



# 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

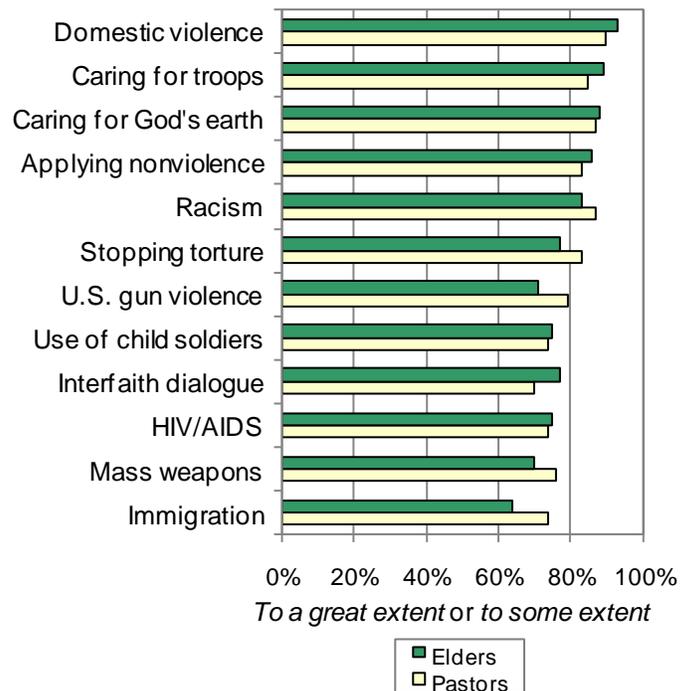
- ✓ Four in five or more panelists in each group (members, 81%; elders, 82%; pastors, 85%; specialized clergy, 86%) believe the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program should engage in issues of peace and justice to a *great extent* or *some extent* in the United States.
- ✓ About three-quarters of ministers—but 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”

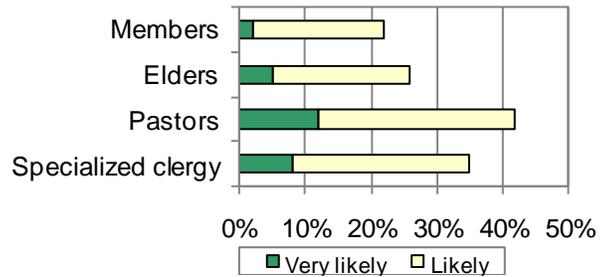
- ✓ At least four in five panelists in each group are *very likely* or *likely* to associate the word “Sabbath” with:
  - Worship (members, 95%; elders, 99%; pastors, 95%; specialized clergy, 94%).
  - A Christian practice (94%; 90%; 93%; 85%).
  - Rest and restoration (86%; 87%; 95%; 97%).
  - One of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

### LISTENING TO PRESBYTERIANS SINCE 1973

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