



The Presbyterian Panel

Listening to Presbyterians



SUMMARY

HUNGER, PEACEMAKING, AND SABBATH-KEEPING FINDINGS FROM THE FEBRUARY 2010 SURVEY

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

IN THIS SUMMARY

- ✓ *Hunger* p. 1
- ✓ *Peacemaking* p. 2
- ✓ *Activities During the Previous Week* p. 3
- ✓ *Sabbath-keeping* p. 4

HUNGER

Perspectives on Hunger

- ✓ Majorities of panelists in at least one group *strongly agree* or *agree* with the following statements:
 - Genetically modified food should be labeled as such (members, 85%; elders, 81%; pastors, 86%; specialized clergy, 89%).
 - The U.S. government should subsidize crop production by small family farms (55%; 52%; 57%; 64%).
 - The problem of widespread hunger in the United States can be solved within 25 years (47%; 50%; 60%; 63%).
 - Corporate lobbying has prevented governments around the world from pursuing strong anti-hunger and antipoverty policies (38%; 32%; 46%; 56%).
- ✓ Only minorities of panelists in each group *strongly agree* or *agree* with the following statements:
 - Most food sold in U.S. supermarkets is nutritious and healthy (members, 44%; elders, 48%; pastors, 37%; specialized clergy, 34%).
 - Companies should be allowed to patent seeds and own the intellectual property behind new seed varieties (40%; 44%; 33%; 30%).
 - Raising large numbers of chickens, cows, and pigs in feeding lots is a good, cost-effective way to produce quality meat for people to eat (35%; 35%; 26%; 18%).
 - The problem of widespread hunger throughout the world can be solved within the next 25 years (16%; 19%; 37%; 37%).
 - The U.S. government should subsidize crop production by farms owned and operated by large corporations (9%; 8%; 7%; 6%).

Food- and Hunger-related Activities

- ✓ During the 12 months before they completed the survey majorities of panelists in each group did each of the following at least once every *four* months:
 - Bought locally grown or raised food (members, 84%; elders, 84%; pastors, 84%; specialized clergy, 88%).
 - Bought food at a chain fast-food restaurant (such as McDonald's) (71%; 75%; 80%; 69%).
 - Gave food to a food pantry, soup kitchen, or other program that provides emergency food assistance to needy people in their community (66%; 74%; 84%; 68%).
 - Gave money to a food pantry, soup kitchen, or other program that provides emergency food assistance to needy people in their community (52%; 66%; 76%; 62%).
 - Bought organic food (52%; 54%; 70%; 78%).
 - Bought Fair Trade food (including coffee) that was produced outside the United States (51%; 51%; 52%; 60%).
- ✓ During the 12 months before the survey majorities of panelists in some but not all of the groups did each of the following at least once every *four* months:
 - Talked about a hunger or poverty issue with a friend or family member (members, 44%; elders, 51%; pastors, 71%; specialized clergy, 70%).
 - Read communication from their presbytery about hunger via regular mail, email, website, or blog (21%; 34%; 59%; 46%).
- ✓ Panelists engaged in other listed food- and hunger-related activities less frequently.

PEACEMAKING

Presbyterian Commitment to Peacemaking

- ✓ Large majorities of panelists in each group *strongly agree* or *agree* with the following principles:
 - Christians are called to be peacemakers whenever they encounter brokenness and injustice (members, 84%; elders, 88%; pastors, 92%; specialized clergy, 96%).
 - Peacemaking is a central declaration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ (81%; 84%; 82%; 85%).
 - PC(USA) congregations need to be more involved in peacemaking (62%; 66%; 71%; 83%).

