



The Presbyterian Panel

Listening to Presbyterians



REPORT

Immigrant Ministries and Immigration Issues The August 2011 Survey

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A Ministry of the Presbyterian Mission Agency

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

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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.): elders (“lay” leaders) currently serving on session, other members of congregations, and ministers of the Word and Sacrament. (The session is the governing body in Presbyterian congregations.) For analysis, ministers are split into two groups based on current call: *pastors*, serving congregations, and *specialized clergy*, serving elsewhere. New samples are drawn every three years. 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 *Religious and Demographic Profile of Presbyterians, 2008: Findings from the Initial Survey of the 2009-2011 Presbyterian Panel* (www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/research/pdfs/fall08panel.pdf).

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.

Current Survey

The current survey is the twelfth completed by the 2009-2011 Panel. Questionnaires were distributed on August 8, 2011. Most panelists received their copy by U.S. mail, but a subset in each sample who had signed up for the service was notified via email (members, 23%; elders, 29%; ministers, 39%). All non-respondents were sent a postcard reminder on August 29, 2011, and again on October 7, 2011. In addition, panelists who had received initial notification of the survey via email but who had not yet responded received email reminders on August 16, 2011, and September 13, 2011. Returns were accepted through November 21, 2011.

Response rates for this survey are: members, 42%; elders, 43%; ministers, 47%. All panelists had the option of completing the survey on the web, and 34% of responding members, 44% of responding elders, 55% of responding pastors, and 50% of responding specialized clergy did so.

Sponsor and Topic

This survey was sponsored jointly by the General Assembly Mission Council’s New Immigrant Congregational Support office and the Office of the General Assembly. The two offices sought to learn more about immigrant Presbyterians, Presbyterian worshiping communities with sizeable immigrant populations, and congregational outreach ministries among immigrants. The two offices also wanted to ascertain Presbyterians’ beliefs about the effects of immigration on the United States and their opinions about possible new immigration policies.

This Report

The first half of this report uses text and graphics to summarize and explicate findings. A full list of survey questions and responses follows with tables that display the percentage distribution of responses to every question for each of the four Panel groups. Results are subject to sampling and other errors. In general, differences of less than 8% are not statistically meaningful.

Some analyses in this report, including those using political party identification (Figure 10, p. 8), rely on responses of panelists to the initial questionnaire they completed in the fall of 2008. For more information on this earlier survey and responses of panelists to these questions, see the *Religious and Demographic Profile of Presbyterians, 2008* (www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/research/pdfs/fall08panel.pdf).

OVERVIEW

Suggested Citation

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Author Note

Perry Chang developed the questionnaire, and wrote this report along with Deborah Coe and Jack Marcum. They were assisted by other staff members of the office of Research Services. At the time of the survey, Perry Chang was the Panel Administrator; at the time this report was published, Deborah Coe held that position.

Staff of Research Services

At the time of the survey, staff included Jack Marcum, Coordinator; Deborah Bruce; Perry Chang; Katherine Duncan; Joelle Kopacz; Rebecca Moody; Christy Riggs; Ida Smith-Williams. At the time this report was published, Deborah Bruce and Perry Chang were no longer on staff and Deborah Coe had joined.

Changing Terminology

On July 10, 2011, the part of the church's constitution dealing with governance was replaced with a new version that changed some common church terms. In particular, "ministers of the Word and Sacrament" are now also known as "teaching elders," and the former "elders" are now "ruling elders." This report uses the older terms because they were in effect at the time the Panel participants were sampled.

Additional Copies

Additional copies of this *Report* may be purchased for \$10 from Presbyterian Distribution Services (PDS)—call 800-524-2612 and request item #20056-11313. This *Report* is also available on the web for free download in Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format; go to www.pcusa.org/research/panel/ 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 website. Inquire about quantity discounts on printed copies of either this *Report* or its *Summary* (800-728-7228, ext. 2040, or panel@pcusa.org).

Panel on the Web

Summaries and *Reports* of Panel surveys since 1993 and a listing of all surveys since the first Panel was created in 1973 are available at the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) website: www.pcusa.org/research/panel.

Interested in Learning More About Your Congregation or Presbytery?

- ✓ ***Ten-Year Trend Report for Congregations***—available for free: www.pcusa.org/tenyeartrends.
- ✓ ***Ten-Year Trend Report for Presbyteries***—available for free: www.pcusa.org/tenyeartrends.
- ✓ Research Services can help conduct a congregational survey to learn more about worshipers and identify congregational strengths. Call 800-728-7228, ext. 2040, and ask about the ***U.S. Congregational Life Survey*** or visit: www.USCongregations.org.
- ✓ ***Neighborhood Demographic Report***—provides a quick look at the people who live in the area around a congregation or another location; available for free: www.pcusa.org/research/demographics.
- ✓ ***Religious Congregations & Membership Study***—provides information about the religious affiliations of people who live in any county in the country, including yours; available for free; see rcms2010.org or www.thearda.com/rcms2010.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Fewer than 5% in every Panel group are themselves immigrants. Somewhat more, but still relatively few—9% in every group—have a parent or spouse who is a refugee or other immigrant. (p. 1)
- ✓ One in six members, one-quarter of elders, and three in ten ministers have a refugee or other immigrant among their closest friends. (p. 1)
- ✓ Fewer than one in five elders report that some people in their congregation are immigrants. (p. 2)
- ✓ Among five types of outreach ministries with immigrants listed in the questionnaire, a Bible study that includes immigrants is the one in which the most elders report their congregation is involved. (p. 2)
- ✓ Only very small shares of members are involved in each of six types of activities with immigrants, with the most, 8%, indicating that they staff an after-school program in which immigrants participate. Somewhat more pastors are involved in such activities, with 22% participating in a Bible study with immigrants. (p. 2)
- ✓ Large majorities of panelists rate ministry with *documented* immigrants to be as important for the PC(USA) as six other types of ministry (with youth, young adults, homeless people, those with disabilities, and the unchurched). Many fewer, however, rate ministries with *undocumented* immigrants to be as important. (p. 3)
- ✓ One in six elders report that their congregation shares facilities with at least one other Presbyterian congregation or worshiping community. About half of these elders report that immigrants make up *most or all* of the people involved in the other congregation. (p. 4)
- ✓ Around one in 12 elders indicate that their congregation is involved in a formal partnership with another local Presbyterian worshiping community in which some of the participants are immigrants. (p. 4)
- ✓ Of seven biblical passages listed on the questionnaire, Genesis 1:26-27 (God created people in God's image) is the one that the most panelists in each group report is important for their understanding of contemporary immigration and refugee issues. (p. 5.)
- ✓ Majorities of panelists in each group believe the overall impact of the cultural diversification of the United States caused by the flow of people into this country from other countries in recent decades has been positive. (p. 6)
- ✓ Around half or more of members but only around one-third of ministers believe the presence of undocumented immigrants is responsible to a considerable extent for each of five social problems in the United States: the high cost of public education, disrespect for the law, low wages, violent crime, and unemployment. (p. 6)
- ✓ About three in five members and elders but only about half as many ministers would approve of encouraging state and local law enforcement officers to enforce federal immigration laws and of punishing businesses that employ undocumented immigrants—two measures to enforce immigration laws that are key parts of an Arizona law that several other states have subsequently mimicked. (p. 6)
- ✓ Small majorities of members and elders and about three-quarters of ministers would approve of the federal government creating a mechanism to legalize the status of undocumented immigrants who first arrived in the United States as children. (p. 7)
- ✓ In all Panel groups more Democrats than Independents, and more Independents than Republicans, approve of the federal government creating a way for legalizing the status of undocumented immigrants who arrived in the United States as children. (p. 8)
- ✓ More Republicans than Democrats or Independents would approve of a package of three immigration-control measures: encouraging local and state law-enforcement officers to enforce federal immigration laws, punishing businesses that hire undocumented workers, and punishing people who assist undocumented immigrants. (p. 8)

IMMIGRANT STATUS AND LINKS WITH IMMIGRANTS

Citizenship and Language¹

- ✓ A very small percentage of panelists in each group are immigrants who have become U.S. citizens (members, 2%; elders, 1%; pastors, 3%; specialized clergy, 4%).
- ✓ Even fewer panelists are not U.S. citizens (1% in each group), and fewer than one in ten panelists speak a language other than English at home some of the time.
- ✓ Among the subset of members, pastors, and specialized clergy who speak a language other than English some of the time, around half speak Spanish (members, 54%; pastors, 48%; specialized clergy, 44%). Only one in six elders who use another language speak Spanish (17%).

