Pastor Views on Refugees

Survey of Protestant Pastors
Methodology

- The phone survey of Protestant pastors was conducted January 8-22, 2016.
- The study was sponsored by World Vision and World Relief.
- The calling list was a random sample stratified by church size 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 ±3.1%.
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.
Survey Responses
44% agree that there is a sense of fear within their congregation about global refugees coming to the United States.

Q7: “I believe there is a sense of fear within our congregation about global refugees coming to the United States.”
86% agree that Christians have a responsibility to care sacrificially for refugees and foreigners

Q8: “Christians have a responsibility to care sacrificially for refugees and foreigners.”
8 out of 10 pastors personally would consider it a privilege to care for refugees

Q9: “I personally would consider it a privilege to care for refugees.”

Among Protestant Pastors

- Strongly Agree: 38%
- Somewhat Agree: 42%
- Somewhat Disagree: 10%
- Strongly Disagree: 3%
- Not sure: 6%
67% believe the U.S. can balance national security and compassion in its response to global refugees

Q10: “Do you believe the United States can balance national security and compassion in its response to global refugees?”
6 of 10 pastors say they are informed or very informed about the Syrian refugee situation

Q11: "How informed are you about the Syrian refugee situation?"

Among Protestant Pastors

- **Very informed**: 24%
- **Informed**: 36%
- **Somewhat informed**: 38%
- **Not informed at all**: 1%

LifeWay RESEARCH
Biblical Solutions for Life
72% of pastors say their church has not discussed caring for refugees locally or heard of opportunities.

Q12: "Which of the following best describes what your congregation has decided about getting involved in caring for refugees locally? (Select One) Our congregation..."

- Has decided not to get involved: 9%
- Has a desire to get involved: 9%
- Is currently involved: 8%
- Has not discussed it or heard of opportunities: 72%
- Not sure: 3%
63% of pastors say their church has not discussed caring for refugees internationally

Q13: "Which of the following best describes what your congregation has decided about getting involved in caring for refugees internationally? (Select One) Our congregation…"
Among all Protestant churches, financial support and prayer are the most common forms of involvement.

- Financial support of relief organizations: 19%
- Specific prayer for refugees: 19%
- Volunteering with relief work: 8%
- Volunteering locally with refugees: 7%
- Advocacy targeting elected officials: 6%
- Financial sponsorship of individual refugees: 5%
- Other: 2%

Q14: “Does your church’s involvement include… (Select all that apply)” Asked of those answering “currently involved” in Q12 or Q13. All churches including those not involved are included in the base for percentages above.
35% of pastors have addressed the Syrian refugee situation from the pulpit

Q15: "Have you specifically addressed the Syrian refugee situation from the pulpit?"

Among Protestant Pastors
Significant Differences

**Pastor**
Ethnicity
Age
Education Level
Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline
Political Affiliation

**Church**
Region
Denomination
Average Attendance
Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among pastor’s ethnicity, age, education level, those self-identifying as Evangelical or Mainline, and political affiliation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pastor’s Ethnicity</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Self-Identify</th>
<th>Political Affiliation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>18-44</td>
<td>No College Degree</td>
<td>Evangelical</td>
<td>Democrat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Ethnicities</td>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>Bachelor’s</td>
<td>Mainline</td>
<td>Republican</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>Master’s (including M.Div)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Independent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>65+</td>
<td>Doctorate (including Ph.D, D.min)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were also made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the church’s region, denomination, and average attendance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Denomination</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>Baptist</td>
<td>0-49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>Lutheran</td>
<td>50-99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>Methodist</td>
<td>100-249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>Pentecostal</td>
<td>250+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Presbyterian/Reformed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Region is defined by US Census regions.
“I believe there is a sense of fear within our congregation about global refugees coming to the United States.”

- White pastors (46%) are more likely to Agree than pastors of Other Ethnicities (33%)
- Those age 65+ (54%) are more likely to Agree than those 45-54 (40%) and 55-64 (41%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s degree (53%) are more likely to Agree than those with a Master’s (42%)
- Republican pastors (55%) are more likely to Agree than Independents (45%), who are more likely to Agree than Democrats (22%)
- Those in the South are the most likely to Agree (51%)
- Baptists (56%) are more likely to Agree than Lutherans (33%), Methodists (41%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (29%)
- Pentecostals (50%) are more likely to Agree than Lutherans (33%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (29%)
- Those with attendance of 100-249 (49%) are more likely to Agree than those with attendance of 0-49 (36%)
“Christians have a responsibility to care sacrificially for refugees and foreigners.”

