Pastor Views on Racial Reconciliation

Survey of Protestant Pastors
Methodology

- The phone survey of Protestant pastors was conducted August 22 – September 16, 2016
- The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size
- 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 ±3.2%
-Margins of error are higher in sub-groups
Survey Responses
7 out of 10 pastors have not had leaders in their church urge them to preach about racial reconciliation.

Q: “Have the leaders in your church urged you to preach about racial reconciliation?”

Among Protestant Pastors

- Yes: 26%
- No: 73%
- Not sure: 1%
9 out of 10 pastors say their congregations would welcome a sermon on racial reconciliation

Q: “Our congregation would welcome a sermon on racial reconciliation.”
5% of pastors have received negative feedback for addressing racial reconciliation

Q: "In the last two years, have you received negative feedback for addressing racial reconciliation from the pulpit?"

Among Protestant Pastors

- Yes: 5%
- No: 84%
- I have not addressed reconciliation from the pulpit in the last 2 years: 10%
- Not sure: <1%
“When was the last time you had a meal with less than 10 people that included someone of another race?”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Frame</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In the last week</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the last month</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the last 6 months</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the last year</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than a year ago</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q: “When was the last time you had a meal with less than 10 people that included someone of another race?”
“Which, if any, of the following activities have you personally done in the last 3 months to encourage racial reconciliation?”

Q: “Which, if any, of the following activities have you personally done in the last 3 months to encourage racial reconciliation? (Select all that apply)”

- Spent time socializing with neighbors of other ethnicities: 57%
- Led times of corporate prayer for racial reconciliation: 53%
- Discussed the issue with leaders in our church: 51%
- Preached on racial reconciliation: 45%
- Met regularly with pastors of other ethnicities: 40%
- Invested church funds in changing local economic inequalities: 31%
- Led a public lament over racial unrest or injustice: 20%
- None of these: 10%
- Not sure: 1%

Among Protestant Pastors
Significant Differences

**Pastor**

**Ethnicity**

**Age**

**Education Level**

Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

**Church**

**Region**

**Denomination**

**Average Attendance**
Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the church’s attendance and region, the pastor’s age and ethnicity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Pastor’s Ethnicity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-49</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>18-44</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-99</td>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>African American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100-249</td>
<td>South</td>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>Other Ethnicities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250+</td>
<td>West</td>
<td>65+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Region is defined by US Census regions
**Significant Statistical Differences**

- Comparisons were also made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the self-identified Evangelical or Mainline, denomination, and education level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Self-Identify</th>
<th>Denomination</th>
<th>Education Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evangelical</td>
<td>Baptist</td>
<td>No College Degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mainline</td>
<td>Christian/Church of Christ</td>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lutheran</td>
<td>Master’s Degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Methodist</td>
<td>Doctoral Degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pentecostal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Presbyterian/Reformed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Have the leaders in your church urged you to preach about racial reconciliation?”

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 50-99 are the most likely to select “No” (79%)
- Pastors age 18-44 (30%) and 55-64 (28%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those 65+ (18%)
- Pastors of Other Ethnicities are the most likely to select “Yes” (38%)
- Mainline pastors (38%) are more likely to select “Yes” than Evangelical pastors (22%)
- Methodists (34%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (37%) are more likely to select “Yes” than Baptists (17%), Pentecostals (20%), and Holiness (16%)
- Those with a Master’s (30%) or a Doctoral degree (29%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those with no college degree (18%) or a Bachelor’s (15%)
“Our congregation would welcome a sermon on racial reconciliation.”

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to Agree (96%)
- Baptists (92%), Pentecostals (93%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (93%) are more likely to Agree than Lutherans (82%)
“In the last two years, have you received negative feedback for addressing racial reconciliation from the pulpit?”

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 (13%) are more likely to select “I have not addressed racial reconciliation from the pulpit in the last 2 years” than those with attendance of 100-249 (7%)
- Pastors in the South (86%) are more likely to select “No” than Pastors in the Midwest (81%)
- Pastors in the Midwest (13%) are more likely to select “I have not addressed racial reconciliation from the pulpit in the last 2 years” than Pastors in the South (8%)
- Pastors age 18-44 (7%) and 55-64 (7%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those 45-54 (3%) and 65+ (3%)
- Pastors of Other Ethnicities (93%) are more likely to select “No” than White pastors (83%)
- Mainline pastors (9%) are more likely to select “Yes” than Evangelical pastors (4%)
“In the last two years, have you received negative feedback for addressing racial reconciliation from the pulpit?”

• Lutherans (11%) are more likely to select “Yes” than Baptists (4%), Pentecostals (2%), Church of Christ (2%), and Holiness (1%)
• Those with a Master’s (7%) or a Doctoral degree (5%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those with no college degree (1%) or a Bachelor’s (1%)
• Those with no college degree (13%) or a Master’s (12%) are more likely to select “I have not addressed racial reconciliation from the pulpit in the last 2 years” than those with a Doctoral degree (5%)
“When was the last time you had a meal with less than 10 people that included someone of another race?”

