



# 2015 Religious and Demographic Profile

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Spring 2018

This report is from the  
first survey given to  
Presbyterians asked to  
serve on the  
2015-2017

Presbyterian Panel

## About the Panel

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The Presbyterian Panel is made up of representative samples of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) ministers of the Word and Sacrament and members of PC(USA) congregations. The Panel is re-sampled every three years. The first survey that members of each new Panel complete is a background survey on their spiritual practices, beliefs, and demographics.

During 2015 and 2016 a new Panel was assembled. Ultimately, 1,051 members and 1,372 ministers were identified as panelists. Detailed information on how panelists responded to each question on the background survey and how the samples were drawn and the survey was conducted is available in the appendices.

## Overview of Findings

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### Discipleship and Congregational Engagement

Ministers are generally more engaged than members in the life of the Church in at least two areas: spiritual/religious practices and financial involvement.

First, more ministers than members attend worship and engage in a range of spiritual practices. Most ministers (83%) lead or attend worship weekly; a small majority of members (54%) attend worship weekly. That most ministers are in worship weekly should be no surprise, as three-quarters of ministers (73%) are pastors.

Prayer is more prevalent than reading the Bible among both members and ministers. Three-quarters of ministers (77%) and two-thirds of members (63%) pray privately *daily/almost daily*. About four in ten ministers (44%)—but only two in ten members (19%)—read the Bible privately *daily/almost daily*.

Second, ministers also give more money to their congregation (about 50% more) than do members. The median amount of money given by minister households (counting no giving as \$0) in 2014 was \$4,700. Median 2014 giving by member households was \$3,100.

## Presbyterian Identity and Theology

Although sense of denominational identity varies, Presbyterians are increasingly united in basic theological perspective.

Members are more likely than ministers to have become Presbyterian later in life. Two-thirds (63%) of ministers and slightly less than half of members (47%) were raised in the PC(USA) or one of its predecessor denominations. Being part of the PC(USA) is *very important* to about four in ten members (41%) and half of ministers (51%). Being raised Presbyterian and valuing being Presbyterian are linked. Being Presbyterian is *very important* to more of those who were raised Presbyterian (member, 48%; ministers, 55%) than to those who were not (35%; 42%)

Although Presbyterians are still relatively diverse theologically, the denomination is becoming more liberal. Currently, 42% of members and 46% of ministers label themselves theological *very liberal* or *liberal*. This represents a shift from 2011, when only 22% of members and 38% of ministers were theologically *very liberal* or *liberal*. Additionally, about a third are theologically *moderate* (members, 33%; ministers, 34%), and about a fourth of members (26%) and a fifth of ministers (20%) are theologically *very conservative* or *conservative*.

Because the Panel is reconstituted every three years, there is no way of following individuals across time to know for sure whether theological conservatives left the denomination, theological liberals arrived, or individuals shifted from being conservative to liberal. It is possible that all three were factors.

There is some evidence that recently-ordained ministers are more liberal than longtime ministers. Significantly more ministers who were ordained since 2011 are theologically *very liberal* or *liberal* (51%) or *moderate* (41%) than those who had already been ordained (46%; 33%). There is no theological difference between members who became Presbyterian since 2011 and those who became members in 2011 or earlier.

## Demographic Characteristics

Presbyterians are relatively homogenous when it comes to level of education, marital status, and race; however, they are more diverse when it comes to gender, political party identification, and age.

First, let us look at how Presbyterians are similar. At least seven in ten members and ministers have at least a four-year college degree, are married, and are White:

- 83% of members and 99% of ministers have earned at least a four-year college degree
- 74% of members and 82% of ministers are married
- 93% of members and 89% of ministers are White

Now, let us turn to our diversity as a denomination. First, members and ministers are reverse images of each other in terms of gender. Among members, 59% are women, and 41% are men. Among ministers, it is exactly the opposite: 59% are men, and 41% are women.

Second, while members' political party identification is varied, ministers are more heavily Democratic. Four in ten members (39%) identify as Democrats, along with 31% as Republican, 19% as Independent, and 10% with no political party. On the other hand, 55% of ministers are Democratic, 18% are Independent, 13% are Republican, and 13% do not identify with a party. Fewer members and ministers are Republicans than in the past. This finding mirrors our earlier one regarding the denomination's shift towards liberal theology; if trends continue, political orientation may join the list of demographic traits in which our denomination does not have diversity.

Although our denomination trends toward the older age groups, there is some age diversity present. About one in six members (18%) and ministers (15%) are younger than 40. Two in ten members (20%) and one-quarter of ministers (25%) are between 40 and 54 in age. A quarter of members are age 55-64, while one in six ministers (16%) are age 65 or older. The largest age group for members is age 65 or older (43%), while the largest age group for ministers is between 55 and 64 (45%).

## Appendix A: Survey Questions and Responses Presbyterian Panel Profile Survey 2015-2016

	<b>Members</b>	<b>Teaching Elders</b>
Number of completed surveys .....	1,051	1,372

NOTE: QUESTIONS ASKED ON MEMBERS' AND RULING ELDERS' QUESTIONNAIRES ARE NOTED WITH **M**.  
 QUESTIONS ASKED ON TEACHING ELDERS' QUESTIONNAIRES ARE NOTED WITH **T**.  
 QUESTIONS ASKED ON ALL QUESTIONNAIRES ARE NOTED WITH **M/T**.

