



The Presbyterian Panel

Listening to Presbyterians



SUMMARY

Hymnals The August 2005 Survey

The Presbyterian Panel consists of three nationally representative samples of groups affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): members, elders (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 thirteenth survey completed by the 2003-2005 Panel, initially sampled in the fall of 2002.

IN THIS SUMMARY

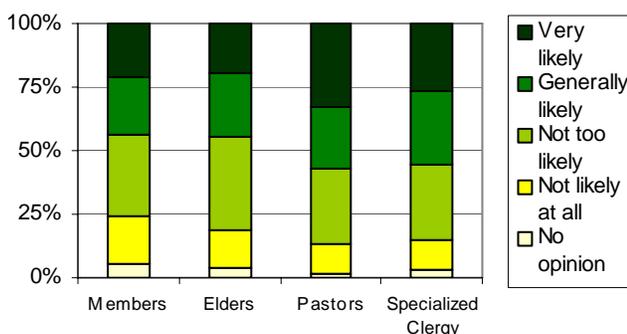
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NEED FOR A NEW HYMNAL

Is a New Hymnal Needed?

- ✓ A majority of lay panelists respond *not too likely* or *not at all likely* when asked “how likely it is that the PC(USA) will need a new hymnal by 2013” (members, 51%; elders, 52%), but almost as many respond *very likely* or *generally likely* (44%; 44%).
- ✓ Among ministers the reverse pattern occurs: majorities respond *very likely* or *generally likely* (pastors, 57%; specialized clergy, 55%), while sizable minorities respond *not too likely* or *not at all likely* (42%; 41%).

Figure 1. Opinions on How Likely It Is the PC(USA) Will Need a New Hymnal by 2013



- ✓ Around a third of laity (members, 30%; elders, 33%) and half of ministers (pastors, 47%; specialized clergy, 49%) are personally *very interested* or *generally interested* “in the PC(USA) developing a new hymnal to be published in 2013.” Of the rest, some are *a little interested* (24%; 26%; 24%; 21%) but more are *not interested* (41%; 39%; 28%; 28%).

Arguments For

- ✓ Among those who think a new hymnal is *very likely* or *generally likely* to be needed, the reasons chosen by a majority in at least three of the four Panel groups are:
 - Younger worshipers will want more contemporary hymns (members, 68%; elders, 78%; pastors, 79%; specialized clergy, 63%)
 - Newer hymns will have been written and need to be included (54%; 65%; 76%; 69%)
 - Congregational song preferences will have shifted such that many worshipers will want a different collection of hymns (54%; 68%; 68%; 64%)
 - Different hymns will be needed to reflect the changing cultural/racial/ethnic composition of the church (45%; 61%; 62%; 71%)

Arguments Against

- ✓ Among panelists who think a new hymnal “will likely not be needed” in 2013, opinion is divided between laity and ministers as to why. A majority of laity selected only one of four choices, while a majority of pastors selected each of the other three:
 - The *Presbyterian Hymnal* will continue to be contemporary long past 2013 (members, 61%; elders, 58%; pastors, 33%; specialized clergy, 34%)
 - Hymnal supplements will be available for those who want newer hymns (42%; 47%; 58%; 71%)
 - Fewer congregations will want a denominational hymnal, opting instead to put together their own collections of hymns (18%; 23%; 59%; 37%)
 - More congregations will project hymns on a screen, and not need a printed hymnal (36%; 36%; 66%; 51%)

HYMNAL USE IN CONGREGATIONS

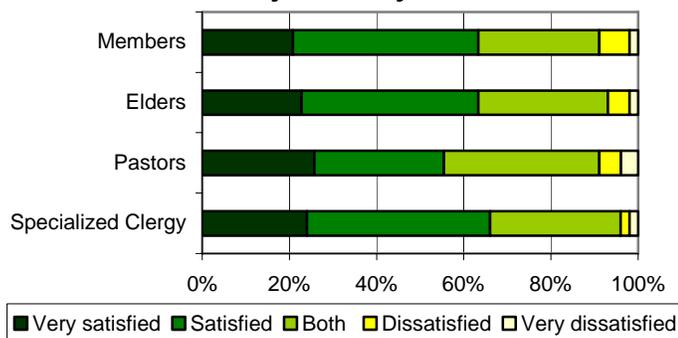
Hymnals Currently Used

- ✓ Most congregations “usually use a hymnal or hymnal supplement in worship” (members, 94%; elders, 93%; pastors, 95%). Those that don’t use hymnals typically print hymn texts in the worship bulletin or project them on a screen.
- ✓ Among those using hymnals in worship, two in three report using only or primarily the 1990 *Presbyterian Hymnal* (members, 65%; elders, 70%; pastors, 68%).
- ✓ No other hymnal is reported as the single or primary worship hymnal by as many as one in ten panelists. The closest, the 1955 *Presbyterian Hymnbook*, is used by 8% of members, 9% of elders, and 7% of pastors.

