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ADJUSTMENTS OF THE CHURCH AND THE COMMUNITY TO POPULATION

CHANGE IN A RURAL SOUTH DAKOTA COUNTY

83

BY

CHARLES EMMET NIELSEN

A thesis submitted  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the  
degree Master of Science, Department of Rural  
Sociology, South Dakota State  
College of Agriculture  
and Mechanic Arts

June, 1963

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## **ADJUSTMENTS OF THE CHURCH AND THE COMMUNITY TO POPULATION**

### **CHANGE IN A RURAL SOUTH DAKOTA COUNTY**

search and the writing of this thesis:

Dr. Harold E. Riley, Associate Professor of Social Geography, for his guidance and supervision as thesis adviser.

Mr. Frank S. Miller and Frank Smith, for their assistance in collecting and analyzing, respectively, for their help in preparing and administering the questionnaires, and for the many informal discussions.

This thesis is approved as a creditable, independent investigation by a candidate for the degree, Master of Science, and is acceptable as meeting the thesis requirements for this degree, but without implying that the conclusions reached by the candidate are necessarily the conclusions of the major department.

**Thesis Adviser**

**Head of the Major Department**

2001

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Grateful appreciation is expressed to the following persons for their assistance and encouragement during the conducting of the research and the writing of this thesis:

to Marvin P. Riley, Associate Professor of Rural Sociology, for his guidance and instruction as thesis advisor;

to James Satterlee and Frank Smith, graduate students in sociology and economics, respectively, for their help in preparing and administering the questionnaires, and for the many informal discussions which were instructive and encouraging;

to the Lutheran Town and Country Committee, particularly Rev. Judeen Johnson and Mr. Orville Berkland, for assistance in planning the research, preparing, administering, and coding the questionnaires, and encouragement as the thesis was written;

to the pastors who volunteered information about their churches, and particularly to the pastors who allowed us to administer a questionnaire in their churches;

to the respondents who took time to fill out the questionnaires;

and, perhaps most important, to my wife, Phyllis, for her encouragement, her hours spent in typing, and her patience while I was using free minutes and free hours on this project.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The general problem of this thesis is the impact of population change upon rural communities. This is related to a regional research project being carried on in the North Central States. The North Central States include Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and North Dakota. In South Dakota it is the Agricultural Experiment Station at South Dakota State College which is cooperating in the regional project.

### A. The North Central Regional Study

The nature of the research is to find out what population change is taking place in the North Central Region and the impact of this change on rural communities.

From 1940 to 1950 there was a 10.2 percent increase in population in the North Central States.<sup>1</sup> By the next decade this rate increased, so that from 1950 to 1960 there was a 14.9 percent increase.<sup>2</sup> Although this increase may seem to be substantial, for

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<sup>1</sup>Paul J. Jehlik and Ray E. Wakeley, Population Change and Net Migration in the North Central States, 1940-50, Ames: Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station, Iowa State College, Research Bulletin 430 (North Central Regional Publication No. 56), July, 1955, p. 491.

<sup>2</sup>U. S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports: Components of Population Change, 1950 to 1960, for Counties, Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas, State Economic Areas, and Economic Subregions, Series P-23, No. 7, November, 1962, p. 83. In this publication Kentucky is not included in the North Central Region, so the population figure for Kentucky, found on page 68, must be added to the population figures given on page 83 for the North Central Region.



both decades it was less than the rate of increase for the United States by about four percent.<sup>1</sup> Even though the population did increase in the North Central Region, in both decades there was a net out-migration. The net out-migration in the 1940-1950 decade was 1.5 percent, and in the 1950-1960 decade it was 1.1 percent.<sup>2</sup>

Another important fact to understand is that the increase in the North Central Region was not evenly distributed among the thirteen states. In general the more urban states had the larger increases in population and the more rural states had the smaller increases.<sup>3</sup> The same general trend holds true for out-migration. The more rural states of the region had a higher rate of out-migration than did the more urban states.<sup>4</sup>

With these population changes taking place within the Region there was an interest in the uniformities and variations between particular states and among the counties of the Region with respect to net migration. Consequently, a regional project was designed that had two foci. The first was the explanation of motivations for

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 1; and Warren S. Thompson, Population Problems, New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1953, p. 365.

<sup>2</sup>Jehlik and Wakeley, op. cit., p. 502; and U. S. Bureau of the Census, loc. cit.

<sup>3</sup>Allan Beegle, Douglas Marshall, and Rodger Rice, "Selected Factors Related to County Migration Patterns in the North Central States, 1940-50 and 1950-60," (A progress report to the regional committee), p. 1.

<sup>4</sup>U. S. Bureau of the Census, op. cit., pp. 73-75.

migration or non-migration. The second was the impact of migration on community life or institutional systems. This thesis deals with the second problem.

In order to facilitate the regional study of migration the 1175 counties in the North Central Region were classified according to three variables. These three were: (1) whether the county had net "in" or "out" migration; (2) farm operator family level of living index; and (3) the proportion of employed persons in manufacturing.<sup>1</sup> In the selection of the latter two the question became one of asking what variables are important in modifying the typical out-migration level characteristic of most rural areas. Both from a theoretical point of view as well as in practice, a measure of relative well-being was suggested. The farm operator family level of living index seemed appropriate as one indication of relative well-being, and the proportion of employed persons in manufacturing was used as the second since it reflects the magnitude of the off-farm labor market.<sup>2</sup>

A preliminary examination of the Region revealed that the three dominant migration patterns were as follows: (1) in-migration, high level of living, and high proportion in manufacturing; (2) out-migration, high level of living, and low proportion in manufacturing; and (3) out-migration, low level of living, and low

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 2.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

out-lo-lo migration type and 30 as out-hi-lo, leaving seven counties in other patterns. In 1960 twenty-three counties were classed as out-lo-lo and forty as out-hi-lo, leaving four counties in other patterns. On the other hand, in 1950 only seven counties experienced in-migration, while by 1960 this figure had decreased to four counties experiencing in-migration.<sup>1</sup>

From these figures it is obvious that out-migration has been a real problem in South Dakota for the last two decades. If there are social consequences associated with out-migration, one would expect to find evidence of such conditions in South Dakota.

### C. Counties Selected for Field Studies

In order to investigate the impact of migration on counties and communities the regional project design called for the selection of counties in several states which were representative of the three dominant migration types in the Region. The following counties were selected for intensive field studies: Ontonagon County, Michigan; Price County, Wisconsin; Aitken County, Minnesota; and Marshall County, South Dakota were selected for study as representative of the out-lo-lo pattern; Greene County, Iowa was selected as representative of the out-hi-lo pattern; and Franklin County, Ohio and Kenosha County, Wisconsin were selected as representative

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., pp. 14-15.

of the in-hi-hi pattern.<sup>1</sup>

Marshall County was the South Dakota county selected for study as typical of the out-lo-lo pattern. It was selected on the basis of information available for the 1940-1950 decade. In that decade it ranked 56th among South Dakota counties with a net out-migration of 27 percent; other counties in the state ranged from a 23 percent net in-migration to a net out-migration of 44 percent. Marshall County ranked 46th among the counties on farm operator family level of living index with an index of 134; other counties ranged from 186 to 86. Marshall County ranked 52nd in percent of employed persons engaged in manufacturing with 0.84 percent so employed. Other counties ranged from 16.3 percent to 0.16 percent.<sup>2</sup>

Marshall County, though not a statistical average on these three variables, did conform to the general characteristics of the "ideal" out-lo-lo migration type. According to Marvin Riley, Associate Professor of Rural Sociology at South Dakota State College, it would have been more desirable to have selected a county with a lower farm operator family level of living index, but to have done this and still have had a county with a high rate of

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<sup>1</sup>"North Central Annual Report of Cooperative Regional Projects, NC-18, for the Year January 1 to December 31, 1961," on file with the Director of the Experiment Station, South Dakota State College (Mimeographed Annual Report), p. 1.

<sup>2</sup>Robert M. Dimit, South Dakota Handbook of Population Data, Brookings: Department of Rural Sociology, Agricultural Experiment Station, South Dakota State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Pamphlet No. 118, December, 1955, Tables 59, 107, and 109.

out-migration and a low proportion of the employed persons in manufacturing one would have had to select a county much farther distance away from Brookings, South Dakota, the location of the Agricultural Experiment Station. The additional distance would have made research much more difficult.<sup>1</sup>

#### D. Statement of Problem

The problem with which this thesis deals is, given Marshall County as an out-lo-lo type, what is the impact of out-migration on the communities within the county, and upon the church, as one of the institutional systems within the community?

This general problem was divided into two sub-problems:

A. In view of the population changes taking place in Marshall County, what changes are taking place in the institutional system of the church?

B. Given the existing communities and institutional systems in the county, and the adjustment or lack of adjustment to the continued out-migration of population, what characteristics of the population are associated with community satisfaction and church satisfaction?

The first sub-problem will be the subject of Chapter II.

Chapter III will discuss the second sub-problem. The general hypothesis for Chapter III is:

Certain characteristics of the population of Marshall County are associated with community satisfaction and church satisfaction, and others are not.

In Chapter IV the main findings will be summarized. The Appendixes will include the questionnaires which were used and

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<sup>1</sup>Interview on January 18, 1963.

information related to them.

### A. Statement of Problem and Rationale

This chapter examines the first part of the general problem of this study which is:

How does the population change taking place in Marshall County, what changes are taking place in the institutional system of the church?

This is an abstract problem for research because Marshall County has been experiencing population loss and out-migration which is a common problem for many of the counties in South Dakota. For example, the 1950 to 1960 period saw a continuing decline in population in 100 of the 100 counties in South Dakota. The population of 100 counties had decreased which amounted to more than 20 percent of their 1950 population. They also had lost out-migration and it had had out-migration rates that amounted to more than 30 percent of their 1950 population.<sup>1</sup> This is an abstract question for research in that it asks the question: How does the population change taking place in Marshall County affect the institutional system of the church in South Dakota?

Considering Marshall County as an instance of this kind of population situation, it is worthwhile to determine the impact of this loss on the institutional system of the church. In this case the attention will be focused on only one institution, the church.

<sup>1</sup>Harold H. Kuhn, "The South Dakota Population and the Rural Church: A Study of the Church in South Dakota (1950-1960) and the Rural Church in South Dakota (1950-1960)", Division of Social Sciences, University of South Dakota, Brookings, South Dakota, 1961, Chapter 1, p. 10.

## II. MARSHALL COUNTY: POPULATION CHANGE WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO THE CHURCH

### A. Statement of Problem and Hypotheses

This chapter examines the first part of the general problem of this thesis which is:

In view of the population changes taking place in Marshall County, what changes are taking place in the institutional system of the church?

This is an important problem for research because Marshall County has been experiencing population loss and out-migration which is a common problem for many of the counties in South Dakota. For example, from 1950 to 1960 forty-five counties in South Dakota experienced population losses and 22 counties had losses which amounted to more than ten percent of their 1950 population. Sixty-three counties had out-migration and 37 had net out-migration rates that amounted to more than 20 percent of their 1950 population.<sup>1</sup> Thus an important question for research is: What is the impact of population loss and out-migration on the institutions of counties in South Dakota?

Considering Marshall County as an instance of this kind of population situation, it is worthwhile to determine the impact of this loss on the institutions of the county. In this case study attention will be focused on only one institution, the church.

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<sup>1</sup>Marvin P. Riley, South Dakota Population and Farm Census Facts: Ranking of Counties on Population (1950-1960) and Farms (1954-1959), Brookings: Rural Sociology Department, Division of Agriculture, South Dakota State College, Circular 151, January, 1962, pp. 6-8.



The presentation in this chapter will attempt to accomplish two objectives. One is to describe the social setting and the nature of the population changes occurring in Marshall County. The other objective is to describe the changes taking place in the churches in Marshall County.

On the basis of information about Marshall County which was presented in Chapter I a person can begin to lay a basis on which to formulate hypotheses. The following facts make it clear why the county was classified in the out-lo-lo migration type: (1) from 1940 to 1950 the county had a net out-migration of 27 percent; (2) the county ranked 46th from the top among South Dakota counties on the farm operator family level of living index; and (3) in the county 0.8 percent of the employed persons were in manufacturing.

In view of the fact that the trend in population loss and heavy out-migration continued unabated during the 1950-1960 decade it is expected that this change has had some impact on the institutions of Marshall County.

John B. Mitchell, Extension Rural Sociologist at Ohio State University, in an article entitled "Churches and Changing Communities," discusses the loss of population in some rural communities. He indicates on the one hand as villages decline in population they lose their stores, barber, service stations, and schools, and on the other hand the church may still be there though it is declining, but often the "sagging roof of a country church gives silent testimony of a



casualty of rapid change."<sup>1</sup> According to some sociologists who have been students of rural life, "The demise of a church is not difficult to understand. It is usually due to population change."<sup>2</sup> Since Marshall County has experienced a heavy population loss, the first hypothesis is:

There has been a decline in the number of churches in Marshall County as an adjustment to the population loss.

W. F. Kumlien found that in South Dakota the village and town church was growing at the expense of the open-country church.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, in a situation such as is found in Marshall County one would expect to find the churches in the open-country losing members to churches in the larger villages and towns. Kolb and Brunner found that the automobile enlarged community boundaries, accelerating the inclination of open-country churches to become centralized in town.<sup>4</sup> Therefore, as community boundaries expand one would expect the hamlets and villages to be taken into the sphere of influence of the larger communities. In this situation the villages and hamlets begin to

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<sup>1</sup>John B. Mitchell, Churches and Changing Communities, 2, reprinted from Ohio Christian News, February, 1962.

<sup>2</sup>John H. Kolb and Edmund deS. Brunner, A Study of Rural Society, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1952, p. 363.

<sup>3</sup>W. F. Kumlien, The Social Problem of the Church in South Dakota, Brookings: Department of Rural Sociology, Agricultural Experiment Station, South Dakota State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Bulletin 294, May, 1935, p. 10.

<sup>4</sup>Kolb and Brunner, op. cit., pp. 363-365.

lose local support, as do the churches within them. On the basis of these statements, the second hypothesis is:

The decline in the number of churches and in church membership has been greater in the villages, hamlets, and open-country than in the largest community, Britton.

A few of the studies of churches have focused upon pastoral leadership. Kumlien found that in South Dakota the larger city churches have the membership and budget to support a pastor, whereas of the 506 open-country churches included in his study slightly less than seven percent had resident pastors.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, the third hypothesis is:

A greater percentage of the larger churches have resident pastors than do the smaller churches.

The length of tenure of pastors of rural churches has also been studied. Kolb and Brunner found that three years was the average tenure of one group of rural clergy.<sup>2</sup> All of the clergy in Marshall County will qualify as rural clergy, but the churches they serve do vary in size, and vary in location from the open-country to the town. Therefore, the fourth hypothesis is:

The average tenure of the pastors is short, probably about three years, but that the tenure of the pastors of the larger churches will be longer than that of the pastors of the smaller churches.

The main objective of this chapter is to present evidence to support or reject these hypotheses. However, in order to facilitate understanding of what is happening in Marshall County it is important

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<sup>1</sup>Kumlien, op. cit., pp. 13 and 30.