	<b>Members</b>	<b>Teaching Elders</b>
<i>First, we'd like to ask a few questions about you and your congregation.</i>		
1. <b>M</b> Are you ordained as any of the following? (Select all that apply.)	n=1,050	
Deacon .....	31%	
Ruling elder.....	51%	
Commissioned ruling elder.....	4%	
Teaching elder.....	0%	
[None of the above checked] .....	34%	
<i>If you are a teaching elder, please stop taking this survey and contact Research Services to receive a survey specifically for teaching elders.</i>		
2. <b>M</b> How many years have you been a member of your current congregation? ____ year(s) (If less than one year, write 0 (zero).)	n=1,029	
Less than 5 years.....	18%	
5-9 years.....	15%	
10-14 years.....	11%	
15-19 years.....	12%	
20-24 years.....	9%	
25-29 years.....	9%	
30-34 years.....	7%	
35-39 years.....	6%	
40 years or more.....	14%	
Mean .....	20.3	
Median .....	16.0	
3. <b>M</b> Do you <i>currently</i> hold any of the following positions in your congregation or the denomination?	n=1,050	
Christian education and/or youth director (or comparable position)		
Yes, paid .....	2%	
Yes, unpaid .....	7%	

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to either rounding or the ability to select more than one option  
 n = number of respondents who replied to this question

3.	Do you <i>currently</i> hold any of the following positions in your congregation or the denomination?	n=1,050
<b>M</b>		
[cont.]	Mid-council executive or stated clerk	
	Yes, paid .....	1%
	Yes, unpaid .....	1%
	Clerk of session	
	Yes, paid .....	1%
	Yes, unpaid .....	5%
	Elder commissioner to presbytery, synod, or GA	
	Yes, paid .....	1%
	Yes, unpaid .....	11%
	Member of a presbytery, synod, or General Assembly committee, task force, or board	
	Yes, paid .....	1%
	Yes, unpaid .....	10%
	Chairperson of a congregational committee or task force	
	Yes, paid .....	1%
	Yes, unpaid .....	17%
	Member of a congregational committee or task force	
	Yes, paid .....	1%
	Yes, unpaid .....	32%
	Member of current session or board of deacons	
	Yes, paid .....	1%
	Yes, unpaid .....	21%
	Leader of a men's or women's group	
	Yes, paid .....	< 1%
	Yes, unpaid .....	10%
	Member of a men's or women's group	
	Yes, paid .....	2%
	Yes, unpaid .....	22%
	Music director, choir director, or praise team leader	
	Yes, paid .....	1%
	Yes, unpaid .....	2%

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to either rounding or the ability to select more than one option  
n = number of respondents who replied to this question

3.	Do you <i>currently</i> hold any of the following positions in your congregation or the denomination?	n=1,050	
<b>M</b>			
[cont.]	Organist or other musician		
	Yes, paid .....	1%	
	Yes, unpaid .....	4%	
	Member of a choir or praise team		
	Yes, paid .....	1%	
	Yes, unpaid .....	16%	
	Church school or Sunday school teacher or leader		
	Yes, paid .....	2%	
	Yes, unpaid .....	19%	
	Other (specify): _____		
	Yes, paid .....	3%	
	Yes, unpaid .....	10%	
	[None of the above checked] .....	28%	

4, 11.	Over the past year, how often have you [led or] attended Sunday worship [at your congregation]? (Select <i>one</i> .)		
<b>M/T</b>			
		n=1,039	n=1,364
	Every week.....	54%	83%
	2-3 times a month.....	29%	9%
	About once a month.....	7%	4%
	Occasionally or only for holidays/special occasions .....	7%	3%
	Never.....	2%	1%

11a.	[If any except “never” for Q11,] Have you worshiped at a PC(USA) congregation a majority of these times?		
<b>T</b>			
			n=1,319
	Yes .....	92%	
	No.....	8%	

5.	How many hours, if any, <i>during the past month</i> have you . . .? (If you do not know for sure, please estimate.)	
<b>M</b>		
	a. Attended programs or events (including Sunday school) at your church besides worship	n=980
	0 hours .....	29%
	1-2 hours.....	17%
	3-5 hours.....	26%
	6-10 hours.....	18%
	11-20 hours.....	8%
	21 or more hours.....	3%
	Mean.....	5.0
	Median.....	3.0

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to either rounding or the ability to select more than one option  
n = number of respondents who replied to this question

5. How many hours, if any, *during the past month* have you . . .? (If you do not know for sure, please estimate.)  
**M**  
 [cont.] b. **Volunteered** time at your church to teach, lead, serve on a committee, or help with some program or event

	n=980
0 hours .....	33%
1-2 hours.....	21%
3-5 hours.....	22%
6-10 hours.....	15%
11-20 hours.....	6%
21 or more hours.....	3%
Mean.....	4.6
Median.....	2.0

c. Participated in a religious event, program, or group sponsored by a church or other religious organization that took place in a home or other facility away from your church

	n=980
0 hours .....	62%
1-2 hours.....	16%
3-5 hours.....	12%
6-10 hours.....	6%
11-20 hours.....	2%
21 or more hours.....	1%
Mean.....	2.2
Median.....	0.0

d. **Volunteered** time, apart from church programs, to help the less fortunate or to help make your own community a better place to live (that is, through volunteer or community work)

	n=980
0 hours .....	49%
1-2 hours.....	16%
3-5 hours.....	14%
6-10 hours.....	11%
11-20 hours.....	6%
21 or more hours.....	5%
Mean.....	5.5
Median.....	1.0

***First, we'd like to ask you about your background as a teaching elder.***

1. Which seminary degrees do you currently have? (Select *all* that apply.)

	n=1,370
<b>T</b> BD.....	4%
MDiv.....	91%
ThM.....	6%
MA.....	7%
MATS.....	1%
DMin.....	22%
DD.....	1%
PhD.....	6%
Other (specify): _____	2%

