



The Presbyterian Panel

Listening to Presbyterians



REPORT

Churchwide Special Offerings The May 2007 Survey

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OVERVIEW

What is the Presbyterian Panel?

The Presbyterian Panel consists of three nationally representative samples of groups affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): elders (lay leaders) currently serving on session, other members, and ministers of the Word and Sacrament. (The session is the governing body in Presbyterian congregations.) For analysis, ministers are split into two groups based on current call: *pastors*, serving in congregations, and *specialized clergy*, serving elsewhere. New samples are drawn every three years. Panel surveys are conducted quarterly, primarily by mail but with an online completion option.

For more information on methods used to draw the samples, see the technical appendix in the *Religious and Demographic Profile of Presbyterians 2005* (see the next page for web availability and ordering information).

The Panel is maintained and directed by the office of Research Services of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The first Panel was created in 1973 to provide a means for informing leaders of the opinions and activities of the rank and file across the church. Survey topics and questions are usually developed at the request of, and in consultation with, staff or elected members of national church entities. However, ultimate decisions on content and the disposition of Panel data are made by Research Services. Standards developed by the American Association of Public Opinion Research guide Panel surveys.

Current Survey

The current survey is the sixth completed by the 2006-2008 Panel. Questionnaires were mailed May 14, 2007. Most panelists received their copy by U.S. mail, but a subset of panelists who had signed up for the service was notified via email. Non-respondents were sent a postcard reminder June 4, 2007, and non-respondents who were notified by email were sent three email reminders in May and June. Returns were accepted through August 2007. Response rates for this survey are: members, 33%; elders, 43%; ministers, 48%. All panelists had the option of completing the survey on the web, and 13% of responding members, 13% of responding elders, 23% of responding pastors, and 20% of responding specialized clergy did so.

Sponsor and Topic

This survey was sponsored by the Special Offerings Review Task Force of the General Assembly to assist the task force in evaluating the current four churchwide special offerings (One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peacemaking, and Christmas Joy) and to study possible changes in the number of offerings and their recipients. A companion survey of congregations was also conducted. The two surveys were complimentary, with the Panel survey focused on issues that could best be answered by individuals (e.g., personal giving, opinions on offering types, while the congregational survey focused on more corporate topics (e.g., history of which offerings have been received, receipts for each) that would likely require the specialized knowledge of a congregational leader. The congregational survey results are not addressed in this report.

This Report

The first half of this report uses text and graphics to summarize and explicate findings. An appendix follows with comparative tables that display the percentage distribution of responses to every question for each of the four Panel groups. Results are subject to sampling and other errors. In general, differences of less than 8% are not statistically meaningful.

Some analyses in this report, including those using household income (Figure 4, p. 3), rely on responses of panelists to the initial questionnaire they completed in the fall of 2005. For more information on this earlier survey and responses of panelists to those questions, see the *Religious and Demographic Profile of Presbyterians 2005* (see the next page for web availability and ordering information). Other analyses (for example, Figure 1, p. 1) rely on congregational membership figures that congregational leaders provide to the Office of the General Assembly in the Session Annual Statistical Report.

A Note on Terminology

In this report, the term *median* refers to the middle number in an ordered distribution. For example, the median age for a group of people aged 12, 21, 28, 35, and 64 years would be 28 years. The term *mean* or *average* refers to the arithmetic average of values in a distribution; in the example, the mean age would be calculated as $(12+21+28+35+64)/5$, or 32 years.

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Author Note

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Additional Copies

Additional copies of this *Report* may be purchased for \$10 from Presbyterian Distribution Services (PDS)—call 800-524-2612 and request item #02056-07295. This *Report* is also available on the web for free download in Adobe Acrobat format; go to www.pcusa.org/research/panel and click on the appropriate link. Copies of a four-page *Summary* of results are available for \$2 each directly from Research Services, or for free download from the same website. Call for information on quantity discounts on printed copies of either this *Report* or its *Summary* (888-728-7228, ext. 2040).

Profile Report

The *Religious and Demographic Profile of Presbyterians 2005* is available for free download in Adobe Acrobat format on the web (www.pcusa.org/research/panel) or may be purchased for \$10 from PDS—call 800-524-2612 and request item #65100-05290.

Panel on the Web

A list of Panel topics since 1973 and *Summaries* and *Reports* of surveys since 1993 are available online at the Presbyterian Panel website: www.pcusa.org/research/panel.

Interested in Learning More about Your Congregation?

- ✓ *10-Year Trend Report for Congregations*—available for free: www.pcusa.org/tenyeartrends.
- ✓ Research Services can help you conduct a congregational survey. Call 888-728-7228, ext. 2040, and ask about the *U.S. Congregational Life Survey* or visit: www.USCongregations.org.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Majorities of congregations received three of the four churchwide special offerings in the prior year: One Great Hour of Sharing, Peacemaking, and Christmas Joy. Somewhat fewer received the Pentecost Offering. (p. 1)
- ✓ Few congregations received an offering at a time of year other than the typical time it is received (6% according to pastors). (p. 1)
- ✓ In congregations that receive each offering, majorities of panelists in each group report making a contribution (ranging from 59% of members contributing to the Peacemaking Offering to 86% of ministers contributing to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering). (p. 2)
- ✓ Average contributions to each special offering are small with the majority of donations being \$25 or less for members and elders and \$50 or less for ministers. (p. 2)
- ✓ The median amount contributed to each special offering by members is higher among those who reported higher household income and higher among those who reported higher regular giving to their congregation. (p. 3)
- ✓ The percentages of congregations receiving each special offering have remained about the same since the last Presbyterian Panel survey on the topic in 2003. (p. 4)
- ✓ When asked to choose one cause from a list of 19 that they personally “most favor” to receive funds from a special offering, the largest percentages choose these four: give people basic necessities (members, 26%; elders, 24%; pastors, 18%; specialized clergy, 17%); provide emergency relief (18%; 20%; 28%; 17%); help children (13%; 16%; 7%; 7%); and address root causes of hunger (8%; 9%; 11%; 15%). (p. 7)
- ✓ From a list of 17 characteristics of special offerings, the largest percentages in each Panel group select one of these three as the “most important characteristics for an offering to have”: has a clearly defined focus (members, 18%; elders, 18%; pastors, 19%; specialized clergy, 21%); gets help where it is needed efficiently and without delay (14%; 20%; 20%; 20%); and shows clearly how my gift helps specific people (14%; 13%; 14%; 12%). (p. 9)
- ✓ The Pentecost and Peacemaking offerings allow congregations to decide which programs that fit the theme of the offering will receive a share of their donations. Sizeable minorities in each Panel group report they made a donation at least in part because of this “local option” feature. (p. 10)
- ✓ Of panelists with an opinion, a majority in each group choose either eight, ten, or twelve weeks as the minimum gap between any two special offerings. (p. 10)
- ✓ The largest percentages in each Panel group, and in most cases a majority, describe the match between each special offering and the time of year it is received as “very appropriate” or “appropriate.” (p. 11)
- ✓ Half of pastors (50%) and specialized clergy (56%) believe the current number of churchwide special offerings—four—is “the right number,” while four in ten members (40%) and elders (44%) express that view. Many others are “not sure” (members, 39%; elders, 30%; pastors, 18%; specialized clergy, 24%). (p. 11)
- ✓ More than four in ten members and elders and most ministers favor a special offering “to support overseas mission personnel,” and among those who do, more favor it as a replacement (e.g., elders, 17%; pastors, 35%) than as a new offering (7%; 10%). (p. 12)
- ✓ Asked whether their opinions on a special offering for mission would change “if you knew that the PC(USA) would be eliminating many overseas missionary positions unless a new source of funding is found,” many members (45%) and elders (45%) and most pastors (57%) and specialized clergy (60%) indicate that they would be “more in favor” of such a special offering. (p. 11)

RECEIVING AND GIVING

Offerings Received

- ✓ Majorities of elders and pastors report that their congregation receives three of the four churchwide special offerings:
 - One Great Hour of Sharing (reported by 90% of elders and 90% of pastors as received).
 - Pentecost (48%; 40%).
 - Peacemaking (53%; 53%).
 - Christmas Joy (80%; 78%).
- ✓ Most congregations receive two, three, or all four of the churchwide special offerings, according to pastors:
 - Three in ten receive all four (31%).
 - Two in ten receive three of the four (22%).
 - One-quarter receive two (27%).
 - One in ten receive just one (11%).
 - One in ten receive none (9%).
- ✓ The number of offerings received by congregations is not related to size of the congregation or the region in which the congregation is located.
- ✓ Only a small percentage of congregations have received a special offering at a time of year different than the typical time, according to elders (4% so report) and pastors (6%).

Current Churchwide Special Offerings in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Offering is received in Lent or on Easter (March/April). It supports three national/international PC(USA) programs: Hunger (36%); Self-Development of People (32%); and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (32%).

Pentecost Offering is received on or around the Day of Pentecost (May/June). It supports national-level PC(USA) ministries with youth and young adults (50%); national PC(USA) advocacy for children at risk (10%); and children-at-risk ministries that congregations choose (40%).

Peacemaking Offering is received on or around World Communion Sunday (first Sunday in October). It supports the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program (50%); presbytery and synod peacemaking efforts (25%); and other peacemaking-related programs of the congregation's choice (25%).

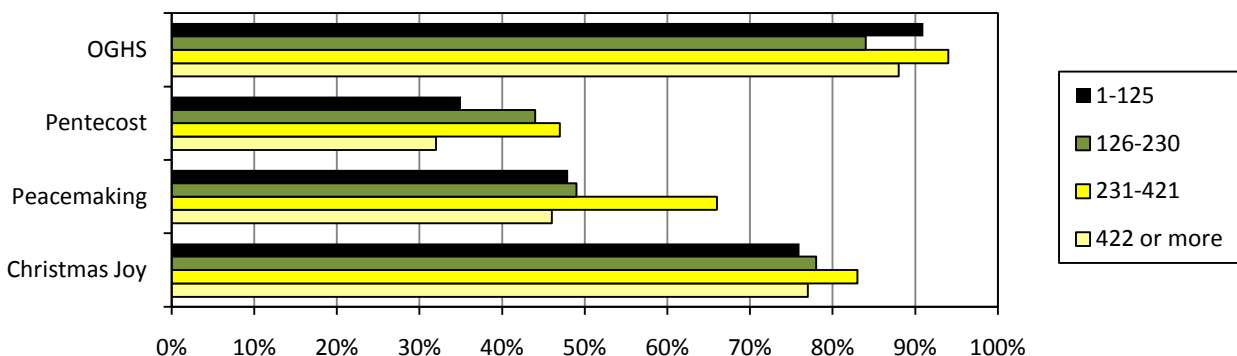
Christmas Joy Offering is received in Advent or on Christmas (December). It supports needy retired ministers and missionaries (50%) and PC(USA) racial-ethnic schools (50%).

Offerings Received by Size of Congregation

In every membership size category, the Pentecost Offering is received by the fewest congregations. About one-third of the smallest and largest congregations and slightly more congregations in the two mid-size categories (but fewer than half) receive the Pentecost Offering. (See Figure 1.) One Great Hour of Sharing is received by the most congregations in each size group, with Peacemaking and Christmas Joy received by somewhat fewer.

For each offering, there is no statistically significant difference in the percentages that receive it by congregational size.

