



Dear District Superintendents & District AA's, Clergy, and Lay Leaders:

Happy New Year! This is a time for re-starts, refresh, and do-overs. It is time of reflection of the previous year and anticipation of life's journey ahead. 2016 will start with some new vital signs data being collected. This email was also sent to the MVS's reporters at all churches.

Here are the changes **STARTING JANUARY 2016:**

First, when there is missing data, instead of inserting "0", you will check a box that there is missing data and there will be the ability to go back and insert missing data (3 month time limit). "0" will only be used to represent the number zero.



Online Viewing: This number measures online viewing of a worship service by the number of clicks the first week after posting of the service (data collected previous week).

Purpose: There is currently no consistent data gathering for online viewing at this time. We will see what we can discover from this information.

Special Services: The number of people who attend a service that is infrequent, not usual - beyond regular weekly services. (Wednesday night services counted with AWA if weekly all year long.)
Christmas Eve, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Revival Service, Church Homecoming, Remembrance Service, Longest Night/Blue Christmas, Musicals, Healing Service, Blessing of the Animals, and Baptism Service (if held separately from a regular service and has all the components of worship).

Purpose: Many felt the data collected (AWA) should also include these other important events. If we started to add it into AWA without separating it, we could not tell what is true growth. This way we collect the data and can track if these special services make a difference overall.

Commitments to Christ (Evangelism): This number represents number of persons making a first-time commitment to Christ (not the same as POF).

Purpose: To see if first-time “Commitments to Christ” translate into POF’s. Are we bringing people in with evangelism and then into a faith journey? Are we discipling? Are we offering people to become members of the church?

Salty Service (Change of definition): For measurement purposes, count the number of persons serving through church ministries to the community.

People serve other people in many ways and the work is very important (Rotary, Guardian Ad Litem, hospital volunteers). For our purpose of evaluating the health of the church, we are focusing on the outreach ministries through the church.

Purpose: To sharpen the fuzziness of how this is currently counted. There could be other arguments on this, however, this is more likely to get better data of the number of people serving.

Janet Earls, Congregational Vitality