

# United Church of Canada Trends - 2009

The following charts show the history up to 2009 of selected United Church of Canada data, and, based on the previous 10 years of data (2000-2009), projects what the data might be in 2025.

The chart below gives the actual data for 2008 and 2009, and compares the actual results for 2009 with the forecast.

	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	Change from 2008 to 2009	Revised 2009 Forecast Based on 1999-2008	Difference between Forecast and Actual	Revised 2025 Forecast Based on 2008	2025 Forecast Based on 2009	2025 Forecast Cahnge
Pastoral Charges	2,248	2,240	-8	2,231	9	2,014	2035	+21
Preaching Places or Congregations	3,308	3,255	-53	3,263	-8	2,444	2,420	-24
Membership	525,673	510,672	-15,001	512,262	-1,590	260,779	257,716	-3,063
Financially Supporting Households	262,789	254,348	-8,441	256,390	-2,042	127,332	123,609	-3,723
Average Weekly Attendance	193,512	183,153	-10,359	186,175	-3,022	33,705	26,000	-7,705
Received on Profession of Faith	5,083	4,724	-359	4,753	-29	0	0	0
Baptisms (Children)	10,173	9,470	-703	9,293	177	3,578	3,738	160
Baptisms (Adults)	1,066	1,048	-18	1,043	5	307	296	-11
Baptisms (All Ages)	11,239	10,518	-721	10,336	182	3,885	4,034	149
Marriages	9,255	8,557	-698	8,841	-284	3,083	2,990	-93
Funerals	21,292	20,009	-1,283	20,688	-679	13,248	9,380	-3868
Sunday Schools	2,344	2,277	-67	2,305	-28	1,165	1,095	-70
Sunday Schools Membership	74,453	68,947	-5,506	65,545	3,402	22,547	21,255	-1,292
Through-the-week Membership	136,016	134,789	-1,227	132,586	2,203	73,250	78,433	5,183
Local Support	276,795	268,076	-8,719	268,634	-558	128,845	129,299	454
M&S Givers	126,747	121,629	-5,118	121,759	-130	33,206	31,158	-2,048

In all cases the data declined from 2008 to 2009, and the 2009 actual results were less than the forecast with the notable exceptions of: Pastoral Charges, Baptisms; Sunday School Membership; and Through-the-Week Membership.

Note: For 2009, 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 0.96. And in all cases, the compared  $r^2$  values did not differ by more than 0.014. 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, Adults, and Total), Marriages, and Sunday School Membership. This resulted in changing the previous 2025 forecast of Zero. And to provide a fairer comparison between 2008 and 2009, the forecasts from 2008 were revised using the same functions.

New for 2009 is the inclusion of data for Adult Baptisms, and Identifiable Givers for both Local Expenses and the M&S Fund. While the forecasted declines are serious for all items, the 74% decline for M&S Givers is especially notable.

# United Church Pastoral Charges

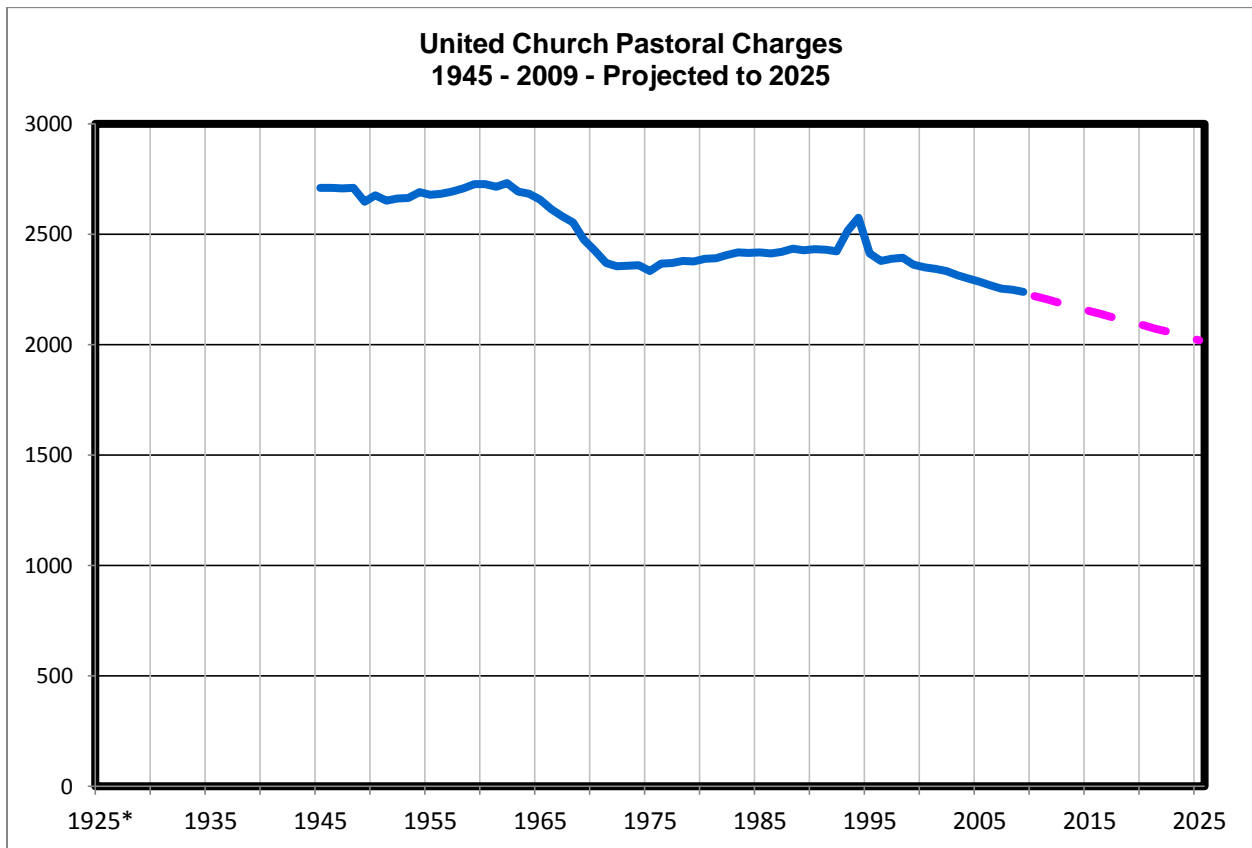
As of December 31, 2009 the number of United Church Pastoral Charges was 2,240.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, the number of Pastoral Charges in 2025 will be 2,035.

This will be a loss of 205 or 9% of 2009 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  $r^2 = 0.989$

