



# Awareness and Understanding of the Presbyterian Mission Agency



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# Executive Summary\*

## Awareness of the Presbyterian Mission Agency

- 51% of teaching elders feel like they are familiar with the Presbyterian Mission Agency, compared to only 20% of members.
- Teaching elders are significantly more likely than members to think of the Presbyterian Mission Agency as the Office of the General Assembly (11% of teaching elders and 8% of members).
- The majority of teaching elders (82%) and members (75%) know that elected representatives to the General Assembly make the decisions and set policy for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
- Only 48% of teaching elders and 41% of members know that there are six agencies in the PC(USA).

## Trust in the Presbyterian Mission Agency

- 60% of members and 54% of teaching elders trust the Presbyterian Mission Agency.
- Theological liberals are almost twice as likely to trust the Presbyterian Mission Agency as theological conservatives (64% of theological liberals vs. 34% of theological conservatives).
- Members are more likely than teaching elders to feel that the Presbyterian Mission Agency is living into its vision (member mean 4.74, teaching elder mean 4.30: 7-pt scale).
- Members are more likely than teaching elders to feel that the Presbyterian Mission Agency is living into its mission (member mean 4.67, teaching elder mean 4.32: 7-pt scale).
- Theological liberals are more likely than moderates and conservatives to feel that the Presbyterian Mission Agency is living into its vision (60% of theological liberals, 51% of theological moderates, and 27% of theological conservatives).
- Theological liberals are more likely than moderates and conservatives to feel that the Presbyterian Mission Agency is living into its mission (60% of theological liberals, 48% of theological moderates, and 27% of theological conservatives).

## Reliance on the Presbyterian Mission Agency

- 22% of teaching elders and 15% of members rely on the Presbyterian Mission Agency as an essential resource.
- 25% of teaching elders and 9% of members visit the Presbyterian Mission Agency website about once a month or more often.
- 77% of teaching elders and 35% of members use Presbyterian Mission Agency resources at least a few times a year.
- The most common resources used by teaching elders are those related to disaster response (71%). The most common resources used by members are those related to disaster response (31%) and world mission (32%).
- Teaching elders are most interested in the following Presbyterian Mission Agency resources: grants and scholarships (31%), resources for helping churches grow (30%), and diversity ministry resources (28%).
- Members are most interested in Presbyterian Mission Agency's resources for helping churches grow (25%) and resources related to youth and young adult ministries (24%).
- Diversity ministry resources are among the top three types of resources most desired by teaching elders, but are also among the least used and least heard of.

\* Because terms used in this summary are defined in the full report, please do not distribute the executive summary separately.

# Awareness and Understanding of the Presbyterian Mission Agency

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# Overview of the Study

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In 2014, the Presbyterian Mission Agency began a new process for setting goals and assessing impact. This panel study is intended to establish a baseline for future assessments of the Communications Department of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, and is part of a larger impact assessment for the department.

## ***Objectives***

The primary goal of the Communications Department of the Presbyterian Mission Agency is to “increase awareness and understanding of the Presbyterian Mission Agency as a consistent, trusted resource, resulting in increased engagement, funding and relevancy.” The feedback from this study will be used to measure Presbyterians’ current awareness of and satisfaction with Mission Agency resources, products, and services.

## ***Methodology***

This is a quantitative study supported with qualitative responses. That is, the survey includes mostly closed-ended questions which are assigned numeric response values, but also includes a few open-ended questions to which respondents provide answers in their own words. See Appendix A for exact question wording and detailed survey results.

## ***Study Design and Implementation***

Angie Andriot, in collaboration with other Research Services staff and the clients, designed the study as the Principal Investigator. Joelle Kopacz implemented the study as the Co-Investigator.

A total of 6,743 panelists (sampled and volunteer) were invited to participate in this survey. Surveys were written in English only and were distributed via both web-based and paper questionnaires. The paper questionnaire was mailed, along with the Demographic Profile questionnaire, on July 14, 2015 to 5,483 individuals who were sampled to become panelists.\* In addition, the entire population of worshipping communities for whom we had mailing addresses was sent invitations for their leader or a participant to join the panel. The web survey was distributed on September 3, 2015 via email invitation to 1,029 panel volunteers. All web non-respondents were sent email reminders on September 9, 2015 and September 17, 2015. Returns for both versions of the survey were accepted through September 27, 2015.

## ***Sample Definition***

This survey is the first full Presbyterian Panel survey to use the 2015-2017 panelists. It consists of two nationally representative samples of groups affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): members and teaching elders. For additional information on the Presbyterian Panel and its sampling and distribution, please see Appendix B.

**Response Rate:** Research Services did not have a correct address for 414 of the 6,743 panelists (sampled and volunteer) who were invited to participate in this survey. As a result, there were a total of 6,329 successful deliveries of the survey. In the end, 1,701 panelists completed the survey. The response rate (total surveys answered/total surveys

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\* Although the paper version of the demographic survey was mailed together with the panel survey, the web versions were treated differently. Further details will be in the 2016 Demographic Report.

sent) is 25% and the engagement rate (total surveys answered/total surveys successfully delivered to recipients) is 27%.

- **Paper survey:** 5,714 surveys were mailed. Of these, 278 surveys were returned as undeliverable, so there were a total of 5,436 successful mailings of the survey for this group. A total of 965 people from this population completed the survey. The response rate (total surveys answered/total surveys sent) is 17% and the engagement rate (total surveys answered/total surveys successfully delivered to recipients) is 18%.
- **Web survey:** 1,029 survey invitations were sent. Of these, 136 invitation emails were returned as undeliverable, so there were a total of 903 successful email deliveries of the survey link for this group. A total of 736 people from this population completed the survey. The response rate (total surveys answered/total surveys emailed) is 72% and the engagement rate (total surveys answered/total surveys successfully arriving in peoples' inboxes) is 82%.

### **Demographics:**

- **Gender:** Fifty-eight percent of the members and 40% of the teaching elders who completed the survey are women. Female teaching elders are slightly over-represented here, as women currently make up 33% of all active teaching elders in the PC(USA), and 27% of PC(USA) teaching elders overall (including those who are retired or otherwise inactive). The gender distribution of members in this sample are representative of the population of PC(USA) members.
- **Age:** The average age of respondents is 58, and their median age is 59. The ages of respondents range from 16 to 95. This group of panelists is slightly younger than previous panel samples (the median age for the last sample of 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.
- **Race:** Nine in ten respondents (93%) identify themselves as White. The second largest groups of respondents identify as Hispanic (2%) or Black or African American (2%). Very few respondents identify with other racial-ethnic groups (multiracial respondents, 1.7%; Asian, 1.3%; Middle Eastern, 0.2%). This is similar to the overall Presbyterian population.
- **Role:** The goal of the Presbyterian Panel is to get equal numbers of members and teaching elders. As such, each group was sampled separately. For this survey, 698 (41%) of the respondents are members and 963 (57%) are teaching elders. In addition, 40 did not provide their role designation; therefore, these were only included in analyses of panelists as a whole (when results are shown for "Presbyterians" rather than for the two individual groups).

**Weighting:** In the general Presbyterian population of approximately 1.6 million, only 1.2% are teaching elders. Because 57% of the respondents are teaching elders in this Panel, when results are shared for "Presbyterians" or for panelists as a whole, the data from the two roles (member and teaching elder) have been combined and then weighted to reflect the results that would be anticipated if 1.2% of respondents were teaching elders and 98.8% were members. The weights are based on demographic information from the 2014 Session Annual Statistical Report for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), which is denomination-wide data collected every year from congregations by the Office

of the General Assembly (a separate entity from the Presbyterian Mission Agency, in which Research Services is housed). The weight adjustment variable is a simple proportion based on percentage of the population.

### ***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 annual congregational data collected in the Session Annual Statistical Report by the Office of the General Assembly in 2014.

If this study had been composed of a simple random sample, the margin of error for this survey as a whole (using a 95% confidence interval) would be 3.8%. If we were to compute a margin of error for each sample within the survey, this margin would be 5.2% for members and 5.9% for teaching elders.

### ***Data Analysis***

Survey results have been analyzed for demographic differences in respondents’ role (member vs. teaching elder) and theological orientation (self-identity as conservative, moderate, or liberal in theology). This analysis helps to identify patterns in responses. Results are presented as descriptive statistics, and are at times accompanied by respondents’ confidential remarks.

When differences between groups of respondents are noted in results, significance tests have indicated that these differences are statistically significant at the  $p \leq .05$ -level, meaning that there is a 5% or lower chance that the groups are actually statistically equivalent in the area discussed. Qualitative data are analyzed using content analysis.

### ***Areas of Investigation***

The research questions were designed to address the research objectives and guide the construction of the survey:

1. How aware of the Mission Agency and its resources are Presbyterians?
2. To what extent do Presbyterians understand the Presbyterian Mission Agency?
3. To what extent does the Church trust the Mission Agency?
4. To what extent does the Church rely on the Mission Agency as an essential resource?