Family and Friends

- ✓ Only a few panelists have a close family member who is an immigrant:
 - The panelist's mother (members, 6%; elders, 5%; pastors, 4%; specialized clergy, 3%).
 - The panelist's father (6%; 4%; 4%; 4%).
 - The panelist's spouse (3%; 4%; 6%; 6%).
- ✓ Overall, 9% of panelists in each group report a spouse or parent (in some cases, all three) who is an immigrant.
- ✓ More, however, report an immigrant or refugee in their family when both immediate and extended relatives are included: One in six members (14%) and elders (16%), and one in four pastors (22%) and specialized clergy (23%) so report.
- ✓ One in six members (17%), one-quarter of elders (23%), and three in ten ministers (pastors, 28%; specialized clergy, 30%) have a refugee or other immigrant among their closest friends.
- ✓ Having a close friend or workplace colleague who is an immigrant is positively related to education level among elders, but not among members:²
 - Almost a third of elders with a graduate degree report having a close friend who is an immigrant (31%), compared to 18% of those without such a degree.
 - More than half of elders with a graduate degree report a workplace colleague who is an immigrant (53%), compared to fewer than half that share among elders without such a degree (25%).

Other Connections with Immigrants

- ✓ Half or more of ministers but fewer members and elders report that a refugee or other immigrant:
 - Owns and operates a business the panelist patronizes (members, 36%; elders, 40%; pastors, 60%; specialized clergy, 68%).
 - Lives in the panelist's neighborhood (28%; 33%; 50%; 55%).
- ✓ Among panelists who are employed, around a third of members (33%) and elders (37%) and even more specialized clergy (43%), but only 18% of pastors, indicate that a refugee or other immigrant is employed at their workplace.
- ✓ Among elders but not members education is positively associated with living in the same neighborhood as immigrants or patronizing a business owned by an immigrant:
 - Almost half of elders with a graduate degree report an immigrant living in their neighborhood (46%), compared to only about half as many of those without such a degree (25%).
 - More than half of elders with a graduate degree report patronizing a business owned by an immigrant (53%), compared to less than one-third among those without such a degree (29%).

¹Figures for immigrants and foreign language speakers among PC(USA) members and elders are conservative because Panel questionnaires are made available only in English. Also, there are many immigrant-majority, PC(USA)-related worshiping communities that are not official, chartered congregations, and only official congregations are used as sources for the Panel samples of members and elders.

²Only members and elders are examined because of the lack of variation in education levels among ministers: all have a graduate degree.

OTHER ENGAGEMENT WITH IMMIGRANTS

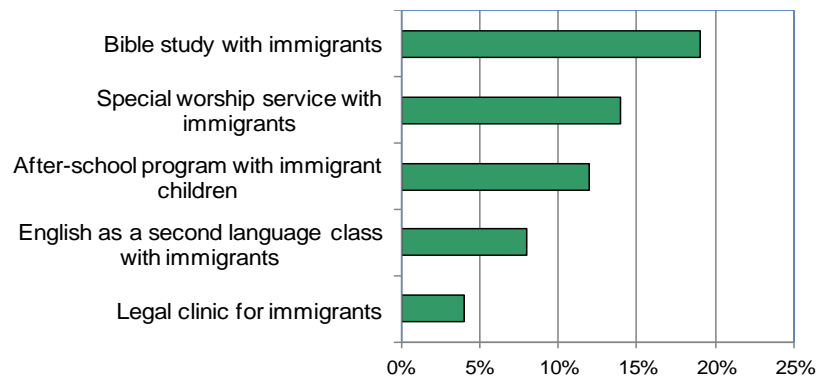
Congregational Characteristics

- ✓ One in six elders (15%) report that some people in their congregation or other worshipping community³ are immigrants.
- ✓ Only 5% of elders report that a language other than English is used in some activities of their congregation. Three in five in this small subset indicate that Spanish is used (62%).

Congregational Ministries with Immigrants

- ✓ Of five types of outreach ministries among immigrants listed in the questionnaire, a Bible study that includes immigrants is the one that the most elders (19%) report their congregation is involved in. (See Figure 1).
- ✓ One in eight elders reports that their congregation is engaged in one of two outreach programs that include immigrants:
 - Special worship service that includes immigrants (14%).
 - After-school program that includes immigrant children (12%).
- ✓ Fewer than one in ten elders report that their congregation is involved in two other forms of immigrant outreach:
 - English as a second language class that includes immigrants (8%).
 - Legal clinic for immigrants (4%).

Figure 1. Congregational Involvement in an Outreach Ministry among Immigrants (Elders' Responses)



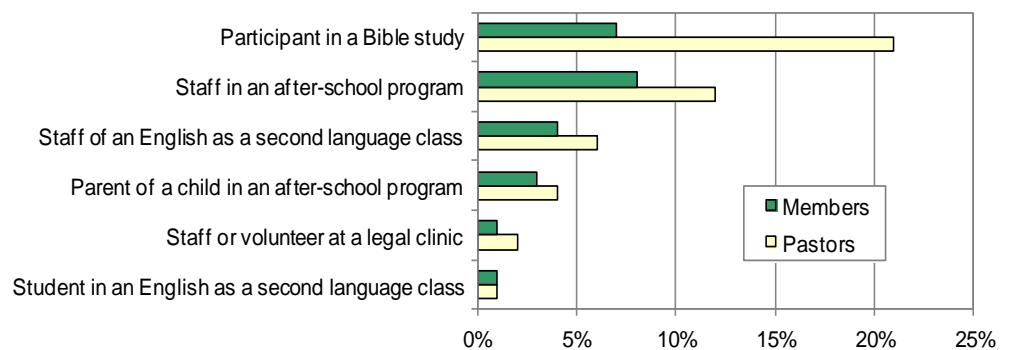
- ✓ A similarly small percentage of elders (6%) report (in response to “other (specify)”) that their congregation is engaged in one or more other forms of outreach ministry among immigrants. These forms of ministry include having a preschool that serves immigrant children and sponsoring a refugee family.
- ✓ Congregational size is associated with the presence of only one of the six types of ministries among immigrants asked about on the survey: More larger⁴ (15%) than mid-sized (6%), and more mid-sized than smaller (3%), congregations report having an English-as-a-second-language class.

Personal Involvement with Immigrants

- ✓ Of six activities in which they could be personally involved with immigrants, more ministers report participating in a Bible study that includes immigrants than in any other. One in five pastors (21%) and one in eight specialized clergy (14%) indicate that they currently participate in such a Bible study. Only 7% of members and elders do so. (See Figure 2.)

- ✓ One in eight pastors (12%) is currently involved as a teacher, other staff member, or volunteer in an after-school program that includes immigrant children. Only 8% of members, elders, and specialized clergy help to staff such a program.

Figure 2. Personal Involvement in Programs That Include Immigrants



³The questionnaire used the term “congregation or other local Presbyterian worshipping community.” Throughout the rest of the report the term “congregation” is often used as shorthand.

