

Pastors' Views on Economic Impact

A SURVEY OF AMERICAN PROTESTANT PASTORS

Lifeway research

Methodology

- The phone survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors was conducted September 6-30, 2022
- 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 conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest 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

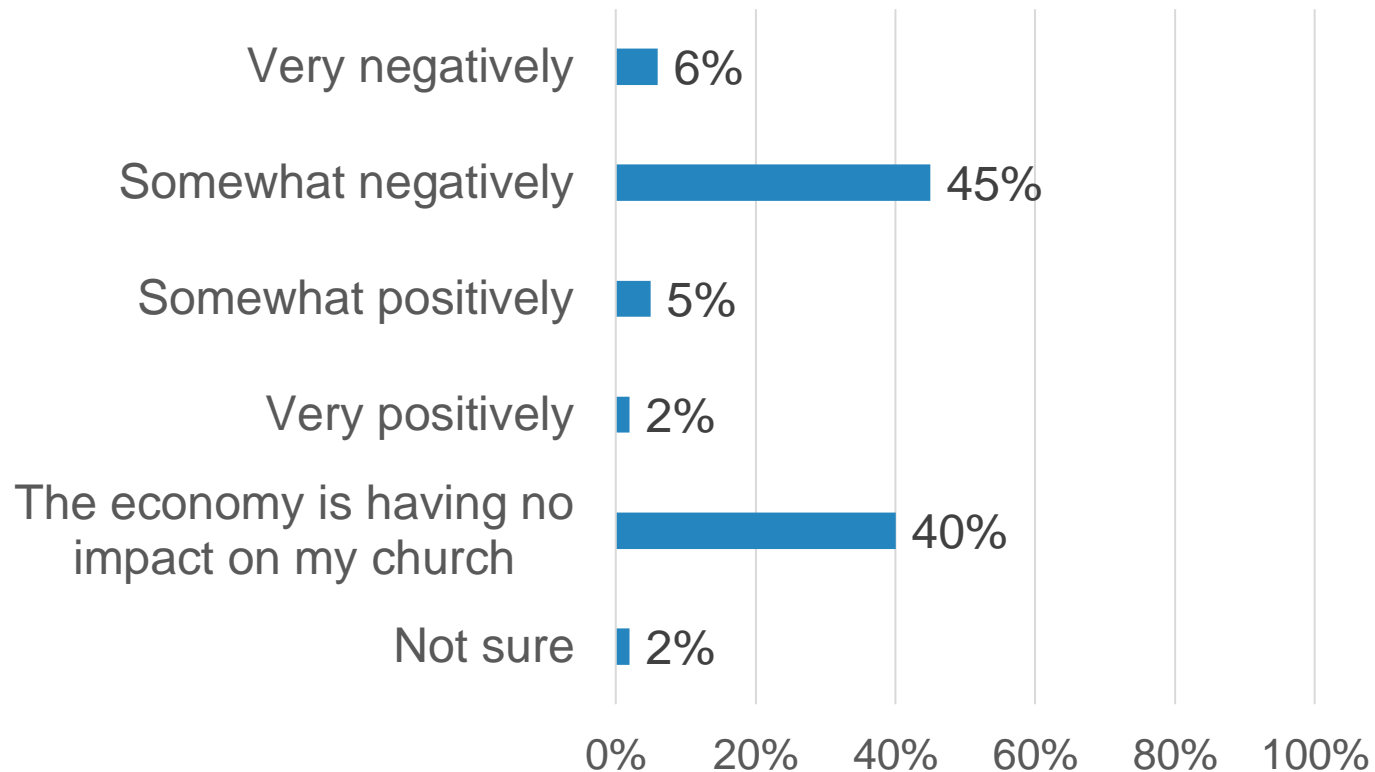
Methodology

- Comparisons are also made to the following telephone surveys using probability sampling:
 - 1,002 pastors conducted November 5-12, 2009
 - 1,000 pastors conducted March 1-9, 2010
 - 1,000 pastors conducted October 7-14, 2010
 - 1,002 pastors conducted January 17-27, 2011
 - 1,000 pastors conducted May 18-25, 2011