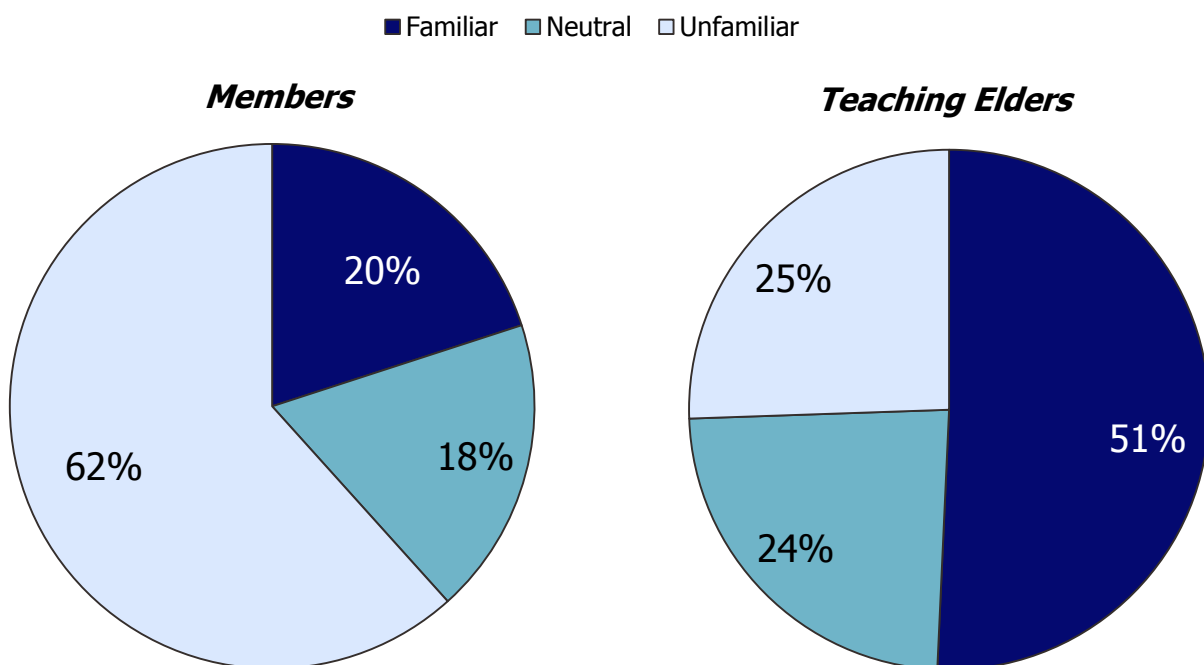
# Awareness of the Presbyterian Mission Agency

## Self-Rated Awareness

Panelists were asked to rate their familiarity with the Presbyterian Mission Agency on a scale of 1-7, with 1 being “not at all familiar” and 7 being “extremely familiar.” The mean (i.e., average) response for Presbyterians overall\* is 3.05; the median is 3. This is lower than the neutral rating of 4, indicating Presbyterians in general do not feel they are very familiar with the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Figure 1 shows the percentage of members and teaching elders who are unfamiliar (1-3 on scale), neutral (4 on scale), and familiar (5-7 on scale).

**Figure 1: Familiarity with the Presbyterian Mission Agency**



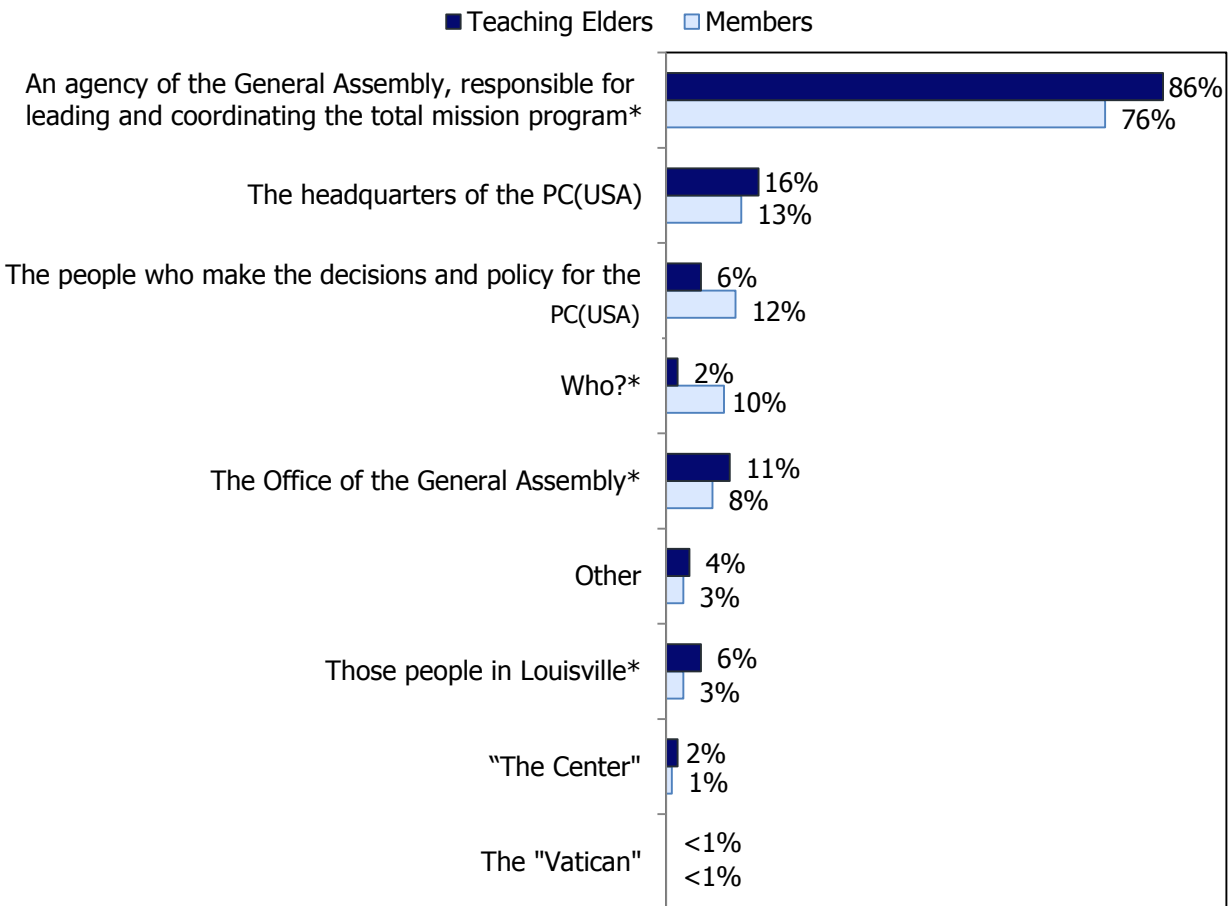
Teaching elders tend to be more familiar with the Presbyterian Mission Agency: just over half (51%) of teaching elders feel like they are familiar with the Presbyterian Mission Agency, compared to only 20% of members.

Panelists were then asked “When you think of ‘The Presbyterian Mission Agency,’ which of the following best captures what that means to you?” They were provided with eight responses options, along with a space to fill in their own response, and asked to limit their answer to two of the options (Figure 2).

\* When Presbyterians as a group are discussed in this report, it is using survey data that has been weighted to accurately reflect the proportion of members vs. teaching elders. See page 4 for details.



**Figure 2: What "The Presbyterian Mission Agency" Means to Panelists**



*\*Indicates a statistically significant difference in response between members and teaching elders. Percentages do not add up to 100% because respondents could select more than one option.*

The majority of members and teaching elders correctly think of the Presbyterian Mission Agency as “an agency of the General Assembly, responsible for leading and coordinating the total mission program.” However, teaching elders are more likely than members to have selected this as one of their two responses (teaching elders, 86%; members, 76%). Consistent with the results shown in *Figure 1: Familiarity with the Presbyterian Mission Agency*, members are more likely than teaching elders to have selected “Who?” as one of their responses to this question (teaching elders, 2%; members, 10%).

It is interesting to note that teaching elders are significantly more likely than members to think of the Presbyterian Mission Agency as the Office of the General Assembly (11% of teaching elders and 8% of members), since this definition is incorrect—the Office of the General Assembly is a separate agency, though both are headquartered in the same building. Similarly, teaching elders are more likely to select “those people in Louisville,” which also does not distinguish between the agencies (6% of teaching elders, 3% of members).

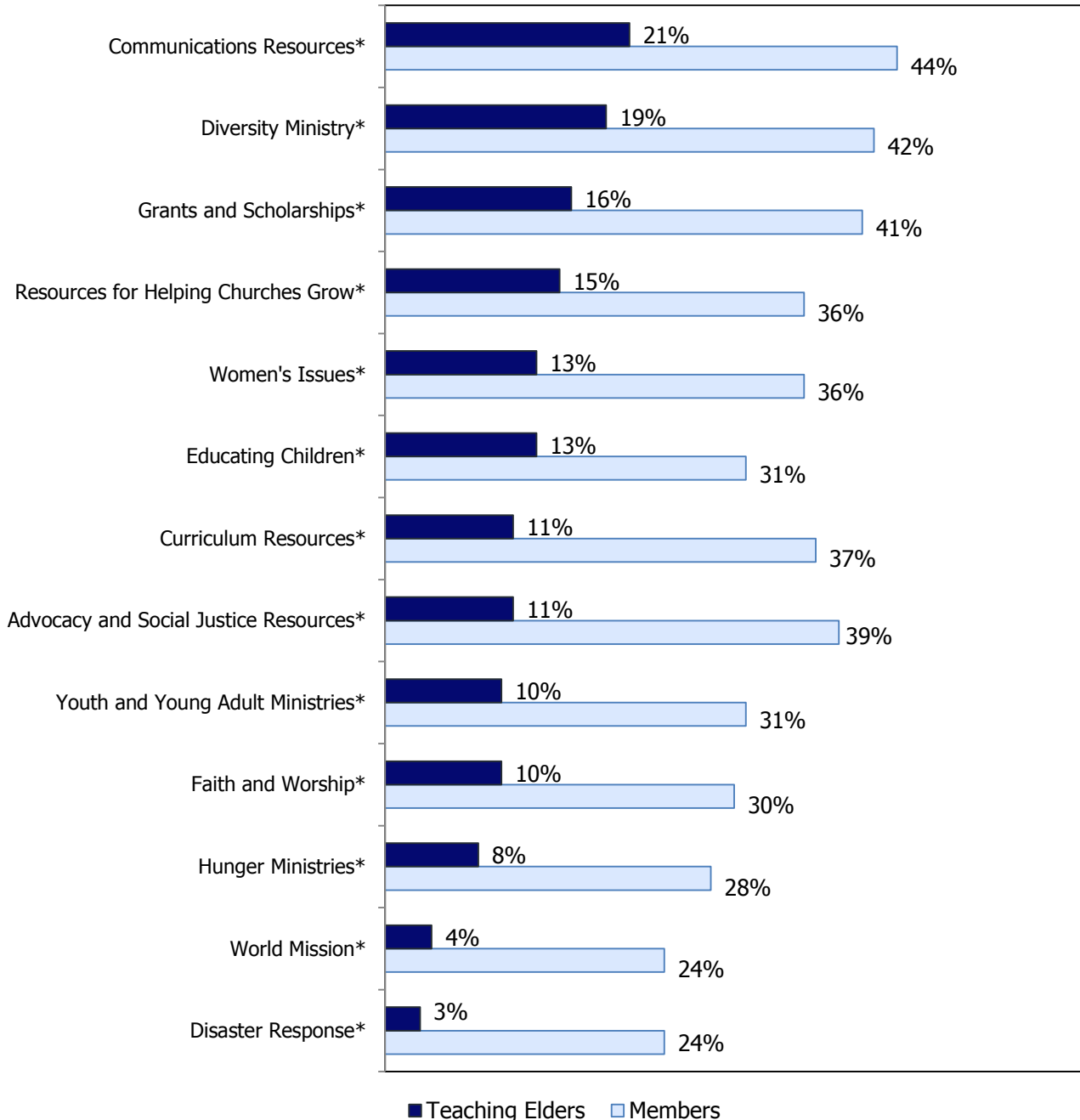
Of the 4% of teaching elders and 3% of members (total number: 56 panelists) who wrote in an “other” response, 52% mentioned mission work as what the Presbyterian Mission Agency means to them. Another 18% described the Presbyterian Mission Agency in negative terms; e.g.: “Unnecessarily corporate structure that has alienated a lot of the