Satisfaction with Hymnals

- ✓ Most panelists in congregations where the 1990 *Presbyterian Hymnal* is the only or primary worship hymnal are either *very satisfied* or *satisfied* with it (members, 64%; elders, 64%; pastors, 55%). Most of the rest are *both satisfied and dissatisfied* (28%; 30%; 36%) rather than *dissatisfied* or *strongly dissatisfied* (9%; 7%; 9%).

Figure 2. Satisfaction with the 1990 Presbyterian Hymnal



- ✓ Among the small number whose congregations use the 1955 *Presbyterian Hymnbook*, most laity but fewer pastors are *very satisfied* or *satisfied*: members, 68%; elders, 67%; pastors, 43%.

Other Hymnals and Supplements Used

- ✓ Most congregations use a second hymnal or a hymnal supplement “regularly in worship” (members, 55%; elders, 53%; pastors, 65%). No particular secondary hymnal or supplement is widely used; the most common, according to pastors, are *Sing the Faith* (used by 18%), *Lift Up Your Hearts* (11%), and the 1955 *Presbyterian Hymnbook* (11%).

Hymnals Recently Bought

- ✓ One-third of pastors report their congregation buying a hymnal or hymnal supplement in the last five years.
- ✓ In these congregations, the most common purchases have been *Sing the Faith* (39% so report), the 1990 *Presbyterian Hymnal* (17%), and *Lift Up Your Hearts* (13%). 5% report buying *Hymns We Love to Sing*, and 2%, *Sing a New Creation*.

Hymns Sung from the Presbyterian Hymnal

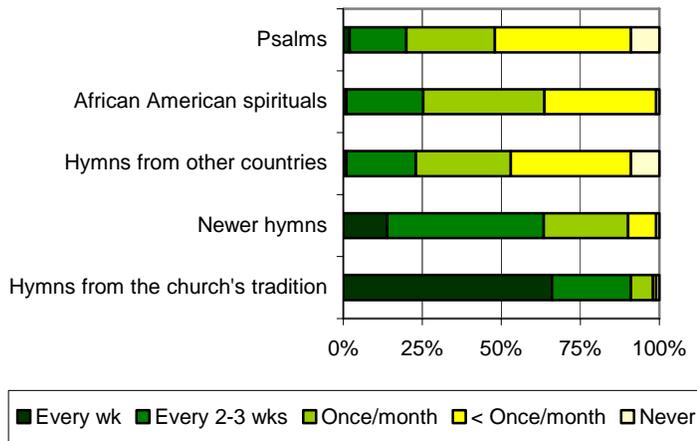
- ✓ In congregations that use the 1990 *Presbyterian Hymnal*, most pastors report singing “hymns from the church’s tradition” from that hymnal either *weekly* (66%) or *every 2 or 3 weeks* (25%). A majority also report singing “newer hymns” from that hymnal *weekly* (14%) or *every 2 or 3 weeks* (64%). (See Figure 3, p. 3.)
- ✓ Other types of hymns are sung from that hymnal with lesser frequency, according to pastors:
 - African American spirituals (*every week*, 1%; *every 2 or 3 weeks*, 24%; *around once a month*, 38%; *less than once a month*, 35%; *never*, 1%)
 - Hymns from other countries (1%; 22%; 30%; 38%; 9%)
 - Psalms (2%; 18%; 28%; 42%; 9%)

