



The Presbyterian Panel

Listening to Presbyterians



REPORT

OLDER-ADULT MINISTRIES—THE NOVEMBER 1997 SURVEY

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Join Us in Celebrating 1998 as the 25th Anniversary of the Presbyterian Panel

RESEARCH SERVICES
A Ministry of the General Assembly Council
 Congregational Ministries Division
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Recent and Future Presbyterian Panel Reports

Topic	Questionnaire Date	PDS Order Number	Available
Issues About Which Presbyterians Disagree	February 1996	70-360-96-208	Yes
HIV/AIDS Issues	May 1996	70-360-96-209	Yes
Evangelism	August 1996	70-360-96-210	Yes
Theological Education	November 1996	70-360-96-211	Yes
1997-1999 Background Report	November 1996	70-360-97-250	Yes
Spirituality and Health	February 1997	70-360-97-251	Yes
Nature and the Environment	May 1997	70-360-97-252	Yes
Social Justice and Welfare Reform	August 1997	70-360-97-253	Yes
Older Adult Ministries	November 1997	70-360-97-254	Yes
Books, Reading, and Study Resources	February 1998	70-360-98-255	11/98
Communications	May 1998	70-360-98-256	3/99
World Mission	August 1998	70-360-98-257	6/99
Science and Technology	November 1998	70-360-98-258	9/99

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Overview

The Presbyterian Panel consists of three nationally-representative samples of groups affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): members, elders (lay leaders), and ordained ministers (for analysis, split into two groups based on current call: *pastors*, serving in a congregation, and *specialized clergy*, serving elsewhere). New samples are drawn every three years.

These pages summarize major findings from the fifth survey completed by the 1997-1999 Panel, mailed in November 1997. The first half uses text and graphics to highlight important and useful findings. An appendix follows with comparative tables that display the percentage distribution of responses to every question for each of the four Panel groups.

Response rates for this survey are: members, 58%; elders, 64%; ordained ministers, 64%. Results are subject to sampling and other errors. As a general rule, differences of less than 6% are not statistically meaningful.

Suggested Citation: Research Services, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). *Older-Adult Ministries: Report of the November 1997 Presbyterian Panel Survey*. Louisville, KY, 1998.

Author Note: John P. Marcum, Administrator of the Presbyterian Panel, wrote this report and was assisted in this study by the other staff members of the office of Research Services.

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Sponsor: The Office of Older Adult Ministries, Congregational Ministries Division, requested this survey. For more information on older-adult ministries and resources, contact Miriam Dunson, 502-569-5487.

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Panel Data Sets: Panel data sets may be accessed for further research through the American Religion Data Archive at Purdue University. Contact them at 765-494-0081 (phone) or 765-496-1476 (fax), or visit their Web site: <www.arda.tm>.

VIEWS OF AGING AND OLDER ADULTS

Ages and Stages

- ✓ On average (median), panelists view *young adulthood* as beginning at age 18 and ending at age 35, and *middle age* as beginning at age 40 and ending at age 60. There is slight variation in the median age at which *older adulthood* is seen to begin, from age 65 among elders to age 61 among both clergy samples and age 60 among members.

Table 1
When Life Stage Transitions Occur: Views of Presbyterians

Median Age (in Years) When:	Sample			
	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
Young Adulthood Begins	18	18	18	18
Young Adulthood Ends	35	35	35	35
Middle Age Begins	40	40	40	40
Middle Age Ends	60	60	60	60
Older Adulthood Begins	60	65	61	61

- ✓ Panelists' own ages are not related to their conceptions of when young adulthood begins. On average (median), members see it beginning at age 18 regardless of their own age current age (see Table 2). At the same time, younger members (under age 40) report a lower median age for the beginning of middle age (36) than do members in all other age groups (40). The oldest members (70+) also report an older median age for the beginning of older adulthood (65) than do members at younger ages (60 or 61).

Table 2
How Current Age Affects Members' Assessments of When Old Age Begins

Median Age (In Years) When:	Members' Current Age Group			
	<40	40-54	55-69	70+
Young Adulthood Begins	18	18	18	18
Middle Age Begins	36	40	40	40
Older Adulthood Begins	60	60	61	65

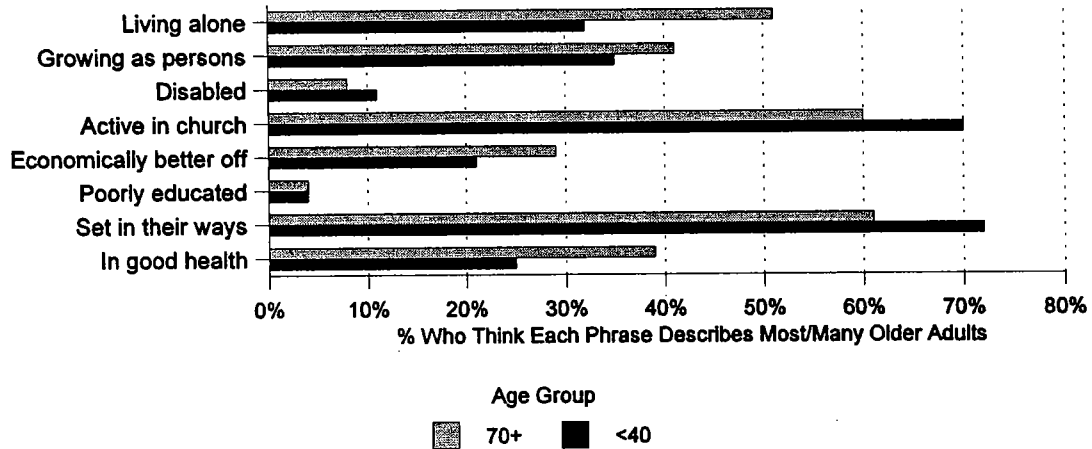
Positive Stereotypes

- ✓ According to members and pastors, the phrases (from a list of 12) most descriptive of older adults are:
 - *Living independently* (66% of members and 71% of pastors respond either "descriptive of most" or "descriptive of many")
 - *Active in church* (66% and 76% for members and pastors, respectively)
 - *Wise in the ways of the world* (62% and 56%)
 - *Set in their ways* (62% and 38%)
- ✓ The least descriptive phrases are:
 - *Poorly educated* (3%, members, and 2%, pastors)
 - *Economically deprived* (7%; 5%)
 - *Disabled* (8%; 4%)

In the Eye of the Beholder

One might expect that the young would view older adulthood differently than older adults themselves view it. And they do. But the differences tend to be small and, interestingly, on some topics the young seem to have the more positive view of old age. Is this evidence that some of the more negative stereotypes of aging have begun to erode—or is it an indication that those who are old have a more realistic view of their own life stage?

Figure 1
Age Differences in Members' Views of Older Adults



Further analysis suggests that the answer may depend on the particular issue at hand. For some matters, education may be a more important factor than age for understanding differences such as those in Figure 1. On others, age may in fact be more significant. (Note that in the U.S. today, younger adults tend to have gone to school for more years than their parents or grandparents did, so an *association* of some other factor with age may be better understood by these age-related educational differences.) Multivariate analyses indicate that education rather than age per se may better enable us to understand variations in the extent to which member panelists see each of the following terms as descriptive of older adults:

- “living alone” (those with more education see it as less descriptive of older adults)
- “learning, growing, developing as persons” (more education—more descriptive of older adults)
- “disabled” (more education—less descriptive of older adults)
- “set in their ways” (more education—less descriptive of older adults)
- “in good health” (more education—more descriptive of older adults)
- “spending lots of times on leisure activities” (more education—more descriptive of older adults)

On some factors, however, age itself is a better predictor of differences in perceptions:

- “active in church” (older members see this as less descriptive of older adults than younger members do)
- “wise in the ways of the world” (older members see this as less descriptive of older adults)
- “living independently” (older members see this as more descriptive of older adults)

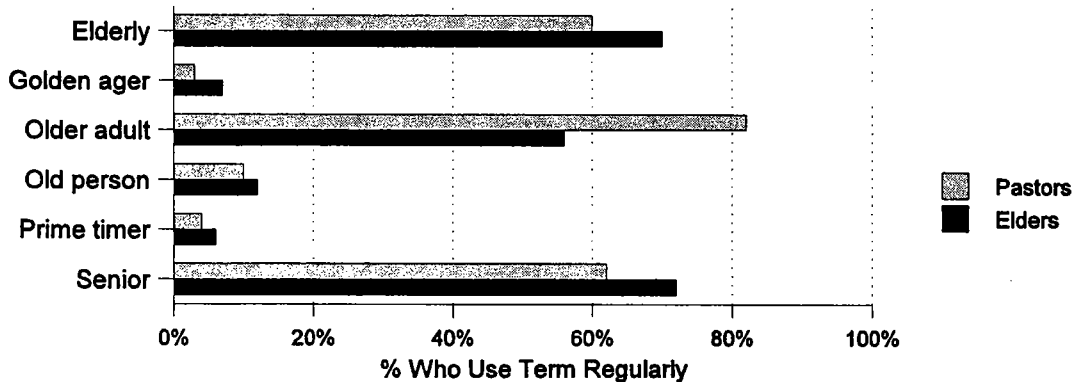
The conclusion? Formal education may work to break down some stereotypes of older adulthood, but others persist, yielding only to lived experience.