Figure 1. Percentage of Congregations Receiving Each Offering, by Membership Size (Pastors' Responses)

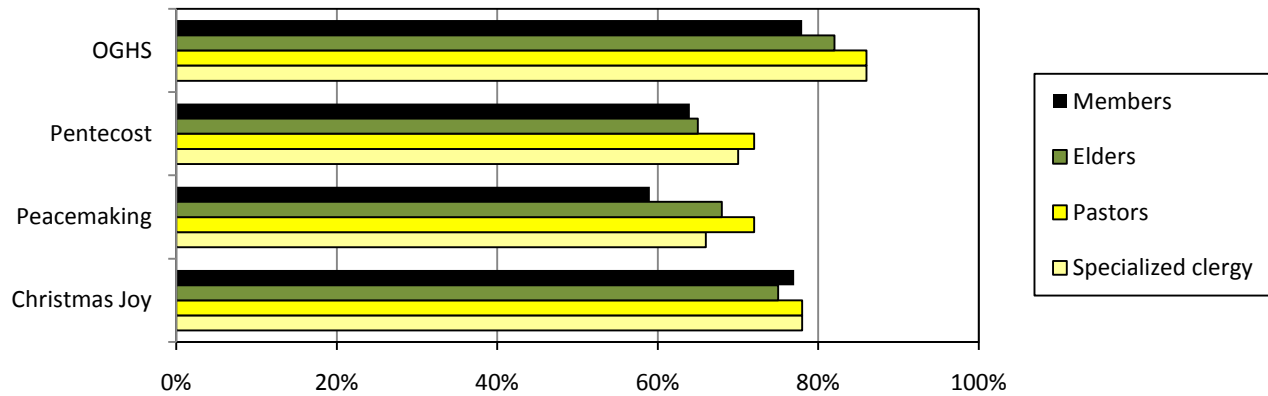


RECEIVING AND GIVING

Individuals Contributing

- ✓ In congregations that receive a particular special offering, majorities of panelists in each group report that they or someone in their household contributed to it. (See Figure 2.)
- ✓ At least three-quarters of panelists in congregations that receive the offering contribute to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) and Christmas Joy offerings:
 - OGHS (percent contributing: members, 78%; elders, 82%; pastors, 86%; specialized clergy, 86%).
 - Christmas Joy (77%; 75%; 78% 78%).
- ✓ Smaller majorities contribute to the Pentecost and Peacemaking offerings in congregations where it is received:
 - Pentecost (percent contributing: members, 64%; elder, 65%; pastors, 72%; specialized clergy, 70%).
 - Peacemaking (59%; 68%; 72%; 66%).

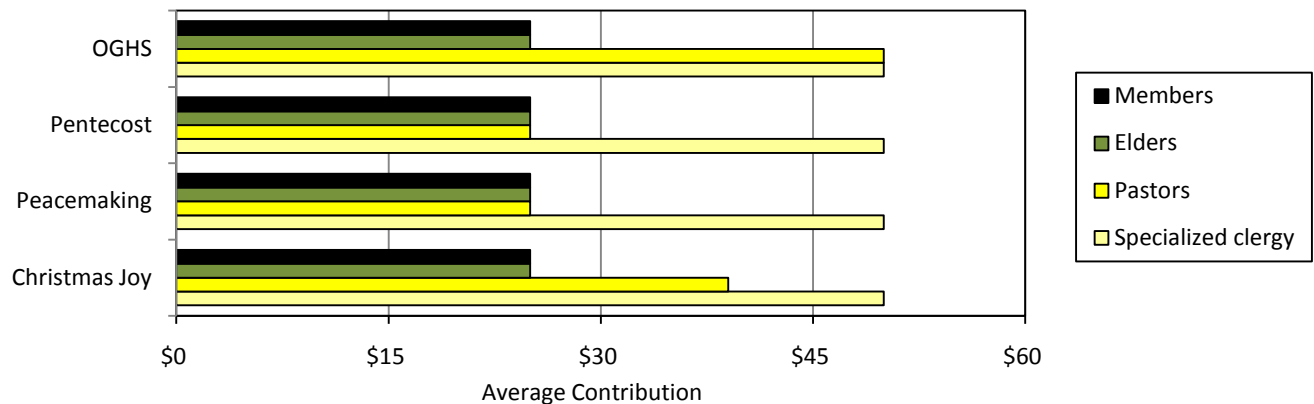
Figure 2. Where Received, Proportions Who Contribute to Each Churchwide Special Offering



Amount of Contributions

- ✓ Median household donation amounts to each special offering tend to be small, as Figure 3 shows. Individual gifts vary in size from \$1 to \$1,000, with the majority of donations being \$25 or less for members and elders and \$50 or less for ministers.
- ✓ Median amounts given range from \$25 for member, elder, and pastor donations to both the Pentecost and Peacemaking Offerings and member and elder donations to the One Great Hour of Sharing and Christmas Joy Offerings to a high of \$50 for specialized clergy contributions to all four offerings and for pastor donations to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.

Figure 3. Median Household Contributions to Churchwide Special Offerings



RECEIVING AND GIVING

Factors That Influence Giving to Special Offerings

Does family income or regular giving to the congregation influence giving to special offerings? Yes and no.

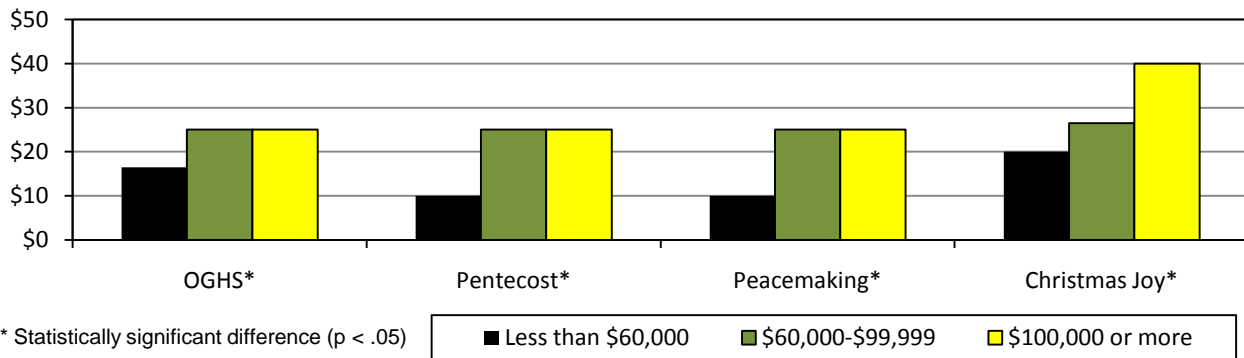
Contributing to Special Offerings

For the most part family income is *not* related to whether panelists report making a contribution to each special offering received in their congregation. For example, 73% of members with the lowest household income (less than \$60,000 for 2007) report contributing to One Great Hour of Sharing, as do 73% of those with mid-range income (\$60,000 to \$99,999) and 70% of those with the highest income (\$100,000 or more). The one exception is for contributions by specialized clergy to the Peacemaking Offering where more of those with higher incomes contributed. Four in ten specialized clergy in the low income group (40%), half in the mid-range group (48%), and seven in ten with incomes above \$100,000 (72%) contribute to the Peacemaking Offering if their congregation receives it.

Amounts Given to Special Offerings

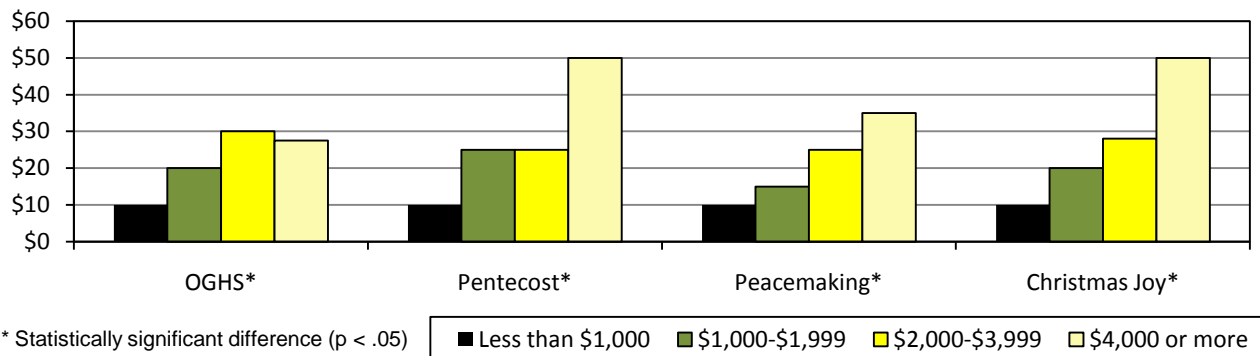
In general, the median amount contributed to each special offering is higher among panelists who reported higher household income in 2007, as Figure 4 shows for members.

Figure 4. Median Amount Given by Members Who Contributed to Each Special Offering, by Household Income



Also, members and elders who give more to their congregation in regular giving also give more to each special offering received by the congregation. Figure 5 shows this pattern for members' contributions.

Figure 5. Median Amount Given by Members Who Contributed to Each Special Offering, by Amount Given to their Congregation in 2007 in Regular Giving



RECEIVING AND GIVING

Changes in Giving and Receiving, 2003 to 2007

The November 2003 Presbyterian Panel survey also focused on churchwide special offerings. What has changed since then?

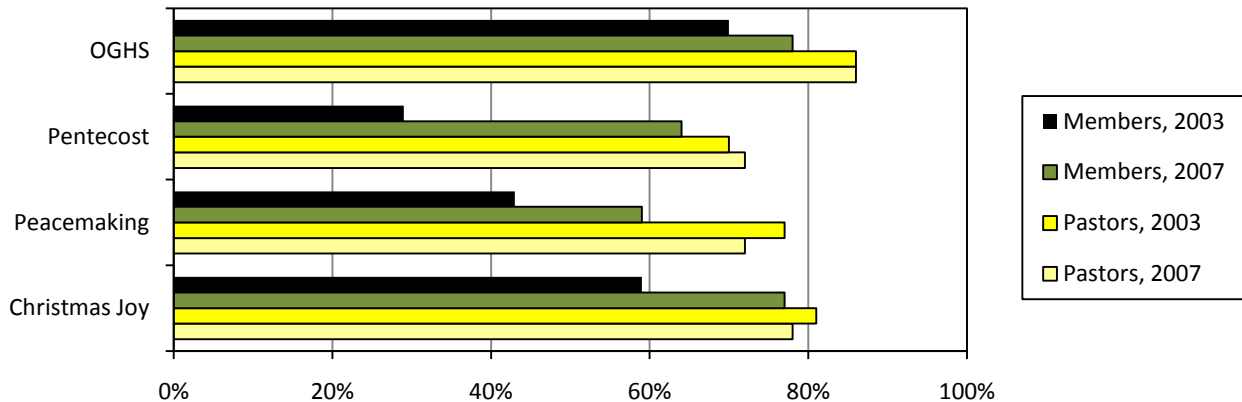
The percentages of congregations receiving each special offering have remained about the same over that time period, according to pastors' responses. (See Table 1.) Just 7% of pastors said their congregation didn't receive any of the churchwide special offerings in 2003. That number was about the same (9%) in 2007.

Table 1. Percentage of Congregations Receiving Each Offering, 2003 and 2007 (Pastors' Responses)

	2003	2007
OGHS.....	91%	90%
Pentecost	37%	40%
Peacemaking.....	55%	53%
Christmas Joy.....	80%	78%

The proportion of members in congregations receiving each offering who report they or someone in their household made a contribution increased from 2003 to 2007 for three offerings: Pentecost, Peacemaking, and Christmas Joy. Similar changes were not found for pastors. Despite the increase in giving rates among members, for each special offering more pastors than members contribute to each.

