



The Presbyterian Panel

Listening to Presbyterians



REPORT

Funding Christ's Mission Through the PC(USA) The May 2005 Survey

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|------------|
| OVERVIEW | i |
| HIGHLIGHTS | iii |
| KNOWLEDGE OF PC(USA) MISSION | 1 |
| How Well Informed? | 1 |
| Sources of Information | 1 |
| Use of PC(USA) Web Site as a Source of Information, by Age..... | 1 |
| Wanting to Know More | 2 |
| PC(USA) Mission: Interest, Knowledge, Excitement, and Funding | 2 |
| OPINIONS ON FUNDING ISSUES | 3 |
| Deciding Where to Give..... | 3 |
| Response Desired from Receiving Charity | 4 |
| Funding PC(USA) Mission..... | 4 |
| Trust in Governing Bodies' Use of Mission Dollars | 4 |
| OTHER PC(USA) FUNDING ISSUES | 5 |
| Joining Hearts and Hands, a Mission Initiative | 5 |
| Per Capita Apportionment | 5 |
| Mission Funding and Interpretation by Sessions | 5 |
| Special-Purpose Campaigns | 6 |
| Speakers in Congregations | 7 |
| PERSONAL GIVING AND BEQUESTS | 8 |
| Giving to the Congregation..... | 8 |
| Giving Credit for Contributions..... | 8 |
| Giving to Help the Asian Tsunami Victims | 8 |
| Wills and Bequests..... | 8 |
| The Influence of Total Family Income on Giving and Pledging to Congregations | 9 |
| DATA APPENDIX | A-1 |

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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 congregations, and *specialized clergy*, serving elsewhere. New samples are drawn every three years. Panel surveys are conducted quarterly, primarily by mail, but with an online completion option.

For more information on methods used to draw the samples, see the technical appendix in the *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 twelfth 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 distributed in early June 2005. Most panelists received their copy by U.S. mail, but a subset ($n = 424$, or 15%) that had signed up for the service was notified via email. Non-responders were sent a postcard reminder June 29. Returns were accepted through early August 2005. Response rates for this survey are: members, 47%; elders, 48%; ministers, 60%. All panelists had the option to complete the survey on the Web, and 16% of responding members, 20% of responding elders, 27% of responding pastors, and 31% 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 age (Table 1, p. 1) and income (Tables 2 and 3, p. 9), 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.

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OVERVIEW

Author Note

Joelle Anderson 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, with the assistance of Keith Wulff, former Coordinator of the office.

Staff of Research Services

John Marcum, Coordinator; Joelle Anderson; Deborah Bruce; Perry Chang; Hilary Harris; Susan King; Jonathan Moody; Rebecca Moody; Gail Quets; Christy Riggs; Ida Smith-Williams.

Sponsor

The Mission Funding Task Force of the General Assembly Council, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), sponsored the survey. Panel staff worked with task force members Linda Knieriemen and Jim Collie in constructing the questions.

Additional Copies

Additional copies of this *Report* may be purchased for \$10 from Presbyterian Distribution Services (PDS)—call 800-524-2612 and request item #02056-05287. This *Report* is also available on the Web for free download in Adobe Acrobat format; go to www.pcusa.org/research/panel/index.htm#2005 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_bgrndreport.pdf), or may be purchased for \$10 from Presbyterian Distribution Services (PDS)—call 800-524-2612 and request item #65100-02276.

Panel on the Web

A catalogue of Panel topics, and *Summaries* and *Reports* of surveys since 1993, are available online at the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Web site: 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.

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

- ✓ *10-Year Trend Report for Congregations*—available for free: 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.
- ✓ 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.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Concerning “the range and scope of PC(USA) mission,” few laity but most ministers are *very* or *generally informed*. (p. 1)
- ✓ At least half of members and elders have “relied on or turned to . . . the following sources to obtain information about PC(USA) mission” either *very often*, *often*, or *occasionally* during the last two years: a congregational newsletter and one’s pastor or other ministers in the PC(USA). (p. 1)
- ✓ A majority of panelists “wanted to know more about PC(USA) mission” only *occasionally* or *rarely* “in the last two years.” (p. 2)
- ✓ Nearly half of all members, but only 7% of pastors, are both *a little informed* or *not informed* “about the range and scope of PC(USA) mission” and *rarely* or *never* “wanted to know more about PC(USA) mission” during the last two years. (p. 2)
- ✓ Given a hypothetical \$200 to donate to “a charity or a religious cause,” panelists would put most emphasis on *the reputation of the agency*, *the nature of the cause*, and *low administrative costs* when deciding where to donate. (p. 3)
- ✓ A majority of ministers *strongly agree* or *agree* that “more financial support is needed to fund PC(USA) mission” and that “the denomination should find ways to increase undesignated gifts.” (p. 4)
- ✓ Relatively few panelists express a willingness to designate “more of [their] . . . charitable contributions to fund specific PC(USA) mission projects” if they knew how to do so. Even fewer would be willing to “give more of [their] . . . charitable contributions” as general (“undesignated”) contributions to PC(USA) mission if they knew how to do so. (p. 4)
- ✓ Over half of all panelists *strongly agree* or *agree* that “governing bodies should be trusted to make the right decisions with the mission dollars given to them.” (p. 4)
- ✓ Most ministers, but relatively few laity, are aware of the PC(USA)’s “Joining Hearts and Hands, A Mission Initiative,” a campaign designed to raise funds for new church development, congregational renewal, and international mission. (p. 5)
- ✓ A majority of panelists report that their congregations “donate funds to presbytery-, synod-, or PC(USA)-related mission.” (p. 5)
- ✓ Most pastors and specialized clergy think it is *very appropriate* or *generally appropriate* for the PC(USA) to use each of seven approaches in a special-purpose fund-raising campaign, but members and elders express majority approval for only two of these approaches: “asking sessions to share information about the campaign with their members” and “approaching foundations to ask for donations.” (p. 6)
- ✓ From a list of ten organizations, panelists most frequently report that representatives of the following three have “spoken in [their] . . . congregation during the past two years”: local presbyteries, seminaries, and the Presbyterian Foundation. (p. 7)
- ✓ Majorities of panelists report that they or their families gave money to their congregations in 2004, donated money to “other religious or charitable causes during 2004,” and made financial pledges to their congregations for 2005. (p. 8)
- ✓ Most panelists have a will, but few panelists have included a bequest to a Presbyterian entity in their will. (p. 8)

KNOWLEDGE OF PC(USA) MISSION

How Well Informed?

- ✓ Few laity are either *very informed* (members, 2%; elders, 2%) or *generally informed* (15%; 27%) about “the range and scope of PC(USA) mission.” Most are *a little informed* (52%; 54%); 32% and 16%, respectively, are *not informed*.
- ✓ Few ministers are *very informed* about “the range and scope of PC(USA) mission” (pastors, 16%; specialized clergy, 15%), but majorities are *generally informed* (64%; 52%). Only 1% of pastors and 6% of specialized clergy report being *not informed*.

Sources of Information

- ✓ The most widely used sources for “information about PC(USA) mission” among laity include:
 - Congregational newsletter (54% of members and 62% of elders “relied on or turned to” it either *very often*, *often*, or *occasionally* in the last two years)
 - One’s pastor or other ministers (50%; 67%)
 - *Presbyterians Today* magazine (25%; 41%)¹
 - Presbytery or synod newspaper/newsletter/meeting/staff (23%; 37%)
- ✓ Most pastors turn to the same sources as laity for information, but at higher rates; many also look elsewhere:
 - One’s pastor or other ministers (*very often*, *often*, or *occasionally*: pastors, 76%; specialized clergy, 72%)
 - Presbytery or synod newspaper/newsletter/meeting/staff (76%; 69%)
 - PC(USA) Web site (72%; 62%)
 - *Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study* (66%; 56%)
 - *Presbyterians Today* magazine (63%; 50%)¹
 - PC(USA) *News Briefs* (61%; 52%)
 - *Presbyterian Outlook* magazine or Web site (59%; 49%)
 - Congregational newsletter (56%; 64%)
- ✓ Sources least frequently relied on include (combined *very often*, *often*, and *occasionally* responses):
 - *The Layman* newspaper/Web site (members, 12%; elders, 24%; pastors, 29%; specialized clergy, 21%)
 - *Horizons* magazine (12%; 17%; 23%; 23%)
 - GA or GAC staff persons (6%; 8%; 30%; 35%)
 - Presbyweb.com (5%; 10%; 18%; 20%)

Use of PC(USA) Web Site as a Source of Information, By Age

- ✓ During the last two years, significantly higher percentages of younger than older pastors and specialized clergy report using the PC(USA) Web site as a source of information about PC(USA) mission either *very often*, *often*, or *occasionally* (see Table 1).

Table 1. Frequency of Using PC(USA) Web Site as a Source of Information about PC(USA) Mission During Last Two Years, by Age

| | Pastors | | | Specialized Clergy | | |
|--|---------------------------------|-------|-----|--------------------------------|-------|-----|
| | 50 or less | 51-60 | 61+ | 50 or less | 51-60 | 60+ |
| Very often/Often/Occasionally | 80% | 71% | 51% | 71% | 62% | 46% |
| Rarely/Never | 20% | 29% | 49% | 29% | 38% | 54% |
| | <i>Significant (p<0.001)</i> | | | <i>Significant (p<0.05)</i> | | |

¹ These percentages may be artificially high because in August 2004 all of these panelists were sent a sample copy of the magazine in conjunction with that month’s Panel survey.

