

# Pastors' Views on Racial Reconciliation

A SURVEY OF AMERICANS PROTESTANT PASTORS

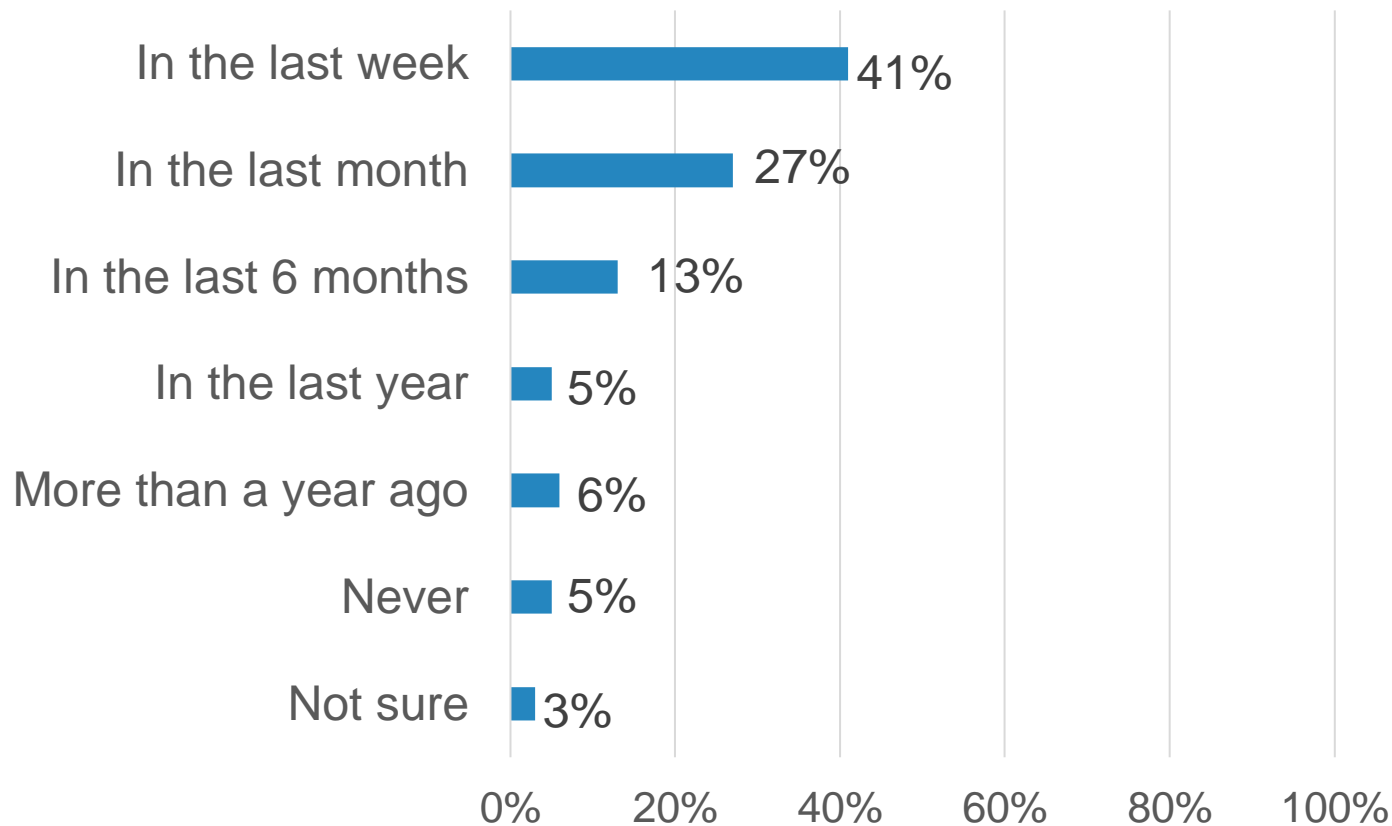
Lifeway **research**

# 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 interviews 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
- Comparisons are made to a phone survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors conducted by Lifeway Research August 22 – September 16, 2016