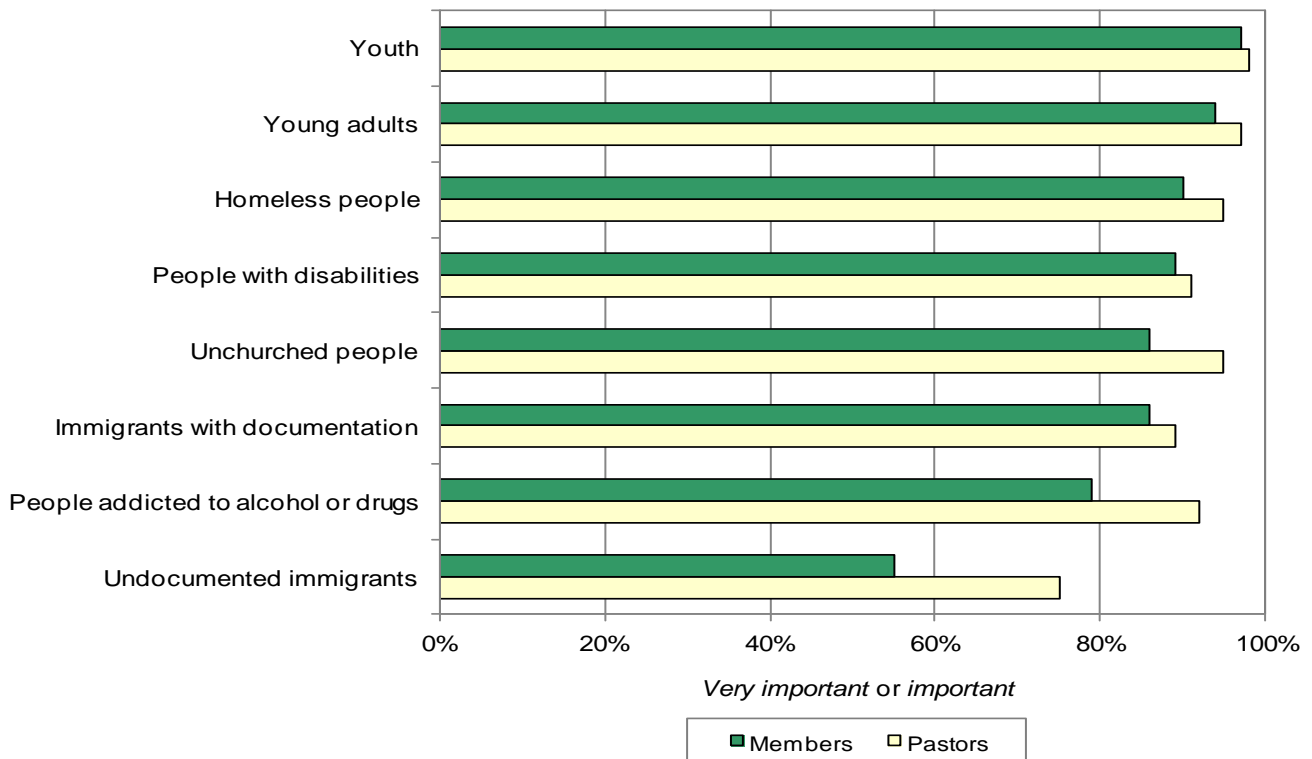
⁴The congregations represented by elders were divided into three equal-sized groupings. Larger congregations have 335 or more members; mid-sized, 145 to 344 members; and smaller, 144 or fewer members.

PRIORITIES FOR MINISTRY WITH IMMIGRANTS

Priorities for PC(USA) Ministries

- ✓ Among eight ministries listed in the questionnaire, seven are rated as *very important* or *important* for the denomination by more than three-quarters of panelists in each group. Ministry with immigrants with documentation is one of those seven, while ministry with undocumented immigrants is not. The seven *very important* or *important* ministries are those with (see Figure 3):
 - youth (members, 97%; elders, 97%; pastors, 98%; specialized clergy, 98%).
 - young adults (94%; 97%; 97%; 98%).
 - homeless people (90%; 93%; 95%; 92%).
 - people with disabilities (89%; 92%; 91%; 94%).
 - unchurched people (86%; 93%; 95%; 88%).
 - immigrants with documentation (86%; 86%; 89%; 91%).
 - people addicted to alcohol or drugs (79%; 82%; 92%; 88%).

Figure 3. Importance for the PC(USA) of Ministries among Various Constituencies



- ✓ For the eighth ministry, with undocumented immigrants, three-quarters or more of ministers (pastors, 75%; specialized clergy, 83%) rate it as *very important* or *important* for the denomination, compared to much smaller majorities of members (55%) and elders (54%).

Definitions of Immigrants and Refugees Given to Panelists on the Questionnaire

Immigrants are people residing in the United States or one of its territories (including Puerto Rico) who were born abroad to parents who were not U.S. citizens. Immigrants may be citizens (naturalized) or non-citizens (including both legal residents with a “green card” and undocumented immigrants).

Immigrants include **refugees** (those allowed legal residence because they faced political, racial-ethnic, religious, or social persecution), but exclude people who have permission to reside here only temporarily (such as students, tourists, or temporary workers).

CONGREGATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Space Sharing

- ✓ One in six elders (17%) report that their congregation shares facilities with at least one other Presbyterian congregation or worshiping community.
- ✓ Of this subset of elders:
 - Four in five report that their congregation shares facilities with only one other worshiping community (81%).
 - Almost half indicate that the other worshiping community or communities are new church developments (49%).
 - A similar share reports that immigrants make up *most or all* of the people involved in the other congregation (48%).
 - Two in five (38%) indicate that at least one of the other worshiping communities pays rent to use the facilities.

Congregational Partnerships

- ✓ One in six elders report that their congregation is involved in some sort of formal partnership with another local Presbyterian congregation (17%). A slight majority of these elders report that the partnership includes sharing facilities (53%).
- ✓ Four in ten of the elders whose congregations are involved in formal partnerships with one or more other local Presbyterian worshiping communities report that *most or all* (31%) or *some* (10%) of the participants in at least one of the other communities are immigrants.

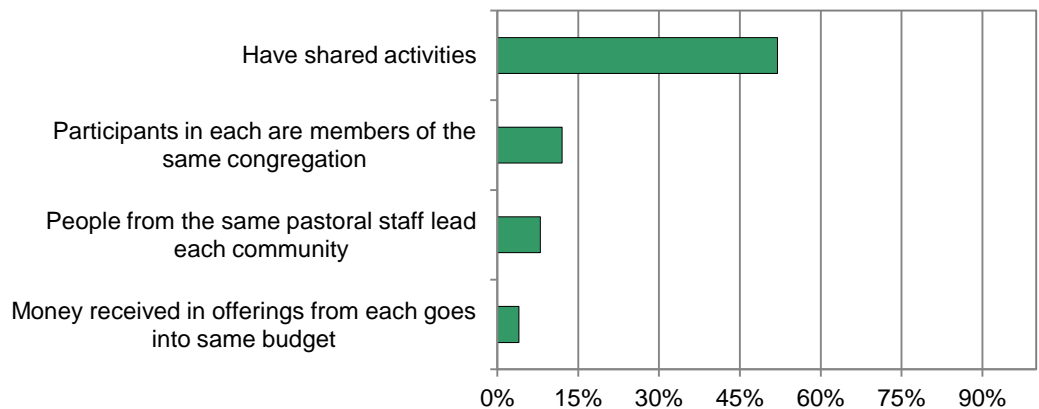
Partnership Dynamics

- ✓ Among elders whose congregation is in a formal partnership with another local Presbyterian congregation whose participants include immigrants,⁵ a small majority (52%) report that the two communities have shared activities. (See Figure 4.)

- ✓ Among elders whose congregation is partnered with another local Presbyterian worshiping community that includes some immigrants, 12% or fewer indicate that the two communities cooperate in three other ways:

- Participants in each are members of the same PC(USA) congregation (12%).
- People from the same pastoral staff lead each community (8%).
- Money received in offerings from each goes into the same budget (4%).