Figure 6. Where Received, Proportions of Members and Pastors Who Contribute to Each Special Offering, 2003 and 2007



Median amounts panelists gave to each offering in congregations that receive the offering changed little between 2003 and 2007 (after adjusting for inflation), as Table 2 shows for households of members and pastors.

Table 2. Where Received, Median Members' and Pastors' Household Giving to Each Offering, 2003 and 2007 (2003 amounts shown in 2007 dollars)

	Members		Pastors	
	2003	2007	2003	2007
OGHS	\$23	\$25	\$57	\$50
Pentecost.....	\$23	\$25	\$29	\$25
Peacemaking	\$23	\$25	\$29	\$25
Christmas Joy	\$23	\$25	\$29	\$39

HOW OFFERING CAUSES AFFECT THE LIKELIHOOD OF GIVING

Offering Causes Many Would Support

- ✓ Asked whether they would contribute to various possible special offering causes, at least three-quarters in each Panel group respond “yes, definitely” or “yes, probably” to these five:
 - Give people basic necessities (members, 88%; elders, 84%; pastors, 87%; specialized clergy, 87%).
 - Provide emergency relief following disasters (87%; 87%; 93%; 94%).
 - Help children (86%; 85%; 84%; 83%).
 - Provide food for the hungry (86%; 83%; 87%; 88%).
 - Help disadvantaged people who have already taken steps to improve their communities (81%; 75%; 78%; 80%).
- ✓ Majorities in each group would “definitely” or “probably” contribute to special offerings that support these three causes:
 - Address the root causes of hunger (members, 72%; elders, 73%; pastors, 80%; specialized clergy, 85%).
 - Help retired ministers and missionaries who have health needs or low incomes (65%; 64%; 73%; 67%).
 - Support health ministries in impoverished parts of the United States (59%; 53%; 61%; 68%).
- ✓ A majority of members (63%), elders (55%), and pastors (55%) but not specialized clergy (44%) would “definitely” or “probably” donate money to a special offering that supports “youth and young adult ministries.”
- ✓ Several other causes that special offerings might support would “definitely” or “probably” receive donations from a majority in one or both minister groups, but from fewer laypersons:
 - Address environmental issues (members, 35%; elders, 34%; pastors, 49%; specialized clergy, 61%).
 - Establish new Presbyterian congregations (35%; 37%; 54%; 44%).
 - Support health ministries in impoverished parts of other countries (44%; 47%; 69%; 70%).
 - Support inner-city ministries (50%; 48%; 53%; 60%).
 - Promote peacemaking and conflict resolution (40%; 37%; 46%; 61%).
 - Support social justice ministries (29%; 28%; 42%; 61%).

Offering Causes Fewer Would Support

- ✓ Sizeable minorities in all Panel groups would “definitely” or “probably” contribute to special offerings that support these two causes:
 - Help struggling rural congregations (members, 48%; elders, 43%; pastors, 44%; specialized clergy, 46%).
 - Foster spiritual growth (38%; 41%; 44%; 31%).
- ✓ Fewer members and elders than ministers would “definitely” or “probably” contribute to these two causes:
 - Support PC(USA)-affiliated minority racial-ethnic schools and colleges (members, 28%; elders, 28%; pastors, 42%; specialized clergy, 46%).
 - Support the National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches (18%; 14%; 21%; 35%).

What These Opinions Tell Us About Support for Current Special Offerings Causes

OGHS. Almost all panelists would contribute to the causes it supports—hunger, self-development of people, and disaster assistance.

Pentecost. Large majorities in each group would give to the children at risk component of this offering, with smaller majorities (and only a minority of specialized clergy) giving to the youth and young adult portion.

Peacemaking. Except for a majority of specialized clergy, only four in ten panelists would contribute to this cause.

Christmas Joy. Large majorities in each group would give to one of the causes supported by this offering—needy retired ministers and retired missionaries—but less than half would give to the other—church-affiliated racial-ethnic schools.

HOW OFFERING CAUSES AFFECT THE LIKELIHOOD OF GIVING

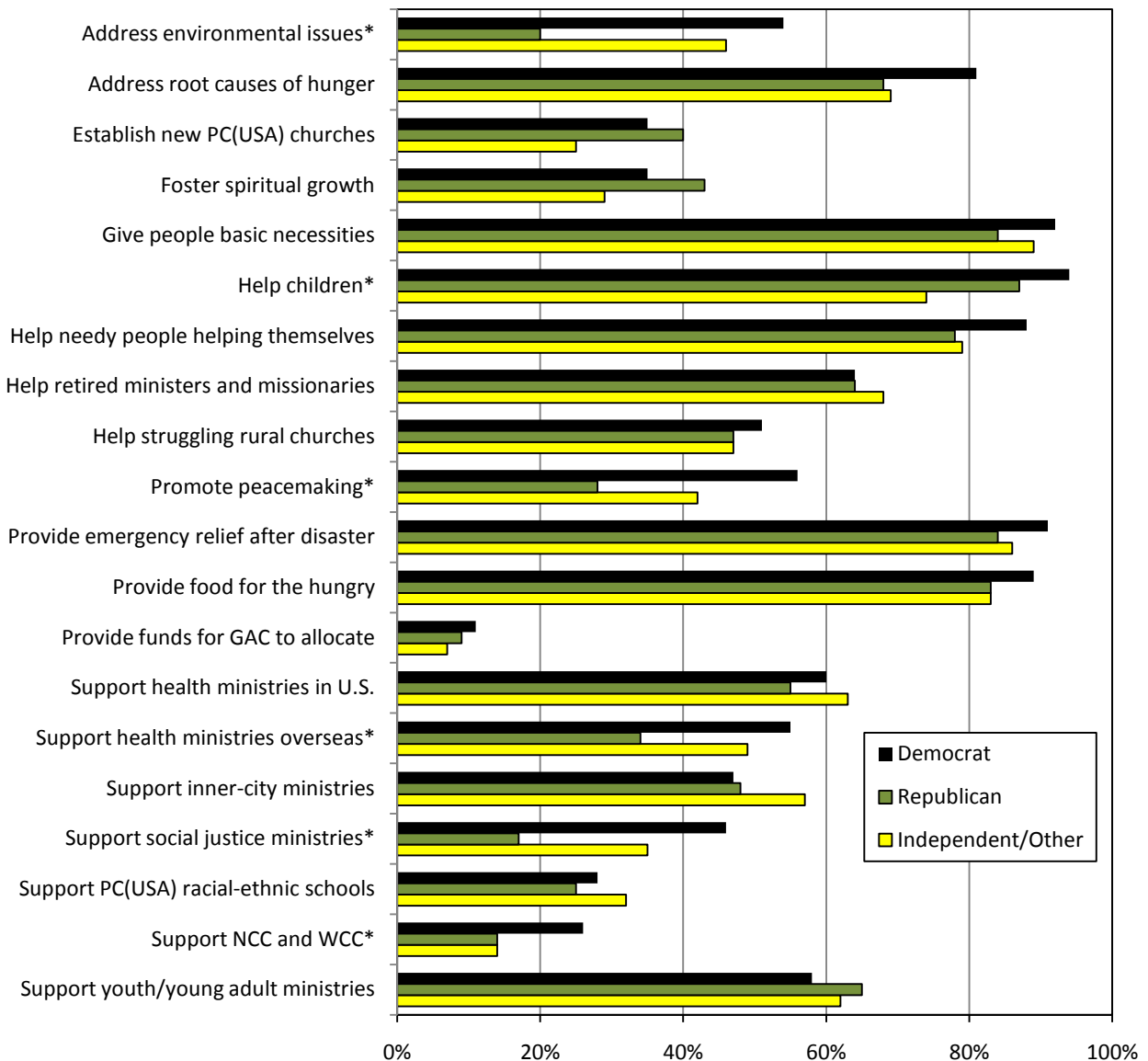
Letting the General Assembly Council Decide

- ✓ Asked about contributing to a special offering that would “provide money for the General Assembly Council [now the General Assembly Mission Council] to decide how to allocate,” only 10% of members, 9% of elders, 14% of pastors, and 19% of specialized clergy report they would “definitely” or “probably” make a donation.

Likelihood of Giving and Political Self-Identification

For six of the 19 potential special offering causes, the likelihood of contributing is linked to political self-identification. For these six causes, members who are Democrats are more likely to say they would “definitely” or “probably” contribute than those who are Republicans or Independents or members who identify as something else: address environmental issues, help children, promote peacemaking and conflict resolution, support health ministries in impoverished parts of other countries, support social justice ministries, and support the National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches.

Figure 7. Likelihood of Contributing by Political Identification, Members’ Responses



* Statistically significant difference (p < .05)

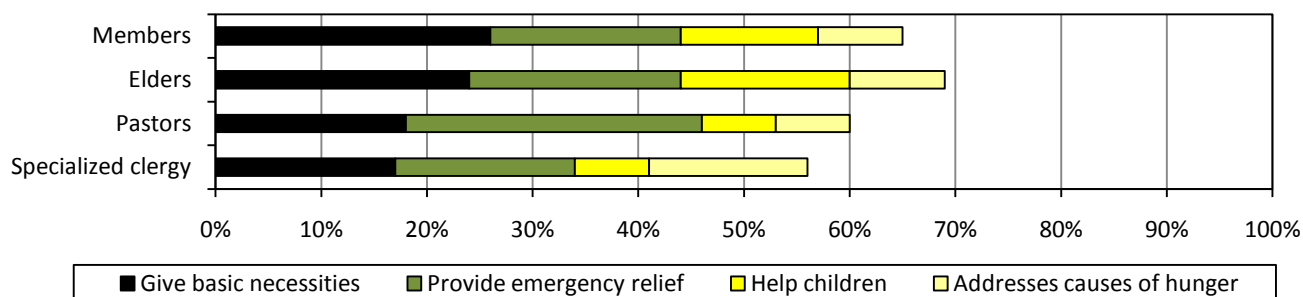
Yes, definitely or Yes, probably

HOW OFFERING CAUSES AFFECT THE LIKELIHOOD OF GIVING

One Most-Favored Cause

- ✓ When asked to choose one cause (from the same list of 19 discussed on the previous page) that they personally “most favor” to receive funds raised through a churchwide special offering, the four causes that the largest percentages “most favor” are identical for the four Panel groups though in different order (see Figure 8):
 - Give people basic necessities (percentages who would “most favor” this cause to receive special offering funds: members, 26%; elders, 24%; pastors, 18%; specialized clergy, 17%).
 - Provide emergency relief (18%; 20%; 28%; 17%).
 - Help children (13%; 16%; 7%; 7%).
 - Address the root causes of hunger (8%; 9%; 11%; 15%).

Figure 8. Most-Favored Special Offering Causes
Percent selecting each cause as the one (of 19) they most favor



- ✓ In addition to these four, similar numbers of ministers name another cause as the one they “most favor”: establishing new Presbyterian congregations in the United States (“new church development”), so named by 11% of pastors and 7% of specialized clergy. (Only 3% of members and 4% of elders cited this cause.)

