

State of the Field

The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, read against all fourteen GospelGraph layers

256

CONGREGATIONS PLACED

243

TRACTS HELD

14

DATA LAYERS

16.5

OTHER CHURCHES PER TRACT

ROSTER 2026-09-19 · 2020 CENSUS TRACTS

GOSPELGRAPH.COM

The reference for the smallest roster in the series. Every Associate Reformed Presbyterian congregation was placed on the census tract its building stands in and that tract read against every national layer GospelGraph holds. What follows is the whole of it, layer by layer, with the national figure beside every number.

Two hundred and forty-three tracts is a small base. Shares here move by four tenths of a point per tract, and any figure from the two half-coverage layers rests on about a hundred tracts. The report states those bases where they matter and does not draw conclusions the sample cannot carry.

The rules are the same as the Assemblies of God report. Measures are taken on distinct tracts, not on congregations. Every share is taken against its own layer's scored base. The national column is the 84,414 tracts of the church-fit index unless a layer says otherwise.

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01 The roster, and what joined

The roster arrived already geocoded to 2020 tracts. Of 257 rows, 256 landed on a scored tract; one carried no geoid. That is the cleanest join in the series.

The 256 occupy 243 distinct tracts. Eleven tracts hold two congregations and one holds three. The roster carries no presbytery or classification column, so this report has no structural cut of the kind the Assemblies of God and OPC reports carry.

HOW MUCH OF EACH LAYER THE 243 TRACTS ARE SCORED ON

LAYER	ARP TRACTS SCORED	SHARE	NATIONAL BASE
Church-fit index	243	100%	84,414
Shalom v2	243	100%	95,837
Both trajectory clocks, MVI, segmentation, patterns	243	100%	84,414
Situation tags	235	96.7%	95,837
Field signals	137	56.4%	57,412
Field instruments	112	46.1%	43,044
Nearest churchless high-need tract	243	100%	547 targets

02 Where the churches are

Twenty-three states hold a congregation. Two of them, the Carolinas, hold 126 of the 256, which is 49 percent of the denomination.

CONGREGATIONS PLACED, BY STATE. THE TEN LARGEST

69 NORTH CAROLINA	57 SOUTH CAROLINA	23 FLORIDA	14 VIRGINIA	12 NEW YORK	11 MISSISSIPPI
10 TENNESSEE	9 GEORGIA	8 MARYLAND	8 PENNSYLVANIA		

THE EIGHT COUNTIES HOLDING THE MOST CONGREGATIONS

COUNTY	CONGREGATIONS
Mecklenburg County, NC	14
York County, SC	13
Iredell County, NC	11
Gaston County, NC	10
Queens County, NY	9
Guilford County, NC	7
Richland County, SC	7
Los Angeles County, CA	4

Four of the top five counties sit within an hour of Charlotte. Queens is the one that does not fit the pattern: nine congregations, the largest concentration outside the Southeast, and the reason the roster's gateway figures in section 8 are not zero.

03 Access

ACCESS AND CHURCH DENSITY, TRACT MEANS

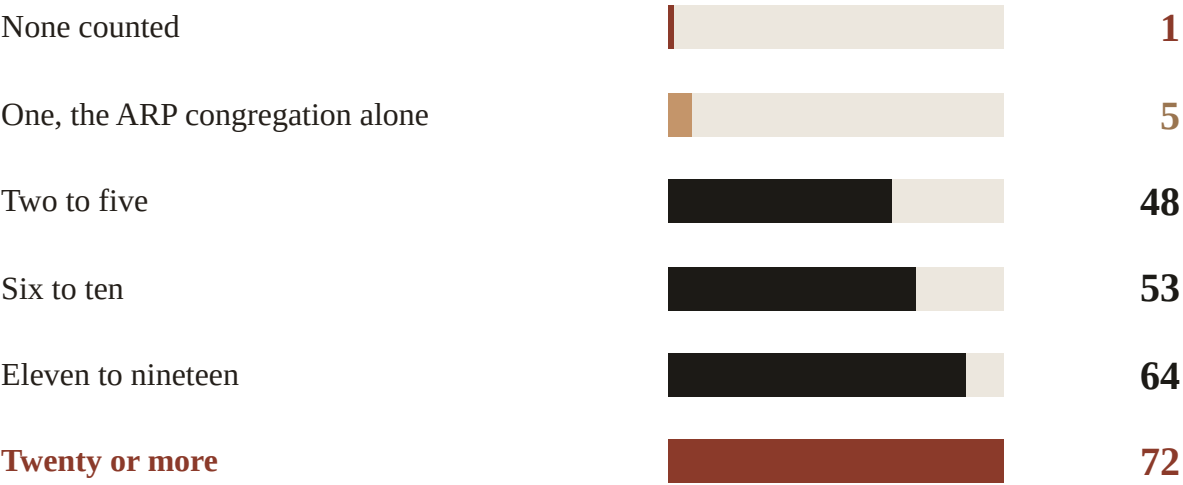
MEASURE	ARP	NATION
GDI (access), mean	48.1	50.0
Churches in tract, mean	16.5	6.8
Miles to nearest other church, mean	0.60	0.96
Tracts with no church at all	0.4%	11.6%
Tracts in the two worst tiers (GDI 60+)	20.2%	20.3%
Tracts in the Desert tier (GDI 75+)	0.0%	1.0%

