

# United Church of Canada Trends - 2010

The following charts show the history up to 2010 of selected United Church of Canada data, and, based on the previous 10 years of data (2001-2010), projects what the data might be in 2025.

The chart below gives the actual data for 2008, 2009, and 2010, and compares the actual results for 2010 with the forecast from the 2000-2009 trend.

	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	Change from 2009 to 2010	2010 Forecast Based on 2000-2009	Difference between Forecast and Actual	Revised 2025 Forecast Based on 2008	2025 Forecast Based on 2009	2025 Forecast Based on 2010	2025 Forecast Change from 2009
Pastoral Charges	2,248	2,240	2,223	-17	2,221	2	2,014	2035	2,034	-1
Preaching Places or Congregations	3,308	3,255	3,196	-59	3,206	-10	2,444	2,420	2,383	-37
Membership	525,673	510,672	494,791	-15,881	495,671	-880	260,779	257,716	252,726	-4,990
Financially Supporting Households	262,789	254,348	245,371	-8,977	247,247	-1,876	127,332	123,609	118,439	-5,170
Average Weekly Attendance	193,512	183,153	174,660	-8,493	174,590	70	33,705	26,000	22,136	-3,864
Received on Profession of Faith	5,083	4,724	3,847	-877	4,275	-428	0	0	0	0
Baptisms (Children)	10,173	9,470	8,828	-642	8,859	-31	3,578	3,738	3,795	57
Baptisms (Adults)	1,066	1,048	905	-143	960	-55	307	296	0	-296
Baptisms (All Ages)	11,239	10,518	9,733	-785	9,820	-87	3,885	4,034	3,795	-239
Marriages	9,255	8,557	7,837	-720	8,186	-349	3,083	2,990	0	-2,990
Funerals	21,292	20,009	18,910	-1,099	19,676	-766	13,248	9,380	8,676	-704
Sunday Schools	2,344	2,277	2,188	-89	2,215	-27	1,165	1,095	1,025	-70
Sunday Schools Membership	74,453	68,947	64,586	-4,361	64,626	-40	22,547	21,255	20,801	-454
Through-the-week Membership	136,016	134,789	130,453	-4,336	130,284	169	73,250	78,433	74,101	-4,332
Local Support	276,795	268,076	257,799	-10,277	259,913	-2,114	128,845	129,299	125,238	-4,061
M&S Givers	126,747	121,629	116,349	-5,280	115,775	574	33,206	31,158	29,364	-1,794

In all cases the data declined from 2009 to 2010, and the 2010 actual results were less than the forecast with the notable exceptions of: Pastoral Charges, Average Weekly Attendance, Through-the-Week Membership, M&S Givers.

Note: For 2010, the ten years of data were examined using the LINEST and LOGEST functions of Microsoft Excel. If LINEST returned the highest coefficient of determination,  $r^2$ , then the straight line TREND function was used to project future values. If LOGEST returned the highest  $r^2$  value, then the exponential GROWTH function was used. In all cases the  $r^2$  values were higher than 0.98. And in all cases, the compared  $r^2$  values did not differ by more than 0.025. The  $r^2$  values are noted for each chart. (For the non-statisticians among us,  $r^2$  is a measure of “reliability.” It provides a measure of how well future outcomes are likely to be predicted. Generally speaking, if the  $r^2$  value is greater than 95 then the result is considered valid.)

As a result of this process, the GROWTH function was chosen for Pastoral Charges, Baptisms (Children), and Sunday School Membership. The GROWTH function had been used for Marriages in 2008 and 2009, but the TREND function was the better choice in 2010 which significantly altered the forecast for 2025.

# United Church Pastoral Charges

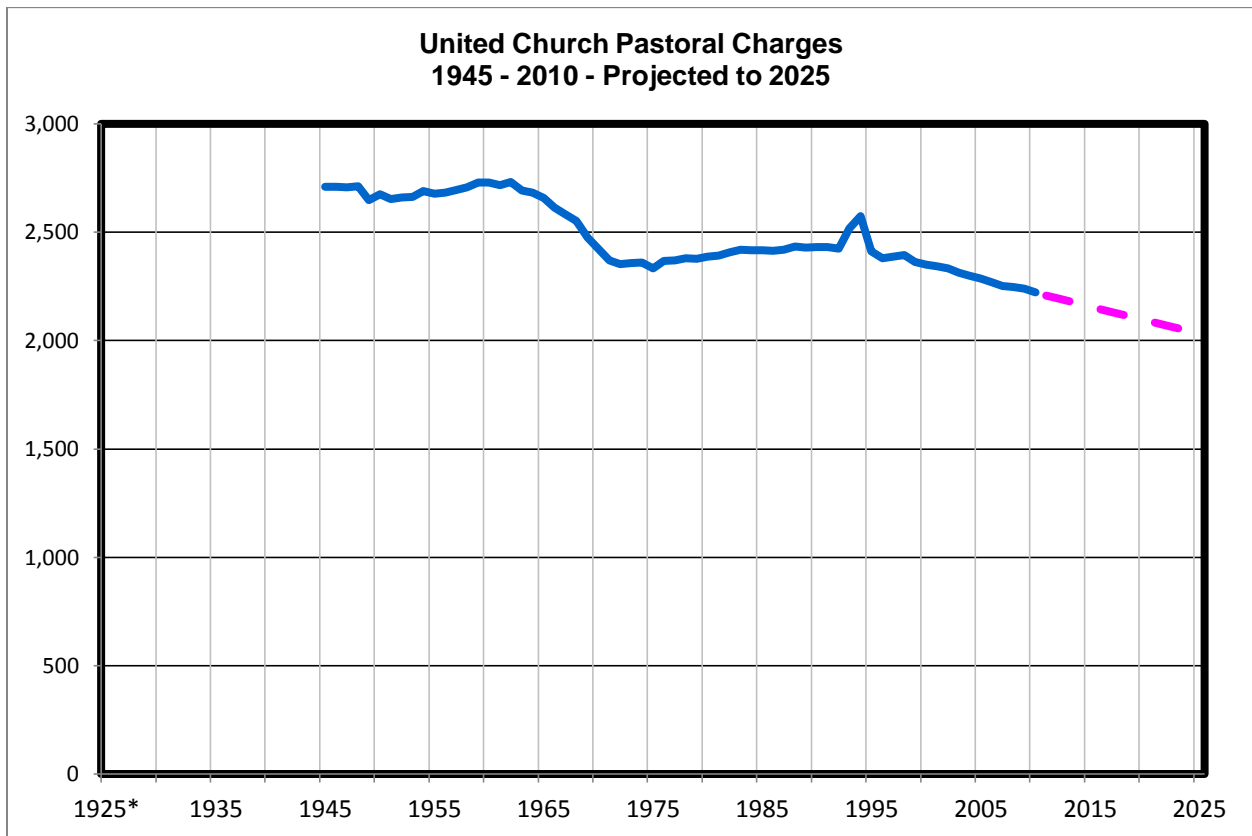
As of December 31, 2010 the number of United Church Pastoral Charges was 2,223.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, the number of Pastoral Charges in 2025 will be 2,034.

This will be a loss of 189 or 9% of 2010 Pastoral Charges.

Note: This data indicates the resilience of Pastoral Charges, especially when compared with the other data that follows. Urban and suburban areas where amalgamations are more feasible may experience higher rates of decline.

Note: I have only been able to record data for the number of Pastoral Charges beginning in 1945.