Three Most-Favored Causes

- ✓ Panelists were also asked to choose two additional causes (from the same list of 19) that they personally favor to receive funds through a churchwide special offering (their second and third most-favored causes). Combining these responses with those they “most favor” reveals their three top choices. Two causes are named most often in each of the four Panel groups:
 - Provide emergency relief (percentages who cite this as one of their top three choices to receive special offering funds: members, 50%; elders, 51%; pastors, 58%; specialized clergy, 46%).
 - Give people basic necessities (50%; 48%; 43%; 32%).
- ✓ In third place for members and elders, but named less often by ministers, is helping children (members, 43%; elders, 45%; pastors, 24%; specialized clergy, 19%).
- ✓ Many ministers (pastors, 30%; specialized clergy, 37%) report that addressing the root causes of hunger is among their three top choices; fewer laity so respond (members, 18%; elders, 21%).
- ✓ About one-quarter of members, elders, and pastors and fewer specialized clergy also cite providing food for the hungry as among their top three favored causes (members, 25%; elders, 24%; pastors, 23%; specialized clergy, 16%).
- ✓ Only three other causes are among the top three choices of at least one in five in any Panel group:
 - Help disadvantaged people who have already taken steps to improve their communities (21% of members, but only 18% of elders, 16% of pastors, and 15% of specialized clergy).
 - Establish Presbyterian congregations (20% of pastors, but only 9% of members, 10% of elders, and 15% of specialized clergy).
 - Promote peacemaking and conflict resolution (20% of specialized clergy, but only 8% of members, 8% of elders, and 9% of pastors).

HOW OFFERING CHARACTERISTICS AFFECT THE LIKELIHOOD OF GIVING

Offering Characteristics That Make Panelists More Likely to Give

- ✓ Four churchwide special offerings characteristics (from a list of 17) would make eight in ten or more in all four Panel groups “much more likely” or “more likely” to donate:
 - Gets help where it is needed efficiently and without delay (members, 89%; elders, 89%; pastors, 92%; specialized clergy, 95%).
 - Has a clearly defined focus (88%; 90%; 94%; 90%).
 - Shows clearly how my gift helps specific people (87%; 89%; 91%; 86%).
 - Has rigorous financial accountability (81%; 82%; 85%; 86%).
- ✓ Three other characteristics would make at least two-thirds in each Panel group “much more likely” or “more likely” to donate:
 - Helps me relate to a specific ministry (members, 73%; elders, 73%; pastors, 84%; specialized clergy, 82%).
 - Is a tradition at our church (71%; 71%; 80%; 73%).
 - Remains faithful to deserving causes even when they recede from widespread public attention (70%; 69%; 76%; 84%).
- ✓ Majorities in all groups, but larger numbers of ministers than of members or elders, would be “much more likely” or “more likely” to support a churchwide special offering with these characteristics:
 - Helps address systemic issues (“root causes”) (members, 55%; elders, 55%; pastors, 69%; specialized clergy, 75%).
 - Helps me connect with other Christians concerned about the same ministry (52%; 53%; 68%; 75%).
- ✓ The reverse is true for two other characteristics. More members and elders than ministers would be “much more likely” or “more likely” to donate to a churchwide special offering that:
 - Serves ministries in the local area (members, 78%; elders, 76%; pastors, 62%; specialized clergy, 50%).
 - Lets our church keep a share of gifts and decide where to allocate them (68%; 68%; 56%; 48%).
 - Serves ministries located in the United States (57%; 52%; 41%; 36%).

Offering Characteristics That Make Fewer Panelists More Likely to Give

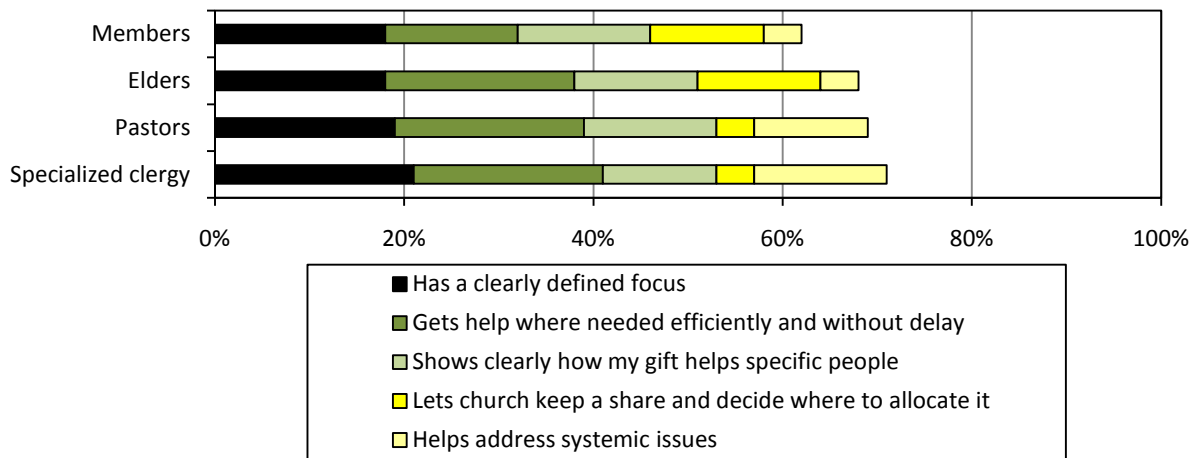
- ✓ Other characteristics of churchwide special offerings (from the same list of 17) would make between one in five and one-half in each Panel group “much more likely” or “more likely” to give:
 - Shifts emphases often to reflect emerging needs and ministries (members, 45%; elders, 43%; pastors, 44%; specialized clergy, 48%).
 - Is ecumenical in history and design (41%; 44%; 37%; 50%).
 - Addresses public policy issues (22%; 23%; 29%; 50%).
- ✓ Somewhat fewer would be “much more likely” or “more likely” to give to special offerings with these characteristics:
 - Serves ministries located overseas (members, 30%; elders, 26%; pastors, 36%; specialized clergy, 39%).
 - Primarily serves people outside the church (29%; 24%; 34%; 34%).
- ✓ For all 17 characteristics, the majority of other panelists respond “no effect/not sure.” For only five special offering characteristics do more than 10% in any group respond “less likely” or “much less likely” to give:
 - Addresses public policy issues (members, 21%; elders, 29%; pastors, 29%; specialized clergy, 20%).
 - Primarily serves people outside the church (members, 17%; elders, 14%).
 - Serves ministries located overseas (members, 14%; elders, 12%).
 - Is ecumenical in history and design (pastors, 12%).
 - Shifts emphases often to reflect emerging needs and ministries (elders, 13%; pastors, 15%; specialized clergy, 13%).

HOW OFFERING CHARACTERISTICS AFFECT THE LIKELIHOOD OF GIVING

Most Important Offering Characteristics

- ✓ From the same list of 17 characteristics, the largest percentages in all Panel groups select one of these three as the “most important characteristic for a special offering to have”:
 - Has a clearly defined focus (members, 18%; elders, 18%; pastors, 19%; specialized clergy, 21%).
 - Gets help where it is needed efficiently and without delay (14%; 20%; 20%; 20%).
 - Shows clearly how my gift helps specific people (14%; 13%; 14%; 12%).
- ✓ The fourth-highest most-important characteristic for members (12%) and elders (13%) is “lets our church keep a share of the donations and decide where to allocate them.” Few ministers respond similarly (pastors, 4%; specialized clergy, 4%).
- ✓ The fourth-highest most-important characteristic for ministers is “helps address systemic issues” (pastors, 12%; specialized clergy, 14%). Few members (4%) or elders (4%) so rate this characteristic.

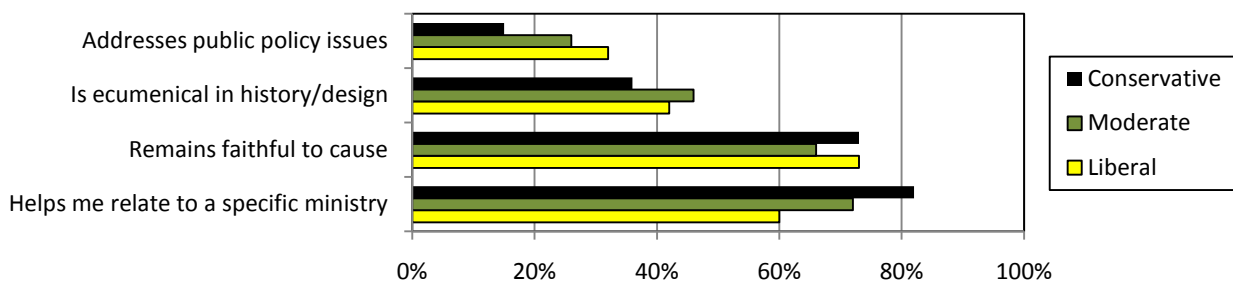
Figure 9. Most Important Special Offering Features
Percent selecting each feature as the most important one (of 17)



Likelihood of Giving and Members' Theological Orientation

For only four of the 17 offering characteristics does theological orientation influence members' likelihood of contributing, and the pattern of differences is not consistent (see Figure 10). For two—offerings that address public policy issues and those that are ecumenical in history and design—fewer members who are theological conservatives than those who are moderates or liberals are likely to give. For offerings that remain faithful to a cause even when the cause recedes from public attention, moderates are less likely to give than conservatives or liberals. More members who are conservative than those who are liberal or moderate are likely to contribute to an offering that helps them relate to a specific ministry.

Figure 10. Members' Likelihood of Contributing by Theological Orientation



All differences are statistically significant ($p < .05$)

Much more likely or more likely to give

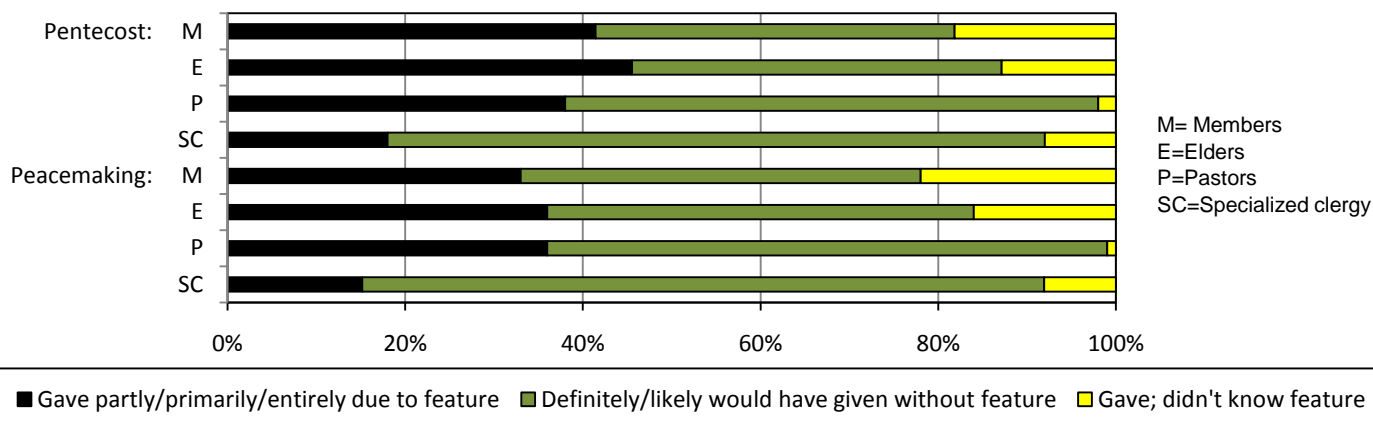
OTHER SPECIAL OFFERINGS RELATED OPINIONS

Giving and Local Control

- ✓ The Pentecost Offering allows congregations to disperse a share of the contributions received (40%) to one or more organizations or projects of their own choosing that fit the theme of the offering—youth and young adults. Sizable minorities of panelists who contributed to this offering indicate they made a donation at least in part because of this “local option” feature; others would have given regardless of this feature or gave but did not know about this feature (see Figure 11):
 - I gave primarily/entirely/partly because of this feature (members, 41%; elders, 46%; pastors, 38%; specialized, 18%).
 - I definitely/likely would have contributed even without this feature (40%; 42%; 60%; 74%).
 - I gave but didn’t know about this feature (18%; 13%; 2%; 8%).