KNOWLEDGE OF PC(USA) MISSION

Wanting to Know More

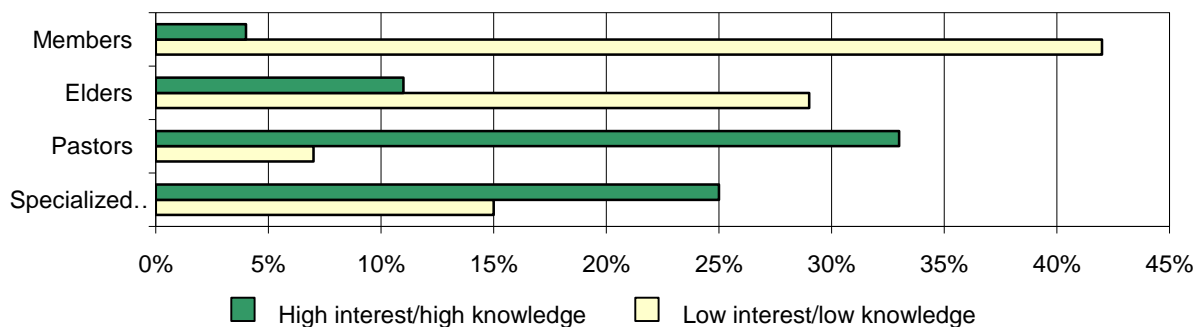
- ✓ Few panelists respond *no, never* when asked if they “ever wanted to know more about PC(USA) mission” during the last two years (members, 21%; elders, 15%; pastors, 5%; specialized clergy, 10%).
- ✓ Overall, relatively few *very often* or *often* “wanted to know more about PC(USA) mission” (members, 13%; elders, 22%; pastors, 37%; specialized clergy, 32%). Instead, most “wanted to know more” *occasionally* or *rarely* (66%; 63%; 57%; 58%).

PC(USA) Mission: Interest, Knowledge, Excitement, and Funding

The relationship between panelists’ interest in, and knowledge of, PC(USA) mission varies by their roles in the PC(USA). (See Figure 1.)

- Ministers often exhibit high levels of interest and knowledge regarding PC(USA) mission. One-third of pastors and one-quarter of specialized clergy report that they *very often* or *often* “wanted to know more about PC(USA) mission” during the last two years and are *very informed* or *generally informed* about PC(USA) mission (high interest/high knowledge). Only 7% of pastors and 15% of specialized clergy indicate that they *rarely* or *never* “wanted to know more about PC(USA) mission” during the last two years and are only *a little informed* or *not informed* “about the range and scope of PC(USA) mission” (low interest/low knowledge).
- In contrast, laity more often exhibit low interest/low knowledge regarding PC(USA) mission (members, 42%; elders, 29%), as opposed to high interest/high knowledge (4%; 11%).

Figure 1. Levels of Interest and Knowledge about PC(USA) Mission



Panelists’ responses also indicate a relationship between knowledge of PC(USA) mission and excitement over PC(USA) activities.

- Almost half of pastors (46%) and 36% of specialized clergy say they are both *very informed* or *generally informed* about PC(USA) mission and excited enough about PC(USA) activities to consider donating more money to PC(USA) mission, as compared to 3% of members and 8% of elders.
- Half of members and 44% of elders are *a little informed* or *not informed* about PC(USA) mission and do not express excitement over PC(USA) activities that could encourage them to donate more money to PC(USA) mission, in contrast to only 10% of pastors and 13% of specialized clergy.

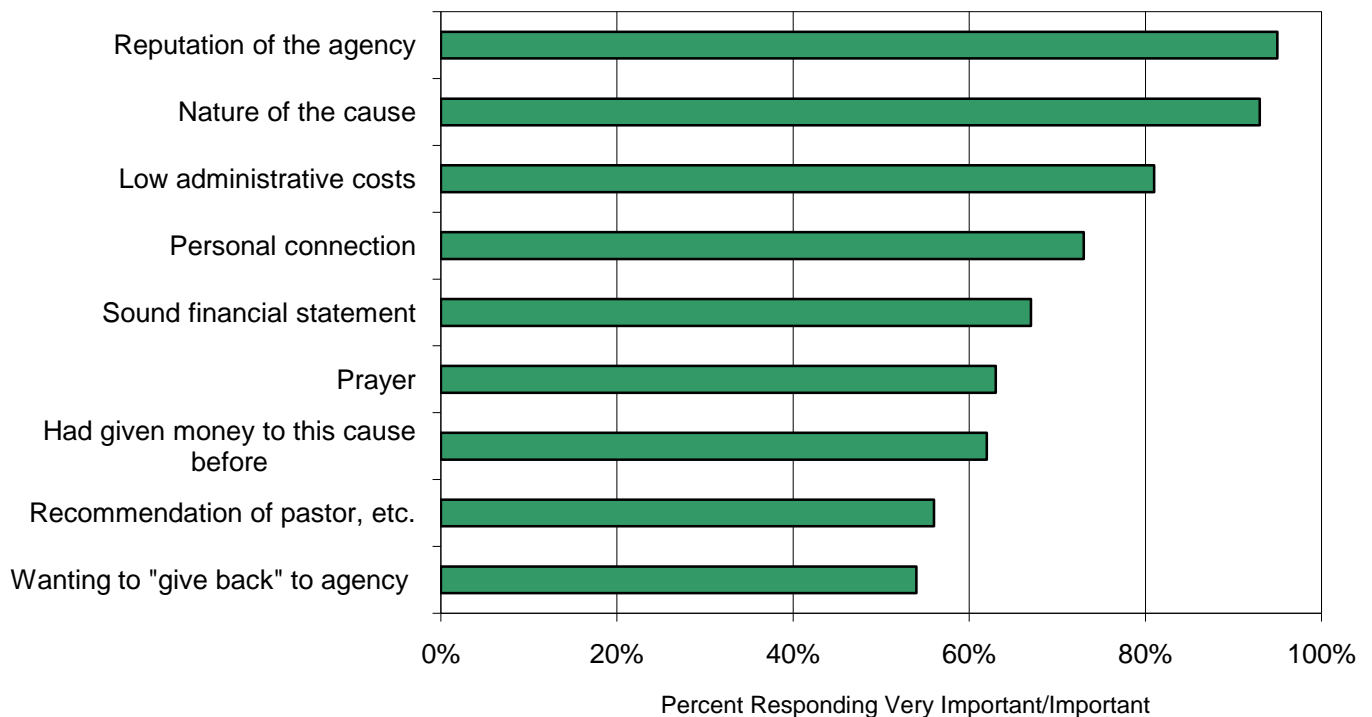
Members’ and elders’ lack of knowledge about PC(USA) mission may have a detrimental effect on their interest in PC(USA) mission and their potential to give financial donations to PC(USA) mission. To increase interest in and financial donations to PC(USA) mission, it may be essential for pastors, leaders, and others to more widely publicize PC(USA) mission activities.

OPINIONS ON FUNDING ISSUES

Deciding Where to Give

- ✓ Given a hypothetical \$200 to donate to “a charity or a religious cause,” panelists would give most importance to the following factors in deciding where to donate (see also Figure 2):
 - The reputation of the agency (*very important* or *important*: members, 95%; elders, 96%; pastors, 98%; specialized clergy, 95%)
 - The nature of the cause (93%; 93%; 95%; 97%)
 - Low administrative costs (81%; 84%; 86%; 83%)
 - A personal connection to the cause or agency (73%; 78%; 84%; 79%)
 - A sound financial statement or annual report (67%; 74%; 77%; 75%)
 - Prayer (63%; 71%; 82%; 69%)
 - Had given money to this cause before (62%; 62%; 69%; 66%)

Figure 2. Important Factors PC(USA) Members Consider When Determining Which Charities or Religious Causes to Support



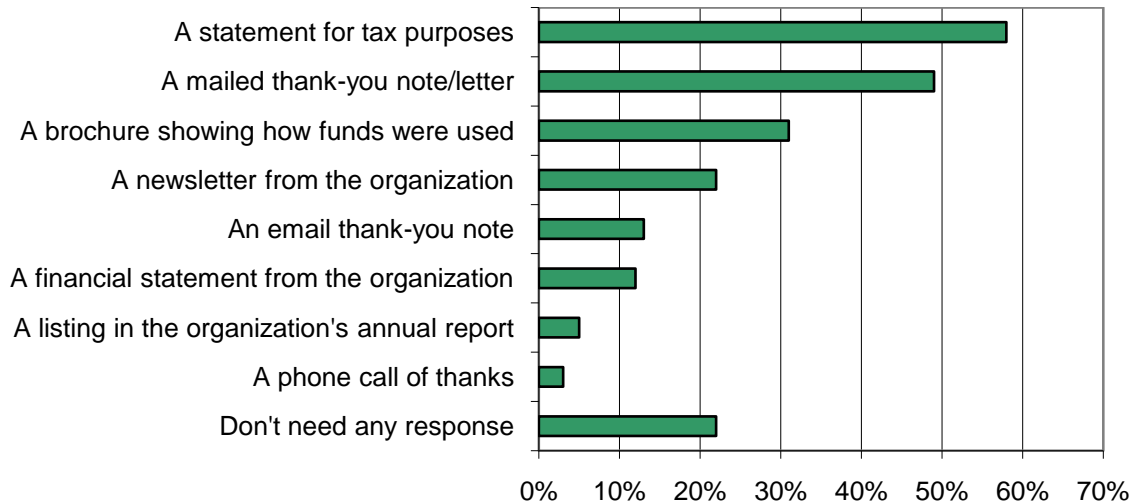
- ✓ Panelists place more moderate importance on the following factors:
 - Recommendations of pastor, session, or other congregational connection (*very important* or *important*: members, 56%; elders, 63%; pastors, 73%; specialized clergy, 58%)
 - Wanting to “give back” to an agency that has benefited their families or themselves (54%; 56%; 41%; 44%)
 - Other personal recommendations (46%; 54%; 66%; 59%)
- ✓ Relatively few panelists, especially among laity, place much importance on these factors:
 - The agency is connected to/a part of the PC(USA) (*very important* or *important*: members, 27%; elders, 31%; pastors, 56%; specialized clergy, 56%)
 - The quality of the agency’s promotional materials (22%; 20%; 28%; 22%)

OPINIONS ON FUNDING ISSUES

Response Desired from Receiving Charity

- ✓ When giving to “a charitable or religious cause,” the responses most panelists want from the receiving agency are *a statement for tax purposes* (members, 55%; elders, 57%; pastors, 62%; specialized clergy, 65%) and *a mailed thank-you note/letter* (48%; 49%; 52%; 48%). (See Figure 3.)

Figure 3. What Elders Want in Return When They Donate to a Religious or Charitable Cause



- ✓ Around one in five panelists do not need any response from a charitable cause to which they give money (members, 23%; elders, 22%; pastors, 19%; specialized clergy, 22%).

