



History of AUC/UWM

A new understanding
of an old story



Rev. Shad Groverland
President/CEO

**Have you heard about the
historical conflict that
created UWM?**





Why talk about UWM history?

There are many versions of the story pertaining to how the “Association” branched off from “Unity School”

Many of these are steeped with juicy tales of conflict and in-fighting

These stories have created a “shadow” that has hung around the movement for far too long

Our goal for this presentation, is to discern:

- What actually happened
- When it happened
- How it happened
- Why it happened





MOVE FORWARD

Ultimately, it is time to bring closure to the story and move forward in harmony.



Let's talk about dates

1889, 1903, 1914, 1915, 1925, 1933,
1946, 1964, 1965, 1966, 2010, 2019

Myrtle “called for a room large enough
to seat two hundred people.”

(1939 DoY P44)

1889

1903

1914

1915

Unity Society of Practical Christianity incorporated.

In the bylaws: ...right to “license properly qualified persons to perform all the privileges of a minister of the gospel.”

(1939 DoY p51)

1889

1903

1914

1915

Incorporation of Unity School of Christianity

(1939 DoY p67)

1889

1903

1914

1915

Field Department established

(AoUCI p1)

1889

1903

1914

1915

Unity Annual Conference formed.

Name changes to Unity Ministers Association in 1946.

(AoUCI p10)

1925

1933

1964

1965

Ministerial Training Program established

(AoUCI p2)

1925

1933

1964

1965

We recommend that Unity School, through its Field Department, do all these things to adequately expand its activities, to provide it with a staff, and to respect the initiative of the leaders and Unity Centers in the Field...

(AoUCI p2-8)

It was also agreed that, in the future, it seems logical that the Field Department, or at least the Field Department, be a part of the new Unity School. Field Department should be involved in every Unity group, Center, or Church in the Field...

The year in the Field Ministry [Department] has teachers; demonstrated its growing capacity; as assuming increased responsibility for the administration of its own affairs. The District Ministers' Association itself has consistently has taken effective steps in this direction. Through the expansion of its Executive Board, and the assumption of the capacity of administrative functions.

During the growth of the Field Ministry [Department], the Unity School has, wholly or in part, performed many functions which by their very nature can be handled more efficiently by the field itself.

Ministers Association and
Field Ministry Department
branch off to form
Association of Unity Churches Incorporated

1966

2010

2019

2023

Association of Unity Churches Inc.
adopts the new Unity branding
and establishes the DBA name
Unity Worldwide Ministries

1966

2010

2019

2023

WHEREAS, while the Corporation intends to engage in many support activities for the School and the Association in the future, its initial activity will be the ownership and use of certain domain names, trademarks and branding materials.

(SUPPORT SERVICE, INC. MEMBER AGREEMENT)