Figure 4. Forms of Partnership among Worshiping Communities Whose Participants Include Some Immigrants (Elders' Responses)



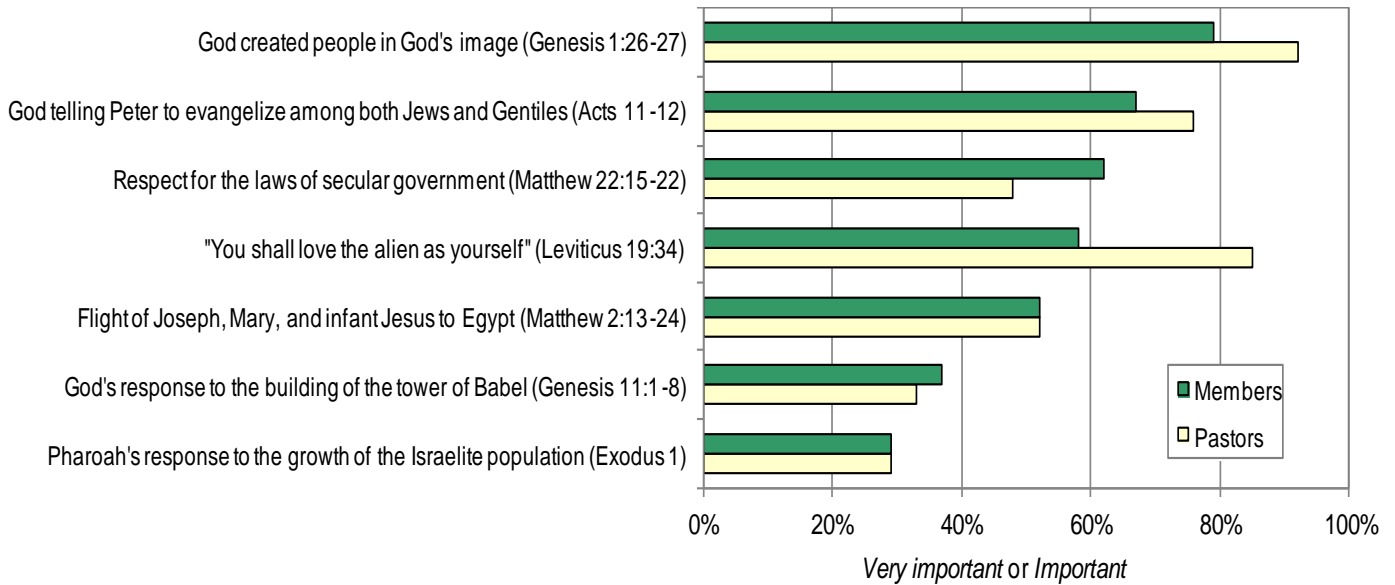
- ✓ Of elders from congregations in partnership with another local Presbyterian congregation or other worshiping community whose participants include immigrants, two in five (41%) report that their congregation is the leading partner. A quarter (23%) report that the partner communities share equally in decision making. One in ten (9%) indicates that the other community is the leading partner. Of the rest, 9% respond *other*, and 23%, *not sure*.

⁵In these congregations, *much or all* or *some* of the participants are immigrants; there may be a few immigrants in the other 48% of this subset of congregations, but the response option “few” was combined with that of “none” (*few or none*), so these congregations cannot be separately identified.

Influential Bible Passages

- ✓ Of seven biblical passages, Genesis 1: 26-27 (God created people in God’s image) is the one that the most panelists in each group (members, 79%; elders, 83%; pastors, 92%; specialized clergy, 93%) report is *very important* or *important* for their understanding of contemporary immigration and refugee issues. (See Figure 5.)

Figure 5. Importance of Selected Biblical Passages to Panelists’ Understanding of Contemporary Immigration and Refugee Issues



- ✓ Acts 11-12 (God telling Peter to evangelize among both Jewish and non-Jewish people) is *very important* or *important* for the understanding of contemporary immigration issues for between two-thirds and three-quarters of panelists in each group (members, 67%; elders, 72%; pastors, 76%; specialized clergy, 68%).
- ✓ Five in six ministers (pastors, 85%; specialized clergy, 89%)—but somewhat fewer members (58%) and elders (65%)—report that the biblical passage that reads “the alien who resides among you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself” (Leviticus 19:34) is *very important* or *important* for their understanding of contemporary immigration issues.

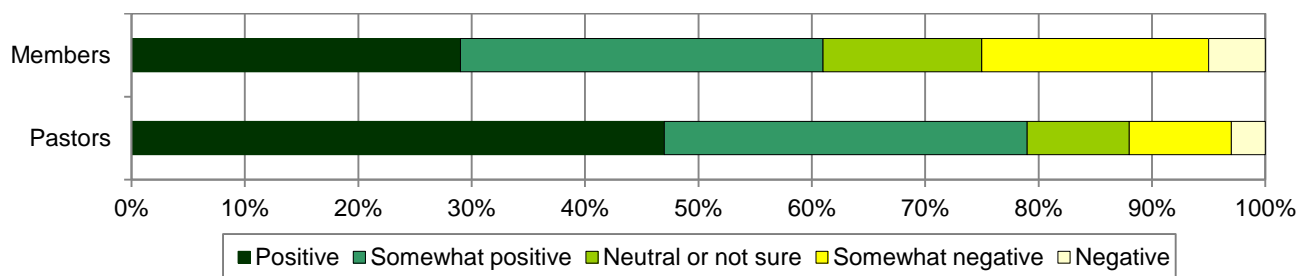
Theological Orientation and Bible Passages

- ✓ Regarding Matthew 22:15-22 (respect for laws of secular government), in three of the four Panel groups there are statistically significant differences in the reported importance of this passage associated with self-identified theological orientation. In all three, a higher percentage of theological conservatives than theological moderates, and a higher percentage of theological moderates than theological liberals, report that this passage is *very important* or *important* for their understanding of contemporary immigration and refugee issues:
 - Elders: conservatives, 74%; moderates, 58%; liberals, 46%.
 - Pastors: 62%; 52%; 31%.
 - Specialized clergy: 82%; 49%; 32%.
- ✓ For four other passages, there are also statistically significant differences in reported importance by categories of theological orientation, but those differences are each found in only one of the Panel groups:
 - Matthew 2:13-24 (the flight to Egypt), for members: among conservatives, 56% respond *very important* or *important*; among moderates, 55%; and among liberals, 37%.
 - Leviticus 19:34 (loving the alien), for pastors: 77%; 84%; and 91%.
 - Genesis 1:26-27 (humans created in God’s image), for pastors: 84%; 92%; 97%.
 - Genesis 11:1-8 (tower of Babel), for specialized clergy: 61%; 24%; 37%.

Cultural Diversification

- ✓ Three in five members (61%) and elders (61%), four in five pastors (79%), and seven in eight specialized clergy (86%) believe that the overall effect of the cultural diversification of the United States resulting from the flow of people into the country from other countries in recent decades has been *positive* or *somewhat positive*. (See Figure 6.)

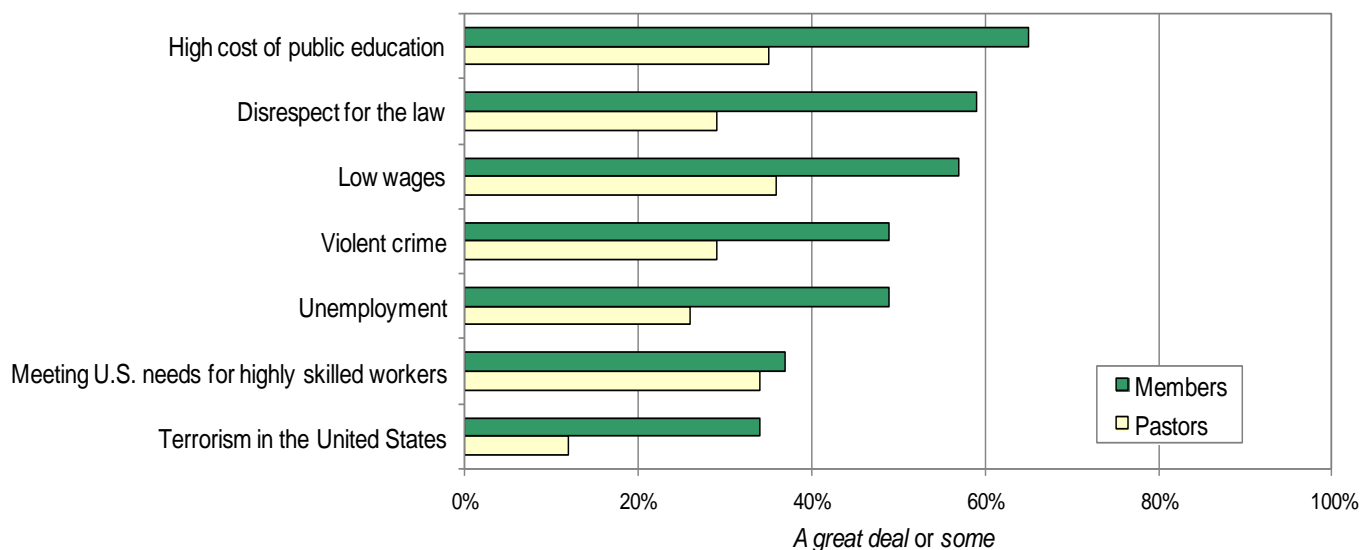
Figure 6. Effect of the Cultural Diversification Brought about by Immigration



Effects of Undocumented Immigration

- ✓ Half or more of members and elders but many fewer ministers believe that the presence of undocumented immigrants in the United States is responsible *a great deal* or *some* for (see Figure 7):
 - The high cost of public education (members, 65%; elders, 60%; pastors, 35%; specialized clergy, 31%).
 - Disrespect for the law (59%; 54%; 29%; 23%).
 - Low wages (57%; 50%; 36%; 37%).