<sup>2</sup>Kolb and Brunner, op. cit., p. 372.

to first describe the social and economic setting of the county and to state in more detail than previously the population changes, and to show the trend in the churches of the county.

#### B. Social Setting of Marshall County

Marshall County lies along the northern border of South Dakota near the northeast corner of the state. It is bordered on the east by Roberts County, on the south by Day County, on the west by Brown County, and on the north by Sargent County, North Dakota.

Marshall County has 875 square miles of area. Approximately 90 percent of the land is incorporated in farms.<sup>1</sup>

The western part of Marshall County lies in the James River Valley, and is comparatively level. The eastern part is in the plateau area of the Coteau Hills. These hills rise above the James River Valley flats. In Marshall County the winters are cold, and in the summer there are many hot days.

The territory which is now Marshall County was not opened to settlement until 1873 when an agreement was made with the Indians. The final treaty for the Indian land itself, which included the eastern part of the county, was made in 1892.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Census of Agriculture, South Dakota, for 1954.

<sup>2</sup>W. F. Kumlien, Basic Trends of Social Change in South Dakota: Population Tendencies, Brookings: Department of Rural Sociology, Agricultural Experiment Station of the South Dakota State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Cooperating with South Dakota Works Progress Administration, Bulletin 327, April, 1939, p. 9.

Many of the early settlers in Marshall County were speculators, some were tradesmen, but prior to 1900 only a few of the settlers depended on farming for a livelihood. Most of the early farmers found livestock raising profitable, but livestock prices declined following the turn of the century, so it was during this period that the county took to raising small grains.<sup>1</sup>

### C. Population Changes

Early immigrants who settled in Marshall County were to a large extent from Norway and Germany.<sup>2</sup> The county reached its population peak around 1920 and remained there until the 1930-1940 decade when the population began to decline. Table 1 gives the population by ten year intervals from 1890 to 1960.

Table 1: Marshall County Population, 1890-1960\*

Year	Population
1890	4544
1900	5942
1910	8021
1920	9596
1930	9540
1940	8880
1950	7835
1960	6663

\*Source of data: South Dakota Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, South Dakota Statistical Series: Marshall County Agriculture, p. 24.

<sup>1</sup>South Dakota Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, South Dakota Statistical Series: Marshall County Agriculture, p. 2.

<sup>2</sup>Kumlien, Basic Trends of Social Change in South Dakota: Population Tendencies, loc. cit.

## 1. Rural Farm Population

The economy of Marshall County has been and continues to be based upon agriculture. About 90 percent of the land is in farms. Only 0.8 percent of the employed persons in the county are employed in manufacturing. It is obvious that the economy of the county and the population of the county is closely related to the changes taking place in agriculture.

Within agriculture one of the greatest changes has been mechanization, which has served to increase the size of the farms. The total number of farms was highest in 1935 when there were 1392 farms. At that time the average size farm was 350 acres.<sup>1</sup> By 1959 there were only 888 farms in Marshall County, and the average size was 609 acres.<sup>2</sup> Thus, in the 24 year period from 1935 to 1959 there were 672 farms absorbed into other farms; slightly over one-third of the farms present in 1935 had been absorbed into larger units by 1959.

This large reduction in the number of farms resulted in a sizeable decrease in the population in Marshall County over the last 30 years. Most of the reduction in Marshall County population has been a reduction in the rural farm population, while the rural non-farm population has been quite stable. Table 2 reveals the extent of these changes. It will be noted that the decline of farm population

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<sup>1</sup>United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Census of Agriculture, South Dakota, for 1940.

<sup>2</sup>United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Census of Agriculture, South Dakota, for 1959.

was somewhat accelerated during the 1950-1960 decade. The rural non-farm has increased, indicating that more people, though living in the open-country are not engaged in farming.

Table 2: Marshall County Population:  
Total, Rural Non-farm, and  
Rural Farm, 1930-1960\*

Year	Total	Rural non-farm	Rural farm
1930	9540	3261	6279
1940	8880	3394	5486
1950	7836	3332	4504
1960	6663	3403	3260

\*Source of data: United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, South Dakota, for selected years of 1930, 1940, 1950, and 1960; and South Dakota Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, South Dakota Statistical Series: Marshall County Agriculture, p. 24.

## 2. Population of Communities

In Marshall County there is a close relationship between agriculture and the business establishments because the business establishments are there primarily to serve the farms. The trend in regard to the number of business establishments is quite similar to the trend in population and in the number of farms. The trend was upward until the 1930-1940 decade. From then on there has been a gradual decline in the number of business establishments. Table 3 reveals this trend.



Table 3: Type and Number of Business Establishments  
in Marshall County, 1929-1958\*

	1958	1948	1939	1929
Retail Trade Establishments	109	122	135	119
Wholesale Establishments	23		42	

\*Source of data: United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Census of Business, South Dakota, for selected years of 1930, 1939, and 1958; and South Dakota Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, South Dakota Statistical Series: Marshall County Agriculture, p. 11.

In the light of the population changes in Marshall County this increase in business establishments, and then decline, is what one would expect to find. In studies done by Kumlien in South Dakota he found that times of prosperity encouraged business concerns, as well as social institutions, to the extent that they tended to over-expand.<sup>1</sup> In Marshall County the number of business establishments increased with the population, and even a little longer, but as the decline in population and in number of farms continued the business concerns began to decline in number.

The decline in population in Marshall County has not been taking place at equal rates throughout the county. Table 2 revealed that the rural non-farm population (which includes persons living in the open-country not engaged in agriculture, i.e. resort operators, etc.) has remained stable for 30 years while the rural farm population

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<sup>1</sup>Kumlien, The Social Problem of the Church in South Dakota, op. cit., p. 24.

has declined by nearly 50 percent. The population of communities will be examined next to find out what changes have taken place.

A person who visits the smaller communities in Marshall County occasionally sees signs of decline in empty store buildings, unused school buildings, and church yards grown full of weeds. It becomes apparent that some of these villages have been declining as service centers. Kumlien found that as roads have improved the sphere of influence of the larger communities has grown, giving larger communities larger trade areas.<sup>1</sup> This tends to result in the decline of the smaller trade centers. Table 4 presents the population of the towns and villages in Marshall County by ten year intervals.

On the basis of the figures in Table 4 one sees that from 1930 to 1960 the greatest decrease occurred in the village of Newark which declined by 77 percent. On the other hand, the county seat town of Britton increased by ten percent. During the same 30 year period the population of the county decreased by 30 percent. In the last ten years, from 1950 to 1960, the only community in the county to show an increase in population was the town of Britton; all other communities in the county had population losses. Actually, net out-migration amounted to about 29 percent of the 1950 population, but because of a higher birth rate than death rate the total loss was only 15

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<sup>1</sup>Ibid., p. 10.



percent.<sup>1</sup>

Table 4: Marshall County Population and the Population of the Towns, 1930-1960\*

	1960	1950	1940	1930
Marshall County	6663	7835	8880	9540
Amherst	71**	75**		
Britton	1442	1430	1500	1312
Eden	136	149	171	150
Hillhead	25**	75**		
Kidder	135**	142**		
Lake City	81	110	168	162
Langford	397	456	452	444
Newark	39	80	147	168
Veblen	437	476	486	520

\*Source of data: United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, South Dakota, for selected years of 1930, 1940, 1950, and 1960; and South Dakota Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, South Dakota Statistical Series: Marshall County Agriculture, p. 24.

\*\*Estimates

### 3. Change in Age Composition

While the population of Marshall County was changing in number there was also a change in the percentage of people in the different age groups. From 1950 to 1960 the number of persons 65 years of age or older increased by 23 percent. Whereas the number of persons 15 to 64 years of age decreased by 22 percent. The number of children

<sup>1</sup>South Dakota Population, 1950-1960: State & County Population Gains & Losses. Brookings; Department of Rural Sociology, Agricultural Experiment Station, South Dakota State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, Pamphlet No. 121, October, 1960, p. 39.

under 15 years of age decreased by 12 percent.<sup>1</sup> In effect, it is the age group which is economically productive which is decreasing, so the tax burden rests upon the decreasing number of workers who remain.

Thus we can see a general pattern emerging over the last 30 years for Marshall County. In the first place, due mainly to changes in agricultural technology there has been a sizeable decrease in the number of farms and a marked decline in the farm population.

Secondly, due in large part to the dependency of business enterprises on the agricultural economy and farm population, there has been a decline in the number of businesses.

Thirdly, the population of the communities of Marshall County have shown a gradual decline, with the exception of the town of Britton, which has had a slight increase in population since 1950.

These population changes have tended to modify the age composition of the population and have brought about a loss in the number of active adults and a considerable increase in the number of aged in the county in the last ten years.

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<sup>1</sup>United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Census of Population, South Dakota, for 1950 and 1960.

## D. Marshall County Churches

### 1. Research Procedure

Census information on the churches in Marshall County was obtained with the assistance of the clergy. The pastors on the Lutheran Town and Country Committee in South Dakota assisted in the preparation of a questionnaire. In its final form this questionnaire included the following headings:

- I. General Information on this Church
- II. Church Facilities
- III. Leadership in the Church
- IV. Church Programs and Activities
- V. Looking Ahead

This questionnaire was distributed to the pastors of the Marshall County Churches by the Lutheran Town and Country Committee as they already had a number of personal contacts in the county. In order to increase the cooperation of the pastors in filling out the questionnaire the South Dakota Council of Churches approved of the research and encouraged the pastors to cooperate. The questionnaires were mailed to some pastors, but many were contacted personally. A copy of the questionnaire is included as Appendix A of this thesis.

Another part of the research procedure was to become personally acquainted with Marshall County. This was done by visits to the county and by reading The Britton Journal, the weekly newspaper published in the county seat.

One of the first problems encountered in attempting to gain accurate information on the churches in Marshall County was finding the number and location of existing churches. None of the local

pastors or church officials or published church censuses could provide complete information. The problem was particularly acute with open-country churches. Consequently, it is important to bear in mind that those areas in the state which are undergoing rapid social transition, namely the rural counties, are precisely those areas for which information is the most difficult to obtain.

There are several reasons why information on the churches of Marshall County was difficult to obtain. Some of the churches were in the process of making changes in pastoral leadership. Others had non-resident or part-time pastors. In some churches there were no adequate records of the past. In still other churches, pastors did not want to cooperate. Lastly, neither church census information nor the memories of people were sufficient to fill in gaps on the needed information.

From the standpoint of this study it is unfortunate that information on the smaller churches is the least complete. It is these very churches which appear to be undergoing the more marked changes in membership and church programs.

## 2. The Organization of Churches in Marshall County

The first known religious institutions of the Christian religion in Marshall County were Presbyterian missions among the Indians. Three such missions were started in 1867 and 1869.

Although part of Marshall County was opened to settlement in 1873 the white settlers were slow in coming. As far as it is possible

to determine, the first church in Marshall County was the Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, which was organized in 1883. This church was near Britton. The second church in the county may have been the Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church, near what is now the unincorporated hamlet of Kidder. The first report of this church was in 1884.

As settlers came into Marshall County the organizing of churches proceeded. Probably many people organized churches in the early years of settlement, but as families who had supplied leadership moved on churches would decline unless other people accepted leadership responsibilities. If the religious life of the early settlers was like that in some other places church services were held in homes and schoolhouses. Thus there would be a church without a church building. Perhaps it was sometimes difficult to decide what constituted a church and what did not. There were 21 churches, 12 church buildings, and 1063 communicants or members in Marshall County in 1890.<sup>1</sup> This means that on the average there were about 53 communicants or members for every church.

The lack of information makes it impossible to indicate by regular time intervals what changes were taking place in the churches in Marshall County. An approximate mid-point in Marshall County history is 1926, and at that time there were 3424 members or communicants.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>United States Department of Interior, Census Office, Statistics of Churches: 1890, p. 80.

<sup>2</sup>United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Religious Bodies: 1926. Summary and Detailed Tables, p. 672.

Available information indicates there were at least 24 churches at that time, or about one church for every 141 members or communicants.

The number of churches has remained quite stable since 1926. Table 5, in addition to revealing a great deal of other information about the churches in Marshall County, indicates that the Lutheran Church in Lake City and the Assembly of God Church in Britton have begun since 1926. On the other hand, the Community Church in Amherst and the Presbyterian Church in Newark have closed since 1926.

In spite of the small discrepancies in the number of churches recorded for the period prior to 1960, we do know that there were 27 churches in existence in Marshall County in 1960. Thus, it can be asserted that from 1926 to the present time there have been about 27 churches in Marshall County.

Table 5: Churches in Marshall County

Churches by towns	Year church begun	Year present church constructed	Membership		Average attendance at Sunday worship	
			circa 1950	circa 1960	1950	1960
Britton						
Assembly of God	1940	1946	----	17	----	----
First Lutheran	1886	1952	560	893	----	240
Methodist	1886	1959	184	278	----	90
Presbyterian	1886	1922	596	552	----	----
Roman Catholic	1888	1917	428	358	----	----
St. John Lutheran	1889	1917	----	192	----	----
Veblen						
Episcopal	1926*	----	43	58	----	----
Lutheran	1907	1917	250	325	150	230
Presbyterian	1926*	----	----	----	----	----
Roman Catholic	----	1907	----	----	----	----
Langford						
Evangelical Lutheran	1887	1959	300	450	115	210
Methodist	1887	1889	67	64	40	35
Presbyterian	1896	1896	----	37	----	21
Kidder						
Evangelical United Brethren	1926*	----	54	24	----	----

\* began before 1926



Table 5 (continued)

Churches by towns	Year church begun	Year present church constructed	Membership		Average attendance at Sunday worship	
			circa 1950	circa 1960	1950	1960
Eden						
Roman Catholic	1926*	----	638	610	----	----
Lake City						
Lutheran	1930	1950	----	58	----	----
Roman Catholic	----	----	428	358	----	----
Amherst						
Community Church	----	(closed)	----	----	----	----
Reformed Church in America	----	----	----	65	----	----
Newark						
Presbyterian	1883	(closed)	----	----	----	----
Open-Country						
Trondhjem Lutheran (Veblen)	1886	1904	----	----	----	----
Zion Lutheran (Hillhead)	1897	1920	130	100	----	90
Pleasant Valley Lutheran (Kidder)	1884	1904	225	210	60	70
Highlanda Lutheran (Langford)	1926*	----	----	190	----	----
Palestine Lutheran (Veblen)	1893	1903	200	183	----	110
Rose Hill Evang. Free (Langford)	1907	1915	28	30	50	55
Buffalo Lakes Presbyterian	1867	----	81	69	----	----
Mayason Presbyterian	1869	----	51	47	----	----
Mountain Head Presbyterian	1869	----	33	10	----	----

\*began before 1926



### 3. Testing of Hypotheses

The first hypothesis is:

There has been a decline in the number of churches in Marshall County as an adjustment to the population loss.

This hypothesis is rejected. The total number of churches in Marshall County has remained at 27 since about 1926, except for a few temporary fluctuations. An example of this temporary fluctuation is the closing of the Newark Presbyterian Church about 1940. At about the same time the Assembly of God Church in Britton began.

The second hypothesis is:

The decline in the number of churches and in church membership has been greater in the smaller communities than in the larger community.