Funding PC(USA) Mission

- ✓ A third of members (34%), half of elders (48%), and more than four in five pastors (81%) and specialized clergy (82%) *strongly agree* or *agree* that “more financial support is needed to fund PC(USA) mission.” Similarly, 39%, 50%, 68%, and 72% *strongly agree* or *agree* that “the denomination should find ways to increase undesignated gifts.”
- ✓ Nevertheless, a majority of laity (members, 54%; elders, 57%) *strongly agree* or *agree* with the statement, “I favor my congregation designating the dollars it gives to PC(USA) mission.” Fewer ministers so respond: pastors, 35%; specialized clergy, 33%.
- ✓ Relatively few panelists *strongly agree* or *agree* that they would be willing to designate “more of [their] . . . charitable contributions to fund specific PC(USA) mission projects” if they knew how to do so (members, 23%; elders, 25%; pastors, 23%; specialized clergy, 29%). Even fewer would be willing to “give more of [their] . . . charitable contributions” as general (“undesignated”) contributions to PC(USA) mission if they knew how to do so (11%; 11%; 16%; 22%).

Trust in Governing Bodies' Use of Mission Dollars

- ✓ In general, half or more *strongly agree* or *agree* that “since the PC(USA) is governed by a connectional system, governing bodies should be trusted to make the right decisions with the mission dollars given to them” (members, 51%; elders, 52%; pastors, 72%; specialized clergy, 73%).
- ✓ However, other responses indicate that such trust is relative to proximity. While 60% of elders *strongly agree* or *agree* with the statement, “I am comfortable letting my presbytery make decisions about where to allocate the mission dollars it receives,” only 44% *strongly agree* or *agree* with the statement, “I am comfortable letting the General Assembly/General Assembly Council make decisions about where to allocate the mission dollars they receive.”

OTHER PC(USA) FUNDING ISSUES

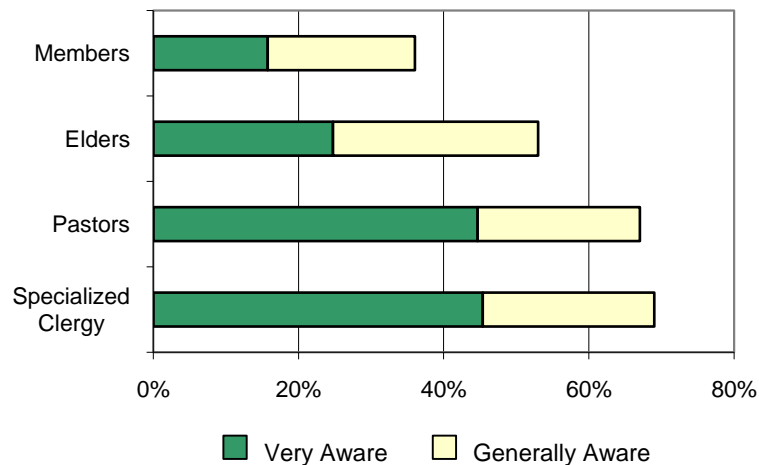
Joining Hearts and Hands, a Mission Initiative

- ✓ Most ministers (pastors, 69%; specialized clergy, 53%) but relatively few laity (members, 14%; elders, 26%) are aware of the PC(USA)'s "Joining Hearts and Hands, A Mission Initiative," a campaign designed to raise funds for new church development, congregational renewal, and international mission.

Per Capita Apportionment

- ✓ Most panelists have "previously heard of per capita apportionment," whereby congregations are asked to donate an amount per member as a way of sharing "the costs of coming together [in presbyteries, synods, and the General Assembly] to discern the Spirit's leading for the future": members, 78% (combined *yes, definitely* and *yes, probably*); elders, 92%; pastors, 99%; specialized clergy, 98%.
- ✓ Overall, 36% of members, 53% of elders, 67% of pastors, and 69% of specialized clergy have *definitely* or *probably* heard of per capita apportionment and are *very aware* or *generally aware* that its "main purpose . . . is to support discernment." (See Figure 4.)

Figure 4. Panelists Who Have Heard of Per Capita Apportionment and Are Aware of Its Main Purpose



Mission Funding and Interpretation by Sessions

- ✓ Two-thirds of members (69%), 82% of elders, 95% of pastors, and 85% of specialized clergy report that their congregations "donate funds to presbytery-, synod-, or PC(USA)-related mission." Most of the rest (except for pastors) respond *don't know*; few (2%; 4%; 4%; 4%) respond *no*.
- ✓ Panelists whose congregations donate to presbytery, synod, or PC(USA) mission were further asked "how satisfied are you with the interpretation the session has done" regarding the mission work those funds support. Most are either *very satisfied* or *generally satisfied* (members, 69%; elders, 74%; pastors, 56%; specialized clergy, 58%).
- ✓ Among panelists who can recall their session's interpretation of mission, more report that this interpretation makes them want their congregation to give *more money* (members, 17%; elders, 12%; pastors, 33%; specialized clergy, 29%) than to give *less money* (9%; 9%; 6%; 5%) to presbytery, synod, or PC(USA) mission. Even more, however, report that such interpretation doesn't change their inclination for their congregation to give (57%; 64%; 47%; 50%).

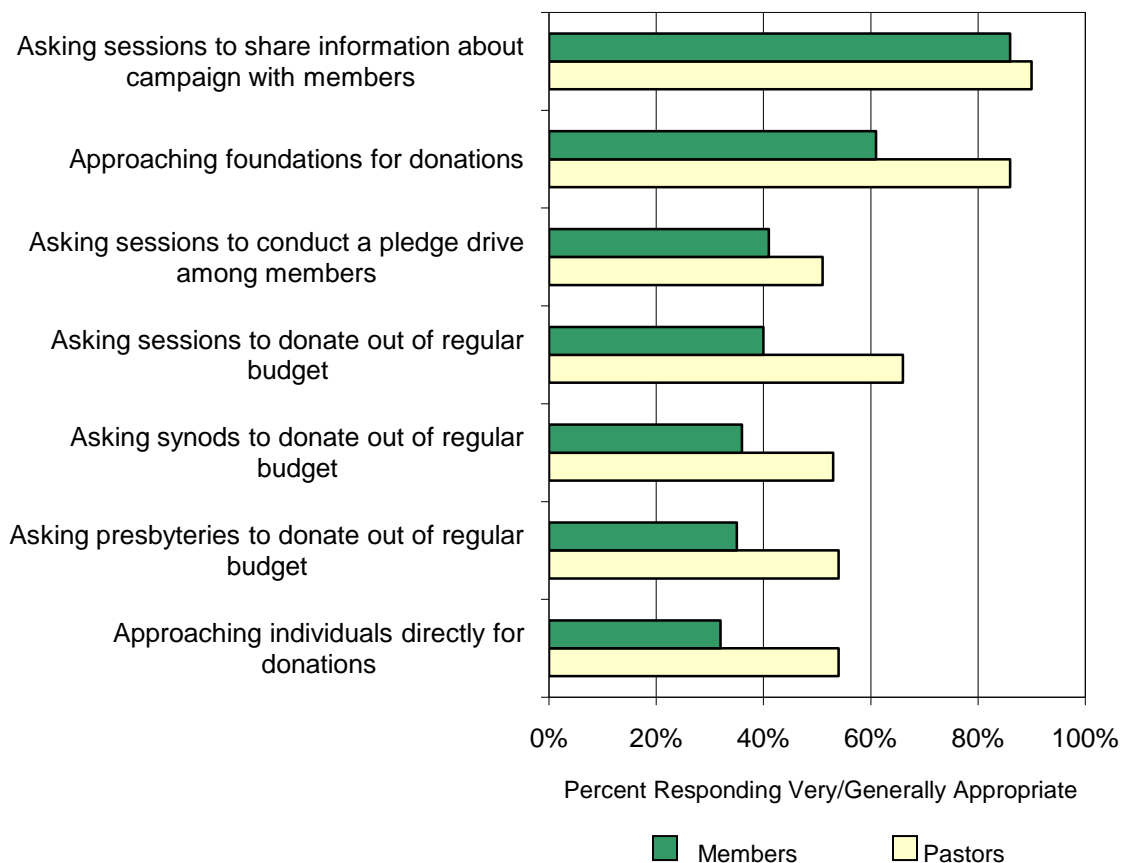
OTHER PC(USA) FUNDING ISSUES

Special-Purpose Campaigns

- ✓ In general, majorities believe it is “a good idea for the PC(USA) to conduct special-purpose campaigns to raise money for specific mission programs” (*yes, definitely* or *yes, probably*: members, 68%; elders, 74%; pastors, 77%; specialized clergy, 77%).
- ✓ Most pastors and specialized clergy think it is *very appropriate* or *generally appropriate* for the PC(USA) to use each of seven approaches in a special-purpose fund-raising campaign, but members and elders express majority approval for only two of these approaches (see also Figure 5):
 - Asking sessions to share campaign information with their members (members, 86%; elders, 91%; pastors, 90%; specialized clergy, 91%)
 - Approaching foundations to ask for donations (61%; 74%; 86%; 82%)
 - Asking sessions to conduct a pledge drive for the campaign among their members (41%; 41%; 51%; 60%)
 - Asking sessions to donate to the campaign out of their regular budgets (40%; 44%; 66%; 69%)
 - Asking synods to donate to the campaign out of their regular budgets (36%; 40%; 53%; 56%)
 - Asking presbyteries to donate to the campaign out of their regular budgets (35%; 40%; 54%; 61%)
 - Approaching individuals directly to ask for donations to the campaign (32%; 37%; 54%; 63%)

Figure 5. Opinions: Special-Purpose Campaigns

Q. How appropriate is it to use each of the following approaches when raising money as part of a PC(USA) special-purpose campaign?