Figure 7. Extent to Which Panelists Believe the Presence of Undocumented Immigrants Is Responsible for Various Phenomena in U.S. Society



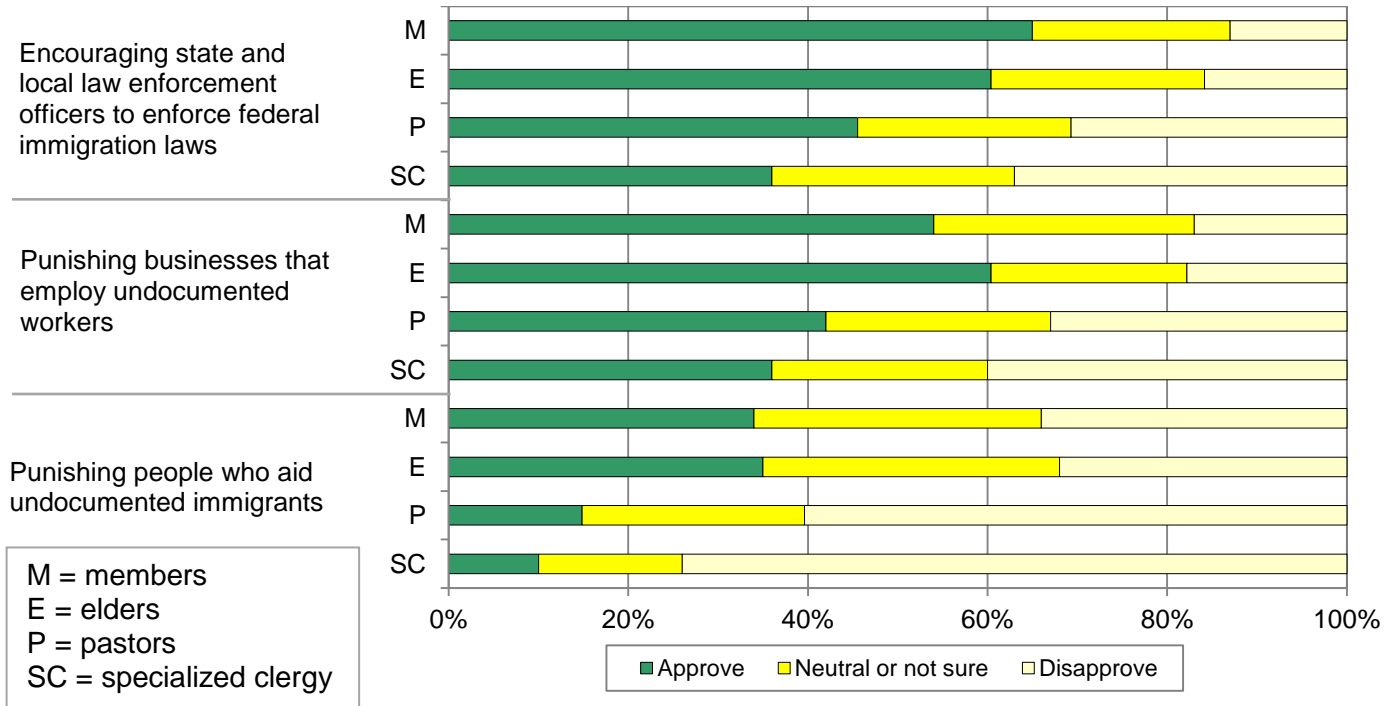
State Immigration Laws

- ✓ About three in five members and elders but only about half as many ministers would approve of two measures to enforce immigration laws that are key parts of an Arizona law that several other states have subsequently mimicked (see Figure 8, next page):
 - Encouraging state and local law enforcement officers to enforce federal immigration laws (members, 65%; elders, 61%; pastors, 46%; specialized clergy, 36%).
 - Punishing businesses that employ undocumented immigrants (54%; 61%; 42%; 36%).

State Immigration Laws [cont.]

- ✓ Only about one-third of members (34%) and elders (35%) and fewer than half as many ministers (pastors, 15%; specialized clergy, 10%) would approve of another key provision of the Arizona law: punishing people who assist undocumented immigrants. (See Figure 8.)

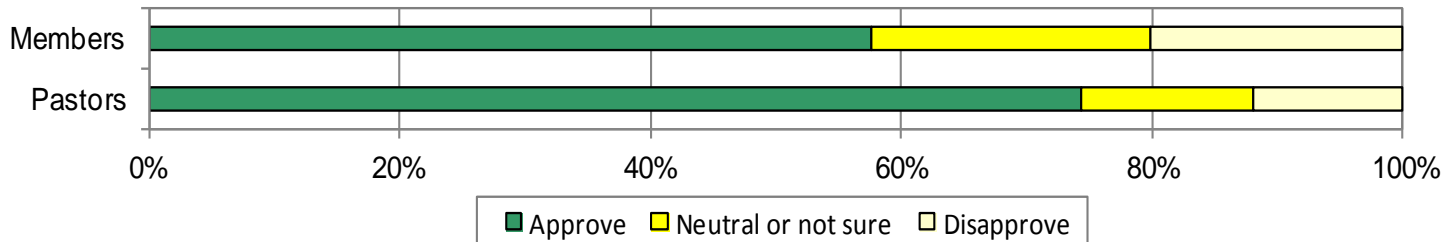
Figure 8. Opinions about Elements of State Immigration Law Enforcement Measures



The DREAM Act

- ✓ Small majorities of members (57%) and elders (51%) and three-quarters or more of ministers (pastors, 75%; specialized clergy, 80%) would approve of the federal government creating a mechanism to legalize the citizenship status of undocumented immigrants who first arrived in the United States as children (a key provision of the DREAM Act). (See Figure 9).

Figure 9. View of Creating a Way for Undocumented Immigrants Who Arrived as Children to Legalize Their Status



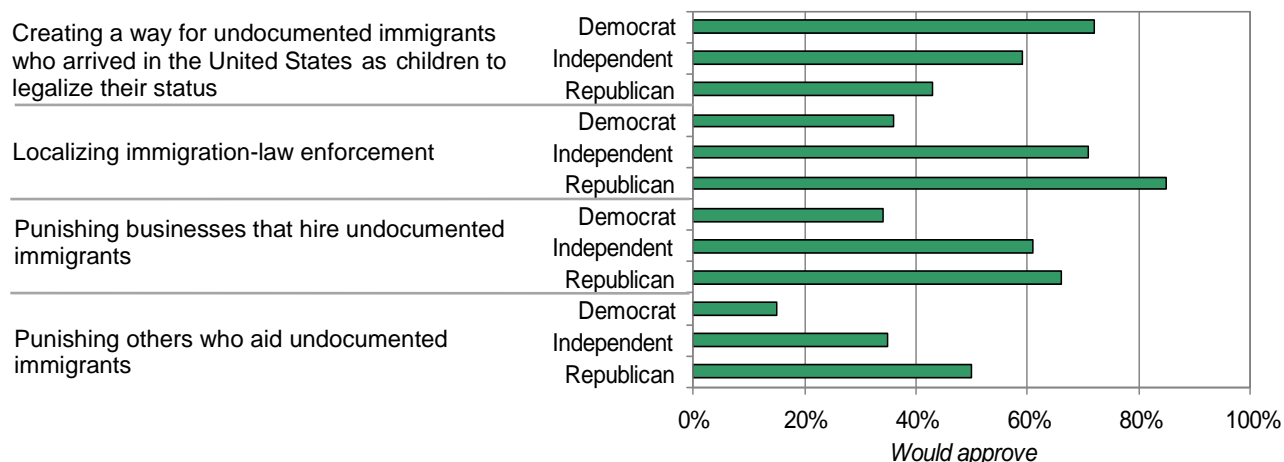
- ✓ Of the rest, more are *neutral or not sure* (members, 22%; elders, 25%; pastors, 14%; specialized clergy, 11%) than disapprove (20%; 24%; 12%; 9%).