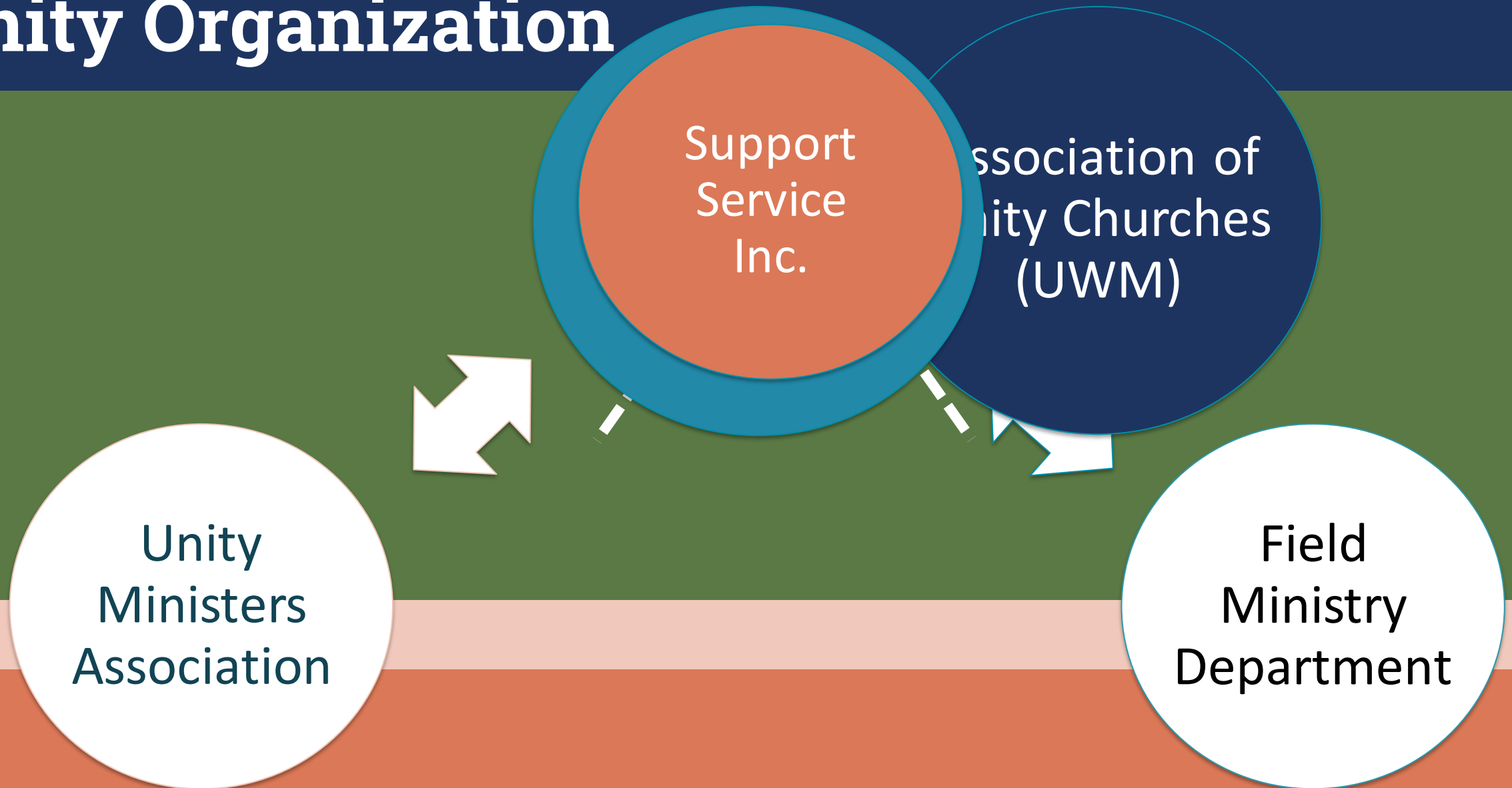
1988

2010

2019

2023

Unity Organization



In 1966, Charles R. Fillmore, grandson of the founders and President of Unity School, issued "Directive 4" (Bulletin #4) which severed Unity's organizational control of the field ministries. He did this because he sincerely believed that the field ministers would be better off forming their own organization and managing their own affairs.

It just may be that Charles R. Fillmore perceived that Unity school's declaration about the "true church of Christ" being not physical but spiritual was inhibiting the ability of the field ministers to attract people into their physical centers and churches.



History of AUC/UWM

How many ministries do we have!?



How many ministries?

Did we ever have
1,000+ ministries
worldwide?

NO

Did we lose 400
ministries in the
last 22 years?

NO

Is anyone keeping
accurate data?