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to either rounding or the ability to select more than one option  
 n = number of respondents who replied to this question



2.	In what year were you ordained as a teaching elder? _____ (yyyy)		n=1,354
<b>T</b>			
	Prior to 1960 .....		1%
	1960-1969 .....		2%
	1970-1979 .....		12%
	1980-1989 .....		24%
	1990-1999 .....		20%
	2000-2009 .....		26%
	2010 to the present .....		16%
	Mean .....		1995
	Median .....		1996
3.	In what denomination were you ordained?		n=1,362
<b>T</b>			
	Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) or one of its predecessor denominations .....		96%
	Other (specify): _____ .....		4%
4.	Before entering seminary, were you engaged in any long-term secular job or career?		n=1,357
<b>T</b>			
	Yes .....		42%
	No .....		58%
5.	Which category(-ies) below describes your current employment? (Select <i>all</i> that apply.)		n=1,363
<b>T</b>			
	Pastoral leader of a congregation .....		73%
	A non-pastoral position in a congregation .....		2%
	Faculty or staff at a seminary or theological school .....		3%
	Faculty or staff at another educational institution .....		3%
	Chaplain in the military .....		1%
	Chaplain in a hospital or other health-care facility .....		6%
	Other chaplain (specify): _____ .....		2%
	PC(USA) national, synod, or presbytery staff .....		5%
	Staff of an ecumenical or non-denominational agency .....		1%
	Professional pastoral counselor .....		1%
	Other employment with a religious organization (specify): _____ .....		4%
	All other (including secular) employment (specify): _____ .....		7%
	Unemployed .....		2%
	Retired .....		6%

***If not currently a pastor, skip to Q10.***

7.	How many congregations do you currently serve as pastor? (Include congregations you are serving as a stated or temporary supply pastor.)		n=972
<b>T</b>			
	One .....		94%
	Two or more .....		6%

8. <b>T</b>	Approximately how many hours per week do you spend working as a pastor? (If you serve more than one congregation, provide the combined total hours.)	
	a. _____ PAID hours per week	n=959
	9 hours or fewer .....	2%
	10-19 hours .....	4%
	20-39 hours .....	16%
	40-49 hours .....	43%
	50-59 hours .....	25%
	60 hours or more .....	10%
	Mean .....	41.4
	Median .....	40.0
	b. _____ UNPAID hours per week	n=959
	0 hours.....	61%
	1-4 hours .....	2%
	5-9 hours .....	7%
	10-14 hours .....	14%
	15-19 hours .....	5%
	20-29 hours .....	8%
	30 hours or more .....	4%
	Mean .....	5.9
	Median .....	0.0
9. <b>T</b>	What pastoral position(s) do you currently occupy in a congregation? (Select <i>all</i> that apply.)	n=1,370
	Pastor .....	48%
	Associate pastor .....	10%
	Worshiping community leader.....	2%
	Co-pastor.....	2%
	Stated or temporary supply pastor .....	6%
	Interim pastor .....	5%
	Designated pastor.....	1%
	Parish associate .....	2%
	Other (specify): _____ .....	2%
10. <b>T</b>	Is the congregation or other organization where you are employed affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)?	
		n=1,297
	Yes .....	85%
	No.....	14%
	I am employed with two or more congregations or organizations and at least one of them is affiliated with the PC(USA) and at least one is not .....	1%

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to either rounding or the ability to select more than one option  
n = number of respondents who replied to this question

		Members	Teaching Elders
6, 12.	In what faith or denomination were you raised? (If you were part of more than one faith or denomination as a child, respond by selecting the <i>one</i> in which you were <i>most involved</i> .)		
<b>M/T</b>		n=1,036	n=1,370
	Baptist .....	11%	7%
	Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).....	2%	1%
	Episcopal.....	2%	1%
	Lutheran .....	5%	3%
	Methodist .....	10%	6%
	Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), PCUS, UPCUSA, or UPCNA.....	47%	63%
	Other Presbyterian .....	2%	2%
	Reformed .....	1%	2%
	Roman Catholic .....	7%	3%
	UCC (United Church of Christ/Congregationalist).....	3%	2%
	Independent or non-denominational .....	2%	2%
	Other Christian (specify): _____ .....	6%	5%
	Other non-Christian (specify): _____ .....	1%	< 1%
	None.....	3%	4%
7, 13.	How old were you when you first began regularly attending a Presbyterian church? _____ years old (If less than one year old, write 0 (zero).)		
<b>M/T</b>		n=1,037	n=1,356
	Birth to 1 year .....	26%	45%
	2-4 years.....	5%	6%
	5-9 years.....	10%	8%
	10-17 years.....	9%	10%
	18-24 years.....	11%	15%
	25-49 years.....	32%	15%
	50 years or older.....	7%	1%
	Mean .....	19.6	10.3
	Median .....	19.0	4.0

***The next set of questions asks about matters of faith and belief.***

8, 14.	Which one of the following terms best describes your current stand on <i>theological</i> issues?		
<b>M/T</b>		n=1,035	n=1,359
	Very conservative .....	4%	3%
	Conservative .....	22%	17%
	Moderate .....	33%	34%
	Liberal.....	28%	32%
	Very liberal .....	14%	14%
9, 15.	The PC(USA) recently began to permit Presbyterian ministers to perform same-sex marriages. Do you personally agree that Presbyterian ministers <i>should</i> be allowed to perform same-sex marriages?		
<b>M/T</b>		n=1,034	n=1,362
	Yes .....	62%	67%
	Yes, as long as the ceremony takes place away from PC(USA) church property and facilities...5%	5%	2%
	No.....	24%	25%
	Not sure.....	9%	7%

