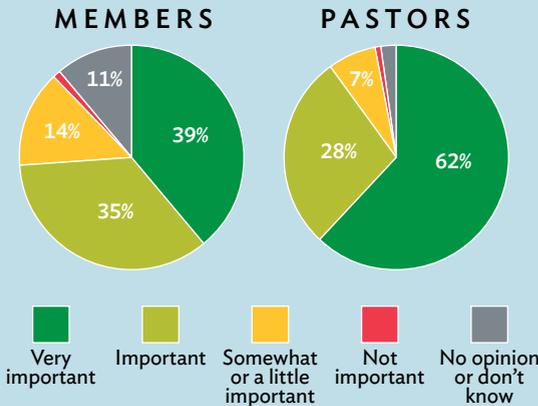


The importance of disaster response

Presbyterians believe that disaster response is an important ministry

How important is it for the PC(USA) to engage in the type of work, in general, that Presbyterian Disaster Assistance currently does?

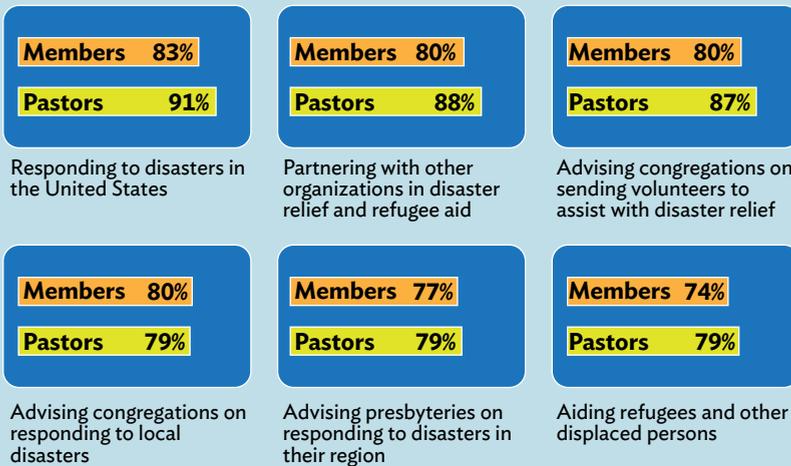


Large majorities of members and pastors believe it is important, in general, for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to have a disaster-response ministry. Most also believe that such a ministry should include a variety of specific dimensions: at least 60 percent indicate that 10 of 13 types of activities are important components of the denomination's disaster-assistance ministry.

At the top of the importance ratings are six activities, each viewed as important by three-fourths or more of members. Three of these involve working with congregations and presbyteries on their own disaster preparedness and response. The other three activities are working cooperatively with other relief organizations, providing aid to refugees, and focusing efforts on disasters in the United States.

Which components of disaster response are most important?

Percentages of respondents who describe each activity as "very important" or "important"



Other factors

	MEMBERS	PASTORS
Supporting the long-term recovery of disaster-affected communities	66%	75%
Managing volunteers and work teams at disaster sites	61%	76%
Responding to disasters in other countries	60%	86%
Educating the public on the length and complexity of disaster recovery.....	60%	63%
Managing volunteer teams that provide specialized assistance	58%	73%
Providing disaster-preparedness training for synods and presbyteries.....	55%	53%
Promoting refugee resettlement.....	48%	58%

Similar or greater percentages of pastors view each of these same six activities as important. But they add to that list managing volunteers at disaster sites (both basic work teams and more specialized consultants and trainers), supporting long-term recovery in affected communities, and responding to disasters overseas.

The difference in importance ratings between members and pastors is especially large for managing both types of volunteers (15 percentage points greater among pastors on each) and providing disaster assistance in other countries (something 60 percent of members but 86 percent of pastors view as important).

Giving attention to these differences, however, should not obscure the main finding: majorities of Presbyterians support a broadly focused, multidimensional disaster-response ministry for the PC(USA).

Jack Marcum is coordinator of Research Services of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

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