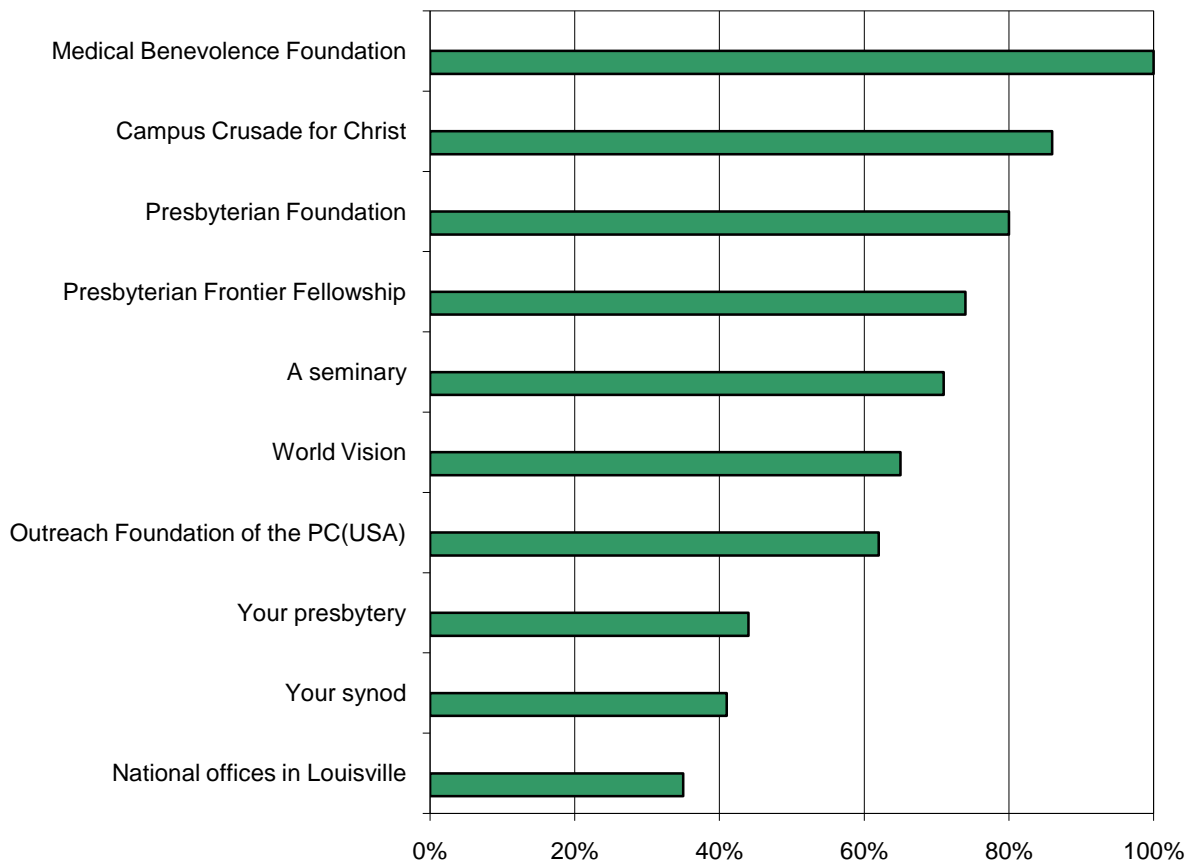
OTHER PC(USA) FUNDING ISSUES

Speakers in Congregations

- ✓ From a list of ten organizations, panelists most frequently report that representatives of the following three have “spoken in [their] . . . congregation during the past two years”:
 - The local presbytery (members, 37%; elders, 54%; pastors, 65%; specialized clergy, 62%)
 - A seminary (19%; 24%; 19%; 30%)
 - The Presbyterian Foundation (7%; 16%; 24%; 22%)

- ✓ In congregations where representatives of organizations have spoken in the past two years, panelists most often report that those from the following organizations had “asked for or encouraged contributions” (see Figure 6):
 - Medical Benevolence Foundation (members, 88%; elders, 81%; pastors, 100%; specialized clergy, 80%)
 - World Vision (83%; 82%; 65%; 82%)
 - Campus Crusade for Christ (77%; 68%; 86%; 83%)
 - The Presbyterian Foundation (69%; 72%; 80%; 72%)
 - Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship (50%; 73%; 74%; 100%)
 - Outreach Foundation of the PC(USA) (50%; 70%; 62%; 86%)

Figure 6. Among Pastors Whose Congregations Were Visited by an Organizational Representative, the Percentage of Pastors Reporting that the Representative Asked for/Encouraged Contributions



PERSONAL GIVING AND BEQUESTS

Giving to the Congregation

- ✓ Almost all panelists report that they or their family gave money to their congregation in 2004 (members, 97%; elders, 99%; pastors, 99%; specialized clergy, 93%). The median share they reported giving was 5% of total pre-tax family income for members, 7% for elders, 8% for pastors, and 5% for specialized clergy.²
- ✓ A majority of panelists also report that they gave money to “other religious or charitable causes during 2004” (members, 88%; elders, 94%; pastors, 92%; specialized clergy, 93%). All groups of panelists reported giving fairly similar percentages of their total pre-tax family income to these other causes (median: 2%; 2%; 2%; 3%).
- ✓ Three-quarters of members, 85% of elders and pastors, and 59% of specialized clergy made a financial pledge to their congregation for 2005. The median amount of total pre-tax family income reported pledged was 5% for members, 7% for elders, 9% for pastors, and 7% for specialized clergy.

Giving Credit for Contributions

- ✓ Large majorities believe that “when an individual makes a direct contribution to fund PC(USA) mission . . . his or her congregation [should] receive credit” (*yes, definitely* or *yes, probably*: members, 73%; elders, 71%; pastors, 72%; specialized clergy, 64%).

Giving to Help the Asian Tsunami Victims

- ✓ Majorities of panelists (members, 59%; elders, 65%; pastors, 74%; specialized clergy, 72%) report making a contribution “to help the victims of the tsunami that devastated parts of Indonesia and South/Southeast Asia on December 26, 2004.”
- ✓ Most panelists who gave money to tsunami victims did so, at least in part, through their congregations (members, 63%; elders, 64%; pastors, 70%; specialized clergy, 53%). Another 5%, 11%, 22%, and 25%, respectively, made a contribution directly to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Wills and Bequests

- ✓ Most panelists, ranging from 75% of specialized clergy to 82% of elders, have a will.
- ✓ Among those with wills, most (members, 83%; elders, 77%; pastors, 64%; specialized clergy, 64%) have not included a bequest to a Presbyterian entity. Overall, the percentages who have included such bequests, by PC(USA) recipient, are:
 - Your congregation (members, 12%; elders, 16%; pastors, 18%; specialized clergy, 10%)
 - Another PC(USA) congregation (2%; 2%; 5%; 4%)
 - A PC(USA) college, university, or seminary (1%; 3%; 10%; 15%)
 - PC(USA) mission (1%; 1%; 4%; 9%)
 - Other PC(USA) affiliated institution (2%; 2%; 3%; 3%)

² These percentages were provided directly by respondents. By coincidence, in the fall of 2005 we gathered data on dollar amounts contributed to congregations and total family income (in this case, *after* taxes) for 2004 from a different set of panelists (those randomly sampled for the 2006-2008 Panel). Using these latter figures we calculated median congregational giving at 2% (members), 4% (elders), 7% (pastors), and 4% (specialized clergy)—percentages that would be even smaller if we had used total family pre-tax income, as in the current survey. There appears to be a tendency, especially among laity, to overstate the share of income donated to congregations.

PERSONAL GIVING AND BEQUESTS

The Influence of Total Family Income on Giving and Pledging to Congregations³

Among laity, total family income (before taxes) does indeed seem to influence financial giving and pledging to congregations. Members and elders with higher incomes tend to report giving and pledging a lower percentage of their income to their congregation (see Table 2).

Table 2. Percentage of Members' and Elders' Total Family Income Given and Pledged to Their Congregation, by Total Family Income

| | Members | | | | Elders | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| | <\$40,000 | \$40-\$69,999 | \$70-\$99,999 | \$100,000+ | <\$40,000 | \$40-\$69,999 | \$70-\$99,999 | \$100,000+ |
| <i>Percentage of Total Family Income (Pre-Tax) Given to Congregation in 2004:</i> | | | | | | | | |
| 1-5% | 51% | 48% | 65% | 65% | 31% | 30% | 38% | 53% |
| 6-9% | 5% | 27% | 22% | 15% | 26% | 22% | 28% | 20% |
| 10%+ | 44% | 25% | 13% | 19% | 44% | 48% | 34% | 28% |
| | <i>Significant (p<0.01)</i> | | | | <i>Significant (p<0.01)</i> | | | |
| <i>Percentage of Total Family Income (Pre-Tax) Pledged to Congregation for 2005:</i> | | | | | | | | |
| 1-5% | 42% | 38% | 68% | 66% | 28% | 29% | 42% | 56% |
| 6-9% | 12% | 26% | 22% | 21% | 23% | 25% | 29% | 16% |
| 10%+ | 46% | 36% | 10% | 14% | 49% | 46% | 29% | 29% |
| | <i>Significant (p<0.01)</i> | | | | <i>Significant (p=0.001)</i> | | | |

In contrast, there is no significant relationship between total family income and financial giving and pledging to the congregation among ministers. Pastors of all income levels most frequently report giving and pledging at least 10% of their income, while specialized clergy most frequently report giving and pledging between 1% and 5% of their income (see Table 3).

Table 3. Percentage of Pastors' and Specialized Clergy's Total Family Income Given and Pledged to Their Congregation, by Total Family Income

| | Pastors | | | | Specialized Clergy | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------|----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|------------|
| | <\$40,000 | \$40-\$69,999 | \$70-\$99,999 | \$100,000+ | <\$40,000 | \$40-\$69,999 | \$70-\$99,999 | \$100,000+ |
| <i>Percentage of Total Family Income (Pre-Tax) Given to Congregation in 2004:</i> | | | | | | | | |
| 1-5% | 14% | 30% | 31% | 26% | 45% | 52% | 56% | 53% |
| 6-9% | 34% | 25% | 27% | 28% | 10% | 22% | 20% | 18% |
| 10%+ | 52% | 45% | 42% | 46% | 45% | 26% | 24% | 30% |
| | <i>Not significant (p=0.427)</i> | | | | <i>Not significant (p=0.670)</i> | | | |
| <i>Percentage of Total Family Income (Pre-Tax) Pledged to Congregation for 2005:</i> | | | | | | | | |
| 1-5% | 13% | 24% | 27% | 28% | 42%* | | 49% | 43% |
| 6-9% | 29% | 25% | 28% | 24% | 17%* | | 27% | 26% |
| 10%+ | 58% | 51% | 45% | 49% | 42%* | | 24% | 31% |
| | <i>Not significant (p=0.703)</i> | | | | <i>Not significant (p=0.525)</i> | | | |

*<\$40,000 and \$40-\$69,999 categories combined for pledging by specialized clergy (not enough specialized clergy in these separate categories to run chi-square test).