ACCESS TIER, SHARE OF TRACTS

TIER	ARP	NATION
Watered, 0 to 25	2.1%	1.6%
Sparse, 25 to 45	36.6%	30.9%
Dry, 45 to 60	41.6%	46.3%
Arid, 60 to 75	19.8%	18.9%
Desert, 75 to 100	0.0%	1.0%

The tier distribution is close to the country's and the Arid share is at the national rate, which sets the ARP apart from the PCA and OPC. What is not close to the country is density. The average ARP tract holds 16.5 other churches, two and a half times the national figure and the highest of any roster in the series. One tract in 243 holds no other church.

OTHER CHURCHES COUNTED IN THE TRACT, DISTRIBUTION ACROSS THE 243 ARP TRACTS



29.6%

of ARP tracts hold twenty or more other churches. That is the modal bin, which no other roster in the series comes close to.

04 Settlement type, built form and viability

ARCHETYPE, SHARE OF TRACTS

ARCHETYPE	ARP	NATION
Suburban	57.6%	42.8%
Exurban	19.8%	12.6%
Urban, sparse	17.7%	32.1%
Rural	2.9%	4.6%
Urban, dense	2.1%	7.9%

Fifteen points more suburban and seven points more exurban than the country, and less than a third as present in dense urban tracts. The exurban figure is the highest in the series and is what the Charlotte-region footprint looks like from the census.

BUILT FORM, VIABILITY AND ENCOUNTER FORM

MEASURE	ARP	NATION
MVI composite	50.5	51.2
Street intersection density	49.5	50.0
Third place density	45.6	44.2
Public room density	48.4	47.8
Encounter: thin or fragmented fabric	48.1%	45.1%
Encounter: neighborhood tissue	36.6%	42.2%
Encounter: civic anchor node	13.6%	11.4%
Encounter: commercial node	1.6%	1.3%

MVI POSTURE, SHARE OF ARP TRACTS. DERIVED, SO NO NATIONAL COLUMN

Plant · viable ground, low access		30.0%
Partner · fragile ground, low access		25.1%
Sustain · fragile ground, reached		23.0%
Strengthen · viable ground, reached		21.8%

50% is the full bar.

05 Need pressure and the eight domains

PRESSURE AND POVERTY, TRACT MEANS



12.2%

poverty in the average ARP tract, against 13.2% nationally. Need at the national mean, poverty a point under it.

MINISTRY ALIGNMENT, TRACT MEANS. NATION SCALED TO 50

DOMAIN	ARP	NATION	GAP
Environment	53.2	50.0	+3.2
Reconciliation	52.4	50.0	+2.4
Health	51.0	50.1	+0.9
Economic opportunity	49.1	49.9	-0.8
Family stability	48.8	50.0	-1.2
Education	47.7	50.0	-2.3
Safety and justice	46.6	50.0	-3.4
Housing stability	45.5	50.0	-4.5

The domains split evenly, three above the nation and five below, and none by more than four and a half points. This is the flattest alignment profile in the series: the ARP's ground asks for roughly what the country's ground asks for.

06 Shalom, level and change

SHALOM V2, TRACT MEANS

MEASURE	ARP	NATION	GAP
2024 composite	49.3	49.6	-0.3
2024 living pillar	49.3	49.5	-0.2
2024 health pillar	48.6	48.2	+0.4
2024 hope pillar	51.4	50.3	+1.1
2020 composite	50.2	50.4	-0.2
Change, 2020 to 2024	-0.89	-0.76	-0.13
Tracts that fell since 2020	57.6%	54.6%	+3.0

On level the ARP is the country, to within a point on every pillar. On direction it is slightly worse: the ground fell by 0.89 against 0.76, and 57.6 percent of tracts fell against 54.6. Three points on a base of 243 tracts is seven tracts, so treat the direction as a lean rather than a finding.

