

The Greatest Needs of Pastors

Skill Development

A SURVEY OF AMERICAN PROTESTANT PASTORS

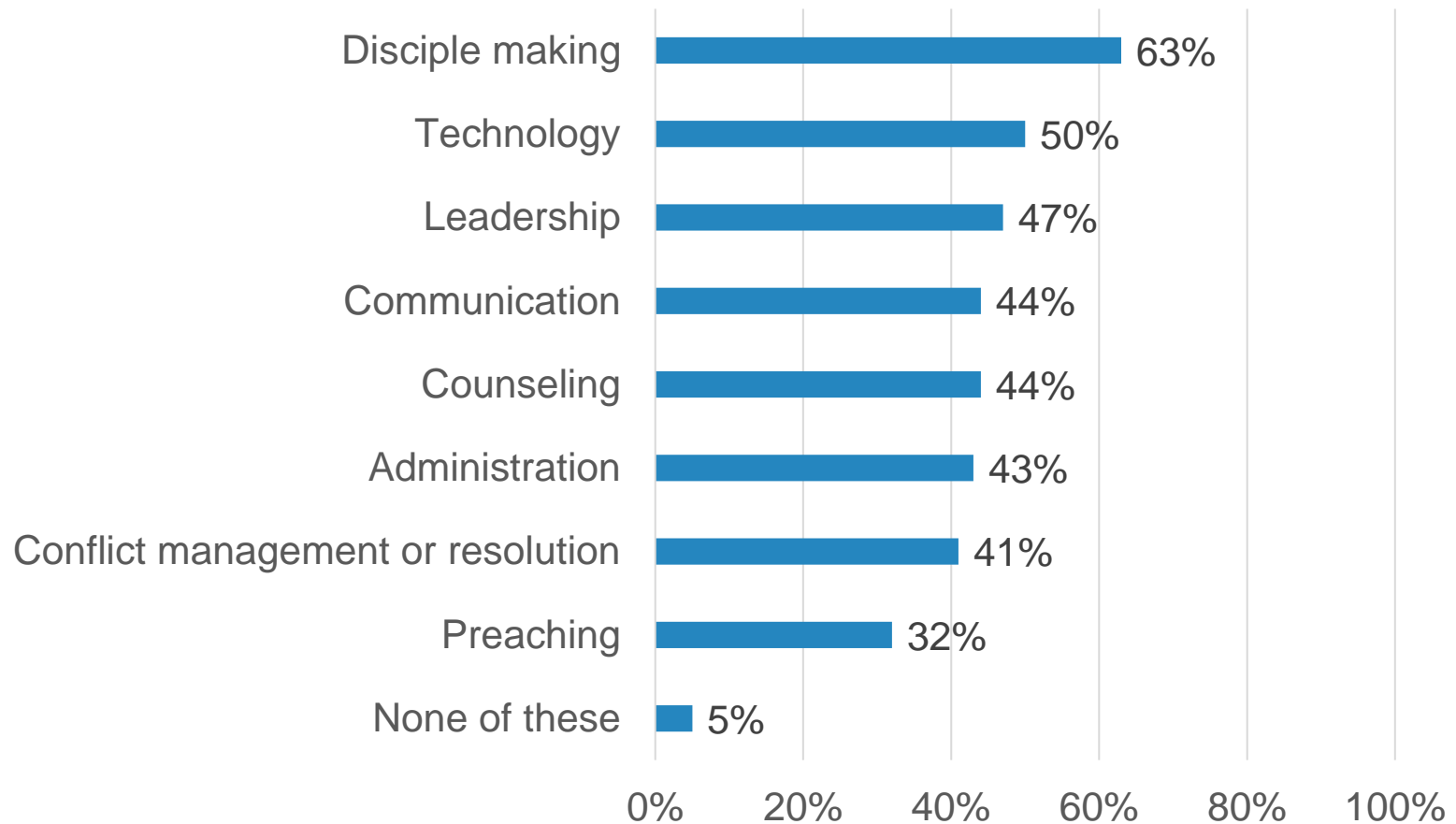
Lifeway **research**

Methodology

- The phone survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors was conducted March 30 – April 22, 2021
- The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size
- 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
- The completed sample is 1,000 surveys
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed $\pm 3.1\%$ This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

“Which of the following areas of skill development do you need to continue to invest in learning to help you be a better pastor?”