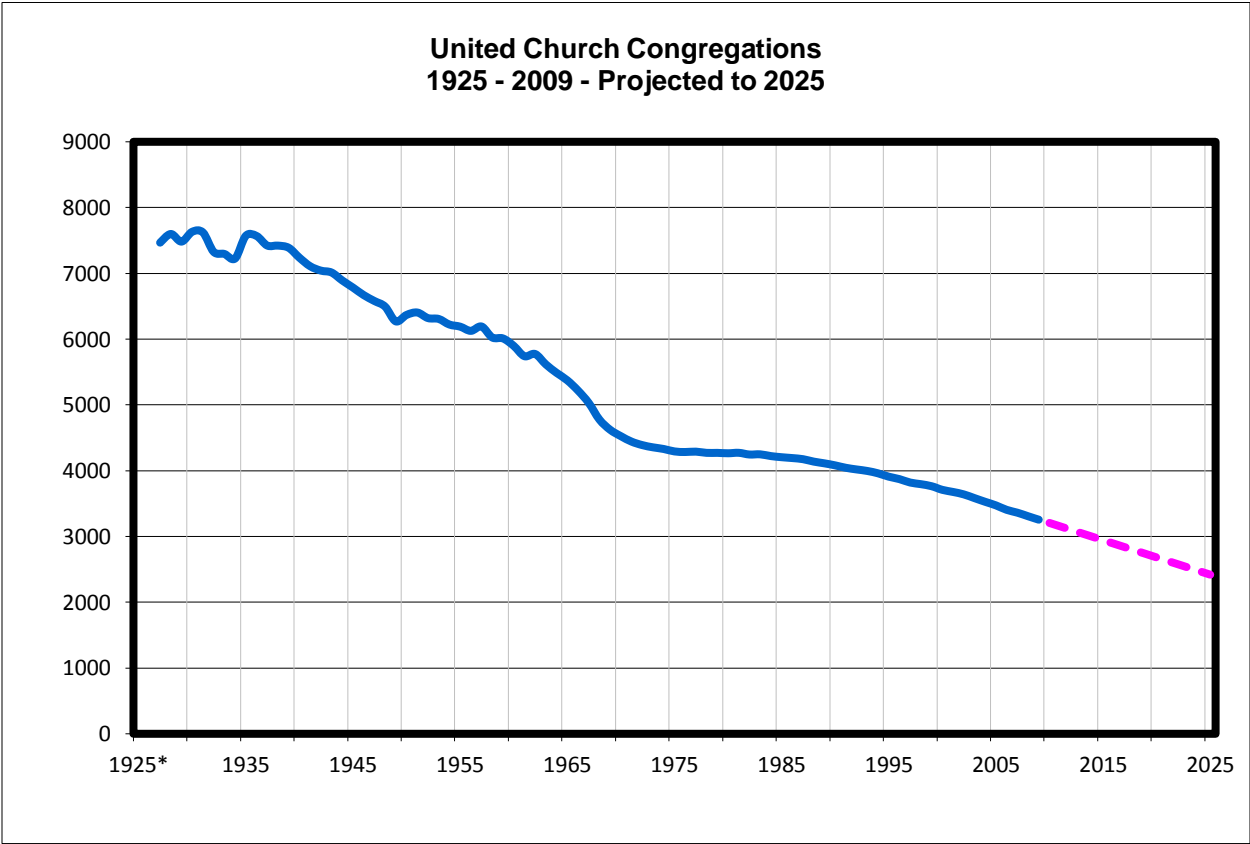
# United Church Congregations

As of December 31, 2009 the number of United Church Congregations (or Preaching Places) was 3,255.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, the number of Congregations in 2025 will be 2,420.

This will be a loss of 835 or 26% of 2009 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  $r^2 = 0.996$

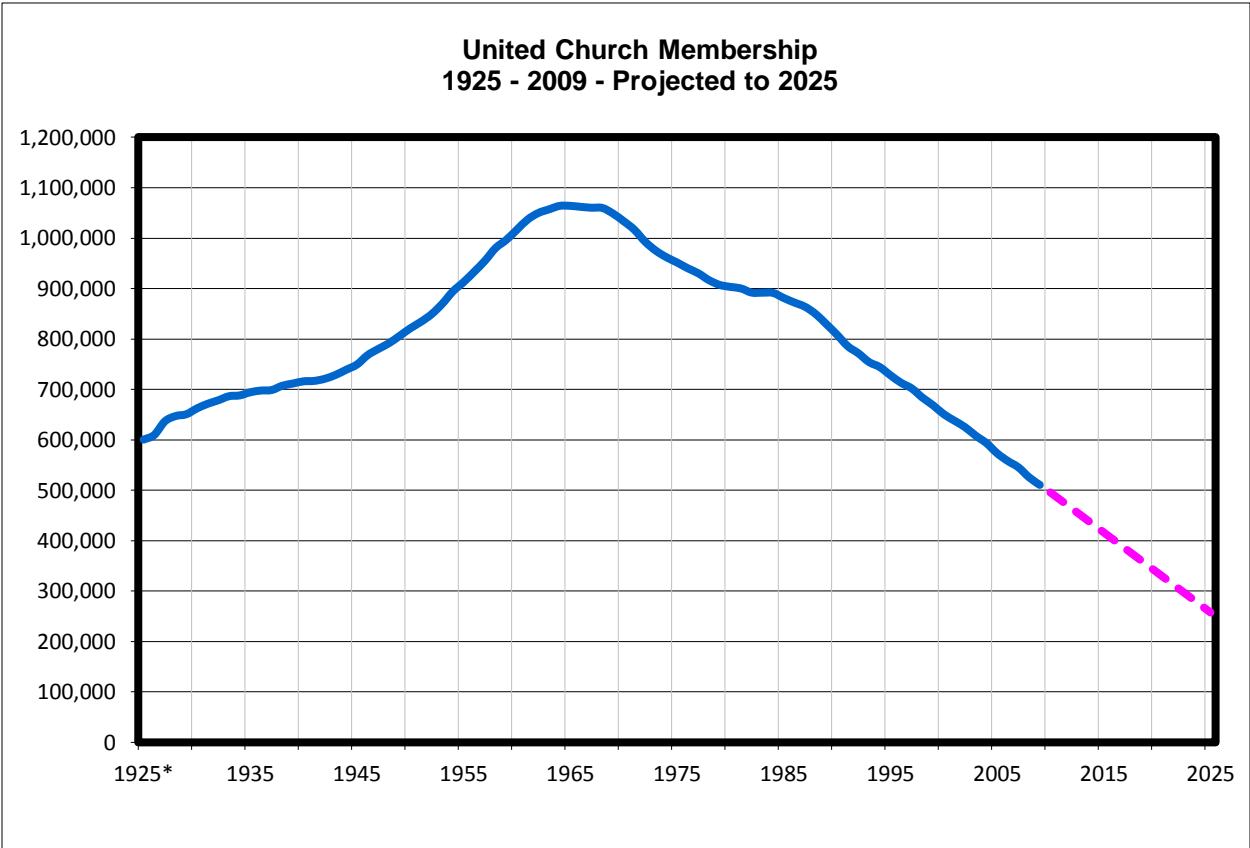
# United Church Membership

As of December 31, 2009 United Church Total Membership (Resident and Non-Resident) was 510,672.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, Membership in 2025 will be 257,716.

This will be a loss on average of 252,956 or 50% of 2009 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  $r^2 = 0.998$

