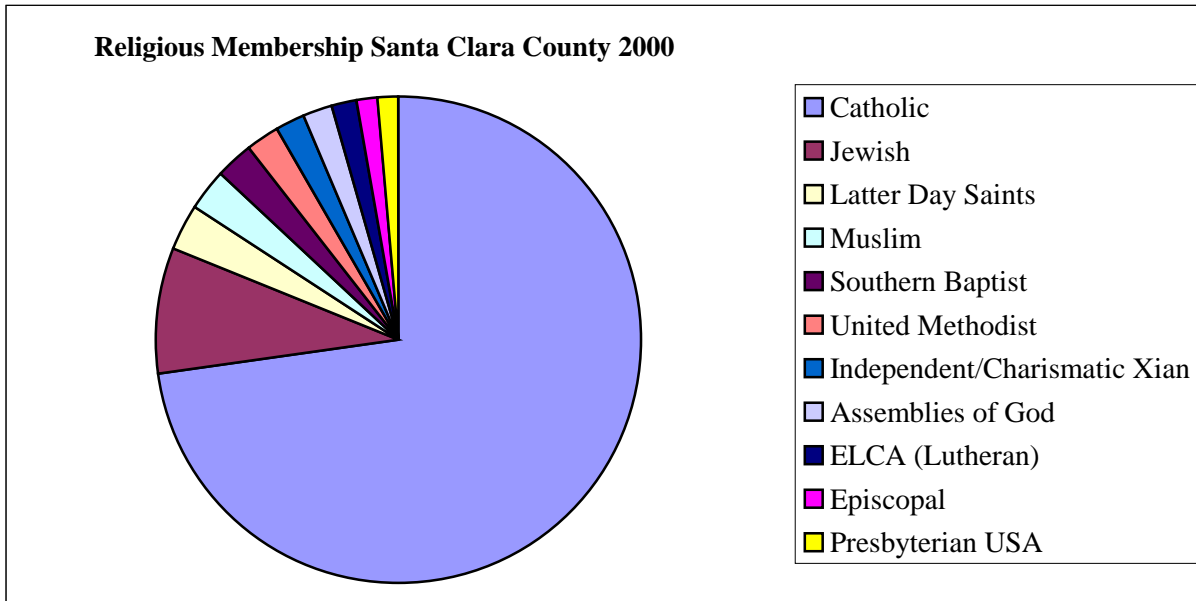


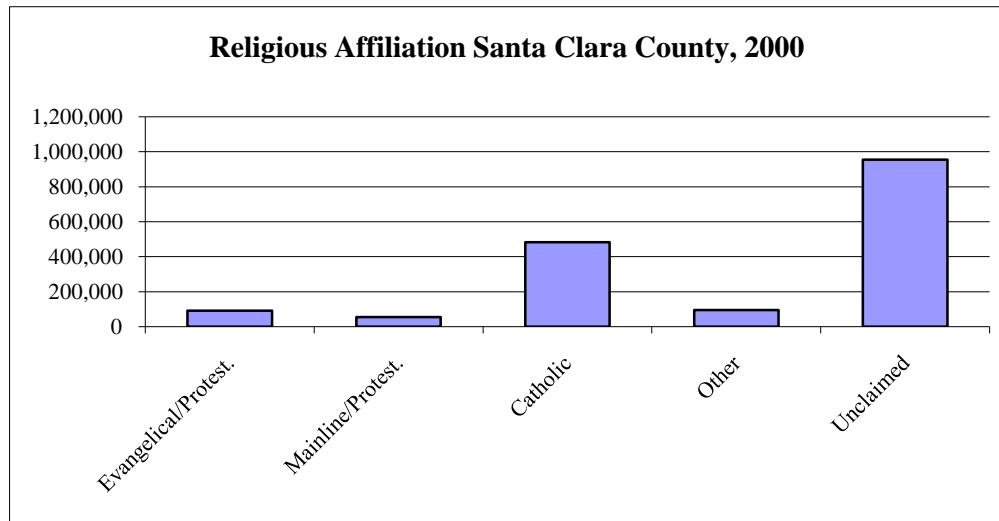
The Larger Church System

Religious Membership in Santa Clara County, 1990-2000						
Religion/Denomination		Churches	Members	Change from 1990		
				Churches	Members	% Change
1.	Catholic	55	483,079	+3	+114,468	31.1%
2.	Jewish	17	54,000	+4	+22,000	68.8%
3.	Latter Day Saints	55	20,172	---	---	---
4.	Muslim	10	19,206	---	---	---
5.	Southern Baptist	54	16,814	+9	-4,339	-20.5%
6.	United Methodist	30	14,444	-2	-2,207	-13.3%
7.	Independent/Charismatic Xian	5	13,200	0	+3,440	35.2%
8.	Assemblies of God	54	12,113	+6	+1,581	15.0%
9.	ELCA (Lutheran)	27	10,254	---	---	---
10.	Episcopal	22	10,102	+3	+509	5.3%
11.	Presbyterian USA	26	9,218	0	-2,010	-17.9%

Population of Santa Clara County: 1990=1,497,577; 2000=1,682,585; % Change=12.35%



Data Accessed from American Religion Data Archive



In Santa Clara County for religious membership, Catholics form the largest religious group, followed by Jews, Mormons (Latter Day Saints) and Muslims. The next largest are all mainline and evangelical Christian groups, of which Presbyterian USA is the last.

For religious affiliation, unclaimed affiliation is the largest group, with 954,833 as opposed to 483,079 for the largest religious group of Catholics. Religious groups that are growing, according to 1990 to 2000 trends, are Catholics, Jews, Assemblies of God and Episcopalians. Data from 1990 was unavailable for Mormons, Muslims and ELCA. Southern Baptists show an addition of nine churches, but a membership reduction of 20%. Conversely, the independent/charismatic category shows no increase in number of churches, but a robust membership increase of 35%, which probably indicates growth within a few larger congregations.

Most notably for this report, UMC in Santa Clara County showed a decrease of membership of 13.3%, at a time when the population grew by 12% from 1,497,577 in 1990 to 1,682,585 in 2000. Given the large unaffiliated group, there could be the possibility of reversing this decline.

Potential summary for church report: (Include table and two pie-charts, with a summary below)

"UMC in Santa Clara County showed a decrease of membership of 13.3%, at a time when the population grew by 12% from 1,497,577 in 1990 to 1,682,585 in 2000. For religious affiliation, unclaimed affiliation is the largest group, with 954,833 as opposed to 483,079 for the largest religious group of Catholics. **Given the large unaffiliated group, there could be the possibility of reversing this decline.**"

The short paragraph above attempts to highlight several relevant aspects of data—the overall UMC decrease set against the population increase, and the large population of religiously unaffiliated people. Then the yellow sentence gives one interpretation of the data for the congregation to consider, an interpretation that might point to a possible response within the purpose of a congregation.