Analysis of the Southern District Charts

* Chart A - The Southern District had been gradually increasing in total congregations until the early 2000s. It maintained for a while but has since started to decline.

* Chart A - While the number of congregations increased since 1970, the trend for membership over that time was a gradual decline. This decline in membership began in 1998, and has accelerated in recent years.

* Chart B - While the number of congregations has been decreasing since the mid-2000s, the number of parish pastors has actually been increasing slightly.

* Chart C - Even though membership has been decreasing, total giving in the Southern District has steadily increased since 1970. Even with steep declines in membership currently, today's giving levels do not show a decline.