GROWTH  $r^2 = 0.989$

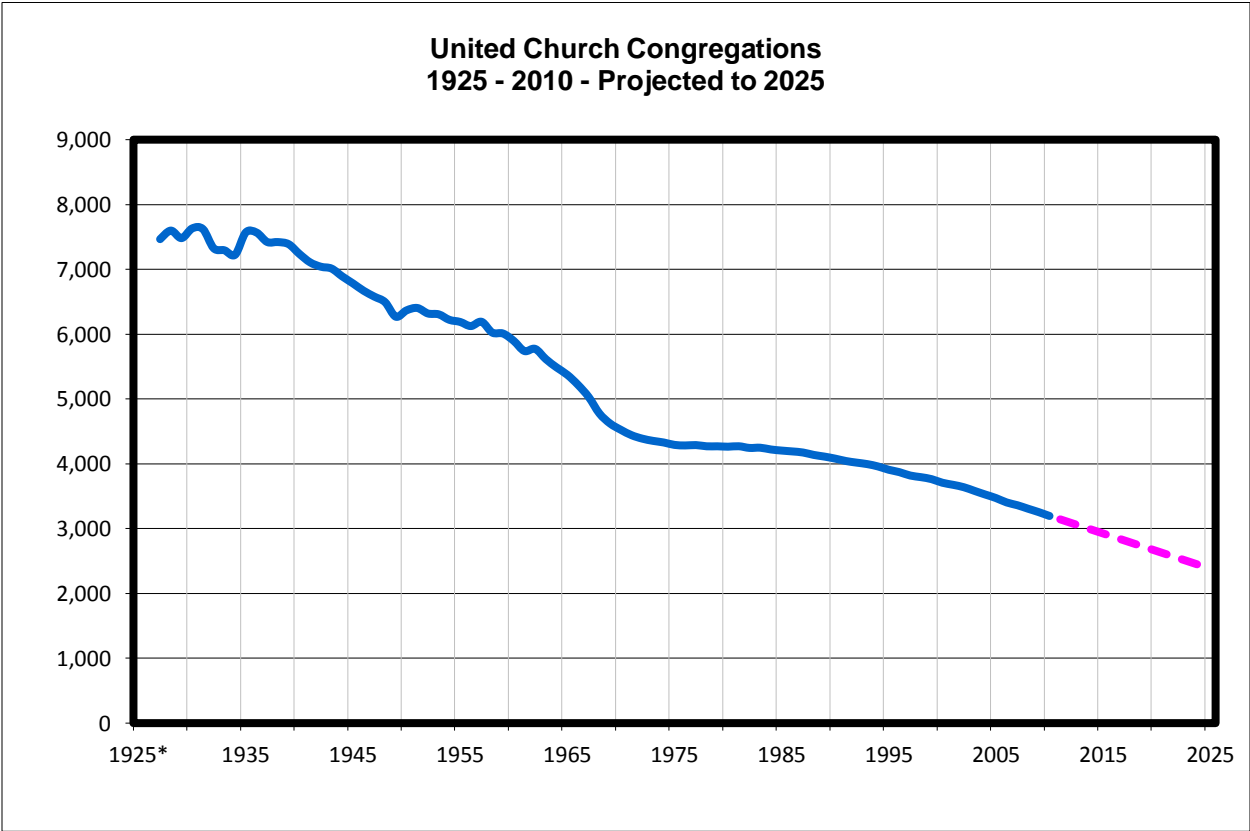
# United Church Congregations

As of December 31, 2010 the number of United Church Congregations (or Preaching Places) was 3,196.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, the number of Congregations in 2025 will be 2,383.

This will be a loss of 813 or 25% of 2010 Congregations.

Note: The rate of decline of Congregations is much higher than that for Pastoral Charges. The result is that more Pastoral Charges have fewer Congregations, and more Pastoral Charges have part-time Ministers.



TREND  $r^2 = 0.999$

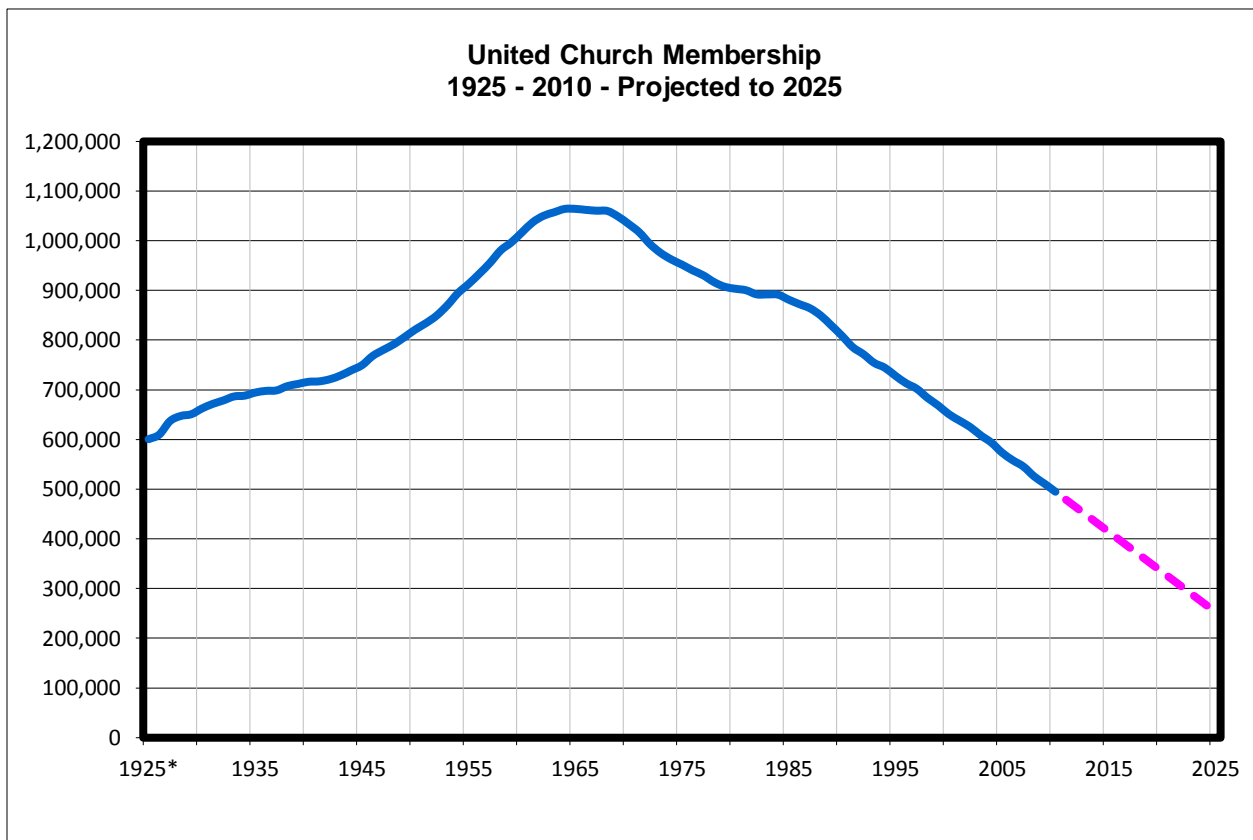
# United Church Membership

As of December 31, 2010 United Church Total Membership (Resident and Non-Resident) was 494,791.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, Membership in 2025 will be 252,726.

This will be a loss of 242,065 or 49% of 2010 Members.

Note: The decline of Membership is much higher than the decline of Pastoral Charges and Congregations. This results in many Congregations having significantly fewer Members.



