

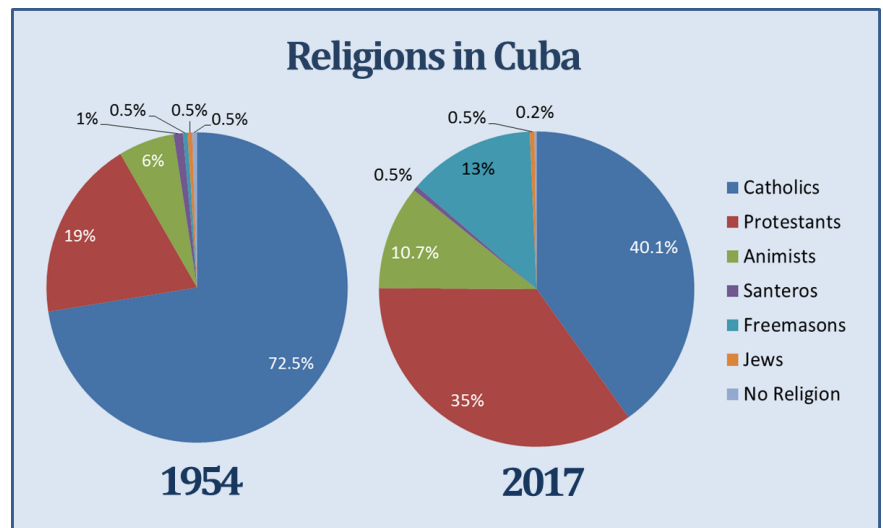


THE CHURCH IN CUBA: BY THE NUMBERS (There is significant variation in the percentages and statistics offered by religious bodies and other sources. Information provided is not necessarily definitive, and statistics are approximate.)

In 1954, a survey conducted by the University Catholic Group (ACU) to determine the religious feeling of the Cuban population found that 96.5% of people believed in the existence of God. According to the survey, Cubans identify with the following denominations:¹

Since 1992, the Cuban Church has experienced increased growth.² At the close of the 1980s, there were only 1,250 officially registered Protestant congregations. In 2012, it was estimated that between 20,000 and 30,000 house churches operated across the country. Most are satellite congregations of churches that existed prior to the 1959 Revolution and belong to well-established denominations with a historic presence in Cuba. Most of these house churches have somewhere between 30 and 200 members who regularly attend services.

Currently, there are 58 officially registered denominations in Cuba. The largest Evangelical groups are:



Denominations	No. of churches	No. of people
Baptist Convention of Eastern Cuba	420	100,000
Baptist Convention of Western Cuba	515	108,000
Assemblies of God	700	300,000
Los Pinos Nuevos	400	140,000
Evangelical League of Cuba	175	80,000
Methodist Church	500	184,000
Adventists	500	80,000
Other protestants (51 denominations)	1,190	208,000
APPROX. TOTAL	4,400	1,200,000

¹ *The Catholic Church in Cuba*. Edited by the Hope and Truth Press Office, Central Preparatory Commission for the Papal Visit. Las Siervas de los Corazones Traspasados de Jesús y María (The Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary). SCTJM.
² Johnstone, Patrick and Mandryk, Jason. Waynesboro, Georgia: Paternoster. 1993, p. 188.

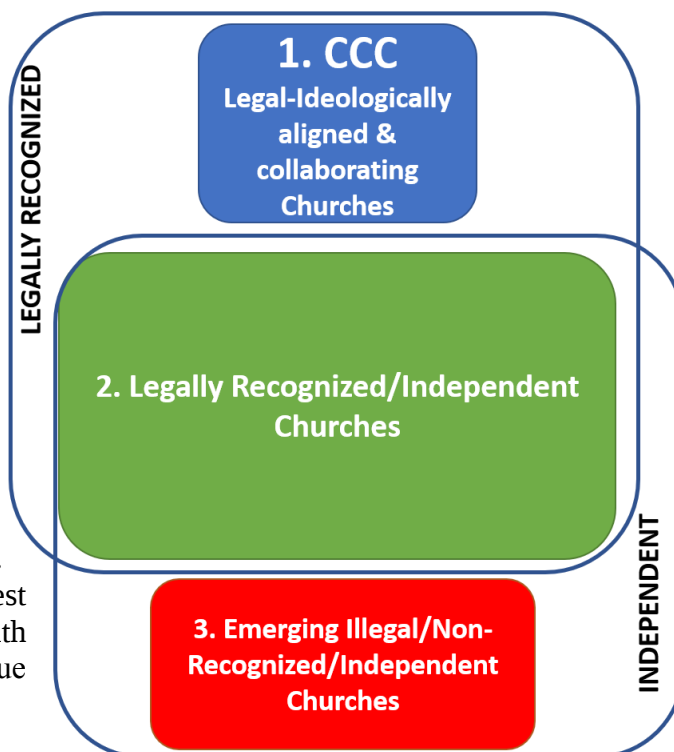
The notable growth of the protestant church is significant. At the start of the revolution, Cuban protestants only numbered approximately 190,000; however, this growth has been gradual and particularly significant, to the point of attaining an important impact with the approximate sum of 1.2 million protestants spread all over the island in 2017. Other current statistics of the Cuban Church:

Approximate number of local churches	4,400
Officially authorized house churches	32,000 e

THE CHURCH IN CUBA: DESCRIPTION –

The Protestant Church is divided in three main groups:

- 1. The Legal-Ideologically aligned and collaborating Churches** – These are churches under the Cuban Council of Churches (CCC), also known as the Cuban Ecumenical Council. A private, pro-regime sanctioned umbrella organization which includes 25 religious organizations (representing less than 20% of the protestant community. The CCC appears as an independent entity, but the GOC controls it.
- 2. The Legally Recognized/Independent Churches** – Traditional churches groups. Seven large conventions with 3,210 churches and approx. 24,000 house churches. They represent the greatest percentage of protestant churches. They work with the “tolerance” of the GOC with coherisive dialogue and preassure to allign to the GOC’s interests.
- 3. The Emerging Illegal/Non-Recognized/Independent Churches** - Composed by churches not registered before 1959. Growing church with approximately 90 groups accounting for 12% of the Cuban evangelical church. Since they are illegal, they are openly persecuted by the GOC.



THE CHURCH IN CUBA: THEIR ROLE - The faith-based community plays a key role within Cuba’s civil society as they possess the densest and largest independent networks in Cuba. Churches and religious actors lead the dialogue on human rights, are advocates for constructive, peaceful reform, and provide social services for communities and at-risk vulnerable populations. The church advocates for the respect of fundamental rights; promotes freedom of expression and democratic values; promotes networking and collaboration; builds capacity (e.g. leadership, communication, problem-solving, relationship-building, resources management, organizational development, accountability, and strategic planning).; train community and youth leaders; provide humanitarian services and post disasters aid; and works, engages and provides services to at-risk and vulnerable populations.

