

# Pastor Views on July 4<sup>th</sup> Church Services

Survey of Protestant Pastors

# Methodology

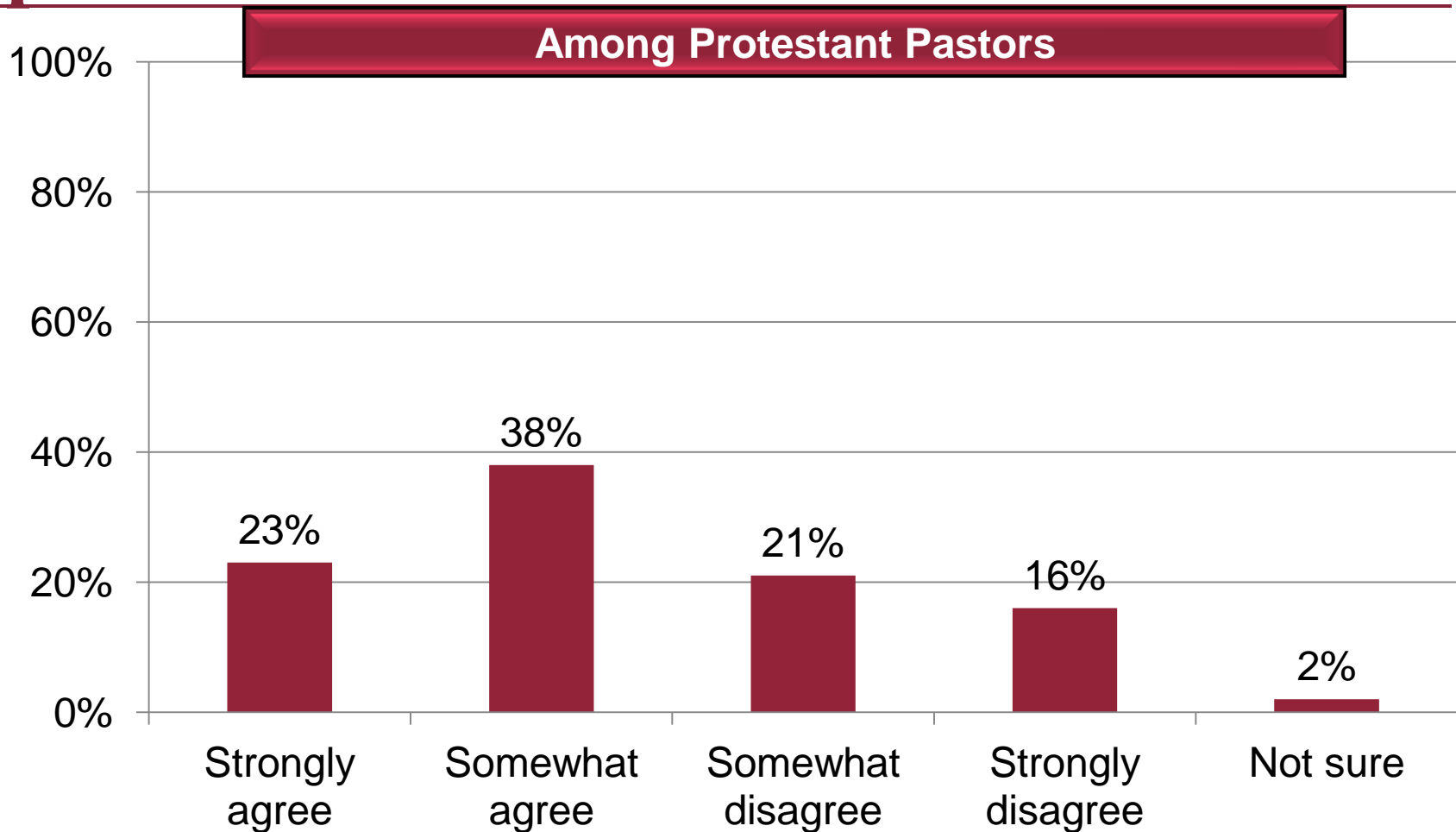
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- ❑ The phone survey of Protestant pastors was conducted March 9 - 24, 2016
- ❑ The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size and Black Protestant denominations.
- ❑ Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest of the church called
- ❑ Responses were weighted by region to more accurately reflect the population
- ❑ The completed sample is 1,000 surveys
- ❑ The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed  $\pm 3.2\%$
- ❑ Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

