



# The Presbyterian Panel

*Listening to Presbyterians*



**REPORT**

## Presbyterian Colleges and Universities The February 2004 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.): members, elders (lay leaders) currently on session, and ordained ministers. (The session is the governing body in Presbyterian congregations.) For analysis, ministers are 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. 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 *Background Report for the 2003-2005 Presbyterian Panel* (see 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 those of Research Services. Standards developed by the American Association of Public Opinion Research guide Panel surveys.

### **This Survey**

These pages summarize major findings from the seventh survey completed by the 2003-2005 Panel. The first half uses text and graphics to highlight important and useful findings. A data appendix follows with comparative tables that display the percentage distribution of responses to every question for each of the four Panel groups.

Questionnaires were mailed February 13, 2004. Non-responders were sent a postcard reminder March 3. Returns were accepted through early May 2004. Response rates for this survey are: members, 44%; elders, 54%; ministers, 61%. Panelists had the option to complete the survey on the Web, and 10% of responding members, 11% of responding elders, 14% of responding pastors, and 18% of responding specialized clergy did so.

Results are subject to sampling and other errors. As a general rule, differences of less than 8% are not statistically meaningful.

Some analyses in this report, including those using gender and age, rely on responses of panelists to the initial questionnaire they completed in the fall of 2002. For more information on this earlier survey and responses of panelists to these questions, see the *Background Report for the 2003-2005 Presbyterian Panel* (see next page for Web availability and ordering information).

### **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* 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.

### **Suggested Citation**

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## OVERVIEW

### **Author Note**

Margaret Vaaler, University of Texas at Austin, and John Marcum wrote this report and were assisted by the other staff members of the office of Research Services. John Marcum developed the questionnaire.

### **Staff of Research Services**

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### **Sponsor**

The survey topic was selected in consultation with the staff of the Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities, and the questions written with their collaboration. For more information, contact Gary Luhr, Executive Director of APCU (888-728-7228 ext. 5364; [gluhr@ctr.pcusa.org](mailto:gluhr@ctr.pcusa.org)), or go to the Web: [www.apcu.net](http://www.apcu.net).

### **Additional Copies**

Additional copies of this *Report* may be purchased for \$10 from Presbyterian Distribution Services (PDS)—call 800-524-2612 and request item #02056-04282. This *Report* is also available on the Web for free download in Adobe Acrobat format; go to [www.pcusa.org/research/panel/index.htm#2004](http://www.pcusa.org/research/panel/index.htm#2004) 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 Web site. Call for information on quantity discounts on printed copies of either this *Report* or its *Summary* (888-728-7228 ext. 2040).

### **Background Report**

The *Background Report for the 2003-2005 Presbyterian Panel* is available for free download in Adobe Acrobat format on the Web ([www.pcusa.org/research/panel/reports/2003\\_05\\_full\\_bgndreport.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/research/panel/reports/2003_05_full_bgndreport.pdf)), or may be purchased for \$10 from Presbyterian Distribution Services (PDS)—call 800-524-2612 and request item #65100-03276.

### **Panel on the Web**

A catalogue of Panel topics, and *Summaries* and *Reports* of surveys since 1994, are available on-line at the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Web site: [www.pcusa.org/research/panel/index](http://www.pcusa.org/research/panel/index). A catalogue of all surveys since the first Panel was created in 1973 is available here: [www.pcusa.org/research/panel/catalog.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/research/panel/catalog.htm).

### **Interested in Learning More about *Your* Congregation or Presbytery?**

- ✓ *10-Year Trend Report for Congregations*—available for free: [www.pcusa.org/tenyeartrends](http://www.pcusa.org/tenyeartrends).
- ✓ *10-Year Trend Report for Presbyteries*—available from Research Services for \$95.
- ✓ *Neighborhood Demographic Report*—provides a quick look at the people who live in the area around your church or another location; available for free: [www.pcusa.org/research/demographics](http://www.pcusa.org/research/demographics).
- ✓ Research Services can help you conduct a congregational survey to learn more about your worshipers and identify your congregation's strengths. Call 1-888-728-7228 ext. 2040 and ask about the *U.S. Congregational Life Survey* or visit: [www.USCongregations.org](http://www.USCongregations.org).

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Almost all panelists are aware that there are Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)-related colleges and universities, although many fewer are aware of the total number (66) of such schools. (p. 1)
- ✓ Almost half of panelists report a PC(USA)-related college or university within 100 miles of their home. (p. 1)
- ✓ Few panelists report that the presence or absence of a school's church relationship is important to students in their selection of a college or university to attend. Still, a third of laity and small majorities of ministers indicate that having the option of a PC(USA)-related school would be important to them personally. (pp. 2-3)
- ✓ More panelists rate church-related schools as doing a better job than other schools on a variety of dimensions, including "meeting spiritual needs," "nurturing moral values," and "meeting personal and emotional needs." An exception is "providing big-time athletics." (p. 3)
- ✓ Large majorities rate the education provided by Presbyterian colleges and universities as among the best in the country, but opinions are more diverse on whether these schools provide a good value in higher education. (p. 4)
- ✓ Many panelists, especially laity, have little knowledge of the financial circumstances of Presbyterian-related schools. (p. 4)
- ✓ Majorities believe colleges and universities are an "important" or "very important" part of the PC(USA)'s mission, but only a few believe such schools are "essential" for that mission. (p. 5)
- ✓ Majorities believe that Presbyterian schools should do more to help students grow spiritually, and similar but slightly smaller percentages believe these schools should do more to teach about Christian faith. (p. 5)
- ✓ Panelists split on whether Presbyterian colleges and universities or Presbyterian-supported campus ministry at public universities better serves the mission of the church. (p. 5)
- ✓ A majority of pastors report that their congregation has promoted one or more PC(USA) schools among high school students during the previous three years. Most typically, this involves providing information on financial aid or distributing bulletin inserts. (p. 6)
- ✓ Around one in ten lay panelists and one in six ministers have attended a Presbyterian college or university. Overall, a fourth of laity and half of ministers have either attended such a school themselves or have a close family member who has done so. (p. 7)
- ✓ Large majorities of those who attended a PC(USA)-related school graduated from that school, almost all with a bachelor's degree. (p. 7)
- ✓ Among those who attended a Presbyterian college or university, relatively few report that it had much influence on whom they married or where they lived after school. Influence was greater for choice of career, especially among ministers. (p. 8)
- ✓ In general, panelists who attended a Presbyterian school and those who did not hold similar views on whether such schools do "better, worse, or about the same" on various education-related tasks. (p. 9)
- ✓ Among members, the percentage who attended a Presbyterian college or university varies modestly by age, with the highest percentage (16%) found among those 55-69 years old. Among pastors, those aged 50 years or older have noticeably higher rates (35%) than those less than 50 (22%). There are no differences by gender. (p. 10)

## KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS

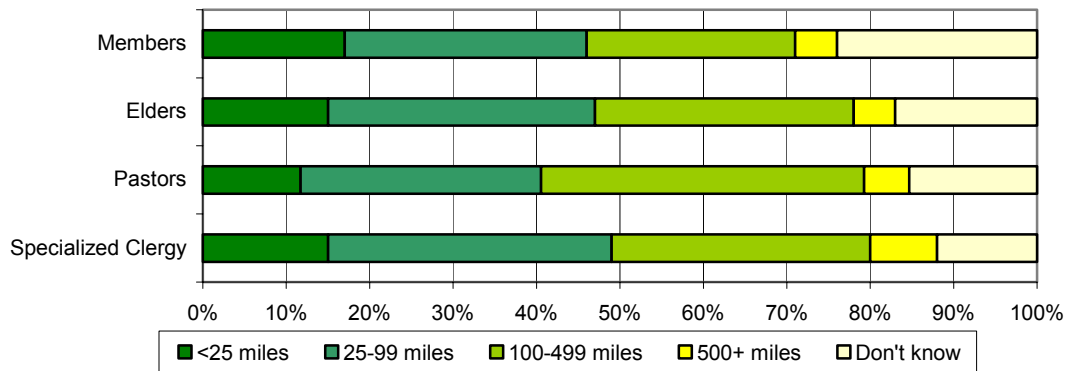
### Awareness of Schools

- ✓ At least nine in ten in every Panel group are aware “that some colleges and universities in the United States are related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)” (members, 90%; elders, 94%; ministers, 98%).
- ✓ Fewer than one in ten laity (members, 7%; elders, 9%) and less than one-half of ministers (pastors, 45%; specialized clergy, 36%) report being aware of the exact number—66—of PC(USA)-affiliated colleges and universities.
- ✓ Of the rest, hardly any had thought there were more than 66 PC(USA) schools (no laity, and only 1% of ministers so respond). Instead, most “didn’t know there were that many” (members, 50%; pastors, 39%) or “had no idea how many there were” (members, 43%; pastors, 15%).