TREND  $r^2 = 0.999$

# United Church Average Weekly Attendance

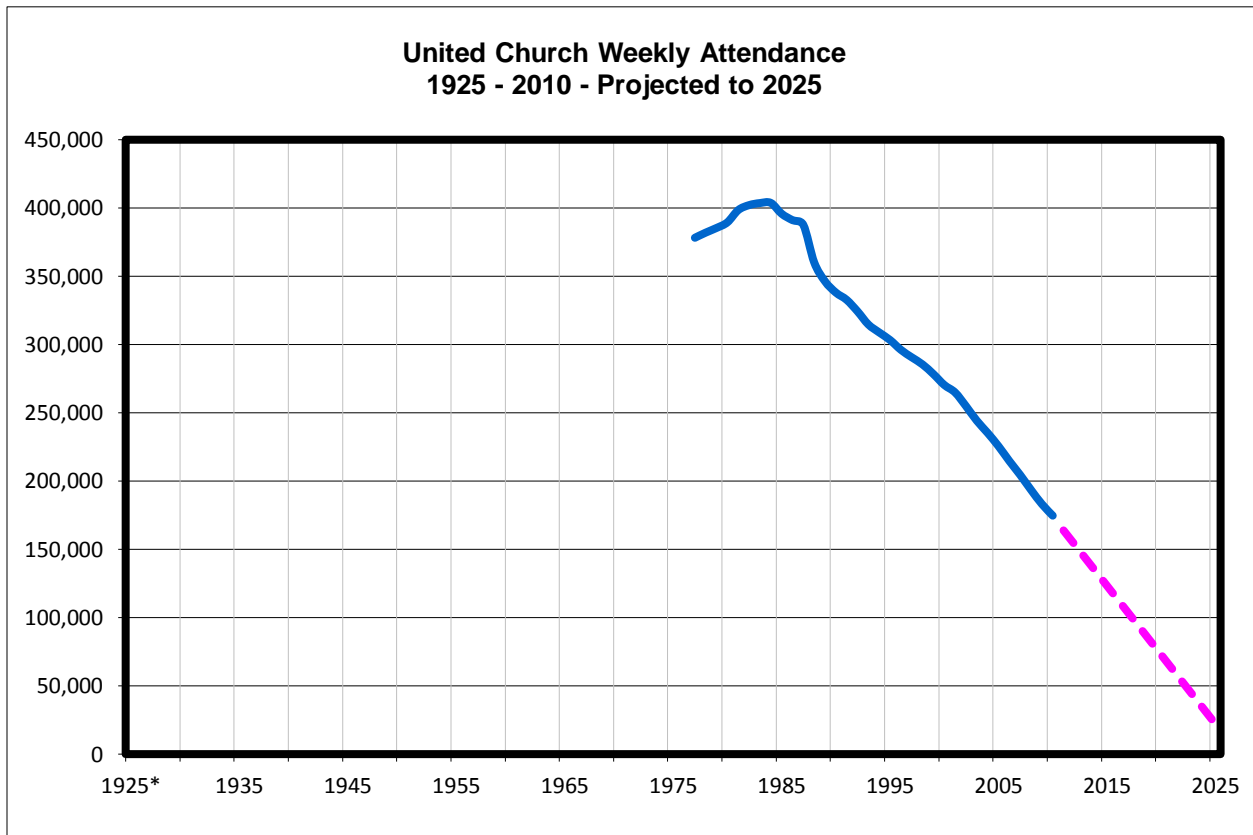
As of December 31, 2010, the Average Weekly Attendance was 174,660.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, Attendance in 2025 will be 22,136.

This will be a loss of 152,524 or 87% of the number attending church in 2010.

Note: Average Weekly Attendance is declining much faster than the number of Congregations. This results in many Congregations having significantly lower Attendance.

Note: The Average Weekly Attendance was nationally recorded beginning in 1977.



TREND  $r^2 = 0.999$

# United Church Financially Supporting Households

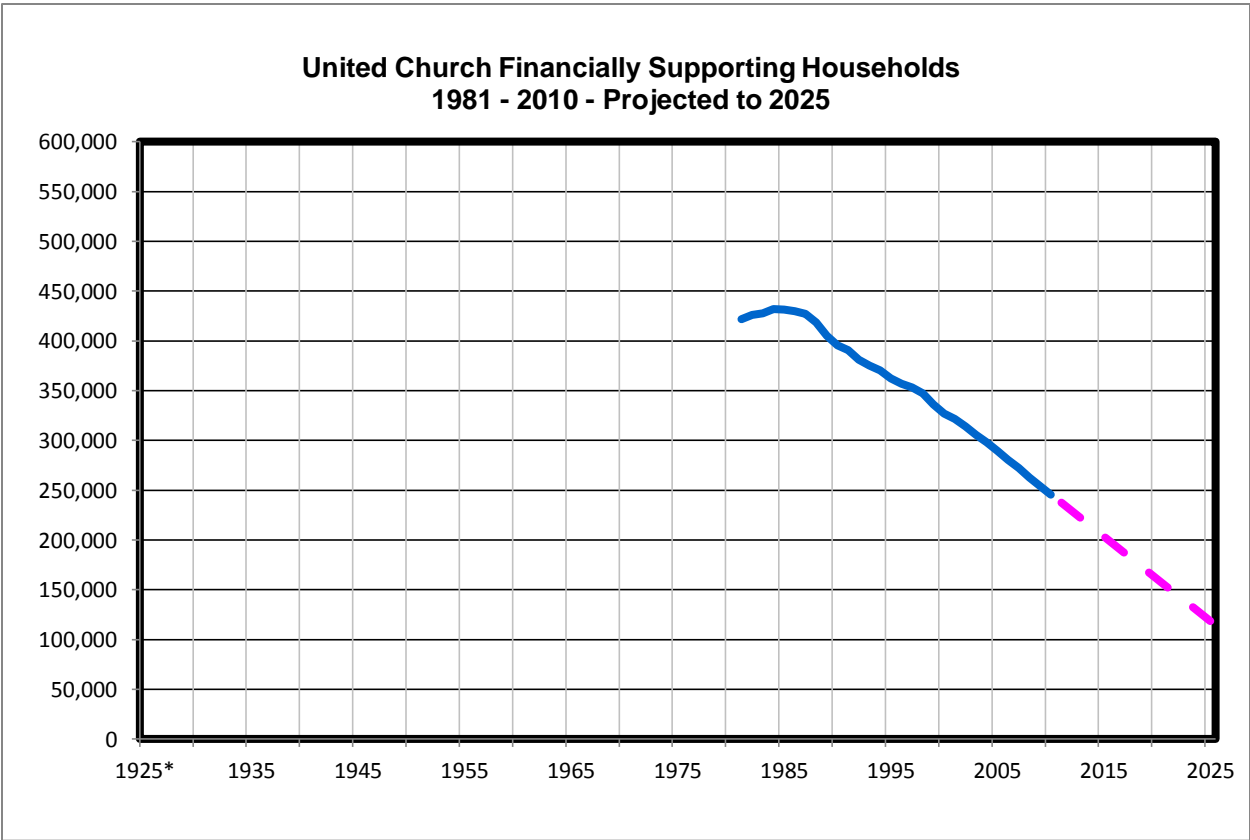
As of December 31, 2010, the number of Financially Supporting Households was 245,371.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, the number of Supporting Households in 2025 will be 118,439.

This will be a loss of 126,932 or 52% of the number of Supporting Households in 2010.

Note: The number of Financially Supporting Households is declining much faster than the number of Congregations. This results in Congregations having significantly lower Supporting Households.

Note: The number of Financially Supporting Households was nationally recorded beginning in 1981.



