



The Presbyterian Panel

Listening to Presbyterians



SUMMARY

COMPASSION, PEACE AND JUSTICE FINDINGS FROM THE AUGUST 2010 SURVEY

The Presbyterian Panel consists of three nationally representative samples of groups affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): members, elders serving on session (lay leaders), and ordained ministers. For most analyses, ministers are split into two groups based on current call: *pastors*, serving congregations, and *specialized clergy*, serving elsewhere. New samples are drawn every three years. These pages summarize major findings from the eighth survey completed by the 2009-2011 Panel, sampled in the fall of 2008.

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IMPORTANCE OF THE MINISTRIES' WORK

Importance of Types of Mission

- ✓ Majorities in each Panel group believe that it is *very important* or *important* for the PC(USA) General Assembly Mission Council to engage in the type of work that the following Compassion, Peace and Justice ministries do:
 - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (members, 89%; elders, 91%; pastors, 96%; specialized clergy, 92%).
 - Child Advocacy (88%; 86%; 82%; 86%).
 - Presbyterian Hunger Program (85%; 87%; 89%; 90%).
 - Self-Development of People (71%; 71%; 72%; 76%).
 - Environmental Ministries (68%; 64%; 69%; 82%).
 - Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (62%; 61%; 60%; 71%).
 - Presbyterian Peacemaking Program (57%; 61%; 56%; 69%).
- ✓ Majorities of panelists in some but not all groups believe that the work of two other Compassion, Peace and Justice ministries is *very important* or *important*:
 - Mission Responsibility Through Investment (members, 53%; elders, 48%; pastors, 45%; specialized clergy, 62%).
 - PC(USA) Office of Public Witness (in Washington) (37%; 37%; 37%; 57%).
- ✓ Only minorities in each group (members, 42%; elders, 39%; pastors, 32%; specialized clergy, 46%) find that the work of the remaining Compassion, Peace and Justice ministry, the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations, is *very important* or *important*.

Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministries

- Child Advocacy:** Equipping the church to respond to the needs of all children.
- Environmental Ministries:** Equipping congregations and presbyteries to be stewards of God's earth.
- Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI):** Encouraging firms in which the PC(USA) owns stock to be good stewards of their resources.
- PC(USA) Office of Public Witness (in Washington):** Advocating, and helping the church to advocate, social witness perspectives and policies of the PC(USA) modeled on a prophetic biblical witness.
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA):** Working with congregations and partners to provide relief and recovery to communities affected by disasters.
- Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (PHEWA):** Implementing General Assembly mandates for justice ministry at the grassroots level through networks focused on areas such as domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, and health.
- Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP):** Engaging the church to work with partners to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes.
- Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations:** Equipping the church to grow as disciples in the global community and representing the global concerns of the PC(USA) at the United Nations.
- Presbyterian Peacemaking Program:** Developing resources that equip the church to respond to the gospel call to "Seek peace and pursue it."
- Self-Development of People (SDOP):** Participating in partnerships with economically poor people to change structures that perpetuate poverty and injustice.

FAMILIARITY WITH MINISTRIES AND FIT WITH OVERALL MISSION

Familiarity with Various Ministries

- ✓ Before they received the Panel questionnaire, more panelists in each group (members, 41%; elders, 52%; pastors, 90%; specialized clergy, 76%) were *very familiar* or *familiar* with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance than were familiar with any other Compassion, Peace and Justice ministry.
- ✓ Smaller majorities of ministers—and minorities of members and elders—were *very familiar* or *familiar* with three other ministries before they received the questionnaire:
 - Presbyterian Hunger Program (members, 35%; elders, 44%; pastors, 78%; specialized clergy, 67%).
 - Presbyterian Peacemaking Program (25%; 33%; 78%; 74%).
 - Self-Development of People (14%; 18%; 68%; 57%).
- ✓ About half of ministers—and small minorities of members and elders—were *very familiar* or *familiar* with the following ministries before they received the questionnaire:
 - Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (members, 15%; elders, 11%; pastors, 49%; specialized clergy, 50%).
 - Mission Responsibility Through Investment (13%; 15%; 52%; 46%).
- ✓ Minorities of panelists in each group were *very familiar* or *familiar* with the remaining ministries before they received the questionnaire:
 - Child Advocacy (members, 16%; elders, 17%; pastors, 33%; specialized clergy, 32%).
 - Environmental Ministries (16%; 16%; 38%; 38%).
 - PC(USA) Office of Public Witness (8%; 8%; 47%; 43%).
 - Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations (5%; 9%; 32%; 31%).