church.” Five percent gave positive descriptors; e.g.: “Dedicated Presbyterians experienced in doing mission, providing support & direction to mission workers worldwide, and seeking church-wide support for same.”

Next, panelists were asked to rate 13 Presbyterian Mission Agency resources according to whether they have used them, would be interested in using them in the future, or have not heard of them. Figure 3 shows the percentage of teaching elders and members who have not heard of each resource. (Actual use and interest in using each resource is explored later, on page 15.)

**Figure 3: Percentage of Panelists Who Have Not Heard of Presbyterian Mission Agency Resources**



*\*Indicates a statistically significant difference in response between members and teaching elders. Percentages do not add up to 100% because respondents could select more than one option.*

Overall, members are significantly less likely than teaching elders to have heard of each of the 13 resources listed. Both teaching elders and members are most likely to have heard of disaster response resources offered by the Presbyterian Mission Agency (only 3% of teaching elders and 24% of members have not heard of these), and least likely to have heard of Presbyterian Mission Agency’s communications resources (21% of teaching elders and 44% of members have not heard of them).

**Presbyterian Mission Agency Knowledge**

Panelists were asked four questions in the form of a quiz about the Presbyterian Mission Agency (see Appendix C for the quiz). They were told to answer the questions as if it were a quiz, without looking up the answers. The goal of these questions is to get a general measure of the current awareness and understanding of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

**Table 1: Results from the Presbyterian Mission Agency Knowledge Quiz**

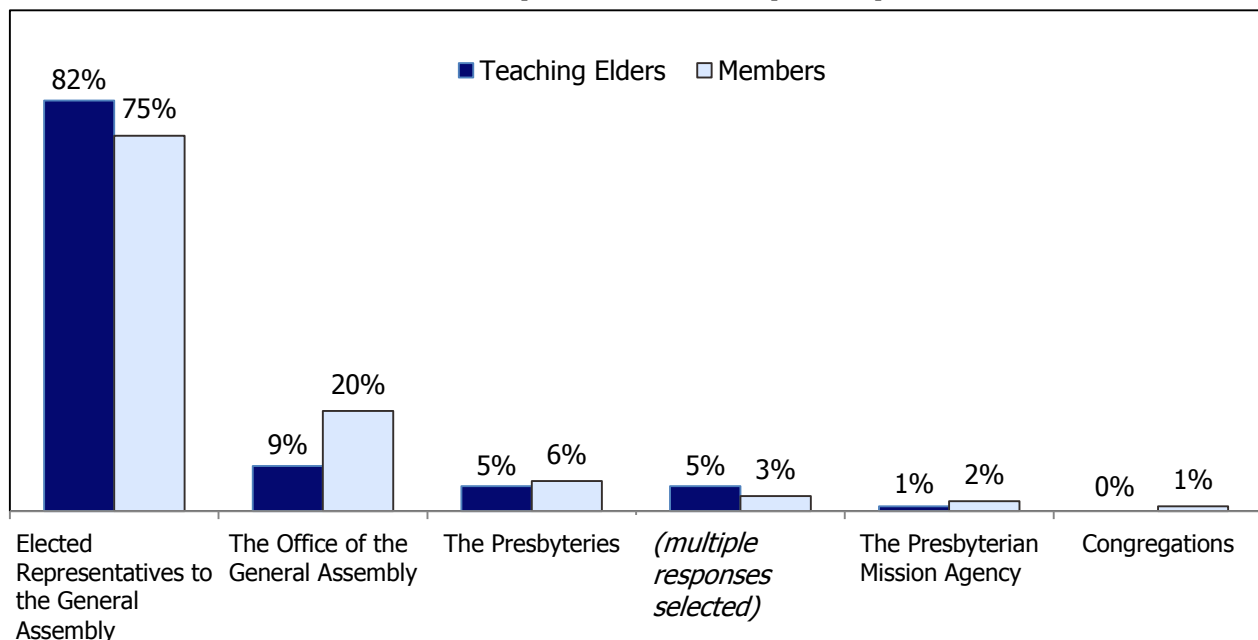
<i>Number Correct (out of 4)</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>Teaching Elders</i>
4	5%	13%
3	11%	15%
2	33%	34%
1	37%	31%
0	14%	8%

*\*Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.*

Overall, teaching elders did significantly better on the quiz than members. Whereas 13% of teaching elders answered all four questions correctly, only 5% of members did.

Of the four quiz questions, members and teaching elders were most likely to know who makes the decisions and sets policy for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (Figure 4).

**Figure 4: Who Makes the Decisions and Sets Policy for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)?**

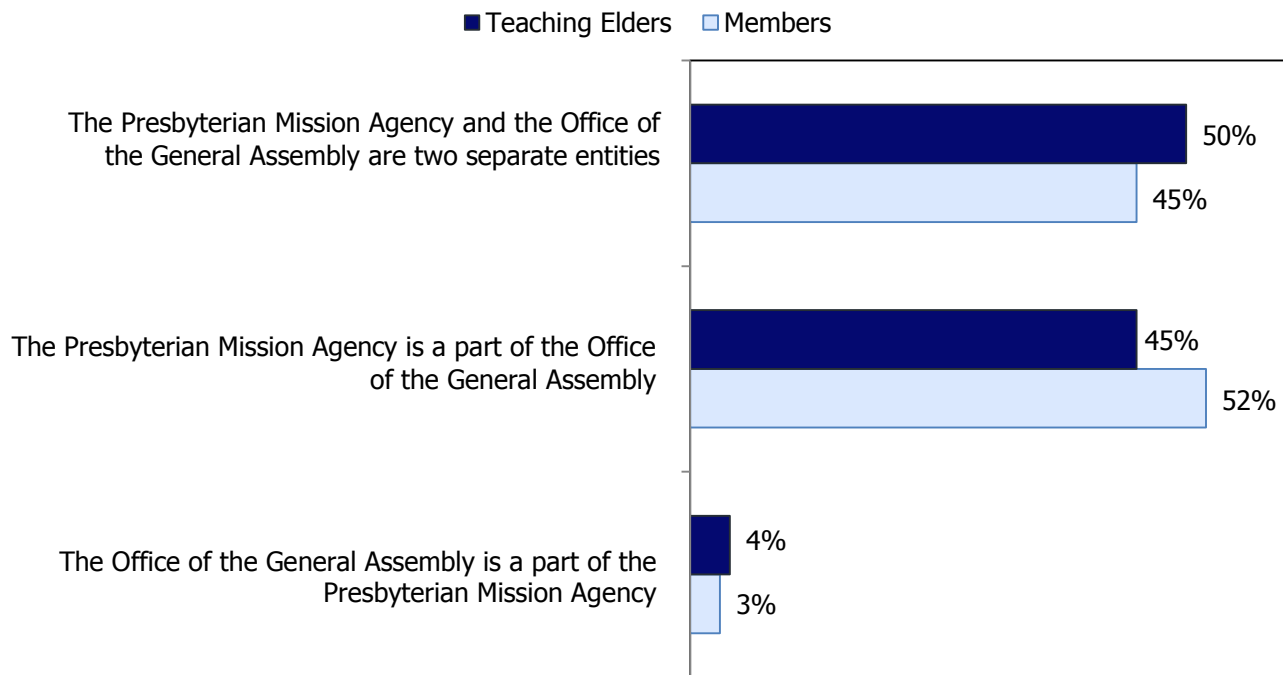


*\*Percentages do not add up to 100% due to rounding.*

The majority of teaching elders (82%) and members (75%) think that “elected representatives to the General Assembly” make the decisions and set policy for the denomination, which is the correct response. The second most common response is “the Office of the General Assembly,” with 9% of teaching elders and 20% of members selecting this response option.

The quiz question with the second-highest percentage of correct responses was “Which of the following is **true** about the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly?” (Figure 5).

**Figure 5: Which of the Following is True about the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly?**



*\*Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.*

About half of teaching elders (50%) and members (45%) answered this question correctly by selecting “The Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly are two separate entities.” The most common incorrect response was, “The Presbyterian Mission Agency is a part of the Office of the General Assembly,” with 45% of teaching elders and 52% of members selecting this answer.