10, 16. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

M/T		Members	Teaching Elders
a.	There is a life beyond death.	n=1,022	n=1,355
	1 (Strongly disagree).....	1%	1%
	2 .....	2%	1%
	3 .....	3%	< 1%
	4 .....	9%	3%
	5 .....	6%	6%
	6 .....	13%	13%
	7 (Strongly agree) .....	66%	76%
b.	Jesus will return to Earth someday.	n=995	n=1,331
	1 (Strongly disagree).....	4%	4%
	2 .....	8%	4%
	3 .....	6%	4%
	4 .....	15%	11%
	5 .....	8%	10%
	6 .....	12%	13%
	7 (Strongly agree) .....	47%	54%
c.	An individual should arrive at his or her own religious beliefs independent of any church.	n=957	n=1,251
	1 (Strongly disagree).....	13%	24%
	2 .....	17%	31%
	3 .....	13%	15%
	4 .....	21%	14%
	5 .....	12%	5%
	6 .....	10%	6%
	7 (Strongly agree) .....	15%	5%
d.	All the world's different religions are equally good ways of helping a person find ultimate truth.	n=944	n=1,243
	1 (Strongly disagree).....	16%	27%
	2 .....	16%	21%
	3 .....	10%	14%
	4 .....	19%	14%
	5 .....	12%	10%
	6 .....	13%	8%
	7 (Strongly agree) .....	15%	6%
e.	Only followers of Jesus Christ can be saved.	n=893	n=1,227
	1 (Strongly disagree).....	28%	32%
	2 .....	13%	15%
	3 .....	7%	8%
	4 .....	15%	13%
	5 .....	7%	6%
	6 .....	9%	9%
	7 (Strongly agree) .....	22%	17%

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to either rounding or the ability to select more than one option  
n = number of respondents who replied to this question

11, 17. Over the past year, approximately how often have you engaged in the following activities?  
**M/T**

a.	Read the Bible privately	n=1,022	n=1,360
	Daily/almost daily .....	19%	44%
	Several times a week.....	18%	34%
	Weekly .....	11%	10%
	Several times a month.....	13%	6%
	Once a month .....	8%	2%
	Less than once a month.....	23%	3%
	Never.....	7%	1%
b.	Prayed privately	n=1,023	n=1,362
	Daily/almost daily .....	63%	77%
	Several times a week.....	15%	16%
	Weekly .....	6%	3%
	Several times a month.....	8%	2%
	Once a month .....	3%	< 1%
	Less than once a month.....	4%	1%
	Never.....	2%	< 1%
c.	Attended a Bible study or prayer group	n=1,007	n=1,344
	Daily/almost daily .....	1%	3%
	Several times a week.....	3%	10%
	Weekly .....	24%	39%
	Several times a month.....	10%	14%
	Once a month .....	12%	11%
	Less than once a month.....	21%	16%
	Never.....	30%	8%
d.	Otherwise read the Bible with or prayed with family or friends	n=995	n=1,338
	Daily/almost daily .....	10%	19%
	Several times a week.....	8%	21%
	Weekly .....	14%	20%
	Several times a month.....	12%	15%
	Once a month .....	12%	8%
	Less than once a month.....	25%	13%
	Never.....	20%	6%
e.	Read devotional materials or religious books	n=1,019	n=1,347
	Daily/almost daily .....	17%	29%
	Several times a week.....	13%	29%
	Weekly .....	13%	16%
	Several times a month.....	13%	12%
	Once a month .....	14%	6%
	Less than once a month.....	21%	6%
	Never.....	11%	2%

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to either rounding or the ability to select more than one option  
n = number of respondents who replied to this question

		Members	Teaching Elders
11, 17. Over the past year, approximately how often have you engaged in the following activities?			
<b>M/T</b>			
[cont.]	f. Used the Internet for religious or spiritual purposes	n=1,014	n=1,353
	Daily/almost daily.....	13%	34%
	Several times a week.....	11%	29%
	Weekly.....	7%	13%
	Several times a month.....	14%	8%
	Once a month.....	11%	4%
	Less than once a month.....	20%	7%
	Never.....	24%	4%
	g. Said grace before meals	n=1,024	n=1,362
	Daily/almost daily.....	41%	66%
	Several times a week.....	14%	16%
	Weekly.....	6%	5%
	Several times a month.....	12%	6%
	Once a month.....	6%	2%
	Less than once a month.....	16%	3%
	Never.....	6%	1%
<b>T</b>	h. Met with other teaching elders in a pastoral support or peer group		n=1,346
	Daily/almost daily.....		2%
	Several times a week.....		2%
	Weekly.....		10%
	Several times a month.....		13%
	Once a month.....		32%
	Less than once a month.....		28%
	Never.....		13%
	i. Met with a spiritual director and/or coach	n=1,018	n=1,360
	Daily/almost daily.....	< 1%	< 1%
	Several times a week.....	1%	1%
	Weekly.....	4%	1%
	Several times a month.....	4%	4%
	Once a month.....	5%	14%
	Less than once a month.....	23%	25%
	Never.....	63%	56%
12, 18. Which statement comes closest to your view of the Bible? (Fill in <i>only one</i> circle.)			
<b>M/T</b>		n=1,027	n=1,350
	The Bible is the word of God, to be taken literally word for word.....	2%	2%
	The Bible is the word of God, to be interpreted in the light of its historical and cultural context.....	36%	40%
	The Bible is the word of God, to be interpreted in the light of its historical context and the Church's teachings.....	24%	24%
	The Bible is the word of God, to be interpreted with the help of the Holy Spirit.....	35%	33%
	The Bible is not the word of God.....	3%	1%