# “When was the last time you had a meal with fewer than 10 people that included someone of another ethnicity?”

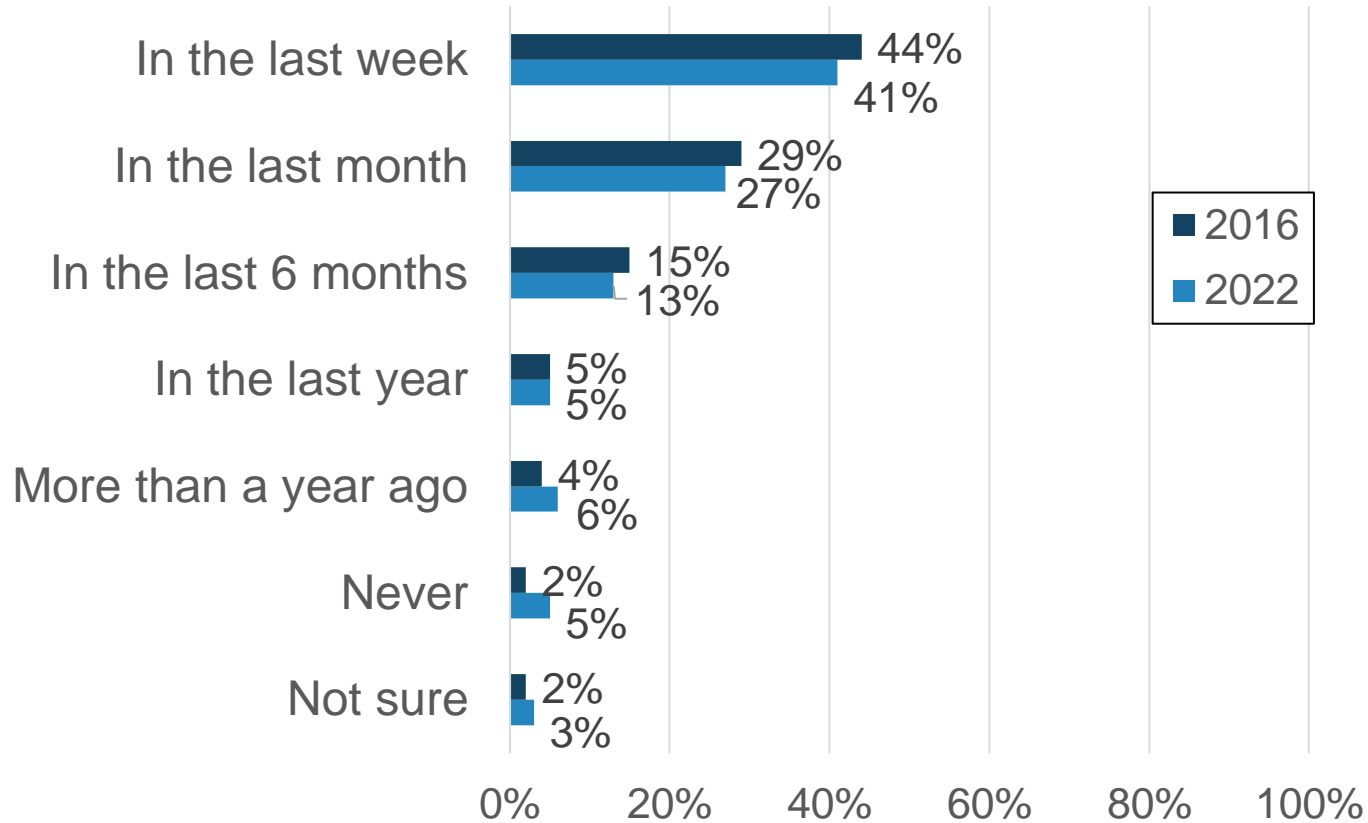
Among Protestant Pastors



Lifeway research

# Pastors are less likely to have had a meal with someone of another ethnicity in a small group in the last 6 months than in 2016 (81% v. 88%)