# United Church Average Weekly Attendance

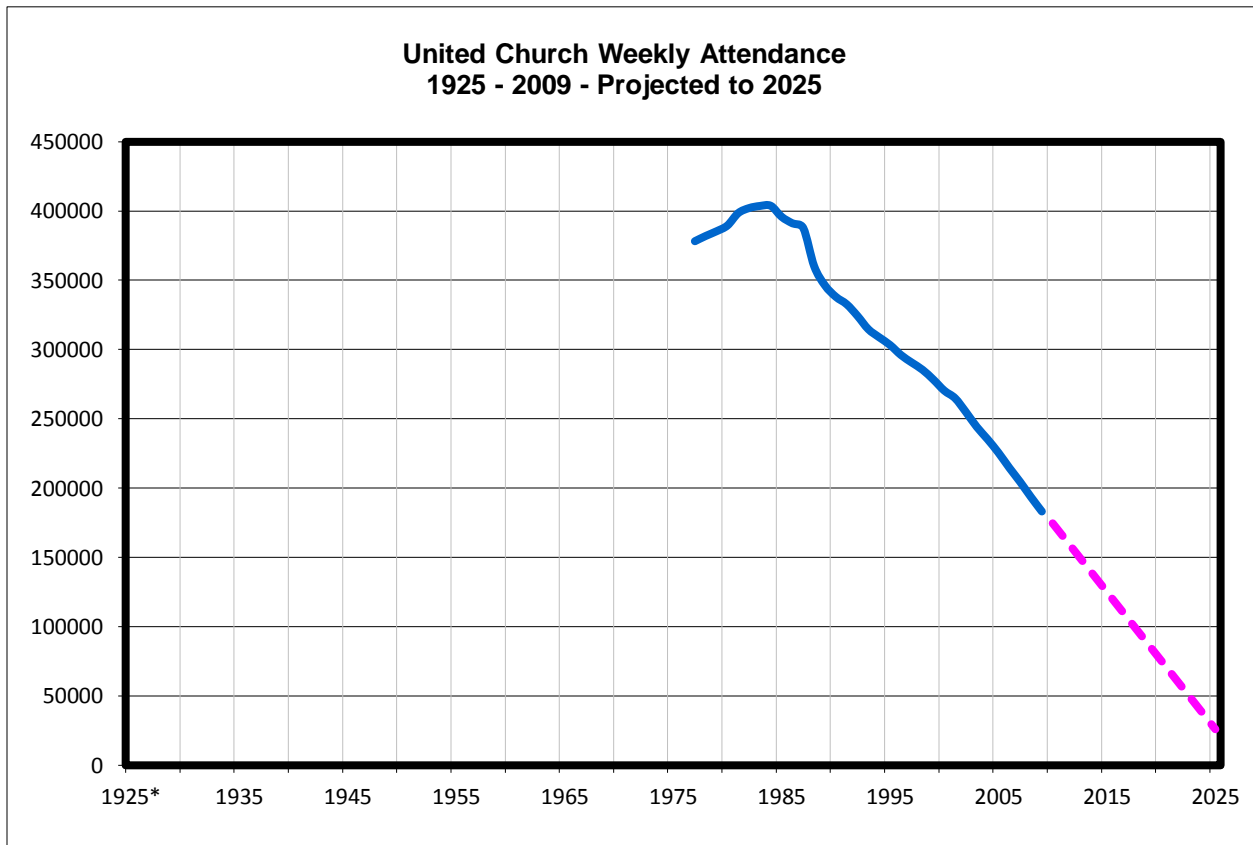
As of December 31, 2009, the Average Weekly Attendance was 183,153.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, Attendance in 2025 will be 26,000.

This will be a loss of 157,153 or 86% of the number attending church in 2009.

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  $r^2 = 0.998$

# United Church Financially Supporting Households

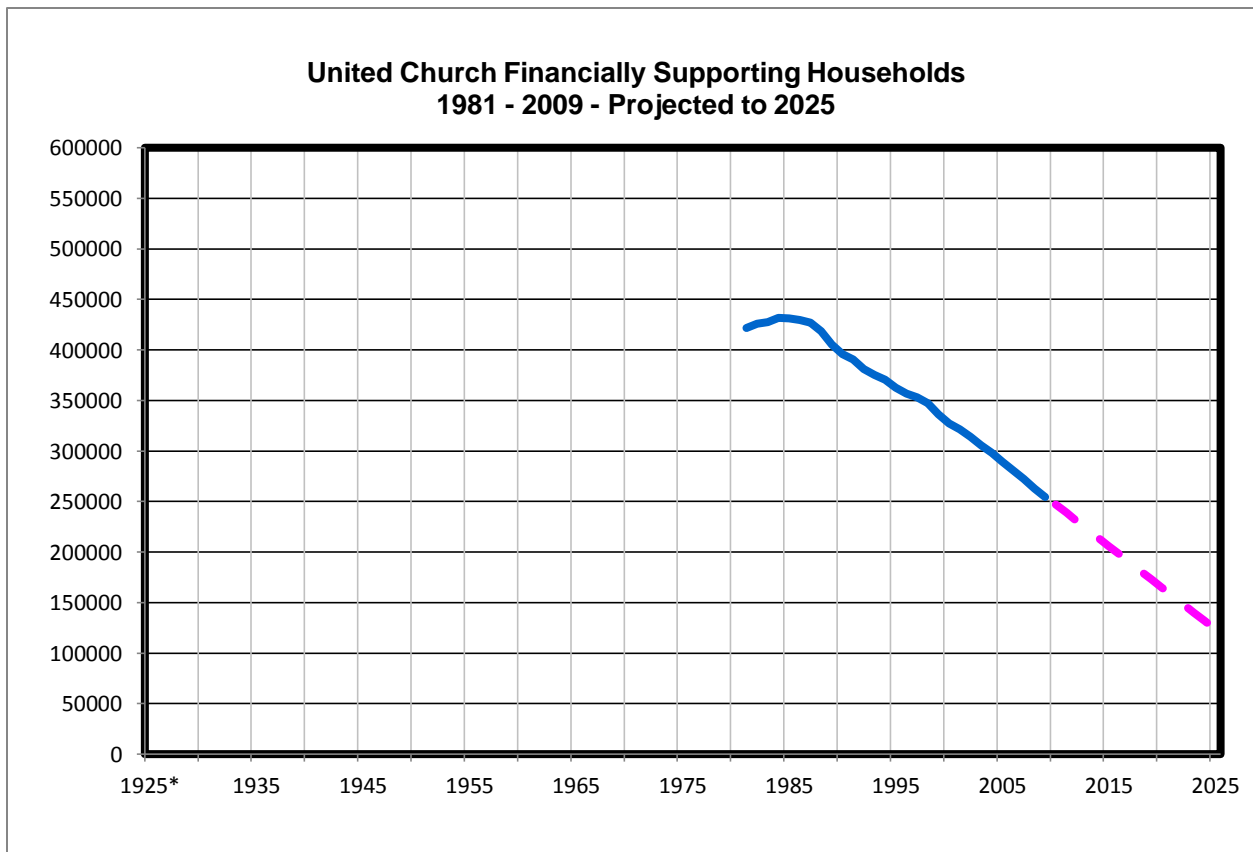
As of December 31, 2009, the number of Financially Supporting Households was 254,348.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, the number of Supporting Households in 2025 will be 123,609.

This will be a loss of 130,739 or 51% of the number of Supporting Households in 2009.