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to either rounding or the ability to select more than one option  
n = number of respondents who replied to this question

	<b>Members</b>	<b>Teaching Elders</b>
13, 19. How important is being part of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to you? <b>M/T</b>	n=1,035	n=1,364
Very important.....	41%	51%
Important.....	38%	34%
Slightly important.....	12%	10%
Not important.....	6%	4%
Not sure.....	3%	1%
 <i>Now, we'd like you to tell us about yourself.</i>		
14, 20. Which of the following best describes your gender? <b>M/T</b>	n=1,033	n=1,351
Female.....	59%	41%
Male.....	41%	59%
Other (specify): _____.....	< 1%	< 1%
15, 21. What is your citizenship history? <b>M/T</b>	n=1,032	n=1,351
I was born a United States citizen.....	96%	95%
I was not born a United States citizen but I am a citizen now.....	3%	4%
I am not a United States citizen but I am working towards becoming one.....	1%	1%
I am not a United States citizen and don't plan to become one.....	< 1%	1%
16, 22. What is your current age? _____ years old <b>M/T</b>	n=1,026	n=1,351
Less than 20 years of age.....	1%	0%
20-24 years of age.....	1%	0%
25-29 years of age.....	2%	1%
30-34 years of age.....	4%	6%
35-39 years of age.....	5%	8%
40-44 years of age.....	5%	7%
45-49 years of age.....	6%	8%
50-54 years of age.....	9%	10%
55-59 years of age.....	12%	20%
60-64 years of age.....	13%	25%
65-69 years of age.....	14%	11%
70-74 years of age.....	11%	3%
75-79 years of age.....	8%	1%
80-84 years of age.....	6%	1%
85 years of age or older.....	4%	< 1%
Mean.....	60.0	54.4
Median.....	62.0	57.0
17, 23. What is your race and/or ethnicity? (Select <i>all</i> that apply.) <b>M/T</b>	n=1,051	n=1,372
Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish origin.....	3%	3%
White.....	93%	89%
Black or African American.....	3%	3%
African immigrant.....	< 1%	< 1%
Korean.....	1%	2%
Asian but not Korean.....	1%	2%
[continued on next page]		

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to either rounding or the ability to select more than one option  
n = number of respondents who replied to this question

	<b>Members</b>	<b>Teaching Elders</b>
17, 23. What is your race and/or ethnicity? (Select <i>all</i> that apply.)		
<b>M/T</b>	n=1,051	n=1,372
[cont.] Native American .....	1%	1%
Middle Eastern .....	< 1%	< 1%
Other (specify): _____ .....	1%	2%
18, 24. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, Independent, Republican, or other?		
<b>M/T</b>	n=1,027	n=1,344
Democrat.....	39%	55%
Independent.....	19%	18%
Republican .....	31%	13%
Other (specify): _____ .....	2%	1%
I don't identify with a political party .....	10%	13%
19, 25. Which of these categories best describes your <i>total household income</i> from <i>all</i> sources, before taxes, during 2014? (If you live alone or with non-relatives, answer in terms of your own personal income.)		
<b>M/T</b>	n=977	n=1,331
\$20,000 or less .....	3%	2%
\$20,001-\$40,000 .....	10%	6%
\$40,001-\$65,000 .....	18%	24%
\$65,001-\$105,000 .....	29%	39%
\$105,001-\$195,000 .....	24%	24%
\$195,001 or more .....	16%	5%
20, 28. Did you or any other household family member fill out a pledge card regarding church giving for the current year?		
<b>M/T</b>	n=1,031	n=1,353
Yes .....	77%	71%
No.....	21%	28%
Don't know .....	2%	1%
21, 29. Indicate whether, during the 2014 calendar year, you or other household family members contributed any money to each of the following and, if so, give your best estimate of the total amount donated in each category:		
<b>M/T</b>		
a. <i>To your congregation, in regular giving</i> ( <u>not</u> including special offerings or contributions to a capital campaign)		
	n=1,029	n=1,337
No.....	6%	7%
Yes .....	94%	93%
a1. If yes, estimate how much:	n=807	n=1,119
\$499 or less.....	13%	5%
\$500-\$999.....	9%	5%
\$1,000-\$1,499.....	13%	10%
\$1,500-\$1,999.....	6%	5%
\$2,000-\$2,999.....	13%	12%
\$3,000-\$3,999.....	10%	11%
\$4,000-\$4,999.....	6%	11%
\$5,000-\$7,499.....	15%	24%
\$7,500-\$9,999.....	5%	8%
\$10,000 or more .....	10%	11%
Mean.....	\$4,307	\$4,925
Median.....	\$2,500	\$4,000

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to either rounding or the ability to select more than one option  
n = number of respondents who replied to this question



21, 29. Indicate whether, during the 2014 calendar year, you or other household family members contributed any money to each of the following and, if so, give your best estimate of the total amount donated in each category:  
M/T  
[cont.]