TREND r2 = 0.999

# United Church Identified Givers to Local Expenses

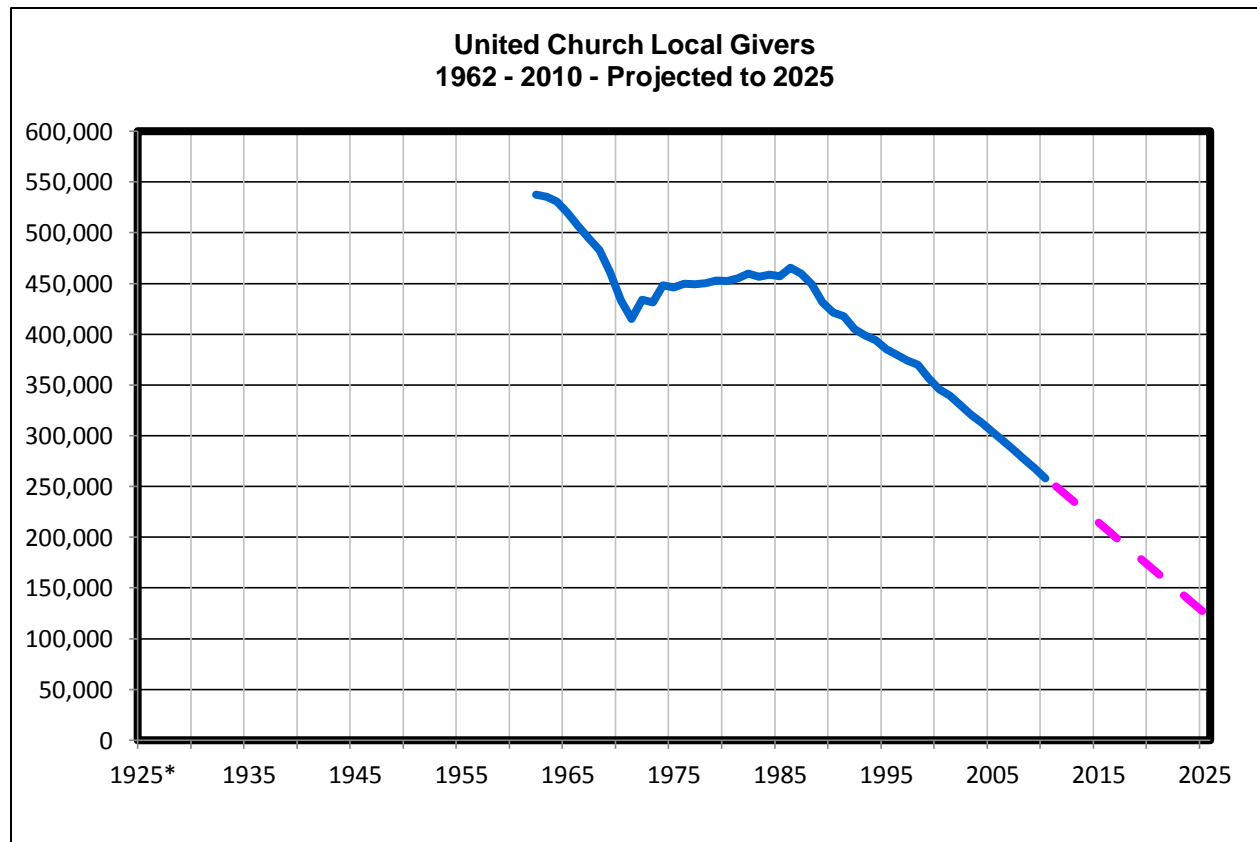
As of December 31, 2010, the number of Identified Givers to Local Expenses was 257,799.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, the number of Local Givers in 2025 will be 125,238.

This will be a loss of 132,561 or 51% of the number of Local Givers in 2010.

Note: The number of Local Givers is declining much faster than the number of Congregations. This results in Congregations having significantly lower Local Givers.

Note: The number of Identified Givers to Local Expenses was nationally recorded beginning in 1962.



TREND  $r^2 = 0.999$

# United Church Identified Givers to the M&S Fund

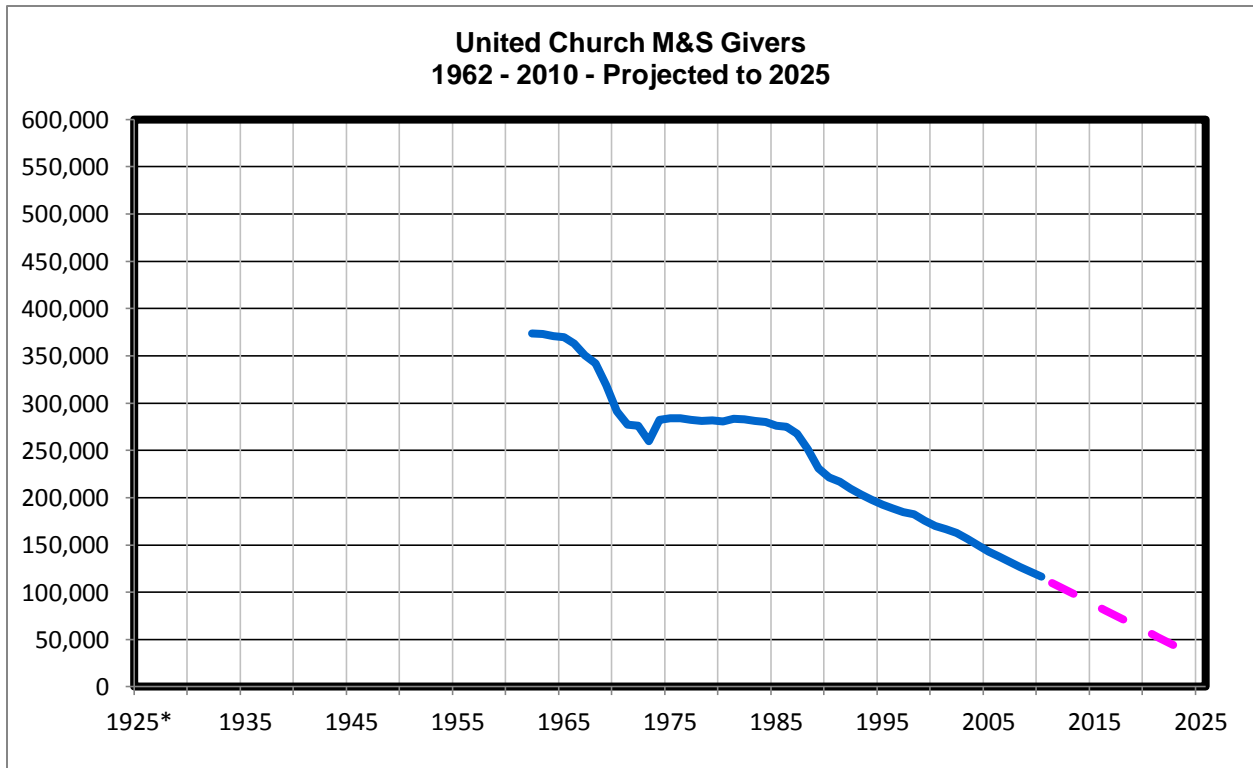
As of December 31, 2010, the number of Identified Givers to the M&S Fund was 116,349.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, the number of M&S Givers in 2025 will be 29,364.

This will be a loss of 86,985 or 75% of the number of M&S Givers in 2010.

Note: The number of Identified Givers to the M&S Fund is declining much faster than the number of Congregations. This results in Congregations having significantly lower M&S Givers.

Note: The number of Identified Givers to the M&S Fund was nationally recorded beginning in 1962.