One might assume that people with higher incomes would give and pledge a higher percentage of their income to their congregation. Why do we find an opposite pattern among laity? Laity may give and pledge money to their congregation based on dollar amounts (not percentage of income). Also, members and elders with high incomes may give and pledge a high dollar amount, but a low percentage of their income, to their congregation. Those with lower incomes may instead feel the need to give and pledge a high percentage of their income to their congregation, in order to increase the amount of money they offer their congregation.

³The findings apply only to panelists who report giving/pledging money to their congregations.

THE PRESBYTERIAN PANEL

FUNDING CHRIST'S MISSION THROUGH THE PC(USA)

The May 2005 Questionnaire

Data Appendix

| | Members | Elders | Ministers |
|---|---------|--------|-----------|
| Number of questionnaires mailed..... | 692 | 1,029 | 1,181 |
| Number of questionnaires returned | 330 | 502 | 714 ‡ |
| Percent returned..... | 47% | 48% | 60% |
| ‡ 453 pastors; 261 specialized clergy | | | |

Note: "PC(USA) mission" refers to any program, project, service, resource, or personnel administered, produced, or funded by the General Assembly or the General Assembly Council of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), in either the United States or overseas

Q1. In the last two years, have you ever wanted to know more about PC(USA) mission?

| | Members | Elders | Pastors | Specialized Clergy |
|------------------------|---------|--------|---------|--------------------|
| Yes, very often | 3% | 8% | 10% | 10% |
| Yes, often | 10% | 14% | 27% | 22% |
| Yes, occasionally..... | 40% | 43% | 43% | 38% |
| Yes, but rarely | 26% | 20% | 14% | 20% |
| No..... | 21% | 15% | 5% | 10% |

Q2. How often in the last two years have you relied on or turned to each of the following sources to obtain information about PC(USA) mission?

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| a. GA or GAC staff persons | | | | |
| Very often | * | — | 2% | 6% |
| Often | 1% | 1% | 6% | 7% |
| Occasionally | 5% | 7% | 22% | 22% |
| Rarely..... | 13% | 14% | 31% | 20% |
| Never | 82% | 78% | 39% | 45% |
| b. <i>Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study</i> | | | | |
| Very often | 1% | 2% | 12% | 9% |
| Often | 2% | 6% | 20% | 16% |
| Occasionally | 12% | 19% | 34% | 31% |
| Rarely..... | 16% | 20% | 20% | 20% |
| Never | 68% | 54% | 14% | 24% |
| c. <i>Presbyterians Today (PT)</i> magazine | | | | |
| Very often | 1% | 4% | 11% | 7% |
| Often | 5% | 12% | 25% | 16% |
| Occasionally | 19% | 25% | 27% | 27% |
| Rarely..... | 18% | 18% | 18% | 20% |
| Never | 57% | 42% | 19% | 30% |

* = 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 |
|---------|--|---------|--------|---------|--------------------|
| Q2. | How often in the last two years have you relied on or turned to each of the following sources to obtain information about PC(USA) mission? | | | | |
| (Cont.) | | | | | |
| d. | <i>Horizons</i> magazine | | | | |
| | Very often | 2% | 2% | 3% | 3% |
| | Often | 3% | 4% | 8% | 7% |
| | Occasionally | 7% | 11% | 12% | 13% |
| | Rarely..... | 9% | 12% | 22% | 19% |
| | Never | 79% | 71% | 55% | 57% |
| e. | PC(USA) <i>News Briefs</i> | | | | |
| | Very often | — | 1% | 10% | 10% |
| | Often | 2% | 4% | 20% | 15% |
| | Occasionally | 5% | 15% | 31% | 27% |
| | Rarely..... | 11% | 14% | 16% | 17% |
| | Never | 82% | 66% | 23% | 31% |
| f. | PC(USA) Web site | | | | |
| | Very often | 1% | 1% | 14% | 18% |
| | Often | 3% | 7% | 26% | 16% |
| | Occasionally | 9% | 16% | 32% | 28% |
| | Rarely..... | 10% | 13% | 12% | 13% |
| | Never | 77% | 63% | 17% | 25% |
| g. | <i>Presbyterian Outlook</i> magazine or Web site | | | | |
| | Very often | 1% | 2% | 20% | 13% |
| | Often | 2% | 5% | 22% | 13% |
| | Occasionally | 7% | 12% | 17% | 23% |
| | Rarely..... | 11% | 14% | 17% | 14% |
| | Never | 80% | 67% | 24% | 37% |
| h. | <i>The Layman</i> newspaper or Web site | | | | |
| | Very often | 3% | 3% | 3% | 3% |
| | Often | 2% | 10% | 8% | 7% |
| | Occasionally | 7% | 11% | 18% | 11% |
| | Rarely..... | 10% | 11% | 19% | 15% |
| | Never | 78% | 65% | 52% | 65% |
| i. | Presbyweb (www.presbyweb.com) + | | | | |
| | Very often | — | 1% | 4% | 4% |
| | Often | 1% | 2% | 4% | 3% |
| | Occasionally | 4% | 7% | 10% | 13% |
| | Rarely..... | 7% | 11% | 19% | 14% |
| | Never | 88% | 80% | 64% | 67% |
| j. | My pastor or other ministers in the PC(USA) | | | | |
| | Very often | 7% | 7% | 10% | 7% |
| | Often | 13% | 22% | 26% | 29% |
| | Occasionally | 30% | 38% | 40% | 36% |
| | Rarely..... | 19% | 15% | 15% | 16% |
| | Never | 31% | 18% | 9% | 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

| | | Members | Elders | Pastors | Specialized Clergy |
|-----|---|---------|--------|---------|--------------------|
| Q2. | How often in the last two years have you relied on or turned to each of the following sources to obtain information about PC(USA) mission? (Cont.) | | | | |
| k. | Congregational newsletter | | | | |
| | Very often | 11% | 11% | 8% | 8% |
| | Often | 19% | 23% | 18% | 25% |
| | Occasionally | 24% | 28% | 30% | 31% |
| | Rarely..... | 16% | 12% | 19% | 17% |
| | Never | 29% | 25% | 26% | 20% |
| l. | Presbytery or synod newspaper/newsletter/meeting/staff | | | | |
| | Very often | 2% | 3% | 8% | 10% |
| | Often | 6% | 12% | 27% | 30% |
| | Occasionally | 15% | 22% | 41% | 29% |
| | Rarely..... | 15% | 19% | 15% | 16% |
| | Never | 62% | 44% | 10% | 15% |
| m. | Other PC(USA) publications (e.g., newsletter from a specific program area) | | | | |
| | Very often | * | * | 3% | 5% |
| | Often | 2% | 5% | 13% | 14% |
| | Occasionally | 11% | 15% | 40% | 28% |
| | Rarely..... | 14% | 18% | 25% | 20% |
| | Never | 72% | 62% | 18% | 33% |
| n. | Other (specify): _____ | + | + | + | + |
| | Very often | 2% | 1% | 2% | 1% |
| | Often | 1% | 2% | 3% | 2% |
| | Occasionally | 3% | 1% | 3% | 1% |
| | Rarely..... | 4% | 3% | 2% | 3% |
| | Never | 56% | 51% | 18% | 28% |
| | [No response]..... | [34%] | [42%] | [72%] | [65%] |
| Q3. | How well-informed would you say you are about the range and scope of PC(USA) mission? | | | | |
| | Very informed | 2% | 2% | 16% | 15% |
| | Generally informed | 15% | 27% | 64% | 52% |
| | A little informed | 52% | 54% | 20% | 27% |
| | Not informed | 32% | 16% | 1% | 6% |
| Q4. | Did you or your family give any money to your congregation in 2004? | | | | |
| | Yes | 97% | 99% | 99% | 93% |
| | No..... | * | * | 1% | 5% |
| | Not sure | 3% | 1% | * | 2% |

* = 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

**Specialized
Clergy**

Members Elders Pastors

Q4a. [If “Yes,”] How much did you give as a percentage of your total family income (pre-tax) from all sources?
(Write the percentage on the line): _____ percent

| | + | + | | |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | n=314 | n=483 | n=444 | n=237 |
| 1% or less | 9% | 3% | 1% | 7% |
| 2% - 3% | 18% | 13% | 7% | 18% |
| 4% - 5% | 26% | 22% | 20% | 26% |
| 6% - 9% | 17% | 23% | 27% | 19% |
| 10% | 18% | 26% | 32% | 18% |
| 11% - 15% | 4% | 7% | 10% | 6% |
| 16% - 20% | 1% | 2% | 1% | 2% |
| More than 20% | * | 1% | — | 2% |
| Don't know | 6% | 2% | — | 1% |
| Mean | 6.2% | 7.4% | 8.1% | 6.7% |
| Median | 5.0% | 7.0% | 8.0% | 5.0% |

Q5. Besides your congregation, did you give money to any other religious or charitable causes during 2004?

| | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Yes | 88% | 94% | 92% | 93% |
| No | 8% | 5% | 8% | 4% |
| Not sure | 4% | 2% | * | 2% |

Q5a. [If “Yes,”] How much did you give as a percentage of your total family income (pre-tax) from all sources?
(Write the percentage on the line): _____ percent

| | + | + | | |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | n=285 | n=454 | n=409 | n=240 |
| 1% or less | 30% | 32% | 31% | 18% |
| 2% - 3% | 30% | 36% | 40% | 40% |
| 4% - 5% | 18% | 16% | 17% | 19% |
| 6% - 9% | 4% | 5% | 5% | 8% |
| 10% | 7% | 3% | 2% | 6% |
| More than 10% | 3% | 5% | 4% | 8% |
| Don't know | 8% | 4% | 2% | 1% |
| Mean | 4.3% | 5.5% | 3.1% | 4.7% |
| Median | 2.0% | 2.0% | 2.0% | 3.0% |