 - 1,000 pastors conducted May 23-31, 2012
 - 1,000 pastors conducted September 11-18, 2014
 - 1,000 pastors conducted January 8-22, 2016
 - 1,000 pastors conducted August 30 – September 18, 2017
 - 1,000 pastors conducted August 29 – September 11, 2018
 - 1,000 pastors conducted August 30 – September 24, 2019
 - 1,007 pastors conducted September 2 – October 2, 2020*
 - 1,000 pastors conducted September 1-29, 2021

*Mixed-mode telephone and online

52% say that the current economy is having a negative impact on their church

Among Protestant Pastors



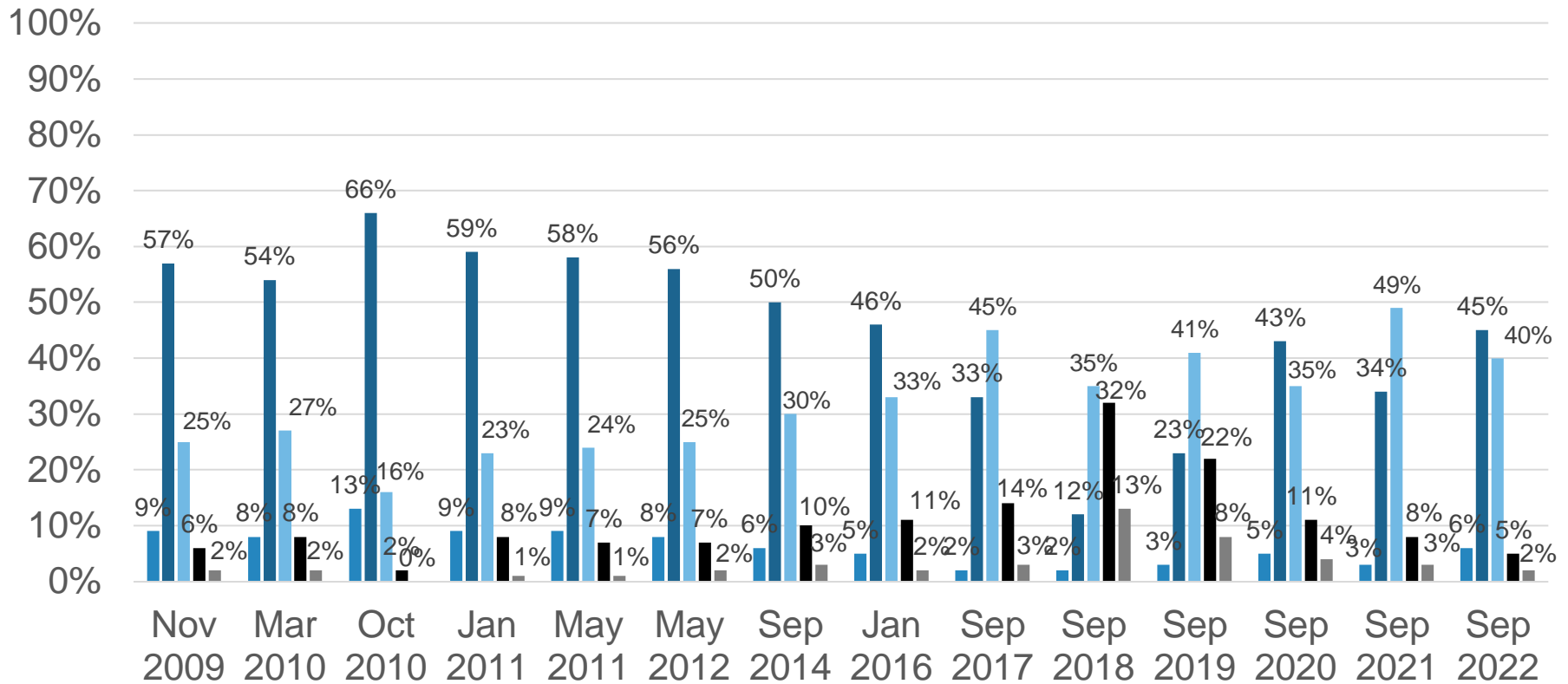
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Q: "How is the current economy impacting your church?" *n*=1,000