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  $r^2 = 0.998$

# United Church Identified Givers to Local Expenses

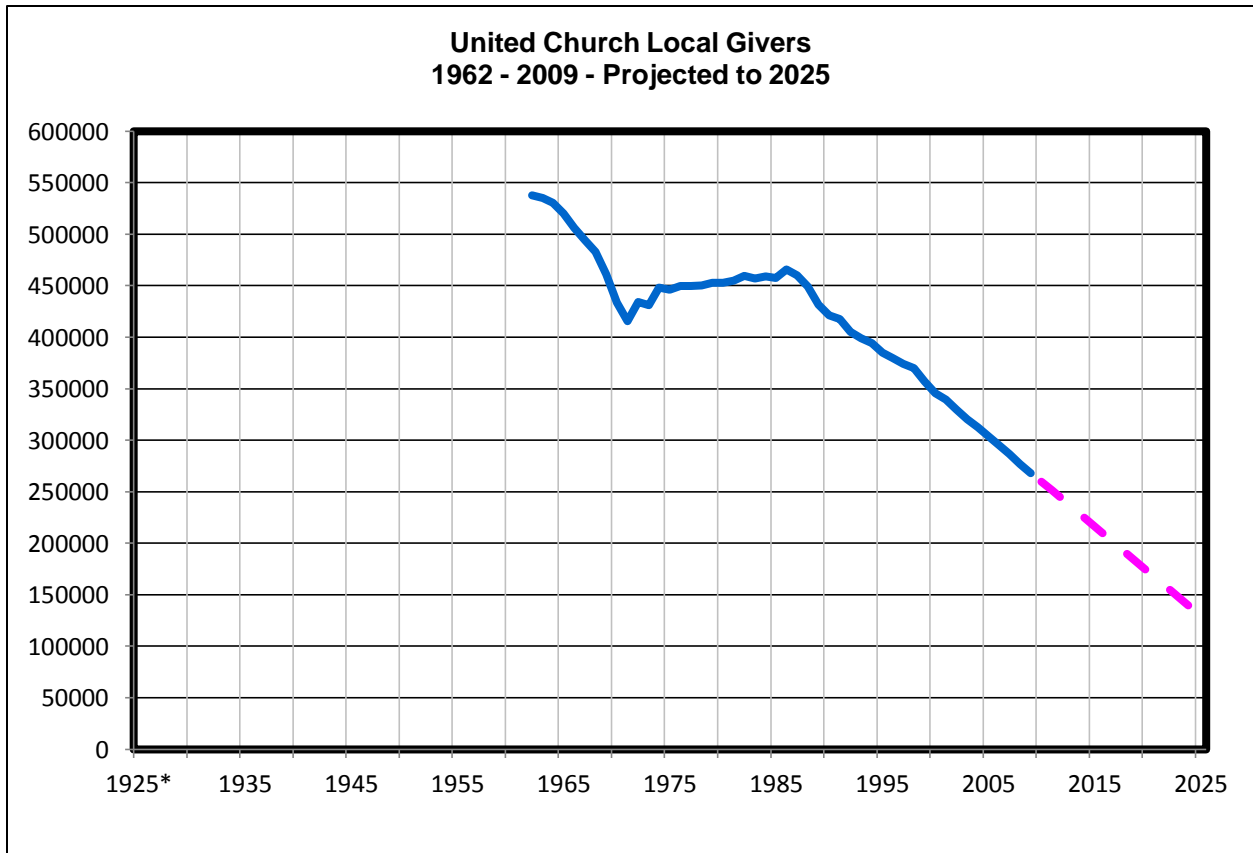
As of December 31, 2009, the number of Identified Givers to Local Expenses was 268,076.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, the number of Local Givers in 2025 will be 129,299.

This will be a loss of 138,777 or 52% of the number of Local Givers in 2009.

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

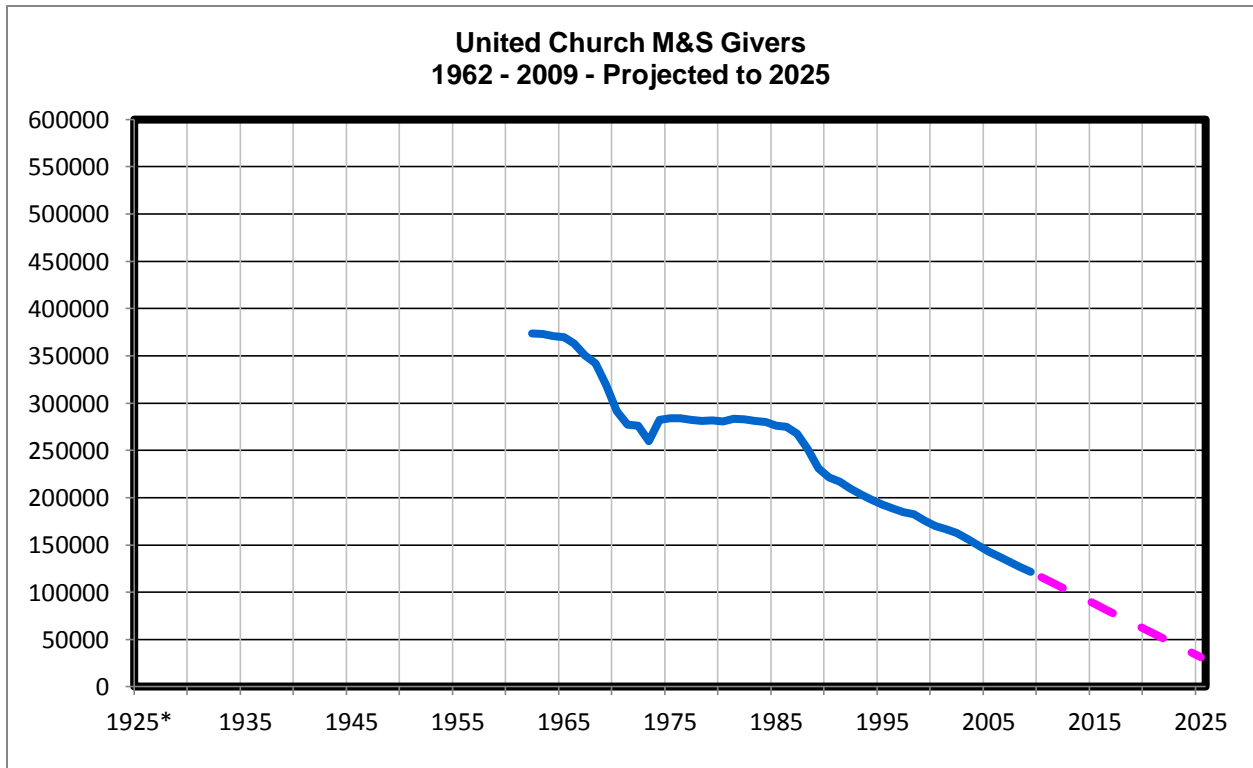
As of December 31, 2009, the number of Identified Givers to the M&S Fund was 121,629.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, the number of M&S Givers in 2025 will be 31,158.

This will be a loss of 90,471 or 74% of the number of M&S Givers in 2009.

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.