Fit with the Ministry Area Mission

- ✓ Majorities of panelists in each group who are at least a *little familiar* with the following ministries believe there is an *excellent fit* or *good fit* between the work these ministries do and the overall mission of the Compassion, Peace and Justice ministry area:
 - Presbyterian Hunger Program (members, 70%; elders, 72%; pastors, 81%; specialized clergy, 81%).
 - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (70%; 71%; 84%; 79%).
 - Child Advocacy (65%; 62%; 67%; 70%).
 - Self-Development of People (57%; 56%; 71%; 72%).
 - Presbyterian Peacemaking Program (53%; 55%; 69%; 72%).
- ✓ Among panelists familiar with the following ministries, majorities in at least one group believe there is an *excellent fit* or *good fit* between the work that each ministry does and the overall Compassion, Peace and Justice mission:
 - Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (members, 50%; elders, 46%; pastors, 54%; specialized clergy, 63%).
 - Environmental Ministries (44%; 44%; 61%; 69%).
 - Mission Responsibility Through Investment (36%; 35%; 47%; 57%).
 - PC(USA) Office of Public Witness (36%; 25%; 40%; 54%).
 - Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations (35%; 29%; 38%; 55%).

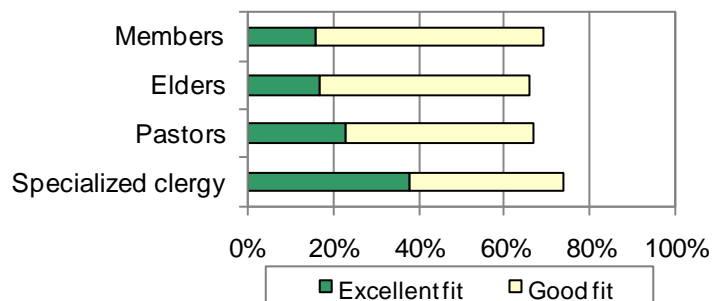
Evaluating the Mission Statement

- ✓ Seven in ten members (69%), elders (66%), pastors (67%), and specialized clergy (74%) believe there is an *excellent fit* or *good fit* between the Compassion, Peace and Justice ministry area mission statement and what they believe the ministry area *should* be doing.

Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry Area Mission Statement

The Compassion, Peace and Justice ministry describes its overall mission as follows: “In faithfulness to the gospel, the Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry supports, inspires, and connects Presbyterian ministries and other partners as together we pursue peace, seek justice, oppose oppression, speak truth to power, care for God’s creations, and strive for wholeness of life for all peoples.”

Figure 1. Rating of Fit Between the Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry Area Mission Statement and What the Area Should Be Doing



ENGAGEMENT WITH MINISTRIES

Engagement with Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministries

- ✓ For two Compassion, Peace and Justice ministries, majorities of panelists in each group have, during the past two years, attended an event led by leaders of the ministry, been in contact with ministry leaders, or read or viewed printed or online materials of the ministry:
 - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (members, 53%; elders, 64%; pastors, 92%; specialized clergy, 82%).
 - Presbyterian Hunger Program (52%; 56%; 84%; 74%).
- ✓ Majorities of ministers—but many fewer members and elders—have in the past two years attended an event led by leaders of the following ministries, been in contact with ministry leaders, or read or viewed materials of the ministry:
 - Presbyterian Peacemaking Program (members, 38%; elders, 50%; pastors, 86%; specialized clergy, 75%).
 - Environmental Ministries (31%; 33%; 65%; 60%).
 - Self-Development of People (24%; 30%; 73%; 59%).
 - Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (22%; 22%; 60%; 52%).
 - Mission Responsibility Through Investment (18%; 26%; 65%; 52%).
- ✓ For the remaining ministries, minorities of panelists in each group have during the past two years attended an event led by ministry leaders, been in contact with ministry leaders, or read or viewed materials of the ministry:
 - Child Advocacy (members, 27%; elders, 32%; pastors, 46%; specialized clergy, 42%).
 - PC(USA) Office of Public Witness (9%; 13%; 49%; 36%).
 - Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations (8%; 13%; 32%; 25%).

Most Recent Engagement

- ✓ Among the ten Compassion, Peace and Justice ministries, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is the one with which the most panelists in each group have engaged most recently. One-third of members (34%), four in nine elders (45%), half of pastors (51%), and two in five specialized clergy (41%) who have attended an event led by leaders of a Compassion, Peace and Justice ministry, been in contact with leaders of a ministry, or read or viewed materials from a ministry have done so most recently with PDA.

- ✓ Among those who have engaged with any Compassion, Peace and Justice ministry during the past two years, between one in ten and three in ten panelists have most recently attended an event led by leaders of the hunger or peacemaking ministries, been in contact with leaders of these ministries, or read or viewed materials from these ministries:
 - Presbyterian Hunger Program (members, 28%; elders, 19%; pastors, 12%; specialized clergy, 13%).
 - Presbyterian Peacemaking Program (10%; 17%; 14%; 18%).
- ✓ Fewer panelists in each group who have attended an event led by leaders of a ministry, been in contact with leaders of a ministry, or read or viewed materials from a ministry have done so most recently with any of the other seven ministries:
 - Child Advocacy (members, 7%; elders, 6%; pastors, 3%; specialized clergy, 2%).
 - Self-Development of People (6%; 6%; 5%; 7%).
 - Environmental Ministries (6%; 4%; 4%; 3%).
 - Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association (4%; 0%; 2%; 5%).
 - Mission Responsibility Through Investment (3%; 1%; 4%; 5%).
 - Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations (1%; 0.4%; 0.2%; 3%).
 - PC(USA) Office of Public Witness (1%; 0%; 3%; 4%).