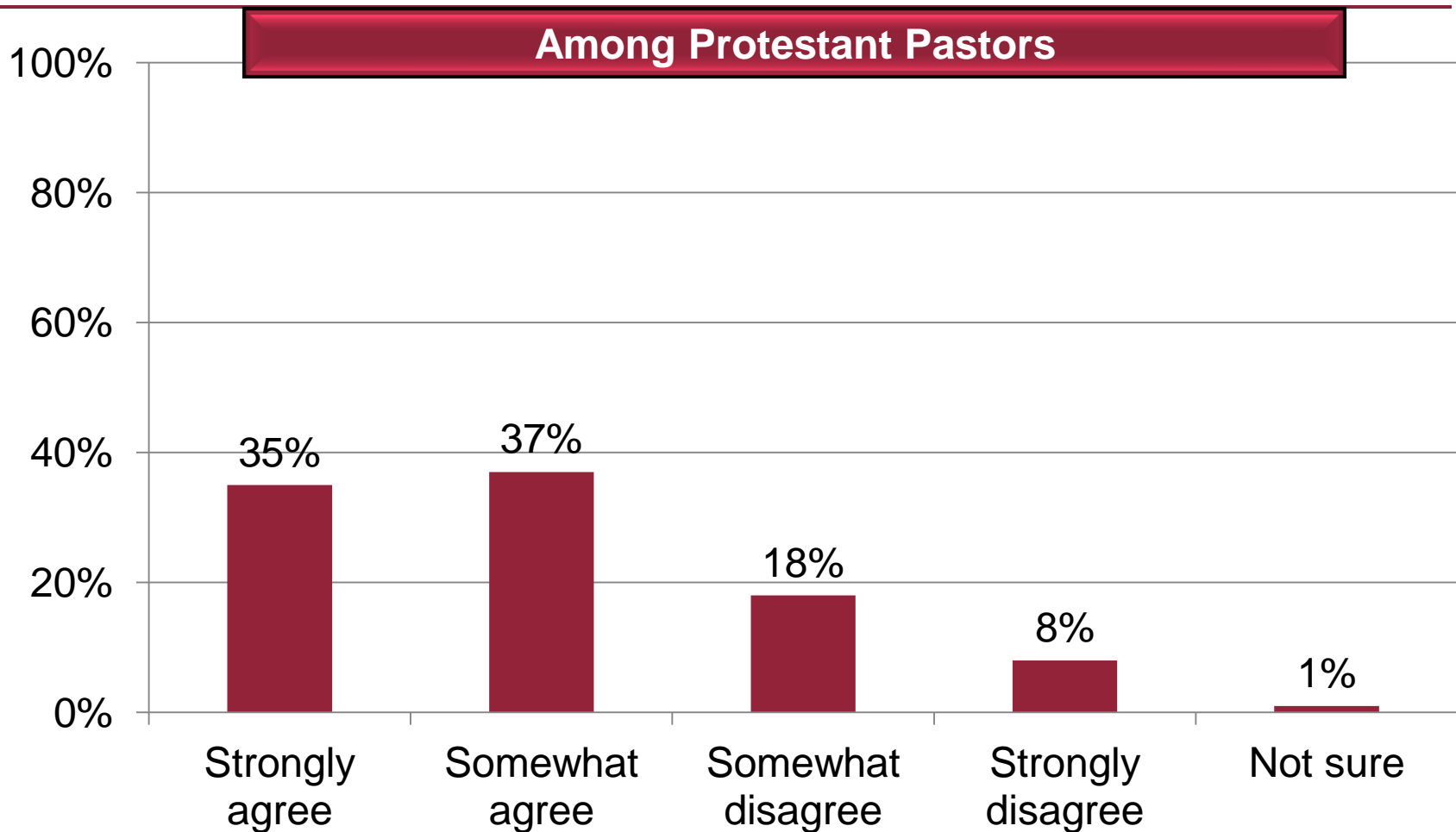
# Survey Responses

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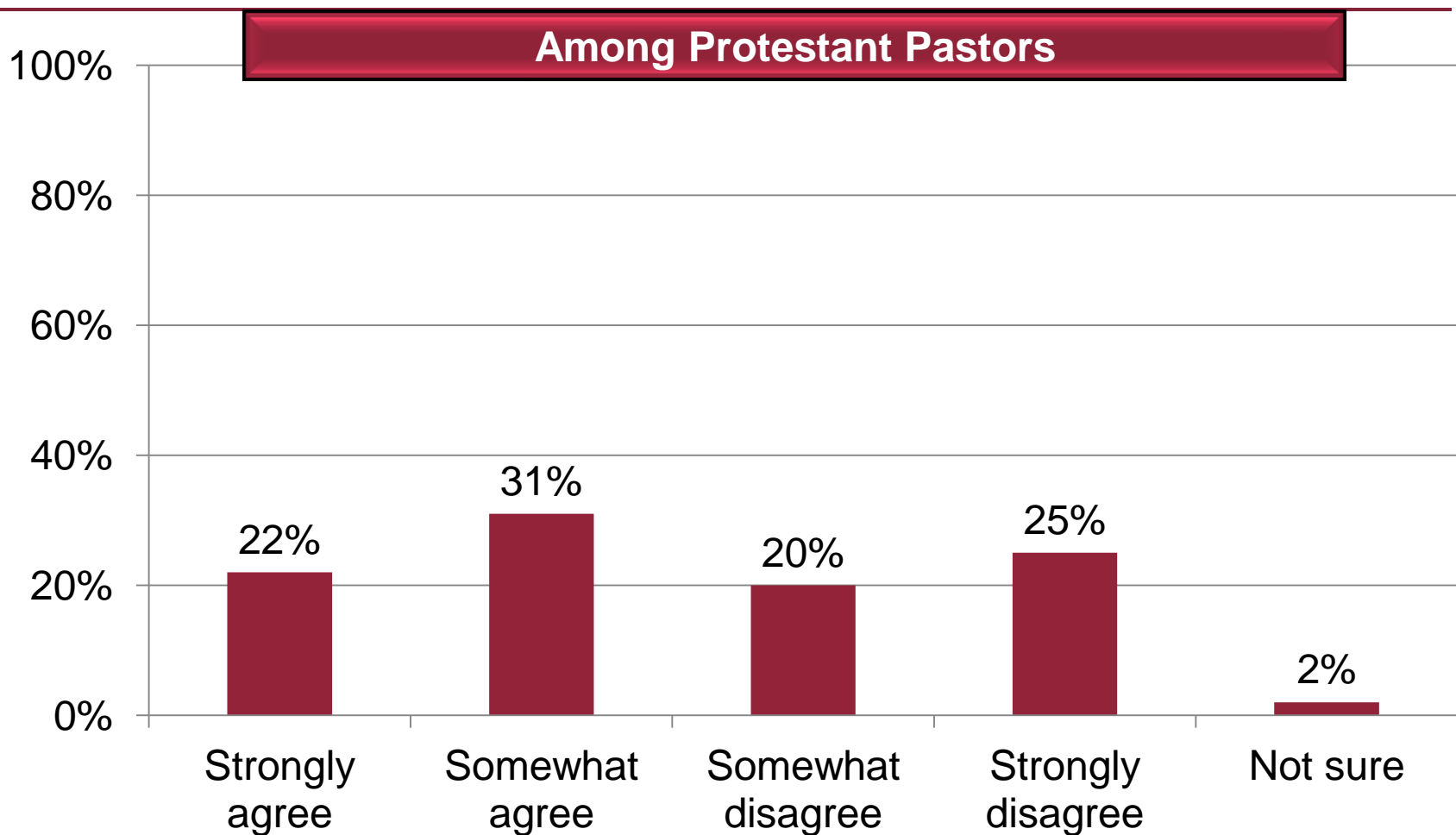
# 61% agree it is important for July Fourth worship services to incorporate patriotic elements to celebrate America