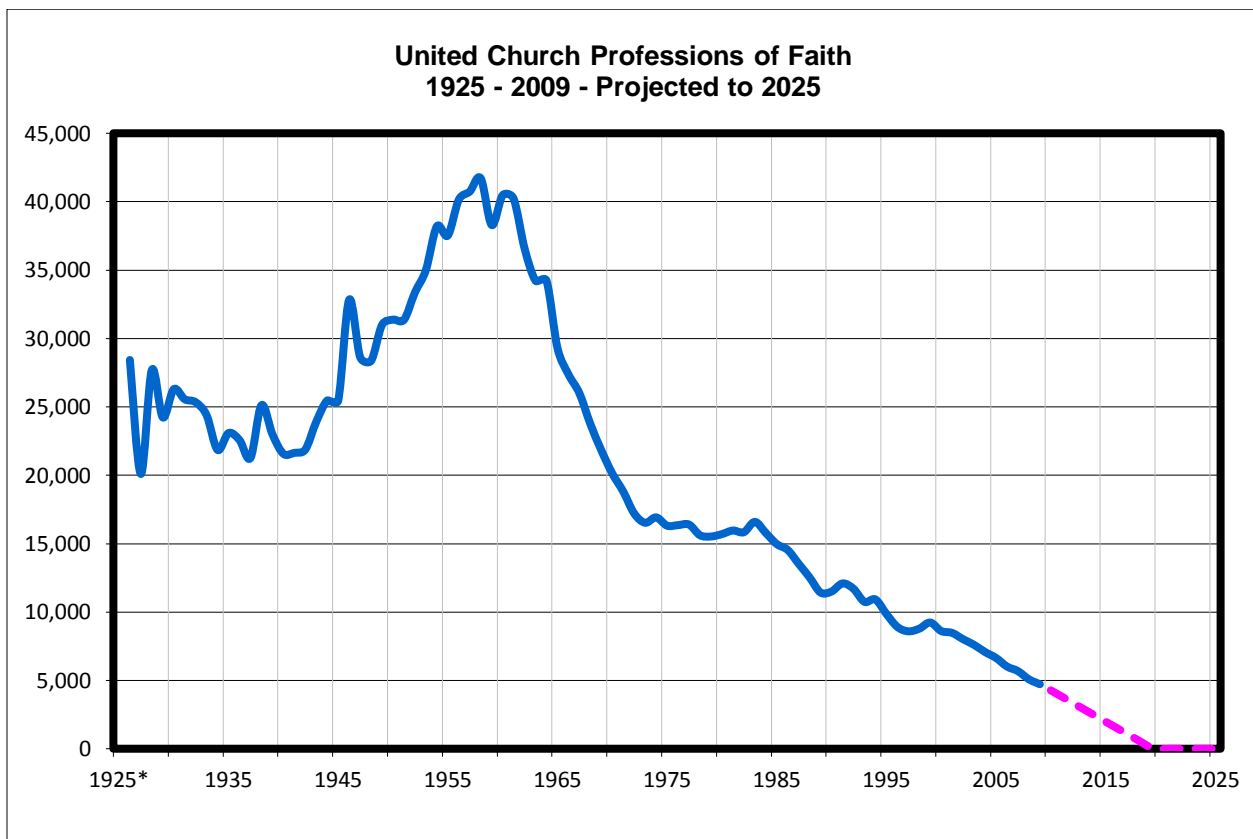
TREND  $r^2 = 0.996$

# United Church New Members Received by Profession of Faith

As of December 31, 2009, the total New Members received by Profession of Faith (that is, those who have never been members of any church before) was 4,724.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, the number of New Members in 2020 will be zero.

This will be a loss of 4,724 or 100% of the New Members Received in 2009.



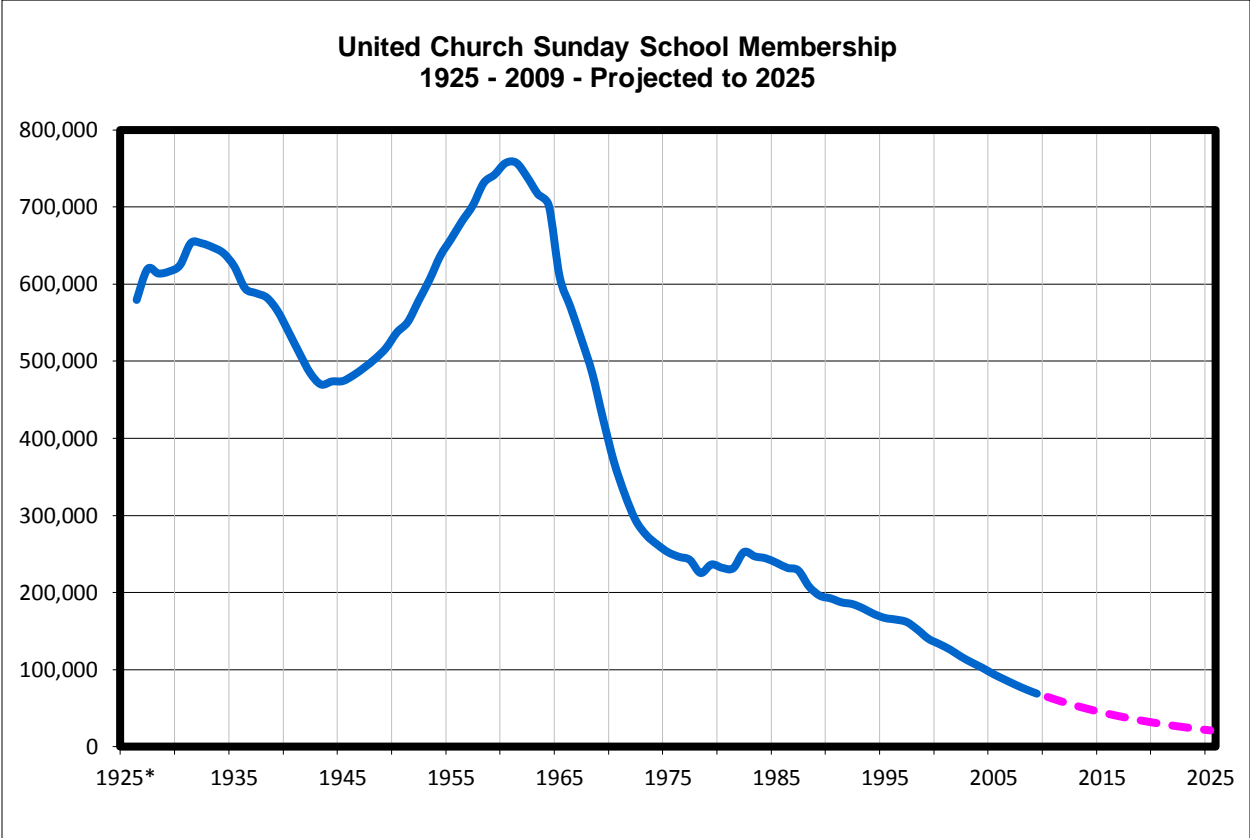
TREND  $r^2 = 0.993$

# United Church Sunday School Membership

As of December 31, 2009, United Church Sunday School Membership was 68,947.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, Sunday School Membership in 2025 will be 21,255.

This will be a loss 47,692 or 69% of the Sunday School Membership in 2009.



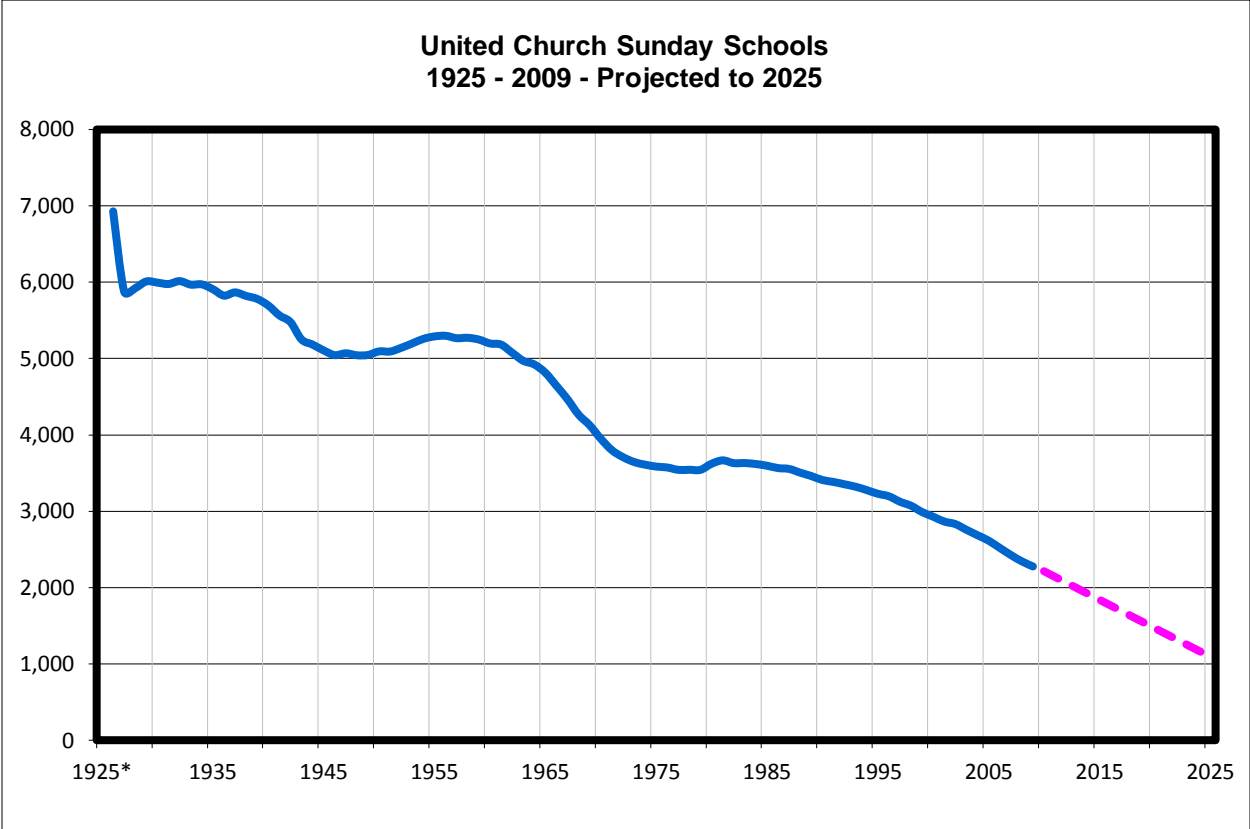
GROWTH  $r^2 = 0.998$

# United Church Sunday Schools

As of December 31, 2009, the number of United Church Sunday Schools was 2,277.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, the number of Sunday Schools in 2025 will be 1,095.