- ✓ Similarly, the Peacemaking Offering allows congregations to decide to which other peacemaking program a portion of their own contributions (25%) will go. Somewhat smaller minorities of panelists who gave to this offering than to the Pentecost Offering report they donated at least in part because of this “local option” feature. Others would have given even without this feature or gave but did not know about this feature:
 - I gave primarily/entirely/partly because of this feature (members, 33%; elders, 36%; pastors, 36%; specialized clergy, 15%).
 - I definitely/likely would have contributed even without this feature (45%; 48%; 63%; 76%).
 - I gave but I didn’t know about this feature (22%; 16%; 1%; 8%).

Figure 11. Impact of Local Control on Giving to Pentecost and Peacemaking Offerings



Timing of Offerings

- ✓ Large minorities have “no opinion” when asked “what is the *minimum* number of weeks that you think should separate each churchwide special offering and the next” (members, 44%; elders, 37%; pastors, 24%; specialized clergy, 32%).

- ✓ Of panelists with opinions, the majority choose either eight weeks (members, 13%; elders, 14%; pastors, 20%; specialized clergy, 14%), ten weeks (12%; 12%; 16%; 17%), or especially, 12 weeks (40%; 33%; 25%; 33%) as the minimum gap between any two special offerings.

- ✓ Asked about the length of the current interval between each offering and the next, majorities in every group respond “right interval” for three of the four time gaps:
 - Between Pentecost, received in May or June, and Peacemaking, received in early October (members, 53%; elders; 56%; pastors, 59%; specialized clergy, 60%).
 - Between Peacemaking and Christmas Joy, received during Advent or on Christmas (52%; 55%; 55%; 62%).
 - Between Christmas Joy and OGHS, received during Lent or on Easter (68%; 66%; 73%; 74%).

- ✓ The exception is for the gap between OGHS (March/April) and Pentecost (May/June), for which sizable minorities respond “too short” (members, 25%; elders, 28%; pastors, 43%; specialized clergy, 33%).

OTHER SPECIAL OFFERINGS RELATED OPINIONS

Seasons When Offerings Are Received

- ✓ Most panelists describe the match between OGHS and the time of year it is received (Lent/Easter) as “very appropriate” or “appropriate” (members, 74%; elders, 76%; pastors, 79%; specialized clergy, 79%).
- ✓ Almost as many say the match between Peacemaking and the time when it is received—on World Communion Sunday—is “very appropriate” or “appropriate” (members, 59%; elders, 59%; pastors, 68%; specialized clergy, 72%).
- ✓ Similar numbers respond “very appropriate” or “appropriate” regarding the match between Christmas Joy and its scheduled receipt during Advent or on Christmas (members, 65%; elders, 65%; pastors, 65%; specialized clergy, 59%).
- ✓ While sizable numbers rate the match between the Pentecost Offering and Pentecost Sunday to be “very appropriate” or “appropriate” (members, 55%; elders, 54%; pastors, 45%; specialized clergy, 53%), the largest share of any of the four special offerings deem this match only “somewhat appropriate” or “not appropriate” (15%; 16%; 34%; 29%).

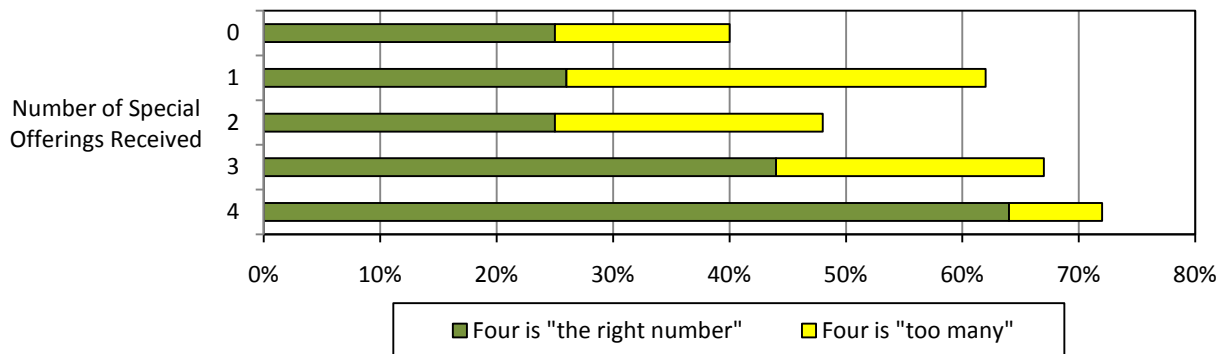
Number of Special Offerings

- ✓ Half of pastors (50%) and specialized clergy (56%) believe the current number of churchwide special offerings—four—is “the right number,” while four in ten members (40%) and elders (44%) express that view. Many others are “not sure” (members, 39%; elders, 30%; pastors, 18%; specialized clergy, 24%).
- ✓ Of the rest, many more respond “too many” (overall: members, 19%; elders, 25%; pastors, 31%; specialized clergy, 16%) than “too few” (2%; 1%; 1%; 3%).

Does the Number of Offerings Received Influence Special Offerings Opinions?

One might suspect that panelists in congregations that receive all four churchwide special offerings might feel “over-solicited” and prefer that there were fewer such offerings. But surprisingly the reverse is true. More panelists in congregations that receive *multiple* churchwide special offerings than those in congregations that receive few if any special offerings say that four is “the right number” of such offerings, as Figure 12 shows for pastors. One-quarter of members in congregations that receive no churchwide special offerings say that four is “the right number” of offerings, while 64% in congregations that receive all four say that four is the “right number.” (The percentages for pastors are 20% and 77%, respectively.) Congregations that receive more special offerings may have a culture of stewardship and giving that helps people see the importance of these opportunities to support the church’s mission and ministry beyond their doors. Also, congregations that think four is too many are likely to have already dropped at least one offering.

Figure 12. Members’ Opinions About the Number of Churchwide Special Offerings by the Number of Special Offerings Received in Their Congregation



OPINIONS ON A NEW SPECIAL OFFERING FOR MISSION

An Offering for Mission?

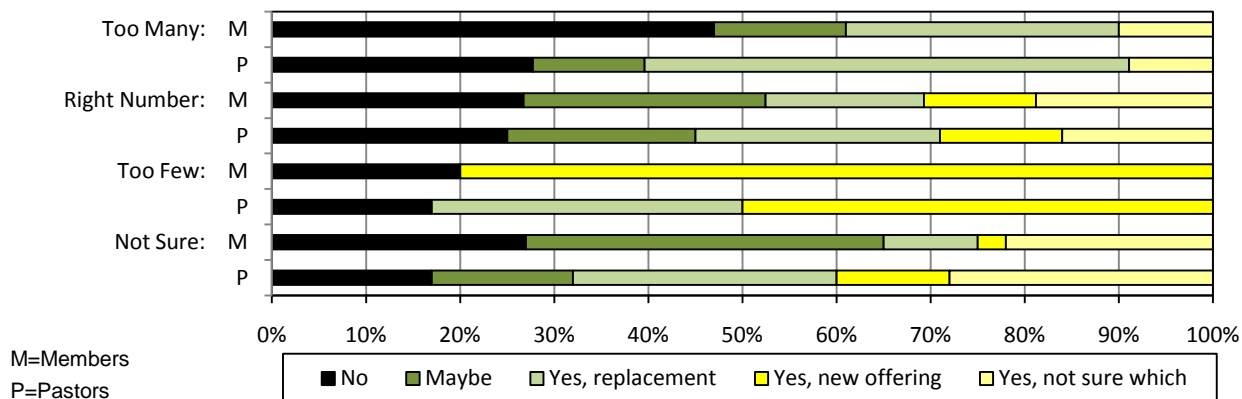
- ✓ More than four in ten members and elders and most ministers favor a special offering “to support overseas mission personnel,” but among those, more favor it as a replacement (e.g., elders, 17%; pastors, 35%) than as a new offering (10%; 9%). Others are “not sure” which (18%; 15%).
- ✓ The subset of panelists who favor a special offering for mission as a replacement offering further indicate which one(s) they think it should replace:
 - OGHS (members, 4%; elders, 4%; pastors, 1%; specialized clergy, 0%).
 - Pentecost (18%; 13%; 36%; 42%).
 - Peacemaking (43%; 62%; 53%; 38%).
 - Christmas Joy (18%; 17%; 6%; 14%).
 - Not sure (16%; 5%; 4%; 4%).
 - All or part of two or more (2%; 0%; 1%; 2%).
- ✓ Asked whether their opinions on a special offering for mission would change “if you knew that the PC(USA) would be eliminating many overseas missionary positions unless a new source of funding is found,” many members (45%) and elders (45%) and most pastors (57%) and specialized clergy (60%) indicate that they would be “more in favor” of such a special offering.

Factors Influencing Support for a New Special Offering for Mission

A majority of panelists who initially favored a new offering to support mission were more in favor of that option when told overseas missionaries might lose their positions unless additional funds were made available. Among members, for example, 67% of those who initially favored a fifth offering for mission and 53% who initially favored it as a replacement of all or part of an existing offering report being “more in favor” of the offering after hearing about the potential position cuts. Among members who initially did not favor a new special offering for mission, half (47%) report their opinion did not change, and only 28% report being more in favor of the new offering.

Panelists who believe there are currently “too few” churchwide special offerings are more likely to favor the idea of a fifth special offering than are panelists who believe there are “too many” special offerings. And among those who think the current four churchwide special offerings are “too many,” a majority of panelists either reject the idea of a new offering for mission or favor it only as a replacement. Among members, for example, of those who say there are “too many” offerings, 47% say “no” about a new special offering to support mission personnel, and 29% say “yes, as a replacement.” Of members who say the current number of offerings is the “right number,” only 27% say “no” about a new offering, and 17% favor it as a replacement. (See Figure 13.)

Figure 13. Support for a New Churchwide Special Offering for Mission, by Opinion About the Current Number of Special Offerings





The Presbyterian Panel

Churchwide Special Offerings

The May 2007 Survey

Survey Questions and Responses

	Members	Elders	Ministers
Number of questionnaires mailed.....	1,029	1,108	1,423
Number of questionnaires returned.....	340	481	696 ‡
Percent returned.....	33%	43%	48%

‡ 480 pastors; 216 specialized clergy

The term **churchwide special offerings** refers to offerings approved by the General Assembly for annual promotion throughout the PC(USA). The General Assembly Council provides resources to congregations that choose to participate, inviting individual Presbyterians to donate to these offerings through their congregations.

Q1. How would each characteristic listed below affect your likelihood of making a donation to a churchwide special offering? Would it make you more likely to give, less likely to give, or would it have no effect?