VIEWS OF AGING AND OLDER ADULTS

Proper Names

- ✓ Majorities in all samples regularly use the terms *elderly*, *older adult*, and *senior* when they refer to persons of older years, but few panelists regularly use terms such as *golden ager*, *old person*, or *prime timer*:

Figure 2
Presbyterians Use Some Terms More Than Others When Referring to Older Persons



- ✓ In all samples, majorities of more than 80% find the terms *elderly*, *older adult*, and *senior* to be “respectful” when referring to persons of older years. Majorities of members (66%) and elders (66%), but not clergy, also find the term *golden ager* to be respectful.
- ✓ Majorities see the term *old person* as “not respectful.”
- ✓ Majorities view the terms *old person* and *golden ager* as “outdated.”

Age and the Golden Ager

In general, younger members and older members concur in their perceptions of which reference terms for older adults are positive and which are negative. An interesting partial exception is the term *golden ager*:

Table 3
Opinions on Term “Golden Ager” by Age and Education
(Members’ Responses)

	% Responding “Yes” By:							
	Age Group				Education			
Is the term ...	<40	40-54	55-69	70+	High School	Some Coll	College Grad.	Graduate Degree
Respectful?	52%	56%	77%	74%	76%	70%	65%	52%
Belittling?	40%	40%	26%	29%	36%	28%	36%	38%
Outdated?	67%	61%	50%	53%	54%	52%	55%	66%
One you regularly use?	2%	4%	8%	17%	14%	13%	6%	4%

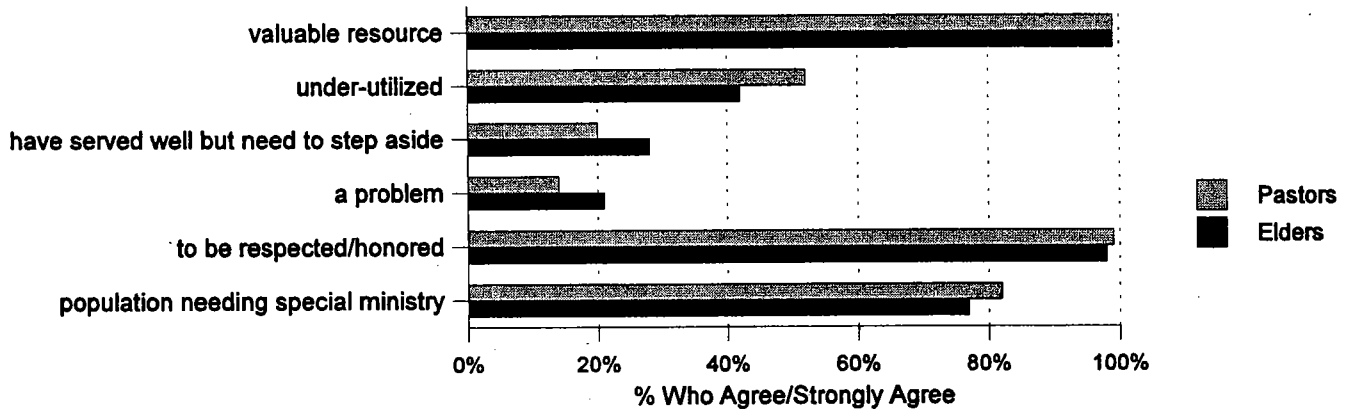
Part of the explanation for this age-related pattern rests in a third factor, education, that also varies by age. Members with more years of formal schooling are less likely to rate *golden ager* as “respectful” and are less likely to report using the term themselves. Such well-educated members are disproportionately found at younger ages.

OPINIONS ON OLDER-ADULT MINISTRY

Support for Older-Adult Ministry

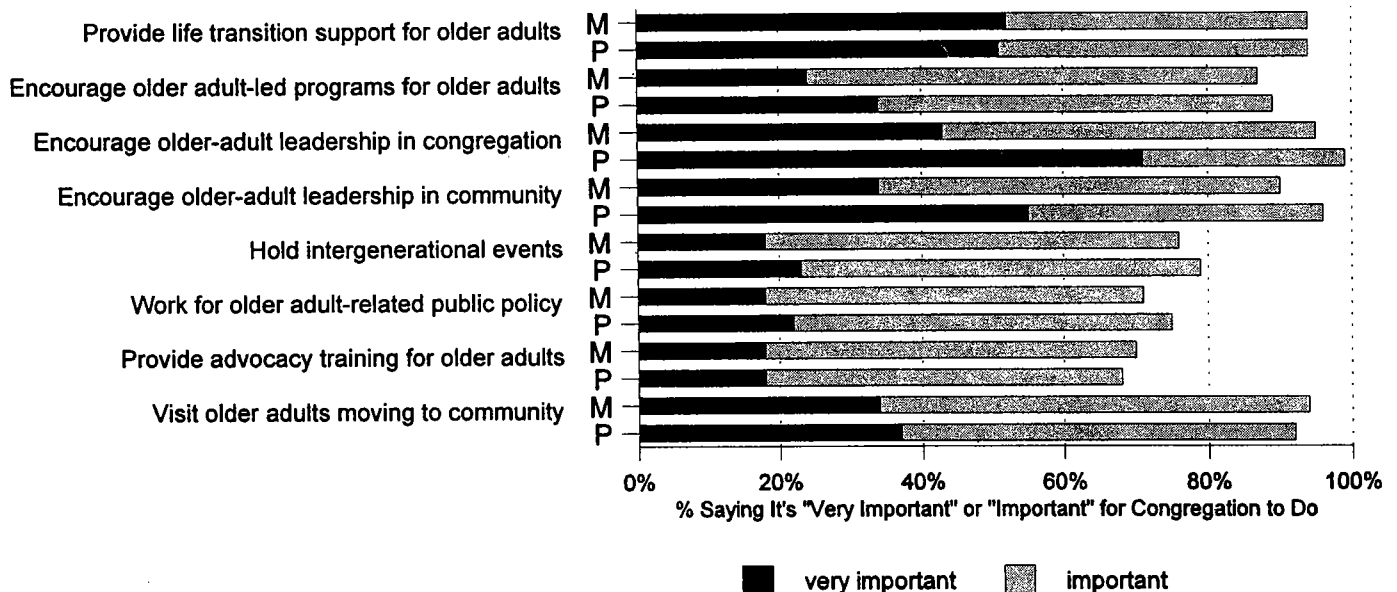
- ✓ Both clergy and laity view older adults in general as respected contributors to congregational life who could be called on for even greater service.

Figure 3
Presbyterians View Older Adults in their Churches Positively



- ✓ At least one third of either members or pastors believe that it is “very important” for congregations to:
 - provide support groups for older adults in transition (52% of members and 51% of pastors respond “very important”)
 - encourage older adults to be involved in every aspect of congregational life (43% and 71%, respectively)
 - encourage older adults to be involved in every aspect of community life (34%; 55%)
 - visit older adults who are moving to the community (34%; 37%)
 - encourage older adults to design and conduct programs for their own age group (24%; 34%)

Figure 4
**Importance of Age-Related Ministries and Emphases:
Comparing the Responses of Members (M) and Pastors (P)**



OPINIONS ON OLDER-ADULT MINISTRY

- ✓ At least one half of elders and pastors “strongly agree” with these statements:
- *opportunities for spiritual growth are as important in the later years as in the younger years* (54% of elders and 67% of pastors “strongly agree”)
 - *older adults need the opportunity to give of their skills to the church as much as they need to receive guidance and opportunities for growth* (50% and 67%, respectively)

The Intensity of Youth

Given the nature of the topic, it is not surprising that opinions on aging and on older-adult ministry often vary according to the age of the panelist. Many of these differences—like those on opinions of the term “golden ager,” previously discussed—are sizable. Others are more of degree than of kind. Of particular interest are opinions on certain aspects of older-adult ministry within congregations. A large majority of panelists in every sample rate each issue raised as either “very important” or “important.” These include such matters as *encouraging older adults to be involved in every aspect of congregational life to providing advocacy training for older adults.*

Beneath this broad consensus, however, a subtle pattern of difference is found by age. On many items, it is younger rather than older panelists who are more likely to select the extreme (“very important”) option, as Table 4 shows for members:

Table 4
Extreme Opinions on Older-Adult Issues by Age (Members’ Responses)

	% Responding “Very Important” by			
	Age Group			
How important is it for congregations to:	<40	40-54	55-69	70+
Provide support groups for older adults in transition?	55%	60%	49%	46%
Encourage older adults to conduct and design programs for themselves?	31%	28%	22%	19%
Encourage older adults to be involved in congregational activities/leadership?	45%	52%	46%	29%
Encourage older adults to be involved in community activities/leadership?	41%	43%	31%	21%
Regularly have intergenerational activities?	25%	19%	18%	10%
Work toward public policy that promotes rights of older adults?	24%	19%	16%	15%
Provide advocacy training for older adults?	27%	17%	17%	12%
Visit older adults new in the community?	39%	30%	37%	33%