Q6. Did you make a financial pledge for 2005 to your congregation?

| | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Yes | 75% | 85% | 85% | 59% |
| No | 24% | 15% | 14% | 39% |
| Not sure | 2% | * | * | 2% |

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— = 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 |
|--|---------|--------|---------|--------------------|
| Q6a. [If "Yes,"] About what percentage of your total family income (pre-tax) from all sources have you pledged for 2005? (Write the percentage on the line): _____ percent | | | | |
| | + | + | | + |
| | n=244 | n=414 | n=381 | n=149 |
| 1% or less | 6% | 4% | * | 4% |
| 2% - 3% | 23% | 14% | 6% | 12% |
| 4% - 5% | 24% | 24% | 20% | 28% |
| 6% - 9% | 20% | 22% | 26% | 23% |
| 10% | 19% | 26% | 40% | 20% |
| More than 10% | 5% | 9% | 10% | 13% |
| Don't know | 5% | 2% | — | 1% |
| Mean | 6.3% | 7.1% | 8.3% | 7.1% |
| Median | 5.0% | 7.0% | 9.0% | 7.0% |

Q7. Did you give any money to help the victims of the tsunami that devastated parts of Indonesia and South/Southeast Asia on December 26, 2004?

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Yes | 59% | 65% | 74% | 72% |
| No | 41% | 35% | 26% | 28% |

Q7a. [If "Yes,"] Did you give any of your contributions for tsunami relief through your congregation or through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)?

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | n=186 | n=315 | n=324 | n=185 |
| Yes, through my congregation | 63% | 64% | 70% | 53% |
| Yes, through PDA | 5% | 11% | 22% | 25% |
| No | 29% | 22% | 7% | 21% |
| Don't know | 2% | 4% | 1% | 2% |

Q8. Suppose for a moment that you were given \$200 with the stipulation that you would in turn give it away to a charity or a religious cause. How important would each of the following factors be in helping you decide which cause or agency you would give the money to?

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| a. I'd given money to this cause before | | | | |
| Very important | 23% | 19% | 24% | 20% |
| Generally important | 39% | 43% | 45% | 46% |
| A little important | 24% | 24% | 22% | 24% |
| Not important | 14% | 14% | 9% | 9% |
| b. The quality of the agency's promotional materials | | | | |
| Very important | 5% | 3% | 4% | 2% |
| Generally important | 17% | 17% | 24% | 20% |
| A little important | 40% | 43% | 52% | 52% |
| Not important | 38% | 37% | 20% | 25% |
| c. The reputation of the agency | | | | |
| Very important | 63% | 68% | 76% | 67% |
| Generally important | 32% | 28% | 22% | 28% |
| A little important | 3% | 2% | 2% | 3% |
| Not important | 2% | 1% | * | 2% |

* = 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 |
|---------|--|---------|--------|---------|--------------------|
| Q8. | Suppose for a moment that you were given \$200 with the stipulation that you would in turn give it away to a charity or a religious cause. How important would each of the following factors be in helping you decide which cause or agency you would give the money to? | | | | |
| (Cont.) | | | | | |
| d. | A sound financial statement or annual report | | | | |
| | Very important | 32% | 30% | 34% | 35% |
| | Generally important..... | 35% | 44% | 43% | 40% |
| | A little important | 22% | 21% | 21% | 18% |
| | Not important | 11% | 6% | 2% | 7% |
| e. | Prayer | | | | |
| | Very important | 30% | 38% | 44% | 32% |
| | Generally important..... | 33% | 33% | 38% | 37% |
| | A little important | 26% | 21% | 14% | 23% |
| | Not important | 11% | 7% | 4% | 8% |
| f. | Recommendations of my pastor, session, or other congregational connection | | | | |
| | Very important | 17% | 17% | 25% | 18% |
| | Generally important..... | 39% | 46% | 48% | 40% |
| | A little important | 31% | 29% | 21% | 32% |
| | Not important | 13% | 8% | 6% | 10% |
| g. | Other personal recommendations | | | | |
| | Very important | 10% | 10% | 18% | 18% |
| | Generally important..... | 36% | 44% | 48% | 41% |
| | A little important | 39% | 35% | 26% | 34% |
| | Not important | 14% | 11% | 7% | 7% |
| h. | A personal connection to the cause or agency | | | | |
| | Very important | 39% | 44% | 48% | 48% |
| | Generally important..... | 34% | 34% | 36% | 31% |
| | A little important | 19% | 14% | 11% | 14% |
| | Not important | 8% | 8% | 4% | 6% |
| i. | The agency is connected to/a part of the PC(USA) | | | | |
| | Very important | 7% | 7% | 20% | 18% |
| | Generally important..... | 20% | 24% | 36% | 38% |
| | A little important | 38% | 34% | 30% | 25% |
| | Not important | 34% | 35% | 14% | 18% |
| j. | The nature of the cause | | | | |
| | Very important | 60% | 60% | 61% | 71% |
| | Generally important..... | 33% | 33% | 34% | 26% |
| | A little important | 4% | 5% | 4% | 2% |
| | Not important | 2% | 2% | 1% | 1% |
| k. | It has low administrative costs (“overhead”) | | | | |
| | Very important | 40% | 40% | 39% | 39% |
| | Generally important..... | 41% | 44% | 47% | 44% |
| | A little important | 14% | 12% | 13% | 13% |
| | Not important | 5% | 4% | 2% | 4% |
| l. | Wanting to “give back” to an agency that has benefited my family or me | | | | |
| | Very important | 29% | 25% | 13% | 16% |
| | Generally important..... | 25% | 31% | 28% | 28% |
| | A little important | 21% | 24% | 34% | 30% |
| | Not important | 25% | 21% | 25% | 26% |

* = 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

Q8. Suppose for a moment that you were given \$200 with the stipulation that you would in turn give it away to a charity or a religious cause. How important would each of the following factors be in helping you decide which cause or agency you would give the money to?

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| m. Other (specify): _____ | + | + | + | + |
| Very important | 4% | 3% | 3% | 5% |
| Generally important..... | 1% | 1% | 2% | 1% |
| A little important | 1% | 1% | 1% | * |
| Not important | 17% | 14% | 9% | 11% |
| [No response] | [77%] | [81%] | [85%] | [83%] |

Q9. What response(s) would you like to receive when you give money to a charitable or religious cause? (Check the box for **all** that apply.)

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| A mailed thank-you note/letter..... | 48% | 49% | 52% | 48% |
| An e-mail thank-you note..... | 9% | 13% | 24% | 25% |
| A thank-you gift | * | 1% | 1% | 3% |
| A brochure giving detailed information about how your contribution was used..... | 30% | 31% | 25% | 25% |
| A newsletter from the organization | 25% | 22% | 29% | 27% |
| A financial statement from the organization | 14% | 12% | 15% | 16% |
| A phone call of thanks..... | 3% | 3% | 3% | 5% |
| A statement for tax purposes..... | 55% | 57% | 62% | 65% |
| A listing in the organization's annual report..... | 2% | 5% | 4% | 5% |
| Other (specify): _____..... | 1% | 3% | 2% | 2% |
| I don't need any response..... | 23% | 22% | 19% | 22% |

Q10. Do you have a will?

| | | | | |
|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Yes | 78% | 82% | 76% | 75% |
| No..... | 22% | 17% | 23% | 24% |
| Not sure | — | 1% | 1% | * |

Q10a. [If "Yes,"] Does your will include a bequest to: (Check **all** that apply.)

| | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | + ♦ | + ♦ | + ♦ | + ♦ |
| | n=244 | n=389 | n=337 | n=190 |
| Your congregation..... | 15% | 20% | 23% | 14% |
| Another PC(USA) congregation..... | 2% | 2% | 7% | 6% |
| A PC(USA) college, university, or seminary | 2% | 3% | 13% | 20% |
| PC(USA) mission..... | 1% | 1% | 5% | 12% |
| Other PC(USA) affiliated institution (camp, retirement home, etc.) | 2% | 3% | 4% | 4% |
| [No PC(USA) bequest listed] | [83%] | [77%] | [64%] | [64%] |

If your will includes a bequest to a PC(USA) congregation, school, mission, or institution, indicate briefly why you decided to include it in your will:

[Not tabulated]

* = 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

Q11. Presbyterians believe we discern best what God is calling us to do when we gather as governing bodies seeking together to find and represent the will of Christ. “Per capita apportionment” is how we mutually share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit’s leading for the future. The General Assembly, synods and (most, but not all) presbyteries create a per capita apportionment that they ask congregations to pay annually.

Have you previously heard of per capita apportionment?

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Yes, definitely | 69% | 87% | 99% | 97% |
| Yes, probably | 9% | 5% | 1% | 1% |
| No, probably not..... | 12% | 4% | * | 1% |
| No, definitely not | 10% | 4% | — | 1% |

Q11a. [If “Yes, definitely” or “Yes, probably,”] How aware were you that the main purpose of per capita apportionment is to support discernment?

| | | | | |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | n=245 | n=448 | n=440 | n=248 |
| Very aware | 21% | 28% | 46% | 46% |
| Generally aware..... | 27% | 32% | 23% | 24% |
| A little aware | 19% | 15% | 10% | 10% |
| Not aware | 33% | 26% | 21% | 20% |

Q12. Beyond per capita apportionment, sessions of PC(USA) congregations are encouraged to contribute a portion of their mission budget to fund PC(USA)-, presbytery-, and synod-related mission. Does your congregation donate funds to presbytery-, synod-, or PC(USA)-related mission?

| | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Yes | 69% | 82% | 95% | 85% |
| No..... | 2% | 4% | 4% | 4% |
| Don’t know | 29% | 14% | 1% | 12% |

[If “Yes,”] Think about the efforts your session has made to interpret, to the congregation, all of the presbytery, synod, or PC(USA) mission(s) that it supports.