Characteristics and Beliefs Associated with Opinions on Immigration Policy

Previous research has shown that younger Americans, Americans with more formal schooling, Democrats and, to a lesser extent, Independents, are all more open than others to reforming immigration laws to make it easier for some undocumented immigrants to obtain citizenship. Older Americans, those with less formal schooling, and Republicans tend to favor more vigorous immigration-law enforcement.

Panelists' responses suggest that more Presbyterians (members and elders) with than without a graduate degree, and more Presbyterians (from all four Panel groups) who are Democrats (and, to a lesser extent, Independents) than those who are Republicans, support creating a way for undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children to legalize their status. Similarly, in all four groups, more Democrats than Independents, and more Independents than Republicans, disapprove of tougher immigration law enforcement measures (encouraging state and local law enforcement officers to enforce federal immigration laws, punishing businesses that hire undocumented workers, and punishing people who aid undocumented workers). (See Figure 10.)

Figure 10. Members' Political Party Identification and Opinion about Possible Immigration Policy Changes



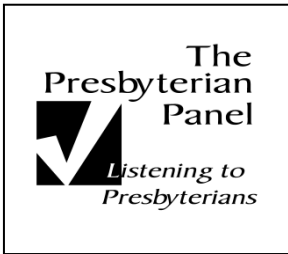
There are no connections between age and immigration opinions. This finding suggests that, among Presbyterians, other factors besides age (or birth cohort) are more important for determining immigration viewpoints. This is not surprising; Presbyterians are a small and selective segment of the U.S. population, and other characteristics may be more salient than age. (It also suggests that, in the general population, age may be a proxy for other factors associated with both age and opinions on immigration.)

There are, however, a few associations between having an immigrant among one's closest friends and immigration opinions. Among members, more of those having an immigrant as a close friend, than those who don't, disapprove of punishing people who aid undocumented immigrants; among elders, more of those having an immigrant as a close friend, than those who don't, approve of creating a way for undocumented immigrants who arrived in the United States as children to legalize their status.

Using a multivariate analysis procedure (logistic regression analysis) also shows that political party identification and the number of types of social issues attributed to the presence of undocumented immigrants are the two critical factors in understanding panelists' opinion on immigration law changes.

Earlier Panel Survey on Immigration

Several questions about immigration issues appeared on a Presbyterian Panel survey in November 2000. None of the questions are the same on the two surveys, however, so no exact comparisons are possible. Results of this earlier survey are found at www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/research/pdfs/1100_full_report.pdf.



THE PRESBYTERIAN PANEL
IMMIGRANT MINISTRIES AND IMMIGRATION ISSUES
AUGUST 2011

Survey Questions and Responses

	Members	Elders	Ministers
Number of survey invitations sent.....	601	867	1,217
Number of undeliverable surveys and ineligible respondents.....	2	2	7
Number of surveys completed.....	255	375	570‡
Response rate.....	42%	43%	47%

‡374 pastors; 194 specialized clergy; 2 could not be categorized

Immigrants are people residing in the United States or one of its territories (including Puerto Rico) who were born abroad to parents who were not U.S. citizens. Immigrants may be citizens (naturalized) or non-citizens (including both legal residents with a “green card” and undocumented immigrants). Immigrants include **refugees** (those allowed legal residence because they faced political, racial-ethnic, religious, or social persecution in their home country), but **exclude** people who have permission to reside here only temporarily (such as students, tourists, or temporary workers).

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
Q1. Is there at least one refugee or other immigrant (besides you, if applicable) who fits each of these categories? Please check one box in each row. The same person may fit more than one category.				
a. Is among my closest friends				
Yes.....	17%	23%	28%	30%
No.....	72%	70%	64%	65%
Not sure.....	2%	1%	2%	3%
Not applicable.....	8%	6%	6%	2%
b. Is employed at my workplace				
Yes.....	18%	23%	18%	41%
No.....	52%	52%	72%	44%
Not sure.....	4%	3%	2%	5%
Not applicable.....	26%	22%	8%	9%
c. Is a member of my immediate or extended family				
Yes.....	14%	16%	22%	23%
No.....	78%	77%	72%	74%
Not sure.....	1%	—	1%	2%
Not applicable.....	7%	7%	6%	2%

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)
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Members Elders Pastors Specialized Clergy

Q1. Is there at least one refugee or other immigrant (besides you, if applicable) who fits each of these categories?
 [Cont.] Please check **one** box in each row. The same person may fit more than one category

d. Lives in my neighborhood

Yes.....	28%	33%	50%	55%
No	41%	43%	30%	20%
Not sure	25%	19%	17%	23%
Not applicable.....	6%	4%	3%	2%

e. Owns and operates a business I patronize

Yes.....	36%	40%	60%	68%
No	31%	32%	19%	14%
Not sure	26%	25%	19%	18%
Not applicable.....	6%	4%	3%	1%

Q2. How important has each of the following biblical passages been to your own understanding of contemporary immigration and refugee issues?

a. God created people in God’s image (Genesis 1:26-27)

Very important	45%	48%	68%	68%
Important	34%	35%	24%	25%
A little important	11%	6%	5%	3%
Not important	8%	9%	4%	4%
Not familiar/not sure	3%	2%	*	1%

b. God’s creation of linguistic diversity and geographic diffusion in response to the building of the tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-8)

Very important	10%	9%	14%	16%
Important	27%	26%	19%	22%
A little important	25%	20%	28%	31%
Not important	23%	33%	37%	30%
Not familiar/not sure	14%	11%	1%	1%

c. The Egyptian king’s violent response to the expansion of the Israelite population in Egypt (Exodus 1)

Very important	6%	7%	12%	10%
Important	23%	22%	17%	25%
A little important	20%	23%	28%	27%
Not important	35%	34%	41%	35%
Not familiar/not sure	15%	14%	2%	4%

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Q2. How important has each of the following biblical passages been to your own understanding of contemporary immigration and refugee issues?
[Cont.]

d. “The alien who resides among you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself” (Leviticus 19:34)

Very important	22%	24%	54%	55%
Important	36%	41%	31%	34%
A little important	22%	14%	11%	4%
Not important	10%	13%	4%	7%
Not familiar/not sure	10%	8%	*	1%

e. The flight of Joseph, Mary, and infant Jesus to Egypt (Matthew 2:13-24)

Very important	19%	23%	22%	23%
Important	33%	32%	30%	34%
A little important	22%	19%	25%	23%
Not important	22%	23%	22%	19%
Not familiar/not sure	5%	3%	1%	1%

f. Respect for the laws of secular governments (“Render unto Caesar”) (Matthew 22:15-22)

Very important	20%	20%	15%	12%
Important	42%	40%	33%	33%
A little important	16%	20%	29%	29%
Not important	13%	14%	22%	26%
Not familiar/not sure	9%	5%	1%	2%

g. God telling Peter to evangelize among both Jewish and non-Jewish people (Acts 11-12)

Very important	31%	36%	48%	34%
Important	36%	36%	28%	34%
A little important	14%	14%	10%	18%
Not important	13%	11%	13%	12%
Not familiar/not sure	6%	3%	1%	1%

Q3. The flow of people into the United States from other countries in recent decades has made this country more culturally diverse. How would you rate the overall impact of this cultural diversification on the country?

Positive.....	29%	28%	47%	55%
Somewhat positive.....	32%	33%	32%	31%
Neutral or not sure	14%	16%	9%	5%
Somewhat negative.....	20%	17%	9%	4%
Negative	5%	6%	3%	4%

Q4. Would you approve or disapprove of the federal government creating a way to legalize the status of undocumented immigrants who first came to the United States as children?