The offering . . .	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
a. Is a tradition at our church				
Much more likely to give	20%	19%	27%	32%
More likely to give	51%	52%	53%	41%
No effect/not sure	28%	26%	18%	23%
Less likely to give	1%	3%	2%	2%
Much less likely to give	1%	*	1%	1%
b. Lets our church keep a share of the donations and decide where to allocate them				
Much more likely to give	22%	22%	17%	10%
More likely to give	46%	46%	39%	38%
No effect/not sure	28%	28%	42%	43%
Less likely to give	3%	4%	2%	7%
Much less likely to give	1%	1%	*	2%
c. Helps me connect with other Christians concerned about the same ministry				
Much more likely to give	11%	8%	11%	25%
More likely to give	41%	45%	57%	50%
No effect/not sure	44%	45%	30%	22%
Less likely to give	4%	2%	2%	2%
Much less likely to give	1%	*	*	1%
d. Has a clearly defined focus				
Much more likely to give	34%	30%	38%	46%
More likely to give	54%	60%	56%	44%
No effect/not sure	10%	9%	5%	9%
Less likely to give	1%	1%	*	1%
Much less likely to give	1%	—	—	—

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding

* = less than 0.5%; rounds to zero

— = zero (0.0); no cases in this category

+ = nonresponses of 10% or more on this question (reported percentages for all questions omit nonresponses)

n = number of respondents eligible to answer this question

◆ = percentages add to more than 100 because respondents could make more than one response

Q1. How would each characteristic listed below affect your likelihood of making a donation to a churchwide special (Cont.) offering? Would it make you more likely to give, less likely to give, or would it have no effect?

e. Shows clearly how my gift helps specific people				
Much more likely to give	36%	33%	41%	42%
More likely to give	51%	56%	50%	44%
No effect/not sure	11%	10%	9%	12%
Less likely to give	1%	1%	*	1%
Much less likely to give	1%	*	—	—
f. Helps me relate to a specific ministry				
Much more likely to give	22%	21%	26%	36%
More likely to give	51%	52%	58%	46%
No effect/not sure	24%	25%	15%	16%
Less likely to give	2%	2%	*	1%
Much less likely to give	1%	*	*	—
g. Helps address systemic issues (“root causes”)				
Much more likely to give	15%	17%	26%	40%
More likely to give	40%	38%	43%	35%
No effect/not sure	40%	41%	27%	19%
Less likely to give	3%	4%	3%	5%
Much less likely to give	1%	*	1%	1%
h. Primarily serves people outside the church				
Much more likely to give	6%	5%	8%	8%
More likely to give	23%	19%	26%	26%
No effect/not sure	54%	61%	58%	60%
Less likely to give	15%	12%	7%	5%
Much less likely to give	2%	2%	1%	1%
i. Serves ministries located overseas				
Much more likely to give	4%	5%	7%	10%
More likely to give	26%	21%	29%	29%
No effect/not sure	56%	61%	60%	57%
Less likely to give	12%	11%	4%	3%
Much less likely to give	2%	1%	—	1%
j. Serves ministries located in the United States				
Much more likely to give	11%	10%	6%	8%
More likely to give	46%	42%	35%	28%
No effect/not sure	40%	45%	58%	60%
Less likely to give	2%	2%	2%	4%
Much less likely to give	1%	*	—	1%
k. Serves ministries in my local area				
Much more likely to give	26%	28%	17%	8%
More likely to give	52%	48%	45%	42%
No effect/not sure	20%	23%	37%	46%
Less likely to give	1%	1%	1%	4%
Much less likely to give	1%	*	—	1%

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Q1. How would each characteristic listed below affect your likelihood of making a donation to a churchwide special (Cont.) offering? Would it make you more likely to give, less likely to give, or would it have no effect?

l. Has rigorous financial accountability				
Much more likely to give	39%	36%	39%	51%
More likely to give	42%	46%	46%	35%
No effect/not sure	18%	17%	14%	13%
Less likely to give	*	1%	*	1%
Much less likely to give	*	—	*	1%
m. Is ecumenical in history and design				
Much more likely to give	10%	10%	10%	20%
More likely to give	31%	34%	27%	30%
No effect/not sure	55%	50%	52%	41%
Less likely to give	3%	4%	10%	8%
Much less likely to give	1%	2%	2%	1%
n. Addresses public policy issues				
Much more likely to give	4%	5%	8%	19%
More likely to give	18%	18%	21%	31%
No effect/not sure	57%	48%	42%	30%
Less likely to give	15%	21%	20%	16%
Much less likely to give	6%	8%	9%	4%
o. Gets help where it is needed efficiently and without delay				
Much more likely to give	36%	38%	47%	52%
More likely to give	53%	51%	45%	43%
No effect/not sure	11%	11%	7%	5%
Less likely to give	*	*	*	—
Much less likely to give	*	—	*	—
p. Remains faithful to deserving causes even when they recede from widespread public attention				
Much more likely to give	21%	18%	28%	38%
More likely to give	49%	51%	48%	46%
No effect/not sure	28%	29%	23%	15%
Less likely to give	2%	2%	1%	—
Much less likely to give	*	*	—	1%
q. Shifts emphases often to reflect emerging needs and ministries				
Much more likely to give	9%	8%	10%	17%
More likely to give	36%	35%	34%	31%
No effect/not sure	45%	44%	40%	38%
Less likely to give	9%	11%	14%	12%
Much less likely to give	1%	2%	1%	1%

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Q1a. From the characteristics listed in Q1, which *one* would you say is the *most important* to you personally for a churchwide special offering to have? (On the line below, write the letter corresponding to your choice.)

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
a. Is a tradition at our church	6%	6%	7%	2%
b. Lets our church keep a share of the donations and decide where to allocate them	12%	13%	4%	4%
c. Helps me connect with other Christians concerned about the same ministry	3%	5%	4%	4%
d. Has a clearly defined focus	18%	18%	19%	21%
e. Shows clearly how my gift helps specific people	14%	13%	14%	12%
f. Helps me relate to a specific ministry	2%	4%	4%	4%
g. Helps address systemic issues (“root causes”).....	4%	4%	12%	14%
h. Primarily serves people outside the church.....	3%	2%	1%	2%
i. Serves ministries located overseas	1%	1%	2%	1%
j. Serves ministries located in the United States	2%	2%	*	1%
k. Serves ministries in my local area	8%	7%	3%	—
l. Has rigorous financial accountability	10%	4%	4%	6%
m. Is ecumenical in history and design	1%	1%	*	2%
n. Addresses public policy issues.....	1%	—	*	1%
o. Gets help where it is needed efficiently and without delay	14%	20%	20%	20%
p. Remains faithful to deserving causes even when they recede from widespread public attention.....	3%	2%	3%	4%
q. Shifts emphases often to reflect emerging needs and ministries	*	1%	1%	2%

Q1b. Which two characteristics from the list in Q1 would you choose as your *second* and your *third most-important* ones for a churchwide special offering to have? (On the lines below, write the letters corresponding to your choice.)

Second most-important characteristic:

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
a. Is a tradition at our church	4%	3%	6%	4%
b. Lets our church keep a share of the donations and decide where to allocate them	6%	9%	7%	2%
c. Helps me connect with other Christians concerned about the same ministry	3%	3%	4%	7%
d. Has a clearly defined focus	16%	17%	22%	14%
e. Shows clearly how my gift helps specific people	13%	14%	14%	8%
f. Helps me relate to a specific ministry	4%	4%	4%	5%
g. Helps address systemic issues (“root causes”).....	5%	4%	6%	11%
h. Primarily serves people outside the church.....	1%	1%	1%	1%
i. Serves ministries located overseas	1%	2%	2%	3%
j. Serves ministries located in the United States	6%	4%	2%	1%
k. Serves ministries in my local area	7%	9%	2%	2%
l. Has rigorous financial accountability	10%	11%	7%	10%
m. Is ecumenical in history and design	2%	2%	2%	6%
n. Addresses public policy issues.....	2%	1%	2%	4%
o. Gets help where it is needed efficiently and without delay	13%	11%	14%	12%
p. Remains faithful to deserving causes even when they recede from widespread public attention.....	6%	5%	5%	7%
q. Shifts emphases often to reflect emerging needs and ministries	2%	1%	1%	4%

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Q1b. Which two characteristics from the list in Q1 would you choose as your *second* and your *third most-important* ones for a churchwide special offering to have? (On the lines below, write the letters corresponding to your choice.)

Third most-important characteristic:

a. Is a tradition at our church	3%	3%	4%	5%
b. Lets our church keep a share of the donations and decide where to allocate them	7%	4%	5%	3%
c. Helps me connect with other Christians concerned about the same ministry	4%	3%	5%	4%
d. Has a clearly defined focus	8%	11%	9%	12%
e. Shows clearly how my gift helps specific people	11%	12%	13%	6%
f. Helps me relate to a specific ministry	8%	4%	6%	6%
g. Helps address systemic issues (“root causes”)	3%	6%	7%	9%
h. Primarily serves people outside the church	1%	1%	3%	1%
i. Serves ministries located overseas	2%	2%	2%	2%
j. Serves ministries located in the United States	4%	4%	1%	1%
k. Serves ministries in my local area	10%	9%	3%	1%
l. Has rigorous financial accountability	8%	13%	13%	14%
m. Is ecumenical in history and design	2%	2%	3%	5%
n. Addresses public policy issues	1%	1%	2%	5%
o. Gets help where it is needed efficiently and without delay	16%	15%	14%	14%
p. Remains faithful to deserving causes even when they recede from widespread public attention	7%	6%	8%	9%
q. Shifts emphases often to reflect emerging needs and ministries	3%	3%	3%	3%

Q2. Below is an alphabetical list of possible causes and issues that churchwide special offerings might support. For each one, indicate how likely you, personally, would be to contribute money to a special offering dedicated to that issue.

I, personally, would contribute to a churchwide special offering to:

a. Address environmental issues				
Yes, definitely	9%	10%	16%	26%
Yes, probably	26%	24%	33%	35%
Maybe yes, maybe no	30%	32%	24%	22%
No, probably not	26%	23%	20%	14%
No, definitely not	9%	10%	6%	3%
No opinion	1%	2%	1%	1%
b. Address the root causes of hunger				
Yes, definitely	26%	26%	39%	49%
Yes, probably	46%	47%	41%	36%
Maybe yes, maybe no	21%	19%	13%	11%
No, probably not	6%	4%	4%	4%
No, definitely not	1%	2%	1%	1%
No opinion	*	2%	2%	1%

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding

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- n = number of respondents eligible to answer this question
- ◆ = percentages add to more than 100 because respondents could make more than one response

Q2. Below is an alphabetical list of possible causes and issues that churchwide special offerings might support. For (Cont.) each one, indicate how likely you, personally, would be to contribute money to a special offering dedicated to that issue.