Pastors perceive more negative impact from the economy than in 2021

Among Protestant Pastors

Very negatively Somewhat negatively No impact Somewhat positively Very positively

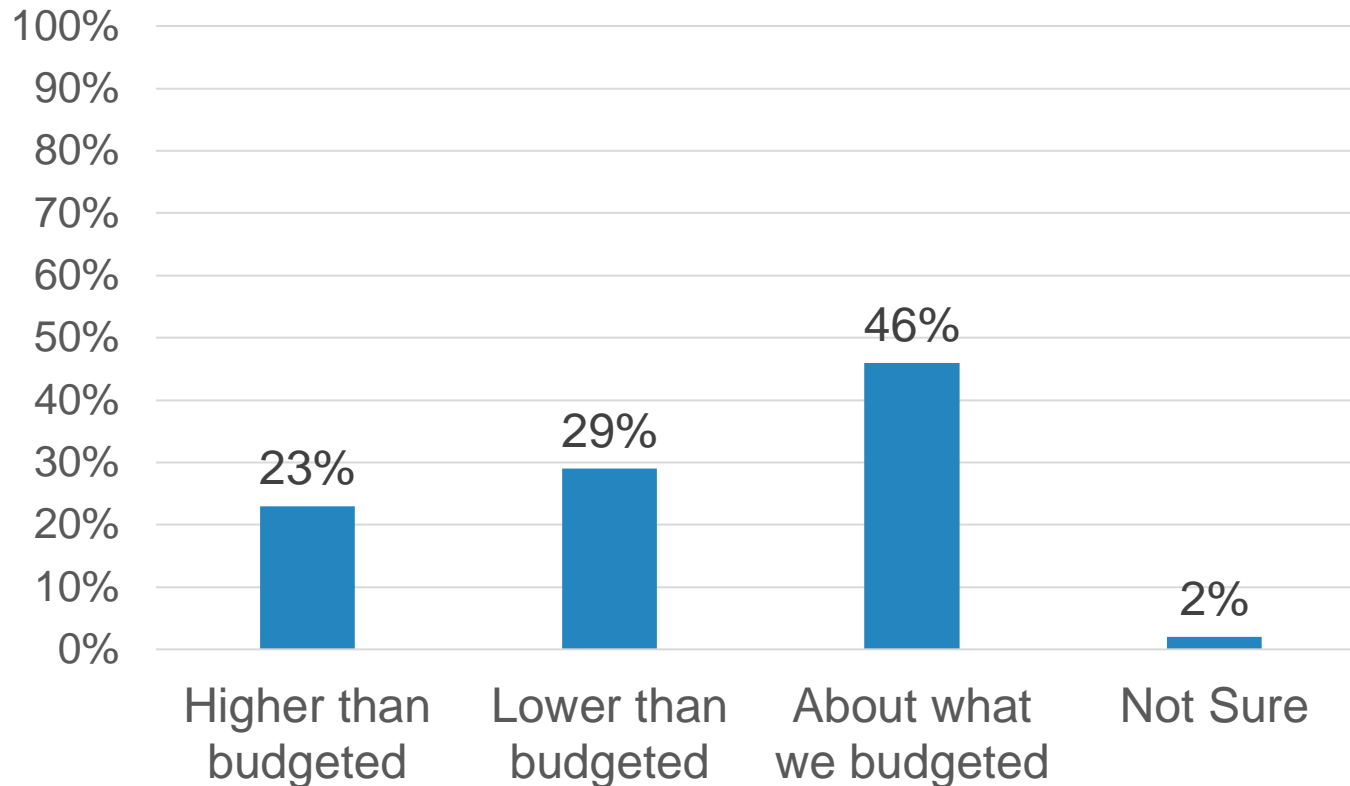


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Q: "How is the current economy impacting your church?"

