

# Pastor Views on Clergy Involvement in Licensing of Marriage

Survey of 1,000 Protestant Pastors

# Methodology

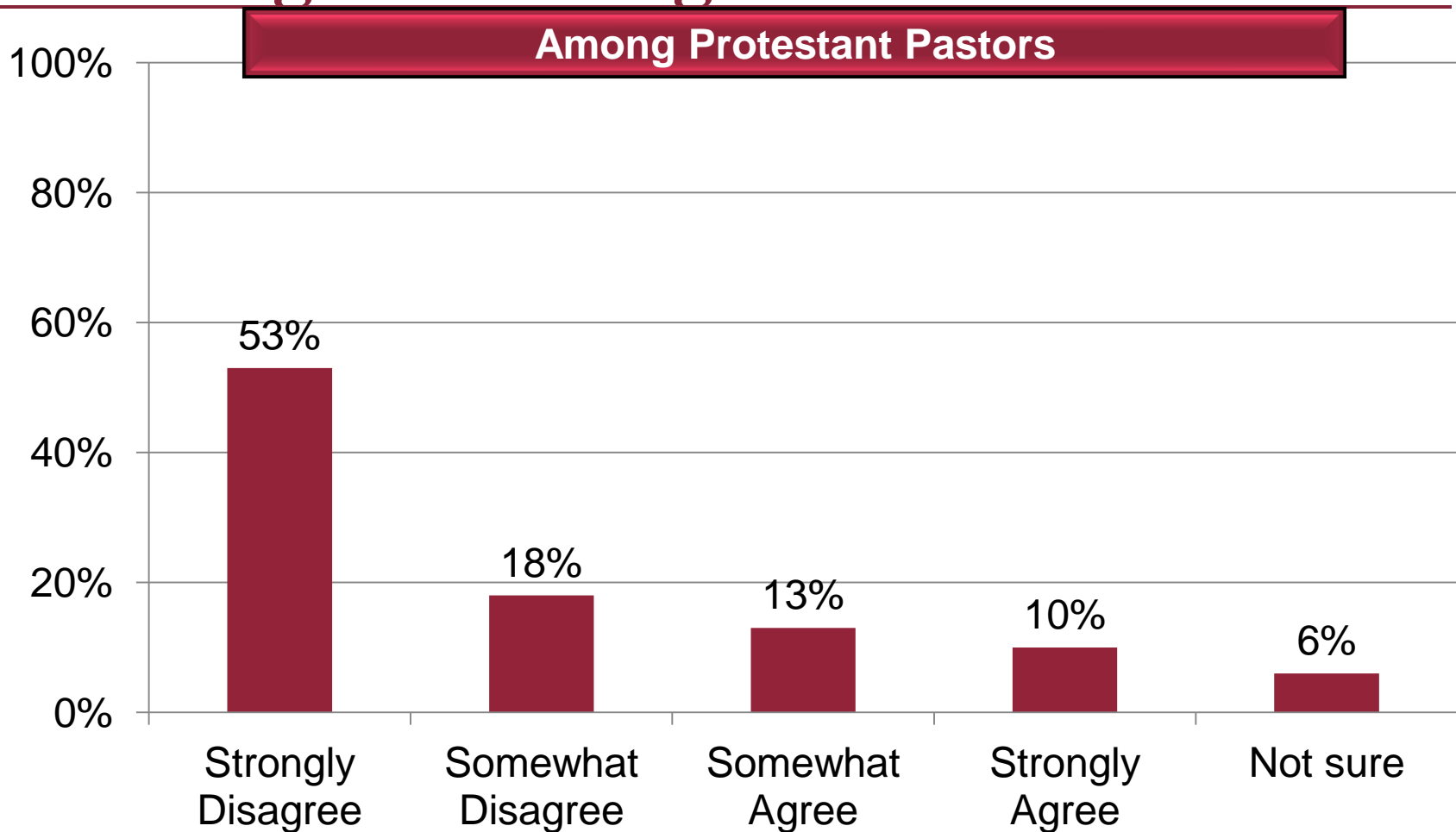
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- ❑ The phone survey of Protestant pastors was conducted September 11-18, 2014
- ❑ The calling list was a stratified random sample drawn from a list of all Protestant churches
- ❑ Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest of the church called
- ❑ Responses were weighted by region to more accurately reflect the population
- ❑ The completed sample is 1,000 surveys
- ❑ The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed  $\pm 3.1\%$
- ❑ Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

# Survey Responses

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# 24% of pastors believe clergy should no longer be involved in the state's licensing of marriage



Q: "Clergy should no longer be involved in the state's licensing of marriage"

# Significant Differences

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## Church

Average Attendance  
Region

## Pastor

Age  
Ethnicity  
Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline  
Education Level

# Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among region of the country, age, average attendance, and education level.

Region	Attendance	Age	Education Level
Northeast	0-49	18-44	No College Degree
Midwest	50-99	45-54	Bachelor's
South	100-249	55-64	Master's (including M.Div)
West	250+	65+	Doctorate (including Ph.D, D.min)

Note: Region is defined by US Census locations

# Significant Statistical Differences

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- Comparisons were also made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the pastor's ethnicity and those self-identifying as Evangelical or Mainline.

Pastor's Ethnicity	Self-Identify
African-American	Evangelical
White, non-Hispanic	Mainline

Note: Additional ethnic groups were identified, but did not have sufficient sample size for comparison

## “Clergy should no longer be involved in the state’s licensing of marriage”

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- Pastors in churches 0-49 (16%) are most likely to Strongly Agree
- Pastors in churches 250+ (65%) are most likely to Strongly Disagree
- Southerners (60%) are most likely to Strongly Disagree
- White pastors (14%) are more likely to Somewhat Agree than African-American pastors (3%)
- Evangelicals are more likely than Mainlines to Strongly Disagree (61% v 47%) and less likely to Somewhat Disagree (16% v 22%)
- Those with no college degree (68%) are more likely to Strongly Disagree than those with a Master’s (45%) or Doctoral degree (54%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s (63%) are more likely to Strongly Disagree than those with a Master’s (45%)



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