I, personally, would contribute to a churchwide special offering to:

c. Establish new Presbyterian congregations in the United States (“new church development”)				
Yes, definitely	7%	6%	16%	13%
Yes, probably	28%	31%	38%	31%
Maybe yes, maybe no.....	43%	38%	33%	37%
No, probably not.....	19%	20%	10%	15%
No, definitely not	1%	3%	2%	4%
No opinion.....	1%	3%	1%	1%
d. Foster spiritual growth of individual Presbyterians				
Yes, definitely	8%	8%	12%	8%
Yes, probably	30%	33%	32%	23%
Maybe yes, maybe no.....	43%	38%	34%	41%
No, probably not.....	15%	16%	18%	23%
No, definitely not	2%	3%	3%	4%
No opinion.....	2%	2%	1%	1%
e. Give people basic necessities (food, shelter, health care)				
Yes, definitely	39%	37%	41%	43%
Yes, probably	49%	47%	46%	44%
Maybe yes, maybe no.....	10%	14%	11%	11%
No, probably not.....	2%	2%	2%	1%
No, definitely not	*	1%	*	1%
No opinion.....	*	1%	1%	—
f. Help children				
Yes, definitely	42%	42%	37%	40%
Yes, probably	44%	43%	47%	43%
Maybe yes, maybe no.....	12%	13%	14%	12%
No, probably not.....	1%	2%	2%	2%
No, definitely not	—	*	*	1%
No opinion.....	—	1%	*	2%
g. Help disadvantaged people who have already taken steps to improve their communities				
Yes, definitely	25%	23%	25%	32%
Yes, probably	56%	52%	53%	48%
Maybe yes, maybe no.....	17%	21%	18%	17%
No, probably not.....	2%	2%	3%	1%
No, definitely not	*	*	*	1%
No opinion.....	*	2%	1%	1%
h. Help retired ministers and missionaries who have health needs or low incomes				
Yes, definitely	19%	13%	23%	28%
Yes, probably	46%	51%	50%	39%
Maybe yes, maybe no.....	30%	27%	21%	26%
No, probably not.....	4%	7%	6%	4%
No, definitely not	*	1%	1%	2%
No opinion.....	*	1%	1%	1%

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding

* = less than 0.5%; rounds to zero

— = zero (0.0); no cases in this category

+ = nonresponses of 10% or more on this question (reported percentages for all questions omit nonresponses)

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Q2. Below is an alphabetical list of possible causes and issues that churchwide special offerings might support. For (Cont.) each one, indicate how likely you, personally, would be to contribute money to a special offering dedicated to that issue.

I, personally, would contribute to a churchwide special offering to:

i. Help struggling rural congregations				
Yes, definitely	10%	7%	11%	11%
Yes, probably	38%	36%	33%	35%
Maybe yes, maybe no.....	40%	45%	37%	39%
No, probably not.....	10%	10%	15%	12%
No, definitely not	1%	1%	2%	2%
No opinion.....	1%	1%	2%	1%
j. Promote peacemaking and conflict resolution				
Yes, definitely	12%	11%	16%	23%
Yes, probably	28%	26%	30%	38%
Maybe yes, maybe no.....	39%	37%	27%	24%
No, probably not.....	15%	17%	18%	13%
No, definitely not	4%	6%	7%	2%
No opinion.....	2%	3%	1%	1%
k. Provide emergency relief following disasters (famine, war, flood, earthquake)				
Yes, definitely	45%	45%	60%	54%
Yes, probably	42%	42%	33%	40%
Maybe yes, maybe no.....	12%	11%	6%	4%
No, probably not.....	1%	1%	1%	1%
No, definitely not	*	*	*	1%
No opinion.....	—	1%	1%	1%
l. Provide food for the hungry				
Yes, definitely	40%	37%	43%	48%
Yes, probably	46%	46%	44%	40%
Maybe yes, maybe no.....	13%	14%	10%	11%
No, probably not.....	1%	2%	2%	1%
No, definitely not	*	*	*	1%
No opinion.....	—	1%	*	—
m. Provide money for the General Assembly Council to decide how to allocate				
Yes, definitely	3%	1%	2%	4%
Yes, probably	7%	8%	12%	15%
Maybe yes, maybe no.....	35%	39%	26%	29%
No, probably not.....	32%	31%	29%	30%
No, definitely not	21%	19%	29%	21%
No opinion.....	2%	2%	2%	—
n. Support health ministries in impoverished parts of the United States				
Yes, definitely	13%	14%	12%	21%
Yes, probably	46%	39%	49%	47%
Maybe yes, maybe no.....	33%	35%	29%	26%
No, probably not.....	6%	8%	9%	4%
No, definitely not	1%	2%	1%	1%
No opinion.....	2%	2%	1%	1%

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Q2. Below is an alphabetical list of possible causes and issues that churchwide special offerings might support. For (Cont.) each one, indicate how likely you, personally, would be to contribute money to a special offering dedicated to that issue.

o. Support health ministries in impoverished parts of other countries				
Yes, definitely	10%	9%	15%	24%
Yes, probably	34%	38%	54%	46%
Maybe yes, maybe no.....	43%	37%	24%	26%
No, probably not.....	8%	11%	6%	2%
No, definitely not	3%	2%	1%	2%
No opinion.....	2%	2%	1%	1%
p. Support inner-city ministries				
Yes, definitely	10%	8%	13%	17%
Yes, probably	40%	40%	40%	43%
Maybe yes, maybe no.....	39%	40%	36%	33%
No, probably not.....	8%	9%	8%	5%
No, definitely not	1%	1%	1%	2%
No opinion.....	2%	2%	1%	—
q. Support social justice ministries				
Yes, definitely	8%	5%	13%	26%
Yes, probably	21%	23%	29%	35%
Maybe yes, maybe no.....	44%	42%	29%	25%
No, probably not.....	17%	18%	19%	11%
No, definitely not	7%	8%	8%	3%
No opinion.....	2%	3%	2%	1%
r. Support PC(USA)-affiliated minority racial-ethnic schools and colleges				
Yes, definitely	6%	4%	8%	14%
Yes, probably	22%	24%	34%	32%
Maybe yes, maybe no.....	46%	40%	34%	39%
No, probably not.....	18%	20%	19%	10%
No, definitely not	6%	8%	4%	4%
No opinion.....	2%	3%	1%	1%
s. Support the National Council of Churches and World Council of Churches				
Yes, definitely	4%	2%	5%	10%
Yes, probably	14%	12%	16%	25%
Maybe yes, maybe no.....	40%	37%	30%	29%
No, probably not.....	27%	28%	22%	16%
No, definitely not	14%	17%	26%	18%
No opinion.....	2%	3%	2%	2%
t. Support youth and young adult ministries				
Yes, definitely	16%	12%	13%	14%
Yes, probably	47%	43%	42%	30%
Maybe yes, maybe no.....	33%	36%	33%	46%
No, probably not.....	3%	6%	9%	8%
No, definitely not	1%	1%	1%	2%
No opinion.....	1%	1%	1%	1%

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	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
Q2a. From the options listed in Q2, which <i>cause/purpose</i> would you personally <i>most favor</i> to receive funds raised through a churchwide special offering? (On the line below, write the letter corresponding to your choice.)				
a. Address environmental issues.....	2%	3%	4%	6%
b. Address the root causes of hunger	8%	9%	11%	15%
c. Establish new Presbyterian congregations in the United States (“new church development”).....	3%	4%	11%	7%
d. Foster spiritual growth of individual Presbyterians	3%	3%	3%	4%
e. Give people basic necessities (food, shelter, health care).....	26%	24%	18%	17%
f. Help children.....	13%	16%	7%	7%
g. Help disadvantaged people who have already taken steps to improve their communities.....	6%	5%	2%	5%
h. Help retired ministers and missionaries who have health needs or low incomes	4%	3%	2%	3%
i. Help struggling rural congregations.....	1%	1%	1%	1%
j. Promote peacemaking and conflict resolution	2%	2%	2%	5%
k. Provide emergency relief following disasters (famine, war, flood, earthquake)	18%	20%	28%	17%
l. Provide food for the hungry	6%	4%	4%	2%
m. Provide money for the General Assembly Council to decide how to allocate	1%	—	*	1%
n. Support health ministries in impoverished parts of the United States.....	2%	2%	1%	1%
o. Support health ministries in impoverished parts of other countries	*	*	1%	1%
p. Support inner-city ministries.....	—	1%	1%	2%
q. Support social justice ministries	2%	*	2%	5%
r. Support PC(USA)-affiliated minority racial-ethnic schools and colleges	1%	1%	*	2%
s. Support the National Council of Churches and World Council of Churches	—	—	*	—
t. Support youth and young adult ministries	4%	3%	1%	1%

Q2b. Which cause/issues from the list in Q2 would you choose as your *second* and *third most-favored causes/issues* to receive special offering funds?

Second most-favored cause/issue:

a. Address environmental issues.....	3%	3%	4%	6%
b. Address the root causes of hunger	6%	8%	12%	14%
c. Establish new Presbyterian congregations in the United States (“new church development”).....	2%	2%	4%	4%
d. Foster spiritual growth of individual Presbyterians	3%	2%	5%	2%
e. Give people basic necessities (food, shelter, health care).....	16%	14%	17%	11%
f. Help children.....	17%	16%	9%	7%
g. Help disadvantaged people who have already taken steps to improve their communities.....	6%	6%	6%	3%
h. Help retired ministers and missionaries who have health needs or low incomes	6%	6%	4%	6%
i. Help struggling rural congregations.....	2%	2%	3%	1%
j. Promote peacemaking and conflict resolution	3%	4%	3%	6%
k. Provide emergency relief following disasters (famine, war, flood, earthquake)	18%	18%	18%	15%

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Q2b. Which cause/issues from the list in Q2 would you choose as your *second* and *third most-favored* (Cont.) *causes/issues* to receive special offering funds?

Second most-favored cause/issue: (cont.)

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
l. Provide food for the hungry.....	8%	7%	6%	6%
m. Provide money for the General Assembly Council to decide how to allocate	—	*	—	1%
n. Support health ministries in impoverished parts of the United States.....	2%	3%	2%	2%
o. Support health ministries in impoverished parts of other countries	1%	2%	4%	4%
p. Support inner-city ministries.....	2%	1%	1%	2%
q. Support social justice ministries	1%	1%	2%	4%
r. Support PC(USA)-affiliated minority racial-ethnic schools and colleges	1%	*	1%	2%
s. Support the National Council of Churches and World Council of Churches	—	—	*	1%
t. Support youth and young adult ministries	4%	4%	2%	2%

Third most-favored cause/issue:

a. Address environmental issues.....	2%	1%	4%	5%
b. Address the root causes of hunger	5%	5%	7%	8%
c. Establish new Presbyterian congregations in the United States (“new church development”).....	3%	4%	5%	3%
d. Foster spiritual growth of individual Presbyterians	2%	3%	4%	1%
e. Give people basic necessities (food, shelter, health care).....	9%	10%	8%	4%
f. Help children.....	14%	14%	9%	6%
g. Help disadvantaged people who have already taken steps to improve their communities	10%	7%	8%	7%
h. Help retired ministers and missionaries who have health needs or low incomes	6%	5%	8%	10%
i. Help struggling rural congregations.....	2%	5%	3%	3%
j. Promote peacemaking and conflict resolution	3%	2%	4%	9%
k. Provide emergency relief following disasters (famine, war, flood, earthquake)	14%	13%	11%	15%
l. Provide food for the hungry.....	11%	14%	13%	8%
m. Provide money for the General Assembly Council to decide how to allocate	1%	1%	1%	1%
n. Support health ministries in impoverished parts of the United States.....	5%	4%	3%	4%
o. Support health ministries in impoverished parts of other countries	2%	2%	3%	4%
p. Support inner-city ministries.....	3%	2%	1%	2%
q. Support social justice ministries	1%	2%	4%	4%
r. Support PC(USA)-affiliated minority racial-ethnic schools and colleges	1%	1%	*	1%
s. Support the National Council of Churches and World Council of Churches	—	1%	1%	4%
t. Support youth and young adult ministries	6%	6%	2%	3%

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Currently there are four churchwide special offerings in the PC(USA):

1. **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Offering**, received in Lent or on Easter (March/April)
Supports three national/international PC(USA) programs: Hunger (36%); Self-Development of People (32%); and Disaster Assistance (32%)
2. **The Pentecost Offering**, received on or around the Day of Pentecost (May/June)
Supports national-level PC(USA) ministries with youth and young adults (50%); national PC(USA) advocacy for children at risk (10%); and children-at-risk ministries that congregations choose (40%)
3. **The Peacemaking Offering**, received on or around World Communion Sunday (first Sunday in October)
Supports the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program (50%); presbytery and synod peacemaking efforts (25%); and other peacemaking-related programs of the congregation's choice (25%)
4. **The Christmas Joy Offering**, received in Advent or on Christmas (December)
Supports needy retired ministers and missionaries (50%) and PC(USA) racial-ethnic schools (50%)

Q3. Please indicate which churchwide special offerings your congregation has received in the past year, and whether you have made a contribution to each of those.

a. Did your congregation receive this churchwide special offering?