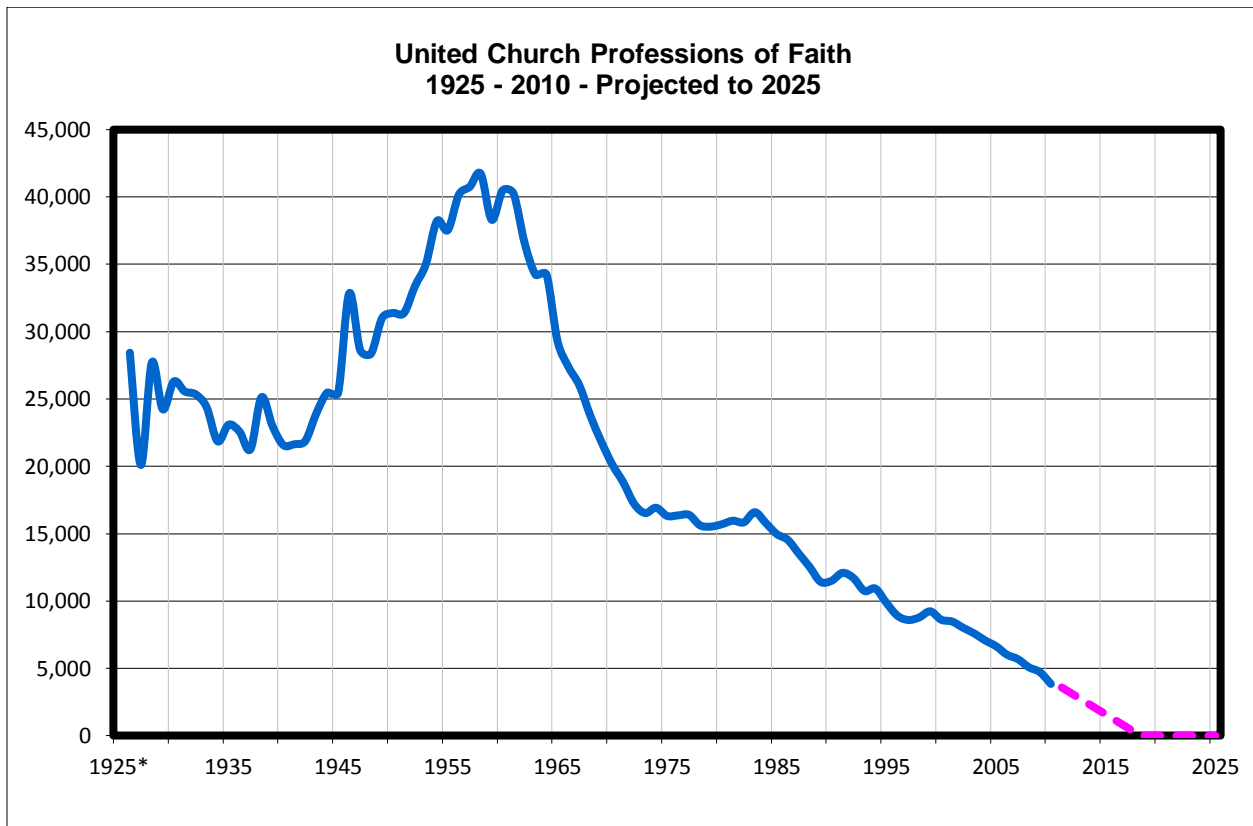
TREND  $r^2 = 0.998$

# United Church New Members Received by Profession of Faith

As of December 31, 2010, the total New Members received by Profession of Faith (that is, those who have never been members of any church before) was 3,847.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, the number of New Members in 2019 will be zero.

This will be a loss of 3,847 or 100% of the New Members Received in 2010.



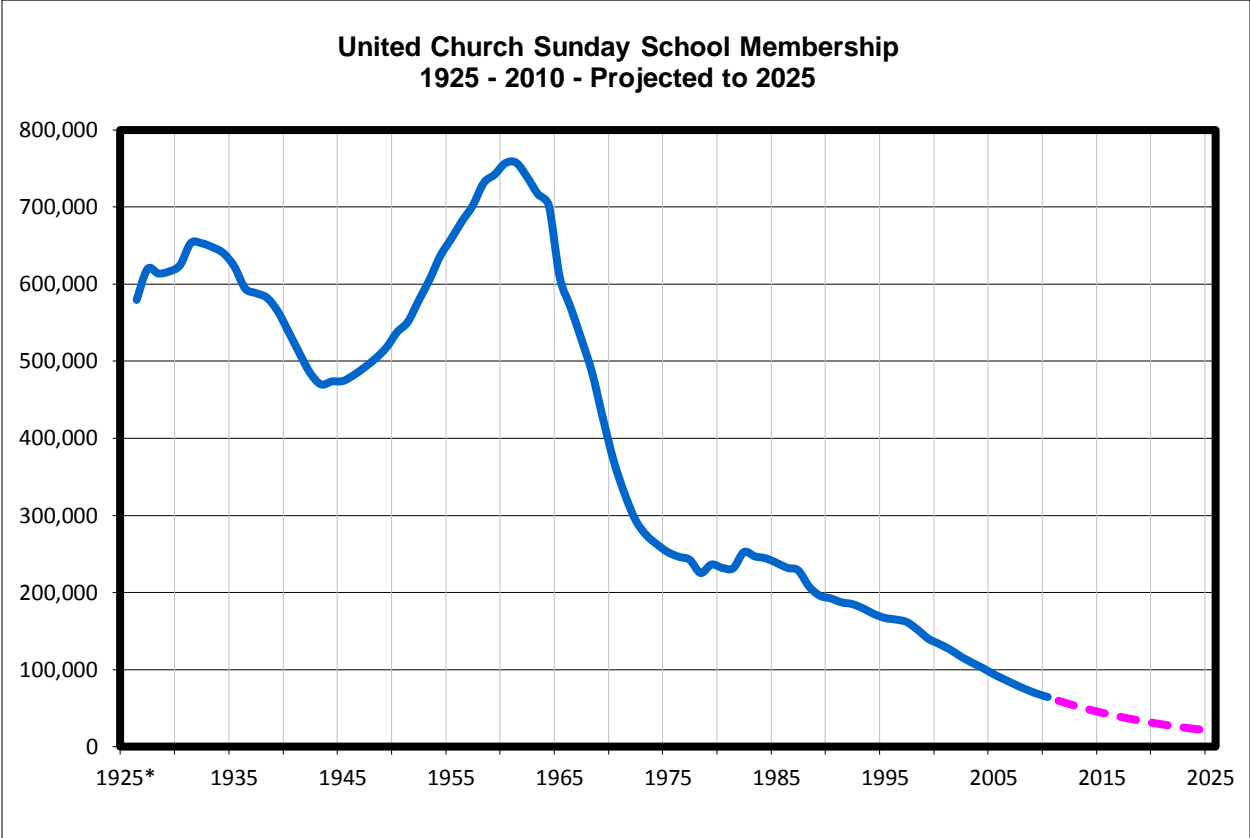
TREND  $r^2 = 0.995$

# United Church Sunday School Membership

As of December 31, 2010, United Church Sunday School Membership was 64,586.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, Sunday School Membership in 2025 will be 20,801.

This will be a loss 43,785 or 68% of the Sunday School Membership in 2010.



