



Religion in the “None” Zone: A Snapshot of the Pacific Northwest

Bibliography

- *Religion and Public Life in the Pacific Northwest*, Patricia Killen and Mark Silk, eds., AltaMira Press, 2004.
- *The Pacific Northwest: An Interpretive History*, Carlos Schwantes, University of Nebraska Press, 1996.
- *Between Earth and Sky : Our Intimate Connections To Trees*, Nalini Nadkarni, University of California Press, 2008.

Outline

1. Early contact and PNW religion
2. PNW vs. national religious demographics
3. Religious Characteristics of the “None” Zone
4. Main clusters of PNW religious communities

Early Contact and PNW Religion

- Whitman Massacre
- Oregon Trail Missionary Activity
- Religion and Education

Religious Adherents: (as % of total population)

Pacific Northwest

1. Catholic (11%)
2. Holiness/Wesleyan/
Pentecostal (5%)
3. Other conservative Christian (4%)
4. Mormons (3%)
5. Baptists (2.6%)

*Unaffiliated/Uncounted (63%)

U.S.

1. Catholic (22%)
2. Baptist (8.5%)
3. Historically African-American
Protestant (7.4%)
4. United Methodist (3.7%)
5. Other conservative Christian
(2.8%)

*Unaffiliated/Uncounted (40%)

The None Zone: Religious Characteristics

- We are “unchurched”
- We are both inviting and indifferent to religious groups
- Relative lack of influence of religion on public life, compared with other areas of the U.S.
- We tend to be highly individualistic and self-absorbed in our religious practices
- We have a history of institutional interfaith cooperation.
- Nature and the environment draw PWNers to religion.

Traditional Clusters of PNW Religious Communities

- Religiously civic oriented. Mainline Protestant, Catholic, Reform and Conservative Jews (“Religious Establishment”)
- Sectarian entrepreneurs
- Native Rim peoples/immigrant pluralist
- Religiously non-institutional (secular but spiritual)

Emerging Centers of Religious Gravity

- Evangelicals
- Spiritual Environmentalists