b.	<b>To your congregation</b> , in giving to a special <i>capital campaign</i> , for example for a new or remodeled building, or for a new program for the church	n=1,029	n=1,337
	No.....	62%	61%
	Yes.....	38%	39%
b1. If yes, estimate how much:		n=310	n=441
	\$99 or less.....	10%	4%
	\$100-\$249.....	19%	24%
	\$250-\$499.....	9%	10%
	\$500-\$999.....	18%	19%
	\$1,000-\$1,499.....	18%	18%
	\$1,500-\$1,999.....	5%	5%
	\$2,000-\$2,499.....	5%	6%
	\$2,500-\$4,999.....	6%	9%
	\$5,000-\$9,999.....	7%	4%
	\$10,000 or more .....	2%	2%
	Mean.....	\$1,569	\$1,523
	Median.....	\$500	\$500
c.	<b>To your congregation</b> , in response to a <i>special appeal</i> for a ministry supported by the congregation, presbytery, or PC(USA), including the four churchwide special offerings—One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace and Global Witness, and Christmas Joy	n=1,029	n=1,337
	No.....	33%	29%
	Yes.....	68%	71%
c1. If yes, estimate how much:		n=573	n=835
	\$24 or less.....	7%	2%
	\$25-\$49.....	6%	3%
	\$50-\$99.....	16%	11%
	\$100-\$149.....	25%	23%
	\$150-\$249.....	18%	21%
	\$250-\$499.....	10%	16%
	\$500-\$999.....	10%	14%
	\$1,000 or more .....	8%	11%
	Mean.....	\$407	\$362
	Median.....	\$100	\$200

21, 29. Indicate whether, during the 2014 calendar year, you or other household family members contributed any money to each of the following and, if so, give your best estimate of the total amount donated in each category:  
M/T  
[cont.]

d.	<b><i>Directly to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)</i></b> or one of its ministries, such as Presbyterian Disaster Assistance		
		n=1,029	n=1,337
	No.....	72%	61%
	Yes.....	28%	39%
d1.	If yes, estimate how much:	n=224	n=441
	\$24 or less.....	11%	4%
	\$25-\$49.....	10%	7%
	\$50-\$99.....	20%	16%
	\$100-\$149.....	33%	26%
	\$150-\$249.....	9%	15%
	\$250-\$499.....	8%	7%
	\$500-\$999.....	5%	12%
	\$1,000 or more .....	5%	13%
	Mean.....	\$231	\$426
	Median.....	\$100	\$100
e.	<b><i>Directly to other religious groups or religious causes</i></b> outside the PC(USA)		
		n=1,029	n=1,337
	No.....	62%	45%
	Yes.....	38%	55%
e1.	If yes, estimate how much:	n=304	n=620
	\$24 or less.....	3%	1%
	\$25-\$49.....	3%	1%
	\$50-\$99.....	12%	6%
	\$100-\$149.....	14%	12%
	\$150-\$249.....	10%	12%
	\$250-\$499.....	12%	11%
	\$500-\$999.....	18%	16%
	\$1,000-\$1,999.....	12%	20%
	\$2,000-\$3,999.....	6%	14%
	\$4,000 or more .....	11%	8%
	Mean.....	\$1,413	\$1,642
	Median.....	\$343	\$500

21, 29. Indicate whether, during the 2014 calendar year, you or other household family members contributed any money to each of the following and, if so, give your best estimate of the total amount donated in each category:  
**M/T**  
 [cont.]

f.	<b>To non-religious</b> charities, community organizations, or social causes (United Way, Red Cross, arts group, etc.)	n=1,029	n=1,337
	No.....	17%	24%
	Yes.....	83%	76%
f1.	If yes, estimate how much:	n=693	n=885
	\$24 or less.....	2%	1%
	\$25-\$49.....	2%	1%
	\$50-\$99.....	6%	4%
	\$100-\$149.....	9%	11%
	\$150-\$249.....	15%	15%
	\$250-\$499.....	11%	17%
	\$500-\$999.....	18%	19%
	\$1,000-\$1,999.....	14%	16%
	\$2,000-\$3,999.....	10%	9%
	\$4,000 or more .....	13%	7%
	Mean.....	\$1,925	\$1,238
	Median.....	\$500	\$500

22, 26. What is your current relationship status? (Fill in **only one** circle.)  
**M/T**

		n=1,020	n=1,348
	Single.....	10%	8%
	Married.....	74%	82%
	Living in a committed relationship.....	2%	1%
	Divorced.....	5%	7%
	Widowed.....	9%	1%
	Other (specify): _____.....	1%	1%

23, 27. How many children and/or dependents do you have? (If none, write 0 (zero).)  
**M/T**

	Number of children living with me	n=1,009	n=1,349
	None.....	70%	61%
	One child.....	14%	17%
	Two children.....	11%	15%
	Three children.....	4%	6%
	Four children.....	< 1%	1%
	Five children.....	< 1%	< 1%
	Six children.....	< 1%	< 1%
	Seven or more children.....	0%	0%
	Mean.....	0.5	0.7
	Median.....	0.0	0.0