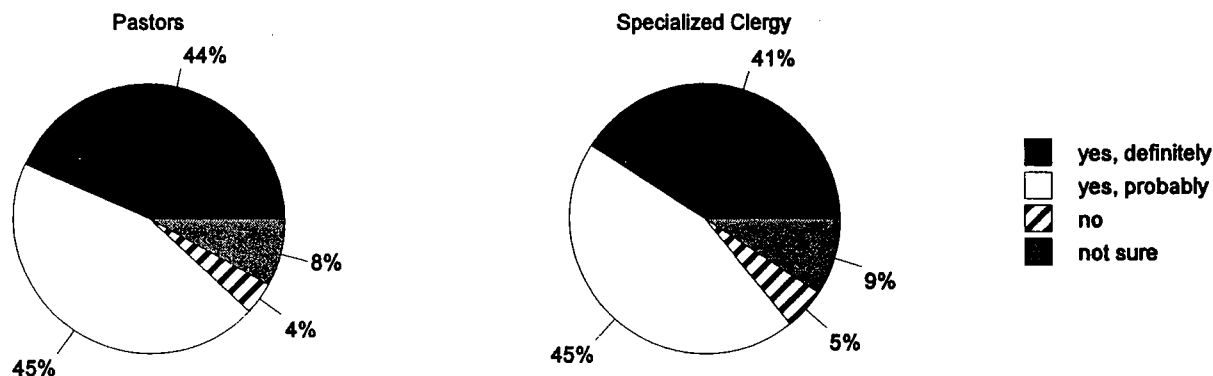
In short, more members under age 70, and especially under age 40, express extreme positive opinions about the need for various older-adult ministries. Are the older adults simply being modest about their perceived role in the church? Or are younger adults going out of their way to make clear that older adults are a valuable part of the church? Both? Neither? The age pattern of these findings raises more questions than it answers, but at least the problem is a relatively happy one. Having more younger than older adults who show strong support for older-adult issues may be curious, but it also suggests that, more often than not, young adults are not a roadblock to older-adult ministry in Presbyterian congregations.

OPINIONS ON OLDER-ADULT MINISTRY

Older-Adult Ministry Skills of Pastors, Other Clergy

- ✓ Most ordained ministers—89% of pastors, 86% of other clergy—believe that they *have the skills necessary to minister to older adults*. In each group, about one-half of this total responded with some confidence (“yes, definitely”), while the remaining half was less certain of its skills (“yes, probably”). Few ministers of any age evaluated their older-adult ministry skills negatively.

Figure 5
Self-Evaluation of Older-Adult Ministry Skills



Do you believe that you have the skills necessary to minister to older adults?

- ✓ Few pastors (15%) or other clergy (13%) report it likely that they would turn down a congregational call because a majority of older adults comprise the membership. The response pattern among specialized clergy is similar.
- ✓ Of pastors aged 49 or less, 22% would not take a call to a largely older-adult congregation, while among pastors aged 50 or over, only 6% would reject such a call.

Denominational Resources

- ✓ Majorities of members (52%), elders (59%), pastors (62%), and specialized clergy (56%) believe it would be either “helpful” or “very helpful” for their congregation for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to *produce a curriculum designed specifically for older adults*. Interest in the possibility of the PCUSA producing an older-adult curriculum is greatest among the oldest members.
- ✓ Majorities of pastors see as “very helpful” or “helpful” each of these various services or resources contemplated for development by the Office of Older Adult Ministry:
 - *resources to help members plan for, and redirect their lives in, retirement* (36% of pastors respond “very helpful” and 45% “helpful”)
 - *a Bible study series written especially for older adults* (25% and 41%, respectively)
 - *more resources appropriate for use with older adults* (24%; 46%)
 - *resources to assist seminaries in providing older-adult ministry courses* (21%; 43%)
 - *opportunities for developing leaders to serve congregations in older-adult ministry* (20%; 44%)
- ✓ Around four in ten pastors indicate that it would either be “helpful” (28%) or “very helpful” (11%) to have *resources to use in planning for Older Adult Week*. Other pastors think such resources would either be “a little helpful” (34%) or “not at all helpful” (27%).

CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES BY AND FOR OLDER ADULTS

Staff and Programs

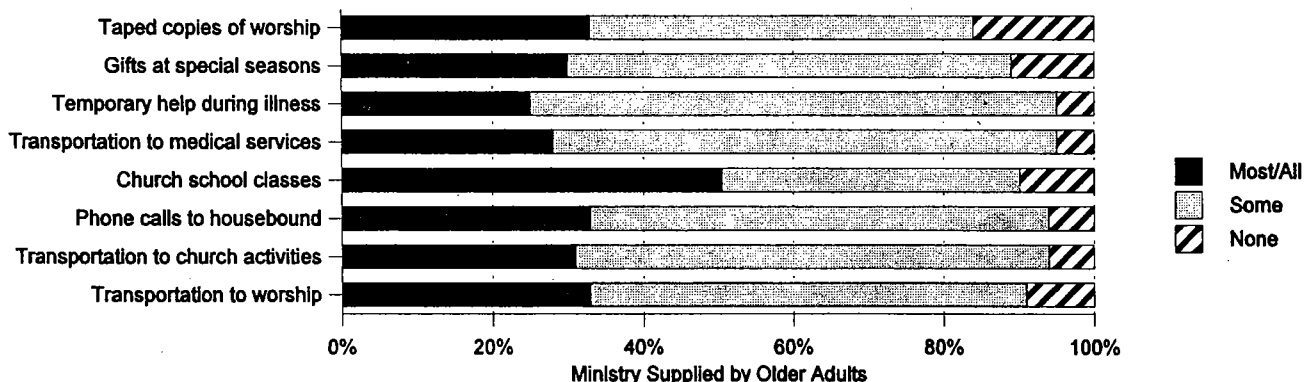
- ✓ Three in every ten pastors (30%) report that their congregations *have a paid staff person whose responsibilities specifically include ministry to older-adult members.*
- ✓ Few congregations in the PCUSA observed Older Adult Week in 1997, according to pastors; only 11% report that their congregations commemorated this event, which takes place annually during the first week in May. The share of large-membership churches (750+ members) that commemorated Older Adult Week, 16%, was slightly greater than that in the smallest congregations, where it was 10%.
- ✓ A majority of pastors report that their congregations provide these activities, services, and programs *for older-adult members and those in the community:*
 - *home visitation* (96% so report)
 - *transportation to and from church services* (85%)
 - *transportation to and from other church programs* (82%)
 - *phone calls to check on the homebound* (74%)
 - *church school class* (69%)
 - *transportation to medical facilities* (67%)
 - *temporary assistance during periods of illness* (66%)
 - *gifts at special seasons of the year* (63%)
 - *distributing taped copies of worship services* (61%)
- ✓ According to pastors, few congregations provide these activities, services, and programs for older adults: *adult day care* (6% of pastors so report), *Shepherd's Center* (6%), *help finding opportunities for paid employment* (9%), *parish nurse program* (11%), *housekeeping services* (12%), *legal aid* (14%), and *personal letter writing and reading* (18%).

Older Adults as Volunteers

- ✓ Older-adult members are often the volunteers who provide services or lead programs directed toward (other) older adults. In a fifth or more of the congregations with each particular program, pastors report that older adults provide "most" or "all" of the volunteer leadership (see Figure 8).

Figure 8

Older Adults Supply a Large Share of the Ministry in the Most Widely-Found Older-Adult Programs



- ✓ Older-adult members (as *volunteers*) provide "all," "most," or "some" of the leadership for the following programs and activities in at least one-half of the congregations represented by Panel pastors: *making phone calls on behalf of the congregation* (87% of pastors so report), *teaching church school* (84%), *mentoring children* (58%), and *writing "thank-you" notes on behalf of the congregation* (51%).

CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES BY AND FOR OLDER ADULTS

Size of Church and Older-Adult Ministry

The number of members in a congregation is related to older-adult ministry. Most obviously, larger-membership churches are much more likely to have a paid staff person whose responsibilities include ministry to older adults (see Figure 6).

Figure 6
Larger Churches Much More Likely to Have Paid Staff Who Work in the Area of Older-Adult Ministries

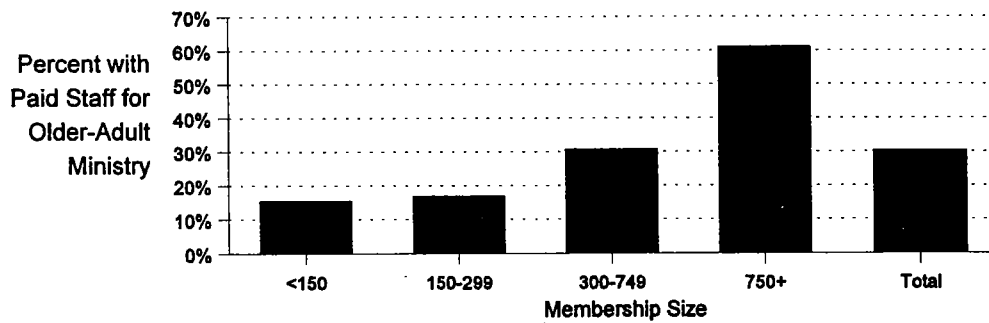
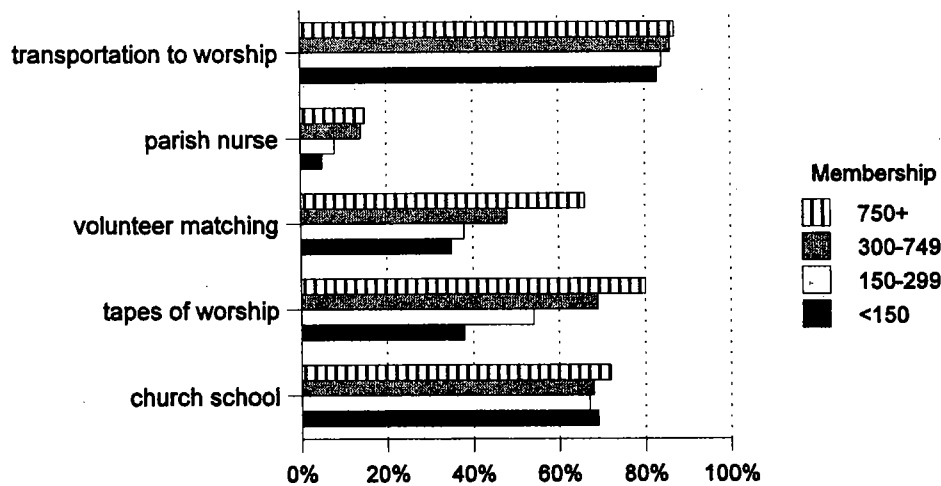