46% say that giving for 2022 is about what was budgeted; 29% say it is lower than budgeted

Among Protestant Pastors

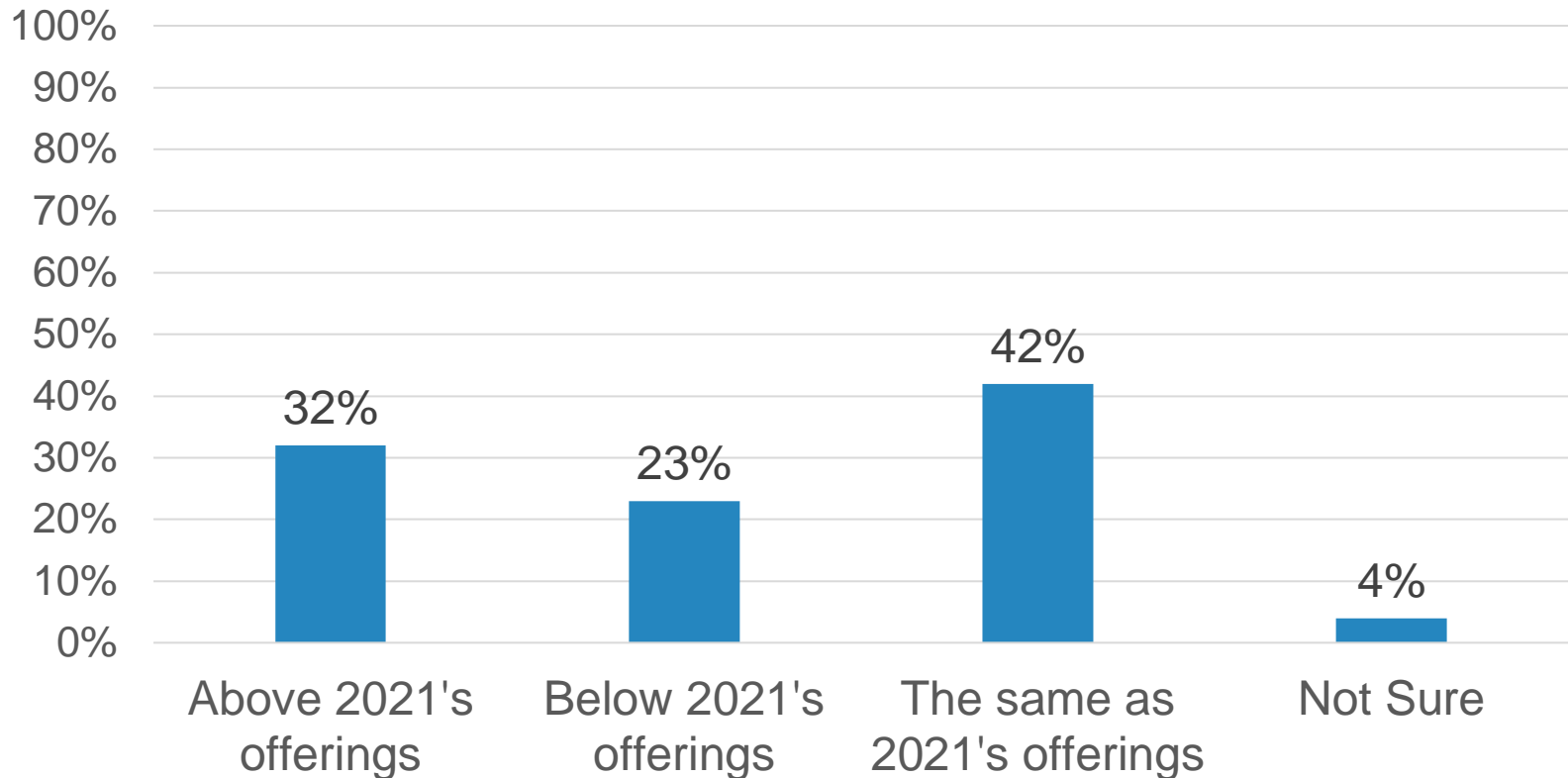


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Q: "Since the beginning of 2022, have your offerings been ..." n=1,000