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ (53%) are more likely to select “In the last week” than those with attendance of 50-99 (42%) and 100-249 (43%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 (5%) and 50-99 (6%) are more likely to select “More than a year ago” than those with attendance of 250+ (1%)
- Pastors in the South (47%) and West (54%) are more likely to select “In the last week” than Pastors in the Northeast (33%) and Midwest (35%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (37%) are more likely to select “In the last month” than Pastors in the West (26%)
- Pastors in the Midwest (7%) are more likely to select “More than a year ago” than Pastors in the West (2%)
- Pastors age 18-44 (47%) and 45-54 (50%) are more likely to select “In the last week” than those 65+ (36%)
- Pastors age 18-44 are the least likely to select “More than a year ago” (1%)
“When was the last time you had a meal with less than 10 people that included someone of another race?”

- Pastors of Other Ethnicities (60%) are more likely to select “In the last week” than White pastors (42%)
- Baptists (46%), Methodists (48%), and Pentecostals (50%) are more likely to select “In the last week” than Presbyterian/Reformed (34%)
- Baptists (30%), Methodists (30%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (42%) are more likely to select “In the last month” than Church of Christ (17%)
- Lutherans (8%) and Church of Christ (10%) are more likely to select “More than a year ago” than Baptists (2%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (2%)
- Those with no college degree (5%) are more likely to select “Never” than those with a Master’s (1%) or a Doctoral degree (1%)
“Which, if any, of the following activities have you personally done in the last 3 months to encourage racial reconciliation?”

**Met regularly with pastors of other ethnicities**

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to select (52%)
- Pastors in the South (43%) are more likely to select than Pastors in the Midwest (34%)
- Pastors age 18-44 (46%) and 55-64 (42%) are more likely to select than those 65+ (30%)
- Pastors of Other Ethnicities (53%) are more likely to select than White pastors (39%)
- Methodists (52%), Pentecostals (46%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (44%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (31%)
- Those with no college degree (44%) or a Master’s (42%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor’s (31%)
“Which, if any, of the following activities have you personally done in the last 3 months to encourage racial reconciliation?”

Spent time socializing with neighbors of other ethnicities

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 100-249 (62%) are more likely to select than those with attendance of 50-99 (52%)
- Pastors in the South (64%) and West (61%) are more likely to select than Pastors in the Northeast (47%) and Midwest (47%)
- Baptists (62%) are more likely to select than Presbyterian/Reformed (50%)
“Which, if any, of the following activities have you personally done in the last 3 months to encourage racial reconciliation?”

**Invested church funds in changing local economic inequalities**

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to select (43%)
- Pastors age 55-64 (37%) are more likely to select than those 45-54 (26%) and 65+ (26%)
- Methodists (41%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (45%) are more likely to select than Baptists (26%) and Lutherans (25%)
- Those with a Master’s (33%) or a Doctoral degree (34%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor’s (23%)
“Which, if any, of the following activities have you personally done in the last 3 months to encourage racial reconciliation?”

Discussed the issue with leaders in our church

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to select (63%)
- Pastors age 18-44 (57%) are more likely to select than those 45-54 (46%) and 65+ (43%)
- Methodists (60%), Pentecostals (59%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (61%) are more likely to select than Baptists (42%)
- Those with a Master’s (53%) or a Doctoral degree (54%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor’s (41%)
Which, if any, of the following activities have you personally done in the last 3 months to encourage racial reconciliation?

Preached on racial reconciliation
- Pastors age 65+ are the least likely to select (32%)
- Mainline pastors (53%) are more likely to select than Evangelical pastors (40%)
- Methodists (55%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (55%) are more likely to select than Baptists (39%) and Lutherans (42%)
- Those with a Master’s (47%) or a Doctoral degree (46%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor’s (35%)
“Which, if any, of the following activities have you personally done in the last 3 months to encourage racial reconciliation?”

Led a public lament over racial unrest or injustice

- Pastors age 55-64 (24%) are more likely to select than those 45-54 (16%)
- Methodists (24%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (23%) are more likely to select than Baptists (14%)
“Which, if any, of the following activities have you personally done in the last 3 months to encourage racial reconciliation?”

**Led times of corporate prayer for racial reconciliation**

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to select (64%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (62%) are more likely to select than Pastors in the Midwest (50%)
- Pastors age 18-44 (57%) and 55-64 (58%) are more likely to select than those 45-54 (46%) and 65+ (45%)
- Methodists (64%), Pentecostals (64%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (67%) are more likely to select than Baptists (45%) and Church of Christ (44%)
- Those with a Master’s (55%) or a Doctoral degree (60%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor’s (42%)
“Which, if any, of the following activities have you personally done in the last 3 months to encourage racial reconciliation?”

None of these

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 (16%) are more likely to select than those with attendance of 100-249 (9%) and 250+ (4%)
- Pastors in the South are least likely to select (6%)
- Pastors age 18-44 are least likely to select (5%)
- Baptists (14%) are more likely to select than Methodists (5%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (6%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s (15%) are more likely to select than those with a Master’s (9%) or a Doctoral degree (7%)
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