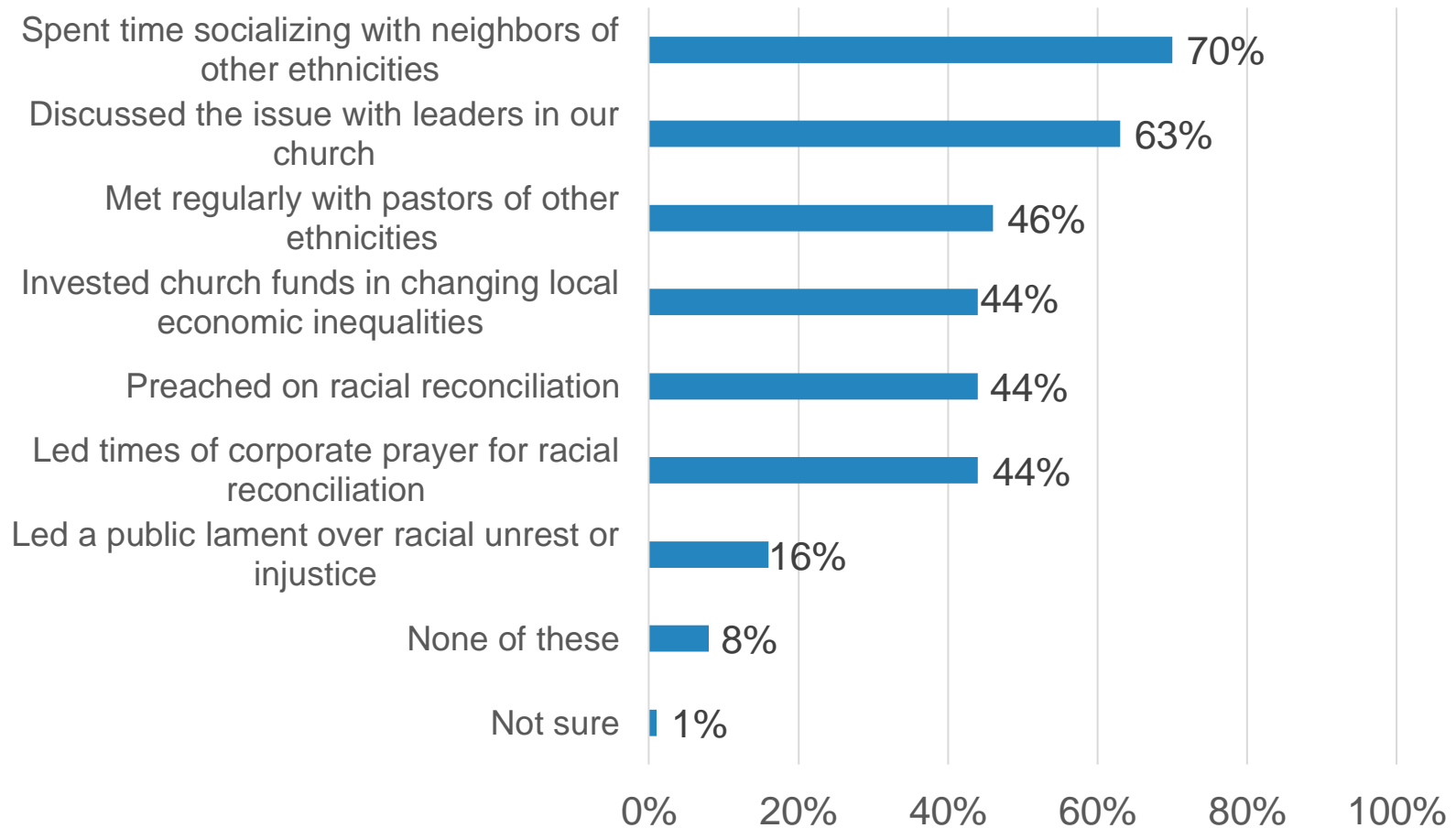
Among Protestant Pastors



Lifeway research

# “Which, if any, of the following activities have you personally done in the last 3 months to encourage racial reconciliation?”