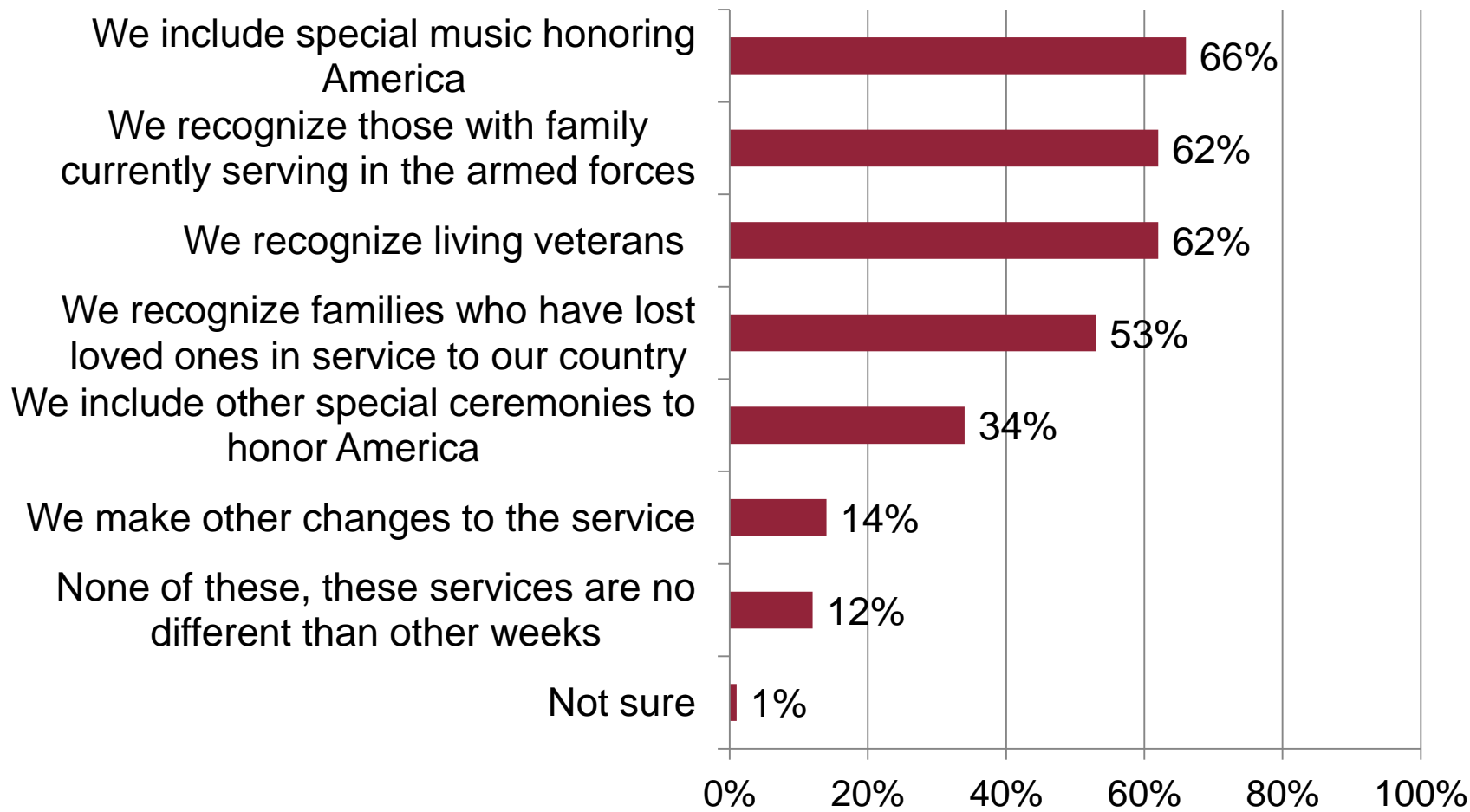
# 72% agree it is important for July Fourth worship services to recognize veterans and current service members