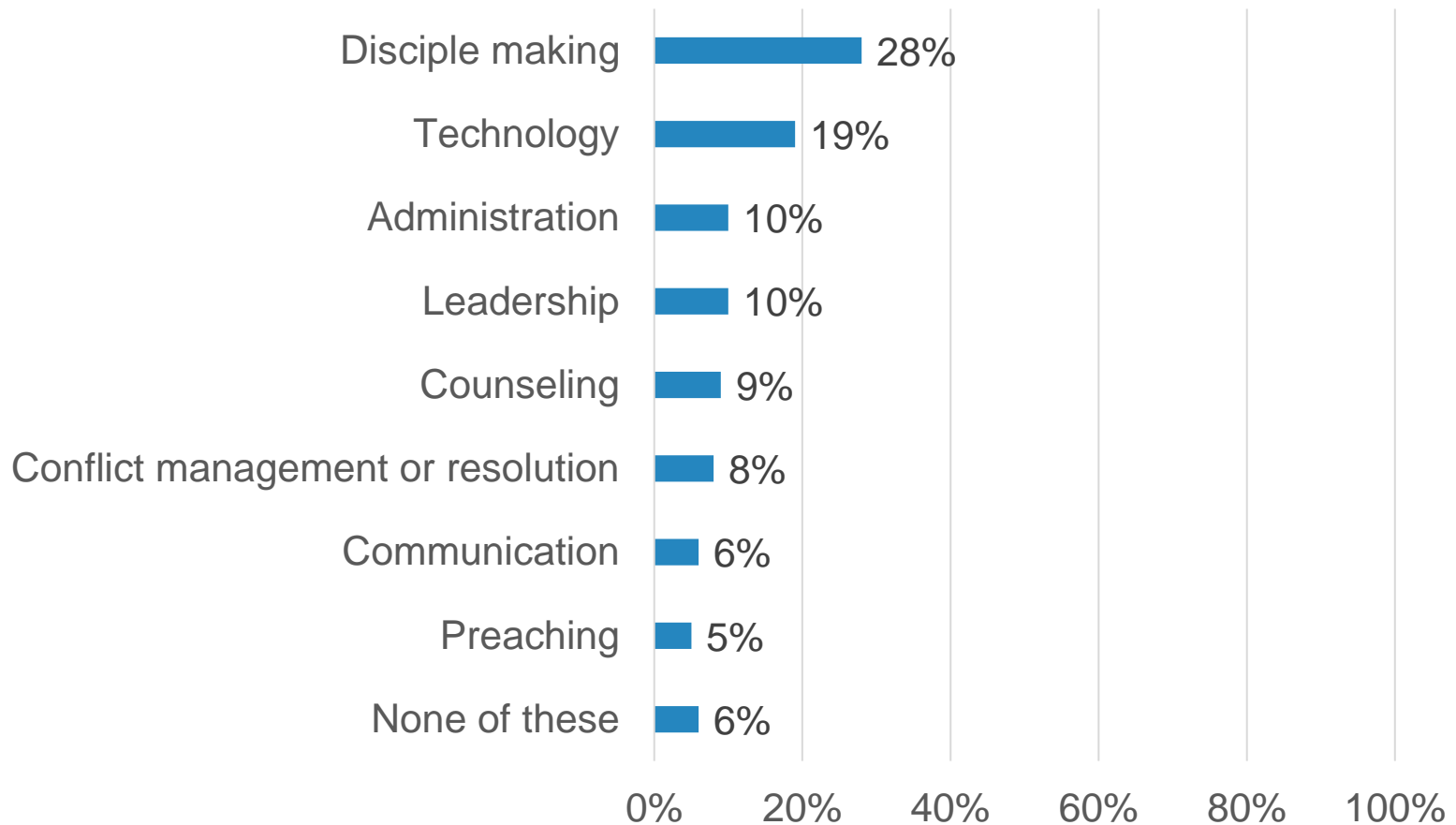
Among Protestant Pastors



Lifeway research

28% say the skill they most need to invest in is disciple making

Among Protestant Pastors



Lifeway research

Q15: "Among the areas of skill development you just selected, which one do you most need to invest in at this time?"

