

Pastors' Views on Local Pastors

A SURVEY OF AMERICAN PROTESTANT PASTORS

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Methodology

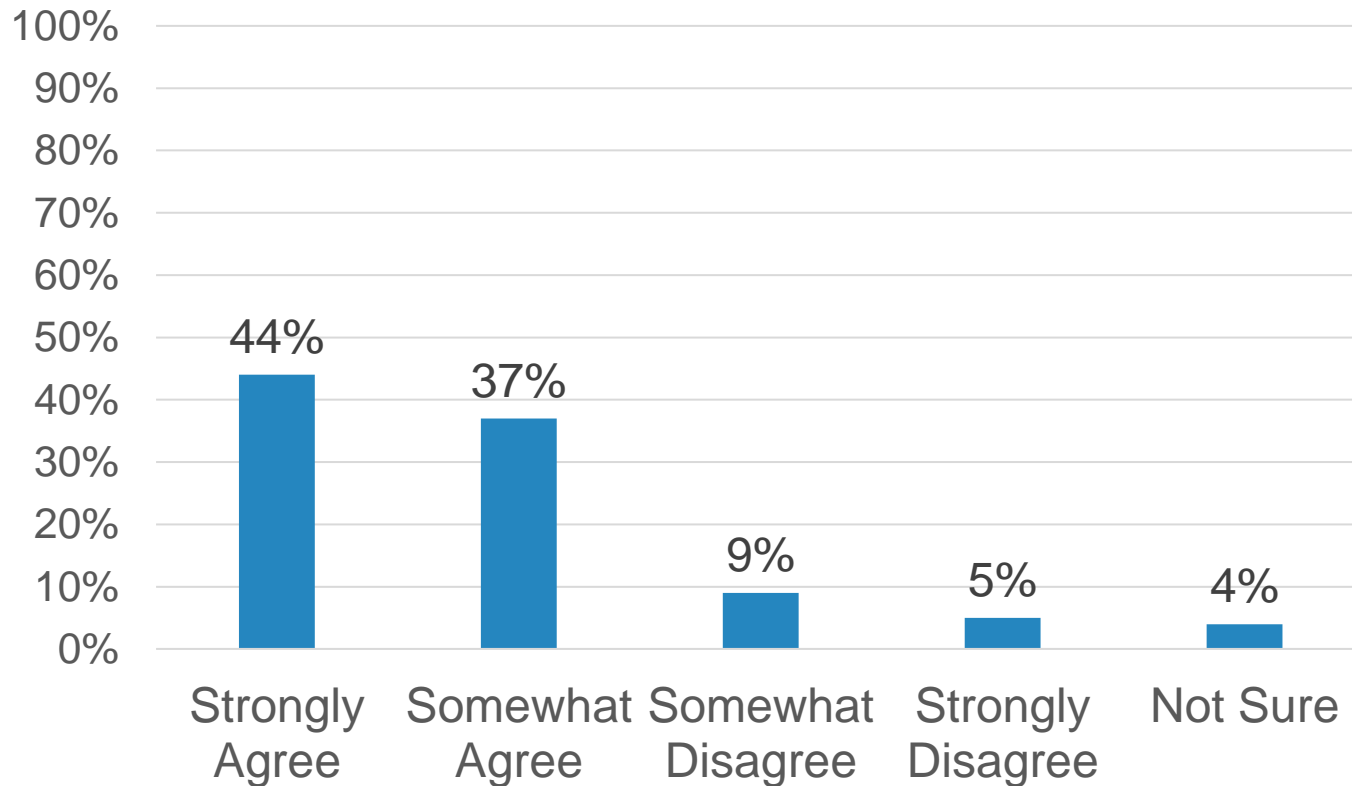
- The mixed mode survey of 1,007 Protestant pastors was conducted September 2–October 1, 2020 using both phone and online interviews
- Phone: The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size
- Online: Invitations were emailed to the Lifeway Research Pastor Panel followed by three reminders. This probability sample of Protestant churches was created by phone recruiting by Lifeway Research using random samples selected from all Protestant churches. Pastors who agree to be contacted by email for future surveys make up this Lifeway Research Pastor Panel.
- Each survey was completed by the senior or sole pastor or a minister at the church
- Responses were weighted by region and church size to more accurately reflect the population

Methodology

- The completed sample is 1,007 surveys (502 by phone, 505 online)
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed $\pm 3.4\%$ This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