Slightly less than half (48% of teaching elders and 41% of members) know that there are six agencies in the PC(USA). Only 20% of teaching elders and 10% of members were able to correctly identify the six agencies of the PC(USA).

## Trust in the Presbyterian Mission Agency

Panelists were asked a series of 11 questions designed to measure their trust in the Presbyterian Mission Agency. These questions were adapted from Hon and Grunig’s 1991 questionnaire.\* Responses are on a 7-pt scale, with 1 being “completely disagree” and 7 being “completely agree.” The mean (average) response for members and teaching elders for each item is listed in Table 2.

**Table 2: Trust in the Presbyterian Mission Agency**

	<i>Member Mean</i>	<i>Teaching Elder Mean</i>
The Presbyterian Mission Agency treats people like me fairly and justly*	5.22	4.95
The Presbyterian Mission Agency is trustworthy*	5.24	4.86
The Presbyterian Mission Agency does not mislead people like me*	4.91	4.66
The Presbyterian Mission Agency can be relied on to keep its promises*	5.03	4.65
Sound principles seem to guide the Presbyterian Mission Agency’s behavior*	4.81	4.47
Whenever the Presbyterian Mission Agency takes an important action, I know it will be concerned about people like me*	4.75	4.39
I feel very confident about the Presbyterian Mission Agency’s skills*	4.81	4.36
I believe that the Presbyterian Mission Agency takes the opinions of people like me into account when developing resources and programs*	4.71	4.32
The Presbyterian Mission Agency has the ability to accomplish what it says it will do*	4.79	4.29
The Presbyterian Mission Agency is known to be successful at the things it tries to do*	4.65	4.28
I think it is important to watch the Presbyterian Mission Agency closely so that it does not take advantage of people like me <sup>†</sup>	3.34	3.29

*\*Indicates a statistically significant difference between members and teaching elders. Items are on a 7-pt scale, with 1 being “completely disagree” and 7 being “completely agree.”*

The eleven questions in Table 2 were combined to create a single trust measure, which averages the person’s responses on all the questions. Those with total average scores of 4.5 or above are coded as having some measure of trust in the Presbyterian Mission Agency; those with a total average score between 3.5 and 4.4 are coded as neutral, and those below 3.5 are coded as distrusting the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Responses to one of the items were reversed before creating the scale because it was a measure of distrust, not trust.

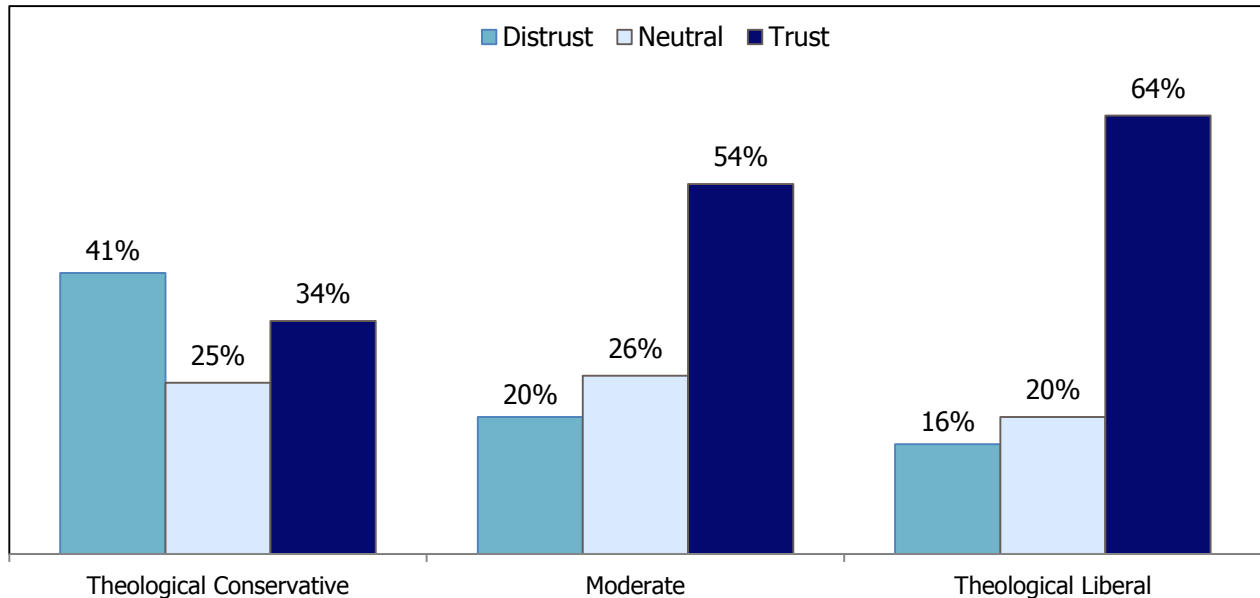
In general, members are more likely than teaching elders to trust the Presbyterian Mission Agency: 60% of members and 54% of teaching elders trust the Presbyterian Mission Agency, 13% of members and 23% of teaching elders distrust the Presbyterian Mission Agency, and 27% of members and 23% of teaching elders are neutral.

\* Hon, Linda Childers & James E. Grunig. “Guidelines for measuring relationships in public relations.” (1999.)

<sup>†</sup> This item was reversed when creating a trust scale.

Trust in the Presbyterian Mission Agency differs by theological orientation (Figure 6).

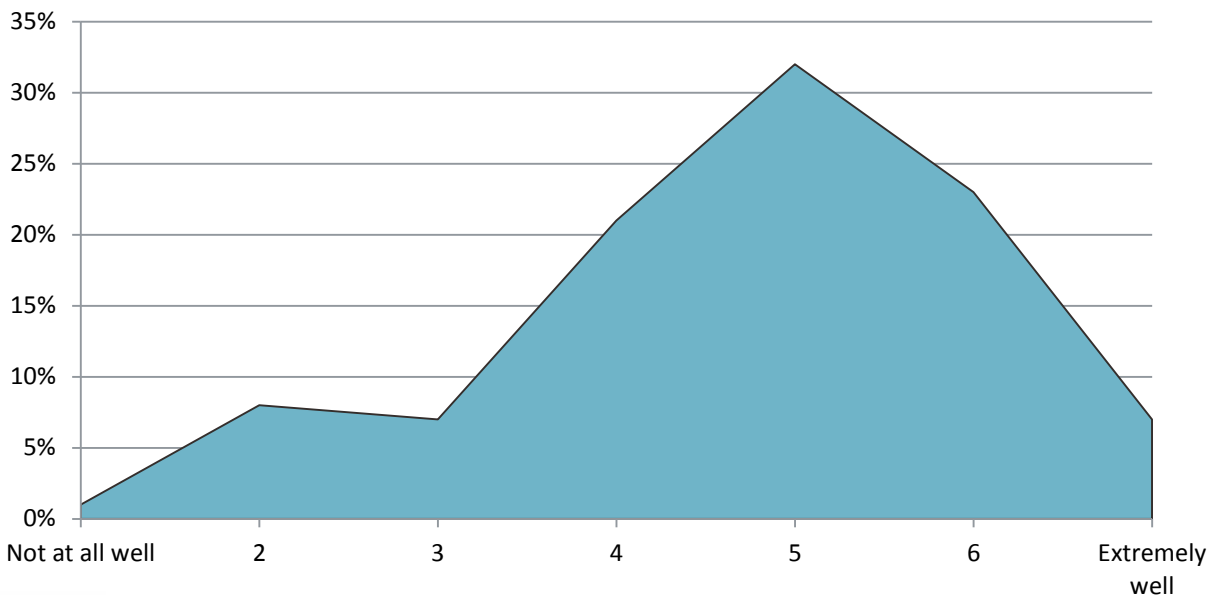
**Figure 6: Trust in the Presbyterian Mission Agency by Theological Orientation**



Theological liberals are almost twice as likely to trust the Presbyterian Mission Agency as theological conservatives are (64% of theological liberals vs. 34% of theological conservatives).

Panelists were also asked how well they think the Presbyterian Mission Agency is living into its vision: “Presbyterians joyfully engaging in God’s mission for the transformation of the world.” Answers were provided on a 7-pt scale, with 1 being “not at all well” and 7 being “extremely well” (Figure 7). The data in Figure 7 excludes the 41% of members and 18% of teaching elders who selected an option outside of the 7-pt scale, “I don’t know.”

**Figure 7: How Well is the Presbyterian Mission Agency Living Into its Vision?**

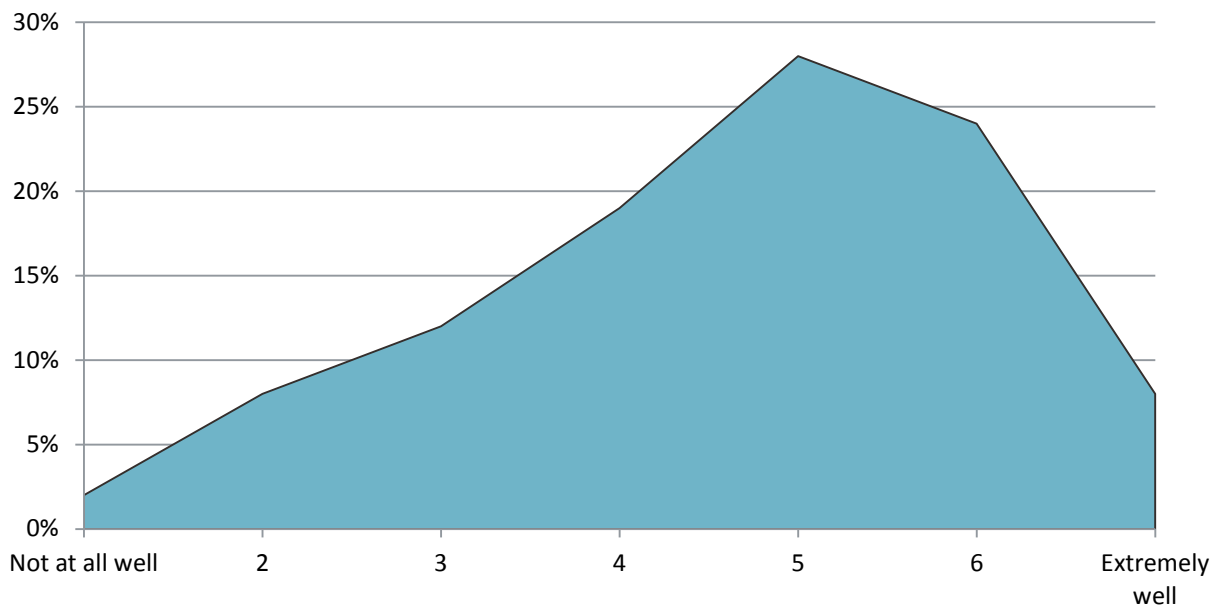


Of those who had an opinion, Presbyterians generally feel that the Presbyterian Mission Agency is living into its vision (mean, 4.73). Members are more likely than teaching elders to feel that the Presbyterian Mission Agency is living into its vision (member mean, 4.74; teaching elder mean, 4.30).