### Closest PC(USA) School

- ✓ Most Presbyterians, ranging from 76% of members to 93% of pastors, report having a general idea of how close the nearest Presbyterian college or university is to their congregation.
- ✓ Relatively few place the nearest PC(USA) school at “less than 25 miles” (members, 17%; pastors, 13%) or “500 or more miles” (5%; 6%). The remaining responses are split between “25-99 miles” (29%; 32%) and “100-499 miles” (25%; 43%).

**Figure 1. Estimated Proximity of Nearest PC(USA) School**



### Awareness of Scholarships

- ✓ Most ministers (pastors, 97%) but fewer laity (members, 65%) are “aware that the PC(USA) has scholarships available for Presbyterian students to attend Presbyterian colleges and universities.”

### Familiarity of Congregational Staff

- ✓ While many “don’t know” (members, 46%; elders, 27%), more laity with an opinion view their pastors as “well informed” (35%; 45%) than “somewhat informed” (15%; 24%) “about Presbyterian colleges and universities.” Among pastors, the reverse is true (41%; 52%). (These percentages were calculated after omitting “don’t know” and “not applicable” responses.)
- ✓ In churches with a Christian education director, more pastors view them as “somewhat” (53%) or “not informed” (35%) than as “well informed” (13%). Opinions on youth directors are similar (53%; 31%; 16%). (These percentages were calculated after omitting “don’t know” and “not applicable” responses.)

## OPINIONS ABOUT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

### ***Factors in Choosing a School***

- ✓ According to a majority of members, the following issues are “very important” or “important” “for high school students today” in the “decision about which college or university to attend” (see Table 1):
    - Cost (65%, “very important”; 30%, “important”)
    - Academic reputation (39%; 54%)
    - That it offers a particular major field of study (38%; 49%)
    - Size of student body (12%; 53%)
- Responses in the other Panel groups are similar.

**Table 1. Percentage of Respondents Who Report That Select Factors Are “Very Important” or “Important” in High School Students’ Decisions about Which College or University to Attend**

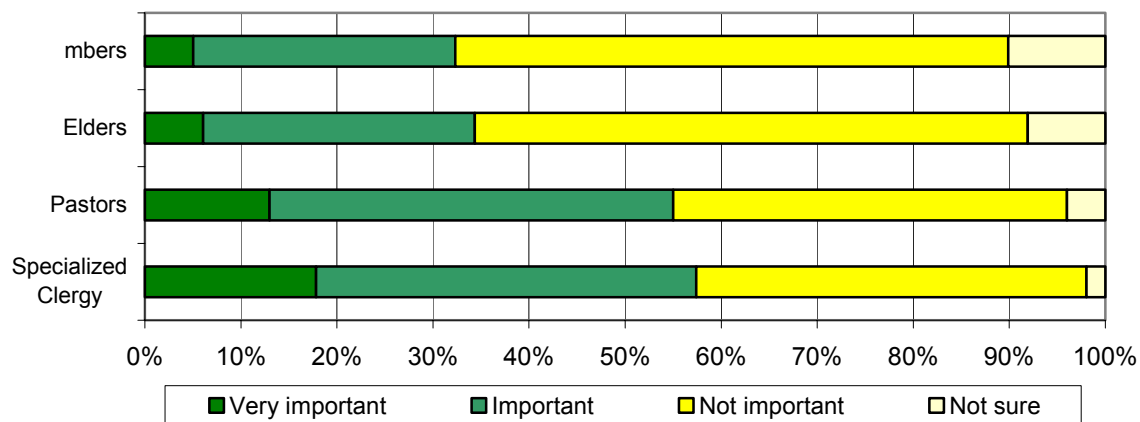
	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
Cost	95%	96%	97%	96%
Academic reputation	93%	95%	95%	95%
Offers a particular major field of study	87%	86%	91%	88%
Size of student body	65%	64%	70%	67%
Proximity to home	49%	40%	47%	44%
Social reputation	48%	45%	48%	53%
Diversity of the student body	30%	33%	32%	41%
Church-related	16%	20%	14%	16%
Not church-related	3%	4%	3%	4%

- ✓ Issues that a majority of members view as only “somewhat important” or as “not important” in college choice among high school students are: that it be church-related (40%, “somewhat important”; 37%, “not important”), that it *not* be church-related (26%; 52%), and the diversity of the student body (46%; 21%).
- ✓ Members are evenly split on how high school students view the importance of two issues related to college choice: social reputation (48%, “very important” or “important”; 50%, “somewhat important” or “not important”) and the proximity to home (49%; 49%).
- ✓ Whether or not a college or university is church-related was reported as “somewhat important” or “not important” by large majorities (members, 77%; elders, 76%; pastors, 84%; specialized clergy, 82%).
- ✓ Were panelists themselves currently in the process of choosing a college or university to attend, around a third of laity and small majorities of ministers would rate having the option of a Presbyterian-related school as “very important” or “important.” (See Figure 2, next page.)

## OPINIONS ABOUT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

### Factors in Choosing a School (cont.)

**Figure 2. Importance of Having the Choice of a PC(USA)-Related School**



### Comparing Church-Related, Other Schools

- ✓ Large minorities of panelists, especially among laity, respond “don’t know” when asked which type of school—church-related or other—performs better in 21 particular areas of higher education. For example, on “meeting a student’s social needs,” “don’t know” responses are: members, 45%; elders, 40%; pastors, 26%.

*Note: The remaining percentages in this section are calculated after omitting “don’t know” responses.*

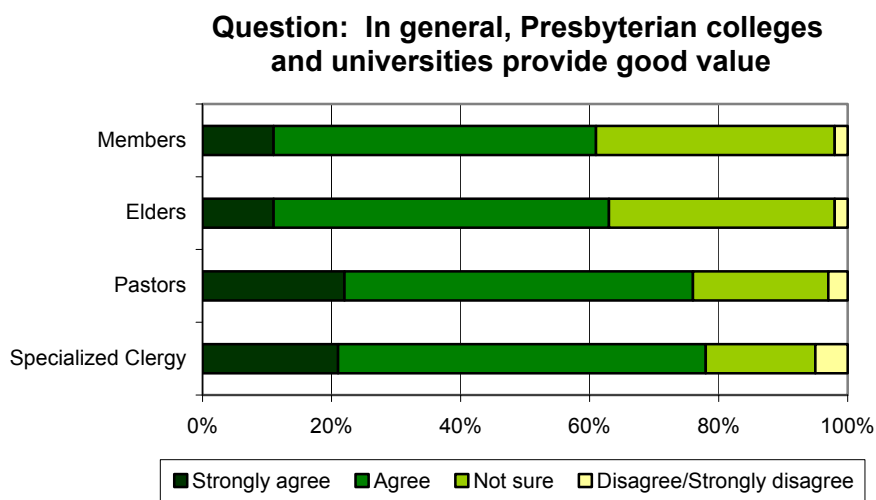
- ✓ Majorities of elders with opinions rate church-related schools as doing a better job than other schools in the following areas:
  - meeting a student’s spiritual needs (church-related schools, 94%; other schools, 1%; both similarly, 4%)
  - nurturing moral and ethical values (92%; 1%; 7%)
  - meeting a student’s personal and emotional needs (80%; 1%; 19%)
  - retaining students until graduation (60%; 2%; 38%)
  - graduating students in four years (55%; 1%; 44%)
  - providing help for students outside the classroom (52%; 4%; 44%)
  - providing help for students in the classroom (52%; 1%; 47%)
- ✓ On only three of the 21 items do more with opinions rate other schools as doing better than church-related ones; and on two of these, most respond “no difference”:
  - providing big-time athletics (elders: other schools, 88%; church-related, 2%; both similarly, 9%)
  - providing opportunities to engage in research projects (34%; 12%; 54%)
  - providing up-to-date facilities and resources (33%; 9%; 58%)
- ✓ Respondents are split on whether or not church-related colleges and universities do better than others in providing opportunities for international study (e.g., among elders with opinions, 21% report that church-related schools do a better job; 17% report that other schools do a better job; and 61% respond “both similarly”).
- ✓ In general, more ministers than laity with opinions rate church-related schools as better than other colleges and universities on various tasks. For example, regarding “graduating students in four years,” 55% of elders but 66% of pastors report church-related schools do a better job; on “providing opportunities for internships and service learning,” the figures are 40% and 56%, respectively.