Areas in Which Peacemaking Should Be Engaged

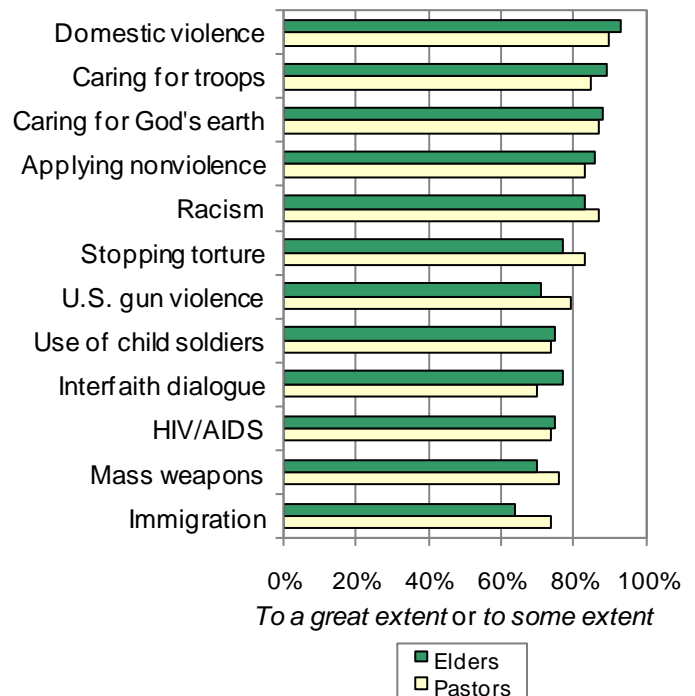
- ✓ Four in five or more panelists in each group (members, 81%; elders, 82%; pastors, 85%; specialized clergy, 86%) believe the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program should engage in issues of peace and justice to a *great extent* or *some extent* in the United States.
- ✓ About three-quarters of ministers—but smaller majorities of members and elders—believe that the program should focus on peace and justice issues in:
 - Israel/Palestine (members, 64%; elders, 66%; pastors, 76%; specialized clergy, 80%).
 - Afghanistan (59%; 61%; 73%; 77%).
 - Iraq (58%; 58%; 73%; 77%).
- ✓ About seven in ten ministers—but only five in nine laypeople—believe that the program should focus on:
 - Iran (members, 56%; elders, 54%; pastors, 68%; specialized clergy, 74%).
 - Sudan (56%; 52%; 71%; 75%).
 - Pakistan (54%; 54%; 69%; 74%).

Possible Peacemaking Issues

- ✓ At least four in five panelists in each group believe that the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program should help Presbyterians address the following issues *to a great extent* or *to some extent*:
 - Domestic violence (members, 91%; elders, 93%; pastors, 90%; specialized clergy, 92%).
 - Caring for those in military service and for returning veterans (90%; 91%; 85%; 84%).
 - Caring for God's earth (88%; 88%; 87%; 91%).
 - Application of the principles of nonviolence in daily living (86%; 86%; 83%; 91%).
 - Racism (83%; 83%; 87%; 89%).
- ✓ About seven in eight ministers (pastors, 83%; specialized clergy, 88%)—but only three-quarters of members (76%) and elders (77%)—believe the Peacemaking Program should focus on stopping torture.

- ✓ Five in six specialized clergy—but fewer panelists in other groups—believe the program should help address:
 - U.S. gun violence (members, 71%; elders, 71%; pastors, 79%; specialized clergy, 84%).
 - Use of child soldiers (69%; 75%; 74%; 83%).
- ✓ Fewer than four in five panelists in each group believe the program should focus on:
 - Interfaith dialogue (members, 75%; elders, 77%; pastors, 70%; specialized clergy, 78%).
 - HIV/AIDS (73%; 75%; 74%; 76%).
 - Weapons of mass destruction (69%; 70%; 76%; 79%).
 - Immigration (59%; 64%; 74%; 78%).

Figure 1. Issues the Peacemaking Program Should Help Presbyterians Address



Weapons of Mass Destruction

- ✓ At least seven in ten panelists in each group are *very concerned* or *concerned* about the proliferation and potential uses of weapons of mass destruction:
 - Intentional use of weapons of mass destruction by terrorist groups (not nation-states) (members, 91%; elders, 94%; pastors, 91%; specialized clergy, 91%).
 - Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (83%; 85%; 83%; 86%).
 - Intentional use of weapons of mass destruction by nation-states (78%; 81%; 77%; 81%).
 - Accidental use of weapons of mass destruction (73%; 72%; 71%; 75%).