Opinions also differ by theological orientation: 27% of theological conservatives feel that the Presbyterian Mission Agency is living into its vision (as measured by selecting a 5 or above on the 7-pt scale), compared to 51% of theological moderates and 60% of theological liberals.

Next, panelists were asked how well they think the Presbyterian Mission Agency is living into its mission: “Inspire, equip, and connect the PC(USA) in its many expressions to serve Christ in the world through new and existing communities of faith, hope, love, and witness.” Answers were provided on a 7-pt scale, with 1 representing “not at all well” and 7 representing “extremely well” (Figure 8). The data in Figure 8 excludes the 37% of members and 15% of teaching elders who selected an option outside of the 7-pt scale, “I don’t know.”

**Figure 8: How Well is the Presbyterian Mission Agency Living Into its Mission?**



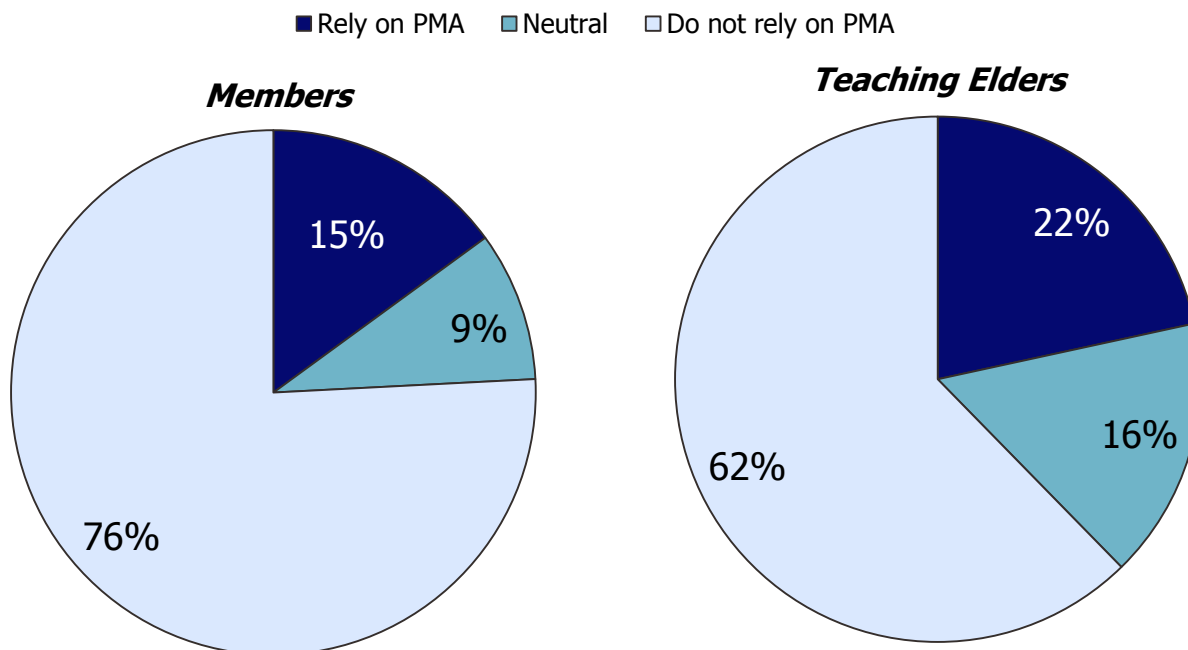
Of those who had an opinion, Presbyterians generally feel that the Presbyterian Mission Agency is living into its mission (mean, 4.67). Members are more likely than teaching elders to feel that the Presbyterian Mission Agency is living into its mission (member mean, 4.67; teaching elder mean, 4.32).

Opinions also differ by theological orientation: 27% of theological conservatives feel that the Presbyterian Mission Agency is living into its mission (as measured by selecting a 5 or above on the 7-pt scale), compared to 48% of theological moderates and 60% of theological liberals.

## Reliance on the Presbyterian Mission Agency

Panelists were asked to what extent they personally rely on the Presbyterian Mission Agency as an essential resource. Answers were provided on a 7-pt scale, with 1 being “not at all” and 7 being “to a great extent.” Figure 9 shows the percentage of members and teaching elders who rely on the Presbyterian Mission Agency, as indicated by answering with a 5 or above on the 7-pt scale. A 4 on the scale indicates neutral and 3 or below indicates that they do not rely on the Presbyterian Mission Agency very much.

**Figure 9: Percentage of Panelists Who Rely on the Presbyterian Mission Agency as an Essential Resource**

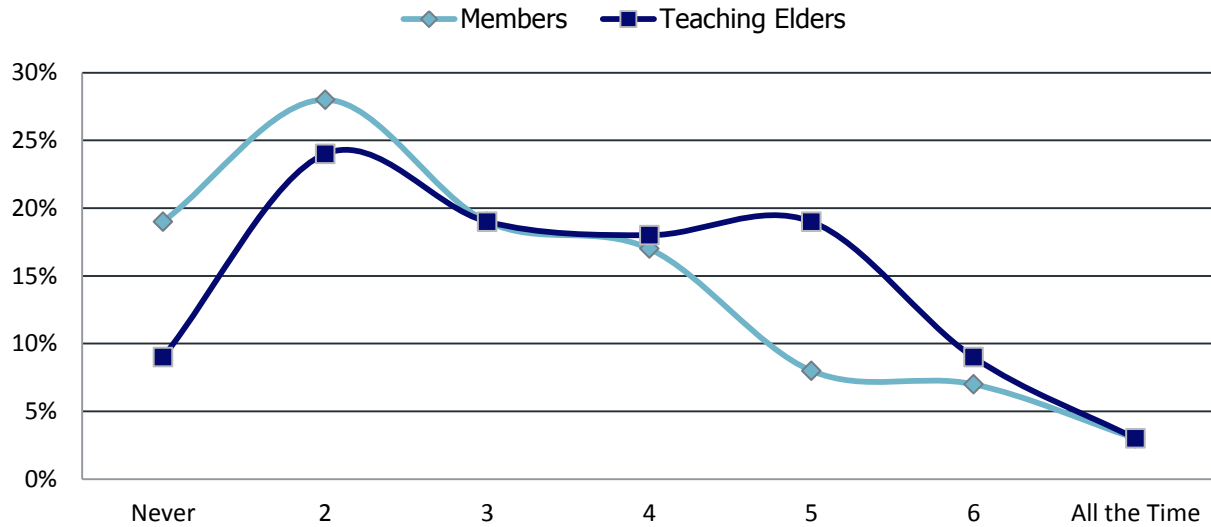


Teaching elders are significantly more likely than members to rely on the Presbyterian Mission Agency as an essential resource (22% of teaching elders and 15% of members).

Panelists were also asked how often in their congregation they hear or read about the Presbyterian Mission Agency and/or its materials, resources, and services. Answers were provided on a 7-pt scale, with 1 being “never” and 7 being “all the time” (Figure 10).



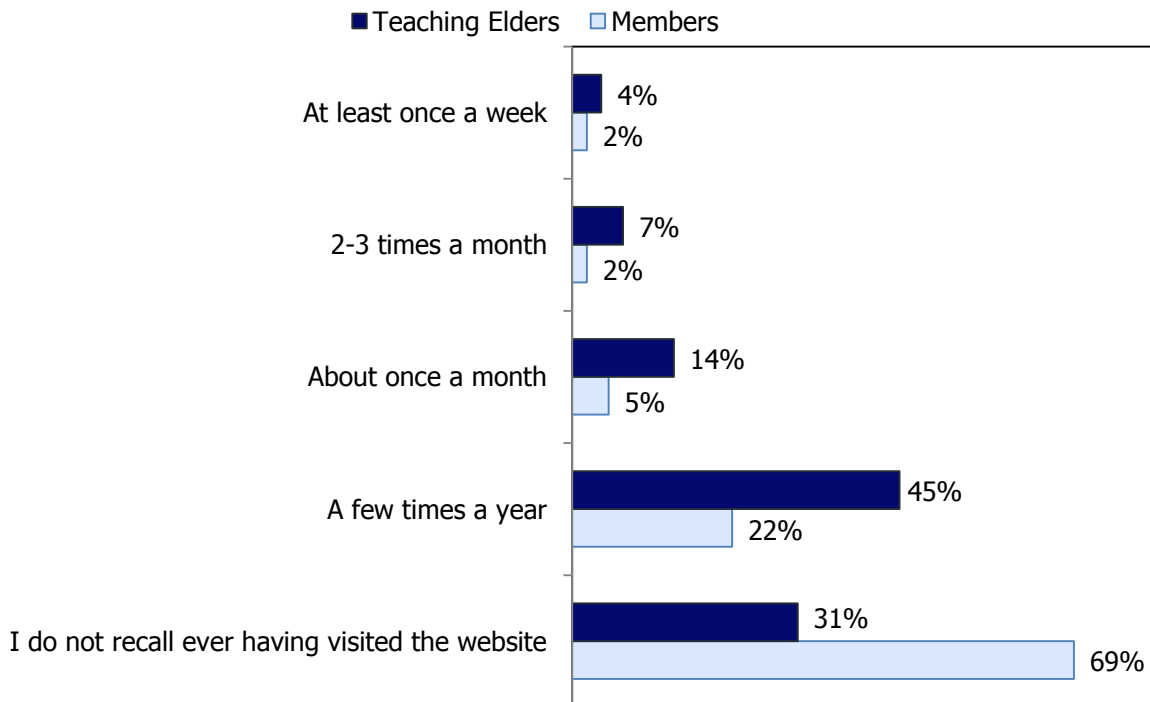
**Figure 10: How Often in Your Congregation Do You Hear or Read About the Presbyterian Mission Agency?**



In general, panelists are not hearing very much in their congregation about the Presbyterian Mission Agency and its resources, materials, and services. Teaching elders tend to claim hearing about these things more than do members (teaching elder mean, 3.52; member mean, 2.98).

