

Abstract

The Sources of Denominationalism: A socio-theological analysis of contemporary Jamaica

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This work is an exploration of the sources of denominationalism/ congregationalism and congregational choice within the Jamaican context by using socio-theological methodology. With the help of a quantitative instrument called Congregational Mapping (CM) the project established that there are 3189 congregations in the 1477 districts surveyed. These congregations are in 209 denominations or church groupings and 78 independent units. These were then classified into four groups and then subjected to analysis with the help of the Congregational Choice Survey Questionnaire (CCSQ) administered in 30 congregations. From the results obtained from the use of these two instruments, it was concluded that in the matter of congregational choice the sociological impulse was greater than the theological. It was further argued that the tendency towards fragmentation of denominations in the Jamaican context was caused by the ongoing negotiation between transplantation and indigenization.