		Members	Teaching Elders
23, 27.	How many children and/or dependents do you have? (If none, write 0 (zero).)		
<b>M/T</b>			
[cont.]	Number of children living elsewhere	n=1,009	n=1,349
	None.....	42%	48%
	One child.....	12%	13%
	Two children.....	27%	23%
	Three children.....	13%	11%
	Four children.....	5%	4%
	Five children.....	1%	1%
	Six children.....	< 1%	1%
	Seven or more children.....	1%	< 1%
	Mean.....	1.3	1.2
	Median.....	1.0	1.0
	Number of dependents that are <b>NOT</b> my children	n=1,009	n=1,349
	None.....	95%	95%
	One dependent.....	4%	4%
	Two dependents.....	1%	< 1%
	Three dependents.....	< 1%	< 1%
	Four dependents.....	< 1%	0%
	Five dependents.....	0%	0%
	Six dependents.....	0%	0%
	Seven or more dependents.....	< 1%	< 1%
	Mean.....	0.1	0.1
	Median.....	0.0	0.0
24.	What is the highest level of education you have completed?		
<b>M</b>		n=1,013	
	Some high school or less.....	< 1%	
	High school diploma.....	2%	
	Some college, but no degree.....	9%	
	Trade school, certificate.....	1%	
	Associate degree.....	3%	
	Bachelor's degree.....	28%	
	Some graduate work.....	12%	
	Master's degree.....	30%	
	Doctorate.....	13%	
25.	Please indicate your employment status. (Select <i>all</i> that apply.)		
<b>M</b>		n=1,050	
	Employed full-time.....	35%	
	Employed part-time.....	10%	
	Self-employed.....	8%	
	Unemployed.....	2%	
	Retired.....	39%	
	Full-time homemaker.....	5%	
	Student.....	2%	
	Other (specify): _____.....	1%	

Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to either rounding or the ability to select more than one option  
n = number of respondents who replied to this question

	Members	Teaching Elders
26, 6. [If employed,] About how many hours per week do you work in <i>total paid employment</i> ? _____ hours	n=536	n=1,076
<b>M/T</b>		
9 hours or fewer .....	3%	1%
10-19 .....	8%	3%
20-39 .....	22%	14%
40-49 .....	42%	39%
50-59 .....	17%	29%
60 hours or more .....	9%	15%
Mean .....	39.0	44.4
Median .....	40.0	45.0

27, 30. Save the trees! If you would like to receive future questionnaires by email instead of paper mail, please *print* your email address here:

[not tabulated]

28, 31. If you have additional comments, please write them in the space below.

**M/T**  
[not tabulated]

# Appendix B: Technical Notes

## Establishment of the 2015-2017 Presbyterian Panel

### Populations

The Panel consists of two samples, representing two constituency groups, or populations, of people affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The PC(USA) consists of congregations in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

### Members

The member sample, compiled between October 2014 and July 2015, includes active members (including ruling elders) and attendees of congregations affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), but not including people unable to complete a survey for health or other reasons. At the end of 2014, the total active membership of the PC(USA) was 1,667,767.

### Teaching Elders

The population of teaching elders (ministers of Word and Sacrament) is defined as the people who have been ordained to this office and continue to hold it as members of a presbytery of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Retired or emeritus teaching elders are not included. At the time of drawing a random sample of teaching elders for the Panel (June 2015), the population of active teaching elders totaled 10,962.

### Sampling

The sampling procedures for the 2015-2017 Presbyterian Panelists included drawing representative samples for each population, as well as inviting Presbyterians to self-select into the Presbyterian Panel.

### Members

Lacking exhaustive, national lists of all active members of PC(USA) congregations, we initially implemented a two-stage sampling process for members. We used proportional, stratified sampling to ultimately draw a sample of 978 congregations<sup>1</sup> from 10,002 congregations across the country.<sup>2</sup> Congregational strata were based on:

- Region of congregation's location (Northeast, Midwest, South, West)
- Race ethnicity of the congregation's membership, assigned based on the race-ethnicity of over 80% of the congregation's membership (African American, Asian American, Hispanic, Native American, White, other race, and multi-ethnic – in which no ethnicity accounted for more than 80% of the membership)
- Membership size, within each unique region-race ethnicity stratum. Within each of the region-race strata—if the sample size was two or more—congregations were rank-ordered by membership size from lowest to highest and divided into equal-sized categories based on number of members. If the number of congregations to be sampled was three, for example, as in the Midwest-African American stratum, all the congregations in that stratum were rank-ordered by size and divided into three groups, each one containing about one-third of the members in that region-race-ethnicity stratum. The process was repeated in all the other strata with a sample size of two or more, with a maximum of eight equal-sized categories identified. Within each of the resulting region-race-ethnicity-size strata, individual congregations were sampled using systematic probability-proportional-to-size sampling.<sup>3</sup>

Sampled congregations were asked to send their entire membership list, to allow Research Services to randomly sample approximately 5% of their members to serve as panelists.

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<sup>1</sup> The target was 1,002.

<sup>2</sup> This number is less than the total number of congregations (10,038) because there were 36 congregations that reported no members.

<sup>3</sup> Systematic probability-proportional-to-size sampling of member congregations involves assembling an implicit list of all members of congregations and then selecting not every *nth* congregation, but every *nth* member and then that member's congregation. The resulting sample is proportional to size – that is, a congregation with 100 members is twice as likely to be selected as one with 50 members – because we want the sample to be representative of members, not of congregations.

## Contacting Sampled Congregations

Initially, only 502 congregations were sampled using the above process. In November 2014, each sampled congregation was sent a cover letter requesting a copy of its membership list, an endorsement letter from the PC(USA) Stated Clerk Gradye Parsons, and a questions and answers sheet with more information about the project. Each church was also asked to note any members who would be unable to fill out a questionnaire for health or other reasons, and these people were not included in the sampling. A follow-up email was sent on December 8, 2014, to each congregation we had not received a membership list from, and which we had an email address for (n=455).

Few congregations sent us their membership lists. We increased the number of congregations we sampled by 978 (taking a new sample, using the procedure explained earlier). A total of 174 congregations overlapped between the initial sample of 502 and the new sample of 978. We contacted congregations in the new sample that we found email addresses for, by email on February 11-12, 2015. We accepted membership lists from either sample, as well as gathering a few membership lists from other willing congregations and with the help of a denominational colleague. Ultimately, we collected 116 full or partial membership lists that we used to create a sample of Presbyterian members to invite to join the Presbyterian Panel. When sampling from the membership lists, we would first randomly select a number between 1 and 20. If the number 5 was selected, we would first sample the fifth person on the list, then every 20<sup>th</sup> person after the initial person selected. This process allowed us to randomly select approximately 5% of members in each congregation, and invite them to become Presbyterian Panelists.