ACTIVITIES DURING THE PREVIOUS WEEK

Activities During the Week Before the Survey

- ✓ Majorities of panelists in each group engaged in each of the following activities during at least *three* of the seven days before they completed the survey:
 - Read a book, magazine, or newspaper (members, 85%; elders, 84%; pastors, 83%; specialized clergy, 84%).
 - Watched television or a video, including on a computer (84%; 84%; 81%; 78%).
 - Cooked or cleaned up after a meal (83%; 81%; 85%; 87%).
 - Ate a meal with family or friends (79%; 79%; 88%; 85%).
 - Talked with or sent a text, instant message, or email to a friend or family member (64%; 65%; 77%; 75%).
 - Spent time in personal prayer or devotions (60%; 62%; 81%; 68%).
- ✓ At least four in five pastors—but fewer panelists in other groups—did each of the following during at least *three* of the seven days before the survey:
 - Used a computer at home to check work- or school-related email (members, 47%; elders, 46%; pastors, 81%; specialized clergy, 75%).
 - Did church work for which they were paid (4%; 2%; 93%; 41%).
- ✓ About half of members (53%) and elders (47%) and two in five ministers (pastors, 42%; specialized clergy, 43%) did laundry, cleaning, or other household chores during at least *three* of the previous seven days.
- ✓ Minorities of panelists in each group (but more than one in ten in each) did each of the following during at least *three* of the previous seven days:
 - Visited with a friend or relative (members, 40%; elders, 36%; pastors, 34%; specialized clergy, 36%).
 - Relaxed or took a nap (38%; 37%; 31%; 33%).
 - Paid bills or took care of other personal business (32%; 33%; 23%; 32%).
 - Took a walk or went on a hike (28%; 24%; 23%; 31%).
 - Spent time on a hobby (26%; 22%; 15%; 20%).
 - Used a computer to access a social networking site (25%; 22%; 43%; 30%).
 - Did grocery shopping (24%; 20%; 19%; 19%).
 - Took care of a child or grandchild (21%; 18%; 28%; 30%).
 - Played a video or computer game (16%; 18%; 22%; 18%).
- ✓ Two in five members (40%), elders (44%), and specialized clergy (37%)—but very few pastors (3%)—worked for pay but not for a church during at least *three* of the previous seven days.
- ✓ More than one in ten pastors—and fewer panelists in other groups—did each of the following during at least *three* of the previous seven days:
 - Attended worship (members, 6%; elders, 5%; pastors, 13%; specialized clergy, 6%).
 - Visited with a homebound or sick person (5%; 6%; 28%; 9%).
 - Participated in a church choir or other church activity (4%; 5%; 27%; 8%).
 - Attended a Bible study or other Christian education class (4%; 2%; 12%; 6%).
 - Attended a church committee meeting (3%; 8%; 36%; 10%).
- ✓ Few panelists (members, 3%; elders, 2%; pastors, 2%; specialized clergy, 3%) attended a movie, play, concert, or exhibit in at least *three* of the previous seven days.

Opinion About Time Spent in Various Activities

- ✓ Half or more of panelists in each group believe that the amount of time they spent engaged in prayer and in walking in the previous week was *too little*:
 - Time spent in personal prayer or devotions (members, 54%; elders, 54%; pastors, 50%; specialized clergy, 50%)
 - Time spent walking or hiking (53%; 62%; 66%; 65%).
- ✓ Three in five ministers (pastors, 59%; specialized clergy, 58%)—but only about four in nine members (42%) and elders (45%)—believe they spent *too little* time in the previous week on hobbies.
- ✓ About half of ministers (pastors, 52%; specialized clergy, 45%)—but only 36% of members and 38% of elders—believe they spent *too little* time attending movies, plays, concerts, or exhibits.
- ✓ More members and elders—but fewer ministers—believe they spent *too little* time visiting homebound or sick persons than believe they spent *just* [the] *right* amount of time doing so.
- ✓ More panelists in each group believe the amount of time they spent in the previous week in each of the other listed activities was *just right* than believe the time spent was *too much* or *too little*.