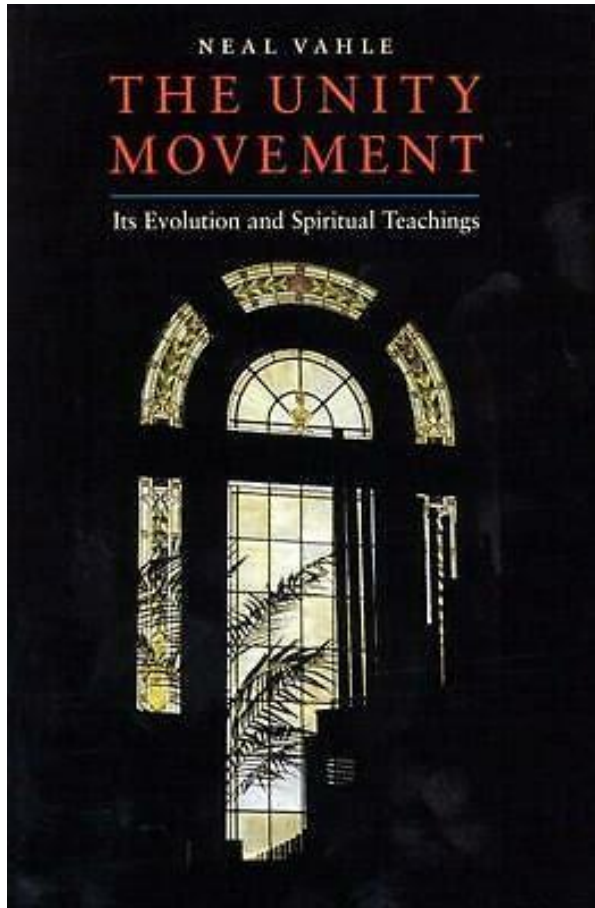
**We are working
on it**





Neal Vahle

The Unity Movement



p. 333

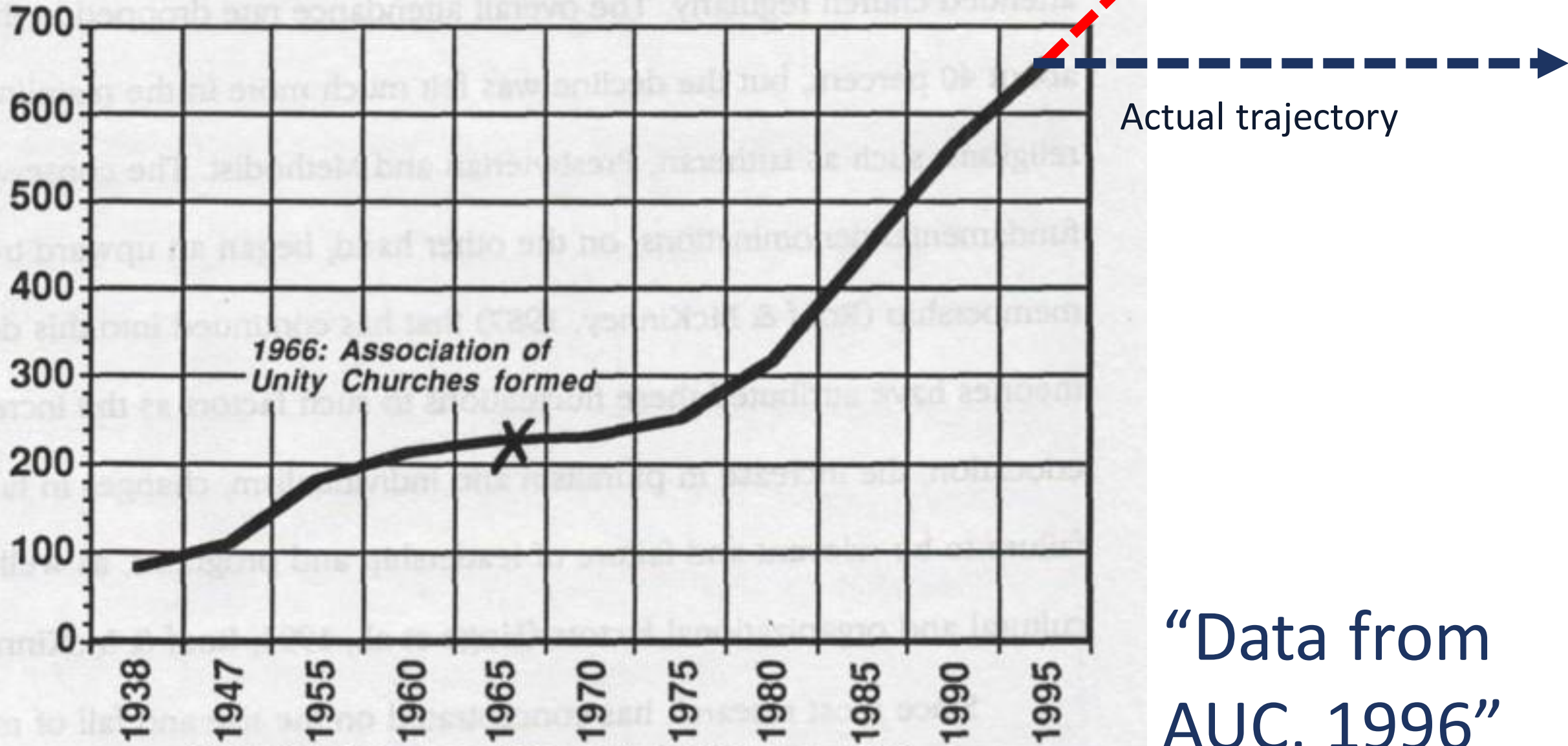
“...in the program of the Fourth Annual Convention in October 1926 stated: ‘unity has **1,700** centers or branch schools or study classes.’”

p.351

“The Association has grown and developed in the three-plus decades of its existence. The number of ministries increased from 213 in 1966 to **over 1,000** by December 1999.”