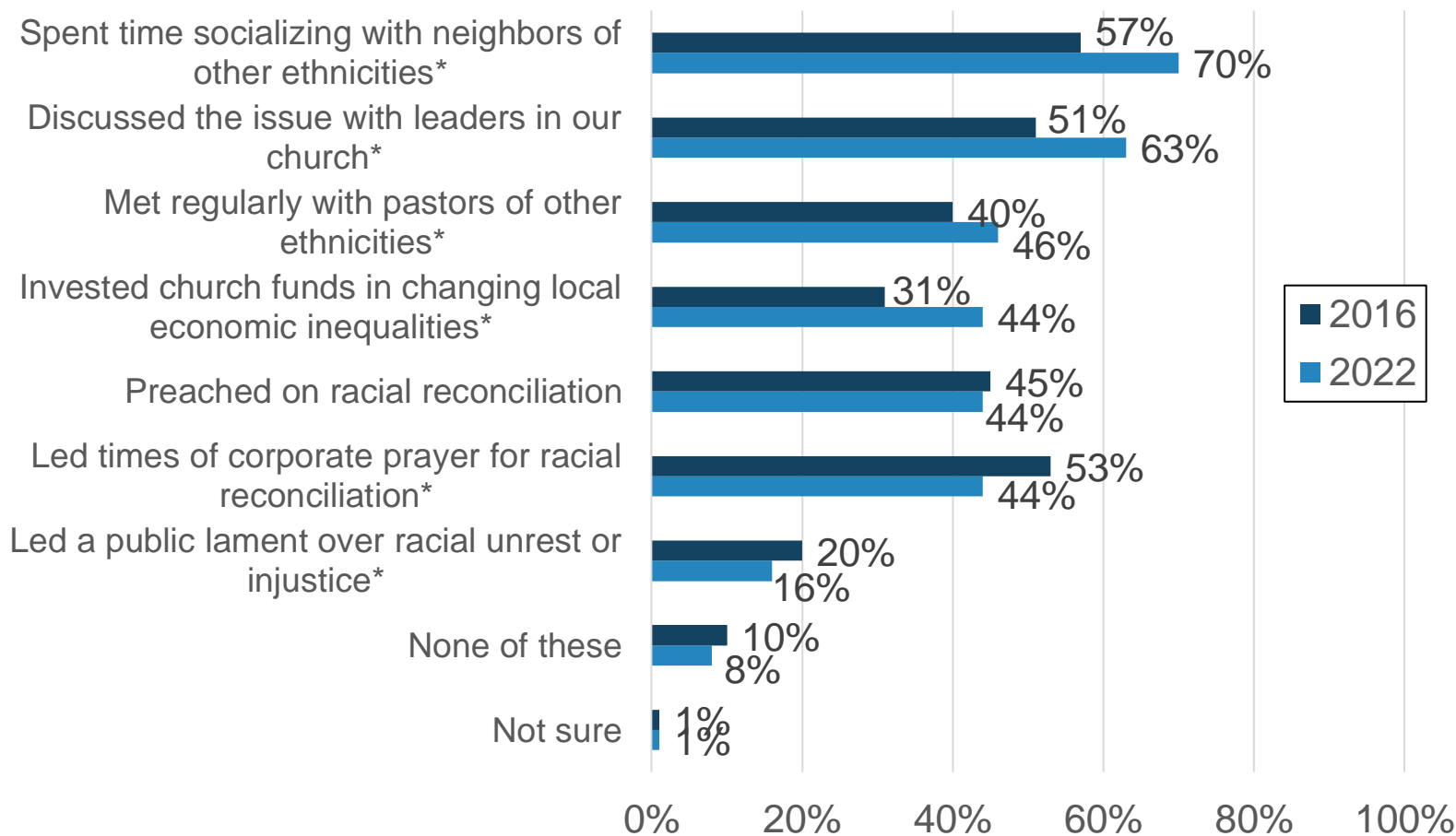
Among Protestant Pastors



Lifeway research

# More pastors are socializing with neighbors of other ethnicities, discussing the issue, and investing church funds than in 2016

Among Protestant Pastors



\*Statistically significant difference 2022 v. 2016

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# Significant Differences

Pastor

Ethnicity

Age

Gender

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		Hispanic	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

## **“When was the last time you had a meal with fewer than 10 people that included someone of another ethnicity?”**

- Pastors age 18-44 (47%) and 45-54 (47%) are more likely to select “In the last week” than pastors age 55-64 (37%) and 65+ (30%)
- Hispanic pastors (55%) are more likely to select “In the last week” than White pastors (40%)
- African American pastors are the most likely to select “More than a year ago” (15%)
- Pastors with no college degree are the least likely to select “In the last week” (29%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to select “More than a year ago” than Evangelical pastors (10% v. 4%)
- Pastors in the West are the most likely to select “In the last week” (54%)
- Christian/Church of Christ pastors (51%) are more likely to select “In the last week” than Methodists (30%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 0-49 are the least likely to select “In the last week” (32%) and the most likely to select “More than a year ago” (11%)