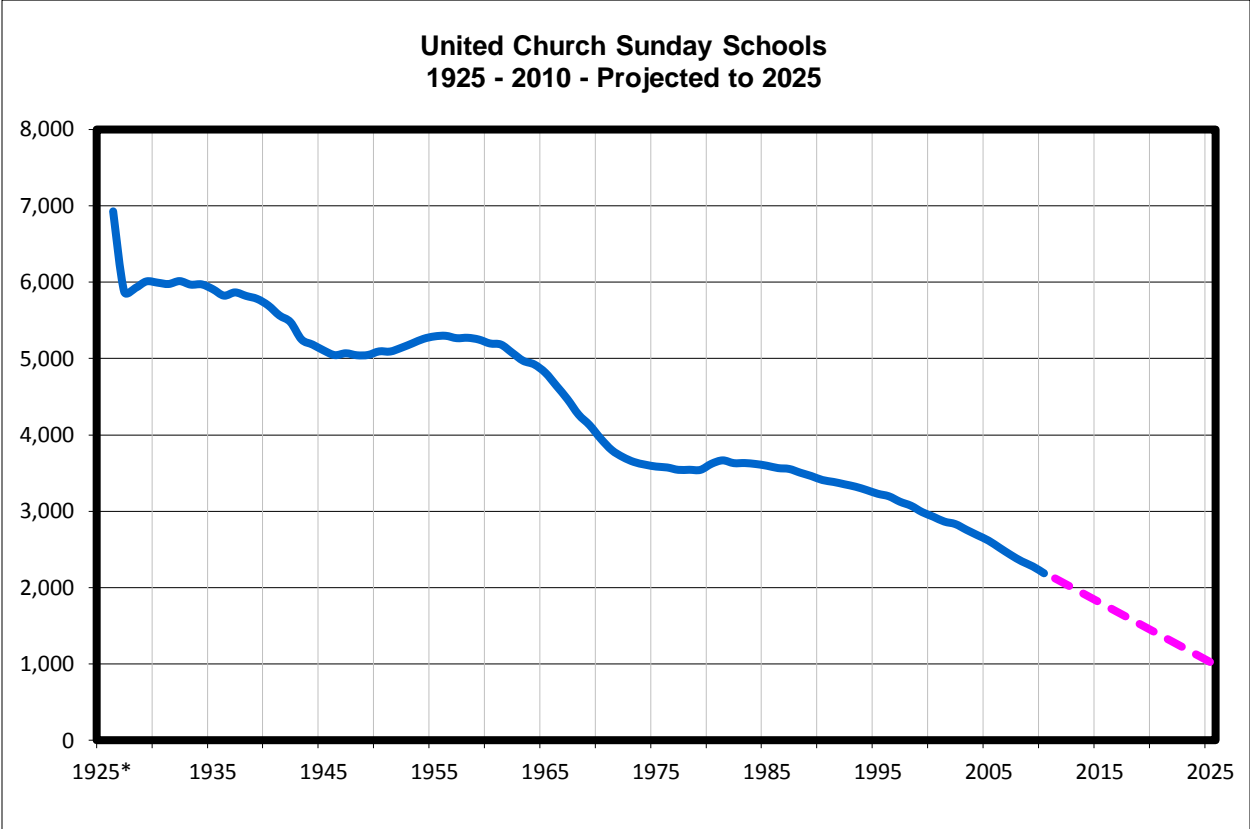
GROWTH  $r^2 = 0.999$

# United Church Sunday Schools

As of December 31, 2010, the number of United Church Sunday Schools was 2,188.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, the number of Sunday Schools in 2025 will be 1,025.

This will be a loss 1,163 or 53% of the number of Sunday Schools in 2010.



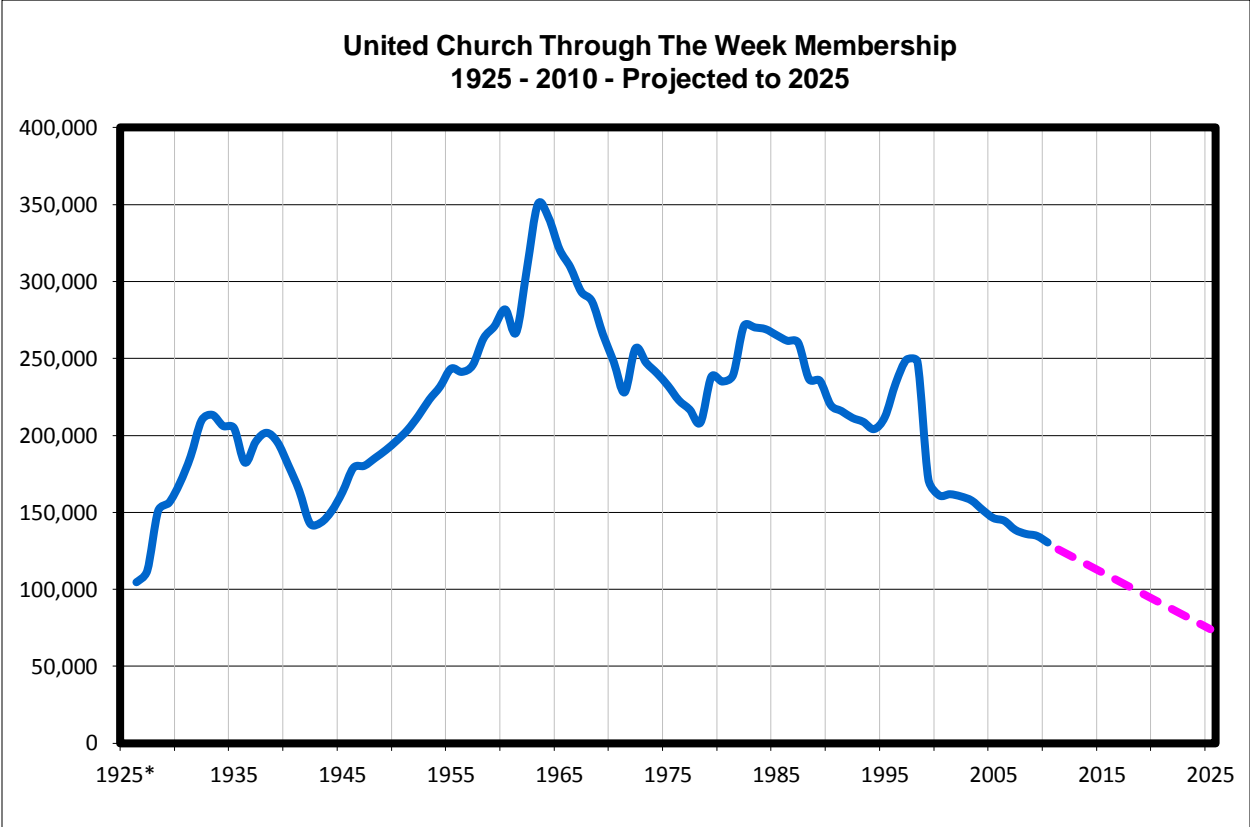
TREND  $r^2 = 0.994$

# United Church Through-the-Week Membership

As of December 31, 2010, United Church Through-the-Week Organizations Membership was 130,453.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, Through-the-Week Membership in 2025 will be 74,101.

This will be a loss 56,352 or 43% of the Through-the-Week Membership in 2010.



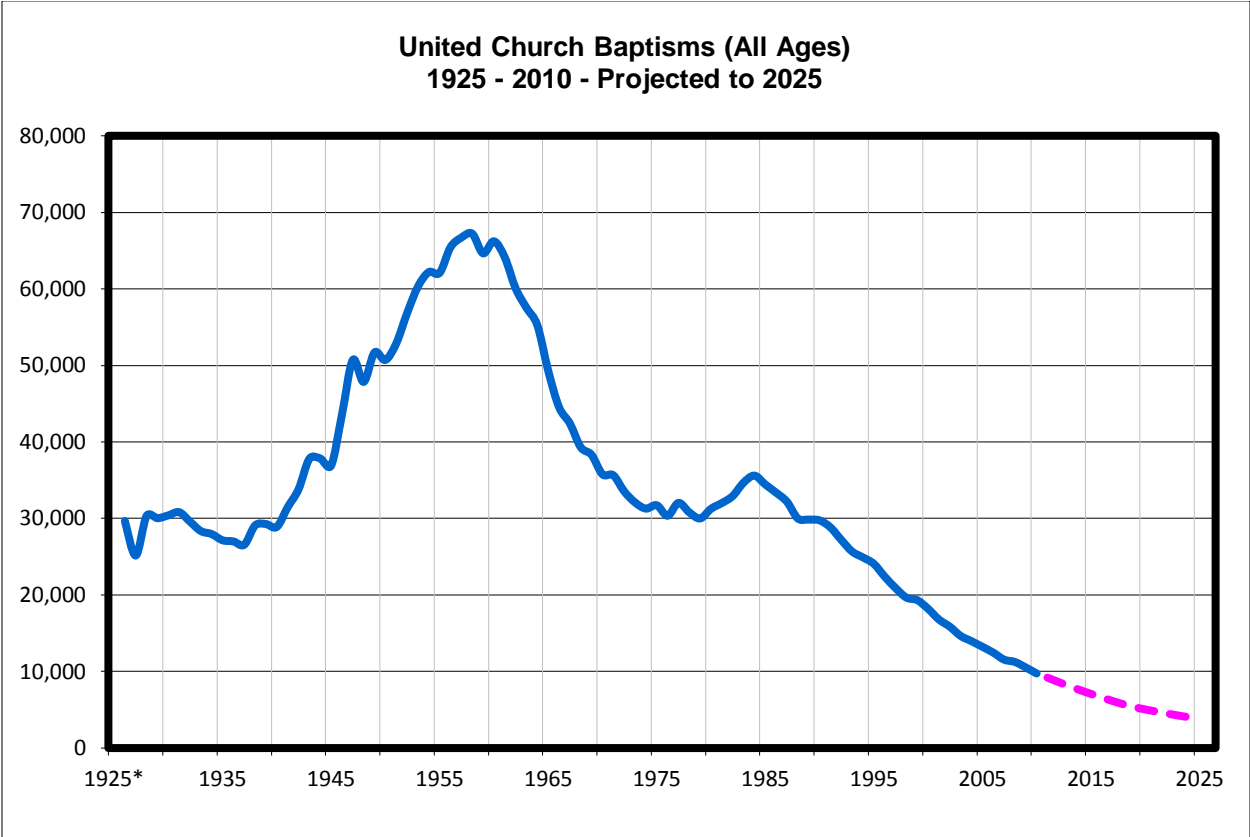
TREND  $r^2 = 0.986$

# United Church Baptisms (All Ages)

As of December 31, 2010, the total of all Baptisms was 9,733.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, the total of all Baptisms in 2025 will be 3,795.

