

Pastors' Views on Role of Women

A SURVEY OF 1,000 PROTESTANT PASTORS

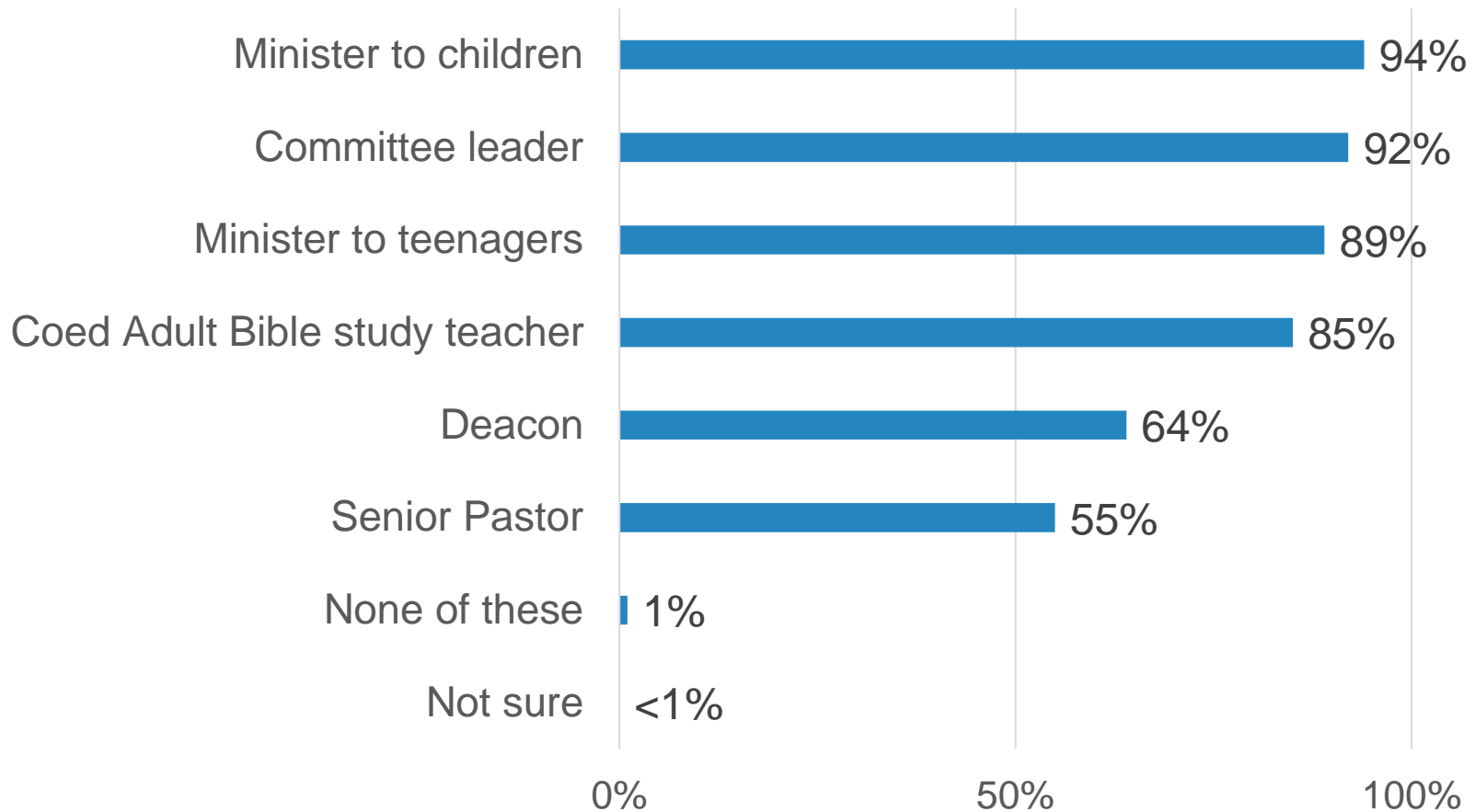
Lifeway research

Methodology

- The phone survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors was conducted September 1-29, 2021
- The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size
- Each interview 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 $\pm 3.2\%$ This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

“Which of the following roles are women permitted to have in your church?”

Among Protestant Pastors



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Significant Differences

Pastor

Ethnicity

Age

Education Level

Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

Church

Region

Denomination

Average Attendance

Significant Differences

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

AGE	ETHNICITY	EDUCATION	Self-Identified
18-44	White	No College Degree	Evangelical
45-54	African American	Bachelor's Degree	Mainline
55-64	Hispanic	Graduate Degree	
65+	Other Ethnicities	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 roles are women permitted to have in your church?”

Senior Pastor

- Pastors age 55-64 (60%) and 65+ (59%) are more likely to select than pastors age 18-44 (49%)
- Pastors with a Master’s Degree (60%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor’s Degree (46%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to select than Evangelical pastors (76% v. 44%)
- Pastors in the Northeast are the most likely to select (75%)
- Methodists are the most likely to select (94%)
- Pentecostals (78%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (77%) are more likely to select than Baptists (14%), Lutherans (47%), Christian/Church of Christ (25%), and Non-denominational (43%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 0-49 (66%) and 50-99 (59%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 100-249 (46%) and 250+ (41%)

“Which of the following roles are women permitted to have in your church?”

Minister to children

- Pastors age 55-64 are the most likely to select (97%)
- Methodists (99%) and Pentecostals (99%) are more likely to select than Baptists (90%), Lutherans (89%), and Christian/Church of Christ (88%)

Minister to teenagers

- African American pastors are the most likely to select (97%)
- Pastors with a Master’s Degree (91%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor’s Degree (85%)
- Methodists (97%) and Pentecostals (98%) are more likely to select than Baptists (81%), Lutherans (87%), and Christian/Church of Christ (74%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 50-99 (92%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 250+ (85%)

“Which of the following roles are women permitted to have in your church?”

Deacon

- Pastors with a Master’s Degree (69%) are more likely to select than those with no college degree (58%) or a Bachelor’s Degree (57%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to select than Evangelical pastors (79% v. 56%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (77%) and Midwest (69%) are more likely to select than those in the South (56%)
- Methodists (88%) and Pentecostals (83%) are more likely to select than Baptists (29%), Lutherans (60%), and Christian/Church of Christ (49%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 0-49 (71%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 100-249 (59%) and 250+ (59%)

“Which of the following roles are women permitted to have in your church?”

Committee leader

- Pastors with no college degree are the least likely to select (82%)
- Methodists (98%) are more likely to select than Baptists (87%), Lutherans (92%), Presbyterian/Reformed (90%), and Christian/Church of Christ (84%)

“Which of the following roles are women permitted to have in your church?”

Coed Adult Bible study teacher

- Pastors age 55-64 (89%) and 65+ (87%) are more likely to select than pastors age 18-44 (80%)
- African American pastors (95%) are more likely to select than white pastors (84%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (89%) are more likely to select than those in the West (81%)
- Methodists (100%), Pentecostals (92%), Presbyterian/Reformed (88%), and Non-denominational (93%) are more likely to select than Baptists (74%), Lutheran (77%), and Christian/Church of Christ (62%)

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