Hymns Sung from Other Hymnals

- ✓ Few pastors report their congregations use the Psalter (sing Psalms) *every week* (2%), *every 2 or 3 weeks* (8%), or *around once a month* (12%). Instead, most report singing Psalms *less than once a month* (37%) or *never* (40%).
- ✓ In congregations that at least occasionally sing Psalms, only 10% of pastors report that they “use a separate Psalter book or publication.”
- ✓ Pastors whose congregations use the 1990 *Presbyterian Hymnal* report how often worship in their congregations includes certain types of hymns from *other* hymnals:
 - Newer hymns (*every week*, 13%; *every 2 or 3 weeks*, 23%; *around once a month*, 18%; *less than once a month*, 24%; *never*, 20%)
 - Hymns from the church’s tradition (13%; 11%; 17%; 33%; 26%)
 - Hymns from other countries (1%; 9%; 10%; 38%; 43%)
 - African American spirituals (2%; 7%; 17%; 38%; 36%)
 - Psalms (1%; 7%; 10%; 33%; 49%)

OTHER OPINIONS ON HYMNALS

Figure 3. Frequency of Singing Types of Hymns from the 1990 Presbyterian Hymnal (Pastors' Responses)



Content for a New Hymnal: Liturgy

- ✓ Were a new hymnal to be published, around half or more are interested (*very interested* or *generally interested*) in it having each of five liturgical resources:
 - Creeds or confessions (members, 64%; elders, 75%; pastors, 66%; specialized clergy, 75%)
 - Liturgy for the Lord's Supper (60%; 60%; 51%; 70%)
 - Liturgy for baptism (55%; 56%; 49%; 63%)
 - Liturgy for receiving new members (51%; 54%; 49%; 56%)
 - Liturgy for ordaining/installing elders (50%; 54%; 48%; 57%)
- ✓ Many, especially laity, have no opinion on the number of pages a new hymnal should devote to liturgical resources (members, 41%; elders, 37%). Among those with an opinion, the median preferred number of pages is 33 for members, 30 for elders, 36 for pastors, and 44 for specialized clergy.

Frequency of Hymnal Publication

- ✓ Around half in every Panel group believe that "publishing a new hymnal approximately every 20 years," as the Presbyterian Church has typically done, is *about the right interval* (members, 49%; elders, 53%; pastors, 51%; specialized clergy, 52%).
- ✓ Of the rest, about twice as many laity and specialized clergy think 20 years is *too frequent* (members, 21%; elders, 19%; specialized clergy, 17%) than *not frequent enough* (11%; 8%; 11%). Pastors are split (14%; 15%).

Broad Purposes of Hymnals

- ✓ Majorities agree (combined *strongly agree* and *agree*) that "a denominational hymnal is an important resource for the formation of Christian identity" (members, 65%; elders, 72%; pastors, 77%; specialized clergy, 88%). Fewer agree that "a denominational hymnal is an important resource for the formation of denominational identity" (50%; 57%; 74%; 72%).
- ✓ Most panelists agree that "a denominational hymnal should guide the church in its theological thinking and faith formation" (members, 51%; elders, 60%; pastors, 79%; specialized clergy, 83%).

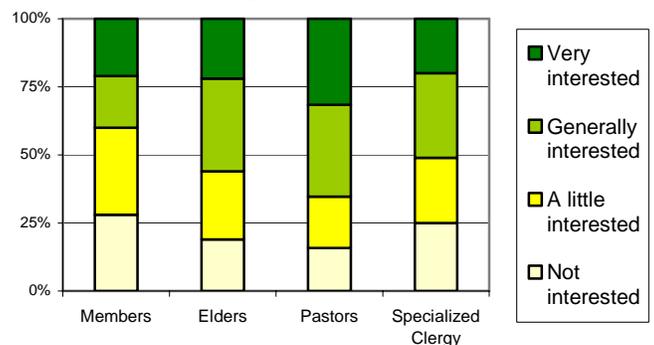
Content for a New Hymnal: Music

- ✓ Around six in ten panelists agree (combined *strongly agree* and *agree*) that "a denominational hymnal should be a reflection of what is currently being sung across the church" (members, 56%; elders, 61%; pastors, 66%; specialized clergy, 62%).