This will be a loss of 5,938 or 61% of the Baptisms (All Ages) in 2010.



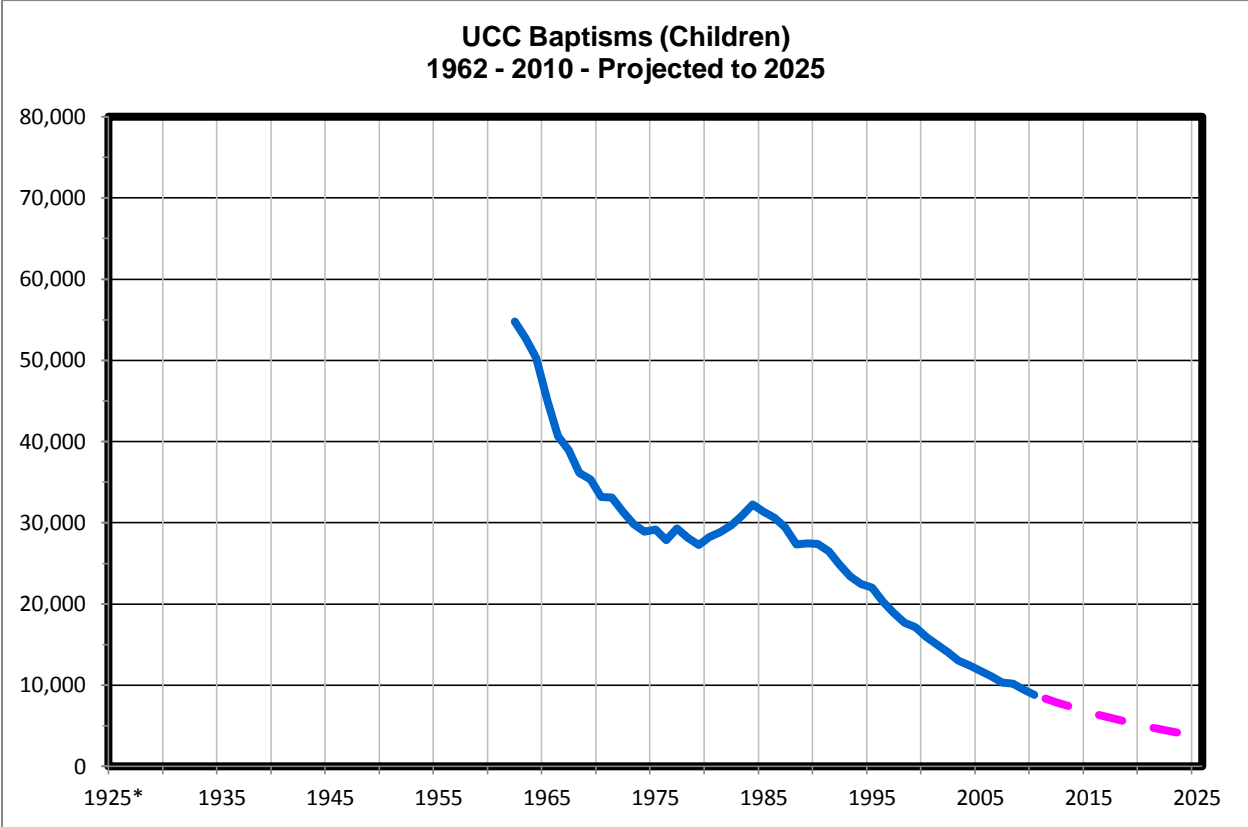
GROWTH  $r^2 = 0.997$

# United Church Baptisms (Children)

As of December 31, 2010, the total of all Baptisms (Children) was 8,828.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, the number of Baptisms (Children) in 2025 will be 3,795.

This will be a loss of 5,033 or 57% of the Baptisms (Children) in 2010.



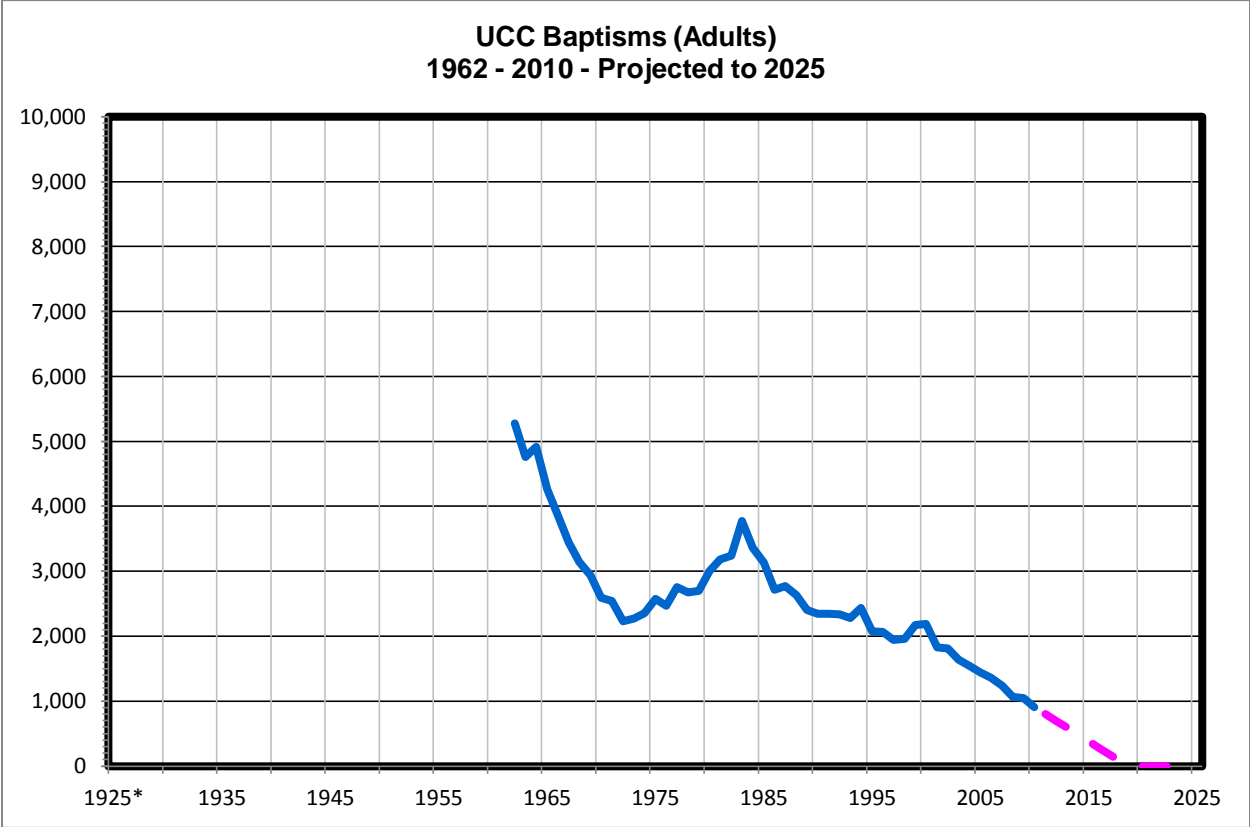
GROWTH  $r^2 = 0.995$

# United Church Baptisms (Adults)

As of December 31, 2010, the total of all Baptisms (Adults) was 905.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, the number of Baptisms (Adults) in 2019 will be zero.