Figure 11

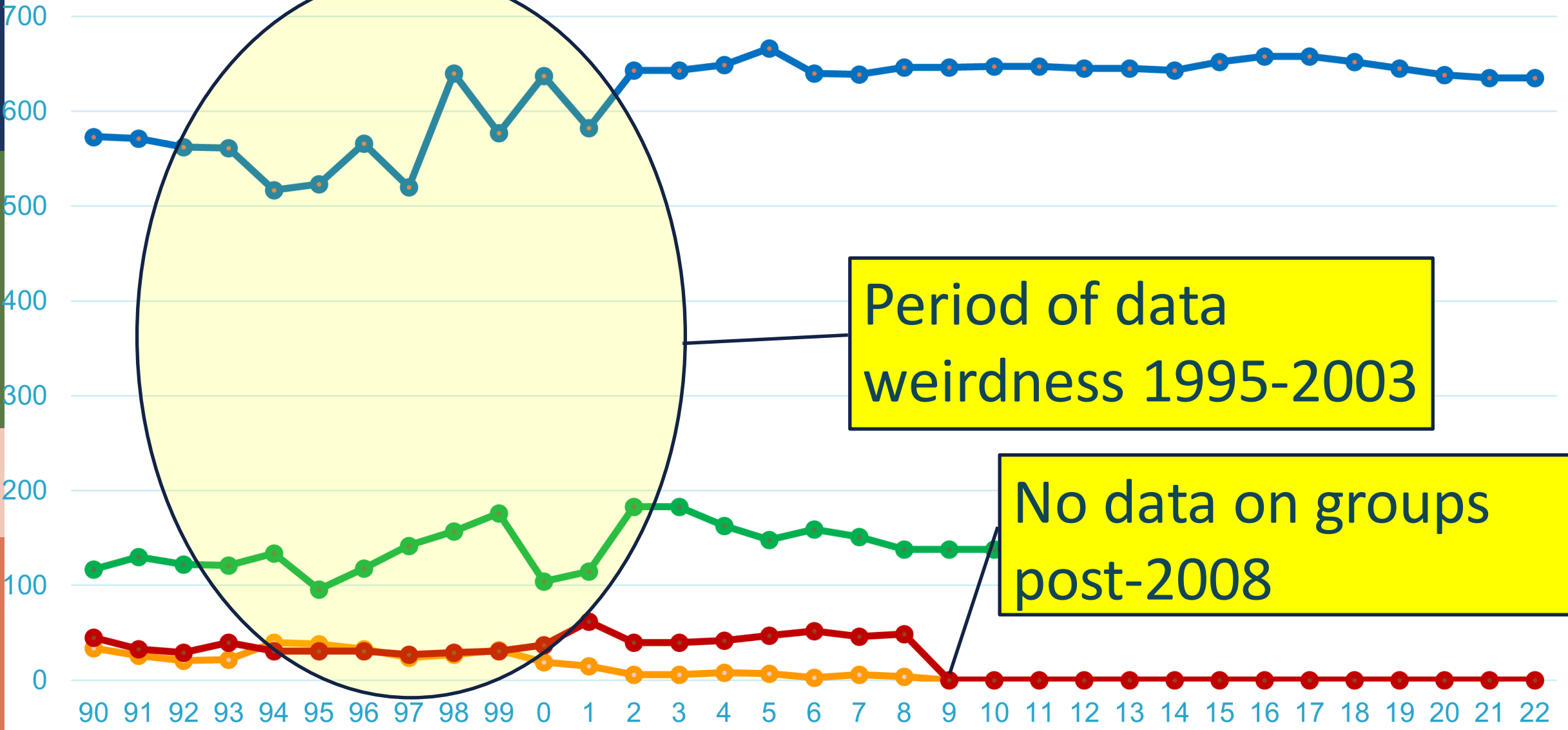
Number of Unity Churches



Note: Data from Association of Unity Churches, 1996.