This will be a loss 1,182 or 52% of the number of Sunday Schools in 2009.



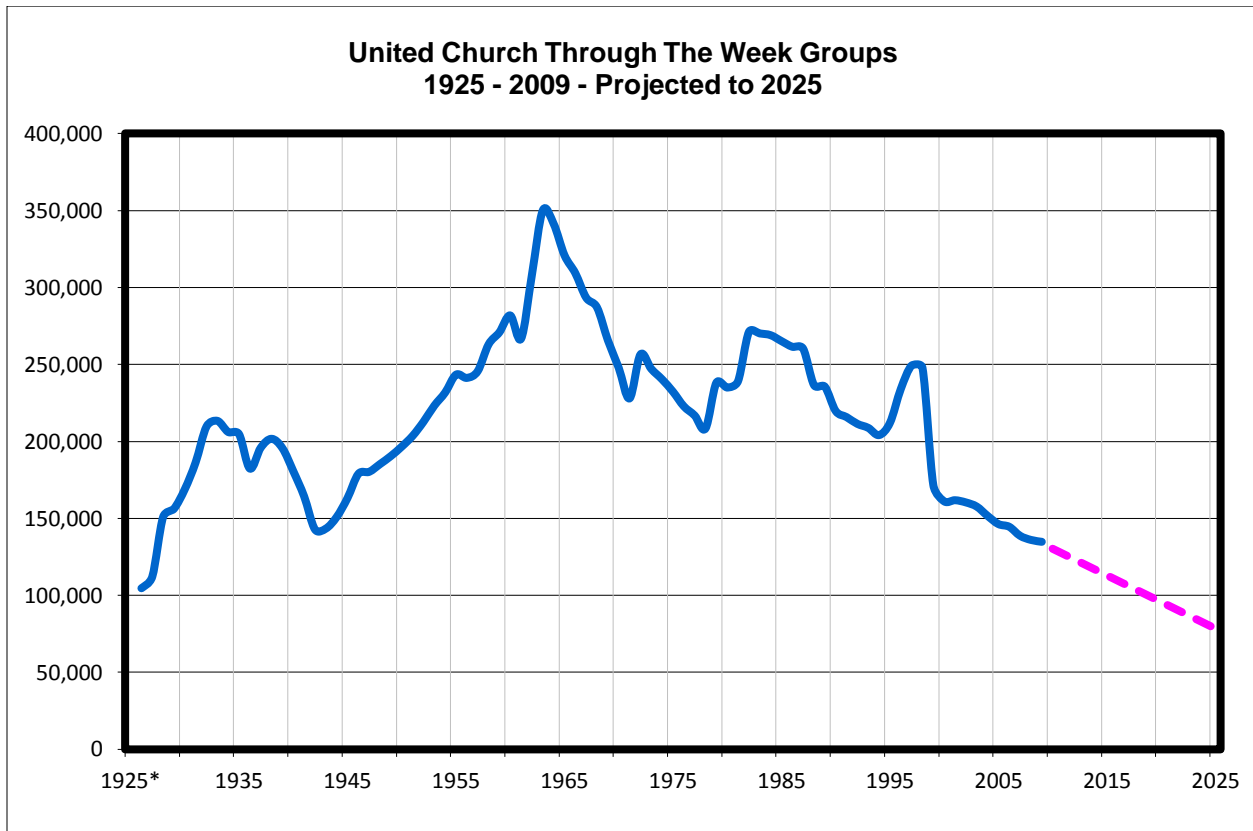
TREND  $r^2 = 0.991$

# United Church Through-the-Week Membership

As of December 31, 2009, United Church Through-the-Week Organizations Membership was 134,789.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, Through-the-Week Membership in 2025 will be 78,433.

This will be a loss 56,356 or 41% of the Through-the-Week Membership in 2009.



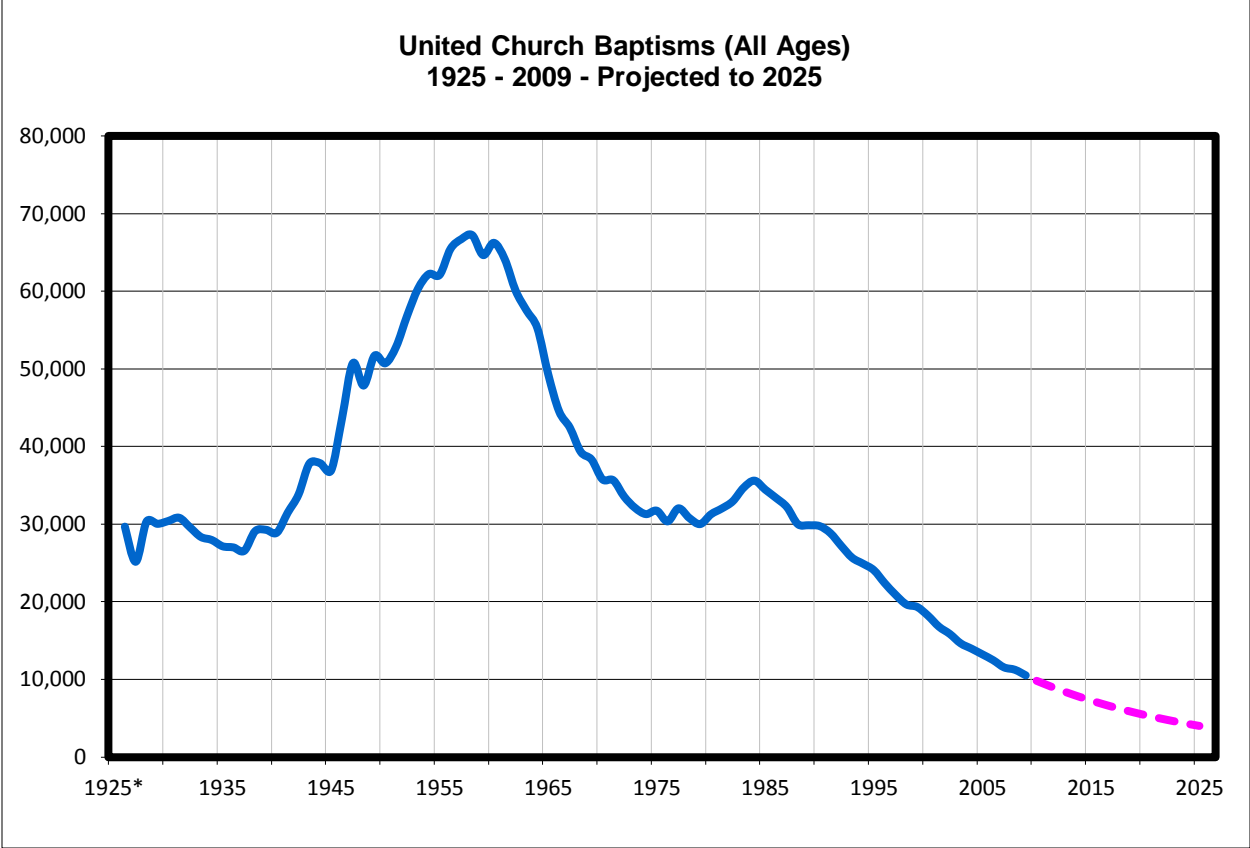
TREND  $r^2 = 0.962$

# United Church Baptisms (All Ages)

As of December 31, 2009, the total of all Baptisms was 10,518.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, the total of all Baptisms in 2025 will be 4,034.