THE SHALOM DOMAIN FALLING FASTEST IN EACH TRACT. FROM FIELD INSTRUMENTS, 46.1% COVERAGE

DOMAIN	ARP	NATION
Life and health	33.3%	28.7%
Justice and protection	23.4%	29.3%
Provision and work	21.6%	19.9%
Household and generations	20.7%	19.0%
Social fabric	0.9%	3.1%

-13.5 mean size of that steepest fall, against -14.7 nationally. Base: 112 tracts.

07 The three clocks

This is the layer where the ARP departs from the country most, and it departs in the encouraging direction on two of the three clocks.

GIM V3, THE LONG-BASELINE CLOCK

MEASURE	ARP	NATION
Change per four years, mean	1.85	1.39
Opening	55.3%	54.3%
Opening fast	19.4%	13.6%
Hardening	21.2%	25.7%
Hardening fast	4.1%	6.4%

GDI TRAJECTORY, THE FOUR-VINTAGE CLOCK

MEASURE	ARP	NATION
Slope per year, mean	-0.053	0.005
Total change across vintages, mean	-0.19	0.03
Stable	64.6%	64.4%
Easing, accelerating	9.1%	10.6%
Intensifying, accelerating	10.3%	10.4%
Intensifying, decelerating	4.1%	3.7%
Easing, decelerating	5.8%	3.5%
Easing	3.3%	3.3%

FIELD INSTRUMENTS, DIRECTION AND PRESSURE. 46.1% COVERAGE; SHARES ARE OF THE 112 TRACTS THE LAYER RESOLVES

MEASURE	ARP	NATION
Direction: hardening	83.7%	80.0%
Direction: hardening fast	16.3%	20.0%
Rising pressure: domain only	61.6%	56.3%
Rising pressure: confirmed	37.5%	39.8%
Long exposure	30.4%	18.6%
Vacancy delta, latest	-0.0104	-0.0078
Cost burden delta, latest	+0.0085	+0.0079
Poverty delta, latest	-0.0024	-0.0048

The activation delta is omitted for the reason given in the Assemblies of God report: its national mean is a tail artifact.

Access is improving under ARP tracts on both clocks that measure it. GIM v3 puts the change at 1.85 per four years against 1.39, with the fast-opening share at 19.4 percent against 13.6. The four-vintage trajectory shows the access score falling at 0.053 a year where the country's rises at 0.005, a total of about a fifth of a point over the four vintages. The ground is getting more churchied, faster than the country, which on a roster already at 16.5 churches per tract reads as more of the same rather than as new reach.

The field instruments add one figure that runs the other way. Long exposure, the share of resolved tracts that have carried rising pressure across several vintages, is 30.4 percent against 18.6 nationally. On a base of 112 tracts that is thirty-four congregations sitting in places where the pressure has been rising for a long time.

08 Households: thirty segments

Weighted by full composition and by household count. Lift is the ARP share divided by the national share.

ALL THIRTY CORE SEGMENTS, ORDERED BY NATIONAL SHARE

SEGMENT	LIFEMODE	NATION	ARP	LIFT
Affluent Owner Family Suburbs	L1	13.7%	15.7%	1.15x
Exurban Working Homeowners	L1	13.6%	17.7%	1.30x
Dense Professional and Solo Households	L1	10.3%	7.4%	0.72x
Cost-Pressed Family Suburbs	L1	9.3%	6.1%	0.65x
Highway Corridor Commuters	L9	6.6%	9.4%	1.43x
High-Achievement Homeowners	L1	3.7%	4.0%	1.06x
Established Blue-Collar Homeowners	L2	2.9%	6.0%	2.05x
Affluent Mature Owner Couples	L5	2.7%	3.3%	1.25x
Middle-Income Established Homeowners	L5	2.5%	2.2%	0.87x
Urban Residential Block Holdouts	L8	2.5%	2.8%	1.14x
Affluent New-Build Families	L7	2.3%	3.0%	1.33x
Young Multifamily Workers	L2	2.2%	1.6%	0.70x
Car-Oriented Creative Renters	L4	2.2%	1.3%	0.58x
Low-Income Solo Holdouts	L10	2.1%	2.9%	1.35x
Car-Oriented Working Gateway Families	L6	2.1%	0.6%	0.27x
Professional Multifamily Households	L5	2.0%	1.2%	0.60x
Working New-Subdivision Families	L7	2.0%	1.9%	0.97x
Multifamily First-Timers	L7	1.9%	3.2%	1.68x
Crowded Commuter Families	L2	1.8%	2.0%	1.07x
Industrial-Fringe Homeowners	L10	1.7%	3.3%	1.89x
Young Urban Working Renters	L10	1.6%	0.6%	0.37x
Affluent Transit-City Creatives	L4	1.5%	0.0%	0.00x
Dense Gateway Families	L6	1.5%	0.5%	0.30x