Approve	57%	51%	75%	80%
Neutral or not sure	22%	25%	14%	11%
Disapprove	20%	24%	12%	9%

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Q5. In the past two years, several states have enacted laws that: (1) encourage state and local law enforcement officers to enforce federal immigration laws; (2) punish businesses that employ undocumented immigrants; and/or (3) punish people who aid undocumented immigrants. Do you personally approve or disapprove of each of the following elements of such laws?

a. Encouraging state and local law enforcement officers to enforce federal immigration laws

Approve	65%	61%	46%	36%
Neutral or not sure	22%	24%	24%	27%
Disapprove.....	13%	16%	31%	37%

b. Punishing businesses that employ undocumented immigrants

Approve	54%	61%	42%	36%
Neutral or not sure	29%	22%	25%	24%
Disapprove.....	17%	18%	33%	40%

c. Punishing people who aid undocumented immigrants

Approve	34%	35%	15%	10%
Neutral or not sure	32%	33%	25%	16%
Disapprove.....	34%	32%	61%	74%

Q6. In your opinion, how much is the presence of undocumented immigrants responsible for each of the following phenomena for U.S. society as a whole?

a. Disrespect for the law

A great deal	21%	19%	6%	5%
Some	38%	35%	23%	18%
Only a little.....	20%	21%	30%	25%
Not at all	14%	19%	36%	44%
Not sure	8%	6%	5%	7%

b. High cost of public education

A great deal	30%	25%	9%	7%
Some	35%	35%	26%	24%
Only a little.....	19%	22%	34%	28%
Not at all	11%	13%	26%	38%
Not sure	6%	4%	4%	3%

c. Low wages

A great deal	14%	15%	8%	9%
Some	43%	35%	28%	28%
Only a little.....	21%	24%	30%	26%
Not at all	16%	20%	29%	32%
Not sure	7%	6%	5%	5%

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Q6. In your opinion, how much is the presence of undocumented immigrants responsible for each of the following [Cont.] phenomena for U.S. society as a whole?

d. Meeting U.S. needs for highly skilled workers

A great deal	10%	9%	6%	8%
Some	27%	24%	28%	30%
Only a little	28%	29%	26%	29%
Not at all	26%	27%	30%	21%
Not sure	10%	10%	10%	12%

e. Terrorism in the United States

A great deal	16%	9%	2%	1%
Some	18%	23%	10%	6%
Only a little	24%	28%	25%	31%
Not at all	30%	31%	56%	54%
Not sure	12%	9%	7%	9%

f. Unemployment

A great deal	14%	14%	5%	3%
Some	35%	31%	21%	22%
Only a little	29%	28%	34%	29%
Not at all	15%	21%	36%	39%
Not sure	7%	6%	5%	7%

g. Violent crime

A great deal	15%	13%	5%	4%
Some	34%	35%	24%	16%
Only a little	29%	28%	38%	32%
Not at all	12%	15%	27%	36%
Not sure	10%	10%	6%	11%

h. Other (please specify): _____

	+	+	+	+
A great deal	42%	45%	37%	47%
Some	15%	14%	17%	10%
Only a little	2%	—	4%	3%
Not at all	—	7%	4%	7%
Not sure	42%	34%	37%	33%

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Q7. In your opinion how important should ministry among each of the following groups of people be for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)?

a. Homeless people

Very important	42%	41%	53%	52%
Important	48%	52%	42%	40%
A little important	9%	5%	4%	7%
Not important	*	*	*	1%
Not sure	1%	2%	1%	1%

b. Undocumented immigrants

Very important	16%	19%	29%	35%
Important	39%	35%	46%	48%
A little important	22%	26%	19%	12%
Not important	13%	12%	5%	3%
Not sure	10%	9%	2%	3%

c. Immigrants with documentation

Very important	34%	38%	40%	42%
Important	52%	48%	49%	49%
A little important	8%	11%	9%	8%
Not important	2%	1%	2%	1%
Not sure	4%	3%	1%	1%

d. People addicted to alcohol or drugs

Very important	25%	32%	41%	43%
Important	54%	50%	51%	45%
A little important	14%	14%	7%	10%
Not important	4%	2%	1%	2%
Not sure	4%	2%	1%	1%

e. People with disabilities

Very important	36%	48%	48%	49%
Important	53%	44%	43%	45%
A little important	9%	6%	8%	5%
Not important	1%	*	1%	1%
Not sure	2%	2%	1%	1%

f. Unchurched people

Very important	46%	51%	66%	54%
Important	40%	42%	29%	34%
A little important	11%	5%	4%	8%
Not important	2%	*	1%	3%
Not sure	*	1%	1%	1%

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Q7. In your opinion how important should ministry among each of the following groups of people be for the [Cont.] Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)?

g. Young adults

Very important	60%	63%	64%	63%
Important	34%	34%	33%	35%
A little important	4%	2%	2%	1%
Not important	1%	—	—	1%
Not sure	*	1%	1%	1%

h. Youth

Very important	67%	67%	65%	67%
Important	30%	30%	33%	31%
A little important	2%	2%	2%	1%
Not important	1%	—	—	1%
Not sure	*	1%	1%	1%

i. Other (please specify): _____ +

Very important	42%	39%	63%	58%
Important	13%	17%	13%	26%
A little important	3%	7%	3%	—
Not important	3%	—	—	3%
Not sure	40%	37%	21%	13%

Q8. Are you currently involved in each of the following ways with immigrants?

a. Staff or volunteer at a legal clinic for immigrants

Yes	1%	2%	2%	2%
No	99%	98%	98%	98%
Not sure	—	*	—	—

b. Staff or volunteer for an organization that helps enforce immigration laws (for example, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Minuteman Project)

Yes	*	1%	1%	1%
No	100%	99%	99%	99%
Not sure	—	1%	*	—

c. Parent of a child in an after-school program that includes immigrant children

Yes	3%	3%	4%	6%
No	97%	96%	95%	93%
Not sure	*	1%	1%	2%

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	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
Q8. Are you currently involved in each of the following ways with immigrants? [Cont.]				
d. Teacher, other staff, or volunteer in an after-school program that includes immigrant children				
Yes.....	8%	8%	12%	8%
No.....	92%	91%	87%	92%
Not sure.....	1%	1%	*	—
e. Participant in a Bible study that includes immigrants				
Yes.....	7%	7%	21%	14%
No.....	90%	91%	79%	85%
Not sure.....	3%	2%	*	2%
f. Student in an English as a second language class				
Yes.....	1%	1%	1%	1%
No.....	99%	99%	99%	100%
Not sure.....	—	1%	—	—
g. Teacher, other staff, or volunteer in an English as a second language class				
Yes.....	4%	2%	6%	5%
No.....	96%	97%	94%	95%
Not sure.....	*	1%	—	—
h. Other (please specify): _____ + + + +				
Yes.....	33%	31%	59%	68%
No.....	48%	54%	26%	26%
Not sure.....	19%	15%	15%	6%

Please check here and skip to Q20 if you are a **minister of the Word and Sacrament** who is **not** involved in a PC(USA) congregation or other PC(USA) worshiping community (such as a new church development or immigrant fellowship).

Not checked.....	85%	72%
Checked.....	15%	28%

Q9. Is your congregation or other Presbyterian worshiping community involved in each of the following ministries intended as outreach with immigrants?

		n=319	n=140
a. After-school program that includes immigrant children			
Yes.....	17%	12%	24%
No.....	60%	76%	66%
Don't know.....	22%	12%	10%

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**Members Elders Pastors Specialized
Clergy**

Q9. Is your congregation or other Presbyterian worshiping community involved in each of the following ministries [Cont.] intended as outreach with immigrants?

b. Bible study that includes immigrants

			n=319	n=140
Yes.....	24%	19%	31%	36%
No	52%	66%	66%	48%
Don't know.....	24%	15%	2%	15%

c. English as a second language class that includes immigrants

			n=319	n=140
Yes.....	11%	8%	15%	15%
No	69%	83%	82%	76%
Don't know.....	19%	9%	2%	9%

d. Legal clinic for immigrants

			n=319	n=140
Yes.....	2%	4%	7%	10%
No	78%	86%	91%	82%
Don't know.....	20%	11%	2%	7%

e. Special worship service that includes immigrants

			n=319	n=140
Yes.....	16%	14%	18%	24%
No	68%	78%	82%	74%
Don't know.....	15%	8%	1%	3%

f. Other (please specify): _____

			n=319	n=140
	+	+	+	+
Yes.....	34%	32%	62%	65%
No	34%	44%	27%	20%
Don't know.....	31%	24%	10%	15%