The Presbyterian Mission Agency website is also not visited very often by members or by teaching elders (Figure 11).

**Figure 11: How Often Do You Visit the Presbyterian Mission Agency Website?**

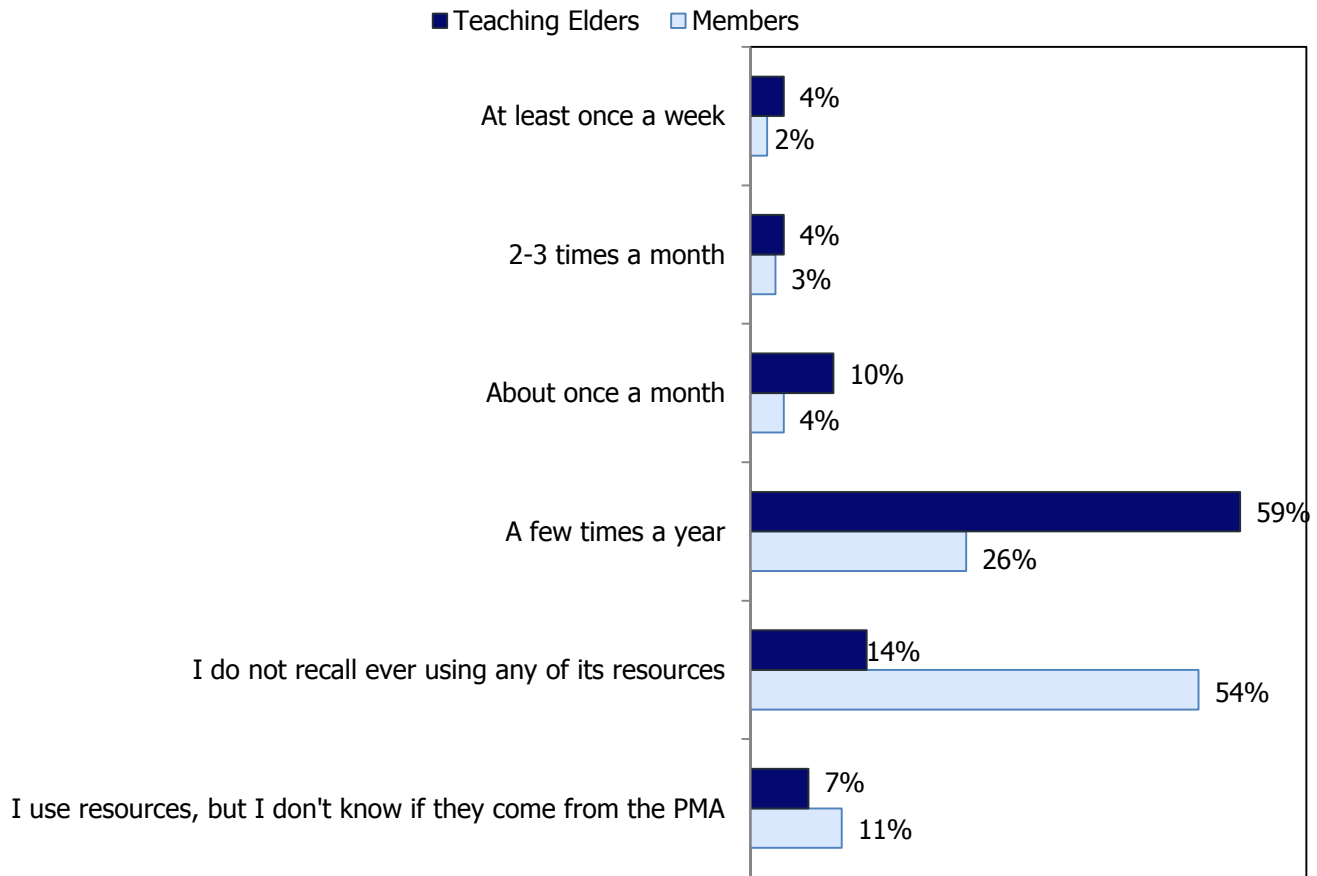


*\*Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.*

Overall, only 9% of members and 25% of teaching elders visit the website about once a month or more. Also, 69% of members and 31% of teaching elders do not recall ever having visited the website.

Finally, panelists were asked how often they use the resources provided by the Presbyterian Mission Agency (Figure 12).

**Figure 12: How Often Do You Use the Resources Provided by the Presbyterian Mission Agency?**



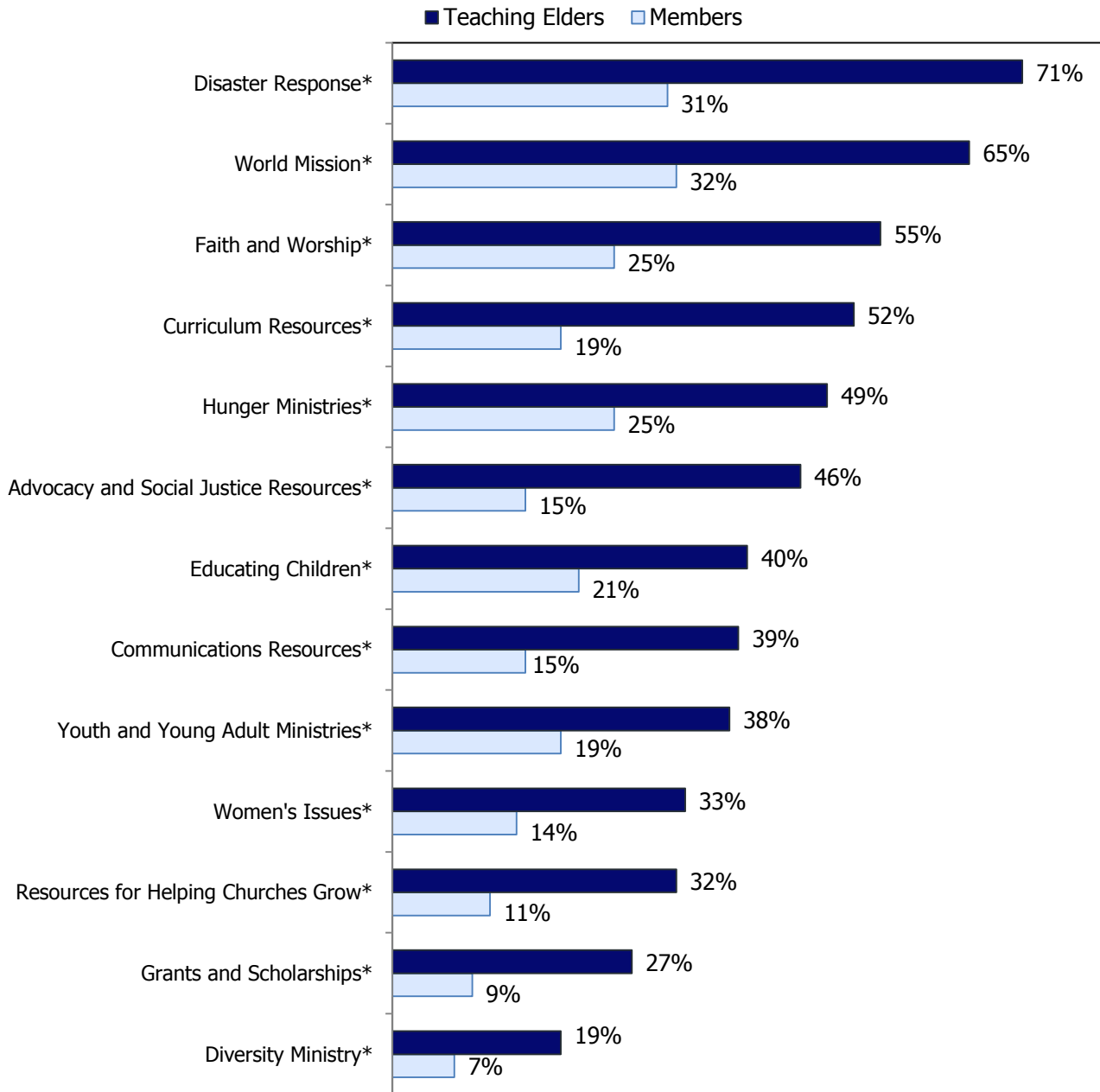
*\*Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.*

Even though panelists are not generally hearing about the Presbyterian Mission Agency and its resources in their congregations, these resources are being used. The majority of teaching elders (77%) and 35% of members use Presbyterian Mission Agency resources at least a few times a year. An additional 7% of teaching elders and 11% of members use resources of unknown origins: they may come from the Presbyterian Mission Agency, but the respondents do not know.