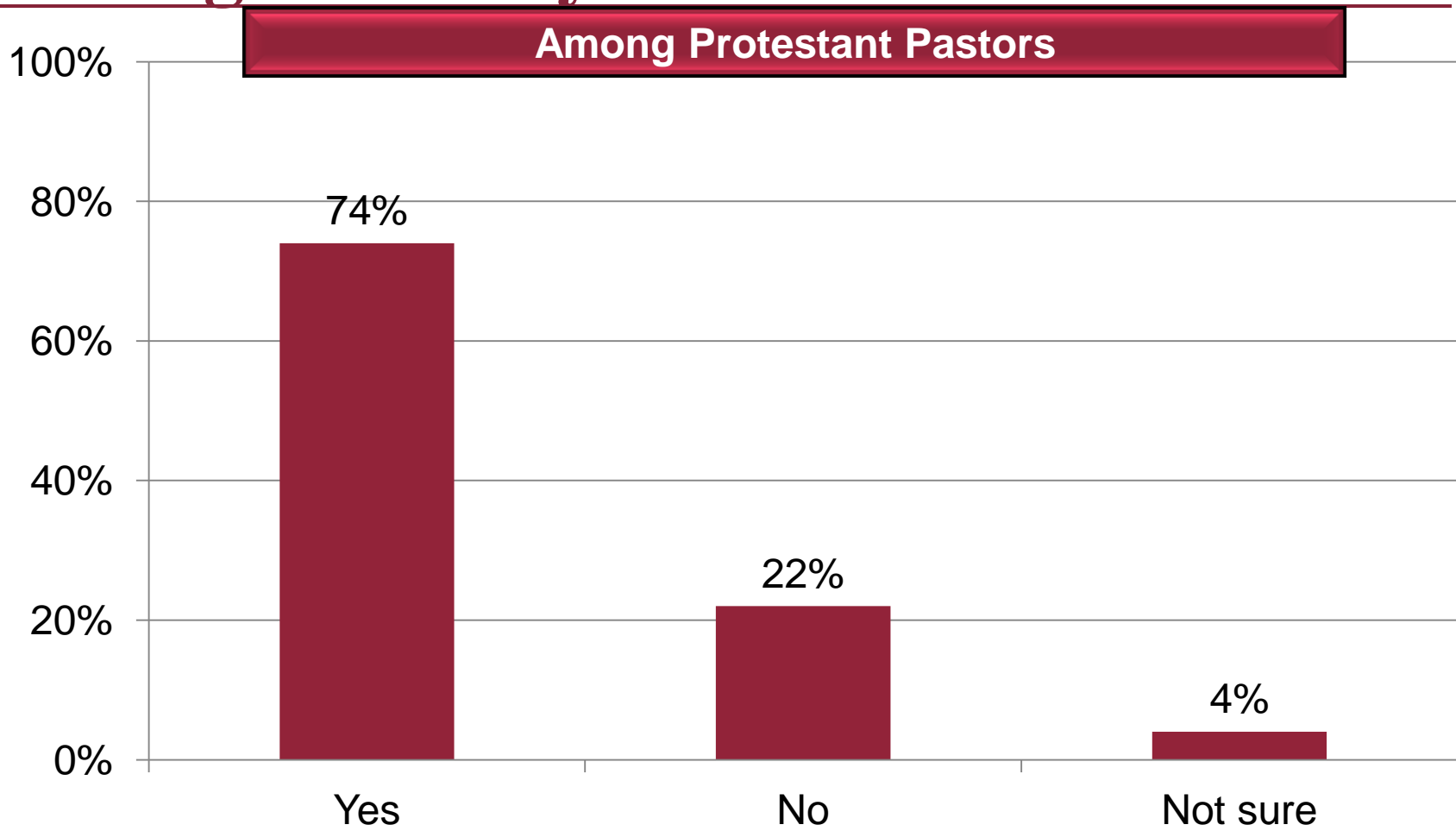
# 53% agree their congregation sometimes seems to love America more than God



# “Which of the following describe how your church changes its worship service the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>?”



# 74% believe it is appropriate to display the American flag in worship services throughout the year





# Significant Differences

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Pastor

Ethnicity

Age

Education Level

Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

Church

Region

Denomination

Average Attendance

Largest Ethnic Group

# Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the church's attendance and region, the pastor's age and ethnicity, and the church's largest ethnic group.

Attendance	Region	Age	Pastor's Ethnicity	Church's Largest Ethnic Group
0-49	Northeast	18-44	White	White
50-99	Midwest	45-54	African American	African American
100-249	South	55-64	Other Ethnicities	Other Ethnicities
250+	West	65+		

Note: Region is defined by US Census regions

# Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were also made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the self-identified Evangelical or Mainline, denomination, and education level.

Self-Identify	Denomination	Education Level
Evangelical	Baptist	No College Degree
Mainline	Christian/Church of Christ	Bachelor's Degree
	Lutheran	Master's Degree
	Methodist	Doctoral Degree
	Pentecostal	
	Presbyterian/ Reformed	

# It is important that worship services the week of July Fourth incorporate patriotic elements to celebrate America

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- Pastors in the West (67%) are more likely to agree than Pastors in the Northeast (55%) and Midwest (54%)
- Pastors age 65+ (78%) are most likely to agree; Pastors age 18-44 (44%) are least likely to agree
- Pentecostals (82%) are most likely to agree
- Baptists (67%) are more likely to agree than Lutherans (51%), Methodists (50%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (47%)
- Those with a Master's degree (53%) are least likely to agree
- Those with no college degree (78%) are more likely to agree than those with a Doctoral degree (65%)

# It is important that worship services the week of July Fourth recognize military veterans and current service members

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- Pastors age 65+ (79%) are more likely to agree than Pastors age 18-44 (66%)
- African American pastors (90%) are more likely to agree than White pastors (70%)
- Pastors of churches whose largest ethnic group is African American are most likely to agree (88%)
- Pentecostals (92%) are most likely to agree
- Baptists (78%) are more likely to agree than Christian/Church of Christ (63%), Methodists (65%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (59%)
- Those with no college degree (86%) are more likely to agree than those with a Master's (68%) or Doctoral degree (70%)

# Our congregation's love for America sometimes seems greater than their love for God

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- Pastors in the South (59%) are more likely to agree than Pastors in the Midwest (51%) and West (42%)
- Pastors age 18-44 (59%) are more likely to agree than Pastors age 55-64 (50%) and 65+ (49%)
- African American pastors are least likely to agree (33%)
- Pastors of churches whose largest ethnic group is African American are least likely to agree (37%)
- Baptists (54%), Christian/Church of Christ (57%), Methodists (67%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (63%) are more likely to agree than Pentecostals (39%)

# “Which of the following describe how your church changes its worship service the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>?”