This hypothesis is accepted. The Newark Presbyterian Church, which closed, was in a hamlet which was declining rapidly in population. The same is true of the Community Church in Amherst. Several other village and open-country churches did have a declining membership, as noted in Table 5. Conversely, the only new church in recent years was the Assembly of God Church in Britton, the large community in the county.

It is interesting to note, that, on the basis of limited evidence, it appears the church membership in the county has increased, due largely to the increasing membership in some larger churches. This has happened even though the population of Marshall County decreased by 15 percent from 1950 to 1960. From 1950 to 1960 the total membership of the 18 churches for which information is available rose

from 4285 at about 1950 to 5178 at about 1960. This is an increase of nearly 900 while the population declined 1200. To what extent this increase in membership for these churches has been at the expense of other churches is not known because there is a lack of information on nine other churches in the county. However, it appears that a larger percentage of the population were church members in 1960 than in 1950. The 1950 percentage was probably 65 or 70, and in 1960 the percentage of the population who were church members was probably about 80 or 90.

The third hypothesis is:

A greater percentage of the larger churches have resident pastors than do the smaller churches.

This hypothesis is accepted. Of the churches for which information is available, only the Britton Presbyterian Church has a full-time pastor. However, some of the other large churches have nearly full-time pastors. These pastors are not completely full-time because the churches share their pastor with a smaller church in a village or in the open-country. The smaller churches, for which information is available, have part-time and/or non-resident pastors. The extent to which a pastor can devote full-time to one particular church may serve as a rough indication of the time he can devote to developing a well-rounded church program.

Unfortunately, the information on church programs and activities is incomplete. However, on the basis of available information it appears that the smaller churches with part-time pastors frequently do not have a choir, a youth group, and a men's organization, but do have a women's organization, a Sunday School, and a Vacation Church School.

The larger churches usually have all of these activities and organizations.

The fourth hypothesis is:

The average tenure of the pastors is short, probably about three years, but that the tenure of the pastors of the larger churches will be longer than that of the pastors of the smaller churches.

This hypothesis contains two items. The first item is rejected. The average tenure of pastors in Marshall County is six years. The second item is accepted, with qualification. The shortest tenure is found in some of the smallest churches, but other small churches share a pastor with a larger church, so they keep the pastor as long as the larger church.

Fairly adequate information was reported from ten churches, but these were mainly the larger churches. If there had been complete information available from each of the 27 churches certain trends may have been more evident: i.e., declining membership in certain churches, a lack of church activities, and short pastoral tenure.

#### 4. Summary

One of the most significant findings of this part of the study is that the total number of churches has remained relatively constant over the last 30 years, despite the 30 percent decrease in population. Contrary to what might be expected, it was found that the total membership in the churches of Marshall County actually increased during this same period. As near as can be determined, the trend in membership has been for the larger churches to increase at the expense

of the smaller churches.

Considering these findings in view of the larger problem of population loss and out-migration, these findings raise important questions regarding the adjustments of social institutions, in this case the church, to continuous population loss over a period of 30 years. If one can assume the ratio of one church per thousand population as a reasonable standard, the findings of the study indicate that Marshall County in 1930 with a population of about 9500 people and 27 churches would be considered over-churched.<sup>1</sup> Evidently continued population loss has not served to bring the population-church ratio into a more realistic alignment. In 1960 there were still 27 churches which served a population reduced to slightly over 6600 people. It becomes increasingly evident that in the case of Marshall County there is a considerable lag between population loss and the adjustment of the institutional system of the church.

The increase in church membership over this 30 year period does interject an important qualification on the failure of the number of churches to adjust to the decline in population.<sup>2</sup> However, the limited information available suggests that this increase did not

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<sup>1</sup>Kumlien, op. cit., p. 14. Kumlien referred to this standard of one church per thousand population which was suggested by the National Home Missions Council.

<sup>2</sup>When population remains fairly stable the membership rolls of the churches are perhaps realistic, but when an area is experiencing heavy out-migration there is some reason to expect that many people who have migrated are kept on the membership records for some time or until they ask for a change of membership.

occur uniformly in the churches of the county, but tended to accrue in the greatest amount to the churches of the larger communities, with actual losses being experienced in some of the churches in the villages and open-country. Consequently, the heavy losses in farm population have resulted in reducing the membership of small village and open-country churches to the point that it is difficult for them to support an effective program.

Given a county, Marshall in this case, that has been experiencing population loss and heavy out-migration over a 30 year period, how satisfied are the people in the county with their local communities and their social institutions? To what extent does satisfaction vary from one community to another and to what extent may it be associated with the extent to which the community has lost population? How satisfied are people with their churches where there has been considerable loss of membership and local support? These questions will be dealt with in the following chapter.

### III. MARSHALL COUNTY: COMMUNITY AND CHURCH SATISFACTION IN AN OUT-MIGRATION COUNTY

#### A. The Problem of Satisfaction

Marshall County has been experiencing rather heavy population loss due to out-migration for a number of years. Whether or not out-migration of this magnitude can be expected to continue in the future may rest in part on the satisfaction of the residual population with its existing communities and their institutions. The focus of this chapter is on the satisfaction which the population of Marshall County expresses toward their communities and churches.

It was anticipated that losses in the population of the county and for many of the communities within the county may result in lack of satisfaction with the local community and the church. It is expected that this condition will be most definite for those communities where population and church membership losses have been greatest. In attempting to assess migration proneness it is not enough to determine whether individuals are simply satisfied with their community and their church. What is needed is knowledge about the characteristics associated with attitudes of satisfaction toward the community and the church.

The term "satisfaction" refers to fulfillment of aspirations. An assumption is that the community satisfaction and church satisfaction which the people express may be related to their adjustment to the community and institutional changes which have taken place, which in turn may have some influence on their proneness to migrate. Therefore,



part two of the general problem of this thesis, which will be dealt with in this chapter, is:

Given the existing communities and institutional systems in the county, and the adjustment or lack of adjustment to the continued out-migration of population, what characteristics of the population are associated with community satisfaction and church satisfaction.

On the basis of that general problem, the general hypothesis of this part of the study is:

Certain characteristics of the population of Marshall County are associated with community satisfaction and church satisfaction, and others are not.

#### B. Previous Research and Selection of Variables

The procedure, after stating the problem of the research, was to select those independent variables which could conceivably be associated with the dependent variables of church satisfaction and community satisfaction. For suggestions as to what independent variables to select, previous research on this general topic was examined. No other research could be found which was comparable, although there has been a great deal of research which borders on church and community satisfaction. That research, which will be discussed, was studied to see what insight could be gained from it.

An important part of the North Central Region research project, introduced in Chapter I, was to be the consideration of "community satisfaction and migration proneness." In planning for that part of the regional project the plans were to consider the following variables in relation to satisfaction and migration proneness: residence type,

birthplace of male head, age of male household head, nationality of male household head, education of male household head, education of female, income, number of children, level of living, and social participation.<sup>1</sup> Several of these variables were selected for inclusion in this study of Marshall County.

The book, Community Structure and Change, by Nelson, Ramsey, and Verner, states the principle: "Nearly all the relationships between the individual and the community are strongly affected by age."<sup>2</sup> This suggests that there may be an association between a person's age and his satisfaction with the community and the church.

A study by John A. Hostetler and William G. Mather tested a number of factors for association with participation in the rural church. Certainly participation is different from satisfaction, but the fact that certain variables were found in association with participation, and the possible relation between participation and satisfaction, was reason for using some of the same variables in the Marshall County research. The variables Hostetler and Mather tested were sex, age, place of residence, length of residence, tenure, income, social class, nationality, race, family contact, education, housing, occupation,

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<sup>1</sup>A Report on the North Central Region Project, NC-18, Part V. Social Response to Population Change: Migratory Proneness and Community Satisfaction (a progress report to the regional committee), p. 3.

<sup>2</sup>Lowry Nelson, Charles Ramsey, and Coolie Verner, Community Structure and Change, New York: The Macmillan Company, 1960, p. 211.



social participation, and denominational choice.<sup>1</sup>

A study conducted in Missouri intending to discover "What Rural People Think of Church" utilized information on the following independent variables: age, sex, residence, race, schooling, occupation, church membership, and attendance at Sunday worship services at least once during the three months prior to the interview.<sup>2</sup>

Research in Mississippi revealed that education and economic position are highly related to the degree of church activity. In the same study a test was done for a relationship between the membership of a church and the degree of urbanization of the church.<sup>3</sup>

Kolb and Brunner, in their study of rural society, report the finding that tenants are less likely to become involved in community social organizations than home owners.<sup>4</sup> This may indicate that home ownership is an important variable.

Support for another variable was found in an article, "Rural Churches at the Crossroads." In this article the authors mentioned

<sup>1</sup>John A. Hostetler and William G. Mather, Participation in the Rural Church, Pennsylvania State College, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, School of Agriculture-Agricultural Experiment Station, Paper No. 1762, Journal Series, October, 1952, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup>Lawrence M. Hepple and C. Milton Coughenour, The Church in Rural Missouri: What Rural People Think of Church, Columbia: Experiment Station, Research Bulletin 633G, February, 1961, pp. 345-350.

<sup>3</sup>Harold Kaufman, Mississippi Churches: A Half Century of Change, Mississippi State University, Social Science Research Center, Bulletin 12, September, 1959, pp. 23-29.

<sup>4</sup>Kolb and Brunner, op. cit., p. 90.

that some younger families, being interested in better religious education facilities, will drive past the small church to one providing an expanded program.<sup>1</sup> This is an indication that marital status, as well as age, may be an important variable.

No previous research dealing specifically with church satisfaction was found. This was unfortunate for one might have found ideas for procedure in the present research. Also, such research would have undoubtedly provided basic findings which could have been checked in the present study. Nevertheless, it does seem reasonable to use as independent variables some of the characteristics considered to be important in the research already referred to in this chapter. Most of the characteristics mentioned in the previous research which was examined will be used as independent variables of church satisfaction and community satisfaction. Some characteristics did not seem to apply to the Marshall County population so they were not used. On the other hand, the characteristics mentioned in the previous research did leave a few gaps in information, so a few additional characteristics were selected for use as independent variables to fill in those gaps. The independent variables which will be tested for association with community satisfaction and then, but for a few exceptions, with church satisfaction, are listed below:

1. Sex
2. Age
3. Amount of education

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<sup>1</sup>Elwin C. Newcomer and John B. Mitchell, Rural Churches at the Crossroads, 2, reprinted from The Ohio Farmer, December, 1961.

4. Occupation
5. Satisfaction with job
6. Income
7. Home ownership
8. Number of times one has changed residence in the last five years
9. Living in the open-country
10. Length of time one has lived in his present town or neighborhood
11. Attitude toward living in the city
12. Where one attends church
13. Having considered moving out of the county
14. Number of magazines or newspapers one subscribes to or buys regularly
15. Attendance at church on a particular Sunday
16. Amount of participation in community organizations
17. Amount of participation in church activities
18. Marital status
19. Length of church membership
20. Community satisfaction (in this instance using it as an independent rather than a dependent variable)

### C. Research Procedure

In order to test the general hypothesis it was necessary to get information from a large number of the people living in Marshall County. The ideal procedure seemed to be to prepare an interview schedule, select a representative sample of the population, train interviewers, and interview the sample. Financial and time limitations made it impractical to use that procedure.

The procedure which was selected was to use a questionnaire to get information about the variables. After considering various alternatives, it was decided to administer the questionnaire in five Lutheran churches after the morning service on a specified Sunday. In order to get the responses of a few church members who were not in church, it was decided to contact the members of one of the churches who were not

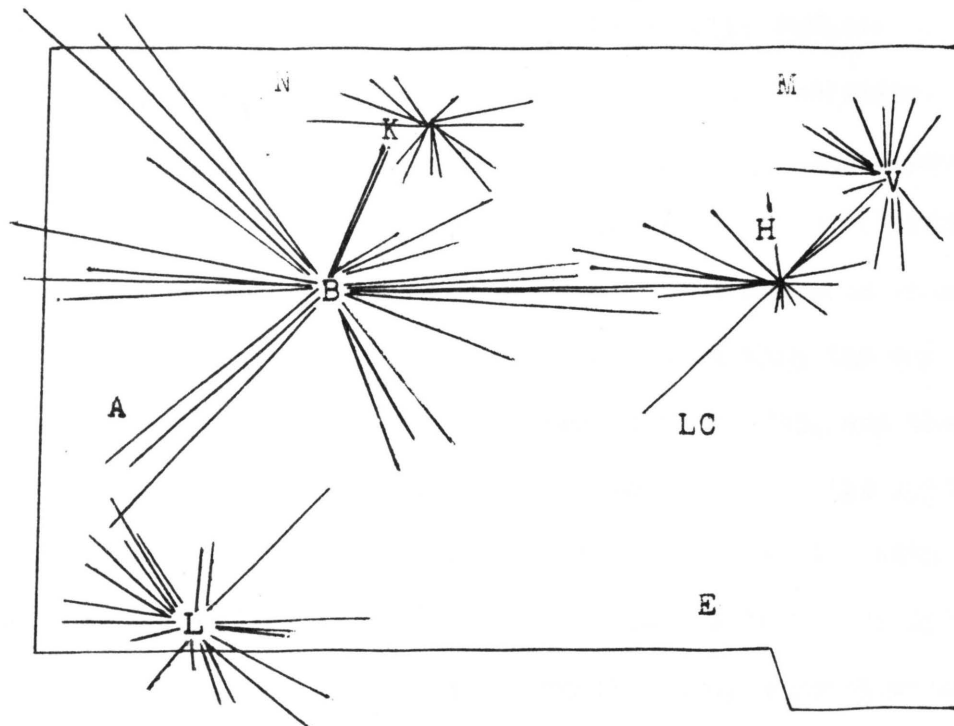
in church the day the questionnaire was administered. This would permit comparing the follow-up group with those in attendance. The assumption was that on the average the members who were not in church on this particular Sunday would be those who would be irregular in attendance.

An advantage in administering the questionnaire at church was that this made it possible for a few staff members to collect information from hundreds of people in less than an hour. Since the Lutheran church was predominant throughout the county, it did not appear that there would be any other way of getting information so quickly from so many people living in different parts of the county.

Another advantage in using Lutheran churches was that this made it possible to select churches in communities of various sizes. In the hope of securing responses from a cross-section of the population, churches were selected according to their size, the size and type of community in which they were located, and the location of the community within the county. Figure 1 is a map of Marshall County showing the approximate place of residence of the people who filled in the questionnaires, the location of the towns, and the location of the five churches.

The largest church selected was in the county seat town of Britton. Britton was the largest town in the county, with a population of 1442 in 1960, an increase of 12 over the 1950 population. This was the only town in the county experiencing a population increase in the 1950-1960 decade. The Lutheran Church in Britton had a 1950 membership of 560 and a 1960 membership of 893. In addition to the Sunday worship services and Sunday School this church had a choir, a youth organization,

Figure 1: Marshall County, South Dakota: Towns and Locations of Five Churches



- A - Amherst
- B - Britton
- E - Eden
- H - Hillhead
- K - Kidder
- LC - Lake City
- L - Langford
- M - Marlowe
- N - Newark
- V - Veblen

Note: The lines on the map converge on the locations of the churches where the questionnaire was administered, and spread out to indicate the locations of the residences of the church attenders living outside of the immediate vicinity of the church.

a women's organization, and a Vacation Church School.