Figure 7 shows the frequency of several programs and ministries in congregations according to membership size. In general, many older-adult programs—but not all—are more likely to be available in larger-membership congregations, according to pastors.

Figure 7
Some Ministries for Older Adults are More Common in Larger Congregations



INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Events for All Ages

- ✓ A majority of Panel pastors (59%) report that their congregations had one or more *intergenerational programs or activities* in the year prior to the survey.
- ✓ In congregations with intergenerational programs and activities, the most common examples, according to pastors, are:
 - *family night meals* (73% of pastors in these congregations so report)
 - *special worship services* (48%)
 - *church school classes* (44%)
 - *recreational activities* (41%)
- ✓ 68% of large-membership congregations (750 or more members) report one or more intergenerational events, compared to 48% of small-membership congregations (fewer than 150 members). The percentages for churches of 150-299 members and 300-750 members are both intermediate: 56% and 63%, respectively.

Intergenerational Activities: Theory vs. Reality

Panelists' perspectives on the importance of intergenerational activities in general are strongly related to whether or not they report any such activities in their own congregation in the prior year, as these responses from elders show:

Table 5
Opinions of Intergenerational Activities in Congregations
by Presence/Absence of Such Activities

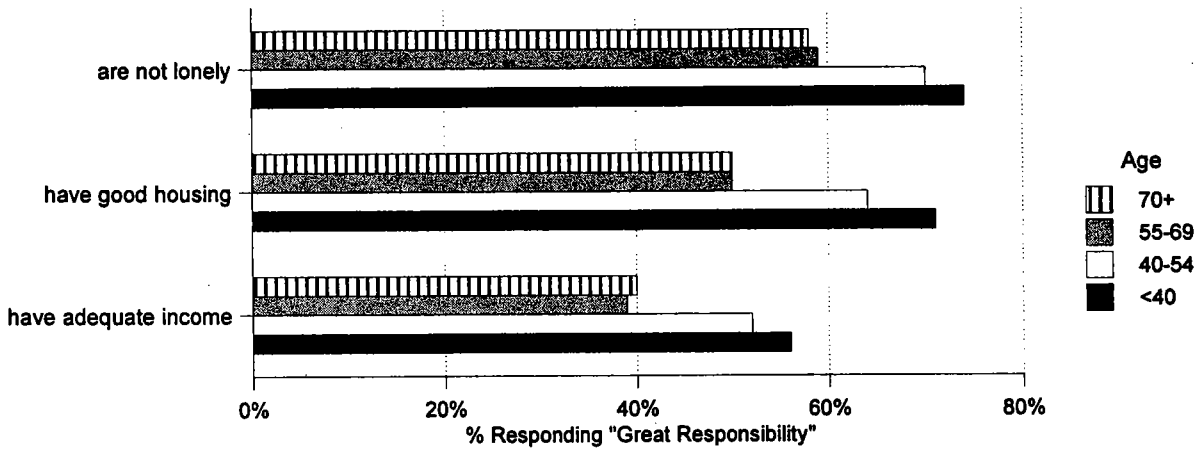
	In Last Year, <u>Any Intergenerational Activities in Congregation?</u>	
	Yes	No
Importance of intentionally-intergenerational programs in congregations		
very important	34%	15%
important	56%	51%
not very important	10%	33%
not at all important	1%	2%
total	101%	101%

Intergenerational Responsibility

- ✓ 64% of members believe that adult children bear a "great responsibility" to see that their elderly parents *have good health care* and that they *are not lonely*. 57% believe that adult children bear a "great responsibility" to see that their elderly parents *have good housing*. 44% believe that adult children bear a "great responsibility" to see that their elderly parents have adequate income.

INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

Figure 9
More Young than Older Members See a "Great" Responsibility of Adults Toward Their Older Parents



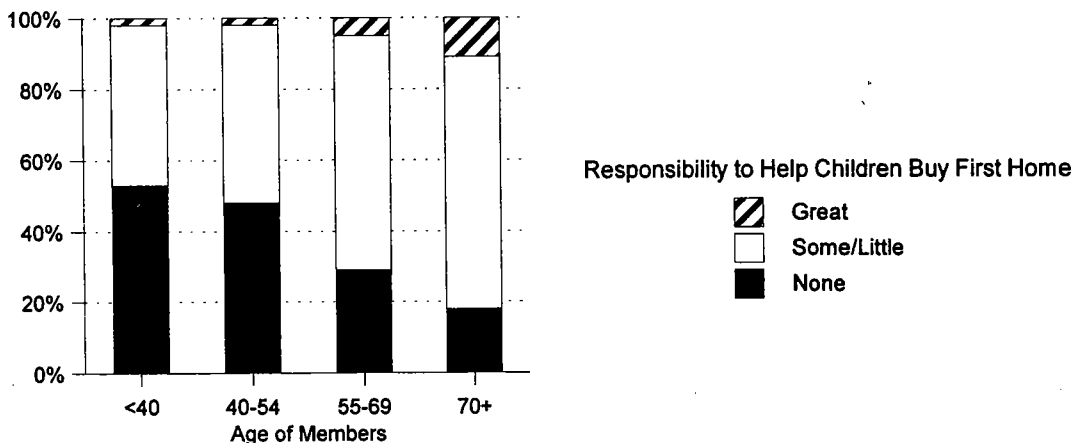
✓ Only minorities of members believe that parents have a "great responsibility" to provide the following for their *grown* children, although in every instance additional, larger percentages see "some responsibility" for parents to assist with each:

- *pay for their children's college education* (33% respond "great," 47% "some," responsibility)
- *provide their children with a place to live if they are unable to provide their own* (21%, "great"; 58%, "some")
- *leave some money to their children when they die* (12%; 47%).
- *help their children buy their first home* (5%; 28%)

Age and Generational Responsibilities

Felt obligations to parents or children vary by current age. A particularly clear example is found for the question on parents' responsibility to see that their adult children are able to buy their first home:

Figure 10
Among Members, the Felt Obligation to Help One's Children Buy Their First Home Varies by Age

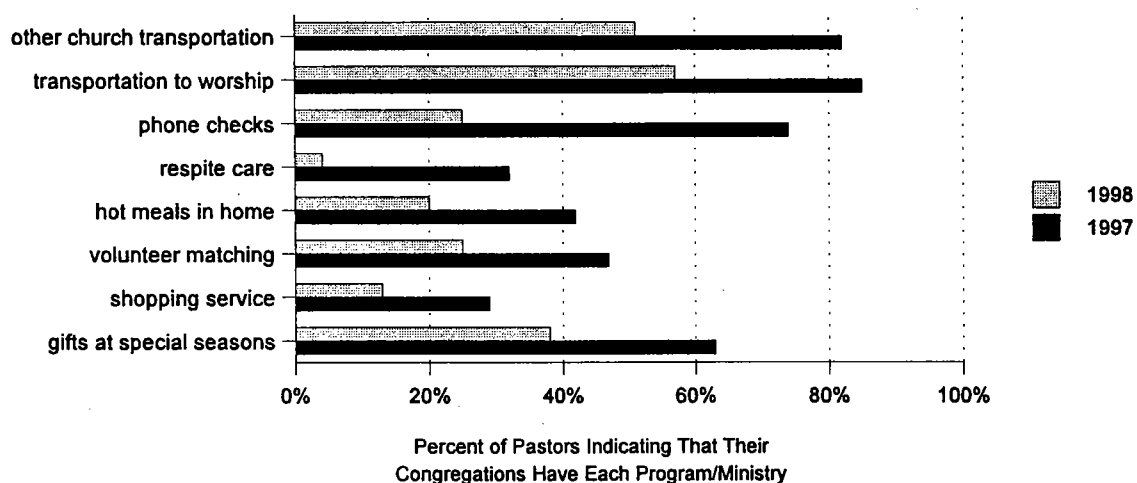


A Ten-Year Comparison

Many of the questions asked in 1997 were also asked in a September 1988 Presbyterian Panel survey. However, the wording of questions often varied, raising comparability concerns. Presented below are results from two sets of questions that appeared in very similar form on the two surveys—one showing change, one not.

