which might go unnoticed is 1.00 for members per household. For the past three years the number was modestly less. Earlier it was always over 1. We can guess there is occasional purging of households under care where there are no members.
- Relative to previous bullet there are 17 pc's with a ratio over 1 and 16 with a ratio under 1. Average givings per financial supporter for the 17 is 3% higher than for the 16. Eliminating the largest number in each group changes the difference to 8.5%. Perhaps members are more generous?
- Reference #2 provides trend data from 2003 through 2010.
- Households under care, resident membership, financial supporters, attendance are all trending down. However, congregational givings in 2010 are up 13.6% over 2003. This means fewer supporters giving much more money.
- Support for M&S held up well through 2009 then dropped 7.4% in 2010.
- A trend to monitor is the percentage of operating expenses (line 40) provided by other sources of revenue (Line 32C). This is running either side of 40% during the past eight years. This could connote congregations are devoting more energy to financial matters at the expense of growing disciples.
- Reference #3 no additional comments.

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