## Pastors and Specialized Ministers

A list of all teaching elders is maintained by the Office of the General Assembly based on reports from stated clerks of presbyteries. A simple random sample of 2,500 active teaching elders (that is, not retired or emeritus) was drawn. This sample includes both *pastors* (who serve in a congregation) and *specialized ministers* (who serve in a school or seminary, as a hospital or military chaplain, as staff of a PC(USA) national agency or mid-council, in an ecumenical agency, or in any other (church-related or not church-related) job or position).

## Recruiting Volunteers

To increase the number of Presbyterians participating in the 2015-2017 Panel, in the spring of 2015 Presbyterians were invited to sign up to become panelists through a variety of communication strategies (email invitations, online notifications/advertisements, etc.). Interested Presbyterians were directed to fill out a MailChimp (online) form with their demographic information. Also, every current PC(USA) new worshiping community was invited to have one of its leaders or attendees become a panelist, filling out Panel surveys on behalf of the new worshiping community. Although the sampling strategy for the 2015-2017 Presbyterian Panel was not purely random and systematic, the Demographics section on the next page reveals that the 2015-2017 panelists largely reflect the characteristics of the broader Presbyterian population.

## Mailings to Individuals

A total of 6,812 panelists (sampled and volunteer) were invited to participate in this initial Panel background survey. Surveys were distributed via both web-based and paper questionnaires in English, and also offered online in Spanish and Korean. The paper questionnaire was mailed (along with a Communications Panel questionnaire, a cover letter, an informational sheet about the Panel, and a postage-paid reply envelope) on July 14, 2015 to 5,483 individuals who were sampled to become panelists. (This number of invitations sent does not include emailed invitations or invitations later sent to people we currently didn't have contact information for.) In addition, the entire population of worshiping communities for whom we had mailing addresses was sent invitations for their leader or a participant to join the Panel. A website was listed on the paper questionnaire, where panelists had the option to complete the survey online.

All Panel volunteers signed up to become panelists through an online form, displaying their ability to use the internet. As a result, all Panel volunteers were only sent email invitations – not mailed invitations – to participate in the Panel. A pre-notice email was sent through MailChimp to Panel volunteers on May 28, 2015. The web survey was distributed on June 2, 2015 via email invitation to 1,072 Panel volunteers. Panel volunteer non-respondents were sent an email reminder on June 23, 2015.

Throughout the following months, additional reminders were mailed or emailed to non-responding panelists, and invitations were mailed/emailed to panelists we did not initially have contact information for, seeking their participation. Returns for both versions of the survey were accepted through April 15, 2016.

## Response Rate

There were many attempts made to find contact information for the panelists that we had incorrect mailing or email addresses for (or who we were missing contact information for). For this reason, it is not clear exactly how many of the surveys ended up being undeliverable. In the end, 2,424 panelists completed this survey, and the response rate (total surveys answered/total surveys sent) is 35%.

## Demographics

**Gender:** Fifty-nine percent of the members and 41% of the teaching elders who completed the survey are women. This means the gender distribution of members and teaching elders in these samples is representative of the denomination. Congregational and teaching elder data kept by the Office of the General Assembly shows that in 2015, 58% of members were women and 38% of teaching elders were women.

**Age:** The average age of members who participated in the survey is 60, and their median age is 62. Respondents who are teaching elders are, on average, 54 years old, with a median age of 57. This group of member panelists is similar in age to previous Panel samples (the median age for the last sample of member panelists was 63). Because the Office of the General Assembly data only provides membership age in ranges, we cannot make a direct comparison to the average age of Presbyterians as a whole; however, the median age range of Presbyterian members is 56-65. The median age of teaching elder respondents (57) is similar to the median age of teaching elders as calculated using the 2015 Office of the General Assembly statistics (56).

**Race:** Slightly more than nine in ten members who responded to the survey (94%), and nine in ten respondents who are teaching elders (90%), identify themselves as White. In this way, member respondents are quite similar to the overall Presbyterian population, which is 91% White. However, teaching elder respondents are somewhat disproportionately White, as only 85% of teaching elders are White, according to Office of the General Assembly records.

**Role:** The goal for sampling for the Presbyterian Panel is to get large enough samples of members and teaching elders to maintain reasonable confidence that the survey results reflect those populations. As such, results for members and teaching elders are reported separately. For this survey, 1,051 (43%) of the respondents are members and 1,372 (57%) are teaching elders.<sup>4</sup>

## Sampling Error

Determining precision of findings/margin of error is complicated by the fact that this study is comprised partially of a convenience sample. The Demographics section above notes where panelists are over-represented or under-represented, when compared to known estimates of population demographics based on 2015 congregational and teaching elder data kept by the Office of the General Assembly.

If this study had studied a random sample of members, the margin of error for members' responses (using a 95% confidence interval) would be 3.0%. That is, if 42% of members in the sample responded to a question in a certain way, there are 19 out of 20 chances that the actual percentage of members of PC(USA) churches in general who would respond that way would fall between 39.0% and 45.0% (this is the confidence interval). If the study had studied random samples of teaching elders, the margin of error for their responses would be 2.6% (giving this sample a slightly smaller confidence interval).

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<sup>4</sup> One respondent's role designation was unknown.