## **“Which, if any, of the following activities have you personally done in the last 3 month to encourage racial reconciliation?”**

### **Met regularly with pastors of other ethnicities**

- Pastors age 65+ are the least likely to select (35%)
- African American pastors (63%) are more likely to select than White pastors (44%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (48%) and South (49%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (38%)
- Methodists (60%), Pentecostals (47%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (51%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (29%)

**“Which, if any, of the following activities have you personally done in the last 3 months to encourage racial reconciliation?”**

**Spent time socializing with neighbors of other ethnicities**

- Pastors age 65+ are the least likely to select (60%)
- Hispanic pastors (82%) are more likely to select than White pastors (69%) and African American pastors (65%)
- Pastors in the South (75%) and West (78%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (59%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 100-249 (75%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 0-49 (64%)

## **“Which, if any, of the following activities have you personally done in the last 3 months to encourage racial reconciliation?”**

### **Invested church funds in changing local economic inequalities**

- Female pastors are more likely to select than males (60% v. 40%)
- African American pastors (65%) are more likely to select than White pastors (43%) and Hispanic pastors (47%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to select than Evangelical pastors (55% v. 41%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (52%) are more likely to select than those in the South (40%)
- Methodists (65%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (64%) are more likely to select than Baptists (34%), Lutherans (36%), Pentecostals (44%), Christian/Church of Christ (38%), and Non-denominational (38%)

**“Which, if any, of the following activities have you personally done in the last 3 months to encourage racial reconciliation?”**

**Discussed the issue with leaders in our church**

- Mainline pastors are more likely to select than Evangelical pastors (72% v. 59%)
- Presbyterian/Reformed (77%) are more likely to select than Baptists (56%), Lutherans (60%), Pentecostals (61%), and Christian/Church of Christ (52%)

# “Which, if any, of the following activities have you personally done in the last 3 months to encourage racial reconciliation?”

## Preached on racial reconciliation

- Hispanic pastors (56%) are more likely to select than White pastors (43%)
- Pastors with a Masters Degree (47%) and Doctoral Degree (51%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor’s Degree (37%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to select than Evangelical pastors (55% v. 40%)
- Pastors in the Midwest are the least likely to select (36%)
- Presbyterian/Reformed (59%) are more likely to select than Baptists (34%), Lutherans (41%), and Non-denominational (40%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 100-249 (48%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 50-99 (40%)

## **“Which, if any, of the following activities have you personally done in the last 3 months to encourage racial reconciliation?”**

### **Led a public lament over racial unrest or injustice**

- Female pastors are more likely to select than males (23% v. 14%)
- African American pastors (34%) and Hispanic pastors (28%) are more likely to select than White pastors (14%)
- Pastors with a Master’s Degree (16%) and Doctoral Degree (24%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor’s Degree (10%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to select than Evangelical pastors (20% v. 12%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (26%) are more likely to select than those in the South (14%) and Midwest (13%)
- Methodists (27%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (27%) are more likely to select than Baptists (9%), Lutherans (11%), and Non-denominational (10%)



## **“Which, if any, of the following activities have you personally done in the last 3 months to encourage racial reconciliation?”**

### **Led times of corporate prayer for racial reconciliation**

- Female pastors are more likely to select than males (50% v. 42%)
- African American pastors (58%) are more likely to select than White pastors (43%)
- Pastors with a Doctoral Degree (51%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor’s Degree (37%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to select than Evangelical pastors (55% v. 41%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (49%) and South (46%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (38%)
- Methodists (55%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (62%) are more likely to select than Baptists (33%), Lutherans (39%), and Christian/Church of Christ (35%)

# “Which, if any, of the following activities have you personally done in the last 3 months to encourage racial reconciliation?”

## None of these

- Pastors age 65+ (12%) are more likely to select than those age 45-54 (4%) and 55-64 (7%)
- Pastors in the Midwest (11%) are more likely to select than those in the South (5%)
- Lutherans (12%) are more likely to select than Methodists (3%), Presbyterian/Reformed (3%), and Non-denominational (2%)

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