Q12a. How satisfied are you with the interpretation the session has done?

| | | | | |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | n=216 | n=398 | n=421 | n=205 |
| Very satisfied..... | 16% | 24% | 11% | 14% |
| Generally satisfied..... | 53% | 50% | 45% | 44% |
| Only a little satisfied..... | 16% | 14% | 30% | 28% |
| Not satisfied..... | 7% | 5% | 12% | 9% |
| Can’t recall any interpretation → Skip to Q13..... | 8% | 7% | 2% | 5% |

Q12b. Has the interpretation the session has done made you want the congregation to give more money, less money, or about the same amount of money to presbytery, synod, or PC(USA) mission?

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | n=198 | n=371 | n=413 | n=195 |
| More | 17% | 12% | 33% | 29% |
| Less..... | 9% | 9% | 6% | 5% |
| About the same amount..... | 57% | 64% | 47% | 50% |
| No opinion..... | 17% | 15% | 14% | 17% |

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Q13. In the past 20 years, the amount of financial gifts for PC(USA) mission received as “undesigned” (the session or individual donor leaves the decision on how to spend the money to the PC(USA)) has declined and the amount received as “designated” (the session/donor indicates how the money is to be spent) has increased, so that now only about 20% of receipts are received as “undesigned.” This shift has enhanced the ability of individuals and sessions to support specific programs, but it has lessened the ability of the PC(USA) to respond to requests for assistance from international partners and national ministries.

Given this situation, please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| a. Only PC(USA) projects and programs able to raise their own funds should continue to exist | | | | |
| | + | | | |
| Strongly agree..... | 6% | 5% | 4% | 2% |
| Agree | 12% | 14% | 11% | 8% |
| Neither agree nor disagree..... | 26% | 27% | 15% | 12% |
| Disagree..... | 30% | 35% | 36% | 38% |
| Strongly disagree..... | 9% | 11% | 32% | 38% |
| Not sure..... | 17% | 8% | 2% | 2% |
| b. The denomination should find ways to increase undesigned gifts | | | | |
| Strongly agree..... | 6% | 6% | 26% | 29% |
| Agree | 33% | 44% | 42% | 43% |
| Neither agree nor disagree..... | 31% | 27% | 16% | 16% |
| Disagree..... | 11% | 12% | 9% | 8% |
| Strongly disagree..... | 6% | 6% | 6% | 2% |
| Not sure..... | 13% | 5% | 1% | 1% |
| c. I favor my congregation designating the dollars it gives to PC(USA) mission | | | | |
| Strongly agree..... | 18% | 21% | 15% | 10% |
| Agree | 36% | 36% | 20% | 23% |
| Neither agree nor disagree..... | 21% | 20% | 18% | 17% |
| Disagree..... | 10% | 15% | 25% | 29% |
| Strongly disagree..... | 3% | 3% | 22% | 19% |
| Not sure..... | 12% | 5% | 1% | 2% |
| d. I am uncomfortable having someone else decide where my pledge goes | | | | |
| Strongly agree..... | 18% | 14% | 5% | 8% |
| Agree | 26% | 31% | 16% | 10% |
| Neither agree nor disagree..... | 21% | 22% | 14% | 20% |
| Disagree..... | 20% | 22% | 39% | 40% |
| Strongly disagree..... | 6% | 8% | 24% | 21% |
| Not sure..... | 9% | 3% | 2% | 1% |

Q14. Do you agree or disagree?

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| a. I would give more of my charitable contributions to fund PC(USA) mission in general (“undesigned”) if I knew how to make a direct contribution | | | | |
| Strongly agree..... | 2% | 1% | 2% | 4% |
| Agree | 9% | 10% | 14% | 18% |
| Neither agree nor disagree..... | 32% | 34% | 24% | 31% |
| Disagree..... | 31% | 34% | 42% | 30% |
| Strongly disagree..... | 12% | 12% | 16% | 11% |
| Not sure..... | 15% | 8% | 3% | 7% |

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| | | Members | Elders | Pastors | Specialized Clergy |
|---------|---|---------|--------|---------|--------------------|
| Q14. | Do you agree or disagree? | | | | |
| (Cont.) | | | | | |
| b. | I would give more of my charitable contributions to fund specific PC(USA) mission projects if I knew how to make contributions for designated projects | | | | |
| | Strongly agree..... | 3% | 3% | 2% | 6% |
| | Agree | 20% | 22% | 21% | 23% |
| | Neither agree nor disagree..... | 31% | 35% | 27% | 33% |
| | Disagree..... | 24% | 25% | 37% | 25% |
| | Strongly disagree | 6% | 7% | 11% | 9% |
| | Not sure..... | 16% | 8% | 2% | 4% |
| c. | More financial support is needed to fund PC(USA) mission | | | | |
| | Strongly agree..... | 6% | 6% | 32% | 35% |
| | Agree | 28% | 42% | 49% | 47% |
| | Neither agree nor disagree..... | 34% | 28% | 10% | 11% |
| | Disagree..... | 6% | 7% | 5% | 3% |
| | Strongly disagree | 3% | 4% | 2% | — |
| | Not sure..... | 24% | 12% | 2% | 4% |
| d. | My session gives too much of its mission dollars to fund PC(USA) mission | | | | |
| | Strongly agree..... | 1% | 3% | 2% | 1% |
| | Agree | 7% | 4% | 3% | 2% |
| | Neither agree nor disagree..... | 33% | 28% | 9% | 16% |
| | Disagree..... | 24% | 43% | 47% | 40% |
| | Strongly disagree | 5% | 12% | 38% | 36% |
| | Not sure..... | 30% | 10% | 1% | 5% |
| e. | Since the PC(USA) is governed by a connectional system, governing bodies should be trusted to make the right decisions with the mission dollars given to them | | | | |
| | Strongly agree..... | 7% | 4% | 24% | 19% |
| | Agree | 44% | 48% | 48% | 54% |
| | Neither agree nor disagree..... | 21% | 20% | 9% | 11% |
| | Disagree..... | 8% | 15% | 11% | 8% |
| | Strongly disagree | 8% | 7% | 7% | 5% |
| | Not sure..... | 13% | 6% | 1% | 3% |
| f. | I am comfortable letting my presbytery make decisions about where to allocate the mission dollars it receives | | | | |
| | Strongly agree..... | 6% | 5% | 23% | 20% |
| | Agree | 52% | 55% | 54% | 57% |
| | Neither agree nor disagree..... | 13% | 16% | 9% | 9% |
| | Disagree..... | 13% | 14% | 9% | 9% |
| | Strongly disagree | 7% | 6% | 5% | 3% |
| | Not sure..... | 10% | 3% | 1% | 2% |
| g. | I am comfortable letting my synod make decisions about where to allocate the mission dollars it receives | | | | |
| | Strongly agree..... | 5% | 4% | 18% | 16% |
| | Agree | 44% | 45% | 41% | 46% |
| | Neither agree nor disagree..... | 16% | 20% | 14% | 13% |
| | Disagree..... | 14% | 18% | 15% | 16% |
| | Strongly disagree | 7% | 8% | 10% | 7% |
| | Not sure..... | 14% | 6% | 1% | 2% |

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| | Members | Elders | Pastors | Specialized Clergy |
|--|---------|--------|---------|--------------------|
| Q14. Do you agree or disagree? (Cont.) | | | | |
| h. I am comfortable letting the General Assembly/General Assembly Council make decisions about where to allocate the mission dollars they receive | | | | |
| Strongly agree..... | 5% | 4% | 20% | 21% |
| Agree | 40% | 40% | 45% | 50% |
| Neither agree nor disagree..... | 17% | 18% | 10% | 10% |
| Disagree..... | 17% | 18% | 13% | 10% |
| Strongly disagree..... | 10% | 15% | 11% | 7% |
| Not sure..... | 12% | 6% | 1% | 2% |
| Q15. When an individual makes a direct contribution to fund PC(USA) mission (for example, by sending a check directly to the General Assembly Council or to a specific mission program), should his or her congregation receive credit for the donation? | | | | |
| Yes, definitely | 39% | 44% | 42% | 33% |
| Yes, probably | 34% | 27% | 30% | 31% |
| No, probably not..... | 8% | 12% | 12% | 17% |
| No, definitely not | 3% | 4% | 4% | 5% |
| Not sure..... | 15% | 12% | 14% | 14% |
| Q16. Joining Hearts and Hands, A Mission Initiative is an effort to revitalize PC(USA) mission through raising \$40 million to fund new church development, congregational renewal (particularly for racial-ethnic and multicultural churches), and new international mission. Have you heard about this campaign? | | | | |
| Yes | 14% | 26% | 69% | 53% |
| No..... | 74% | 64% | 23% | 36% |
| Not sure..... | 12% | 10% | 9% | 11% |
| Q17. In general, do you think it is a good idea for the PC(USA) to conduct special-purpose campaigns to raise money for specific mission programs? | | | | |
| Yes, definitely | 15% | 21% | 29% | 32% |
| Yes, probably | 53% | 53% | 48% | 45% |
| No, probably not..... | 15% | 10% | 12% | 12% |
| No definitely not | 2% | 3% | 4% | 4% |
| Not sure..... | 16% | 14% | 7% | 6% |
| Q18. How appropriate is it to use each of the following approaches when raising money as part of a PC(USA) special-purpose campaign? | | | | |
| a. Asking sessions to donate to the campaign out of their regular budgets | | | | |
| Very appropriate..... | 9% | 7% | 24% | 27% |
| Generally appropriate | 31% | 37% | 42% | 42% |
| A little appropriate..... | 20% | 20% | 16% | 12% |
| Not appropriate | 31% | 32% | 17% | 15% |
| Not sure..... | 10% | 5% | 2% | 4% |
| b. Asking sessions to conduct a pledge drive for the campaign among their members | | | | |
| Very appropriate..... | 8% | 6% | 15% | 20% |
| Generally appropriate | 33% | 35% | 36% | 40% |
| A little appropriate..... | 28% | 27% | 23% | 23% |
| Not appropriate | 22% | 26% | 22% | 13% |
| Not sure..... | 10% | 6% | 3% | 4% |