## OPINIONS ABOUT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

### Rating the Education at PC(USA) Schools

- ✓ Large majorities of ministers believe that “Presbyterian colleges and universities provide some of the best education available in the U.S.,” with 81% of both pastors and specialized clergy agreeing or strongly agreeing with that statement. Fewer laity (but still majorities) so respond (members, 54%; elders, 62%).
- ✓ While a third of laity and a sixth of ministers “don’t know,” a large majority of panelists with an opinion believe “the benefits of education and experience at a Presbyterian school [are] worth the extra costs” either “always,” “usually,” or “some of the time.” Overall, only 13% of members, 8% of elders, 12% of pastors, and 9% of specialized clergy respond “no.”
- ✓ However, panelists who respond in the affirmative to this question are split on how pervasive or widespread these benefits are. About as many respond “yes, but only some of the time” or “yes, rarely” (a total of 25% of members and 31% of pastors) as respond “yes, usually” or “yes, always” (25%; 40%).
- ✓ Among the subset of panelists who attended a PC(USA) college or university, most rate the education they received as “excellent” (members, 51%; elders, 70%; pastors, 64%; specialized clergy, 64%) or “very good” (28%; 18%; 28%; 28%).
- ✓ Over half of the respondents in each group “strongly agree” or “agree” that Presbyterian colleges and universities provide good value in higher education (members, 61%; elders, 63%; pastors, 76%; and specialized clergy, 78%).

**Figure 3. Rating the Value PC(USA) Schools Provide**



### Financial Status

- ✓ Majorities are “not sure” whether Presbyterian colleges and universities are “in financial trouble” (members, 80%; pastors, 58%). More of the rest “strongly agree” or “agree” (13%; 23%) than “strongly disagree” or “disagree” (8%; 19%).
- ✓ Most laity (elders, 58%) and three in ten ministers (pastors, 28%) are “not sure” whether PC(USA) schools “depend on the Presbyterian Church for a large share of their budgets.” Among the rest, more ministers “strongly disagree” or “disagree” (pastors, 60%; specialized clergy, 57%) than “strongly agree” or “agree” (12%; 13%), while laity are almost evenly split (among members, 14% disagree and 20% agree; among elders, 20% disagree and 22% agree).
- ✓ Most laity (members, 58%; elders, 56%) and more than one in three ministers (pastors, 35%; specialized clergy, 38%) are “not sure” whether the PC(USA) should “increase the financial support it currently provides to Presbyterian colleges and universities.” Of the rest, many more “strongly agree” or “agree” (elders, 34%; pastors, 42%) than “strongly disagree” or “disagree” (10%; 22%).

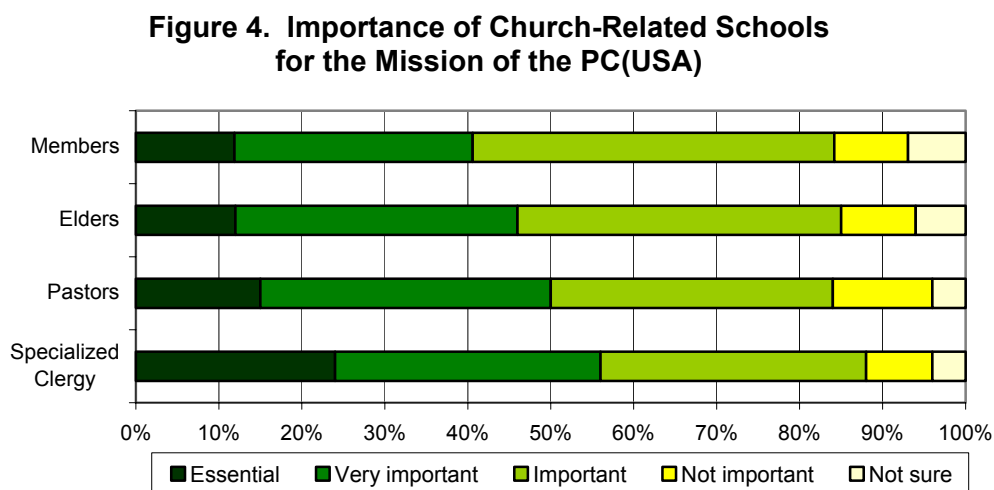


## CHURCH, FAITH, AND SCHOOLS

### Church Ties

- ✓ More laity “strongly agree” or “agree” (members, 37%; elders, 38%) than “strongly disagree” or “disagree” (14%; 13%) that “Presbyterian colleges and universities don’t emphasize their church ties as much as they should.” (Half in both groups are “not sure.”) In contrast, many more pastors (61%) and specialized clergy (48%) strongly agree/agree than strongly disagree/disagree (13%; 17%).
- ✓ More panelists “strongly agree” or “agree” (members, 45%; pastors, 45%) than “strongly disagree” or “disagree” (26%; 32%) that PC(USA) schools “should give priority to Presbyterians over others who want to attend.”

- ✓ Few panelists believe church-related colleges and universities are “essential” “for the overall mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)” (members, 12%; pastors, 15%), but large majorities believe such schools are either “very important” (29%; 35%) or “important” (44%; 34%) for the church’s mission.



### Teaching the Faith

- ✓ Majorities in every group (members, 56%; elders, 59%; pastors, 71%; and specialized clergy, 67%) “strongly agree” or “agree” that PC(USA) schools “should do more to help students grow in their own spirituality.” Most of the rest respond “not sure”; no more than 10% in any group (elders, 5%; specialized clergy, 10%) respond “strongly disagree” or “disagree.”
- ✓ Somewhat smaller percentages “strongly agree” or “agree” that PC(USA) schools “should do more to teach students about Christian faith” (members, 44%; elders, 49%; pastors, 59%; specialized clergy, 48%). Again, most of the rest respond “not sure” (46%; 42%; 28%; 30%), with one in five or fewer in disagreement (10%; 8%; 12%; 21%).

### Campus Ministry or PC(USA)-Related Schools?

- ✓ Panelists split on whether “Presbyterian colleges and universities or Presbyterian-supported campus ministry at public universities” better “serve the church’s mission.” A third (members, 33%; elders, 30%) or more (pastors, 40%; specialized clergy, 39%) respond “both equally.” Of the rest, among laity, a few more support “campus ministry” (members, 24%; elders 28%) than “PC(USA) schools” (21%; 22%), while the reverse is true for ministers: 20% of both groups favor campus ministry, while 29% of both groups favor PC(USA) schools.
- ✓ The rest—one in five laity (members, 21%; elders, 19%) and one in ten ministers (pastors, 10%; specialized clergy, 12%)—respond “don’t know.”

