

Pastors' Views on Their Church's Future

A SURVEY OF AMERICAN PROTESTANT PASTORS

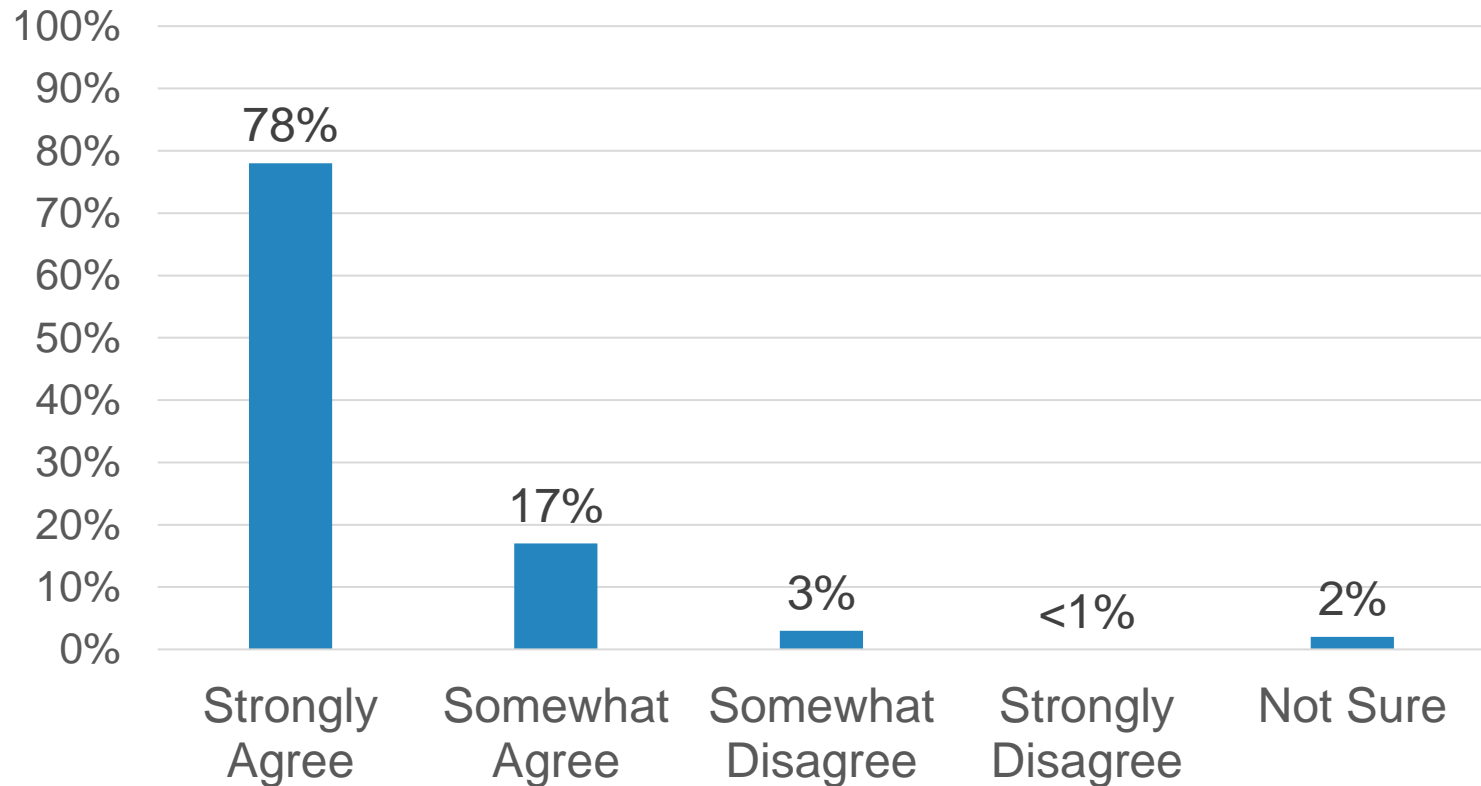
Lifeway **research**

Methodology

- The phone survey of 1,003 Protestant pastors was conducted August 8 – September 3, 2024
- 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 1,003 surveys
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed $\pm 3.3\%$ This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

94% of pastors believe their church will still exist in 10 years, 4% disagree and 2% are not sure

Among Protestant Pastors



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Q: "I expect my church will still exist in 10 years." n=1,003

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		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

“I expect my church will still exist in 10 years.”

- White pastors (95%) are more likely to Agree than pastors of Other Ethnicities (86%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (97%) are more likely to Agree than those in the West (91%)
- Pentecostals (97%) are more likely to Agree than Presbyterian/Reformed (90%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 0-49 are the least likely to Agree (88%) and the most likely to Disagree (8%)

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