Content for Hymnal Supplements

- ✓ Of five possible topic areas for hymnal supplements, laity are most interested (*very interested* or *generally interested*) in gospel music, least in Taizé:
 - Gospel music (members, 49%; elders, 52%)
 - New liturgical materials (40%; 52%)
 - Contemporary praise choruses (39%; 55%)
 - Hymns from other countries (22%; 29%)
 - Taizé (10%; 15%)

Figure 4. Interest in a Hymnal Supplement of Contemporary Praise Choruses



- ✓ Ministers, by contrast, are most interested in new liturgical materials, least in hymns from other nations (pastors) or contemporary praise choruses (specialized clergy):
 - New liturgical materials (pastors, 69%; specialized clergy, 76%)
 - Contemporary praise choruses (65%; 51%)
 - Gospel music (60%; 54%)
 - Taizé (57%; 56%)
 - Hymns from other countries (44%; 62%)

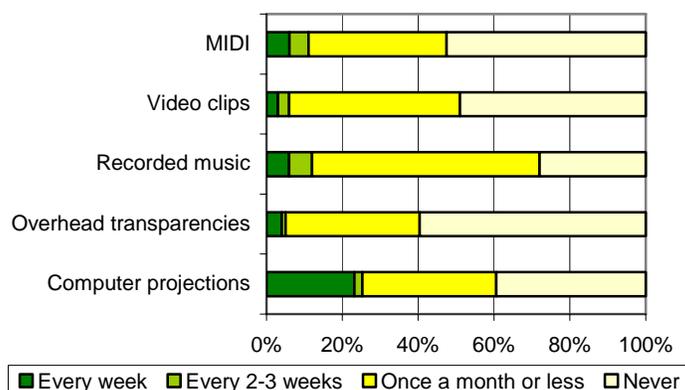
Singing from Other Resources

- ✓ Half of pastors report that congregational worship includes “singing of a hymn or other song that’s not found in any of the hymnal or hymnal supplements the congregation usually uses” either *weekly* (35%) or *every 2-3 weeks* (14%). Only 9% respond *never*.
- ✓ Half of pastors report congregational singing of “contemporary praise choruses” either *weekly* (39%) or *every 2-3 weeks* (12%). Only 19% report *never* doing so. Also, 28% report having a *praise band*.

Using Technology in Worship

- ✓ Around one in four pastors report that their worship services include “projections on a screen, using a computer” *weekly*. Other technologies are used less frequently in worship by congregations, if used at all:
 - Projections on a screen using a computer (*weekly*, 23%; *every 2 or 3 weeks*, 2%; *once a month*, 5%; *less than once a month*, 30%; *never*, 39%)
 - Projections using overhead transparencies (5%; 1%; 2%; 33%; 58%)
 - Recorded music (6%; 6%; 11%; 49%; 28%)
 - Video clips (3%; 3%; 7%; 38%; 49%)
 - MIDI (musical instrument digital interface) (6%; 5%; 5%; 31%; 52%)
- ✓ Most pastors think their use of these technologies in worship will stay the same or grow, especially in the case of computer projections (66% expect it to *increase*; 1%, *decrease*; and 28%, *stay the same*) and praise choruses (60%; 2%; 34%).

Figure 5. Use of Technology in Worship: Pastors’ Responses



Copyright Licenses

- ✓ 72% of pastors report that their congregations have a “copyright license to reproduce hymns.” Most of these licenses are from Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI) (90% so report).

Choirs and Choir Directors

- ✓ One-quarter of members (22%) and elders (26%) have “sung in a church choir” in the past year, most of them *regularly* (86%; 77%).
- ✓ Most pastors (92%) report that their congregation has an adult choir; 50%, a children’s choir; and 48%, a bell choir. Less common are youth choirs (28%).
- ✓ Most pastors (92%) report their congregation has a choir director. Most directors are paid (90%) and work part time (82%).

	Members	Elders	Ordained Ministers
Number of surveys mailed.....	683	1,019	1,173
Number returned.....	322	516	691‡
Response rate.....	47%	50%	58%

‡Of the 691 returned surveys, 455 came from pastors and 236 from specialized clergy.

This survey was initially mailed in August 2005, and returns were accepted through mid-November 2005. Results are subject to sampling and other errors. Small differences should be interpreted cautiously. As a general rule, differences of less than 8% between samples are not statistically meaningful.

For more numbers and interpretation of the August 2005 Presbyterian Panel results, a longer report with additional charts is available for free on the Web (www.pcusa.org/research/panel/index) or for \$10 from PDS (1-800-524-2612; order PDS# 65100-05288). It includes tables showing percentage responses to each survey question separately for members, elders, pastors, and specialized clergy.

For more information on hymnals in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), contact David Maxwell (888-728-7228 ext. 5128; dmaxwell@presbypub.com).

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