SEGMENT	LIFEMODE	NATION	ARP	LIFT
Crowded Extended-Family Homeowners	L5	1.4%	1.0%	0.69x
Logistics-Corridor Homeowners	L6	1.3%	0.5%	0.41x
Transit-Dependent Gateway Households	L6	1.3%	0.7%	0.55x
Established Urban Gateway Homeowners	L6	1.2%	0.2%	0.18x
Dense Solo Gateway Renters	L6	0.8%	0.5%	0.58x
Garden Apartment Young Adults	L3	0.7%	0.5%	0.71x
Bus-Dependent Renters	L8	0.5%	0.2%	0.29x

The shape is blue-collar and exurban. Established Blue-Collar Homeowners at 2.05x is the strongest single lift on any roster in the series, followed by Industrial-Fringe Homeowners at 1.89x and Multifamily First-Timers at 1.68x. Every one of the six gateway segments runs under half the national share, four of them under a third. Affluent Transit-City Creatives is absent altogether.

LIFEMODE OF THE DOMINANT SEGMENT, SHARE OF TRACTS

LIFEMODE	ARP	NATION
L1 Family suburbs and exurbs	49.0%	52.1%
L9 Corridor commuters	11.5%	6.8%
L5 Established and mature	8.2%	8.3%
L7 New-build	8.2%	5.2%
L2 Working established	7.4%	6.0%
L10 Holdouts and fringe	6.2%	4.6%
L6 Gateway	4.1%	9.4%
L8 Urban residential	3.3%	3.4%
L3 Young adult apartment	1.2%	0.9%
L4 Creative renters	0.8%	3.3%

CONTEXT MODIFIERS, SHARE OF TRACTS CARRYING EACH

MODIFIER	ARP	NATION
Long-commute rhythm	16.5%	14.1%
Public housing community	15.2%	15.4%
Displacement pressure	14.4%	11.7%
Elevated chronic-health burden	8.2%	12.8%
Household crowding pressure	7.0%	11.4%
Military-adjacent	7.0%	11.2%
HBCU-adjacent	4.1%	2.2%
Limited-English concentration	3.7%	5.4%
University-town context	3.7%	2.3%
Renter cost pressure	3.3%	2.9%
Retirement-community profile	0.8%	1.9%
Farmworker concentration	0.8%	1.9%

The ARP is the one roster in the series over-indexed on HBCU-adjacent tracts, at nearly twice the national rate, which follows from where its 126 Carolina congregations sit. It runs under the country on chronic-health burden, crowding and military adjacency by about a third each.

DEMOGRAPHICS, TRACT MEANS

MEASURE	ARP	NATION
Child share of population	21.4%	21.4%
Elderly share	18.4%	17.6%
Working-age share	60.2%	60.9%
Family household share	66.5%	64.7%
Racial diversity index	0.528	0.528
Age diversity index	0.838	0.817

09 Field signals

Scored on 137 of the 243 tracts, 56.4 percent. Every share below is of those 137.

SIGNAL SCORE, TIER AND FLAGS

MEASURE	ARP	NATION
Signal score, mean	46.2	49.8
Tier: watch	63.5%	70.6%
Tier: hot	27.0%	22.7%
Tier: positive	9.5%	6.7%
Flag: thin presence	69.3%	74.2%
Flag: daytime isolation	59.9%	65.2%
Flag: housing pressure	46.7%	53.7%
Flag: accessible desert	10.9%	14.8%
Flag: new activity	16.8%	7.7%
Flag: easing	5.8%	4.9%
Flag: intensifying	5.1%	4.8%
Flag: school-age pressure	2.2%	3.7%
Flag: displacement risk	0.7%	1.4%

The new-activity flag runs at more than twice the national rate, 16.8 percent against 7.7, which agrees with the GIM v3 fast-opening share in section 7. The hot tier also runs above the nation. On a base of 137 tracts the new-activity figure is 23 congregations.