32% say that giving for 2022 is higher than 2021

Among Protestant Pastors

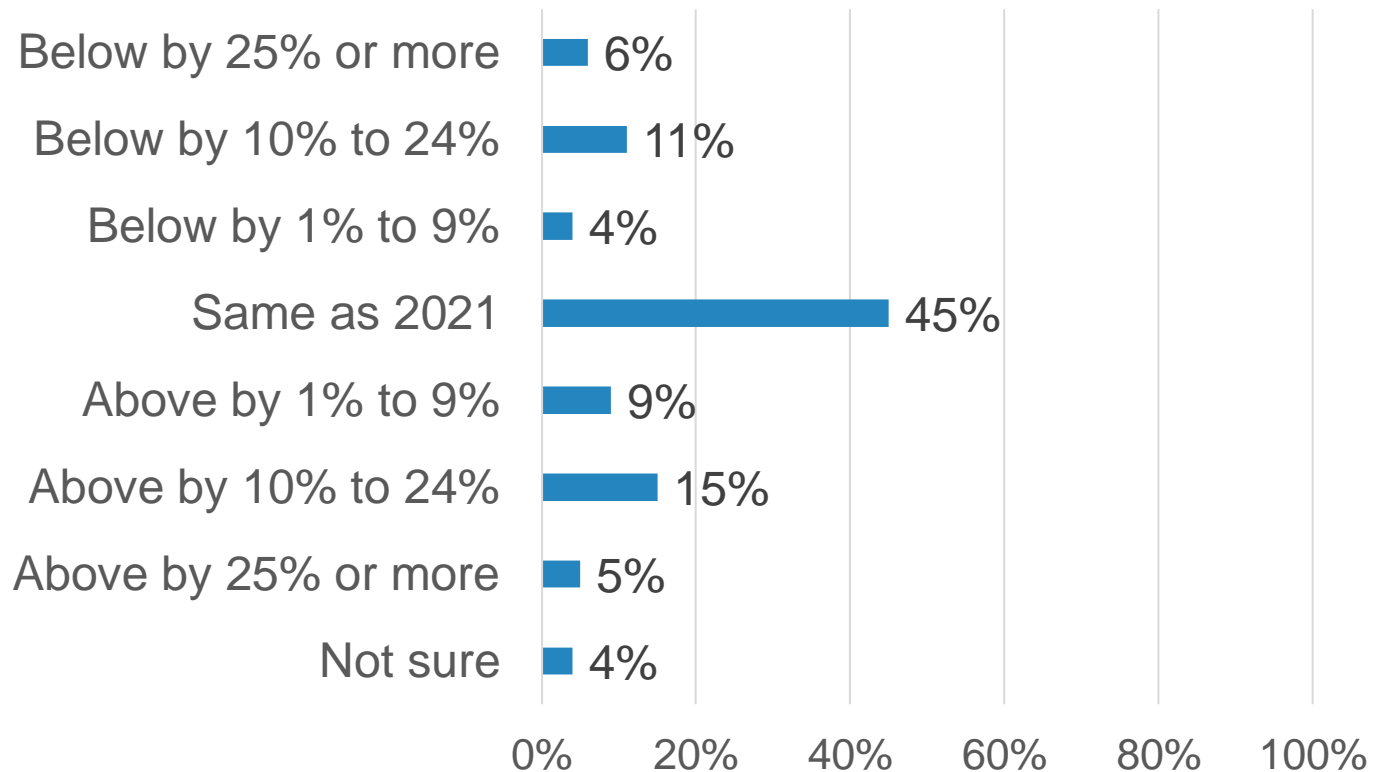


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Q: "Compared to your calendar year 2021 offerings, have your total offerings so far for 2022 been ..." n=1,000