## CHURCH, FAITH, AND SCHOOLS

### **Promoting Presbyterian Schools**

- ✓ Asked to select two church entities (from a list of five) that are “most responsible for making Presbyterian high school students aware of the existence of Presbyterian colleges and universities,” majorities choose “congregations” (members, 76%; pastors, 67%) and “the colleges/universities themselves” (74%; 75%). Many fewer, especially among laity, choose “the General Assembly/General Assembly Council” (6%; 16%) or “synods” (4%; 8%), while large minorities choose “presbyteries” (38%; 31%).
- ✓ One in five members (18%), one in four elders (24%), and 54% of pastors indicate that their “congregation has taken steps to promote one or more Presbyterian colleges and universities among high school students in the congregation” during the previous three years.
- ✓ The most frequent ways that these congregations have promoted PC(USA) schools, according to pastors who report any promotions, are: “providing information on financial aid available from the congregation or the PC(USA)” (83%); “distributing bulletin inserts and other resources related to higher education” (54%); and “making a directory of Presbyterian schools available in the church library/office” (35%). Less frequent ways include: “having a ‘minute for mission’ concerning PC(USA) schools” (19%); celebrating “Higher Education Sunday” (18%); “offering special information programs for youth, parents, and families” (16%); “having guest preachers or speakers talk about Presbyterian schools” (15%); and “organizing campus visits” (9%).
- ✓ To obtain a better sense of the overall extent and type of promotions of PC(USA) schools in congregations, Table 2 shows the frequency of promotions when all panelists—not just those reporting any promotions—are used to calculate the percentages.

**Table 2. Percentage of Elders and Pastors Reporting that Their Congregation Has Taken Each of Several Steps to Promote Presbyterian Colleges and Universities in the Prior Three Years**

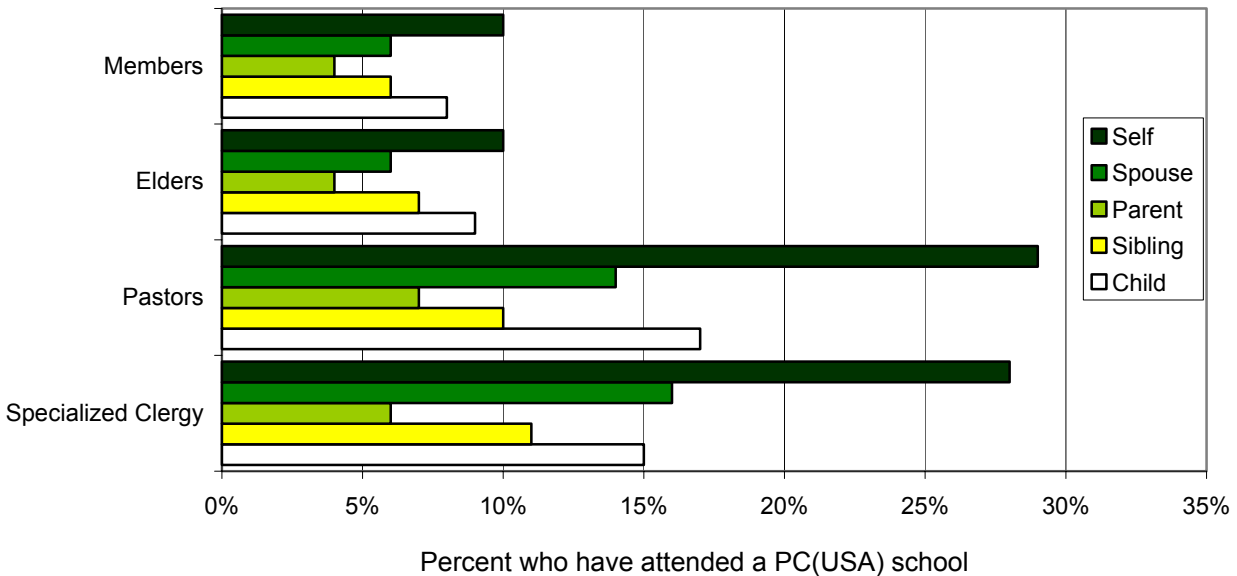
	<b>Elders</b>	<b>Pastors</b>
Made a directory of Presbyterian colleges/universities available in church library/office	7%	19%
Celebrated “Higher Education Sunday”	4%	10%
Distributed bulletin inserts or other resources related to higher education (other than the Christmas Joy Offering)	10%	29%
Provided information about financial aid available from the congregation or PC(USA)	11%	45%
Offered special information programs for youth, parents, and families	5%	9%
Organized campus visits	3%	5%
Held a college fair	1%	1%
Had “Minutes for Mission” concerning PC(USA) colleges (other than in connection with the Christmas Joy Offering)	6%	4%
Had guest preachers or speakers talk about Presbyterian colleges and universities	7%	8%
Other	4%	9%
No steps taken	53%	40%
Don’t know	23%	6%

## ATTENDING PC(USA) SCHOOLS

### Past Enrollment

- ✓ One in ten members (10%) and elders (10%) and three in ten ministers (pastors, 29%; specialized clergy, 28%) have attended a PC(USA) college or university (excluding seminaries). An overlapping 6%, 6%, 14%, and 16% have a spouse who attended a PC(USA) school (see Figure 5). (A list of all 66 PC(USA) colleges and universities was sent with the questionnaire.)

**Figure 5. Past Enrollment of Panelists and Their Close Relatives at PC(USA) Schools**



- ✓ Around one in ten members (8%) and elders (9%) and one in six ministers (pastors, 17%; specialized clergy, 15%) have at least one child who has attended a PC(USA) school.
- ✓ Overall, one in four members (24%) and elders (25%) and one-half of ministers (pastors, 49%; specialized clergy, 48%) have themselves attended a PC(USA) college or university or have a close family member who has done so. Put differently, the majority of panelists report that neither they nor any members of their immediate family have ever attended a Presbyterian college or university.
- ✓ Three in four ministers (pastors, 75%; specialized clergy, 77%) but fewer laity (members, 37%; elders, 44%) who attended a Presbyterian school report that its Presbyterian affiliation was “very important” or “important” in their decision to attend that school.

### Graduation and Degrees

- ✓ Of panelists who ever attended a Presbyterian college or university, two in three members (65%), three in four elders (77%), 87% of pastors, and almost all specialized clergy (96%) graduated from such a school.
- ✓ Among respondents who graduated from a Presbyterian college or university (not seminary), 93% of members, 90% of elders, 99% of pastors, and 99% of specialized clergy received a bachelor’s degree.
- ✓ A small (and overlapping) share received master’s degrees (members, 14%; elders, 10%; pastors, 8%; specialized clergy, 10%). Only ministers (pastors, 2%; specialized clergy, 3%) report receiving doctoral degrees from such schools.