Medium sized churches were selected at Veblen and Langford. Both of these towns have about 400 population and both experienced slight population losses during the last decade; both are at a distance from Britton near the periphery of the county, and are on the borders of the trade areas of urban areas in adjacent counties. Furthermore, both towns have been selected to keep their high schools in the county school plan, although Langford is ahead in school reorganization. As far as the churches are concerned, the Lutheran church building in Langford is much newer and more modern than the one in Veblen. The Veblen church had a 1960 membership of 325, and the Langford church of 450, which is a slight increase over the 1950 membership for each church. Both churches share their pastor with a smaller open-country church, but he resides in the town. In 1960 both of these churches sponsored a women's organization, a youth organization, a choir, and a Vacation Church School. In addition, the Langford church sponsored two 4-H Clubs and the Veblen church sponsored a men's organization.

The two other churches selected were open-country churches near the declining small towns of Kidder and Hillhead. The church near Kidder was the Pleasant Valley Lutheran Church and the one near Hillhead was the Zion Lutheran Church. In 1960 the Pleasant Valley Church had a membership of 210, a decrease of 15 from 1950, and the Zion Church had a membership of 100, a decrease of 30 from 1950. Neither of these churches had a full-time nor resident pastor. In terms of organizations

both of these churches had a men's organization, a women's organization, a youth organization, and a Vacation Church School, but the Zion Lutheran Church did not have a church choir.

A possible disadvantage in administering the questionnaire in churches was it may have biased the respondents' answers. However, all of the respondents, except those contacted through the follow-up study, were in church, so this factor is relatively constant and was not thought to influence the results significantly.

The author of this thesis developed the questionnaire with the assistance of his thesis advisor, two interested graduate students, and the Lutheran Town and Country Committee in South Dakota. As finally developed, the questionnaire included the following headings:

- I. Personal Information
- II. Trade Centers
- III. Family Information
- IV. Participation in the Church Activities
- V. Participation in the Community Organizations
- VI. The Church
  - A. The Work of a Pastor
  - B. Satisfaction with the Church
- VII. Satisfaction with the Community
- VIII. Migration
- IX. School Systems
- X. Attitudes Toward City and Rural Living
- XI. Personal Goals in Life
- XII. Miscellaneous

The sections of the questionnaire on Trade Centers and the School System were not related to the problem of this research project. They were included to obtain information for another related research problem. A copy of the questionnaire is included in this paper as Appendix B.



The plan was to administer the questionnaire to those in all five churches the same Sunday. The pastors were to announce on the previous Sunday that a questionnaire would be given so people would come prepared to stay a few extra minutes. As it worked out, the questionnaire was administered in three churches the first Sunday, and in the other two churches three weeks later. It was in Britton that the questionnaire was taken to the follow-up group. This was done on the Monday and Tuesday after the questionnaire had been administered in the Britton Lutheran Church. Since many of the church members of the Britton church lived in the country where it would be difficult for staff members who were not acquainted with the roads to find the people, it was decided to only include the members who lived in the town of Britton in the follow-up group. The questionnaires were left with the members of the follow-up group so they would have ample time to respond, and respondents were assured of anonymity. It can be questioned whether or not the respondents trusted the staff and answered accurately, but a reading of the replies indicates some negative statements, which may indicate trust.

All church members 15 years old or older were asked to fill out a questionnaire. A total of 337 questionnaires were sufficiently complete to be useable: 21 from the Pleasant Valley Church, 40 from the Zion Church; 56 from the church at Veblen; 59 from the church at Langford; and 161 from the church at Britton, 49 of which were from the follow-up group. Appendix C contains the tabulation of responses to selected parts of the questionnaire, broken down according to church



affiliation, so the reader who wants to can compare the responses of the members from one church with the responses of the members from the other churches.

#### D. Testing of Hypotheses

##### 1. Procedure

Statistical tests were used in the analysis of the data secured through the questionnaire. Statistical hypotheses were developed and stated in null form. Chi-square analysis was used to test for association between independent and dependent variables.<sup>1</sup>

All null hypotheses tested were considered rejected when chi-square analysis indicated a probability at the .05 level of significance or below. This is more or less conventional practice in the social sciences.<sup>2</sup> This means that the observed difference between the two variables would not occur more than five times out of 100 by chance alone.

In preparation for testing the hypotheses, indexes for measuring certain variables were developed. For each index a number of statements were formulated for the several different dimensions of each variable. This was done for the variables of community satisfaction, church satisfaction, participation in community organizations,

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<sup>1</sup>For a discussion of the null hypothesis and chi-square analysis see, for example, Henry Garrett, Statistics in Psychology and Education. New York: Longmans, Green and Co., 1958.

<sup>2</sup>Claire Selltiz, Marie Jahoda, Morton Deutsch, and Stuart Cook, Research Methods in Social Relations. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1962, p. 418.

participation in church activities, and attitudes toward city and rural living. Weights were assigned to the possible responses to each statement in the indexes on the basis of a five point scale, and a total index score for each index was determined for each respondent.

In the case of the community satisfaction and church satisfaction indexes, each item was subjected to a test to determine the discriminatory power of the statement. This was done in order to refine the measurements of these two dependent variables, since much of the statistical analysis would center around them.<sup>1</sup> Those statements which were not sufficiently discriminatory were eliminated from the index and were not included in the index score. The revised index for community satisfaction included the following seven statements from the questionnaire in Appendix B: "a," "c," "d," "e," "h," "j," and "l." The revised index for church satisfaction included the following eight statements from the questionnaire in Appendix B: "a," "d," "e," "f," "h," "i," "j," and "k."

The index scores for community satisfaction were divided into "high" and "low" in the following way. The index score for each respondent was placed in a frequency distribution. Then the distribution was divided so that the respondents who had been "Undecided" about all of the statements in the index would be ranked "low" in satisfaction. Using this approach 166 respondents were ranked as

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<sup>1</sup>For a discussion of this test for internal consistency see, Selltiz, Jahoda, Deutsch, and Cook, op. cit., pp. 184-186.

"high" in community satisfaction and 122 were ranked as "low."

The index scores for church satisfaction were divided into "high" and "low" in a similar way. The index score for each respondent was placed in a frequency distribution. It was decided to place the dividing point for this frequency distribution so that about as many respondents ranked "high" in church satisfaction as ranked "high" in community satisfaction. On the measure of church satisfaction, respondents who had a total of four points above "Undecided" ranked "high" in church satisfaction. This resulted in 161 respondents being ranked "high" in church satisfaction and 139 being ranked "low."

## 2. Variables Tested and Found to be Least Relevant

It has already been stated that in this study the null hypotheses will not be considered rejected unless the chi-square analysis reveals such a large difference between two variables that the probability that this difference is not significant is lower than the .05 level. Statistical analysis of a few null hypotheses revealed probabilities between the .10 and .05 level. These null hypotheses were accepted, but in as much as the probabilities of there not being a significant difference between the two variables approached the .05 level they will be mentioned along with those that were considered "most relevant."

The following independent variables were tested and found not to be associated with community satisfaction. Chi-square analysis revealed probabilities higher than the .10 level, hence they were

considered not be associated with community satisfaction and were considered "least relevant." They are as follows:

1. Sex
2. Amount of education
3. Income
4. Home ownership
5. Number of times one has changed residence in the last five years.
6. Living in the open-country
7. Length of time one has lived in his present town or neighborhood
8. Attendance at church on a particular Sunday
9. Amount of participation in community organizations

One of the reports on the North Central Region research project reported tests for association between education and community satisfaction and income and community satisfaction which indicated no association.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, the finding in this study of Marshall County which indicated no association between education and community satisfaction and no association between income and community satisfaction, corresponded to what was found in several states by the North Central Region project.

Many of the same independent variables which were not associated with community satisfaction were found not to be associated with church satisfaction either. The following independent variables were tested for association with church satisfaction and found not to be associated:

1. Amount of education
2. Occupation
3. Income
4. Job satisfaction
5. Home ownership

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<sup>1</sup>A Report on the North Central Region Project, op. cit., p. 9.

6. Number of times one has changed residence in the last five years.
7. Attendance at church on a particular Sunday
8. Attitude toward living in the city
9. Church participation

Even though these were negative findings they were valuable, for in the early stages of the research this author believed that some of these independent variables would have been found in association with either community satisfaction or church satisfaction, i.e. it was thought that home ownership and participation in community and church activities would have been important variables.<sup>1</sup>

### 3. Variables Tested and Found to be Most Relevant with Regard to Community Satisfaction

The null hypotheses which will be presented in this section of the thesis were either rejected because chi-square analysis revealed a probability smaller than the .05 level of significance and hence there was a difference between the two variables, or they were accepted, but presented here because the probability that there was not a difference between the two variables was below the .10 level of significance. Hence, these hypotheses were considered more relevant than those presented in the previous section of this thesis.

The procedure in the discussion of these variables will be to present them in null hypotheses, state whether or not the hypotheses are accepted, present tables of data, and mention one or two of the most important observations to be made from the tables.

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<sup>1</sup>Chi-square tests of these independent variables which were considered "least relevant" are presented in Appendix D.

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference in community satisfaction with respect to age category.

A chi-square test for association between community satisfaction and age revealed a probability of between .05 and .02 (Table 6). Since this probability was below the .05 level of significance the null hypothesis was rejected. This means that association existed between the variables of community satisfaction and age.

Table 6: Community Satisfaction by Age

Community satisfaction	15-24 yr.	25-54 yr.	55 yr. or over
Low	33	72	16
High	24	112	30
<hr/>			
$\chi^2 = 7.56$	P lies between .05 and .02		N=287

Interpreted in terms of the data found in Table 6, high community satisfaction was much less prevalent for the "15-24 yr." age group than for the two older age groups; conversely, the older age groups had the larger proportion of respondents who indicated high community satisfaction.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant difference in community satisfaction with respect to job satisfaction.

Before proceeding with the discussion of this hypothesis it should be pointed out that the decision as to whether or not a person was satisfied with his job was based upon the response to question 51 in the questionnaire, Appendix B, "Why do you continue to live in this community?" This question had several possible answers which the

respondents could check one or more, or they could write in a response. One of the possible responses they could check was, "I am satisfied with my job." For the purpose of the present analysis it was decided to consider the respondent not satisfied with his job if he met two criteria: (1) he had an occupation according to question 17, and (2) he chose some of the possible answers to question 51 but did not check "I am satisfied with my job." Conversely, if he had an occupation and checked "I am satisfied with my job" he was considered to be satisfied with his job.

A chi-square test for association between community satisfaction and job satisfaction revealed a probability of between .10 and .05 (Table 7). Since this probability was above the .05 level of significance the null hypothesis was accepted. This means association did not exist between the variables of community satisfaction and job satisfaction.

Table 7: Community Satisfaction by Job Satisfaction

Community satisfaction	Satisfied with job	Not satisfied with job
Low	32	24
High	57	21
<hr/>		
$\chi^2 = 3.711$	P lies between .10 and .05	N=134

Evidence is found in Table 7 that among those respondents who were satisfied with their jobs about two out of three indicated high community satisfaction, while among those not satisfied with their jobs



less than half indicated high community satisfaction.

Hypothesis 3: There is no significant difference in community satisfaction with respect to occupation.

A chi-square test for association between community satisfaction and occupation revealed a probability of between .10 and .05 (Table 8). Since this probability was above the .05 level of significance the null hypotheses were accepted. This means association did not exist between the variables of community satisfaction and occupation.

Table 8: Community Satisfaction by Occupation

Community satisfaction	Manager, professional, or proprietor	Other occupations
Low	20	38
High	16	63
<hr/>		
$\chi^2 = 3.496$	P lies between .10 and .05	N=137

Although the null hypothesis which states that no association exists between community satisfaction and occupation was accepted, evidence is found in Table 8 that the "Manager, professional, or proprietor" category contained a larger proportion of respondents indicating low community satisfaction than did the other occupational groups combined. The respondents who had indicated being a housewife, retired or handicapped, or a student were not included in the tabulation of occupations.

Hypothesis 4: There is no significant difference in community satisfaction with respect to a person's attitude toward living in the city.



A chi-square test for association between community satisfaction and a person's attitude toward living in the city revealed a probability of between .10 and .05 (Table 9). Since this probability was above the .05 level of significance the null hypothesis was accepted. This means association did not exist between the two variables of community satisfaction and a person's attitude toward living in the city.

Table 9: Community Satisfaction by Attitude  
Toward Living in the City

Community satisfaction	Unfavorable	Neutral	Favorable
Low	7	22	32
High	21	63	45

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$\chi^2 = 5.157$       P lies between .10 and .05      N=190

Although the null hypothesis which states that no association exists between community satisfaction and attitude toward living in the city was accepted, evidence is found in Table 9 that the group indicating the most favorable attitude toward living in the city had the largest proportion of respondents indicating low community satisfaction.

Hypothesis 5: There is no significant difference in community satisfaction with respect to "having considered moving out of the county."

A chi-square test for association between community satisfaction and "having considered moving out of the county" revealed a probability of less than .01 (Table 10). Since the probability was below the .05 level of significance the null hypothesis was rejected. This means

association did exist between the two variables of community satisfaction and "having considered moving out of the county."

Table 10: Community Satisfaction by "Having Considered Moving out of the County"

Community satisfaction	Have considered moving	Have not considered moving
Low	39	63
High	31	120
$\chi^2 = 9.536$ P is less than .01      N=253		

Interpreted in terms of the data in Table 10, the group who had considered moving had the largest proportion of respondents indicating low community satisfaction; of those who had considered moving over half indicated low community satisfaction, whereas only one out of three of those who had not considered moving indicated low community satisfaction.

Examination of Table 10 raised the question as to what role "age" may have played in the relationship between community satisfaction and "having considered moving out of the county." Evidence is found in Table 11 that it was the "15-24 yr." age group who had considered moving who had the largest proportion of respondents indicating low community satisfaction, and it was the "25-54 yr." age group who had not considered moving who had the largest proportion of respondents indicating high community satisfaction.

Table 11: Community Satisfaction by Age and by  
Whether or Not a Person Had Considered  
Moving out of the County

Considered moving	Community satisfaction	15-24 yr.	25-54 yr.	55 yr. or over
Yes	Low	15	21	3
	High	5	23	3
No	Low	13	38	12
	High	14	84	22

N=253

Examination of Table 10 also raised the question as to what role job satisfaction may have played in the relationship between community satisfaction and "having considered moving out of the county." Evidence in Table 12 supports the idea that it was the group who was not satisfied with their jobs and who had considered moving who had the largest proportion of respondents indicating low community satisfaction, and it was the group who was satisfied with their jobs and who had not considered moving who had the largest proportion of respondents indicating high community satisfaction.

Table 12: Community Satisfaction by Job Satisfaction  
and by Whether or Not a Person Had Considered  
Moving out of the County

Considered moving	Community satisfaction	Satisfied with job	Not satisfied with job
Yes	Low	7	13
	High	12	3
No	Low	21	11
	High	45	16

N=128

Hypothesis 6: There is no significant difference in community satisfaction with respect to where one attends church.

A chi-square test for association between community satisfaction and where one attends church revealed a probability of less than .01 (Table 13). Since this probability was below the .05 level of significance the null hypothesis was rejected. This means association did exist between the two variables of community satisfaction and where one attends church.