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| | Members | Elders | Pastors | Specialized Clergy |
|--|---------|--------|---------|--------------------|
| Q18. (Cont.) How appropriate is it to use each of the following approaches when raising money as part of a PC(USA) special-purpose campaign? | | | | |
| c. Asking sessions to share information about the campaign with their members | | | | |
| Very appropriate | 40% | 39% | 51% | 61% |
| Generally appropriate | 46% | 52% | 39% | 30% |
| A little appropriate | 8% | 5% | 6% | 5% |
| Not appropriate | 1% | 1% | 3% | 2% |
| Not sure..... | 5% | 3% | 1% | 2% |
| d. Approaching individuals directly to ask for donations to the campaign | | | | |
| Very appropriate | 5% | 5% | 19% | 26% |
| Generally appropriate | 27% | 32% | 35% | 37% |
| A little appropriate..... | 22% | 26% | 23% | 20% |
| Not appropriate | 38% | 31% | 21% | 14% |
| Not sure..... | 8% | 6% | 2% | 3% |
| e. Asking presbyteries to donate to the campaign out of their regular budgets | | | | |
| Very appropriate | 5% | 7% | 19% | 22% |
| Generally appropriate | 30% | 33% | 35% | 39% |
| A little appropriate..... | 22% | 24% | 21% | 18% |
| Not appropriate | 29% | 28% | 21% | 15% |
| Not sure..... | 13% | 9% | 3% | 6% |
| f. Asking synods to donate to the campaign out of their regular budgets | | | | |
| Very appropriate | 5% | 7% | 19% | 22% |
| Generally appropriate | 31% | 33% | 34% | 34% |
| A little appropriate..... | 21% | 23% | 18% | 17% |
| Not appropriate | 25% | 26% | 23% | 18% |
| Not sure..... | 17% | 11% | 5% | 9% |
| g. Approaching foundations to ask for donations | | | | |
| Very appropriate | 22% | 26% | 47% | 54% |
| Generally appropriate | 39% | 48% | 39% | 28% |
| A little appropriate..... | 16% | 12% | 8% | 10% |
| Not appropriate | 9% | 6% | 3% | 4% |
| Not sure..... | 14% | 8% | 3% | 4% |

Q19. In column (1), indicate whether or not a representative of each organization listed below has spoken in your congregation during the past two years. Then, for those you mark “yes,” indicate in column (2) whether the representative asked for or encouraged contributions to his or her organization while speaking in your church.

| | | | | |
|--|------|------|------|------|
| a. National offices in Louisville | | | | |
| A representative of this organization spoke in my church in the last two years | | | | + |
| Don't know | 37% | 15% | 4% | 18% |
| No..... | 59% | 79% | 88% | 67% |
| Yes | 4% | 6% | 9% | 14% |
| [If “Yes,”] The representative asked for/encouraged contributions | | | | + |
| | n=12 | n=28 | n=38 | n=33 |
| Don't know | 17% | 27% | 8% | 14% |
| No..... | 17% | 42% | 57% | 45% |
| Yes | 67% | 31% | 35% | 41% |

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| | | Members | Elders | Pastors | Specialized Clergy |
|---------|--|---------|--------|---------|--------------------|
| Q19. | In column (1), indicate whether or not a representative of each organization listed below has spoken in your congregation during the past two years. Then, for those you mark "yes," indicate in column (2) whether the representative asked for or encouraged contributions to his or her organization while speaking in your church. | | | | |
| (Cont.) | | | | | |
| b. | Presbyterian Foundation | | | | |
| | A representative of this organization spoke in my church in the last two years | | | | + |
| | Don't know | 41% | 19% | 4% | 21% |
| | No..... | 53% | 65% | 72% | 57% |
| | Yes | 7% | 16% | 24% | 22% |
| | [If "Yes,"] The representative asked for/encouraged contributions | | | | |
| | | + | + | | + |
| | | n=20 | n=76 | n=105 | n=50 |
| | Don't know | 19% | 18% | 4% | 9% |
| | No..... | 12% | 9% | 16% | 19% |
| | Yes | 69% | 72% | 80% | 72% |
| c. | Your synod | | | | |
| | A representative of this organization spoke in my church in the last two years | | | | + |
| | Don't know | 41% | 20% | 6% | 20% |
| | No..... | 50% | 68% | 87% | 67% |
| | Yes | 9% | 12% | 7% | 13% |
| | [If "Yes,"] The representative asked for/encouraged contributions | | | | |
| | | + | + | | + |
| | | n=28 | n=54 | n=31 | n=30 |
| | Don't know | 50% | 38% | 3% | 20% |
| | No..... | 25% | 24% | 55% | 12% |
| | Yes | 25% | 38% | 41% | 68% |
| d. | Your presbytery | | | | |
| | A representative of this organization spoke in my church in the last two years | | | | |
| | Don't know | 38% | 16% | 6% | 11% |
| | No..... | 26% | 30% | 28% | 26% |
| | Yes | 37% | 54% | 65% | 62% |
| | [If "Yes,"] The representative asked for/encouraged contributions | | | | |
| | | + | + | + | |
| | | n=111 | n=257 | n=287 | n=145 |
| | Don't know | 30% | 26% | 7% | 20% |
| | No..... | 39% | 40% | 49% | 37% |
| | Yes | 32% | 33% | 44% | 42% |
| e. | Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship | | | | |
| | A representative of this organization spoke in my church in the last two years | | | | + |
| | Don't know | 44% | 20% | 4% | 22% |
| | No..... | 55% | 76% | 88% | 77% |
| | Yes | 1% | 4% | 8% | 1% |

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| | Members | Elders | Pastors | Specialized Clergy |
|---|--|--------|---------|--------------------|
| Q19. (Cont.) | In column (1), indicate whether or not a representative of each organization listed below has spoken in your congregation during the past two years. Then, for those you mark "yes," indicate in column (2) whether the representative asked for or encouraged contributions to his or her organization while speaking in your church. | | | |
| e. Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship (Cont.) | [If "Yes,"] The representative asked for/encouraged contributions | | | |
| | + | + | | + |
| | n=3 | n=17 | n=34 | n=3 |
| Don't know | 50% | 20% | 6% | — |
| No..... | — | 7% | 19% | — |
| Yes | 50% | 73% | 74% | 100% |
| f. Medical Benevolence Foundation | A representative of this organization spoke in my church in the last two years | | | |
| | + | | | + |
| Don't know | 43% | 18% | 4% | 17% |
| No..... | 54% | 75% | 88% | 76% |
| Yes | 3% | 7% | 8% | 7% |
| | [If "Yes,"] The representative asked for/encouraged contributions | | | |
| | + | + | + | + |
| | n=10 | n=33 | n=37 | n=17 |
| Don't know | — | 12% | — | 7% |
| No..... | 12% | 8% | — | 13% |
| Yes | 88% | 81% | 100% | 80% |
| g. Outreach Foundation of the PC(USA) | A representative of this organization spoke in my church in the last two years | | | |
| | | | | + |
| Don't know | 44% | 21% | 4% | 20% |
| No..... | 51% | 73% | 92% | 76% |
| Yes | 5% | 6% | 5% | 4% |
| | [If "Yes,"] The representative asked for/encouraged contributions | | | |
| | + | + | + | + |
| | n=14 | n=27 | n=21 | n=9 |
| Don't know | 33% | 9% | 12% | — |
| No..... | 17% | 22% | 25% | 14% |
| Yes | 50% | 70% | 62% | 86% |
| h. World Vision | A representative of this organization spoke in my church in the last two years | | | |
| | | | | + |
| Don't know | 40% | 19% | 2% | 15% |
| No..... | 50% | 68% | 93% | 79% |
| Yes | 10% | 12% | 5% | 6% |
| | [If "Yes,"] The representative asked for/encouraged contributions | | | |
| | + | + | + | + |
| | n=31 | n=57 | n=21 | n=13 |
| Don't know | 9% | 10% | — | 9% |
| No..... | 9% | 8% | 35% | 9% |
| Yes | 83% | 82% | 65% | 82% |

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Q19. In column (1), indicate whether or not a representative of each organization listed below has spoken in your congregation during the past two years. Then, for those you mark “yes,” indicate in column (2) whether the representative asked for or encouraged contributions to his or her organization while speaking in your church.

| | | | | | |
|--|------------------|------|-------|------|------|
| i. Campus Crusade for Christ | | | | | |
| A representative of this organization spoke in my church in the last two years | | | | | |
| | Don't know | 39% | 18% | 3% | 15% |
| | No..... | 53% | 71% | 91% | 82% |
| | Yes | 8% | 11% | 6% | 3% |
| [If “Yes,”] The representative asked for/encouraged contributions | | | | | |
| | | | + | + | + |
| | | n=23 | n=53 | n=27 | n=7 |
| | Don't know | 9% | 16% | — | — |
| | No..... | 14% | 16% | 14% | 17% |
| | Yes | 77% | 68% | 86% | 83% |
| j. A seminary | | | | | |
| A representative of this organization spoke in my church in the last two years | | | | | |
| | Don't know | 35% | 17% | 4% | 16% |
| | No..... | 46% | 59% | 78% | 54% |
| | Yes | 19% | 24% | 19% | 30% |
| [If “Yes,”] The representative asked for/encouraged contributions | | | | | |
| | | | + | + | |
| | | n=58 | n=115 | n=81 | n=67 |
| | Don't know | 21% | 16% | 1% | 13% |
| | No..... | 38% | 30% | 28% | 30% |
| | Yes | 40% | 54% | 71% | 57% |

Q20. Can you think of anything that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) does that excites you and makes you think about giving more money to fund Christ’s mission through the PC(USA)?

| | | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Yes | 16% | 19% | 53% | 48% |
| No..... | 58% | 60% | 30% | 31% |
| Not sure..... | 25% | 22% | 17% | 21% |

[If “Yes,”] Please specify: [Not tabulated]

Q21. Please use the space below for additional comments.

[Not tabulated]

Response form:

| | | | | |
|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Paper..... | 84% | 80% | 73% | 67% |
| Web | 16% | 20% | 27% | 31% |

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