- **Ministries, services for older adults.** In general, more pastors in 1997 than in 1988 report that their congregations have each of various activities or programs “specifically or primarily for one or more older adults.” Figure 11 shows the types of programs that have shown the most relative growth over the last decade, according to pastors’ responses.

**Figure 11
Older Adult Ministries That Grew From 1988 to 1997**



- **Generational responsibilities.** Opinions on the degree of intergenerational responsibility between children and their parents have remained very similar. Table 6 presents members’ responses to questions on the responsibility adult children have toward their parents.

**Table 6
Members’ Opinions on Children’s Responsibility Toward their Parents: 1988-1997**

Children’s responsibility to see that parents:	Degree of Responsibility					
	Great	Some	Little	None	Not Sure	No Response
have adequate income						
1997	45%	42%	8%	3%	2%	—
1988	49%	38%	8%	3%	—	2%
have good housing						
1997	57%	35%	5%	1%	1%	—
1988	61%	30%	5%	2%	—	2%
have good health care						
1997	64%	30%	4%	1%	1%	—
1988	70%	25%	2%	2%	—	2%

THE PRESBYTERIAN PANEL

OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES—NOVEMBER 1997

Appendix

	Members	Elders	Ministers
Number of questionnaires mailed	1297	1284	1848
Number of questionnaires returned	764	835	1199*
Percent returned	59%	65%	65%
*803 pastors; 396 specialized clergy			

Q-1. People often use phrases like “young adult” or “middle aged” or “older person” to describe someone’s age. When you hear these terms, what specific years of age come to mind? Answer by indicating, on the blank lines below, the years of age that you think are the upper and lower limits of these broad groupings.

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
a. <i>Young adulthood</i> starts approximately at age _____.				
17 and under	19%	14%	7%	9%
age 18	39%	41%	43%	44%
age 19 - 20	21%	22%	25%	21%
age 21	13%	18%	15%	17%
age 22 and over	8%	6%	9%	9%
 <i>Young adulthood</i> continues through age _____.				
29 and under	23%	17%	14%	12%
age 30 - 34	22%	22%	21%	23%
age 35 - 39	27%	35%	42%	42%
age 40 - 44	20%	19%	18%	16%
age 45 and over	8%	7%	5%	6%
 b. <i>Middle age</i> starts approximately at age _____.				
34 and under	17%	15%	14%	14%
age 35 - 39	22%	27%	33%	32%
age 40 - 44	37%	37%	39%	38%
age 45 and over	25%	20%	14%	16%
 <i>Middle age</i> continues through age _____.				
54 and under	15%	14%	9%	11%
age 55 - 59	23%	24%	28%	32%
age 60 - 64	34%	33%	34%	31%
age 65 and over	27%	29%	29%	26%
 c. <i>Older adulthood</i> starts approximately at age _____.				
59 and under	20%	22%	21%	22%
age 60-64	38%	31%	32%	38%
age 65 - 69	30%	34%	36%	28%
age 70 and over	12%	12%	10%	12%

* = 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

Q-2. Please think about *older adults* overall, as a broad category of persons. When you think generally of older adults, to what extent do each of these terms describe them?

a. living alone				
descriptive of most	3%	2%	1%	2%
descriptive of many	39%	39%	42%	40%
descriptive of some	48%	50%	52%	50%
descriptive of a few	10%	9%	4%	7%
not descriptive of any	*	1%	*	—
b. learning, growing, developing as persons				
descriptive of most	5%	5%	9%	5%
descriptive of many	32%	34%	40%	46%
descriptive of some	42%	43%	38%	40%
descriptive of a few	20%	17%	13%	9%
not descriptive of any	2%	1%	*	—
c. disabled				
descriptive of most	1%	*	*	*
descriptive of many	7%	6%	3%	5%
descriptive of some	46%	41%	46%	52%
descriptive of a few	45%	51%	50%	42%
not descriptive of any	1%	2%	1%	1%
d. economically better off				
descriptive of most	2%	1%	2%	2%
descriptive of many	25%	28%	28%	20%
descriptive of some	53%	52%	55%	55%
descriptive of a few	19%	17%	15%	22%
not descriptive of any	1%	1%	1%	1%
e. active in church				
descriptive of most	8%	5%	6%	7%
descriptive of many	57%	62%	70%	63%
descriptive of some	32%	29%	23%	28%
descriptive of a few	2%	3%	1%	2%
not descriptive of any	*	—	*	—
f. poorly educated				
descriptive of most	—	*	—	*
descriptive of many	3%	2%	2%	2%
descriptive of some	35%	37%	34%	48%
descriptive of a few	54%	55%	60%	46%
not descriptive of any	7%	6%	5%	5%
g. wise in the ways of the world				
descriptive of most	11%	10%	9%	7%
descriptive of many	51%	55%	47%	49%
descriptive of some	33%	30%	40%	39%
descriptive of a few	4%	4%	3%	5%
not descriptive of any	*	*	*	—

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Q-2. Please think about *older adults* overall, as a broad category of persons. When you think generally of older adults, to what extent do each of these terms describe them?

h. economically deprived				
descriptive of most *	*	—	—
descriptive of many	..... 6%	6%	5%	7%
descriptive of some	..... 48%	48%	52%	61%
descriptive of a few	..... 42%	44%	42%	31%
not descriptive of any	..... 3%	2%	1%	1%
i. set in their ways				
descriptive of most	..... 17%	13%	6%	5%
descriptive of many	..... 44%	44%	32%	31%
descriptive of some	..... 33%	35%	51%	55%
descriptive of a few	..... 5%	7%	10%	10%
not descriptive of any *	*	*	—
j. in good health				
descriptive of most	..... 1%	1%	2%	1%
descriptive of many	..... 36%	39%	41%	39%
descriptive of some	..... 56%	53%	50%	53%
descriptive of a few	..... 7%	7%	7%	7%
not descriptive of any *	*	—	—
k. spending lots of time on leisure activities				
descriptive of most	..... 4%	3%	2%	3%
descriptive of many	..... 42%	42%	40%	40%
descriptive of some	..... 44%	47%	52%	50%
descriptive of a few	..... 9%	7%	5%	7%
not descriptive of any *	—	—	—
l. living independently				
descriptive of most	..... 7%	8%	10%	8%
descriptive of many	..... 58%	60%	61%	54%
descriptive of some 31%	29%	27%	35%
descriptive of a few 3%	3%	2%	3%
not descriptive of any *	—	—	—

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Q-3. We hear many different terms used to refer to someone who has lived a long life. To the left, below, are some of the more common terms. Please indicate, for each of the terms below, whether or not you consider it to be: (1) respectful (yes or no); (2) belittling (yes or no); and (3) outdated (yes or no). Also, (4) is it a term that you, yourself, use regularly to refer to someone who has lived many years (yes or no)?

a. Elderly

respectful?				
no	11%	11%	17%	17%
yes	89%	89%	83%	83%
belittling?	+	+	+	+
no	88%	91%	87%	88%
yes	12%	9%	13%	12%
outdated?	+	+		+
no	80%	79%	68%	68%
yes	20%	21%	32%	32%
a term you regularly use?	+			
no	29%	29%	40%	36%
yes	71%	71%	60%	64%

b. Golden ager

respectful?	+	+	+	+
no	34%	34%	51%	53%
yes	66%	66%	49%	47%
belittling?	+	+	+	+
no	66%	68%	54%	47%
yes	34%	32%	46%	53%
outdated?	+	+	+	+
no	43%	42%	26%	21%
yes	57%	58%	74%	79%
a term you regularly use?	+	+		
no	92%	93%	97%	96%
yes	8%	7%	3%	4%

c. Older adult

respectful?				
no	7%	7%	4%	4%
yes	93%	93%	96%	96%
belittling?	+	+	+	+
no	93%	94%	96%	97%
yes	7%	6%	4%	3%
outdated?	+	+	+	+
no	86%	89%	94%	95%
yes	14%	11%	6%	5%
a term you regularly use?	+			
no	46%	44%	18%	21%
yes	54%	56%	82%	79%

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Q-3. We hear many different terms used to refer to someone who has lived a long life. To the left, below, are some of the more common terms. Please indicate, for each of the terms below, whether or not you consider it to be: (1) respectful (yes or no); (2) belittling (yes or no); and (3) outdated (yes or no). Also, (4) is it a term that you, yourself, use regularly to refer to someone who has lived many years (yes or no)?

d. Old person

respectful?	+	+	+	+
no	80%	80%	81%	74%
yes	20%	20%	19%	26%
belittling?	+	+	+	+
no	23%	26%	29%	34%
yes	77%	74%	71%	66%
outdated?	+	+	+	+
no	33%	31%	29%	35%
yes	67%	69%	71%	65%
a term you regularly use?	+	+	+	+
no	86%	88%	90%	87%
yes	14%	12%	10%	13%

e. Prime timer

respectful?	+	+	+	+
no	51%	54%	60%	66%
yes	49%	46%	40%	34%
belittling?	+	+	+	+
no	53%	55%	50%	43%
yes	47%	45%	50%	57%
outdated?	+	+	+	+
no	44%	41%	34%	31%
yes	56%	59%	66%	69%
a term you regularly use?	+	+	+	+
no	94%	94%	96%	97%
yes	6%	6%	4%	3%

f. Senior

respectful?	+	+	+	+
no	6%	6%	8%	10%
yes	94%	94%	92%	90%
belittling?	+	+	+	+
no	95%	95%	94%	93%
yes	5%	5%	6%	7%
outdated?	+	+	+	+
no	92%	92%	85%	82%
yes	8%	8%	15%	18%
a term you regularly use?	+	+	+	+
no	25%	28%	38%	42%
yes	75%	72%	62%	58%

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For convenience and uniformity, in the questions that follow we define the terms *older adults* and *older members* as persons who have reached age 65, i.e., the usual age of eligibility for Medicare and full Social Security benefits.