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## **We recognize living veterans**

- Evangelical pastors (70%) are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (57%)
- Pentecostals (88%) are most likely to select, followed by Baptists (72%)
- Those with no college degree (74%) or a Bachelor's (70%) are more likely to select than those with a Master's (58%) or Doctoral degree (58%)

## **We recognize those with family currently serving in the armed forces**

- Pastors in the South (66%) are more likely to select than Pastors in the Northeast (54%)
- Pentecostals are most likely to select (82%)
- Baptists (67%) are more likely to select than Christian/Church of Christ (49%), Lutherans (56%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (51%)
- Those with no college degree (74%) or a Bachelor's (68%) are more likely to select than those with a Master's (57%)

# “Which of the following describe how your church changes its worship service the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>?”

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## **We recognize families who have lost loved ones in service to our country**

- Pastors age 65+ (60%) are more likely to select than Pastors age 18-44 (50%) and 55-64 (51%)
- White pastors are least likely to select (50%)
- Pastors with churches whose largest ethnicity is African American (64%) are more likely to select than those whose largest ethnicity is White (51%)
- Pentecostals (73%) are most likely to select, followed by Baptists (59%)
- Those with no college degree (69%) are more likely to select than those with a Master's (48%) or Doctoral degree (53%)



# “Which of the following describe how your church changes its worship service the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>?”

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## **We include special music honoring America**

- Pastors with attendance of 250+ are least likely to select (57%)
- Pastors age 18-44 (52%) are least likely to select, followed by those age 45-54 (64%)
- African American pastors (43%) are least likely to select
- Pastors whose largest ethnic group is White (70%) are more likely to select than Pastors whose largest ethnic group is African American (43%)
- Baptists (72%), Methodists (70%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (75%) are more likely to select than Christian/Church of Christ (52%)

# “Which of the following describe how your church changes its worship service the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>?”

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## **We include other special ceremonies to honor America**

- Pastors in the South (38%) are more likely to select than Pastors in the Northeast (27%) and Midwest (30%)
- Pastors age 65+ are most likely to select (46%)
- Pastors whose largest ethnic group is another ethnicity (48%) are more likely to select than Pastors whose largest ethnic group is White (32%)
- Baptists (46%) and Pentecostals (51%) are more likely to select than Christian/Church of Christ (26%), Lutherans (19%), Methodists (30%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (22%)
- Those with no college degree (47%) are more likely to select than those with a Master's (29%) or Doctoral degree (35%)

## **We make other changes to the service**

- Pastors whose largest ethnic group is another ethnicity are most likely to select (28%)
- Pentecostals (51%) are more likely to select than Methodists (12%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (11%)

# “Which of the following describe how your church changes its worship service the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>?”

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## **None of these, these services are no different than other weeks**

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ (18%) are more likely to select than those with attendance 50-99 (10%)
- Pastors age 18-44 (17%) are more likely to select than Pastors age 65+ (9%)
- Pastors whose largest ethnic group is African American (20%) are more likely to select than Pastors whose largest ethnic group is White (11%)
- Christian/Church of Christ (22%) are more likely to select than Baptists (9%), Methodists (9%), Pentecostals (6%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (9%)

# Is it appropriate for a church to display the American flag in their worship services throughout the year?

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- Pastors in the West (77%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those in the Northeast (67%)
- Pastors age 18-44 are least likely to select “Yes” (67%)
- African American pastors (84%) are more likely to select “Yes” than White pastors (73%)
- Evangelical pastors (82%) are more likely to select “Yes” than Mainline pastors (68%)
- Presbyterian/Reformed (48%) are least likely to select “Yes”
- Baptists (88%) and Pentecostals (85%) are more likely to select “Yes” than Christian/Church of Christ (65%) and Lutherans (63%)
- Pastors with no college degree (87%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those with a Master’s (69%) or Doctoral degree (75%)

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