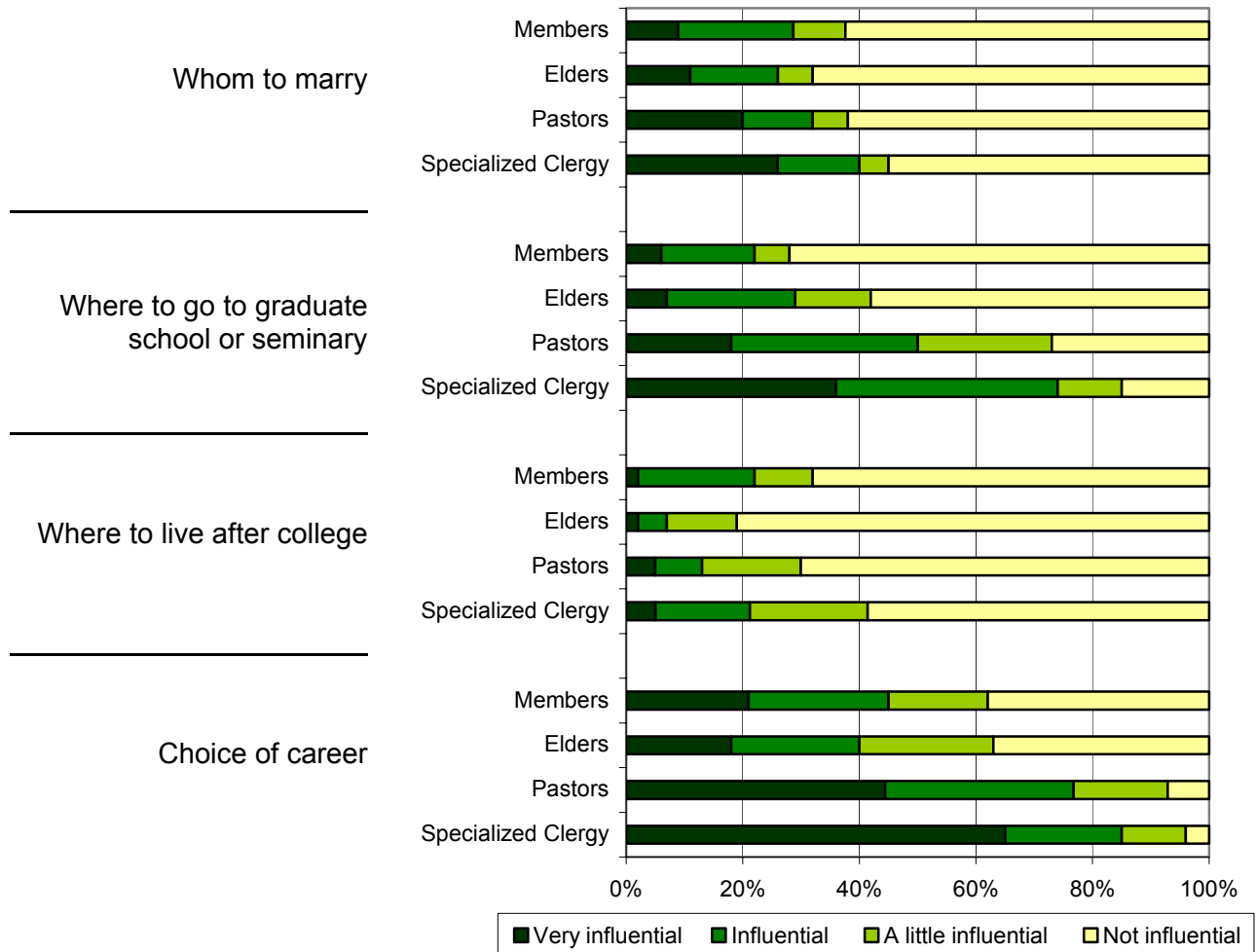
## ATTENDING PC(USA) SCHOOLS

### ***Influence of Education at a PC(USA) School on Later Life***

*Note: Percentages in this section are calculated after excluding “not applicable” responses, and thus differ from those in the data appendix.*

- ✓ Among ministers who attended a PC(USA) college or university, large majorities indicate that that school was “very influential” or “influential” in their choice of career (pastors, 76%; specialized clergy, 85%). Somewhat fewer pastors (50%) but almost as many specialized clergy (74%) report that that school was “very influential” or “influential” in their choice of a seminary. (See Figure 6.)
- ✓ Fewer laity who attended a PC(USA) college or university report that it was “very influential” or “influential” in either their choice of career (members, 45%; elders, 40%) or their choice of a graduate school (22%; 29%).
- ✓ Relatively few panelists who attended a PC(USA) school report that it was “very influential” or “influential” in where they lived after college (members, 22%; elders, 7%; pastors, 13%; specialized clergy, 21%).
- ✓ Among those who attended a PC(USA) school, that school was “very influential” or “influential” in the decision of whom to marry for more ministers (pastors, 32%; specialized clergy, 40%) than laity (members, 29%; elders, 26%).

**Figure 6. Influence of Attendance at a Presbyterian College or University on Future Decisions\***



\*Not applicable responses excluded

## ATTENDING PC(USA) SCHOOLS

### How Opinions Differ for Those Who Attended Presbyterian Colleges and Universities

In general, the opinions of those who have attended a Presbyterian college or university are similar to other panelists when it comes to whether church-related schools do “better, worse, or about the same” as other schools in various education-related areas (Q7a to Q7u). Among members, opinions differ significantly (determined by a chi-square test,  $p < .05$ ) on only one of the 21 items: “meeting a student’s social needs.” By a factor of more than two to one, more members who attended a PC(USA) school respond that church-related schools do better (58%) as compared to members who did not attend such a school (25%). Interestingly, this item is one of only two where opinions differ between pastors who attended PC(USA) schools and those who did not, but here the *pattern is reversed*: fewer pastors who attended a PC(USA) school respond that such schools do a better job in meeting social needs (10%) than those who did not attend such a school (24%).

The other item in this set that reveals significant differences among pastors is “nurturing moral and ethical values.” Among pastors who attended a Presbyterian college or university, 97% report that church-related schools do a better job in this area, compared to 86% of those who did not attend such schools.

Two other questions reveal opinion differences, one for members and one for pastors (see Table 3). More members who attended a Presbyterian college or university than those who didn’t indicate that the benefits of attending such a school are “always” or “usually” “worth the extra costs.” And more pastors who attended a PC(USA) school than those who did not indicate that having the choice of such a school “were you currently in the process of deciding . . . which college or university to attend” would be “very important” or “important.”

**Table 3. Comparing Those Who Attended a PC(USA) School and Those Who Did Not: Selected Opinions on Presbyterian Colleges and Universities**

**Q. . . . are the benefits of education and experience at a Presbyterian school worth the extra cost?**

	<u>Members*</u>		<u>Pastors</u>	
	Attended PC(USA) School	Did Not Attend PC(USA) School	Attended PC(USA) School	Did Not Attend PC(USA) School
Yes, always	18%	3%	2%	6%
Yes, usually	53%	35%	53%	42%
Yes, sometimes/Rarely	29%	41%	35%	38%
No	0%	21%	10%	16%

**Q. Were you choosing a college, how important would it be to have the choice of a PC(USA) school?**

	<u>Members</u>		<u>Pastors*</u>	
	Attended PC(USA) School	Did Not Attend PC(USA) School	Attended PC(USA) School	Did Not Attend PC(USA) School
Very important	9%	5%	17%	14%
Important	18%	31%	56%	41%
Not very/ Not at all important	73%	64%	27%	45%

\* $p < .05$ , based on a chi-square test

## ATTENDING PC(USA) SCHOOLS

- ✓ Tables 4 and 5 show the percentage of members and elders who attended a PC(USA) college or university, or who had a relative attend such a school, by age group and gender. Among members, attendance rates are highest among those 55-69 years of age, while among pastors the highest rates are among those aged 60 years or older. A similar pattern is found for spouses. There are few differences by gender. More male than female pastors report having a child who attended a PC(USA) school, probably because there are more male pastors old enough to have children of college age.