OGHS

Yes	83%	90%	90%	84%
No	4%	4%	9%	6%
Don't know	13%	6%	1%	10%

Pentecost

Yes	41%	48%	40%	38%
No	24%	30%	58%	36%
Don't know	36%	22%	2%	26%

Peacemaking

Yes	48%	53%	53%	57%
No	18%	24%	46%	27%
Don't know	35%	24%	2%	16%

Christmas Joy

Yes	76%	80%	78%	72%
No	6%	10%	20%	16%
Don't know	18%	10%	2%	12%

b. If "yes," did you or any member of your household contribute?

OGHS	n=272	n=427	n=427	n=175
Yes	78%	82%	86%	86%
No	16%	13%	11%	11%
Don't know	5%	5%	3%	4%

Pentecost	n=125	n=216	n=186	n=77
Yes	64%	65%	72%	70%
No	26%	26%	22%	19%
Don't know	9%	9%	6%	11%

Peacemaking	n=148	n=239	n=246	n=117
Yes	59%	68%	72%	66%
No	29%	22%	22%	24%
Don't know	12%	9%	6%	10%

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Q3. Please indicate which churchwide special offerings your congregation has received in the past year, and whether (Cont.) you have made a contribution to each of those.

b. If “yes,” did you or any member of your household contribute? (Cont.)

	n=237	n=372	n=366	n=150
Christmas Joy				
Yes	77%	75%	78%	78%
No.....	15%	18%	19%	15%
Don't know	8%	7%	3%	6%

c. If “yes,” approximately how many dollars did you/your household contribute?

	n=211	n=341	n=361	n=145
OGHS	+	+	+	
\$10 or less	26%	19%	9%	6%
\$11 - \$20	17%	21%	12%	8%
\$21 - \$30	25%	19%	22%	19%
\$31 - \$50	13%	19%	29%	22%
\$51 - \$99	1%	2%	3%	4%
\$100 or more	18%	20%	26%	41%
Mean	\$47	\$55	\$79	\$101
Median	\$25	\$25	\$50	\$50
	n=78	n=128	n=130	n=52
Pentecost	+	+	+	+
\$10 or less	32%	22%	12%	7%
\$11 - \$20	12%	18%	18%	9%
\$21 - \$30	33%	27%	35%	27%
\$31 - \$50	12%	14%	20%	29%
\$51 - \$99	—	1%	2%	—
\$100 or more	10%	18%	12%	29%
Mean	\$32	\$44	\$45	\$55
Median	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$50
	n=82	n=149	n=172	n=72
Peacemaking	+	+		+
\$10 or less	28%	21%	14%	5%
\$11 - \$20	10%	22%	16%	5%
\$21 - \$30	34%	30%	30%	25%
\$31 - \$50	15%	15%	23%	28%
\$51 - \$99	—	1%	4%	2%
\$100 or more	12%	12%	14%	36%
Mean	\$34	\$35	\$51	\$84
Median	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$50

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Q3. Please indicate which churchwide special offerings your congregation has received in the past year, and whether (Cont.) you have made a contribution to each of those.

c. If “yes,” approximately how many dollars did you/your household contribute? (Cont.)

	n=173	n=259	n=275	n=112
Christmas Joy	+	+	+	+
\$10 or less	25%	18%	11%	3%
\$11 - \$20	12%	24%	13%	8%
\$21 - \$30	26%	22%	25%	18%
\$31 - \$50	17%	17%	32%	32%
\$51 - \$99	1%	2%	2%	2%
\$100 or more	19%	16%	15%	36%
Mean	\$44	\$44	\$64	\$93
Median	\$25	\$25	\$39	\$50

Q4. *If you contributed to either the Pentecost or Peacemaking Offering in the last year:* Both of these offerings allow congregations to decide where a portion of the funds will go. Which statement best describes how this “local option” feature influenced your decision(s) to contribute? (Check **one box** in each column.)

a. Pentecost (congregation allocates 40%):

	n=78	n=126	n=130	n=52
I gave but didn’t know about this feature.....	18%	13%	2%	8%
I gave primarily/entirely because of this feature	9%	18%	10%	2%
I gave partly because of this feature.....	32%	28%	28%	16%
I likely would have contributed even without this feature	27%	28%	37%	42%
I definitely would have contributed even without this feature...	13%	14%	23%	32%

b. Peacemaking (congregation allocates 25%):

	n=82	n=149	n=172	n=72
I gave but didn’t know about this feature.....	22%	16%	1%	8%
I gave primarily/entirely because of this feature	12%	8%	7%	4%
I gave partly because of this feature.....	21%	28%	29%	11%
I likely would have contributed even without this feature	27%	32%	34%	38%
I definitely would have contributed even without this feature...	18%	16%	29%	38%

Q5. Were any of the churchwide special offerings received (collected) by your congregation in the last 12 months taken **at a different time of the year** than is typical or is usually suggested by the PC(USA)?

Yes.....	3%	4%	6%	3%
No	51%	73%	90%	74%
Don’t know	45%	22%	2%	20%
Did not receive any churchwide special offerings.....	1%	2%	2%	3%

Q5a. Please indicate which offering(s), when it (they) was received, and why the timing was different:

[Not tabulated]

Q6. Are four churchwide special offerings . . .

Too many?.....	19%	25%	31%	16%
The right number?	40%	44%	50%	56%
Too few?.....	2%	1%	1%	3%
Not sure	39%	30%	18%	24%

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Q7. What is the *minimum* number of weeks that you think should separate each churchwide special offering and the next? Write the number on the line. _____ weeks (Check here if you have no opinion.)

Less than 4 weeks.....	2%	1%	1%	2%
4 - 7 weeks.....	6%	7%	9%	7%
8 - 11 weeks.....	16%	18%	28%	23%
12 - 15 weeks.....	25%	26%	24%	29%
16 - 19 weeks.....	2%	3%	4%	3%
20 - 24 weeks.....	1%	2%	4%	1%
25 - 29 weeks.....	4%	5%	3%	3%
30 weeks or more	1%	2%	2%	1%
No opinion.....	44%	37%	24%	32%
Mean	13	12	14	10
Median	12	12	12	12

Q8. In general, do you think the interval between each churchwide special offering and the next is too long, too short, or about the right amount of time?

a. Between OGHS (Lent/Easter) and Pentecost (May/June)

Too long	1%	*	*	—
Too short.....	25%	28%	43%	33%
Right interval.....	47%	41%	39%	48%
Not sure	27%	32%	17%	19%

b. Between Pentecost (May/June) and Peacemaking (early October)

Too long	8%	6%	7%	13%
Too short.....	4%	7%	9%	4%
Right interval.....	53%	56%	59%	60%
Not sure	36%	32%	26%	22%

c. Between Peacemaking (early October) and Christmas Joy (Advent/Christmas)

Too long	1%	—	1%	—
Too short.....	17%	16%	24%	20%
Right interval.....	52%	55%	55%	62%
Not sure	31%	29%	21%	18%

d. Between Christmas Joy (Advent/Christmas) and OGHS (Lent/Easter)

Too long	4%	2%	3%	2%
Too short.....	4%	6%	7%	5%
Right interval.....	68%	66%	73%	74%
Not sure	25%	27%	17%	19%

Q9. How appropriate is the match between each churchwide special offering (including the causes it supports) and the time in the church (liturgical) year when it is typically received?

a. OGHS, Lent/Easter:

hunger, disaster assistance, self-development of people

Very appropriate	28%	33%	47%	47%
Appropriate.....	46%	43%	32%	32%
Somewhat appropriate	6%	7%	9%	8%
Not too appropriate.....	2%	*	3%	2%
Not sure.....	17%	17%	9%	11%

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Q9. How appropriate is the match between each churchwide special offering (including the causes it supports) and the (Cont.) time in the church (liturgical) year when it is typically received?

b. Pentecost, Pentecost:

youth and young adults, children at risk

Very appropriate	14%	13%	18%	22%
Appropriate	41%	41%	27%	31%
Somewhat appropriate	10%	12%	18%	17%
Not too appropriate	5%	4%	16%	12%
Not sure.....	31%	30%	22%	19%

c. Peacemaking, World Communion Sunday, October:

peacemaking ministries

Very appropriate	17%	21%	35%	39%
Appropriate	42%	38%	33%	33%
Somewhat appropriate	11%	11%	10%	10%
Not too appropriate	2%	4%	6%	5%
Not sure.....	28%	26%	16%	13%

d. Christmas Joy, Advent/Christmas:

needy retired ministers, racial-ethnic schools

Very appropriate	27%	28%	31%	29%
Appropriate	38%	37%	34%	30%
Somewhat appropriate	9%	12%	14%	17%
Not too appropriate	7%	5%	10%	11%
Not sure.....	19%	20%	11%	13%

Q10. Would you like the PC(USA) to have a churchwide special offering to support overseas mission personnel, either as a new (fifth) churchwide special offering, or as a replacement for all or part of an existing churchwide special offering? (Check **only one** box.)

No	31%	31%	24%	28%
Maybe yes, maybe no	28%	25%	16%	18%
Yes, but not sure whether it should be a new offering or a replacement for a current offering	18%	18%	15%	16%
Yes, as a new (fifth) offering.....	7%	10%	9%	14%
Yes, as a replacement for all or part of one churchwide special offering	16%	17%	35%	24%

Q10a. If you checked “yes, as a replacement,” indicate which offering or part of an offering you would replace: (Check **only one** box.)

	n=52	n=79	n=166	n=51
All or part of OGHS	4%	4%	1%	—
All or part of Pentecost	18%	13%	36%	42%
All or part of Peacemaking.....	43%	62%	53%	38%
All or part of Christmas Joy	18%	17%	6%	14%
Not sure which one to replace	16%	5%	4%	4%
All or part of all the offerings [volunteered]	2%	—	1%	2%

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Q11. Would your opinion on a special offering for international mission change if you knew that the PC(USA) would be eliminating many overseas missionary positions unless a new source of funding is found?

Yes, I'd be <i>more</i> in favor of a special offering for international mission.....	45%	45%	57%	60%
Yes, I'd be <i>less</i> in favor of a special offering for international mission.....	2%	3%	1%	1%
No, my opinion would stay the same	32%	32%	34%	28%
Not sure	20%	19%	8%	10%

Q12. Please use the space below or another sheet for additional comments.

[Not tabulated]

Response form:

Web	13%	13%	23%	20%
Paper.....	87%	87%	77%	80%

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding

* = less than 0.5%; rounds to zero

— = zero (0.0); no cases in this category

+ = nonresponses of 10% or more on this question (reported percentages for all questions omit nonresponses)

n = number of respondents eligible to answer this question

◆ = percentages add to more than 100 because respondents could make more than one response