- Those age 65+ are the most likely to Disagree (22%)
- Those with a Master’s degree (88%) are more likely to Agree than those with a Bachelor’s (83%)
- Pastors who are Democrats (92%) are more likely to Agree than Republicans (84%)
- Those in the Northeast are the most likely to Agree (93%)
- Lutherans (91%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (97%) are more likely to Agree than Baptists (81%) and Pentecostals (79%)
- Presbyterian/Reformed (97%) are more likely to Agree than Methodists (88%)
- Those with attendance of 0-49 are the most likely to Disagree (17%)
“I personally would consider it a privilege to care for refugees.”

- Those age 65+ are the most likely to Disagree (25%)
- Those with a Master’s degree are the most likely to Agree (87%)
- Pastors who are Democrats (93%) are more likely to Agree than Independents (84%), who are more likely to Agree than Republicans (76%)
- Those in the Northeast (87%) and Midwest (84%) are more likely to Agree than those in the West (76%)
- Presbyterian/Reformed are the most likely to Agree (96%)
- Lutherans (85%) and Methodists (85%) are more likely to Agree than Pentecostals (68%)
- Those with attendance of 0-49 are the most likely to Disagree (23%)
“Do you believe the United States can balance national security and compassion in its response to global refugees?”

- Those age 18-44 (75%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those 55-64 (66%) and 65+ (56%)
- Those age 65+ are the most likely to select “No” (40%)
- Those with a Master’s degree (75%) or a Doctoral degree (71%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those with no college degree (45%) or a Bachelor’s (57%)
- Those with no college degree are the most likely to select “No” (53%)
- Self-identified Mainlines (71%) are more likely to select “Yes” than self-identified Evangelicals (64%)
- Pastors who are Democrats (88%) are more likely to select “Yes” than Republicans (62%) and Independents (67%)
- Those in the Northeast (74%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those in the South (63%)
“Do you believe the United States can balance national security and compassion in its response to global refugees?” cont.

- Presbyterian/Reformed are the most likely to select “Yes” (93%), while Pentecostals are the least likely to select “Yes” (42%)
- Methodists (76%) are more likely to select “Yes” than Baptists (63%)
“How informed are you about the Syrian refugee situation?”

- White pastors (62%) are more likely to select “Very informed/informed” than pastors of Other Ethnicities (49%)
- Those with a Doctoral degree (72%) are more likely to select “Very informed/informed” than those with no college degree (47%) or a Bachelor’s (55%)
- Those with a Master’s degree (62%) are more likely to select “Very informed/informed” than those with no college degree (47%)
- Pastors who are Democrats (70%) and Independents (67%) are more likely to select “Very informed/informed” than Republicans (56%)
- Those with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to select “Somewhat informed/Not informed at all” (53%)
- Presbyterian/Reformed (69%) are more likely to select “Very informed/informed” than Baptists (57%)
“Which of the following best describes what your congregation has decided about getting involved in caring for refugees locally? (Select One)”

- Those age 65+ are the most likely to select “has decided not to get involved” (14%)
- Those age 18-44 (10%) and 55-64 (12%) are more likely to select “has a desire to get involved” than those age 65+ (4%)
- Those with a Master’s degree (10%) or a Doctoral degree (11%) are more likely to select “has a desire to get involved” than those with no college degree (4%)
- Those with a Doctoral degree (13%) are more likely to select “is currently involved” than those with a Bachelor’s (6%)
- Mainlines (11%) are more likely to select “has a desire to get involved” than Evangelicals (7%)
- Pastors who are Democrats (20%) are more likely to select “has a desire to get involved” than Republicans (6%) and Independents (9%)
- Pastors who are Republicans (73%) are more likely to select “has not discussed it or heard of opportunities” than Democrats (61%)
“Which of the following best describes what your congregation has decided about getting involved in caring for refugees locally? (Select One)” continued