10 Twenty-four neighborhood patterns

Share of tracts where the pattern is unhealthy. Ten risk-named patterns are swapped before counting and marked.

ORDERED BY NATIONAL RATE

PATTERN	ARP	NATION	GAP
Household mix	100.0%	100.0%	0.0
Children in the city	100.0%	100.0%	0.0
Old people everywhere	100.0%	99.3%	+0.7
Life cycle	98.8%	99.3%	-0.5
Neighborhood tissue	81.1%	85.6%	-4.5
Stable family anchor	86.8%	84.5%	+2.3
Social belonging	71.2%	78.1%	-6.9
Caregiver pressure *	79.4%	72.5%	+6.9
Community fragmentation *	67.9%	71.5%	-3.6
Family pressure *	72.0%	65.9%	+6.1
Civic anchor node	63.0%	64.9%	-1.9
Activity nodes	62.1%	63.6%	-1.5
Small public squares	63.0%	62.8%	+0.2
Mosaic of subcultures	65.0%	61.5%	+3.5
Network of paths	58.4%	57.7%	+0.7
Burnout belt *	60.1%	57.0%	+3.1
School-age pressure *	53.9%	50.8%	+3.1
Under-resourced *	48.6%	50.1%	-1.5
Third-space deficit *	43.2%	49.7%	-6.5
Car-dependent exurb *	48.6%	49.5%	-0.9
Identifiable neighborhood	1.2%	4.8%	-3.6
Elder isolation *	0.0%	0.4%	-0.4
Transient renters *	0.0%	0.1%	-0.1

* risk-named, polarity swapped before counting.

Four patterns depart from the nation by six points or more, two in each direction. Social belonging and third-space deficit are healthier than the country by about seven points each; caregiver pressure and family pressure are worse by about the same. Places with intact public life and strained households, which is a fair one-line description of an established Southern suburb.

11 Situation tags

Resolved on 235 of 243 tracts, 96.7 percent.

SHARE OF TRACTS CARRYING EACH TAG

TAG	ARP	NATION	RATIO
Thin church ecology	51.4%	62.9%	0.82
Housing fragility	27.2%	36.9%	0.74
Rising need	23.0%	13.6%	1.69
Daytime isolation	13.6%	24.1%	0.56
Majority-minority	9.9%	9.8%	1.01
Gospel absence	9.5%	6.8%	1.40
Compound stress	9.1%	5.6%	1.63
Chronic disinvestment	8.6%	3.9%	2.21
Accessible desert	8.6%	11.1%	0.77
Pressure rising	8.2%	11.9%	0.69
Conditions improving	6.2%	8.9%	0.70
Health crisis	5.8%	4.8%	1.21
Mercy entry indicated	4.9%	4.2%	1.17
New church activity	4.5%	4.6%	0.98

Chronic disinvestment is raised on ARP tracts at 2.21 times the national rate, rising need at 1.69, compound stress at 1.63. Those are the three tags for long-running hardship rather than acute hardship, and they agree with the long-exposure figure from the field instruments. On a base of 235 tracts, chronic disinvestment is twenty tracts.

12 The nearest churchless high-need tract

DISTANCE FROM EACH CONGREGATION TO THE NEAREST OF THE 547 CHURCHLESS HIGH-NEED TRACTS

Median distance	27.4 mi
Within five miles	28
Within fifteen miles	82
Distinct target tracts referenced	71

10.9% of congregations are within five miles of one; 32.0% within fifteen.

THE TARGET TRACTS NEAREST FOR THE MOST CONGREGATIONS

PLACE	CONGREGATIONS
Mecklenburg County, NC (two tracts)	33 and 21
Durham County, NC	18
Anderson County, SC	15
Richland County, SC	11

Two churchless high-need tracts in Mecklenburg County are the nearest for 54 ARP congregations between them, a fifth of the denomination. That is the Charlotte footprint again: the roster's centre of mass is close to two of the 547 and far from the rest.

13 The opening frontier

THE ROSTER AGAINST THE 2,186 OPENING DESERTS AND THEIR 3,185-TRACT MIRROR

Congregations standing in an opening desert	6
Share of the roster	2.3%
Opening deserts with an ARP church	6
Congregations in the mirror	10
Mirror to frontier ratio	1.7 : 1
Presence against chance	0.95

0.95

is the actual six against the 6.3 tracts a random scatter of 243 would put on the frontier. The ARP is the closest roster in the series to chance, and the lowest mirror ratio.