**Table 4. Percentage of Members and Pastors Who Attended or Who Had Various Family Members Attend a Presbyterian College or University, by Age Groups**

	Less than 40 Years Old	40 to 54 Years Old	55 to 69 Years Old	70 Years or Older
<b>Members</b>				
Self attended	10%	8%	16%	7%
Spouse attended	2%	3%	11%	5%
A parent attended	3%	6%	5%	2%
A sibling attended	5%	4%	8%	7%
A child attended	0%	6%	9%	13%
	Less than 40 Years Old	40 to 49 Years Old	50 to 59 Years Old	60 Years or Older
<b>Pastors</b>				
Self attended	22%	22%	33%	38%
Spouse attended	14%	8%	17%	20%
A parent attended	12%	6%	6%	7%
A sibling attended	23%	10%	7%	9%
A child attended	1%	9%	24%	29%

**Table 5. Percentage of Members and Pastors who Attended or Had Various Family Members Attend a PC(USA) College or University, by Gender**

	Female	Male
<b>Members</b>		
Self attended	10%	11%
Spouse attended	7%	4%
A parent attended	4%	4%
A sibling attended	5%	7%
A child attended	6%	11%
<b>Pastors</b>		
Self attended	30%	29%
Spouse attended	12%	15%
A parent attended	13%	6%
A sibling attended	12%	10%
A child attended	11%	19%

# THE PRESBYTERIAN PANEL

## PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES—THE FEBRUARY 2004 SURVEY

### Data Appendix

	Members	Elders	Ministers
Number of questionnaires mailed.....	1,013	1,257	1,382
Number of questionnaires returned .....	449	679	850‡
Percent returned.....	44%	54%	61%
‡ 548 pastors; 302 specialized clergy			

Q1. Before receiving this questionnaire, were you aware that some colleges and universities in the U.S. are related to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)?

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
	+	+		+
Yes.....	90%	94%	98%	98%
No .....	10%	6%	2%	2%

Q1a. [If “Yes, ”] Were you aware that there are a total of 66 PC(USA)-related colleges and universities?

	n=354	n=566	n=485	n=263
Yes .....	7%	9%	45%	36%
No, I didn’t know there were that many .....	50%	53%	39%	45%
No, I thought there were more than that .....	—	—	1%	2%
No, I had no idea how many there were.....	43%	38%	15%	18%

Q2. Were you aware that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has scholarships available for Presbyterian students to attend Presbyterian colleges and universities?

Yes.....	65%	76%	97%	92%
No .....	35%	24%	3%	8%

Q3. Indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

*In general, Presbyterian colleges and universities . . .*

a. provide some of the best education available in the U.S.

Strongly agree.....	14%	18%	34%	35%
Agree .....	40%	44%	47%	45%
Not sure .....	43%	37%	18%	16%
Disagree.....	2%	1%	2%	2%
Strongly disagree .....	—	*	—	1%

b. depend on the Presbyterian Church for a large share of their budgets

Strongly agree.....	1%	2%	1%	2%
Agree .....	19%	20%	11%	11%
Not sure .....	66%	58%	28%	30%
Disagree.....	11%	18%	44%	38%
Strongly disagree .....	3%	2%	17%	19%

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

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
Q3. Indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements: (Cont.)				
<i>In general, Presbyterian colleges and universities . . .</i>				
c. don't emphasize their church ties as much as they should				
Strongly agree.....	5%	6%	15%	9%
Agree .....	32%	32%	46%	39%
Not sure .....	50%	50%	26%	35%
Disagree.....	14%	12%	13%	16%
Strongly disagree.....	—	1%	*	1%
d. should do more to teach students about Christian faith				
Strongly agree.....	8%	10%	18%	13%
Agree .....	36%	39%	41%	35%
Not sure .....	46%	42%	28%	30%
Disagree.....	10%	8%	12%	19%
Strongly disagree.....	*	*	1%	2%
e. should do more to help students grow in their own spirituality				
Strongly agree.....	9%	11%	21%	19%
Agree .....	47%	48%	50%	48%
Not sure .....	38%	36%	22%	22%
Disagree.....	6%	5%	7%	10%
Strongly disagree.....	—	*	1%	*
f. differ little in their curricula from most public colleges and universities				
Strongly agree.....	2%	2%	6%	4%
Agree .....	30%	32%	41%	43%
Not sure .....	53%	48%	26%	26%
Disagree.....	14%	16%	25%	25%
Strongly disagree.....	1%	1%	3%	1%
g. provide good value in higher education				
Strongly agree.....	11%	11%	22%	21%
Agree .....	50%	52%	54%	57%
Not sure .....	37%	35%	21%	17%
Disagree.....	2%	2%	3%	4%
Strongly disagree.....	—	*	—	1%
h. should give priority to Presbyterians over others who want to attend				
Strongly agree.....	7%	10%	8%	6%
Agree .....	38%	38%	37%	31%
Not sure .....	29%	22%	23%	23%
Disagree.....	24%	27%	30%	38%
Strongly disagree.....	3%	2%	2%	3%
i. are in financial trouble				
Strongly agree.....	2%	2%	2%	3%
Agree .....	11%	13%	21%	27%
Not sure .....	80%	79%	58%	54%
Disagree.....	7%	6%	18%	14%
Strongly disagree.....	1%	*	1%	2%

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Q3. Indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:  
(Cont.)

*Also, indicate whether you agree or disagree with this statement:*

j. The PC(USA) should increase the financial support it currently provides to Presbyterian colleges and universities

Strongly agree.....	4%	3%	8%	13%
Agree .....	27%	31%	34%	35%
Not sure .....	58%	56%	35%	38%
Disagree.....	10%	9%	19%	14%
Strongly disagree.....	1%	1%	3%	1%

Q4. In your opinion, how important are church-related colleges and universities for the overall mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)?

Essential.....	12%	12%	15%	24%
Very important.....	29%	34%	35%	32%
Important .....	44%	39%	34%	32%
Not very important .....	8%	8%	11%	6%
Not at all important.....	1%	1%	2%	2%
Not sure .....	7%	6%	4%	4%

Q5. In general, for high school students today, how important would you say each of the following factors is in the decision about which college or university to attend?

a. cost

Very important.....	65%	62%	69%	68%
Important .....	30%	34%	28%	28%
Somewhat important.....	4%	3%	3%	3%
Not important.....	*	*	—	*
No opinion.....	1%	1%	*	1%

b. size of student body

Very important.....	12%	13%	13%	15%
Important .....	53%	51%	57%	52%
Somewhat important.....	29%	30%	26%	28%
Not important.....	4%	5%	3%	2%
No opinion.....	2%	2%	1%	2%

c. proximity to home

Very important.....	8%	6%	5%	5%
Important .....	41%	34%	42%	39%
Somewhat important.....	40%	47%	45%	45%
Not important.....	9%	11%	7%	10%
No opinion.....	3%	2%	1%	2%

d. diversity of student body

Very important.....	4%	5%	5%	9%
Important .....	26%	28%	27%	32%
Somewhat important.....	46%	40%	43%	40%
Not important.....	21%	25%	24%	18%
No opinion.....	3%	2%	1%	1%

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\* = less than 0.5%; rounds to zero

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+ = 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

Q5. In general, for high school students today, how important would you say each of the following factors is in the decision about which college or university to attend?

(Cont.)

e. that it be church-related				
Very important.....	4%	3%	2%	1%
Important .....	12%	17%	12%	15%
Somewhat important.....	40%	38%	35%	42%
Not important.....	37%	38%	49%	40%
No opinion.....	7%	4%	2%	2%
f. that it <i>not</i> be church-related				
Very important.....	1%	1%	*	*
Important .....	2%	3%	3%	4%
Somewhat important.....	26%	24%	21%	31%
Not important.....	52%	59%	66%	55%
No opinion.....	18%	13%	10%	9%
g. that it offer a particular major field of study				
Very important.....	38%	40%	44%	40%
Important .....	49%	46%	47%	48%
Somewhat important.....	9%	11%	7%	9%
Not important.....	2%	2%	1%	1%
No opinion.....	2%	2%	*	1%
h. academic reputation				
Very important.....	39%	44%	42%	49%
Important .....	54%	51%	53%	46%
Somewhat important.....	5%	4%	4%	4%
Not important.....	*	*	*	*
No opinion.....	1%	1%	*	1%
i. social reputation				
Very important.....	8%	8%	10%	10%
Important .....	40%	37%	38%	43%
Somewhat important.....	38%	38%	39%	36%
Not important.....	12%	15%	10%	9%
No opinion.....	3%	2%	3%	1%