Significant Differences

Pastor

Age

Gender

Ethnicity

Education Level

Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

Church

Region

Denomination

Average Attendance

Lifeway research

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	Graduate 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
South	Lutheran	50-99
Midwest	Methodist	100-249
West	Pentecostal	250+
	Presbyterian/Reformed	
	Christian/Church of Christ	
	Non-denominational	

Note: Region is defined by the US Census locations

“Which of the following areas of skill development do you need to continue to invest in learning to help you be a better pastor?”

Administration

- Pastors age 65+ are the least likely to select (33%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select than females (45% v. 30%)
- Pastors with a Bachelor’s degree (47%) or Master’s degree (45%) are more likely to select than those with a Doctoral degree (32%)

“Which of the following areas of skill development do you need to continue to invest in learning to help you be a better pastor?” *(continued)*

Communication

- African American pastors are the least likely to select (30%)
- Pastors age 18-44 (52%) are more likely to select than pastors age 55-64 (38%) and 65+ (42%)
- Pastors with a Doctoral degree are the least likely to select (26%)
- Pentecostals (51%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (35%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 100-249 (48%) are more likely to select than those with attendance of 50-99 (39%)

“Which of the following areas of skill development do you need to continue to invest in learning to help you be a better pastor?” *(continued)*

Conflict management or resolutions

- Pastors age 18-44 are the most likely to select (56%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select than females (42% v. 31%)
- Pastors with a Master’s degree (45%) are more likely to select than those with a Doctoral degree (30%)

“Which of the following areas of skill development do you need to continue to invest in learning to help you be a better pastor?” *(continued)*

Counseling

- Pastors age 18-44 are the most likely to select (59%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select than females (46% v. 33%)
- Pastors with a Doctoral degree are the least likely to select (33%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (48% v. 39%)
- Baptists (49%) are more likely to select than Methodists (35%)

“Which of the following areas of skill development do you need to continue to invest in learning to help you be a better pastor?” *(continued)*

Disciple making

- Pastors with a Doctoral degree are the least likely to select (50%)
- Pastors in the South (66%) are more likely to select than those in the West (55%)
- Pentecostals (72%) are more likely to select than Presbyterian/Reformed (53%), Christian/Church of Christ (54%), and Non-denominational (55%)

“Which of the following areas of skill development do you need to continue to invest in learning to help you be a better pastor?” *(continued)*

Leadership

- Pastors age 18-44 (54%) are more likely to select than pastors age 65+ (40%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select than females (49% v. 35%)
- Pastors with a Doctoral degree are the least likely to select (31%)
- Pentecostals (57%) are more likely to select than Methodists (40%) and Christian/Church of Christ (37%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 100-249 (54%) are more likely to select than those with attendance of 50-99 (44%) and 250+ (42%)

“Which of the following areas of skill development do you need to continue to invest in learning to help you be a better pastor?” *(continued)*

Preaching

- Pastors age 18-44 (38%) are more likely to select than pastors age 55-64 (28%)
- Pastors with a Doctoral degree are the least likely to select (21%)

“Which of the following areas of skill development do you need to continue to invest in learning to help you be a better pastor?” *(continued)*

Technology

- African American pastors (63%) are more likely to select than White pastors (48%)
- Pastors age 18-44 are the least likely to select (35%)
- Female pastors are more likely to select than males (59% v. 48%)
- Methodists (56%), Pentecostals (59%), and Non-denominational (55%) are more likely to select than Baptists (42%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 (57%) are more likely to select than those with attendance of 250+ (42%)

“Among the areas of skill development you just selected, which one do you most need to invest in at this time?”

- African American pastors (27%) are more likely to select “Technology” than White pastors (18%)
- Pastors age 65+ are the most likely to select “Technology” (34%)
- Female pastors are more likely to select “Technology” than males (29% v. 18%)
- Pastors with no college degree (31%) or a Master’s degree (29%) are more likely to select “Disciple making” than those with a Doctoral degree (19%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to select “Technology” than Evangelical pastors (26% v. 16%)
- Methodists (25%), Presbyterian/Reformed (23%), and Christian/Church of Christ (25%) are more likely to select “Technology” than Baptists (15%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 are the most likely to select “Technology” (28%)