Panelists were also asked to rate 13 types of Presbyterian Mission Agency resources according to whether they have used them, would be interested in using them in the future, or have not heard of them. Those types of resources panelists have not heard of were explored on page 8. This second section covers which resources panelists have used, and are interested in using.

Teaching elders are more likely to have used Presbyterian Mission Agency resources than members (see Figure 13). In general, teaching elders have used four of the thirteen resources listed (31%), and members have used three (23%).

**Figure 13: Percentage of Panelists Who Have Used Each of 13 Types of Presbyterian Mission Agency Resources**

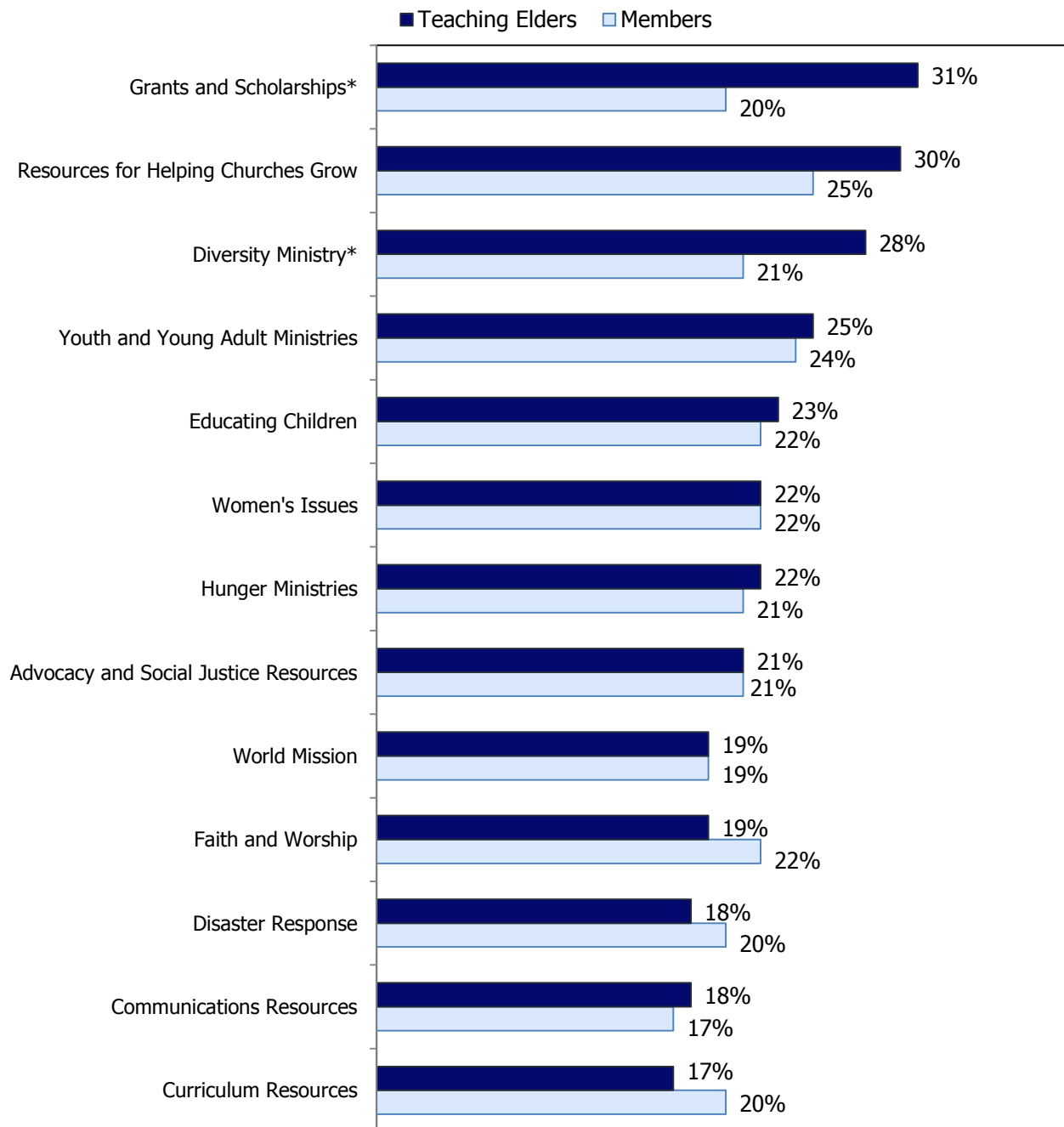


*\*Indicates a statistically significant difference in response between members and teaching elders. Percentages do not add up to 100% because respondents could select more than one option.*

The most common resources used by teaching elders are those related to disaster response (71%). The most common resources used by members are those related to disaster response (31%) and world mission (32%). Diversity ministry resources are the least commonly used for both groups (teaching elders, 19%; members, 7%).

Figure 14 shows the percentage of members and teaching elders who are interested in using each of the 13 types of resources listed.

**Figure 14: Percentage of Panelists Who Are Interested in Using Each of 13 Types of Presbyterian Mission Agency Resources**



*\*Indicates a statistically significant difference in response between members and teaching elders. Percentages do not add up to 100% because respondents could select more than one option.*

Teaching elders are most interested in grants and scholarships (31%), resources for helping churches grow (30%), and diversity ministry resources (28%). Members, on the other hand, are most interested in resources for helping churches grow (25%) and resources related to youth and young adult ministries (24%).

## Conclusion

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This panel was designed to assess the general Presbyterian's understanding of, reliance on, and trust in the Presbyterian Mission Agency. About half of teaching elders and one-fifth of members feel like they have an understanding of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Although results on the Presbyterian Mission Agency knowledge quiz were low overall, teaching elders did significantly better than members. Panelists did best on the question asking who makes the decisions and sets policy for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Although about half of teaching elders say they are familiar with the Presbyterian Mission Agency, familiarity with many of its resources is significantly lower. Use of the Presbyterian Mission Agency and its resources is relatively high among teaching elders, with 77% using at least some of Presbyterian Mission Agency resources at least a few times per year or more. Although use of Presbyterian Mission Agency resources is lower among members (35%), this is to be expected, as many of the Presbyterian Mission Agency resources are directed towards teaching elders.

It is worth noting that diversity ministry resources are among the top three types of resources most desired by teaching elders, but are also among the least used and least heard of in this group. This could indicate that the availability of diversity resources needs more promotion.

Members tend to trust the Presbyterian Mission Agency more than teaching elders do. Also, trust is highest among theological liberals, and lowest among theological conservatives: whereas 64% of theological liberals trust the Presbyterian Mission Agency, only 34% of theological conservatives do.



Awareness and Understanding of the Presbyterian Mission Agency
2015 Volume 2 Survey

Awareness of the Presbyterian Mission Agency

Table with 3 main questions and multiple sub-questions. Columns include response options, percentages, and sample sizes (n=600, n=830, n=698, n=963). Topics include familiarity ratings, organizational identification, and resource usage (Advocacy and Social Justice, Communications, Curriculum).

*Disaster Response*

Have used .....	31%	71%
Interested in using .....	20%	18%
Have not heard of .....	24%	3%

*Diversity Ministry*

Have used .....	7%	19%
Interested in using .....	21%	28%
Have not heard of .....	42%	19%

*Educating Children*

Have used .....	21%	40%
Interested in using .....	22%	23%
Have not heard of .....	31%	13%

*Faith and Worship*

Have used .....	25%	55%
Interested in using .....	22%	19%
Have not heard of .....	30%	10%

*Grants and Scholarships*

Have used .....	9%	27%
Interested in using .....	20%	31%
Have not heard of .....	41%	16%

*Hunger Ministry*

Have used .....	25%	49%
Interested in using .....	21%	22%
Have not heard of .....	28%	8%

*Resources for Helping Churches Grow*

Have used .....	11%	32%
Interested in using .....	25%	30%
Have not heard of .....	36%	15%

*Women's Issues*

Have used .....	14%	33%
Interested in using .....	22%	22%
Have not heard of .....	36%	13%

*World Mission*

Have used .....	32%	65%
Interested in using .....	19%	19%
Have not heard of .....	24%	4%

*Youth and Young Adult Ministry Resources*

Have used .....	19%	38%
Interested in using .....	24%	25%
Have not heard of .....	31%	10%



**The following are a series of questions about the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Please answer the questions as if it were a quiz, without looking up the answers. Our goal is to get a general measure of the current awareness and understanding of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.**

4. Which of the following is **true** about the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly?
- |  |       |       |
|--|-------|-------|
|  | n=638 | n=948 |
| The Presbyterian Mission Agency is a part of the Office of the General Assembly .....                  | 52%   | 45%   |
| The Office of the General Assembly is a part of the Presbyterian Mission Agency .....                  | 3%    | 4%    |
| The Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly are two separate entities ..... | 45%   | 50%   |
5. Who makes the decisions and sets policy for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)?
- |   |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|
|   | n=658 | n=953 |
| The Presbyterian Mission Agency .....                 | 2%    | 1%    |
| The Office of the General Assembly .....              | 20%   | 9%    |
| Elected representatives to the General Assembly ..... | 75%   | 82%   |
| The presbyteries .....                                | 6%    | 5%    |
| Congregations .....                                   | 1%    | 0%    |
| Multiple Answers Selected .....                       | 3%    | 5%    |
6. Which of the following are agencies in the PC(USA)? (Select all that apply.)
- |  |       |       |
|--|-------|-------|
|  | n=689 | n=963 |
| Presbyterian Mission Agency .....            | 87%   | 96%   |
| Office of the General Assembly .....         | 69%   | 79%   |
| Board of Pensions .....                      | 65%   | 75%   |
| Theology, Worship and Education .....        | 42%   | 56%   |
| World Mission .....                          | 44%   | 40%   |
| Presbyterian Foundation .....                | 53%   | 65%   |
| Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program ..... | 42%   | 59%   |
| Presbyterian Publishing Company .....        | 45%   | 68%   |
7. How many agencies are there in the PC(USA)?
- |         |       |       |
|---------|-------|-------|
|         | n=577 | n=891 |
| 0 ..... | 1%    | 0%    |
| 2 ..... | 8%    | 8%    |
| 4 ..... | 24%   | 21%   |
| 6 ..... | 41%   | 48%   |
| 8 ..... | 26%   | 22%   |

**Trust In and Reliance on the Presbyterian Mission Agency**

**What is the Presbyterian Mission Agency?**

The Presbyterian Mission Agency is an agency of the General Assembly, and therefore accountable to it. The Mission Agency’s headquarters is in Louisville, but it is not the group that makes decisions or sets policy for the PC(USA). It is responsible for leading and coordinating the total mission program of the denomination, which includes providing resources to congregations and individuals within the denomination.