Six congregations is too few to describe, so the section stops here. Two facts carry: the ARP's rate of frontier presence, 2.3 percent, is the highest of the four rosters, and its mirror ratio of 1.7 to 1 is the lowest. On both it is the least behind. It is also 256 churches.

14 The one cut the roster allows

The roster carries no presbytery, classification or planting column, so the structural cuts the Assemblies of God and OPC reports run are not available. The only division the data supports is geographic, and it is a stark one: the Carolinas against everywhere else.

CONGREGATIONS BY REGION

North and South Carolina		126
The other twenty-one states		130

49%

of the denomination is in two states. Florida, Virginia and New York together hold another 49, so five states hold 175 of 256.

A presbytery column would turn this into a real comparison. The ARP has nine presbyteries and the difference between, say, Catawba and Northeast on any of the measures above would be worth knowing. It is the first thing to ask for.

15 Against the other rosters

All four columns are tract means on distinct tracts, computed the same way.

MEASURE	ARP	PCA	OPC	AG	NATION
Congregations placed	256	1,734	334	11,008	—
Distinct tracts	243	1,674	331	9,650	84,414
States with a church	23	50	44	50	—
Access (GDI)	48.1	46.1	46.1	50.3	50.0
Need pressure	50.7	48.5	45.1	52.7	50.2
Poverty	12.2%	12.1%	9.9%	14.7%	13.2%
Churches in tract	16.5	10.8	8.5	9.7	6.8
Miles to nearest church	0.60	0.57	0.77	1.08	0.96
MVI	50.5	55.6	54.8	51.2	51.2
Suburban	57.6%	52.8%	56.5%	54.2%	42.8%
Exurban	19.8%	8.8%	8.5%	11.8%	12.6%
Rural	2.9%	1.5%	1.2%	2.8%	4.6%
Urban dense	2.1%	6.8%	3.0%	5.3%	7.9%
Access tier: Arid	19.8%	10.9%	7.9%	18.0%	18.9%
Shalom 2024	49.3	51.5	54.9	47.3	49.6
GIM v3 change per 4 yr	1.85	—	1.39	1.37	1.39
Share in an opening desert	2.3%	1.6%	0.6%	2.1%	—
Frontier presence against chance	0.95	0.58	0.23	0.85	—
Mirror to frontier ratio	1.7	2.0	3.5	2.0	—

The ARP is the most exurban roster by a wide margin, the most church-dense by a wider one, and the only reformed roster with an Arid share at the national rate. It is also the closest to chance on the frontier and the lowest on the mirror ratio. The PCA's GIM v3 figure is not in its audit run and is left blank rather than estimated.

16 What this cannot say

- 243** **The base is small.** One tract is 0.4 percent. Any share in this report that differs from the nation by less than two points is inside the noise of a 243-tract sample, and the two half-coverage layers rest on 137 and 112 tracts. The report names the base wherever a figure leans on one.
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- **No structural column.** The roster carries no presbytery, so there is no internal comparison of the kind the other two reports run. The Carolinas split in section 14 is geography, not polity.
-
- 1** **One row did not join.** It carried no geoid. The roster arrived geocoded, so the material loss that the Assemblies of God report carries does not apply here.
-
- **Churchless is not unreached.** The one ARP tract with no church counted holds an ARP church, so the church data has at least one gap here too.
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- **Two ACS columns are empty** in both the dump and the national cache and are not reported.
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- **The roster carries no dates.** One snapshot. The two clocks in section 7 measure the ground, not the denomination.
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- **Nothing here counts ministry.** Where the buildings are and what kind of ground surrounds them.

A1 How to reproduce every figure

Sections 1 through 12 are `denom:audit` on `arp-gospelgraph-dump.csv`, saved as `arp-full-layer-audit.txt`. Section 8's thirty-segment table is `arp-segments-all-30.csv`. Section 13 is `denom:frontier`. All in `design/denominations/`, with the scripts and column dictionary in `README.md` and `RUNBOOK.md`.

PUBLISHED ALONGSIDE THIS AT GOSPELGRAPH.COM

Every GospelGraph resource · the glossary, the methodology and the rest of the field reports.

GOSPELGRAPH DATA REPORT · ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN ROSTER 2026-09-19 · 2020 CENSUS TRACTS · FULL DUMP AND SEARCHABLE DATA ON REQUEST