- Those in the Northeast (74%) and South (75%) are more likely to select “has not discussed it or heard of opportunities” than those in the West (63%)
- Pentecostals (14%) are more likely to select “has decided not to get involved” than Lutherans (5%)
- Lutherans (13%) and Presbyterians/Reformed (11%) are more likely to select “has a desire to get involved” than Baptists (5%)
- Baptists (77%) are more likely to select “has not discussed it or heard of opportunities” than Methodists (67%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (66%)
- Those with attendance of 100-249 (12%) are more likely to select “has a desire to get involved” than those with attendance of 50-99 (5%)
- Those with attendance of 250+ (14%) are more likely to select “is currently involved” than those with attendance of 0-49 (6%) and 100-249 (8%)
“Which of the following best describes what your congregation has decided about getting involved in caring for refugees internationally? (Select One)”

- Those age 65+ (10%) are more likely to select “has decided not to get involved” than those 18-44 (5%) and 45-54 (5%)
- Those age 18-44 (13%) are more likely to select “has a desire to get involved” than those 65+ (6%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s degree (11%) are more likely to select “has decided not to get involved” than those with a Master’s degree (6%) or a Doctoral degree (4%)
- Those with a Master’s degree (13%) are more likely to select “has a desire to get involved” than those with no college degree (3%) or a Bachelor’s degree (6%)
- Those with a Doctoral degree (26%) are more likely to select “is currently involved” than those with a Bachelor’s (14%)
- Mainlines (13%) are more likely to select “has a desire to get involved” than Evangelicals (8%)
- Evangelicals (66%) are more likely to select “has not discussed it” than Mainlines (60%)
Which of the following best describes what your congregation has decided about getting involved in caring for refugees *internationally*? (Select One)

- Pastors who are Democrats (21%) are more likely to select “has a desire to get involved” than Independents (12%), who are more likely than Republicans (6%)
- Pastors who are Republicans (66%) and Independents (63%) are more likely to select “has not discussed it” than Democrats (50%)
- Those in the Northeast (26%) and West (23%) are more likely to select “is currently involved” than those in the South (17%) and Midwest (15%)
- Those in the South (67%) are more likely to select “has not discussed it” than those in the Northeast (57%) and West (58%)
- Presbyterian/Reformed (19%), Lutherans (14%) and Methodists (15%) are more likely to select “has a desire to get involved” than Baptists (5%) and Pentecostals (3%)
- Baptists (67%) are more likely to select “has not discussed it” than Presbyterian/Reformed (53%)
“Does your church’s involvement include… (Select all that apply)”

Financial sponsorship of individual refugees
- Those with no college degree (7%) or a Doctoral degree (8%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor’s (2%)

Financial support of relief organizations
- Presbyterian/Reformed (27%) are more likely to select than Baptists (16%) and Methodists (15%)
- Those with a Doctoral degree (27%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor’s (15%)

Volunteering with relief work
- Those age 65+ (13%) are more likely to select than those 45-54 (6%) and 55-64 (7%)
- Those with a Doctoral degree (17%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor’s (7%) or a Master’s (7%)
- Those in the Northeast (13%) are more likely to select than those in the South (7%)
“Does your church’s involvement include… (Select all that apply)”

Volunteering locally with refugees
- Other Ethnicities (11%) are more likely to select than White pastors (6%)
- Those with a Doctoral degree are the most likely to select (13%)
- Those with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to select (13%)
- Democrats (13%) are more likely to select than Republicans (5%)

Specific prayer for refugees
- Those with a Doctoral degree (27%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor’s (16%)
- Those in the Northeast (30%) are more likely to select than those in the South (17%) and Midwest (15%)
- Those in the West (23%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (15%)
- Pastors who are Democrats (27%) are more likely to select than Republicans (18%)
“Does your church’s involvement include… (Select all that apply)”

Advocacy targeting elected officials

- Those in the West (9%) are more likely to select than those in the South (4%)
- Those with no college degree (9%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor’s (3%)
“Have you specifically addressed the Syrian refugee situation from the pulpit?”

- White pastors (37%) are more likely to select “Yes” than pastors of Other Ethnicities (26%)
- Those with a Master’s degree (41%) or a Doctoral degree (43%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those with no college degree (26%) or a Bachelor’s (22%)
- Mainlines (41%) are more likely to select “Yes” than Evangelicals (32%)
- Pastors who are Democrats (59%) are more likely to select “Yes” than Independents (37%), who are more likely than Republicans (28%)
- Presbyterian/Reformed (59%) are more likely to select “Yes” than Baptists (25%), Lutherans (40%), and Pentecostals (28%)
- Methodists (50%) are more likely to select “Yes” than Baptists (25%) and Pentecostals (28%)
- Those in the Northeast (45%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those in the South (33%) and the Midwest (32%)
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