Q-4. Below is a list of programs, activities, ministries, and services that churches might provide for older adult members and those in the community. For each one, indicate whether or not during the past 12 months: . . . your congregation has regularly provided this activity, program, or service specifically or primarily *for one or more older adults*. (If you don't know, leave the item blank.) . . . and (if "yes"), the extent to which *older-adult church members* (i.e., volunteers, *not* paid staff) *provide or lead* each program, ministry, or service.

a. adult day care

congregation has provided?	+			+
no	86%	90%	94%	88%
yes	14%	10%	6%	12%
[If "yes,"] do older-adult members lead the program?				
	n=97	n=80	n=45	n=42
mostly/entirely	8%	17%	27%	13%
some extent	30%	25%	47%	31%
not at all	18%	25%	22%	13%
don't know	43%	32%	4%	44%

b. Bible study/spiritual growth for the homebound or those in nursing homes

congregation has provided?	+			+
no	42%	52%	59%	62%
yes	58%	48%	41%	38%
[If "yes,"] do older-adult members lead the program?				
	n=370	n=367	n=326	n=125
mostly/entirely	21%	23%	19%	19%
some extent	46%	56%	56%	54%
not at all	5%	4%	24%	9%
don't know	28%	17%	1%	18%

c. church (Sunday) school class

congregation has provided?				
no	21%	24%	31%	36%
yes	79%	76%	69%	64%
[If "yes,"] do older-adult members lead the program?				
	n=550	n=612	n=542	n=217
	+			
mostly/entirely	40%	46%	51%	43%
some extent	45%	42%	40%	45%
not at all	2%	5%	10%	7%
don't know	13%	6%	*	5%

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Q-4. Below is a list of programs, activities, ministries, and services that churches might provide for older adult (cont) members and those in the community. For each one, indicate whether or not during the past 12 months: ... your congregation has regularly provided this activity, program, or service specifically or primarily *for one or more older adults*. (If you don't know, leave the item blank.) ... and (if "yes"), the extent to which *older-adult church members* (i.e., volunteers, *not* paid staff) *provide or lead* each program, ministry, or service.

d. distributing taped copies of worship services congregation has provided?

	+			+
no	26%	26%	39%	42%
yes	74%	74%	61%	58%

[If "yes,"] do older-adult members lead the program?

	n=485	n=580	n=479	n=182
mostly/entirely	24%	29%	32%	24%
some extent	45%	44%	50%	51%
not at all	4%	10%	16%	5%
don't know	26%	17%	2%	20%

e. emergency financial aid

congregation has provided?

	+	+		+
no	33%	41%	57%	51%
yes	67%	59%	43%	49%

[If "yes,"] do older-adult members lead the program?

	n=355	n=400	n=337	n=148
mostly/entirely	8%	9%	11%	11%
some extent	36%	43%	50%	39%
not at all	4%	9%	32%	12%
don't know	52%	39%	6%	38%

f. gifts at special seasons of the year

congregation has provided?

	+			+
no	27%	37%	37%	41%
yes	73%	63%	63%	59%

[If "yes,"] do older-adult members lead the program?

	n=443	n=476	n=500	n=184
	+			
mostly/entirely	21%	23%	29%	22%
some extent	54%	57%	58%	56%
not at all	3%	4%	11%	7%
don't know	22%	15%	2%	15%

g. grocery-shopping service

congregation has provided?

	+	+		+
no	60%	70%	71%	70%
yes	40%	30%	29%	30%

[If "yes,"] do older-adult members lead the program?

	n=234	n=219	n=228	n=94
mostly/entirely	13%	21%	29%	19%
some extent	37%	46%	56%	45%
not at all	5%	7%	12%	7%
don't know	45%	26%	3%	29%

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h. help finding opportunities for paid employment				
congregation has provided?	+	+	+	+
no	65%	78%	91%	79%
yes	35%	22%	9%	21%
[If "yes,"] do older-adult members lead the program?				
	n=195	n=150	n=69	n=66
mostly/entirely	4%	5%	15%	5%
some extent	26%	32%	50%	30%
not at all	3%	12%	24%	15%
don't know	67%	50%	11%	51%
 i. help matching volunteers with needs in the church or community				
congregation has provided?	+	+	+	+
no	36%	44%	53%	53%
yes	64%	56%	47%	47%
[If "yes,"] do older-adult members lead the program?				
	n=367	n=402	n=367	n=145
mostly/entirely	14%	18%	18%	16%
some extent	52%	62%	70%	60%
not at all	2%	4%	10%	5%
don't know	33%	16%	1%	19%
 j. home visitation				
congregation has provided?	+	+	+	+
no	7%	8%	4%	10%
yes	93%	92%	96%	90%
[If "yes,"] do older-adult members lead the program?				
	n=636	n=728	n=758	n=300
mostly/entirely	24%	23%	17%	19%
some extent	58%	66%	75%	64%
not at all	4%	4%	7%	7%
don't know	15%	8%	1%	10%
 k. hot meals in the home				
congregation has provided?	+	+	+	+
no	53%	56%	58%	60%
yes	47%	44%	42%	40%
[If "yes,"] do older-adult members lead the program?				
	n=299	n=331	n=329	n=126
mostly/entirely	18%	33%	34%	21%
some extent	51%	49%	60%	53%
not at all	4%	5%	5%	5%
don't know	27%	13%	1%	21%

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l. housekeeping services

congregation has provided?	+	+	+	+
no	77%	83%	88%	81%
yes	23%	17%	12%	19%
[If "yes,"] do older-adult members lead the program?				
	n=137	n=120	n=94	n=60
mostly/entirely	5%	9%	13%	9%
some extent	19%	28%	53%	25%
not at all	9%	17%	27%	18%
don't know	66%	45%	7%	49%

m. legal aid

congregation has provided?	+	+	+	+
no	74%	83%	86%	80%
yes	26%	17%	14%	20%
[If "yes,"] do older-adult members lead the program?				
	n=151	n=121	n=106	n=61
mostly/entirely	4%	9%	13%	7%
some extent	14%	30%	38%	28%
not at all	7%	13%	42%	22%
don't know	75%	49%	6%	43%

n. personal letter writing and reading

congregation has provided?	+	+	+	+
no	66%	76%	82%	74%
yes	34%	24%	18%	26%
[If "yes,"] do older-adult members lead the program?				
	n=192	n=172	n=143	n=78
mostly/entirely	12%	14%	32%	13%
some extent	24%	39%	55%	41%
not at all	6%	9%	10%	7%
don't know	58%	38%	4%	39%

o. parish nurse program

congregation has provided?	+	+	+	+
no	75%	82%	89%	78%
yes	25%	18%	11%	22%
[If "yes,"] do older-adult members lead the program?				
	n=146	n=136	n=89	n=68
mostly/entirely	8%	7%	19%	15%
some extent	16%	30%	39%	20%
not at all	14%	23%	41%	28%
don't know	62%	40%	1%	37%

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Q-4. Below is a list of programs, activities, ministries, and services that churches might provide for older adult members and those in the community. For each one, indicate whether or not during the past 12 months: . . . your congregation has regularly provided this activity, program, or service specifically or primarily *for one or more older adults*. (If you don't know, leave the item blank.) . . . and (if "yes"), the extent to which *older-adult church members* (i.e., volunteers, *not* paid staff) *provide or lead* each program, ministry, or service.

p. providing a break for caregivers of persons with disabilities or the homebound ("respite care")				
congregation has provided?				
	+	+	+	+
no	58%	71%	68%	68%
yes	42%	29%	32%	32%
[If "yes,"] do older-adult members lead the program?				
	n=236	n=203	n=251	n=101
mostly/entirely	15%	20%	30%	18%
some extent	37%	46%	61%	44%
not at all	2%	6%	8%	9%
don't know	47%	28%	1%	28%
q. Shepherd's Center				
congregation has provided?				
	+	+	+	+
no	68%	81%	94%	85%
yes	32%	19%	6%	15%
[If "yes,"] do older-adult members lead the program?				
	n=169	n=128	n=46	n=45
mostly/entirely	12%	16%	29%	14%
some extent	12%	30%	44%	19%
not at all	3%	7%	20%	9%
don't know	72%	48%	7%	58%
r. phone calls to check on the homebound				
congregation has provided?				
	+	+	+	+
no	24%	28%	26%	31%
yes	76%	72%	74%	69%
[If "yes,"] do older- adult members lead the program?				
	n=468	n=539	n=588	n=217
mostly/entirely	22%	27%	33%	30%
some extent	54%	60%	60%	55%
not at all	1%	3%	6%	5%
don't know	22%	9%	1%	11%
s. temporary assistance during periods of illness				
congregation has provided?				
	+	+	+	+
no	30%	32%	34%	36%
yes	70%	68%	66%	64%
[If "yes,"] do older-adult members lead the program?				
	n=413	n=483	n=516	n=201
mostly/entirely	16%	22%	25%	22%
some extent	59%	62%	70%	59%
not at all	1%	2%	5%	5%
don't know	24%	14%	1%	14%

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t. transportation to and from church services congregation has provided?