This will be a loss of 6,484 or 62% of the Baptisms (All Ages) in 2009.



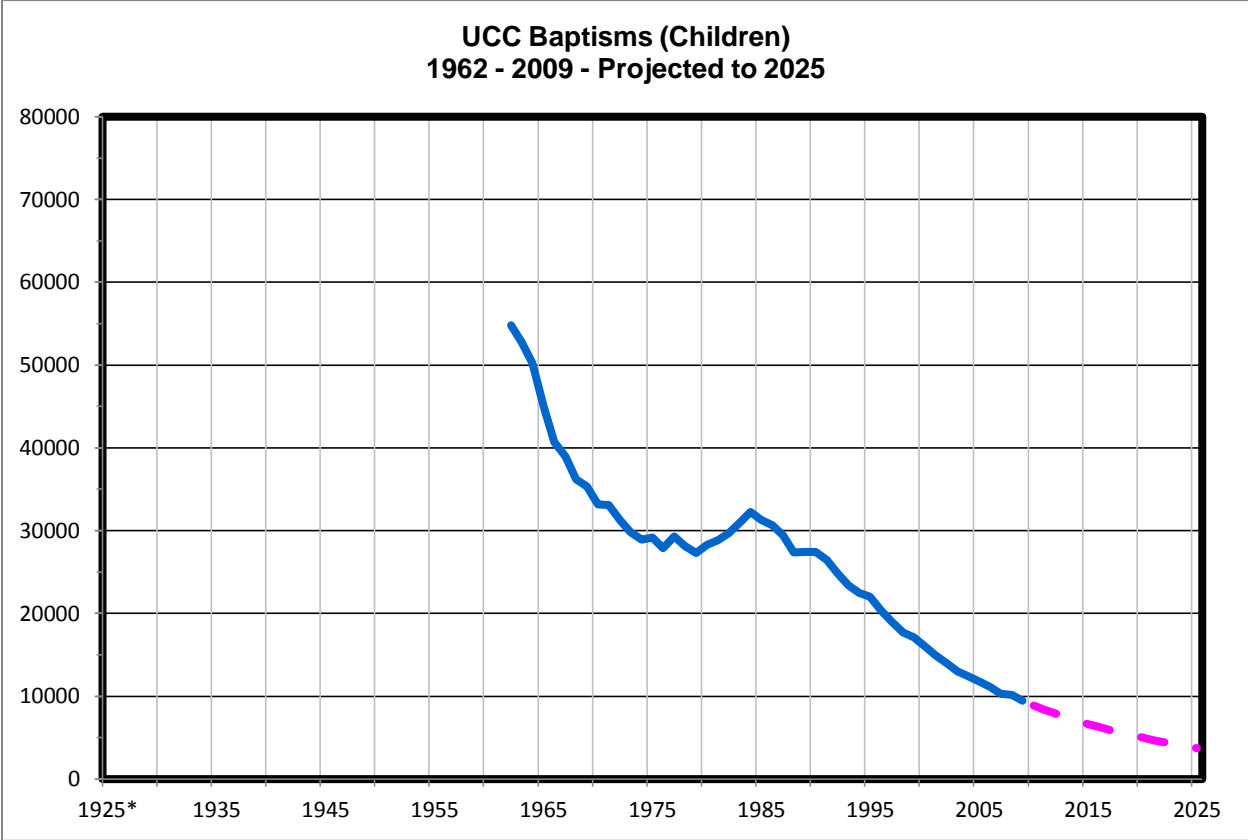
GROWTH  $r^2 = 0.995$

# United Church Baptisms (Children)

As of December 31, 2009, the total of all Baptisms (Children) was 9,470.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, the number of Baptisms (Children) in 2025 will be 3,378.

This will be a loss of 6,092 or 64% of the Baptisms (Children) in 2009.



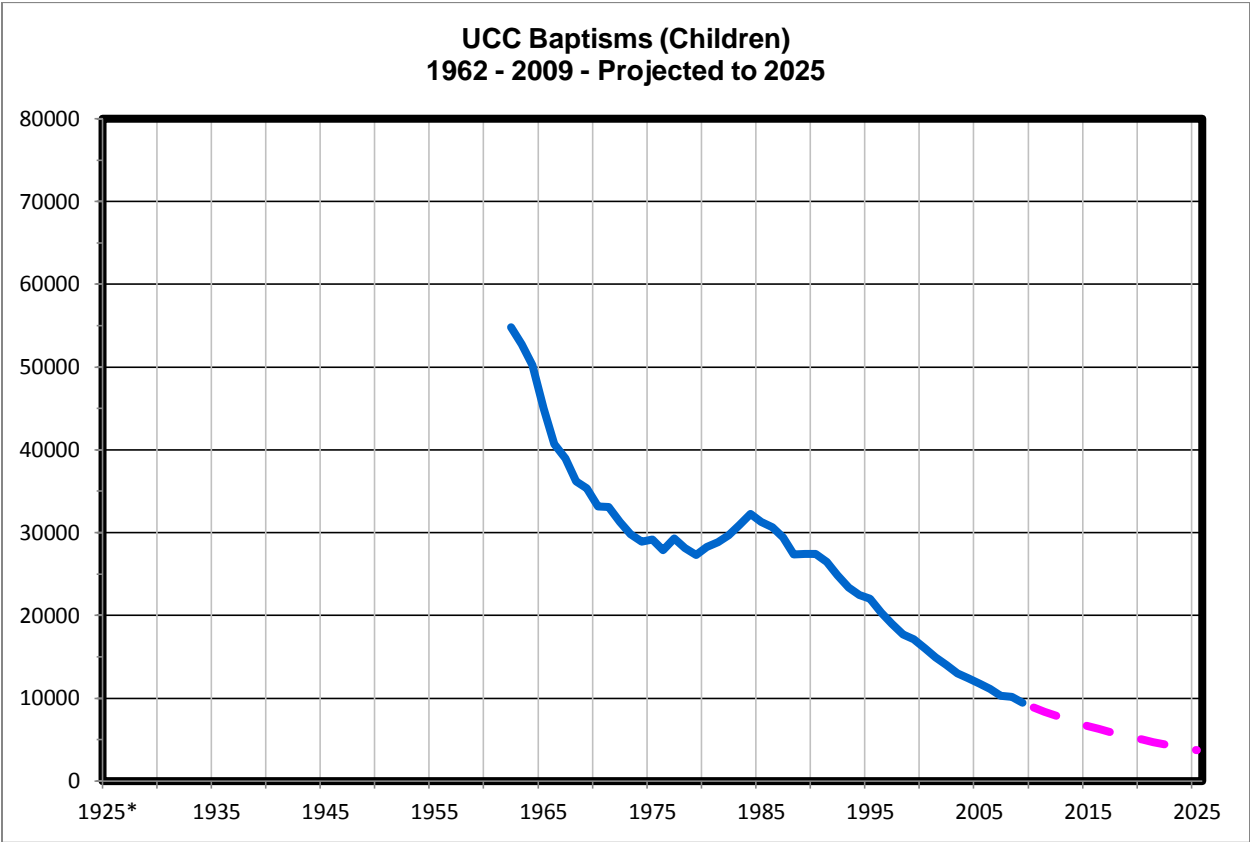
GROWTH  $r^2 = 0.993$

# United Church Baptisms (Adults)

As of December 31, 2009, the total of all Baptisms (Adults) was 1048.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, the number of Baptisms (Adults) in 2025 will be 296.