“Data from
AUC, 1996”

Ministries and Groups 1990-2022

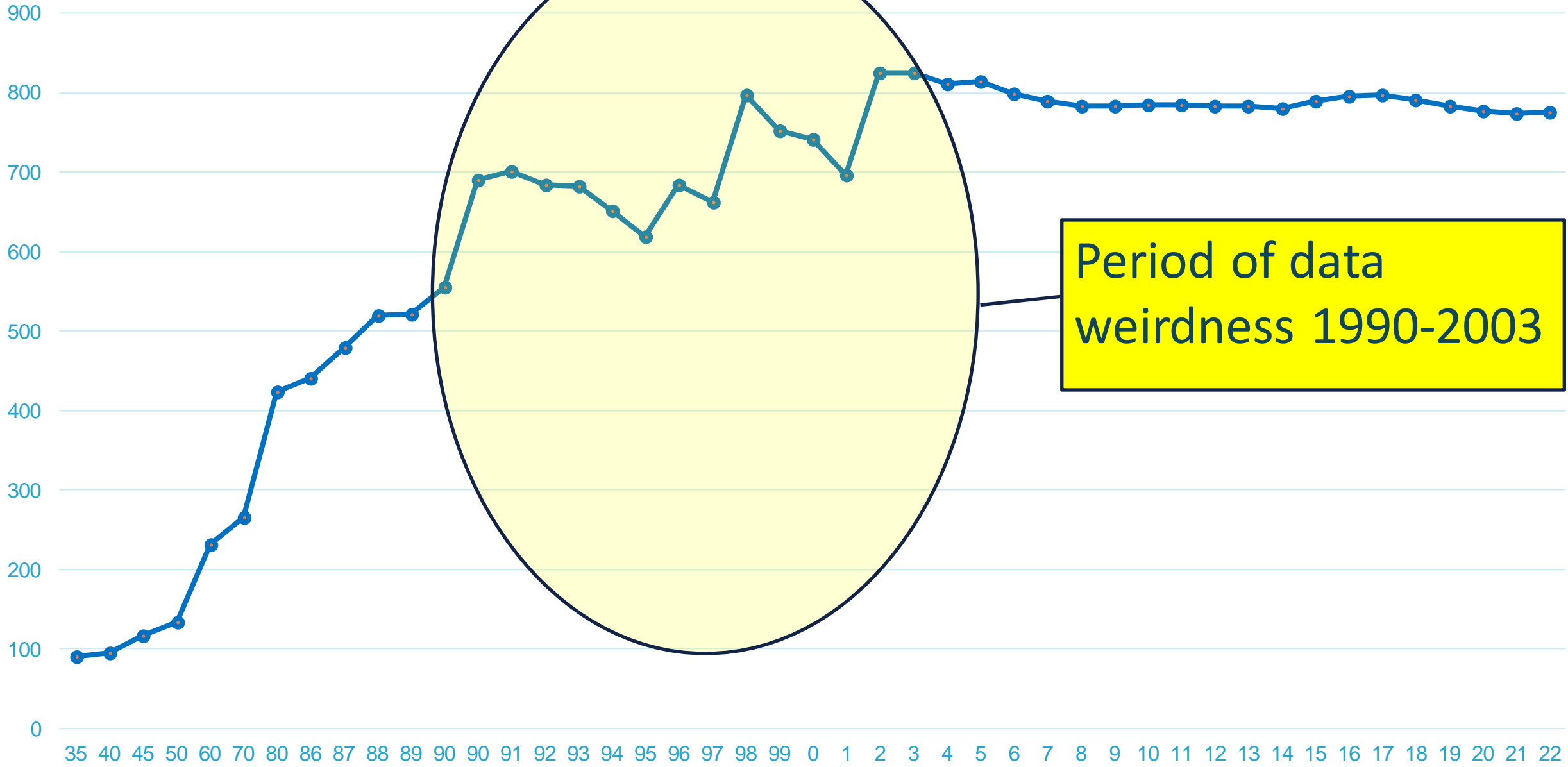


Period of data weirdness 1995-2003

No data on groups post-2008



Ministries and Groups 1935-2022



Period of data
weirdness 1990-2003

Total Ministries



Staff
Update

History of ATO/OWM

How many ministries do we have!?



Current Data

Update

- In full transparency
- Two ways to look at the data
 - Last known ministries
 - Based on historic and current data
 - Shown yesterday
 - Currently verified ministries
 - Made contact with, in last 12 months
 - Let's look at it now



Current Data

Update

- Last known (yesterday)
 - 637 Domestic Ministries
 - 140 International Ministries
- Verified
 - 550-562 Domestic Ministries
 - 83 International



Individual & Ministry Giving

- 60% Domestic Ministries Giving
- 15% Domestic Ministers Giving
- 16% Domestic Active LUTs Giving



Questions?