	+			+
no	14%	14%	15%	19%
yes	86%	86%	85%	81%
[If "yes,"] do older-adult members lead program?				
	n=566	n=673	n=672	n=264
mostly/entirely	28%	25%	33%	26%
some extent	51%	62%	57%	59%
not at all	5%	7%	9%	5%
don't know	16%	6%	1%	10%

u. transportation to and from other church programs congregation has provided?

	+			+
no	23%	24%	18%	25%
yes	77%	76%	82%	75%
[If "yes,"] do older-adult members lead program?				
	n=478	n=574	n=649	n=238
mostly/entirely	24%	22%	31%	26%
some extent	53%	65%	62%	59%
not at all	4%	7%	6%	4%
don't know	19%	6%	1%	11%

v. transportation to medical facilities congregation has provided?

	+	+		+
no	38%	41%	33%	42%
yes	62%	59%	67%	58%
[If "yes,"] do older-adult members lead program?				
	n=356	n=419	n=525	n=175
mostly/entirely	20%	22%	28%	26%
some extent	50%	59%	67%	56%
not at all	2%	4%	5%	4%
don't know	28%	14%	1%	14%

Q-5. To what extent, if any, have older-adult members (i.e., as volunteers, *not* paid staff) provided or led each of the following activities and programs in your congregation?

a. making telephone calls on behalf of the congregation

				+
mostly/entirely	14%	17%	15%	11%
some extent	59%	66%	71%	64%
not at all	3%	4%	7%	7%
don't know	23%	12%	2%	15%
not applicable	1%	1%	5%	4%

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Q-5. To what extent, if any, have older-adult members (i.e., as volunteers, *not* paid staff) provided or led each of the (cont) following activities and programs in your congregation?

b. Stephen ministry	+			+
mostly/entirely	8%	7%	3%	4%
some extent	25%	24%	20%	18%
not at all	11%	14%	25%	22%
don't know	40%	25%	1%	14%
not applicable	17%	30%	51%	43%
 c. teaching church (Sunday) school				+
mostly/entirely	13%	10%	8%	7%
some extent	69%	78%	75%	72%
not at all	7%	8%	13%	12%
don't know	10%	4%	1%	6%
not applicable	1%	1%	2%	4%
 d. mentoring children	+			+
mostly/entirely	5%	4%	5%	5%
some extent	49%	56%	53%	47%
not at all	12%	16%	26%	19%
don't know	31%	20%	6%	20%
not applicable	3%	4%	10%	8%
 e. writing "thank-you" notes on behalf of the congregation	+			+
mostly/entirely	7%	10%	9%	5%
some extent	30%	33%	42%	31%
not at all	11%	15%	30%	22%
don't know	48%	36%	6%	32%
not applicable	4%	6%	12%	10%
 f. providing library services (i.e., working in the church library)				+
mostly/entirely	21%	22%	18%	13%
some extent	35%	36%	29%	32%
not at all	10%	17%	31%	21%
don't know	25%	14%	2%	16%
not applicable	10%	11%	20%	18%

Q-6. At one time or another, some congregations make particular efforts to develop *intergenerational programs or activities* (i.e., those that bring together persons of different age groups). Such programs involve more than simply inviting everyone in the congregation to attend or having different age groups meet together. They involve *actively recruiting* people of different age groups for the express purpose of fostering interaction among people in these age groups. Has your congregation held any intentionally-intergenerational activities in the last year?

no → Skip to Q-8	53%	52%	41%	55%
yes	47%	48%	59%	45%

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Q-6a. If "yes," indicate the specific type(s) of intergenerational activities that took place in your congregation during the last 12 months. (Check *all* that apply.)

	◆ n=304	◆ n=376	◆ n=453	◆ n=146
special worship services	35%	34%	48%	45%
church (Sunday) school classes	38%	43%	44%	42%
special discussion groups	29%	26%	23%	27%
family night meals	69%	75%	73%	75%
men's/boy's groups	19%	17%	11%	12%
women's/girl's groups	23%	24%	18%	14%
recreational activities	50%	42%	41%	40%
others (specify): _____	25%	29%	36%	41%

Q-7. If there has been one or more intentionally-intergenerational activity in your congregation during the last year, please indicate: (1) the age groups for which the activity(-ies) were designed, and (2) the age groups that provided the leadership for the activity(-ies)?

	n=304	n=376	n=453	n=146
a. young children - participants		+	+	
no	8%	8%	6%	8%
yes	76%	83%	93%	84%
don't know	16%	9%	1%	8%
young children - leadership		+	+	+
no	62%	60%	76%	63%
yes	16%	20%	22%	22%
don't know	21%	20%	2%	15%
b. teenagers - participants		+		
no	7%	5%	8%	6%
yes	80%	88%	91%	87%
don't know	13%	8%	1%	7%
teenagers - leadership		+	+	+
no	24%	25%	32%	29%
yes	54%	60%	65%	56%
don't know	22%	15%	3%	14%
c. young adults - participants		+	+	
no	2%	6%	10%	6%
yes	80%	85%	88%	86%
don't know	17%	8%	2%	8%
young adults - leadership		+	+	+
no	8%	11%	16%	9%
yes	71%	75%	81%	76%
don't know	21%	14%	2%	15%

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Q-7. If there has been one or more intentionally-intergenerational activity in your congregation during the last year, (cont) please indicate: (1) the age groups for which the activity(-ies) were designed, and (2) the age groups that provided the leadership for the activity(-ies)?

	n=304	n=376	n=453	n=146
d. middle-aged adults - participants	+	+		
no	2%	3%	5%	4%
yes	82%	91%	94%	89%
don't know	16%	6%	1%	8%
middle-aged adults - leadership	+	+	+	+
no	2%	3%	3%	2%
yes	81%	86%	95%	86%
don't know	16%	11%	2%	12%
e. older adults - participants	+	+		
no	2%	2%	3%	2%
yes	83%	92%	97%	92%
don't know	14%	6%	1%	7%
older adults - leadership	+	+	+	+
no	8%	9%	11%	6%
yes	76%	76%	87%	80%
don't know	17%	15%	2%	14%

Q-8. In general, how familiar are you with the various religious education materials produced by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)?

very familiar	2%	6%	26%	16%
somewhat familiar	45%	55%	63%	57%
not familiar	53%	39%	11%	27%

Q-9. How helpful for your congregation would it be for the PCUSA to produce a curriculum designed specifically for older adults?

very helpful	20%	23%	20%	19%
somewhat helpful	33%	36%	43%	37%
not helpful at all	6%	11%	18%	15%
don't know	41%	30%	19%	29%

Q-10. In your opinion, how important is it for congregations to ...

a. provide support groups for older adults in transition (e.g., retirement, loss of spouse, serious illness, moving moving to a smaller living space)?				
very important	52%	58%	51%	59%
important	42%	38%	43%	37%
not very important	5%	4%	5%	4%
not important at all	1%	*	*	1%
b. encourage older adults to design and conduct programs for their own age group?				
very important	24%	31%	34%	33%
important	63%	58%	55%	55%
not very important	12%	11%	10%	10%
not important at all	1%	1%	*	2%

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Q-10. In your opinion, how important is it for congregations to . . .
(cont)

c. encourage older adults to be involved in every aspect of <i>congregational</i> life, including leadership roles?				
very important	43%	55%	71%	62%
important	52%	42%	28%	35%
not very important	5%	2%	1%	2%
not important at all	*	*	—	1%
d. encourage older adults to be involved in every aspect of <i>community</i> life, including leadership roles?				
very important	34%	42%	55%	55%
important	56%	48%	41%	40%
not very important	10%	9%	4%	5%
not important at all	*	*	—	1%
e. regularly design and lead intentionally-intergenerational programs in the congregation?				
very important	18%	24%	23%	30%
important	58%	53%	56%	48%
not very important	23%	22%	20%	20%
not important at all	2%	1%	1%	2%
f. work toward public policies that promote the rights of older adults?				
very important	18%	24%	22%	34%
important	53%	44%	53%	44%
not very important	26%	27%	23%	19%
not important at all	3%	4%	2%	3%
g. provide advocacy training for older adults, (i.e., training in basic advocacy skills, in patient rights, in becoming a better consumer, etc.)?				
very important	18%	19%	18%	30%
important	52%	47%	50%	45%
not very important	28%	30%	30%	23%
not important at all	3%	4%	2%	2%
h. visit older adults who are moving to the community?				
very important	34%	36%	37%	44%
important	60%	58%	55%	47%
not very important	5%	5%	8%	8%
not important at all	*	*	—	1%

Q-11. Please indicate the extent of your agreement or disagreement with each of the following statements.