Q6. Have you, a child of yours, or other close family member attended college as an undergraduate in the past three years, attend college as an undergraduate now, or plan to attend college as an undergraduate in the next three years? (✓ *all* that apply in each column.)

a. attended in the last three years (but not now)	◆	◆	◆	◆
You .....	1%	1%	1%	1%
Your child(ren).....	12%	19%	24%	18%
Other close family members.....	17%	12%	9%	11%
b. attend now	◆	◆	◆	◆
You .....	3%	1%	*	*
Your child(ren).....	13%	18%	24%	15%
Other close family members.....	21%	16%	11%	15%

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	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
Q6. Have you, a child of yours, or other close family member attended college as an undergraduate in the past three years, attend college as an undergraduate now, or plan to attend college as an undergraduate in the next three years? (✓ <i>all</i> that apply in each column.)				
c. plan to attend in the next three years				
You .....	2%	1%	*	—
Your child(ren) .....	14%	17%	24%	19%
Other close family members.....	19%	18%	7%	12%
Q7. In general, do you think church-related colleges and universities do better, worse, or about the same as other colleges and universities when it comes to each of the following?				
a. retaining students until graduation				
Church-related .....	32%	34%	45%	51%
Other .....	2%	1%	1%	2%
Both similarly .....	19%	22%	20%	14%
Don't know .....	47%	42%	34%	33%
b. graduating students in four years				
Church-related .....	28%	33%	45%	48%
Other .....	1%	*	*	1%
Both similarly .....	25%	26%	23%	21%
Don't know .....	46%	40%	32%	30%
c. providing opportunities for classroom discussion				
Church-related .....	26%	28%	48%	51%
Other .....	2%	2%	1%	*
Both similarly .....	26%	30%	25%	24%
Don't know .....	47%	40%	26%	25%
d. providing opportunities for independent study				
Church-related .....	18%	20%	34%	39%
Other .....	4%	4%	5%	6%
Both similarly .....	29%	33%	30%	26%
Don't know .....	48%	43%	32%	30%
e. providing opportunities for internships and service learning				
Church-related .....	18%	24%	40%	42%
Other .....	6%	6%	3%	4%
Both similarly .....	28%	29%	28%	31%
Don't know .....	48%	41%	29%	23%
f. providing opportunities to engage in research projects				
Church-related .....	4%	7%	8%	12%
Other .....	17%	19%	22%	26%
Both similarly .....	29%	30%	35%	32%
Don't know .....	50%	45%	35%	31%
g. providing a variety of extracurricular activities				
Church-related .....	5%	7%	11%	12%
Other .....	18%	16%	24%	21%
Both similarly .....	35%	42%	40%	45%
Don't know .....	42%	36%	25%	22%

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	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
Q7. In general, do you think church-related colleges and universities do better, worse, or about the same as other colleges and universities when it comes to each of the following?				
(Cont.)				
h. providing help for students in the classroom				
Church-related .....	27%	32%	46%	49%
Other .....	2%	1%	*	1%
Both similarly .....	27%	28%	27%	28%
Don't know .....	44%	39%	26%	23%
i. providing help for students outside the classroom				
Church-related .....	25%	30%	44%	47%
Other .....	4%	2%	2%	2%
Both similarly .....	22%	25%	26%	22%
Don't know .....	49%	43%	29%	29%
j. providing students in-depth knowledge in a particular subject area				
Church-related .....	9%	9%	12%	13%
Other .....	7%	9%	11%	12%
Both similarly .....	38%	43%	48%	50%
Don't know .....	45%	39%	28%	25%
k. providing up-to-date facilities and resources				
Church-related .....	4%	5%	5%	9%
Other .....	18%	20%	29%	27%
Both similarly .....	35%	35%	39%	38%
Don't know .....	43%	40%	26%	26%
l. meeting a student's social needs				
Church-related .....	14%	15%	16%	21%
Other .....	11%	10%	10%	9%
Both similarly .....	29%	35%	47%	43%
Don't know .....	45%	40%	26%	27%
m. meeting a student's spiritual needs				
Church-related .....	68%	71%	74%	78%
Other .....	1%	1%	1%	1%
Both similarly .....	3%	3%	8%	4%
Don't know .....	28%	25%	18%	17%
n. meeting a student's personal and emotional needs				
Church-related .....	50%	54%	60%	62%
Other .....	1%	1%	1%	1%
Both similarly .....	14%	13%	19%	17%
Don't know .....	35%	32%	21%	20%
o. providing opportunities for international study				
Church-related .....	9%	13%	15%	24%
Other .....	12%	10%	12%	10%
Both similarly .....	32%	36%	45%	38%
Don't know .....	48%	41%	28%	28%

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n = number of respondents eligible to answer this question

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	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
Q7. In general, do you think church-related colleges and universities do better, worse, or about the same as other colleges and universities when it comes to each of the following?				
(Cont.)				
p. helping students prepare for a career				
Church-related .....	8%	10%	12%	17%
Other .....	8%	6%	7%	6%
Both similarly .....	47%	50%	57%	55%
Don't know .....	37%	34%	24%	22%
q. helping students develop critical thinking skills				
Church-related .....	14%	16%	27%	27%
Other .....	2%	2%	3%	6%
Both similarly .....	44%	47%	47%	47%
Don't know .....	39%	35%	23%	20%
r. helping students develop communication skills				
Church-related .....	12%	13%	24%	26%
Other .....	2%	2%	2%	4%
Both similarly .....	47%	51%	51%	47%
Don't know .....	39%	34%	23%	22%
s. providing big-time athletics				
Church-related .....	1%	1%	1%	2%
Other .....	56%	61%	76%	78%
Both similarly .....	6%	6%	7%	4%
Don't know .....	37%	32%	16%	16%
t. nurturing moral and ethical values				
Church-related .....	65%	68%	72%	73%
Other .....	1%	1%	1%	2%
Both similarly .....	6%	5%	10%	8%
Don't know .....	29%	25%	18%	18%
u. helping students find a job after graduation				
Church-related .....	10%	13%	18%	20%
Other .....	5%	4%	6%	6%
Both similarly .....	36%	40%	42%	41%
Don't know .....	50%	42%	33%	33%
Q8. The costs of education at a church-related college or university can be three to four times the costs of education at a public college or university. In general, are the benefits of education and experience at a Presbyterian school worth the extra costs?				
Yes, always .....	2%	3%	4%	6%
Yes, usually .....	23%	26%	36%	38%
Yes, but only some of the time .....	21%	24%	27%	30%
Yes, but rarely .....	4%	6%	4%	2%
No .....	13%	8%	12%	9%
Don't know .....	36%	32%	16%	14%

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

Q9. People select which college or university to attend based on a variety of factors, including the cost, location, course offerings, etc. All things considered, if you were currently in the process of deciding on which college or university to attend, how important would it be for you to have the choice of a school that is Presbyterian related?

Very important.....	5%	6%	13%	18%
Important .....	27%	28%	42%	40%
Not very important .....	40%	44%	32%	31%
Not at all important.....	17%	13%	9%	10%
Not sure .....	10%	8%	4%	2%

Q10. Which better serves the church’s mission: (1) Presbyterian colleges and universities or (2) Presbyterian-supported campus ministry at public universities?

Presbyterian colleges and universities.....	21%	22%	29%	29%
Presbyterian-supported campus ministry at public universities .....	24%	28%	20%	20%
Both equally.....	33%	30%	40%	39%
Don’t know.....	21%	19%	10%	12%

Q11. Which two church entities should be most responsible for making Presbyterian high school students aware of the existence of Presbyterian colleges and universities? To answer, put a ‘1’ beside your first choice. Then, put a ‘2’ beside the entity that you believe should be next most responsible. (Rank only 2.)