SABBATH-KEEPING

Associations with the Word “Sunday”

- ✓ At least four in five panelists in each group are *very likely* or *likely* to associate “Sunday” with:
 - Worship (members, 96%; elders, 100%; pastors, 100%; specialized clergy, 96%).
 - Communion with God (96%; 99%; 100%; 98%).
 - Going to church (95%; 99%; 100%; 94%).
 - Rest and restoration (90%; 87%; 80%; 86%).
 - Honoring the Sabbath (84%; 88%; 85%; 80%).
- ✓ Almost all pastors (95%)—but fewer members (77%), elders (88%), and specialized clergy (85%)—are likely to associate “Sunday” with joy and celebration.
- ✓ About five in six members (87%) and elders (82%)—but only seven in ten ministers (pastors, 69%; specialized clergy, 71%)—are likely to associate “Sundays” with visiting with family or friends.
- ✓ Smaller majorities of panelists in each group associate “Sunday” with:
 - Retreating from the bustle of the world (members, 75%; elders, 75%; pastors, 63%; specialized clergy, 68%).
 - Acts of compassion (67%; 70%; 69%; 64%).
 - Recreation or fun (67%; 69%; 59%; 68%).

Associations with the Word “Sabbath”

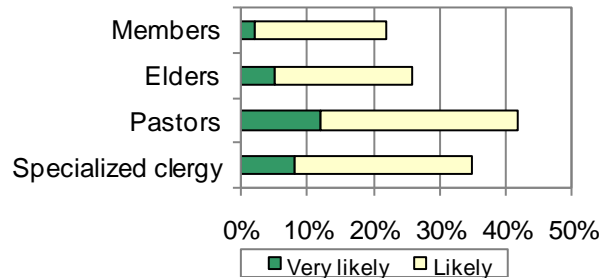
- ✓ At least four in five panelists in each group are *very likely* or *likely* to associate the word “Sabbath” with:
 - Worship (members, 95%; elders, 99%; pastors, 95%; specialized clergy, 94%).
 - A Christian practice (94%; 90%; 93%; 85%).
 - Rest and restoration (86%; 87%; 95%; 97%).
 - One of God’s commandments (84%; 84%; 91%; 86%).

- ✓ Almost all members (96%) and elders (96%) and four in five ministers (pastors, 78%; specialized clergy, 80%) are *very likely* or *likely* to associate “Sabbath” with a particular day of the week.
- ✓ Three-quarters of members (77%) and elders (77%) and two-thirds of ministers (pastors, 69%; specialized clergy, 66%) are likely to associate “Sabbath” with visiting family and friends.
- ✓ At least seven in ten ministers (pastors, 81%; specialized clergy, 71%)—but only five in nine members (53%) and elders (55%)—associate “Sabbath” with something that needs to be restored.

Interest in Online Class on Sabbath-keeping

- ✓ Two in five pastors (42%), one-third of specialized clergy (35%), and one-quarter of members (22%) and elders (26%) are *very likely* or *likely* to register for a six- or eight-lesson online learning course that raises issues related to Sabbath-keeping and offers participants an opportunity to discuss ideas for incorporating Sabbath practices into their Sundays and their daily routines.

Figure 2. Likelihood of Registering for an Online Sabbath-keeping Class



	Members	Elders	Ministers
Number of surveys sent.....	853	1,063	1,417
Number of undeliverable surveys and ineligible respondents	8	2	16
Number of surveys completed	375	547	759‡
Response rate	44%	51%	54%

‡Of the 759 returned surveys, 502 came from pastors and 256 from specialized clergy; 1 minister could not be classified.

The survey was mailed on February 25, 2010, with returns accepted through early May 2010. Results are subject to sampling and other errors. Small differences should be interpreted cautiously. In general, differences of less than 8% between samples are not statistically meaningful.

For more numbers and interpretation of these results, a longer report with more charts will be available on the web (www.pcusa.org/research/panel) or for \$15 from PDS (800-524-2612; order PDS# 02056-10306). It will include tables with percentage responses to each survey question separately for members, elders, pastors, and specialized clergy.

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