Satisfaction with Most Recent Engagement

- ✓ Seven in ten members (71%) and five in six elders (82%), pastors (83%), and specialized clergy (83%) who have attended an event led by leaders of a Compassion, Peace and Justice ministry, been in contact with leaders of a ministry, or viewed materials from a ministry in the past two years were *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with the most recent such experience.

Participation in Churchwide Special Offerings

- ✓ Seven in eight pastors (88%) report that their congregation participated during the past 12 months in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, one of three PC(USA) churchwide special offerings that help fund Compassion, Peace and Justice ministries. This offering supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People.
- ✓ Fewer pastors report that their congregation participated in the Peacemaking Offering (58%), which supports that ministry, or the Pentecost Offering (45%), which supports the Child Advocacy ministry.

PARTICIPATION IN RELATED ACTIVITIES

Personal Participation in Compassion, Peace and Justice-related Activities

- ✓ More than five in six panelists in each group have personally engaged in a ministry of compassion, peace, or justice during the past 12 months by praying for healing or talking about an international conflict:
 - Prayed for healing for themselves or another person (members, 93%; elders, 97%; pastors, 99%; specialized clergy, 96%).
 - Talked with a friend or family member about conflict in another country (86%; 89%; 96%; 97%).
- ✓ During the past 12 months, smaller majorities of panelists in each group:
 - Contributed money or materials for disaster relief, hunger, or development to an organization that is not part of the PC(USA) (members, 76%; elders, 75%; pastors, 73%; specialized clergy, 79%).
 - Contributed money to the One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, or Peacemaking offerings (72%; 84%; 80%; 71%).
 - Intentionally changed some aspect of their lifestyle to lessen impact on the environment (72%; 72%; 78%; 84%).
 - Participated in volunteer work in their community related to issues of compassion, peace, or justice (59%; 69%; 86%; 69%).
 - Contributed money or materials to the PC(USA) for disaster relief, hunger, or development (55%; 69%; 80%; 69%).
 - Worked with their congregation, another congregation, or another organization to fight poverty in their community in a way other than the ways listed in the survey (53%; 63%; 88%; 69%).
- ✓ Majorities of panelists in one group but not others participated in two other ministries related to compassion, peace, and justice during the past 12 months:
 - Led or participated in a Bible study or social issues class at their congregation about a peacemaking, poverty, or justice issue (members, 20%; elders, 27%; pastors, 54%; specialized clergy, 43%).
 - Wrote a letter to, emailed, or phoned an elected official to advocate for a cause tied to compassion, peace, or justice (19%; 20%; 39%; 52%).
- ✓ Only minorities of panelists in each group engaged in these other types of compassion, peace, and justice-related activities during the same period:
 - Contributed to a national PC(USA) ministry other than a Compassion, Peace and Justice ministry (members, 19%; elders, 21%; pastors, 42%; specialized clergy, 39%).
 - Wrote a letter to, emailed, or phoned a news outlet to advocate for a cause tied to compassion, peace, or justice (11%; 11%; 30%; 37%).
 - Heard a presentation by a PC(USA) International Peacemaker (6%; 9%; 24%; 22%).
 - Contributed money to the Compassion, Peace and Justice ministry area for a purpose other than relief or development (6%; 8%; 12%; 15%).
 - Worked with Self-Development of People to connect economically disadvantaged communities in their area with the service and support this ministry provides (6%; 6%; 10%; 10%).
 - Participated in a mission or service trip to a country other than the United States (6%; 5%; 22%; 14%).
 - Participated in a mission or service trip to another part of the United States (4%; 9%; 34%; 14%).

	Members	Elders	Ministers
Number of surveys sent.....	647	920	1,267
Number of undeliverable surveys and ineligible respondents	3	1	9
Number of surveys completed	333	466	725‡
Response rate	51%	50%	57%

‡Of the 725 returned surveys, 474 came from pastors and 247 from specialized clergy; 4 ministers could not be classified.

The survey was mailed on August 27, 2010, with returns accepted through November 22, 2010. Results are subject to sampling and other errors. Small differences should be interpreted cautiously. In general, differences of less than 8% between samples are not statistically meaningful.

For more numbers and interpretation of these results, a longer report with more charts will be available on the web (gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/research/presbyterian-panel) or for \$15 from PDS (800-524-2612; order PDS# 02056-10308). It will include tables with percentage responses to each survey question separately for members, elders, pastors, and specialized clergy.

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