This will be a loss of 752 or 72% of the Baptisms (Adults) in 2009.



GROWTH  $r^2 = 0.980$

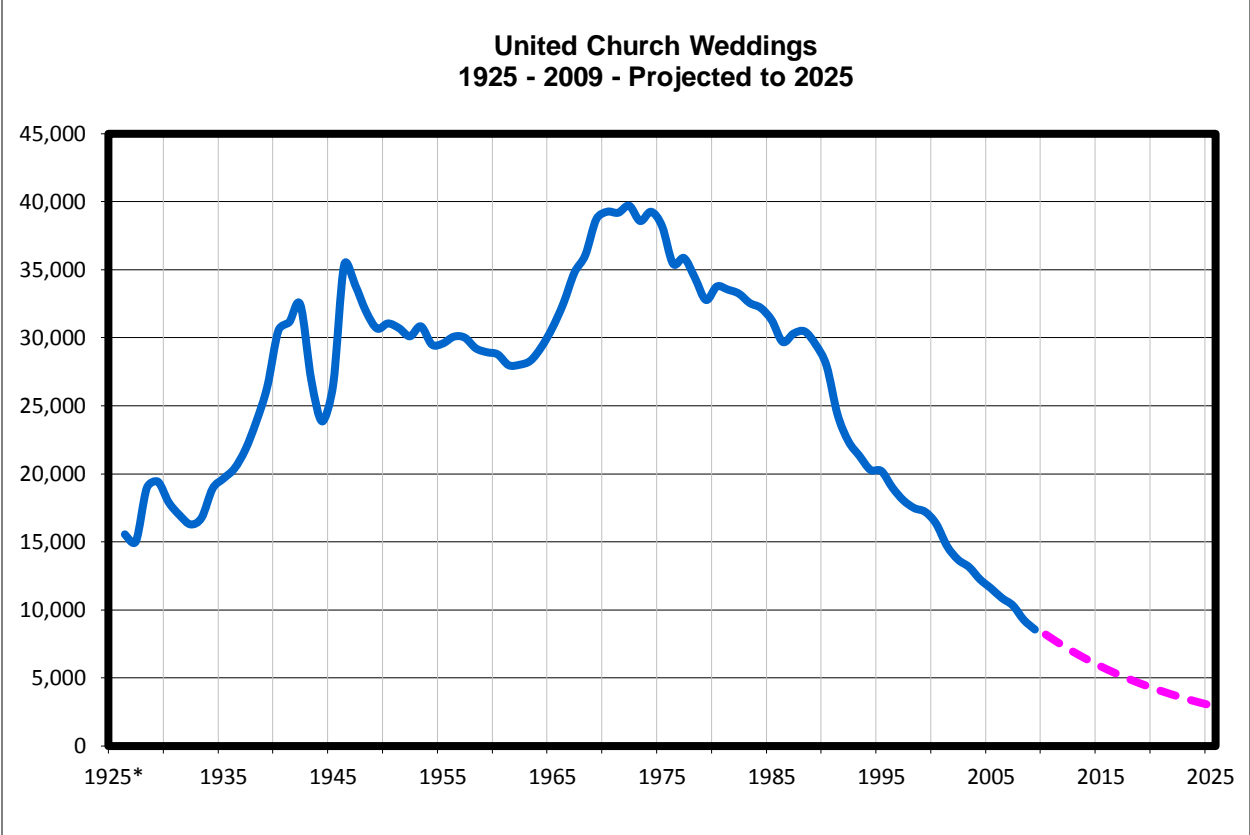


# United Church Weddings

As of December 31, 2009, the total number of United Church Weddings performed was 8,557.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, the number of Weddings in 2025 will be 2,990.

This will be a loss of 5,567 or 65% of the Weddings in 2009.



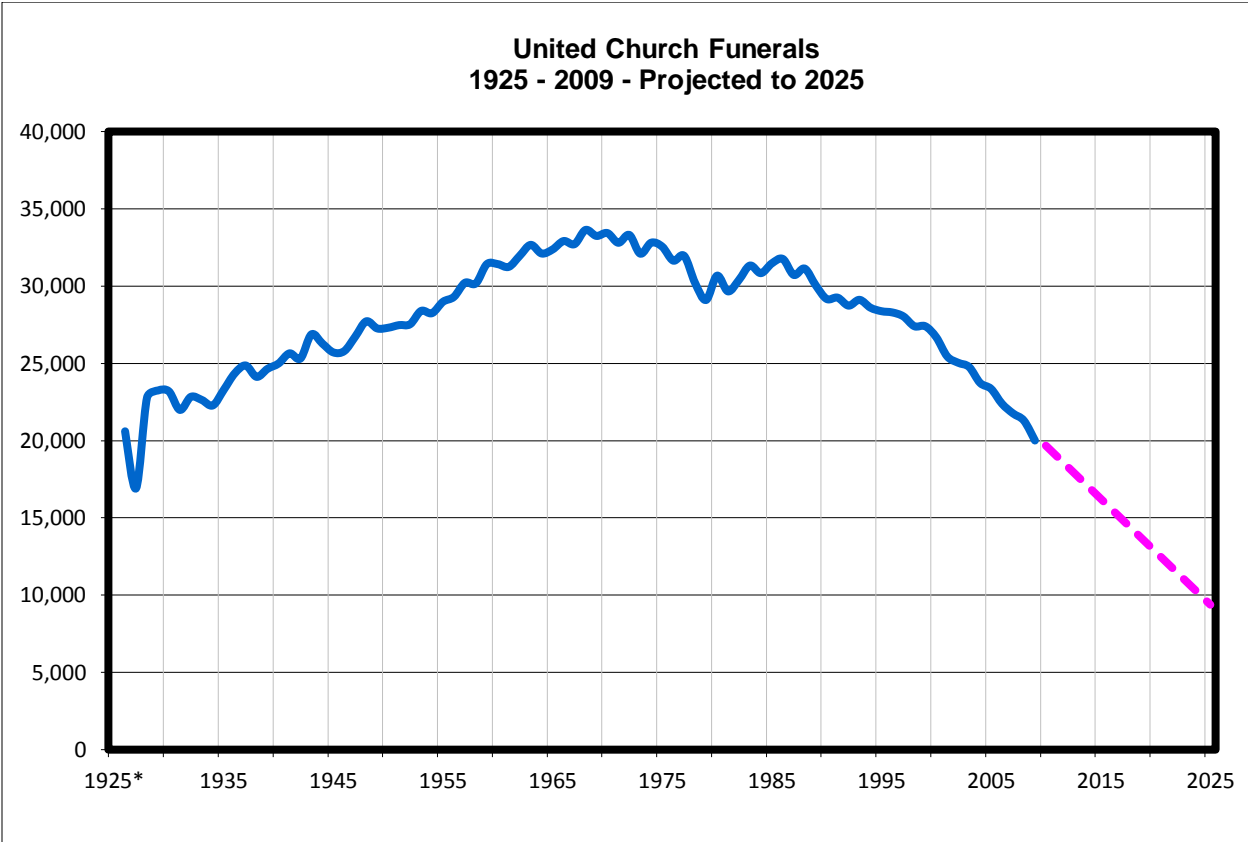
GROWTH  $r^2 = 0.991$

# United Church Funerals

As of December 31, 2008, the total number of United Church Funerals performed was 20,009.

If the trend for the past 10 years continues unchanged, the number of Funerals performed in 2025 will be 9,380.

This will be a decline of 10,629 or 53% of the number of Funerals in 2009.



TREND  $r^2 = 0.986$