Table 13: Community Satisfaction by  
Where One Attends Church

Community satisfaction	Britton	Langford	Pleasant Valley	Veblen	Zion
Low	34	28	4	37	19
High	102	23	11	16	14
<hr/>					
$\chi^2 = 42.971$		P is less than .01		N=288	

Interpreted in terms of the data in Table 13, Britton and Pleasant Valley churches had a smaller proportion of respondents indicating low community satisfaction than the other three churches; in the other three churches over half of the respondents indicated low community satisfaction.

Ordinarily one would expect the respondents to think of the community in which their church was located as the community to which they were applying the statements in the questionnaire. In this study, however, many respondents lived at a distance from the church and may have

thought in terms of some other community. Therefore, in addition to the tabulation in Table 13, community satisfaction was tabulated for the respondents who lived in Britton, Langford, and Veblen. Evidence is found in Table 14 that respondents who lived in Britton tended to indicate high community satisfaction and respondents who lived in Langford and Veblen tended to indicate low community satisfaction.

Table 14: Community Satisfaction by Place of Residence

Community satisfaction	Britton	Langford	Veblen
Low	27	13	23
High	70	9	12
<hr/>			
$\chi^2 = 18.837$	P is less than .01	N=154	

Inasmuch as there was a significant difference in community satisfaction by age, by where one attended church, and by town of residence, it was decided to compare the responses of each of the three age groups within each of the five churches toward community satisfaction.

Interpreted in terms of the data in Table 15, at Britton each age category had about the same percentage of respondents indicating low community satisfaction, while at the other churches, except for Pleasant Valley, the "15-24 yr." age category had the largest proportion indicating low community satisfaction. Also, omitting Pleasant Valley, each age group in each community had a larger percentage of respondents indicating low community satisfaction than did any of the age groups at Britton.

Table 15: Community Satisfaction by Church and Age

Church	Community satisfaction	15-24 yr.		25-54 yr.		55 yr. or over	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
Britton	Low	5	26	24	26	4	17
	High	14	74	68	74	20	83
Langford	Low	10	77	15	48	3	43
	High	3	23	16	52	4	57
Pleasant Valley	Low	0	0	4	27	0	0
	High	0	0	11	73	0	0
Veblen	Low	11	79	20	67	6	67
	High	3	21	10	33	3	33
Zion	Low	7	64	9	56	3	50
	High	4	36	7	44	3	50

N=287

This completes examination of the question of the existence of association between selected characteristics of the respondents and community satisfaction.

#### 4. Variables Tested and Found to be Relevant with Regard to Church Satisfaction

Consideration will now be given to five independent variables found to be associated with church satisfaction. These variables were all found to be significant at the .05 or .01 level. No variables were found to be associated with church satisfaction between the .10 and .05 level.

Hypothesis 7: There is no significant difference in church satisfaction with respect to age category.

A chi-square test for association between church satisfaction and age revealed a probability of less than .01 (Table 16). Since this

probability was below the .05 level of significance the null hypothesis was rejected. This means association did exist between church satisfaction and a person's age.

Table 16: Church Satisfaction by Age

Church satisfaction	15-24 yr.	25-54 yr.	55 yr. or over
Low	36	84	19
High	19	107	34
<hr/>			
$\chi^2 = 10.767$	P is less than .01	N=299	

Interpreted in terms of the data found in Table 16, the largest proportion of respondents indicating low church satisfaction were found in the "15-24 yr." age group and in the older the age categories the more indication there was of high church satisfaction.

Hypothesis 8: There is no significant difference in church satisfaction with respect to marital status.

A chi-square test for association between church satisfaction and marital status revealed a probability between .05 and .02 (Table 17). Since this probability was below the .05 level of significance the null hypothesis was rejected. This means association did exist between church satisfaction and marital status.

Evidence is found in Table 17 that those respondents who were not married had the largest proportion indicating low church satisfaction. This raised the question of whether or not age might be important in accounting for the fact that those respondents who never married had the largest proportion indicating low church satisfaction.



Therefore, it was decided to tabulate the age of the "never married" group. It was found that four out of five of the "never married" group were in the "15-24 yr." age category, the same category which had the largest proportion of respondents indicating low church satisfaction. This is evidence that the age factor is important to consider in explaining the association between church satisfaction and marital status.

Table 17: Church Satisfaction by Marital Status

Church satisfaction	Never married	Married	Widow or widower
Low	36	94	7
High	23	129	8
<hr/>			
$\chi^2 = 6.714$	P lies between .05 and .02		N=297

Hypothesis 9: There is no significant difference in church satisfaction with respect to length of church membership.

A chi-square test for association between church satisfaction and length of church membership revealed a probability of less than .01 (Table 18). Since this probability was below the .05 level of significance the null hypothesis was rejected. This means association did exist between the two variables of church satisfaction and length of church membership.

Evidence is found in Table 18 that the group who had been members from "5-19 yr." had the largest proportion of respondents indicating low church satisfaction. This raises a question about the age and church affiliation of the respondents who had been church members from



"5-19 yr." who indicated low church satisfaction. Therefore, it was decided to tabulate this information.

Table 18: Church Satisfaction by Length of Church Membership

Church satisfaction	0-5 yr.	5-19 yr.	20 yr. or more
Low	30	69	33
High	32	57	67
<hr/>			
$\chi^2 = 10.775$	P is less than .01		N=288

Interpreted in terms of Table 19, the respondents who had been church members from "5-19 yr." and who indicated low church satisfaction were mainly in the age group "25-54 yr." and they were distributed among all the churches.

Table 19: Age and Church of Respondents Who Had Been Church Members from 5-19 Years

Church	Community satisfaction	15-24 yr.	25-54 yr.	55 yr. or over
Britton	Low	5	23	3
	High	2	24	3
Langford	Low	2	3	0
	High	5	13	2
Pleasant Valley	Low	0	4	0
	High	0	5	0
Veblen	Low	5	15	3
	High	1	4	2
Zion	Low	0	6	0
	High	0	4	1
				N=135

Hypothesis 10: There is no significant difference in church satisfaction with respect to where one attends church.

A chi-square test for association between church satisfaction and where one attended church revealed a probability of less than .01 (Table 20). Since this probability was below the .05 level of significance the null hypothesis was rejected. This means association did exist between the two variables of church satisfaction and where a respondent attended church.

Table 20: Church Satisfaction by Where One Attends Church

Church Satisfaction	Britton	Langford	Pleasant Valley	Veblen	Zion
Low	61	10	6	42	20
High	82	41	10	11	17
<hr/>					
$\chi^2 = 39.753$	P is less than .01			N=300	

Interpreted in terms of the data in Table 20, Langford had the largest percentage of respondents indicating high church satisfaction and Veblen had the largest percentage of respondents indicating low church satisfaction. This is particularly interesting since the two towns are about the same size and the two churches are about the size. At Britton well over half of the respondents indicated high church satisfaction. With reference to the two open-country churches, over half of the respondents at one church indicated low church satisfaction, whereas at the other, over half of the respondents indicated high

church satisfaction.

In as much as there was a significant difference in church satisfaction by age and by where one attended church, it was decided to tabulate all of this information in the same table. This data is revealed in Table 21. There evidence is found that (1) at Britton the "15-24 yr." age group had a considerably larger percentage of respondents indicating low church satisfaction than did either of the other two groups; (2) of all the "15-24 yr." groups the one at Langford had the largest percentage of respondents indicating high church satisfaction; (3) Veblen was the only church where well over half of each age group indicated low church satisfaction; and (4) at each of the churches, except Pleasant Valley, it was true that the older the age group the larger the percentage of respondents indicating high church satisfaction.

Table 21: Church Satisfaction by Church and Age

Church	Church satisfaction	15-24 yr.		25-54 yr.		55 yr. or over	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
Britton	Low	10	56	40	42	11	39
	High	8	44	56	58	17	61
Langford	Low	4	31	5	16	1	14
	High	9	69	26	84	6	86
Pleasant Valley	Low	0	0	6	40	0	0
	High	0	0	9	60	1	100
Veblen	Low	12	92	24	80	6	60
	High	1	8	6	20	4	40
Zion	Low	10	91	9	47	1	14
	High	1	9	10	53	6	86

N=299

Hypothesis 11: There is no significant difference in church satisfaction with respect to community satisfaction (in this instance considering community satisfaction as an independent variable).

A chi-square test for association between church satisfaction and community satisfaction revealed a probability of less than .01 (Table 22). Since this probability was below the .05 level of significance the null hypothesis was rejected. This means association did exist between the two variables of church satisfaction and community satisfaction.

Table 22: Church Satisfaction by Community Satisfaction

Church satisfaction	Low community satisfaction	High community satisfaction
Low	67	64
High	49	99
<hr/>		
$\chi^2 = 9.307$	P is less than .01	N=279

Interpreted in terms of the data in Table 22, about three out of five of the respondents who indicated low community satisfaction indicated low church satisfaction, and about three out of five of the respondents who indicated high community satisfaction indicated high church satisfaction.

## 5. Summary of Main Findings

The general hypothesis to be tested in this part of the thesis was that "certain characteristics of the population of Marshall County are associated with community satisfaction and church satisfaction, and

others are not." Hence, the primary focus of this chapter was to determine what characteristics of a sample of residents of Marshall County were associated with their indication of "high" or "low" community satisfaction and "high" or "low" church satisfaction.

Analysis of the responses given in the questionnaires revealed that there was no significant difference in community satisfaction or church satisfaction between those respondents in the follow-up group and those who answered the questionnaire in church.

It was found that community satisfaction and age were associated; the younger the age group the larger the percentage of respondents there were who indicated low community satisfaction.

Community satisfaction was found in association with "having considered moving out of the county." Among respondents who had considered moving well over half indicated low community satisfaction. Proportionately, of those who had considered moving, it was the youngest age group which had the most respondents indicating low community satisfaction.

Another important finding was that community satisfaction was associated with living in certain communities. The respondents who attended church in the largest town had the largest percentage of respondents indicating high community satisfaction. In the two small town churches and in one open-country church over half of the respondents indicated low community satisfaction.

There were several important findings in regard to church satisfaction. Church satisfaction was found to be associated with age; the

older the age group the larger the proportion of respondents there were who indicated high church satisfaction.

Church satisfaction was found to be associated with having never married, but it appeared that one reason for this association was that it was mainly the young people who had not yet married and they tended to indicate low church satisfaction.

It was found that the largest percentage of respondents indicating low church satisfaction was found among those who had been church members from "5-19 yr."

Church satisfaction was found to be associated with where one attends church. The largest percentage of respondents indicating low church satisfaction was found in the one small town church, and in the other small town church there was the largest percentage of respondents indicating high church satisfaction. The two open-country churches were also very different in the percentage of respondents indicating high or low church satisfaction. This is evidence that size of community is not sufficient explanation for church satisfaction.

Lastly, it was found that an association existed between community satisfaction and church satisfaction. Looking at this in terms of proportion, over two-thirds of those expressing high community satisfaction also expressed high church satisfaction.

#### IV. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

##### A. Contributions of this Research

In a regional study of the 13 states in the North Central Region a classification scheme for migration patterns was developed which consisted of eight migration type counties. In the 1940-1950 decade three of these types were the most prevalent in the counties of the North Central Region, accounting for 85 percent of the Region. These three dominant migration types were: (1) in-migration, high level of living, and high proportion of employed persons in manufacturing; (2) out-migration, high level of living, and low proportion of employed persons in manufacturing; and (3) out-migration, low level of living, and low proportion of employed persons in manufacturing. Eighty percent of the 1175 counties experienced out-migration, and most of these were the rural counties.

Four counties in the Region in the out-lo-lo migration type were selected for intensive field study. Marshall County, South Dakota was one of the four, being one of 30 South Dakota counties in the out-lo-lo classification, and being somewhat representative of these 30 counties.

This thesis is a result of a part of the research conducted in Marshall County and focuses primarily upon the social institution of the church in the midst of social change. The first part of the general problem was:



In view of the population changes taking place in Marshall County, what changes are taking place in the institutional system of the church?

One of the most significant findings was that the total number of churches has remained relatively constant over the last 30 years despite the 30 percent decrease in total population. The number of churches has remained at about 27 while the population decreased from 9500 to 6600. If one can assume the ratio of one church per thousand population as a reasonable standard, continued population loss in Marshall County has not served to bring the church-population ratio into a more realistic alignment.

Contrary to what might be expected on the basis of population loss, it was found that the total membership in the churches of Marshall County actually increased. In the 1950-1960 decade, during which time the county's population decreased 15 percent, the total membership of the 18 churches for which information was available rose from 4285 to 5178. This was a 21 percent increase. The evidence indicates that the open-country churches were declining in membership, and most of the growth was taking place in the larger town churches.

Available information indicates that only one church in Marshall County has a full-time pastor. The most frequent situation is where a pastor serves two or three congregations. There were also churches served by non-resident pastors.

Part two of the general problem was:

Given the existing communities and institutional systems in the county, and the adjustment or lack of adjustment to

the continued out-migration of population, what characteristics of the population are associated with community satisfaction and church satisfaction.

A number of variables were found not to be associated with community satisfaction and church satisfaction, but several others were associated.

Community satisfaction was found to be associated with a person's age. Evidence was that the older age groups had the largest proportion of respondents indicating high church satisfaction. Conversely, the youngest age group had the largest proportion of respondents indicating low community satisfaction. The fact that in the past many of the people who moved out of Marshall County were young people, coupled with this high frequency of low community satisfaction among the present youth, may be an indication that out-migration will continue for a time. Apparently these young people had aspirations which were not being fulfilled locally.

Community satisfaction was found to be associated with a respondent's indication that at some time he had considered moving out of the county. The group who had considered moving had a larger proportion of respondents indicating low community satisfaction than did the group who had not considered moving. By age, it was those in the "15-24 yr." age category who had considered moving who had the largest proportion of respondents indicating low community satisfaction.

Community satisfaction was found to be associated with where one attends church and where one lives. The evidence indicated that the small towns did not elicit high community satisfaction from the

majority of the respondents who lived near them or in them. On the other hand, the majority of respondents who attended the church in Britton or attended the Pleasant Valley Church indicated high community satisfaction. The community satisfaction indicated by the respondents from the Pleasant Valley Church may reflect their attitude toward the nearby community of Britton. Apparently the town of Britton elicits more community satisfaction than does any other town in the county. A possible explanation for this is that it is the county seat and it is the only large town in the county, the next largest having about 1000 fewer population. Being largest, Britton possesses a range of services which are not available in the smaller communities.

Five independent variables were found to be associated with church satisfaction. Church satisfaction was found to be associated with a person's age, as had community satisfaction. Again it was the youngest age group which had the largest proportion of respondents indicating low satisfaction. With each older age group a larger proportion of respondents indicated high church satisfaction.

Church satisfaction was found to be associated with marital status, but the apparent explanation for this was that most respondents who had not married were among the young age group which tended to indicate low church satisfaction.

Church satisfaction was found to be associated with the length of the respondent's church membership. It was possible to expect this, but this author did not expect to find that it was the group who had

been church members a medium length of time, "5-19 yr.," who had the largest proportion of respondents indicating low church satisfaction. Not even a partial explanation of this was uncovered. This author speculates that it may be these people who evaluate the effectiveness of the church most carefully, either because of their age, their concern for their children, or for some other reason.