	◆	◆	◆	◆
The General Assembly/General Assembly Council.....	6%	11%	16%	14%
Synods .....	4%	5%	8%	8%
Presbyteries.....	38%	44%	31%	36%
Congregations.....	76%	62%	67%	70%
The colleges/universities themselves.....	74%	74%	75%	69%

Q12. In the last three years, has your congregation taken any steps to promote one or more Presbyterian colleges and universities among high school students in the congregation?

Yes.....	18%	24%	54%	27%
No .....	35%	53%	40%	42%
Don’t know.....	47%	23%	6%	32%

Q12a. [If “yes,”] What steps has your congregation taken to promote Presbyterian colleges and universities? (Check **all** that apply.)

	n=78	n=159	n=290	n=76
	◆	◆	◆	◆
Made a directory of Presbyterian colleges/universities available in Church library/office.....	30%	28%	35%	33%
Celebrated “Higher Education Sunday”.....	22%	17%	18%	47%
Distributed bulletin inserts or other resources related to higher education (other than the Christmas Joy Offering) .....	48%	45%	54%	58%
Provided information about financial aid available from the congregation or PC(USA) .....	46%	48%	83%	54%
Offered special information programs for youth, parents, and families .....	23%	20%	16%	22%
Organized campus visits .....	17%	12%	9%	13%
Held a college fair.....	1%	2%	1%	4%

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

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
Q12a. [If “yes,”] What steps has your congregation taken to promote Presbyterian colleges and universities? (Cont.) (Check <b>all</b> that apply.)	n=78	n=159	n=290	n=76
	◆	◆	◆	◆
Had “Minutes for Mission” concerning PC(USA) colleges (other than in connection with the Christmas Joy Offering).....	31%	27%	19%	38%
Had guest preachers or speakers talk about Presbyterian colleges and universities.....	29%	28%	15%	45%
Other (specify): _____.....	20%	17%	17%	13%

Q13. How well-informed about Presbyterian colleges and universities are leaders in your congregation?

a. pastor				
Well informed.....	34%	44%	40%	35%
Somewhat informed.....	15%	24%	51%	31%
Not informed .....	3%	2%	7%	8%
Don’t know .....	46%	27%	1%	15%
Not applicable.....	2%	2%	2%	11%
b. associate pastor			+	
Well informed.....	18%	20%	12%	16%
Somewhat informed.....	10%	13%	13%	13%
Not informed .....	2%	2%	4%	6%
Don’t know .....	43%	21%	1%	14%
Not applicable.....	26%	44%	70%	51%
c. Christian education director				
Well informed.....	14%	15%	5%	14%
Somewhat informed.....	14%	21%	22%	14%
Not informed .....	5%	8%	14%	7%
Don’t know .....	51%	26%	4%	17%
Not applicable.....	15%	29%	55%	48%
d. youth director				
Well informed.....	14%	14%	7%	13%
Somewhat informed.....	13%	19%	24%	14%
Not informed .....	5%	7%	14%	7%
Don’t know .....	51%	30%	4%	19%
Not applicable.....	17%	30%	50%	46%

Q14. Have you or any members of your immediate family ever attended a Presbyterian college or university? (✓ **all** that apply; do **not** include seminaries.) (A complete list of PC(USA)-related colleges and universities is found on the back of the cover letter sent with this questionnaire.)

	◆	◆	◆	◆
Yes, I have .....	10%	10%	29%	28%
Yes, my spouse has.....	6%	6%	14%	16%
Yes, one or both of my parents have .....	4%	4%	7%	6%
Yes, one or more of my siblings have .....	6%	7%	10%	11%
Yes, one or more of my children have.....	8%	9%	17%	15%
No .....	76%	75%	51%	52%

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

If you have attended a Presbyterian college or university (not seminary), continue with Q15. All others skip to Q20.

Q15. Did you graduate from a Presbyterian college or university?	n=45	n=67	n=157	n=84
Yes → Go to Q16 .....	65%	77%	87%	96%
No → → → → → Skip to Q17 .....	35%	23%	13%	4%
Don't know → → Skip to Q17 .....	—	—	—	—
Q16. What degree(s) did you receive, and when?	◆ n=28	◆ n=50	◆ n=131	◆ n=79
Bachelor's degree .....	93%	90%	99%	99%
Master's degree .....	14%	10%	8%	10%
Doctoral degree .....	—	—	2%	3%
If received Bachelor's degree, year received	n=26	n=44	n=130	n=78
Prior to 1960 .....	35%	25%	4%	15%
1960 to 1969 .....	30%	25%	39%	44%
1970 to 1979 .....	22%	30%	29%	25%
1980 to 1989 .....	—	12%	21%	9%
1990 to 1999 .....	9%	8%	7%	7%
2000 to present .....	4%	—	—	—
If received Master's degree, year received	n=4	n=5	n=10	n=8
Prior to 1960 .....	25%	20%	—	—
1960 to 1969 .....	25%	20%	11%	62%
1970 to 1979 .....	50%	40%	22%	25%
1980 to 1989 .....	—	20%	33%	—
1990 to 1999 .....	—	—	33%	12%
2000 to present .....	—	—	—	—
If received doctoral degree, year received			n=2	n=2
Prior to 1960 .....	—	—	—	50%
1960 to 1969 .....	—	—	100%	50%
1970 to 1979 .....	—	—	—	—
1980 to 1989 .....	—	—	—	—
1990 to 1999 .....	—	—	—	—
2000 to present .....	—	—	—	—
Q17. How important was its Presbyterian affiliation in your decision to attend a Presbyterian college or university?	n=45	n=67	n=157	n=84
Very important .....	21%	26%	41%	54%
Important .....	16%	18%	34%	23%
Somewhat important .....	33%	35%	13%	13%
Not too important .....	16%	20%	10%	10%
Not at all important .....	14%	2%	3%	—

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



	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
Q18. How would you rate the quality of the education you received at the Presbyterian college or university you attended? (Do <b>not</b> include seminaries.)	n=45	n=67	n=157	n=84
Excellent.....	51%	70%	64%	67%
Very good.....	28%	18%	28%	26%
Good.....	21%	11%	5%	6%
Fair.....	—	2%	1%	1%
Poor.....	—	—	1%	—
Q19. How influential was the Presbyterian college or university you attended for each of the following?				
a. Your choice of career	n=45	n=67	n=157	n=84
Very influential.....	21%	17%	43%	65%
Influential.....	23%	20%	32%	20%
Only a little influential.....	16%	22%	16%	11%
Not influential.....	37%	34%	7%	4%
Not applicable.....	2%	8%	3%	1%
b. Your decision on where to live after college	n=45	n=67	n=157	n=84
Very influential.....	2%	2%	5%	5%
Influential.....	19%	5%	8%	15%
Only a little influential.....	9%	11%	16%	19%
Not influential.....	65%	74%	65%	54%
Not applicable.....	5%	9%	7%	8%
c. Your decision on where to go to graduate school or seminary	n=45	n=67	n=157	n=84
Very influential.....	5%	5%	18%	35%
Influential.....	12%	16%	31%	37%
Only a little influential.....	5%	9%	22%	11%
Not influential.....	55%	41%	26%	15%
Not applicable.....	24%	30%	3%	2%
d. Your decision on whom to marry	n=45	n=67	n=157	n=84
Very influential.....	7%	9%	19%	24%
Influential.....	16%	12%	11%	12%
Only a little influential.....	7%	5%	5%	5%
Not influential.....	51%	56%	57%	49%
Not applicable.....	19%	17%	9%	10%
Q20. How close to your congregation is the closest Presbyterian college or university?				
Less than 25 miles.....	17%	15%	13%	15%
25-99 miles.....	29%	32%	32%	34%
100-499 miles.....	25%	31%	43%	31%
500 or more miles.....	5%	5%	6%	8%
Don't know.....	24%	17%	7%	12%
Q21. Please use this space for any additional comments. [Not tabulated]				
Response form:				
Paper.....	90%	89%	86%	82%
Web.....	10%	11%	14%	18%

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