a. Ministry with, by, and for older adults is crucial to the future of the church.				
strongly agree	25%	30%	45%	45%
agree	60%	57%	46%	48%
not sure	11%	9%	6%	5%
disagree	4%	4%	2%	2%
strongly disagree	*	—	—	*

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Q-11. Please indicate the extent of your agreement or disagreement with each of the following statements.
(cont)

b. Older adults need the opportunity to give of their skills to the church as much as they need to receive guidance and opportunities for growth.

strongly agree	40%	50%	67%	64%
agree	58%	49%	32%	35%
not sure	2%	1%	*	1%
disagree	*	*	*	—
strongly disagree	—	—	—	—

c. A small congregation can have a viable and stimulating program for older adults.

strongly agree	24%	31%	52%	47%
agree	60%	54%	41%	43%
not sure	15%	14%	7%	10%
disagree	1%	1%	*	1%
strongly disagree	*	—	—	—

d. Ministry with older adults is as important to the future of the church as ministry with youth and young adults.

strongly agree	26%	28%	39%	37%
agree	55%	51%	45%	44%
not sure	11%	10%	9%	12%
disagree	8%	11%	7%	6%
strongly disagree	1%	1%	1%	1%

e. Evangelism among older adults is an important part of the ministry of the church.

strongly agree	22%	26%	36%	33%
agree	59%	61%	52%	52%
not sure	16%	11%	10%	11%
disagree	3%	3%	2%	4%
strongly disagree	*	—	*	—

f. Opportunities for spiritual growth are as important in the later years as in the younger years of life.

strongly agree	48%	54%	67%	66%
agree	49%	44%	32%	33%
not sure	2%	2%	1%	1%
disagree	1%	1%	1%	*
strongly disagree	—	—	*	*

Q-12. What priority, in your opinion . . .

a. *does* your congregation give to ministry to older adults?

high	29%	30%	32%	23%	+
moderate	51%	54%	54%	52%	
low	10%	14%	13%	18%	
don't know	10%	2%	*	7%	

b. *should* your congregation give to ministry to older adults?

high	43%	49%	52%	49%	+
moderate	48%	48%	43%	44%	
low	2%	2%	3%	2%	
don't know	7%	2%	1%	4%	

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Q-13. People have different views about the responsibility of adult children toward their elderly parents. What are your views? Please indicate how much responsibility, if any, you believe adult children have to see that their older parents . . .

a. have adequate income

great	45%	50%	48%	40%
some	42%	39%	45%	47%
a little	8%	8%	6%	9%
none	3%	2%	1%	1%
not sure	2%	1%	1%	2%

b. have good housing

great	57%	63%	64%	56%
some	35%	30%	33%	37%
a little	5%	5%	3%	5%
none	1%	1%	*	*
not sure	1%	1%	*	2%

c. have good health care

great	64%	69%	68%	61%
some	30%	26%	30%	32%
a little	4%	4%	2%	5%
none	1%	1%	*	*
not sure	1%	1%	*	1%

d. are not lonely

great	64%	63%	56%	52%
some	31%	31%	37%	37%
a little	3%	4%	6%	8%
none	1%	1%	1%	1%
not sure	1%	1%	*	2%

Q-14. People also have different views about the responsibilities of parents to their grown children. Please indicate how much responsibility, if any, you believe parents have for their children after the children have reached adulthood.

a. pay for their children's college education

great	33%	30%	24%	28%
some	47%	48%	52%	51%
a little	11%	12%	14%	13%
none	6%	8%	9%	7%
not sure	2%	1%	1%	1%

b. leave some money to their children when they die

great	12%	12%	8%	7%
some	35%	34%	33%	35%
a little	21%	24%	25%	27%
none	28%	29%	32%	29%
not sure	4%	2%	2%	2%

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Q-14. People also have different views about the responsibilities of parents to their grown children. Please indicate (cont) how much responsibility, if any, you believe parents have for their children after the children have reached adulthood.

c. help their children buy their first home

great	5%	6%	3%	5%
some	28%	28%	26%	25%
a little	29%	29%	30%	34%
none	34%	34%	39%	34%
not sure	4%	3%	2%	2%

d. provide their children with a place to live if they are unable to afford their own

great	21%	18%	10%	10%
some	38%	38%	32%	37%
a little	25%	33%	41%	36%
none	12%	9%	15%	14%
not sure	5%	2%	2%	2%

PLEASE INDICATE YOUR DEGREE OF AGREEMENT OR DISAGREEMENT WITH EACH STATEMENT.

Q-15. Older adult members in my congregation are ...

a. a valuable resource

strongly agree	66%	75%	84%	78%
agree	32%	24%	15%	20%
not sure	2%	1%	*	2%
disagree	*	*	*	1%
strongly disagree	—	—	—	—

b. currently under-utilized by the church

strongly agree	8%	13%	17%	15%
agree	28%	30%	35%	35%
not sure	26%	18%	11%	17%
disagree	35%	37%	35%	31%
strongly disagree	3%	3%	3%	2%

c. people who have served well but who need to move back and allow younger persons to take over more of the leadership

strongly agree	5%	4%	2%	2%
agree	24%	24%	18%	16%
not sure	20%	14%	15%	21%
disagree	46%	51%	56%	55%
strongly disagree	6%	7%	8%	6%

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PLEASE INDICATE YOUR DEGREE OF AGREEMENT OR DISAGREEMENT WITH EACH STATEMENT.

Q-15. Older adult members in my congregation are ...
(cont)

d. a problem this church must deal with

strongly agree	4%	4%	4%	4%
agree	17%	18%	10%	17%
not sure	17%	12%	9%	12%
disagree	43%	46%	51%	47%
strongly disagree	20%	21%	27%	19%

e. persons to respect, honor, and cherish in the life of the church

strongly agree	57%	59%	65%	59%
agree	41%	40%	34%	38%
not sure	1%	1%	1%	2%
disagree	1%	*	1%	1%
strongly disagree	*	*	—	*

f. persons for whom special ministry and/or practical assistance is/are needed

strongly agree	21%	24%	23%	22%
agree	52%	53%	59%	55%
not sure	23%	18%	13%	20%
disagree	4%	5%	5%	3%
strongly disagree	*	—	—	—

Q-16. Does your congregation have a paid staff person (or persons) whose responsibilities specifically include ministry to older adult members?

no	63%	68%	69%	71%
yes	19%	27%	30%	21%
not sure	18%	4%	1%	8%

Q-17. Did your congregation observe Older Adult Week in 1997 (it's the first week in May each year)?

no	50%	68%	86%	69%
yes	5%	6%	11%	9%
not sure	45%	26%	3%	22%

ORDAINED MINISTERS ONLY; OTHERS MAY SKIP TO Q-22

Q-18. Do you believe that you have the skills necessary to minister to older adults?

yes, definitely	44%	41%
yes, probably	45%	45%
not sure	8%	9%
no, probably not	4%	4%
no, definitely not	—	1%

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Q-19. If you had a call to a(nother) congregation, would you be likely to accept the call *if* a majority of the membership consisted of older adults? (Assume that all other factors meet or exceed your criteria.)

yes, definitely	30%	31%
yes, probably	39%	38%
not sure	17%	18%
no, probably not	13%	11%
no, definitely not	2%	2%

Q-20. Do you need more information and/or assistance to better serve older adults in any of the following areas? If so, indicate each area in the list below in which you perceive a need for help.

	◆	◆
pastoral visitation with homebound older-adult members, older-adult members in nursing homes	26%	24%
preaching to a congregation with a predominantly older-adult membership	21%	27%
planning Christian education programs for older adults	53%	51%
training older adults in leadership roles in the church	39%	32%
doing evangelism among older persons	53%	43%
dealing with elder abuse	50%	65%
other (specify:) _____	8%	11%

Q-21. The Office on Older Adult Ministry is considering the development of various services and products. Indicate how helpful it would be for you in your ministry as a pastor (or as a chaplain in a retirement home, nursing home, or other setting with older adults) to have:

a. in general, more resources appropriate for use with/by older adults		+
very helpful	24%	26%
helpful	46%	47%
a little helpful	24%	21%
not at all helpful	6%	5%
b. a Bible study series written especially for older adults		+
very helpful	25%	22%
helpful	41%	39%
a little helpful	22%	29%
not at all helpful	11%	10%
c. opportunities for developing leaders (ministers and laity) to serve congregations in older-adult ministry		+
very helpful	20%	21%
helpful	44%	50%
a little helpful	29%	23%
not at all helpful	7%	7%
d. resources to encourage and assist seminaries in providing courses on older-adult ministry		+
very helpful	21%	28%
helpful	43%	39%
a little helpful	27%	24%
not at all helpful	10%	10%

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Q-21. The Office on Older Adult Ministry is considering the development of various services and products. Indicate (cont) how helpful it would be for you in your ministry as a pastor (or as a chaplain in a retirement home, nursing home, or other setting with older adults) to have:

e. resources to use in planning for Older Adult Week		+
very helpful	11%	10%
helpful	28%	34%
a little helpful	34%	38%
not at all helpful	27%	18%
 f. resources to help members plan for retirement and redirection of their lives in retirement		 +
very helpful	36%	40%
helpful	45%	43%
a little helpful	16%	14%
not at all helpful	4%	3%

Q-22. Please use the space below or a separate page to provide additional comments.

[not tabulated]

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