Church satisfaction was found to be associated with where one attends church. The evidence indicated that church satisfaction was not a function of the size of the church membership or of the population of the community in which the church was located. The church at Langford had the largest proportion of respondents indicating high church satisfaction. The fact that Langford has a new church building may partially explain the high church satisfaction found in Langford.

Finally, church satisfaction was found to be associated with community satisfaction. There was not a perfect association between the two, for many people who ranked high on one ranked low on the other. A partial explanation of this association is that both community satisfaction and church satisfaction were found to be associated with a person's age.

## B. Conclusions

The main findings of this research can be presented concisely and meaningfully by answering the following questions about the findings.

Question 1: To what extent, and how, has the institutional system of the church in Marshall County adjusted to population loss

and out-migration?

Answer: The church has adjusted very gradually and slowly. On the whole, the churches in the smaller villages and in the open country have tended to decline in size, while those that were larger and nearer to the larger concentrations of population have tended to grow in membership. The total number of churches has remained constant, but indications are that a number have declined to the point where they will soon close. The probability of their being succeeded by new thriving congregations is very slight, it would seem.

While the churches have adjusted to population loss and out-migration they have also had to adjust to other changes, such as increasing total membership and changes in the age structure of the residual population. This complicates analysis. Certainly the evidence indicates that the church adjusts slowly. Perhaps this is what to expect of an institution which is so much a part of a community's life and culture.

Question 2: What characteristics of the existing population are associated with community satisfaction?

Answer: The age category having the largest proportion of respondents indicating high community satisfaction was the "55 yr. or over." The youngest age category had the largest proportion of respondents indicating low community satisfaction. Therefore, it should be remembered that in each age category many respondents indicated high community satisfaction and many indicated low, but generally speaking the older the age group the more respondents indicated high

community satisfaction.

One out of four of the respondents had considered moving out of the county. The majority of them ranked low in community satisfaction. Conversely, the majority of those who had not considered moving ranked high in community satisfaction.

Question 3: Is community satisfaction associated with a certain type of community in an out-migration county?

Answer: The largest proportion of the respondents indicating high community satisfaction were from the Britton community. Respondents from the villages and farmers who lived near those villages tended to indicate low community satisfaction.

Question 4: What characteristics of the existing population are associated with church satisfaction?

Answer: As was true with community satisfaction, the older the age group the larger proportion of respondents there were who indicated high community satisfaction.

In terms of length of church membership, the persons who had been members for "5-19 yr." tended to rank low in church satisfaction. Those who had been members longer than 19 years had the largest proportion of respondents indicating high community satisfaction.

Question 5: Is church satisfaction associated with a certain size of church?

Answer: The largest proportion of respondents indicating high church satisfaction was found at Langford, but the largest proportion of respondents indicating low church satisfaction was found at Veblen. In as much as these two churches have approximately the same attendance this is evidence that the size of the church is not the deciding factor.



Question 6: What can be said about the findings on migration proneness?

Answer: This was not a direct study of migration proneness. However, if low community satisfaction, low church satisfaction, and having considered moving are associated with migration proneness, then one can expect many of the youth to continue to migrate out of their local communities. Furthermore, if possessing a favorable attitude toward living in the city is associated with migration proneness, then many respondents who indicated low community satisfaction are prone to migrate.

#### C. Limitations of this Research

Probably no research is conducted under ideal circumstances, and certainly this research was not. The main limitations of this research project were financial and time limitations.

One problem caused by the limitations of time and money was in the sampling procedure. It was impossible to select a sample which was known to be a cross-section of the population of Marshall County so it is impossible to generalize the results of the research to apply to the whole population. About all that can be known is that the sample included all age groups over 15, that the respondents were from various places in Marshall County, and that many occupational groups were represented. It is known that the sex ratio of the respondents was 88, whereas the sex ratio for Marshall County in 1960 was 110. In as much as sex was not associated with either community satisfaction or church satisfaction this difference in sex ratio is



not significant.

Even though the questionnaire was administered in five Lutheran churches the sample may not be representative of the total membership of these Lutheran churches. However, it is believed that the respondents to the questionnaire do tend to be fairly representative of the membership of the congregations who usually attend Sunday worship service. How much the 50 questionnaires that did not contain sufficient information to be useful affected the representativeness of the sample cannot be estimated.

It should be recognized, then, that the research findings are based upon the questionnaires of 337 people, and only further research will reveal whether or not other people in Marshall County would make the same reports; the intent was to test the association between certain variables, and not to formulate generalizations which would hold for the whole county.

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## APPENDIX A

## SURVEY OF CHURCHES OF MARSHALL COUNTY

SPONSORED BY THE LUTHERAN TOWN AND COUNTRY COMMITTEE

## A Present Church

## I. General Information on this Church

1. Name and national affiliation of this church: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Exact location of present building: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Year the congregation was formed: \_\_\_\_\_ Where: \_\_\_\_\_
4. A brief history of the church up to 1950:

Previous locations of this church (give dates):

General trends in membership: at time of origin, during the 1930s, during the 1940s:

Modifications in physical plant:

Outstanding events:

5. Has the church changed location since 1950? Yes ( ) No ( )  
If yes, then why? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Church membership: 1950 \_\_\_\_\_ 1960 \_\_\_\_\_

How is membership defined: \_\_\_\_\_

7. How many of the members live in town? 1960 \_\_\_\_\_

8. Estimate how many of the present members are in each of these age groups. Include children who probably will become members at a certain age, though they are not now members.

Under 5	_____	45-49	_____
5-9	_____	50-54	_____
10-14	_____	55-59	_____
15-19	_____	60-64	_____
20-24	_____	65-69	_____
25-29	_____	70-74	_____
30-34	_____	75-79	_____
35-39	_____	80-84	_____
40-44	_____	Over 84	_____

9. Average attendance:

	1950	1960
Sunday morning worship	_____	_____
Sunday School	_____	_____

10. Total church budget: 1950 \_\_\_\_\_ 1960 \_\_\_\_\_

Per cent of budget raised locally: 1950 \_\_\_\_\_ 1960 \_\_\_\_\_

Per cent of budget given to missions and other activities out of the local community: 1950 \_\_\_\_\_ 1960 \_\_\_\_\_

## II. Church Facilities

1. Valuation of church building and land: \_\_\_\_\_

2. What year was the present church building constructed? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Does the present building look like a church? Yes ( ) No ( )

4. Are there separate rooms for Sunday School? Yes ( ) No ( )

5. Are there separate rooms for recreation and social activities?  
Yes ( ) No ( )

6. Are there kitchen and eating facilities available in the building?  
Yes ( ) No ( ) If yes, about how many times are they used during the year? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Does the church provide a home for the minister? Yes ( ) No ( )
8. What expansion, if any, of building or facilities has taken place since 1950?
9. Are the building and facilities in as good a repair as they were in 1950? Yes ( ) No ( )
10. Are the building and facilities used as much as they were in 1950?  
Are they used more? Why?

### III. Leadership in the Church

1. Number of full-time ministers in: 1950 \_\_\_\_\_ 1960 \_\_\_\_\_
2. Number of other full-time employees:
- | <u>Job</u> | <u>1950</u> | <u>1960</u> |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| _____      | _____       | _____       |
| _____      | _____       | _____       |
| _____      | _____       | _____       |
3. Number of part-time employees:
- | <u>Job</u> | <u>1950</u> | <u>1960</u> |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| _____      | _____       | _____       |
| _____      | _____       | _____       |
| _____      | _____       | _____       |
4. How long has the present minister served the congregation? \_\_\_\_\_
5. The age of the present pastor: \_\_\_\_\_
6. The age of the pastor serving the church in 1950: \_\_\_\_\_
7. How long have each of the last five minister stayed, excluding the present pastor?  
(earliest) a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_ c. \_\_\_\_\_ d. \_\_\_\_\_ e. \_\_\_\_\_ (latest)
8. Schooling level of the 1950 pastor:
- | High School | College | Seminary | Other |
|-------------|---------|----------|-------|
| 1 2 3 4     | 1 2 3 4 | 1 2 3    | _____ |



## 9. Schooling level of the 1960 pastor:

High School

1 2 3 4

College

1 2 3 4

Seminary

1 2 3

Other \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Do you feel there is good cooperation among the pastors? \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a ministerial association? \_\_\_\_\_

## IV. Church Programs and Activities

## 1. Check the following activities which were sponsored by the church.

	1950	1960
Regular Sunday morning services . . . . .	_____	_____
Regular Sunday evening services . . . . .	_____	_____
One or more regular weekday services . . . . .	_____	_____
Adult Bible study group . . . . .	_____	_____
Men's Organization . . . . .	_____	_____
Women's Organization . . . . .	_____	_____
Youth Organization . . . . .	_____	_____
Church Choir . . . . .	_____	_____
Vacation Bible School . . . . .	_____	_____
Boy Scouts . . . . .	_____	_____
Girl Scouts . . . . .	_____	_____
Others (list ) _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

2. Have there been instances where the church has tried to use its influence to affect controversial issues in the community?  
What has been the result?

## V. Looking Ahead

## 1. What major problems are now facing the church:

In regard to staffing?

In regard to membership?

In regard to finances?

In regard to building and facilities?

In regard to services and program needs?

In regard to interdenominational relations?

In regard to community relations?

In other areas?

2. Are there significant changes occurring in your community which may affect your church in the near future? What will be the affect of the changes? What do you see as the future of your church in this community?

## APPENDIX B

Number \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

## MARSHALL COUNTY LUTHERAN CHURCH STUDY

INTRODUCTION: This study is to provide information on South Dakota churches and communities for the "Mid America-Workshop on Town and Country Communities."

PLEASE NOTE: This questionnaire is to be filled out by all persons 15 years of age or older.

## I. Personal Information

INSTRUCTIONS: Please circle the correct answer, or fill in the blanks.

1. What is your sex?      MALE      FEMALE

2. What is your present marital status?

NEVER MARRIED      MARRIED      SEPARATED      WIDOW or WIDOWER

3. What is your nationality background? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What was your age at your last birthday? \_\_\_\_\_ years

5. How many years of schooling have you completed? (Circle the correct number)

<u>Grade School</u>	<u>High School</u>	<u>College or Other</u>
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	1 2 3 4	1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

6. Where do you live? Name of county: \_\_\_\_\_

7. a. If you live in town, name of town: \_\_\_\_\_

b. If you live in the country, how far and in what direction is your home from this church? Miles: \_\_\_\_\_ Direction: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Birthplace \_\_\_\_\_

9. How long have you lived in your present town (or farm neighborhood)?  
\_\_\_\_\_ years

- 10 & 11. Where did you live before moving to your present town (or farm neighborhood)?

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

12. Did you live on a farm? Yes No
13. How many times have you moved in the last five years? (Do not count moves made within a town (or farm neighborhood).  
\_\_\_\_\_ times
14. Regarding this church, which statement applies to you? (Check correct answer).
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am a member of this church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am a member of some other church, but I attend this church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am not a member of any church, but I attend this church.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am just a visitor at this church.

15. If you are a member of some other church, where is your church membership?

Church \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_

16. How long have you been a member of your church? (Check correct blank)

\_\_\_\_\_ Less than 1 year      \_\_\_\_\_ 5-9 years      \_\_\_\_\_ 16-19 years  
\_\_\_\_\_ 1-5 years      \_\_\_\_\_ 10-15 years      \_\_\_\_\_ 20 and over years

17. What is your present occupation (be specific: for example, cashier in a store)? \_\_\_\_\_

18. What was your approximate personal income in 1961, including social security benefits and all other income? (Check correct blank)

\_\_\_\_\_ No personal income      \_\_\_\_\_ \$2,000-\$2,999      \_\_\_\_\_ \$6,000-\$6,999  
\_\_\_\_\_ Under \$500      \_\_\_\_\_ \$3,000-\$3,999      \_\_\_\_\_ \$7,000-\$9,999  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$500-\$900      \_\_\_\_\_ \$4,000-\$4,999      \_\_\_\_\_ \$10,000-\$19,999  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$1,000-\$1,999      \_\_\_\_\_ \$5,000-\$5,999      \_\_\_\_\_ \$20,000 and over

19. Do you own or rent your home? OWN RENT

20. If you are a farmer or rancher approximately how many acres, including soil bank land, did you operate in 1961? \_\_\_\_\_ acres

21. How many acres do you own? \_\_\_\_\_ acres

## II. Trade Centers

INSTRUCTIONS: In the blanks indicate in what town you, or your parents, usually bought these listed items in 1950, and where you now, buy them in 1962.

	<u>1950</u>	<u>1962 (now)</u>
a. Banking services	_____	_____
b. Car repair	_____	_____
c. Gasoline and oil	_____	_____
d. Dress clothes	_____	_____
e. Drugs	_____	_____
f. Furniture	_____	_____
g. Groceries	_____	_____
h. Hardware items	_____	_____
i. Machinery	_____	_____
j. Medical services	_____	_____
k. Movies	_____	_____
l. Work clothes	_____	_____

### III. Family Information

INSTRUCTIONS: This page is to be filled out only by the Head of the Household, or any single person living alone. Please give the requested information for each member of your family.

22.

23.

Family Members	Age	Sex	Highest Year of School Completed	Occupation	Address of Person
Head					
Wife (or husband)					
Children 1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
9.					

Other relatives in the  
home (give relationship)

	Age	Sex	Highest Year of School Completed	Occupation
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				

#### IV. Participation in the Church Activities

INSTRUCTIONS: Regarding the church activities listed below, check the column with an "x" that indicates the extent of your attendance and whether you hold an official position.

24.

	ATTENDANCE					OFFICIAL POSITION
	Never attend meetings	Attend a few meetings	Attend half of meetings	Attend most meetings	Attend all meetings	Officer Teacher Committeemen
Sunday Morning Services						
Family Night Services						
Midweek Services						
Sunday School						
Brotherhood						
Lutheran Church Women						
Circle						
Luther League						

List others:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

If you have had any of the following responsibilities during the last three years, circle which ones you had.

DEACON  
 TRUSTEE  
 RELEASE TIME TEACHER  
 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL TEACHER  
 BOARD OF EDUCATION



# V. Participation in the Community Organizations

INSTRUCTIONS: For the organizations to which you belong, please check the columns that indicate the extent of your attendance and whether you are or ever have been an officer in the organization.

25.	OFFICIAL POSITION		ATTENDANCE			
	OFFICER OR ON COMMITTEE	PAST OFFICER	Attend a few meetings	Attend half of meetings	Attend most meetings	Attend all meetings
Garden Club						
Sportmen's Club						
Veteran's Organization or Auxiliary						
Extension Club						
Farm Bureau						
Farmer's Union						
National Farmer's Org.						
Church						
4-H Club						
PTA						
Kiwanis						
Lions						
Rotary						
Scouts						
Chamber of Commerce						
Fraternal Order or Auxiliary						
Literary Club						
Music Club						
List Others						

26. Do you feel there are enough organizations and social activities in your community for people your age? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_  
Explain your answer. \_\_\_\_\_

27. List any of the following Public Offices you have held in the last five years.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_ Councilman

\_\_\_\_\_ Township Board

\_\_\_\_\_ County Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_ School Board

\_\_\_\_\_ Others

28. How many magazines of each type do you subscribe to or buy regularly?

\_\_\_\_\_ General (such as Look and Life)

\_\_\_\_\_ Professional (such as Farmer and Banking)

\_\_\_\_\_ Religious

\_\_\_\_\_ Sports

\_\_\_\_\_ Newspapers and news magazines

## VI. The Church

### A. The Work Of A Pastor

INSTRUCTIONS: Please indicate your estimate of the importance of the various tasks of a pastor. Check the appropriate column for each task.

