

**NORTH TEXAS CONFERENCE  
COUNTING WORSHIP ATTENDANCE IN EZRA FOR 2020**

(12/17/2020)

1. Your church should already have in place a system it has used in 2020 to count online worship attendance, so some of the following information may just be additional items to consider.
2. We recommend the following for counting worship attendance not only for 2020 but also as churches record worship attendance in 2021, continuing until the ability to have in person worship resumes with no concerns for social distancing.
3. We are attempting to get an accurate picture of worship attendance whether it was in-person or online, and since the numbers are an average, we don't want possibly low in-person attendance skewing the averages.

**Counting weekly online worship attendance (Whatever your church chooses, be consistent!)**

- Count online attendance as not a "scroll" but worshippers who stayed connected for 20-30 minutes, no matter which online platform was used.
- Count one Sunday of worship attendance as "one week." I.E., count Sunday thru Saturday as one worship service. Since worshippers can worship anytime now, there needs to be a cutoff. A 7-day week seems appropriate rather than counting every time a particular Facebook or You Tube service is watched months later.
- Decide what one "view" means. Is it one person, two persons, 1.8 persons? Whatever system your church chooses to count the number of online viewers in a home at any one time, be consistent.

**Recording attendance on your check-out forms in Ezra (Line 7 is in-person worship. Line 7a is online worship.)**

***The final report for Lines 7 and 7a on the online Ezra check-out forms are AVERAGES, not totals.***

**Line 7 – In person worship**

- January, February, and part of March
  - Register attendance in Line 7 for the weeks you had **full** in-person worship services. In the North Texas Conference, that would be January, February, and some portion of March. Use Line 7a for your online worship those weeks as you would have normally done in the previous year.

**Line 7a—Online worship**

- Register attendance in Line 7a for when your church had **only** online worship from mid-March to when you stopped just online services.
- Register any Sundays you offered **ONLY** online worship at any time, such as when you stopped in person services for a couple of weeks this summer or fall and returned to online only.

**Line 7 and Line 7a--Mixed in-person and online worship**

- **IF**, when you returned to in-person worship and **IF** your attendance between in-person and online matched pre-pandemic numbers, record them in the appropriate lines, Line 7 and Line 7a.
- **Otherwise**, decide whether your greatest attendance was in-person or online, and record your attendance in **only** Line 7 or Line 7a. Even though you had worship both in person and online, don't use both lines when there is a preponderance of attendance in, for example, online.