Q10. How many of the people in your congregation or other Presbyterian worshiping community are immigrants?

			n=319	n=140
Most or all.....	1%	1%	2%	2%
Some	18%	14%	24%	22%
A few or none.....	58%	68%	69%	68%
Not sure.....	24%	17%	5%	8%

Q11. What language is used in the activities of your congregation or Presbyterian worshiping community?

			n=319	n=140
English or mostly English in all activities	95%	96%	94%	89%
English or mostly English in some activities, but another language or mostly another language in others	4%	4%	4%	8%
An equal mix of English and another language	*	1%	*	2%
Another language or mostly another language.....	1%	—	1%	2%

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	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
Q11. What language is used in the activities of your congregation or Presbyterian worshiping community? [Cont.]				
Q11a. [If use of any language other than English,] What other language(s)?				
<i>Coded from responses:</i>	n=12	n=16	n=19	n=16
	♦	♦	♦	♦
<i>Korean</i>	25%	19%	37%	—
<i>Spanish</i>	33%	62%	58%	69%
<i>Other</i>	50%	25%	37%	54%
Q12. Does your congregation or other Presbyterian worshiping community share facilities with at least one other Presbyterian congregation or worshiping community?			n=319	n=140
Yes	16%	17%	11%	21%
No → <i>Please skip to Q16</i>	74%	77%	88%	76%
Don't know → <i>Please skip to Q16</i>	10%	6%	1%	3%
Q12a. [If “yes,”] How many other Presbyterian congregations/worshiping communities share the facilities?				
	n=41	n=63	n=35	n=29
				+
One.....	77%	81%	71%	65%
Two.....	23%	15%	26%	19%
Three.....	—	3%	—	15%
Four.....	—	—	3%	—
Mean	1.2	1.2	1.4	1.5
Median	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Q12b. [If “yes,”] Of the other Presbyterian congregations/worshiping communities, how many are new church developments (NCDs)?				
	n=41	n=63	n=35	n=29
	+	+	+	+
None.....	42%	51%	67%	50%
One.....	46%	49%	30%	43%
Two.....	12%	—	—	7%
Three.....	—	—	4%	—
Mean	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.6
Median	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.5
Q13. Do any of the Presbyterian congregations or worshiping communities that share facilities, including your own, pay rent to use the facilities?				
	n=41	n=63	n=35	n=29
Yes	39%	38%	44%	52%
No → <i>Please skip to Q15</i>	27%	43%	53%	21%
Don't know → <i>Please skip to Q15</i>	34%	19%	3%	28%

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	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
Q14. Which congregation or worshiping community pays rent?	n=16	n=24	n=15	n=15
My congregation or worshiping community pays rent to another congregation or worshiping community.....	6%	—	—	13%
Another congregation or worshiping community pays rent to my congregation or worshiping community.....	88%	100%	93%	73%
Other (please specify): _____	6%	—	7%	13%
Not sure.....	—	—	—	—
Q15. How many of the people in the other Presbyterian congregation or worshiping community with which your congregation or worshiping community shares facilities are immigrants? (If there is more than one other faith community sharing facilities with yours, respond about the other one that uses the facilities <i>most</i> .)	n=41	n=63	n=35	n=29
Most or all.....	35%	48%	62%	48%
Some	25%	21%	15%	21%
A few or none.....	5%	8%	21%	17%
Not sure.....	35%	23%	3%	14%
Q16. Is your congregation or worshiping community involved in a <i>formal partnership</i> with another <i>local</i> Presbyterian congregation or worshiping community? (Include space-renting/sharing relationships only if you consider them to be partnerships. If there is more than one such partnership, respond about the <i>most active</i> one.)				
Yes, and it includes sharing facilities (with or without paying rent).....	9%	9%	n=319 7%	n=140 8%
Yes, and it does not include sharing facilities.....	8%	8%	10%	6%
No→ <i>Please skip to Q20</i>	66%	73%	82%	72%
Not sure→ <i>Please skip to Q20</i>	17%	10%	2%	14%
Q16a. How many other Presbyterian organizations or worshiping communities have a formal partnership with yours?	n=41	n=61	n=52	n=19
	+	+	+	+
One.....	74%	67%	69%	50%
Two.....	8%	16%	5%	21%
Three.....	6%	8%	10%	21%
Four.....	3%	4%	5%	7%
Five or more.....	6%	2%	12%	—
Don't know	3%	2%	—	—
Mean	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.9
Median	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.5
Q17. How many of the people in the partner congregation or worshiping community are immigrants? (If there are more than two faith communities in the partnership, respond about the <i>most involved</i> other partner.)	n=41	n=61	n=52	n=19
Most or all.....	17%	31%	35%	28%
Some	27%	10%	21%	28%
A few or none→ <i>Please skip to Q20</i>	17%	33%	35%	22%
Not sure→ <i>Please skip to Q20</i>	39%	26%	10%	22%

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	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
Q18. Is each of the following true about the congregations or worshiping communities involved in the partnership?				
a. Money received in offerings from each goes into the same budget	n=18	n=25	n=29	n=10
Yes.....	17%	4%	4%	30%
No.....	61%	88%	93%	50%
Not sure.....	22%	8%	4%	20%
b. Participants in each are members of the same PC(USA) congregation	n=18	n=25	n=29	n=10
Yes.....	28%	12%	21%	40%
No.....	61%	62%	71%	50%
Not sure.....	11%	25%	7%	10%
c. People from the same pastoral staff lead each community	n=18	n=25	n=29	n=10
Yes.....	17%	8%	7%	30%
No.....	83%	75%	89%	60%
Not sure.....	—	17%	4%	10%
d. They have shared activities	n=18	n=25	n=29	n=10
Yes.....	67%	52%	61%	60%
No.....	17%	35%	32%	20%
Not sure.....	17%	13%	7%	20%
Q19. Which statement <i>best</i> characterizes the relationship between the partner congregations or worshiping communities? (Please check <i>only one</i> .)				
	n=18	n=25	n=29	n=10
My congregation or worshiping community is the leading partner.....	44%	41%	61%	50%
The congregations or worshiping communities share equally in decision making.....	22%	23%	11%	20%
Another congregation or worshiping community is the leading partner.....	—	9%	11%	10%
Other (please specify): _____.....	11%	9%	7%	—
Not sure.....	22%	18%	11%	20%
Q20. What language do you speak at home?				
English.....	96%	97%	94%	92%
Mostly English but some use of another language(s).....	3%	3%	5%	6%
Mostly another language(s) but some English.....	1%	*	1%	1%
Another language(s).....	*	—	1%	2%
Q20a. [If use of any language other than English,] What language(s)?				
<i>Coded from responses:</i>	n=11	n=12	n=28	n=15
<i>Korean</i>	◆	◆	◆	◆
<i>Spanish</i>	9%	—	13%	6%
<i>Other</i>	54%	17%	48%	44%
	54%	92%	61%	50%

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
Q21. Is or was each of the following people an immigrant?				
a. Your father				
Yes.....	6%	4%	4%	4%
No.....	93%	94%	95%	95%
Don't know.....	1%	—	—	—
Not applicable.....	—	1%	*	1%
b. Your mother				
Yes.....	6%	5%	4%	3%
No.....	93%	94%	96%	97%
Don't know.....	*	—	—	—
Not applicable.....	—	1%	*	1%
c. Your spouse				
Yes.....	3%	4%	6%	6%
No.....	93%	93%	91%	86%
Don't know.....	—	—	—	—
Not applicable.....	4%	3%	4%	8%
Q22. Are you a U.S. citizen?				
Yes, and I was born a U.S. citizen.....	98%	98%	95%	96%
Yes, but I was not born a U.S. citizen.....	2%	1%	3%	4%
No.....	1%	1%	1%	1%
Q23. Please use this space or another page for any additional comments.				
[tabulated separately]				
Response form:				
Paper.....	66%	56%	45%	50%
Web.....	34%	44%	55%	50%

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding

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— = zero (0.0); no cases in this category

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