	NOT IMPORTANT	MINOR IMPORTANCE	UNDECIDED	QUITE IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT
29. Preaching					
30. Marriage counseling					
31. Visit the sick					
32. Time for considerable study to improve ministry					

	Not Important	Minor Importance	Undecided	Quite Important	Very Important
33. Teach special classes in the church					
34. Participate in civic affairs					
35. Visit membership to promote church work					
36. Visit unchurched					
37. Attend workshops and conferences					
38. Office work					
39. Church administration					
40.					

## VI. The Church

### B. Satisfaction with the Church

INSTRUCTIONS: Below is a list of statements about any given church. Check the column which indicates your opinion about these statements as they apply to this church.

41.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. I believe the Sunday School could be doing a much better job.					
b. I would prefer to attend a larger church of about 500 members than a small church of about 100 members.					
c. The churches of ten and fifteen years ago did a better job than this church now does.					
d. I believe this church provides sufficient opportunity to be attractive to a pastor.					

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
e. I believe the church building and facilities need to be improved.					
f. In order to have a good church program, I believe a minister should devote full-time to one church.					
g. I believe it costs too much to operate this church.					
h. I believe this church is a definite help to me in my daily life.					
i. I believe this church's leaders practice what they say they believe.					
j. I believe this church is doing a good job of keeping young people interested in the church program.					
k. I believe that this church will be more effective in the future than it was in the past.					

42. I believe this church should improve or begin to sponsor the following activities. (Circle your answer)

BOY SCOUTS      GIRL SCOUTS      CHOIR      4-H CLUB      BROTHERHOOD

LUTHER LEAGUE      LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

List any others: \_\_\_\_\_

1. This community has adequate facilities for medical care.



## VII. Satisfaction with the Community

INSTRUCTIONS: Below is a list of statements about any given community. Would you check the column which indicates your opinion about these statements as they apply to the community in which you live.

43.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. Everything of a progressive nature is approved.					
b. With few exceptions the leaders are capable and ambitious.					
c. It is difficult for people to get together on anything.					
d. The people as a whole mind their own business.					
e. The future of the community looks rather bright.					
f. I can earn enough money for those people who depend upon me.					
g. Not much can be said in favor of a community this size.					
h. The people have to do without a good many conveniences.					
i. The community has enough job opportunity that young people should be encouraged to remain.					
j. A person has to leave the community to have a good time.					
k. This community has to put up with poor school facilities.					
l. This community has adequate facilities for medical care.					

## VIII. Migration

44. What do you think will happen to the population of your community in the next 10 years? (Circle your answer)

RAPID DECLINE    SLOW DECLINE    STAY THE SAME    SLOW GROWTH  
RAPID GROWTH

45. What is your estimate of the change in the number of people in Marshall County during the last 10 years (from 1950 to 1960)? Circle your answer.

NUMBER INCREASED    NUMBER INCREASED    NO CHANGE  
10 to 20%    0 to 10%  
NUMBER DECREASED    NUMBER DECREASED  
0 to 10%    10 to 20%

46. Of the people that have left Marshall County, what do you think are the important reasons for their leaving?

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_

47. Have you ever seriously considered moving out of this community? YES NO

48. IF YES, a. How long ago was this? \_\_\_\_\_ years

49. b. Where would you have moved? \_\_\_\_\_

50. c. Why would you have moved? \_\_\_\_\_

51. Why do you continue to live in this community? (Circle one or more of the numbers before the following answers) (Check one)

1. I am satisfied with the local church.  
2. I am satisfied with the local school.  
3. I am satisfied with my present job.  
4. My closest friends are here.  
5. I feel that this is where I belong.  
6. My relatives are here.  
7. The uncertainty of the benefits of moving.  
8. I like it here.  
9. List others: \_\_\_\_\_

52. In which size community would you rather live? (Circle the number before the correct answer)

1. On the farm.
2. Town the size of Kidder.
3. Town the size of Veblen or Langford.
4. Town the size of Britton.
5. Town the size of Aberdeen.
6. City the size of Minneapolis.

53. When you retire, if you are not already retired, what is the name of the place where you would like to live? \_\_\_\_\_

### IX. School System

#### A. GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS:

54. a. How many of your children attend school within Marshall  
55. County? Number in Grade School \_\_\_\_\_ Number in High School \_\_\_\_\_
56. b. How many of your children attend school outside Marshall  
58. County? Number in Grade School \_\_\_\_\_ in High School \_\_\_\_\_ in  
College or other \_\_\_\_\_
59. c. What is the name of the school within Marshall County which  
your children attend?  
60. Name or district number of Grade School \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of High School \_\_\_\_\_
61. d. Do your children attend the above high school as tuition  
students? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_
62. e. IF YOU DO NOT have children in high school, what is the name  
of the High School with which you are most familiar? Name  
of High School \_\_\_\_\_
63. f. Are you acquainted with the features of the Master Plan for  
school reorganization in Marshall County? (Check one)  
YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_
64. g. IF YES, where did you receive the majority of your informa-  
tion about school reorganization. (Check one)
- |                  |                               |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Friends _____    | Reorganization Meetings _____ |
| Newspapers _____ | Other (list) _____            |
| Radio & TV _____ | _____                         |

B. Below is a list of statements about any school system. Please give us your opinion on these statements as they apply to the high school to which your children presently attend, or the one



with which you are most familiar.

65. a. The children in a high school like ours have to put up with poorly trained and poorly qualified teachers. (Circle one answer)

STRONGLY AGREE      AGREE      UNDECIDED      DISAGREE

STRONGLY DISAGREE

- b. The future of a high school like ours looks rather bright. (Circle one answer)

STRONGLY AGREE      AGREE      UNDECIDED      DISAGREE

STRONGLY DISAGREE

- c. I believe the course of study in a high school like ours is adequate to give the children a well rounded education. (Circle one answer)

STRONGLY AGREE      AGREE      UNDECIDED      DISAGREE

STRONGLY DISAGREE

- d. I believe a high school like ours provides adequate stimulation and competition for the students. (Circle one answer)

STRONGLY AGREE      AGREE      UNDECIDED      DISAGREE

STRONGLY DISAGREE

- e. The children in a high school like ours have to put up with a poor school building or poor equipment. (Circle one answer)

STRONGLY AGREE      AGREE      UNDECIDED      DISAGREE

STRONGLY DISAGREE

- f. The children attending a high school like ours obtain just as good an education as those children attending much larger schools. (Circle one answer)

STRONGLY AGREE      AGREE      UNDECIDED      DISAGREE

STRONGLY DISAGREE

- C. Here is a list of questions we would like you to answer with reference to the high school to which your children attend or

with which you are most familiar.

66. a. Has your high school district been reorganized or consolidated in the last 5 years? (Check one answer) Yes \_\_\_\_\_  
No \_\_\_\_\_ Undecided \_\_\_\_\_
- b. What do you think the approximate number of students in your high school was in the 1961-62 school year? (Check one answer)
- |                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Under 100 students _____  | 300 to 400 students _____ |
| 100 to 200 students _____ | Over 400 students _____   |
| 200 to 300 students _____ | Undecided _____           |
- c. Does your high school employ a separate person for the superintendent's position and a separate person for the position of principal? (Check one answer) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Undecided \_\_\_\_\_
- d. About how many teachers, not counting the supt. and principal, did your high school employ in the school year 1961-62? (Check one answer)
- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 to 4 teachers _____   | Over 15 teachers _____ |
| 5 to 10 teachers _____  | Undecided _____        |
| 10 to 15 teachers _____ |                        |
- e. How is your high school classified? (Circle one answer)
- |         |         |         |           |
|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
| CLASS A | CLASS B | CLASS C | UNDECIDED |
|---------|---------|---------|-----------|
- f. Does your school system have a 6-3-3 plan for education (6 yrs. elementary, 3 yrs. or junior high school, 3 yrs. of senior high school)? (Check one answer) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
Undecided \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Below is a list of statements about school district reorganization under any plan. Please give your opinion about these statements as they may apply to the high school which your children attend or with which you are most familiar.
67. a. The better education the children get under reorganization is well worth the inconvenience of traveling to and from school by bus or car. (Circle one answer)
- |                   |       |           |          |
|-------------------|-------|-----------|----------|
| STRONGLY AGREE    | AGREE | UNDECIDED | DISAGREE |
| STRONGLY DISAGREE |       |           |          |

- b. I believe the reorganized school provides children with better trained and qualified teachers. (Circle one answer)

STRONGLY AGREE      AGREE      UNDECIDED      DISAGREE

STRONGLY DISAGREE

- c. The reorganized school provides better training for those children who do not continue on to college so that they can better compete with the city children for jobs after graduation. (Circle one answer)

STRONGLY AGREE      AGREE      UNDECIDED      DISAGREE

STRONGLY DISAGREE

- d. The reorganized school provides a better program for the "gifted" and the slow learners. (Circle one answer)

STRONGLY AGREE      AGREE      UNDECIDED      DISAGREE

STRONGLY DISAGREE

- e. If I were asked to vote on school reorganization at the present time I would be in favor of it. (Circle one answer)

STRONGLY AGREE      AGREE      UNDECIDED      DISAGREE

STRONGLY DISAGREE

- E. Below is found a list of questions we would like you to answer with reference to the Master Plan for School Reorganization of Marshall County.

68. a. According to the proposed Master Plan, Marshall County would be divided up into how many independent districts? (Circle one answer)

2 DISTRICTS      3 DISTRICTS      4 DISTRICTS

5 DISTRICTS      6 DISTRICTS      UNDECIDED

- b. According to the proposed Master Plan all of the rural elementary schools would be closed? (Check one answer)  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Undecided \_\_\_\_\_

- c. According to the proposed Master Plan the Langford District will continue to operate as it is at present? (Check one answer) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Undecided \_\_\_\_\_

- d. Under the proposed Master Plan, Amherst, Kidder, and Britton would operate junior high school programs and the senior high school for the district would be located in Britton? (Check one answer) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Undecided \_\_\_\_\_
- e. The proposed Master Plan for reorganization of the schools in Marshall County was drawn up by which of the following groups? (Check one answer)

State Department of Education \_\_\_\_\_  
 Teachers and Supt. of each school \_\_\_\_\_  
 County Board of Education \_\_\_\_\_  
 Private group of citizens \_\_\_\_\_  
 Undecided \_\_\_\_\_

#### X. Attitudes toward City and Rural Living

INSTRUCTIONS: After reading each of the following statements check the column which indicates your opinion.

NOTE: All towns in Marshall County are considered as rural communities.

69.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
a. I believe the cost of living is higher in the rural community than it is in the large city.					
b. I believe people in a rural community are more friendly than those in the large city.					
c. I believe that life in the large city is more monotonous than life in a rural community.					
d. I believe that homes in a rural community are more pleasant than homes in a large city.					



	Strongly Agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
e. I believe the rural community is a better place for children than in the large city.					
f. I believe that people in a rural community are more refined than people in the large city.					
g. I believe family life is more enjoyable in a rural community than in a large city.					
h. I believe there are more interesting activities in a rural community than in a large city.					
i. I believe the work is easier in the rural community than it is in the large city.					
j. Everything considered, I believe that I would be happier working in a rural community than I would be working in the large city.					

## XI. Personal Goals in Life

INSTRUCTIONS: In terms of what you want out of life, how important would you say following things are to you? Check the appropriate column for each item.

70.

	Not Import- ant	Minor Importance	Undecided	Important	very Import- ant
a. Having money to buy all the tools and appliances you want.					

	Not Import- ant	Minor Importance	Undecided	Important	very Import- ant
b. Being able to take night classes or attend short schools in order to learn new skills.					
c. Having more opportunities to take vacations and spend time with the family.					
d. Security in old age.					
e. College education for the children.					
f. Having a comfortable home.					
g. Being respected by others.					
h. Being able to set the children up in business.					
i. Having influence in community affairs.					
j. Having good health.					
k. Having a satisfactory family life.					
l. To continue to live out my life as I now am.					
m. Being able to help others with their needs.					
n. List any other things which you want out of life.					

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## XII. Miscellaneous

### 71. A. What do you believe is the future for your community?

In the space below, we would like for you to write down some of your ideas about the future of your community.

Codes: 1 = None

2 = Pleasant Valley

3 = Improved

4 = Various

5 = Written and in attendance at church

6 = Written and in the follow-up group

### 72. B. Comments:

In the space below, we invite you to express your opinion about any of the answers you gave in this questionnaire, or about any subject that was not included in the questionnaire which you feel is important.

Table 24: Marital Status of Respondents

Response	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
No response	2	0	2	1	0	3	8
Never married	13	0	16	14	14	7	64
Married	27	20	48	73	80	49	297
Separated	0	0	2	0	3	0	5
Widow or widower	0	1	2	3	12	2	20

Table 25: Years of School Completed by Respondents

Response	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
No response	2	1	1	1	7	0	12
1-4	1	3	0	0	2	2	6
5-8	16	5	11	12	21	10	75
1-4 high school	15	10	32	31	40	23	161
1-4 college or other	2	4	13	12	34	14	82
5 or more of college	2	0	0	0	0	1	3



## APPENDIX C

Tabulation of responses to selected parts of the questionnaire given in Appendix B.