Percentage offerings are below or above 2021

Among Protestant Pastors



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Q: "Approximately what percentage are your calendar year 2022 offerings above 2021's offerings?"
Q: "Approximately what percentage are your calendar year 2022 offerings below 2021's offerings?" n=923

Significant Differences

Pastor

Ethnicity

Age

Gender

Education Level

Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

Church

Region

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		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 group, 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

“How is the current economy impacting your church?”

- Pastors age 55-64 (57%) are more likely to select “Very or somewhat negatively” than pastors age 65+ (48%)
- Female pastors are more likely to select “Very or somewhat positively” than males (10% v. 6%)
- Pastors in the Northeast are the most likely to select “Very or somewhat negatively” (62%)
- Baptists (54%), Methodists (56%), Presbyterian/Reformed (57%), and Christian/Church of Christ (58%) are more likely to select “Very or somewhat negatively” than Pentecostals (39%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 are the most likely to select “Very or somewhat negatively” (61%)

“Since the beginning of 2022, have your offerings been ...”

- Pastors age 55-64 (34%) are more likely to select “Lower than budgeted” than pastors age 18-44 (25%)
- Female pastors are more likely to select “Lower than budgeted” than males (38% v. 27%)
- Pastors with a Bachelor’s degree (35%) or a Doctoral degree (37%) are more likely to select “Lower than budgeted” than those with a Master’s degree (26%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to select “About what we budgeted” than Evangelical pastors (50% v. 42%)
- Pastors in the Midwest (51%) are more likely to select “About what we budgeted” than those in the South (41%)
- Methodists (41%) are more likely to select “Lower than budgeted” than Baptists (28%), Lutherans (27%), and Pentecostals (23%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 (50%) and 50-99 (49%) are more likely to select “About what we budgeted” than those with attendance of 100-249 (39%) and 250+ (36%)

“Compared to your calendar year 2021 offerings, have your total offerings so far for 2022 been ...”

- Pastors age 18-44 (41%) are more likely to select “Above 2021’s offerings” than pastors age 55-64 (30%) and 65+ (25%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select “Above 2021’s offerings” than females (35% v. 22%)
- African American pastors (36%) are more likely to select “Below 2021’s offerings” than White pastors (22%)
- Pentecostals (39%) are more likely to select “Above 2021’s offerings” than Lutherans (24%)
- Methodists (29%) are more likely to select “Below 2021’s offerings” than Lutherans (17%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 are the most likely to select “Below 2021’s offerings” (31%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to select “Above 2021’s offerings” (63%)

“Approximately what percentage are your calendar year 2022 offerings below 2021’s offerings?”

- Pastors age 65+ (52%) are more likely to select “Same as 2021” than pastors age 18-44 (37%)
- Male pastors are more likely to answer “Above by 10% to 24%” than females (16% v. 10%)
- African Americans pastors (20%) are more likely to answer “Below by 10% to 24%” than Hispanic pastors (7%)
- Pastors with a Bachelor’s degree (15%) are more likely to answer “Below by 10% to 24%” than pastors with a Doctoral degree (6%)
- Pastors in the South (18%) and West (19%) are more likely to answer “Above by 10% to 24%” than those in the Midwest (10%)
- Lutherans (58%) are more likely to answer “Same as 2021” than Pentecostals (42%) and Non-denominational (37%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to answer “Above by 1-9%” (27%)

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