This will be a loss of 905 or 100% of the Baptisms (Adults) in 2010.



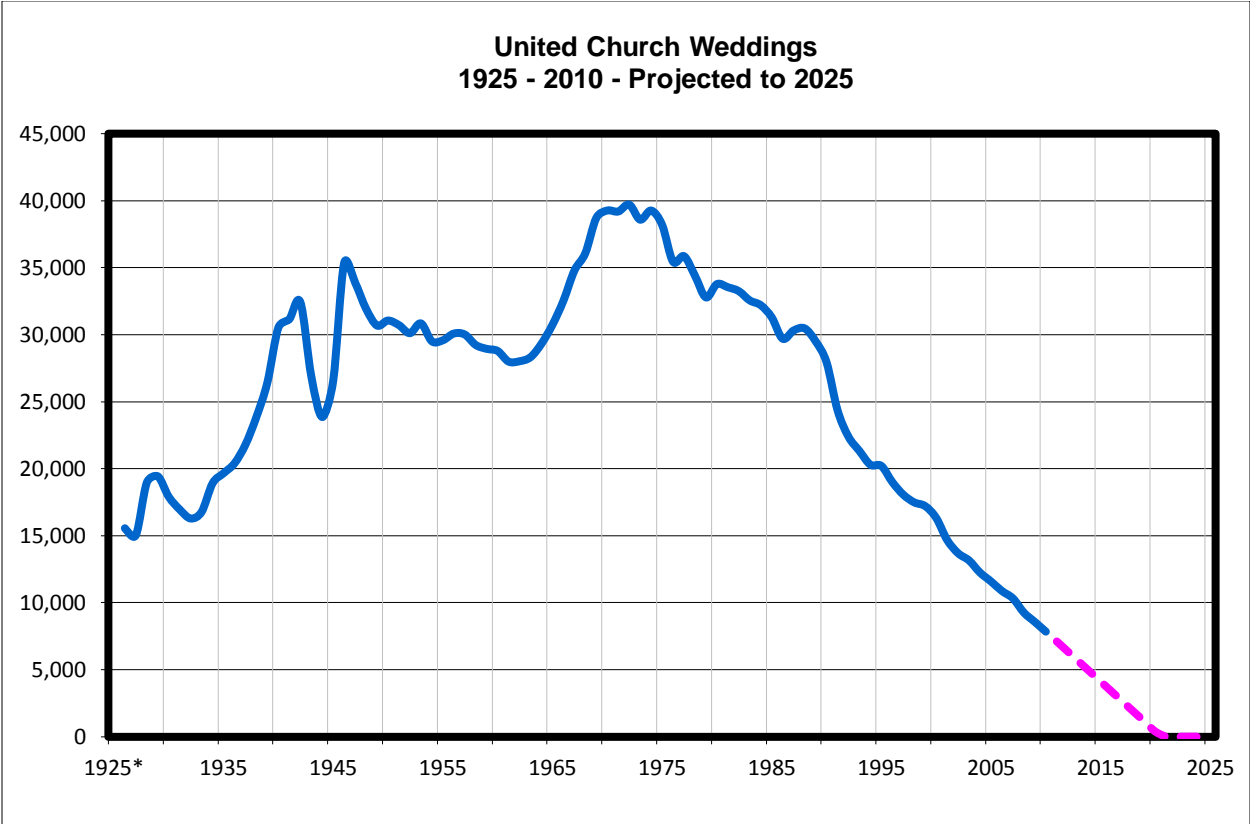
TREND  $r^2 = 0.990$

# United Church Weddings

As of December 31, 2010, the total number of United Church Weddings performed was 7,837.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, the number of Weddings in 2021 will be zero.

This will be a loss of 7,837 or 100% of the Weddings in 2010.



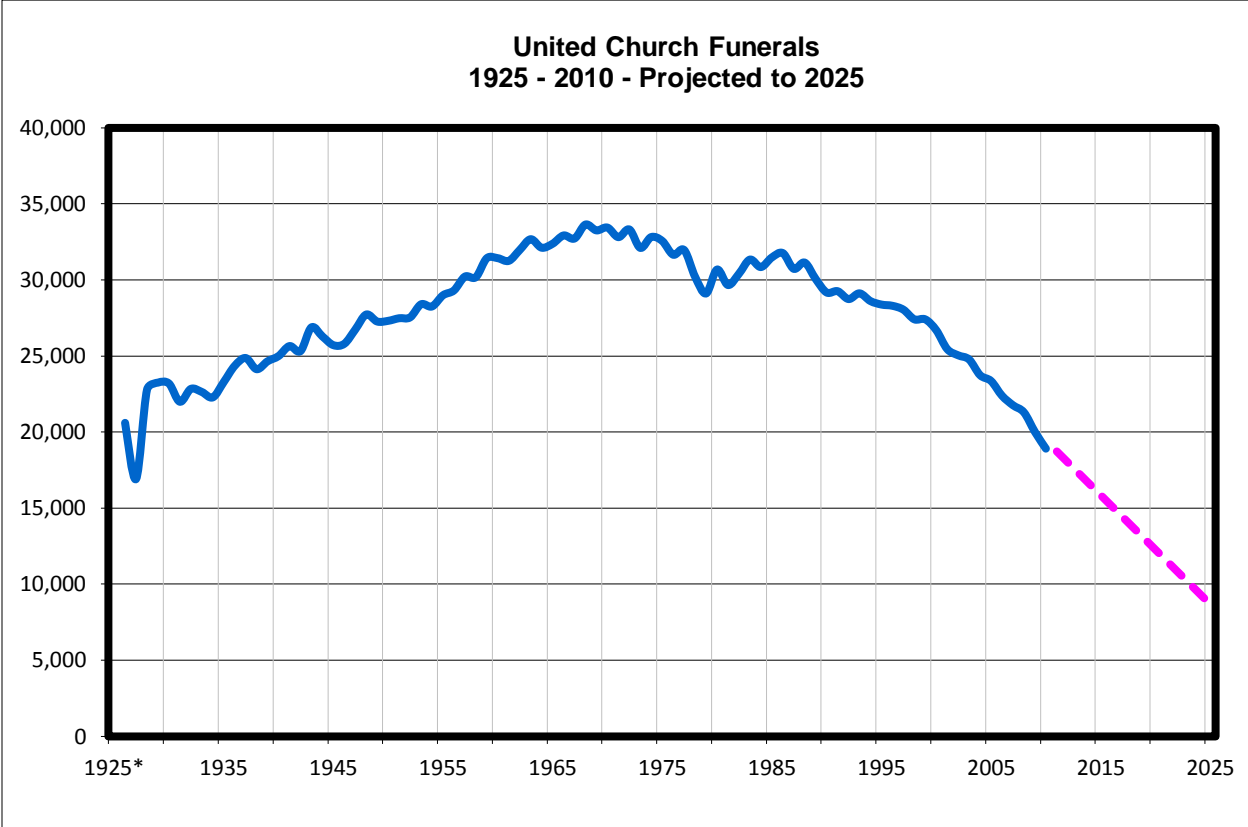
TREND  $r^2 = 0.998$

# United Church Funerals

As of December 31, 2010, the total number of United Church Funerals performed was 18,910.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, the number of Funerals performed in 2025 will be 8,676.

This will be a decline of 10,234 or 54% of the number of Funerals in 2010.



TREND  $r^2 = 0.979$