Code:      Z = Zion  
             PV = Pleasant Valley  
             L = Langford  
             V = Veblen  
             Bi = Britton and in attendance at church  
             Bf = Britton and in the follow-up group

Table 23: Sex of Respondents

Response	Z	PV	L	V	Bi	Bf	Total
No response	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Male	21	10	25	29	50	22	157
Female	19	11	34	27	61	27	179

Table 24: Marital Status of Respondents

Response	Z	PV	L	V	Bi	Bf	Total
No response	0	0	1	0	3	0	4
Never married	13	0	16	14	14	7	64
Married	27	20	40	39	80	40	246
Separated	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Widow or widower	0	1	2	3	12	2	20

Table 25: Years of School Completed by Respondents

Response	Z	PV	L	V	Bi	Bf	Total
No response	2	1	1	1	7	0	12
1-4	1	1	0	0	2	2	6
5-8	16	5	11	12	21	10	75
1-4 high school	18	10	32	31	48	22	161
1-4 college or other	3	4	15	12	34	14	82
5 or more of college	0	0	0	0	0	1	1

Table 26: Age of Respondents

Response	Z	PV	L	V	B1	Bf	Total
No response	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
15-19	11	0	7	9	6	5	38
20-24	0	0	6	5	5	3	19
25-29	1	1	4	8	8	6	28
30-34	1	0	8	2	22	6	39
35-39	5	3	5	7	12	6	38
40-44	4	5	8	8	14	2	41
45-49	6	4	5	4	12	5	36
50-54	4	4	4	3	6	1	22
55-59	3	1	0	4	5	0	13
60-64	3	0	4	3	4	6	20
65 or over	2	3	8	3	17	8	41

Table 27: Birthplace of Respondents

Response	Z	PV	L	V	B1	Bf	Total
No response	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Marshall County	30	9	27	32	58	24	180
Brown, Day, or Roberts Co.	4	0	20	7	12	7	50
Other S. Dak. county	0	5	5	1	13	6	30
Adjacent state	4	5	4	14	22	8	57
Other state	0	1	1	1	3	3	9
Other place in N. America	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Europe	1	0	2	0	2	1	6

Table 28: Length of Time Respondents Had Been  
A Member of Their Church

Response	Z	PV	L	V	B1	Bf	Total
No response	2	2	0	3	7	1	15
Less than 1 year	3	0	1	3	3	1	11
1-4	11	0	8	7	15	13	54
5-9	3	3	9	10	16	9	50
10-15	7	6	11	14	16	5	59
16-19	1	0	5	6	13	1	26
20 or over	13	10	25	13	42	19	122

Table 29: Length of Time Respondents Had Lived  
in Their Present Town or Farm Neighborhood

Response	Z	PV	L	V	B1	Bf	Total
No response	2	2	4	4	2	2	16
Under 1 year	3	0	1	1	6	0	11
1-4	2	1	5	7	10	8	33
5-9	2	1	1	3	15	9	31
10-14	2	3	8	7	8	4	32
15-19	15	3	10	9	15	9	61
20-24	2	3	7	6	15	0	33
25-29	0	1	1	2	4	5	13
30 or over	12	7	22	17	37	12	107

Table 30: Personal Income of Respondents in 1961

Response	Z	PV	L	V	B1	Bf	Total
No response	11	2	12	7	20	8	60
No income	6	1	6	7	9	6	35
Under \$500	4	0	0	1	5	7	17
\$500-\$999	1	0	0	2	6	0	9
\$1000-\$1999	4	1	6	4	10	10	35
\$2000-\$2999	7	1	5	6	15	5	39
\$3000-\$3999	1	4	10	8	20	3	46
\$4000-\$4999	1	3	6	6	8	4	28
\$5000-\$5999	2	3	5	3	6	3	22
\$6000-\$6999	0	3	4	6	6	1	20
\$7000-\$9999	2	2	5	4	4	1	18
\$10000 or over	1	1	0	2	4	1	9

Table 31: Respondents' Attitudes Toward the Importance of  
the Pastor Attending Workshops and Conferences

Response	Z	PV	L	V	B1	Bf	Total
No response	15	6	10	13	21	6	71
Not important	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Minor importance	5	2	2	4	5	6	24
Undecided	4	2	4	9	14	8	41
Quite important	11	7	29	19	50	20	136
Very important	5	4	14	11	20	9	63

Table 32: Respondents' Attitudes Toward the Importance of Marriage Counseling by the Pastor

Response	Z	PV	L	V	B1	Bf	Total
No response	11	2	7	7	19	4	50
Not important	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minor importance	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
Undecided	3	0	1	4	5	1	14
Quite important	15	6	24	14	32	22	113
Very important	11	13	26	30	55	22	157

Table 33: Respondents' Attitudes Toward the Importance of the Pastor Having Time for Considerable Study to Improve His Ministry

Response	Z	PV	L	V	B1	Bf	Total
No response	15	6	12	13	23	6	75
Not important	1	0	2	0	0	0	3
Minor importance	1	1	2	4	5	3	16
Undecided	3	4	11	9	22	13	62
Quite important	11	6	16	18	36	18	105
Very important	9	4	16	12	26	9	76

Table 34: Respondents' Attitudes Toward the Importance of the Pastor Participating in Civic Affairs

Responses	Z	PV	L	V	B1	Bf	Total
No response	16	6	11	13	26	6	78
Not important	0	0	3	1	6	1	11
Minor importance	4	3	5	7	28	15	62
Undecided	7	2	8	11	17	13	58
Quite important	8	8	24	15	24	9	88
Very important	5	2	8	9	11	5	40

Table 35: Scores for Church Participation of Respondents

Response	Z	PV	L	V	Bi	Bf	Total
No response	1	1	0	0	8	0	10
0-2	5	2	11	9	24	27	78
3-5	5	2	9	19	26	10	71
6-8	11	9	20	14	26	11	91
9-11	12	3	11	11	21	0	58
12-14	3	2	6	3	6	0	20
15-17	3	2	2	0	1	1	9

Table 36: Respondents' Attitudes Toward the Statement, "I believe this church is doing a good job of keeping young people interested in the church program."

Response	Z	PV	L	V	Bi	Bf	Total
No response	2	3	4	5	13	5	32
Strongly agree	4	1	12	5	11	2	35
Agree	22	12	31	21	65	24	175
Undecided	9	3	7	13	10	10	52
Disagree	3	2	4	12	13	7	41
Strongly disagree	0	0	1	0	0	1	2

Table 37: Respondents' Attitudes Toward the Statement, "I believe the Sunday School could be doing a much better job."

Response	Z	PV	L	V	Bi	Bf	Total
No response	7	6	11	6	20	4	54
Strongly agree	4	3	8	3	7	2	27
Agree	9	5	7	14	19	12	66
Undecided	11	2	12	14	28	15	82
Disagree	7	5	20	18	35	15	100
Strongly disagree	2	0	1	0	2	1	6



Table 38: Respondents' Attitudes Toward the Statement, "In order to have a good church program, I believe a minister should devote full-time to one church."

Response	Z	PV	L	V	B1	Bf	Total
No response	5	5	9	3	15	6	43
Strongly agree	3	0	9	9	13	5	39
Agree	1	3	11	26	39	16	96
Undecided	10	3	13	13	24	12	75
Disagree	17	10	15	5	20	10	77
Strongly disagree	4	0	2	0	1	0	7

Table 39: Respondents' Attitudes Toward the Statement, "I believe that the leaders in this church practice what they say they believe."

Response	Z	PV	L	V	B1	Bf	Total
No response	4	5	7	4	14	6	40
Strongly agree	2	1	9	9	8	3	32
Agree	18	10	26	27	53	22	157
Undecided	12	2	15	13	28	7	77
Disagree	3	2	2	3	7	7	24
Strongly disagree	0	1	0	0	2	4	7

Table 40: Scores for Community Participation of Respondents

Response	Z	PV	L	V	B1	Bf	Total
No response	11	3	1	10	21	2	48
0-3	13	5	26	13	29	31	117
4-7	11	10	24	23	46	12	126
8-11	4	3	7	9	13	3	39
12-15	1	0	0	0	2	1	4
16-19	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
20-23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24-27	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

Table 41: Respondents' Attitudes Toward Whether or Not  
There Were Enough Organizations and Social Activities  
in the Community for People Their Age

Response	Z	PV	L	V	Bi	Bf	Total
No response	8	8	14	13	21	8	72
Enough	26	13	37	29	79	36	220
Not enough	5	0	8	13	12	5	43

Table 42: Respondents' Attitudes Toward the Statement,  
"Everything of a progressive nature in the  
Community is approved."

Response	Z	PV	L	V	Bi	Bf	Total
No response	11	7	13	11	21	6	69
Strongly agree	4	1	1	1	2	1	10
Agree	8	4	14	11	29	10	76
Undecided	9	4	15	6	20	14	68
Disagree	8	5	16	24	31	16	100
Strongly disagree	0	0	0	3	7	2	12

Table 43: Respondents' Attitudes Toward the Statement,  
"It is difficult for people in this community  
to get together on anything."

Response	Z	PV	L	V	Bi	Bf	Total
No response	6	6	9	7	19	6	53
Strongly agree	6	0	0	3	2	2	13
Agree	14	7	16	34	35	12	118
Undecided	7	2	10	9	32	8	68
Disagree	4	6	21	3	23	21	78
Strongly disagree	2	0	3	0	1	0	6



Table 44: Respondents' Attitudes Toward the Statement,  
"The future of the community looks rather bright."

Response	Z	PV	L	V	Bi	Bf	Total
No response	6	5	7	6	18	6	48
Strongly agree	2	0	2	1	9	0	14
Agree	16	9	33	20	51	27	157
Undecided	8	3	13	15	16	12	67
Disagree	5	3	4	14	18	4	48
Strongly disagree	2	1	0	0	0	0	3

Table 45: Respondents' Attitudes Toward the Statement, "Not  
much can be said in favor of a community this size."

Response	Z	PV	L	V	Bi	Bf	Total
No response	11	7	9	11	19	6	63
Strongly agree	1	0	0	1	1	1	4
Agree	4	4	6	7	8	5	34
Undecided	7	2	16	6	16	9	56
Disagree	15	7	24	27	59	21	153
Strongly disagree	2	1	4	4	8	7	26

Table 46: Responses to the Question, "What do you think  
will happen to the population of your community  
in the next ten years?"

Response	Z	PV	L	V	Bi	Bf	Total
No response	2	3	3	3	19	1	31
Rapid decline	2	5	0	0	2	2	11
Slow decline	24	7	12	18	23	13	97
Stay the same	9	5	23	23	34	18	112
Slow growth	3	0	14	12	32	14	75
Rapid growth	0	1	7	0	2	1	11

Table 47: Responses to the Questions, "What is your estimate of the change in the number of people in Marshall County during the last ten years?"

Response	Z	PV	L	V	Bi	Bf	Total
No response	11	4	11	8	23	6	63
Increased 10-20%	1	0	3	1	4	1	10
Increased 0-10%	2	1	13	11	21	10	58
No change	3	1	4	11	17	13	49
Decreased 0-10%	21	12	25	25	38	17	138
Decreased 10-20%	2	3	3	0	9	2	19

Table 48: Responses to the Question, "Of the people who have left Marshall County, what do you think are the important reasons for their leaving?"

Response	Z	PV	L	V	Bi	Bf	Total
No response	10	3	14	15	25	9	76
Financial	29	17	43	41	81	39	250
Climate	0	1	3	1	7	5	17
Family	0	0	0	1	1	2	4
Social	1	1	1	2	3	1	9
Education & culture	1	1	3	3	5	7	20
Health	2	1	4	0	4	3	14

Table 49: Responses to the Question, "Why do you continue to live in this community?"

Response	Z	PV	L	V	Bi	Bf	Total
No response	7	24	5	9	18	2	44
Satisfied with the church	24	16	42	34	78	32	226
Satisfied with the school	16	13	27	23	43	17	139
My closest friends are here	18	11	22	27	40	19	137
I feel this is where I belong	9	4	16	13	37	10	89
My relatives are here	14	4	23	15	37	22	115
Uncertainty of the benefits of moving	9	4	13	13	20	8	67
I like it here	20	16	37	32	60	26	191
Other reasons	2	0	2	3	3	0	10

Table 50: Responses to the Question, "In which size community would you rather live?"

Response	Z	PV	L	V	Bi	Bf	Total
No response	8	7	8	15	28	0	66
Farm	25	10	14	12	27	2	90
Kidder	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Veblen or Langford	2	0	13	10	0	0	25
Britton	1	0	11	6	37	38	93
Aberdeen	4	3	9	11	16	9	52
Minneapolis	0	0	4	2	4	0	10

## APPENDIX D

Data about independent variables and the two dependent variables of church satisfaction and community satisfaction, chi-square analysis of which led to probabilities above the .10 level.

Table 51: Community Satisfaction by Sex

Community satisfaction	Male	Female
Low	51	71
High	84	82
$\chi^2 = 2.186$ P lies between .20 and .10		

Table 52: Community Satisfaction by Education

Community satisfaction	Grade school	High school	College or other
Low	20	67	33
High	40	79	45
$\chi^2 = 2.779$ P lies between .30 and .20			

Table 53: Community Satisfaction by Living in the Country

Community satisfaction	Live in country	Live in town
Low	52	67
High	71	91
$\chi^2 = .0005$ P lies between 1.00 and .90		

Table 54: Community Satisfaction by Income

Community satisfaction	Some income but less than \$1,999	\$2,000 to \$4,999	\$5,000 or more
Low	16	42	28
High	32	56	37

$$\chi^2 = 1.447$$

P lies between .50 and .30

Table 55: Community Satisfaction by Home Ownership

Community satisfaction	Own home	Rent home
Low	74	25
High	110	30

$$\chi^2 = .479$$

P lies between .50 and .30

Table 56: Community Satisfaction by the Number of Moves one has made in the last five years

Community satisfaction	No moves	One move	Two to four moves
Low	84	18	8
High	125	18	8

$$\chi^2 = 1.657$$

P lies between .50 and .30

Table 57: Community Satisfaction by the Length of Time  
One Has Lived in His Present Town or Neighborhood

Community satisfaction	9 yr. or less	10-19 yr.	20 yr. or more
Low	29	38	52
High	43	42	74
$\chi^2 = 1.038$ P lies between .70 and .50			

Table 58: Community Satisfaction by the  
Number of Magazines One Subscribes  
to or Buys

Community satisfaction	0-3	4-7	8 or more
Low	40	48	25
High	47	64	35
$\chi^2 = .579$ P lies between .80 and .70			

Table 59: Community Satisfaction by Attendance at Church  
on a Particular Sunday

Community satisfaction	Britton, in attendance	Britton, not in attendance
Low	9	25
High	34	68
$\chi^2 = .555$ P lies between .50 and .30		



Table 60: Community Satisfaction by the Amount of Community Participation

Community satisfaction	Low part.	Medium part.	High part.
Low	48	41	19
High	57	64	26

$$\chi^2 = .963$$

P lies between .70 and .50

Table 61: Church Satisfaction by Sex

Church satisfaction	Male	Female
Low	65	74
High	74	87

$$\chi^2 = .019$$

P lies between .90 and .80

Table 62: Church Satisfaction by Education

Church satisfaction	Grade school	High school	College or other
Low	27	74	37
High	40	77	41

$$\chi^2 = 1.588$$

P lies between .50 and .30

Table 63: Church Satisfaction by Income

Church satisfaction	Some income but less than \$1,999	\$2,000 to \$4,999	\$5,000 or over
Low	26	40	32
High	25	61	36

$$\chi^2 = 2.039$$

P lies between .50 and .30

Table 64: Church Satisfaction by Occupation

Church satisfaction	Manager, proprietor, or professional	Other occupations
Low	19	110
High	20	133

$$\chi^2 = .161$$

P lies between .70 and .50

Table 65: Church Satisfaction by the Number of Moves  
One Has Made in the last Five Years

Church satisfaction	No moves	One move	Two to four moves
Low	101	17	7
High	118	21	8

$$\chi^2 = .031$$

P lies between 1.00 and .90

Table 66: Church Satisfaction by Attitude Toward  
Living in the City

Church satisfaction	Low att.	Medium att.	High att.
Low	12	27	36
High	20	56	44

$$\chi^2 = 2.663$$

P lies between .30 and .20

Table 67: Church Satisfaction by Attendance at  
Church on a Particular Sunday

Church satisfaction	Britton, in attendance	Britton, not in attendance
Low	23	38
High	22	60

$$\chi^2 = 1.918$$

P lies between .20 and .10

Table 68: Church Satisfaction by the Amount  
of Church Participation

Church satisfaction	Low part.	High part.
Low	57	81
High	73	86

$$\chi^2 = .637$$

P lies between .50 and .30