

INSIGHTS ON FAITH & GIVING



**William G. Enright, Ph.D.,
Director**

Lake Institute on Faith & Giving MISSION: to foster a greater understanding of the ways in which faith both inspires and promotes giving by providing knowledge, education, and training.

Indiana University School of Philanthropy MISSION: to improve philanthropy by training and empowering students and practitioners to be innovators and leaders who create positive and lasting change in the world.

The IU School of Philanthropy is offering a paid **RESEARCH INTERNSHIP** for graduate students (Master's or Ph.D.).

Clergy Involvement:

A Key Factor in Congregational Financial Success

This week the [2013 Congregational Economic Impact Study](#) (CEIS) was released. The purpose of the study was to explore how congregations are coping both with recent economic challenges as well as gradual, long-term changes affecting the landscape of American religious life. This study involving 3,100 congregations across the United States was conducted by Lake Institute on Faith & Giving at the Indiana University School of Philanthropy, in partnership with The Alban Institute, the Indianapolis Center for Congregations, Maximum Generosity and the National Association of Church Business Administration.

The 2013 CEIS not only provides you with important statistical information but the data itself offers you a baseline by which to examine the fiscal health of your congregation. We invite you to explore how your congregation is faring as you gain insight into the experiences of other congregations across the United States.

- **Giving Trends:** The majority of US congregations appear to be recovering from the worst of the recession with 60% reporting increases in giving between 2010 and 2011. While religious organizations fared slightly better than secular charitable organizations amidst the recession their recovery from the worst of the Great Recession appears to be less robust. In 2011, giving to religion was the only subsector of charitable giving experiencing an actual decline in revenue.
- **Inflation:** The revenues of the majority of American congregations surveyed are failing to keep pace with inflation. Almost 40% of respondents reported that revenues kept pace with inflation or were ahead of inflation, while 52% did not keep pace with inflation between the years 2007 and 2011.
- **Pastoral Awareness:** Congregations whose clergy were aware of the giving trends and congregations with younger attendees were more likely to have seen positive fundraising results.
- **Technology:** Although 95.5% of the congregations have a website; most do not leverage electronic tools on their website to attract more consistent giving. Only 12.5% of respondents offered online giving through their website.
- **Financial Education:** American congregations appear to have a laizzez faire

To find out more information or to apply visit the [IU School of Philanthropy](#).

Contact Us

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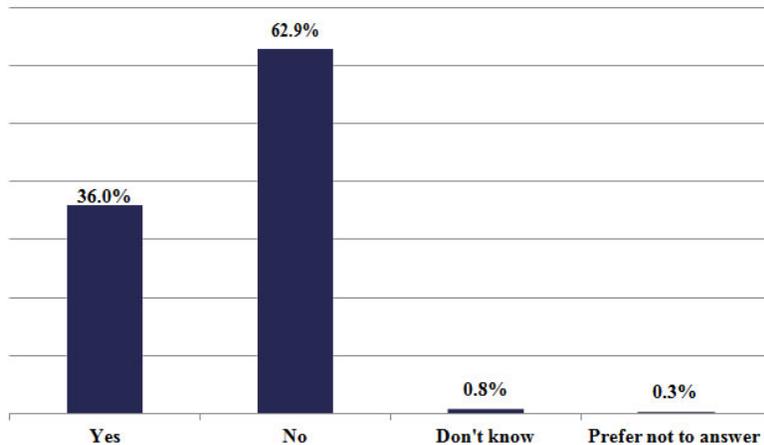
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approach to economic issues. Amidst the challenges of the recession only 36% of the responding congregations offer educational programs to address the financial needs of their attendees.

Congregational Offerings of Courses, Workshops, Classes, or Seminars on Personal Finance or Charitable Giving, by Percentage of Congregations Reporting



The study underscores the resilience of congregations amidst challenging economic times as well as the selfless manner in which congregations made fiscal decisions, putting mission programs serving others ahead of salary increases and building maintenance.

The next Insights will explore some of the more sobering implications of this study for the future of congregational life.

Insights of Dr. William Enright

Join the discussion



[2013 Congregational Economic Impact Study](#)

The Executive Summary and Full Report are available at [Lake Institute on Faith & Giving](#).

[The 10th Annual Thomas H. Lake Lecture](#)

"Walking the Second Mile: Women, Religion and Philanthropy"

by Ann Braude

Thursday, April 11, 2013 @ 5 PM

Indiana Historical Society

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