82% say they feel supported by other local pastors in their area

Among Protestant Pastors

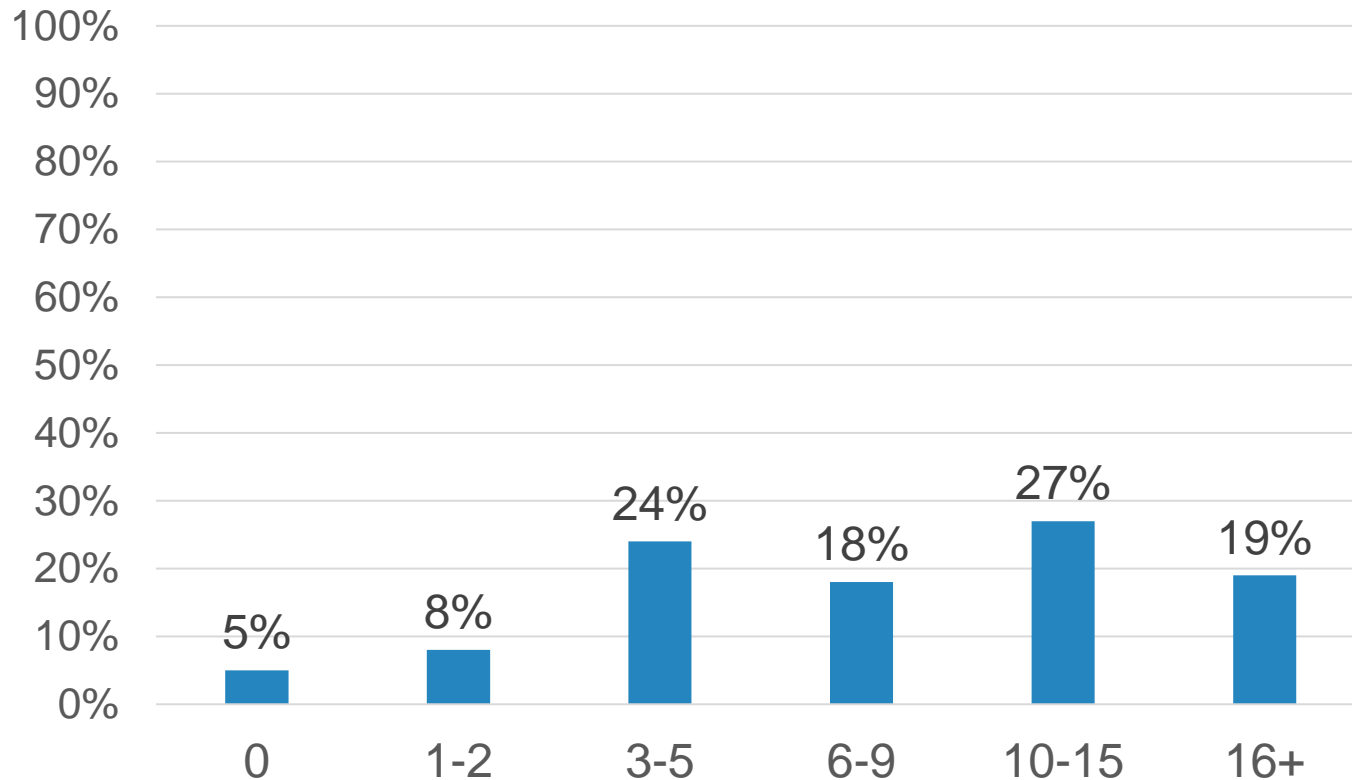


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Q: "I feel supported by other local pastors in my area."

54% say they personally know and spend time with less than 10 local pastors (Mean 13; Median 8)

Among Protestant Pastors



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Q: "In your local area, how many pastors do you personally know and spend time with several times a year?" n=974

Significant Differences

Pastor

Age

Gender

Ethnicity

Education Level

Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

Church

Religion

Denomination

Average Attendance

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Significant Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the pastor's ethnicity, age, gender, education, self-identified Evangelical or Mainline.

AGE	GENDER	ETHNICITY	EDUCATION	SELF-IDENTIFIED
18-44	Male	White	No College Degree	Evangelical
45-54	Female	African American	Bachelor's Degree	Mainline
55-64		Other Ethnicities	Master's Degree	
65+			Doctoral Degree	

Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the church's region, denomination, and attendance.

REGION	DENOMINATION GROUP	ATTENDANCE
Northeast	Baptist	0-49
Midwest	Lutheran	50-99
South	Methodist	100-249
West	Pentecostal	250+
	Presbyterian/Reformed	
	Christian/Church of Christ	
	Non-denominational	

Note: Region is defined by the US Census locations

“I feel supported by other local pastors in my area.”

- Pastors in the Midwest (84%) are more likely to Agree than those in the Northeast (75%)
- Baptists (83%), Lutherans (88%), Pentecostals (87%), Presbyterian/Reformed (83%) and are more likely to Agree than Christian/Church of Christ (68%)
- Christian/Church of Christ (23%) and Nondenominational (20%) are more likely to Disagree than Lutherans (7%) and Pentecostals (9%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to Agree (89%)

“In your local area, how many pastors do you personally know and spend time with several times a year?”

- White pastors (19%) are more likely to answer “6-9” than African American pastors (6%)
- Male pastors are more likely to answer “3-5” than females (25% v. 15%)
- Female pastors are more likely to answer “16+” than males (35% v. 18%)
- Pastors with a Bachelor’s degree (30%) are more likely to answer “3-5” than those with a Master’s degree (22%)
- Pastors in the South (23%) and Midwest (19%) are more likely to answer “16+” than pastors in the Northeast (10%)
- Lutherans (34%) and Pentecostals (33%) are more likely to answer “10-15” than Presbyterian/Reformed (20%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to answer “6-9” (26%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 (12%) are the more likely to answer “1-2” than those with attendance of 100-249 (6%) and 250+ (5%)

“In your local area, how many pastors do you personally know and spend time with several times a year?”

Mean number of pastors

- Female pastors average more than males (20 v. 12)
- Pentecostals (17), Methodists (16), Baptists (12) average more than Christian/Church of Christ (8) and Nondenominational (8)

Average number of pastors they personally know and spend time with several times a year BY level of agreement with “I feel supported by other local pastors in my area”

I feel supported by other local pastors in my area

- Strongly agree: Know and spend time with average of 17 pastors
- Somewhat agree: Know and spend time with average of 10 pastors
- Somewhat disagree: know and spend time with average of 8 pastors
- Strongly disagree: know and spend time with average of 5 pastors

Average for strongly agree is significantly higher than all other responses.
Average for somewhat agree is significantly higher than strongly disagree.

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