

## **ABSTRACT**

Changing technologies and cultures make possible new ways of analyzing, understanding, and mapping religious geography. This study illustrates how GIS technology can provide a view of the details in the structures and adherents of the churchscape of America. GIS allows more detailed exploration of diversity in the American religious landscape than previous research has uncovered in spite of very limited data availability. This study has illustrated that the religious landscape of America is very complicated and multi-faceted. The physical locations tell us that our nation is a Baptist nation, whereas the adherent population tells us that our nation is a Catholic nation. The diversity of religious beliefs and practices that is part of the fabric of the country's foundation is also reflected in the current landscape. Cluster analysis of physical church locations shows us that churches cluster together regardless of denomination. This study raises questions regarding the exceptional nature of the American religious landscape. The findings call for other disciplines such as sociology, planning, and theology to examine in more detail the diversity found in the religious landscape of America.