**How are decisions made?**

A proposed change or decision goes to a church’s session for approval, then goes to the presbytery for approval, and then gets concurrent approval by at least one other presbytery. Next it is sent as an overture to the General Assembly, where it is reviewed by advocacy and legal groups, then assigned to the appropriate General Assembly committee. The committee is made up of commissioners elected by the presbyteries. Committee recommendations go back to the General Assembly for a vote, and proposed amendments to the constitution go back to presbyteries for a vote at a later date. All other actions take effect at the General Assembly.

8. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

n=568

n=928

*The Presbyterian Mission Agency is trustworthy*

1 (completely disagree) .....	2%	3%
2.....	3%	7%
3.....	5%	10%
4.....	23%	20%
5.....	17%	20%
6.....	22%	24%
7 (completely agree) .....	27%	16%
Mean .....	5.24	4.86

*The Presbyterian Mission Agency treats people like me fairly and justly*

1 (completely disagree) .....	1%	3%
2.....	3%	6%
3.....	6%	8%
4.....	26%	21%
5.....	15%	16%
6.....	23%	28%
7 (completely agree) .....	26%	18%
Mean .....	5.22	4.95

*Whenever the Presbyterian Mission Agency takes an important action, I know it will be concerned about people like me*

1 (completely disagree) .....	3%	5%
2.....	7%	13%
3.....	8%	13%
4.....	31%	22%
5.....	17%	19%
6.....	16%	17%
7 (completely agree) .....	19%	13%
Mean .....	4.75	4.39

*The Presbyterian Mission Agency can be relied on to keep its promises*

1 (completely disagree) .....	1%	4%
2.....	5%	8%
3.....	6%	11%
4.....	29%	24%
5.....	18%	20%
6.....	20%	21%
7 (completely agree) .....	22%	14%
Mean .....	5.03	4.65

.....

*I believe that the Presbyterian Mission Agency takes the opinions of people like me into account when developing resources and programs*

1 (completely disagree) .....	4%	8%
2.....	8%	11%
3.....	10%	14%
4.....	25%	20%
5.....	18%	17%
6.....	19%	17%
7 (completely agree) .....	17%	13%
Mean .....	4.71	4.32

*I feel very confident about the Presbyterian Mission Agency's skills*

1 (completely disagree) .....	3%	6%
2.....	4%	10%
3.....	9%	14%
4.....	31%	21%
5.....	20%	22%
6.....	18%	16%
7 (completely agree) .....	16%	12%
Mean .....	4.81	4.36

*The Presbyterian Mission Agency has the ability to accomplish what it says it will do*

1 (completely disagree) .....	1%	4%
2.....	4%	11%
3.....	9%	14%
4.....	30%	25%
5.....	23%	21%
6.....	22%	16%
7 (completely agree) .....	11%	8%
Mean .....	4.79	4.29

*Sound principles seem to guide the Presbyterian Mission Agency's behavior*

1 (completely disagree) .....	4%	6%
2.....	5%	10%
3.....	8%	11%
4.....	27%	22%
5.....	18%	19%
6.....	20%	20%
7 (completely agree) .....	18%	12%
Mean .....	4.81	4.47

*The Presbyterian Mission Agency does not mislead people like me*

1 (completely disagree) .....	3%	6%
2.....	6%	8%
3.....	7%	10%
4.....	28%	19%
5.....	16%	20%
6.....	21%	23%
7 (completely agree) .....	20%	15%
Mean .....	4.91	4.66

*I think it is important to watch the Presbyterian Mission Agency closely so that it does not take advantage of people like me*

1 (completely disagree) .....	18%	16%
2.....	19%	24%
3.....	17%	17%
4.....	23%	21%
5.....	11%	9%
6.....	6%	9%
7 (completely agree) .....	7%	5%
Mean .....	3.34	3.29

*The Presbyterian Mission Agency is known to be successful at the things it tries to do*

1 (completely disagree) .....	1%	4%
2.....	3%	8%
3.....	8%	13%
4.....	41%	33%
5.....	21%	21%
6.....	15%	15%
7 (completely agree) .....	11%	7%
Mean .....	4.65	4.28

9. The **vision** of the Presbyterian Mission Agency is “Presbyterians joyfully engaging in God’s mission for the transformation of the world.” How well do you think it is living into this **vision**?

	n=623	n=921
1 (not at all well).....	1%	3%
2.....	5%	7%
3.....	4%	14%
4.....	13%	18%
5.....	19%	22%
6.....	14%	16%
7 (extremely well) .....	4%	2%
I don’t know .....	41%	18%
Mean (1-7 scale).....	4.74	4.30

10. The **mission** of the Presbyterian Mission Agency is to “Inspire, equip and connect the PC(USA) in its many expressions to serve Christ in the world through new and existing communities of faith, hope, love and witness.” How well do you think it is living into this **mission**?

	n=624	n=920
1 (not at all well).....	1%	3%
2.....	5%	8%
3.....	7%	12%
4.....	12%	19%
5.....	18%	23%
6.....	15%	17%
7 (extremely well) .....	5%	3%
I don’t know .....	37%	15%
Mean (1-7 scale).....	4.66	4.32

11.	To what extent do you personally rely on the Presbyterian Mission Agency as an essential resource?		
		n=488	n=852
	1 (not at all) .....	43%	20%
	2.....	20%	26%
	3.....	13%	17%
	4.....	9%	16%
	5.....	8%	12%
	6.....	4%	8%
	7 (to a great extent).....	3%	2%
	Mean (1-7 scale) .....	2.44	3.06
12.	How often in your congregation do you hear or read about the Presbyterian Mission Agency and/or its materials, resources, and services?		
		n=569	n=904
	1 (never).....	18%	9%
	2.....	27%	22%
	3.....	19%	18%
	4.....	16%	17%
	5.....	8%	18%
	6.....	7%	9%
	7 (all the time).....	3%	3%
	Not applicable .....	4%	6%
	Mean (1-7 scale) .....	2.98	3.52
13.	How often do you visit the Presbyterian Mission Agency website?		
		n=648	n=951
	I do not recall ever having visited the web site .....	69%	31%
	A few times a year.....	22%	45%
	About once a month .....	5%	14%
	2-3 times a month.....	2%	7%
	At least once a week.....	2%	4%
14.	How often do you use the resources provided by the Presbyterian Mission Agency?		
		n=645	n=947
	I do not recall ever using any of its resources .....	54%	14%
	A few times a year.....	26%	59%
	About once a month .....	4%	10%
	2-3 times a month.....	3%	4%
	At least once a week.....	2%	4%
	I use resources, but I don't know if they come from the Presbyterian Mission Agency .....	11%	7%

## Appendix B: About the Presbyterian Panel

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The Presbyterian Panel consists of two nationally representative samples of groups affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): members of congregations and teaching elders (ministers of the Word and Sacrament). A new group of panelists are invited to participate every three years. Panel surveys are conducted quarterly, by mail or with an online completion option.

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 of informing leaders of the opinions and activities of Presbyterians 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.

### ***Suggested Citation***

Research Services, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). *Awareness and Understanding of the Presbyterian Mission Agency: The Report of the Volume 2: 2015 Presbyterian Panel Survey*. Louisville, 2016.

### ***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 on the web for free download in Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format at the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) website: [www.pcusa.org/research/panel](http://www.pcusa.org/research/panel). Inquire about quantity discounts on printed copies of this *Report* by contacting 800-728-7228, ext. 2040, or [panel@pcusa.org](mailto:panel@pcusa.org).

# Appendix C: Presbyterian Mission Agency Knowledge Quiz

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*(These questions were asked as a section of the Panel survey.)*

***The following are a series of questions about the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Please answer the questions as if it were a quiz, without looking up the answers. Our goal is to get a general measure of the current awareness and understanding of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.***

- Q1. Which of the following is **true** about the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly?
- A. The Presbyterian Mission Agency is a part of the Office of the General Assembly
  - B. The Office of the General Assembly is a part of the Presbyterian Mission Agency
  - C. The Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly are two separate agencies of the PC(USA)
- Q2. Who makes the decisions and sets policy for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)?
- A. The Presbyterian Mission Agency
  - B. The Office of the General Assembly
  - C. Elected representatives to the General Assembly
  - D. The presbyteries
  - E. Congregations
- Q3. Which of the following are agencies in the PC(USA)? (*Select **all** that apply.*)
- A. Presbyterian Mission Agency
  - B. Office of the General Assembly
  - C. Board of Pensions
  - D. Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program
  - E. Theology, Worship and Education
  - F. World Mission
  - G. Presbyterian Foundation
  - H. Presbyterian Publishing Corporation
- Q4. How many agencies are there in the PC(USA)?
- A. 0
  - B. 2
  - C. 4
  - D. 6
  - E. 8

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ANSWERS: Q1: C; Q2: A, B, C, D, G, H; Q3: A, B, C, D, G, H; Q4: D