

Pastor Views on Church Discipline

Survey of Protestant Pastors

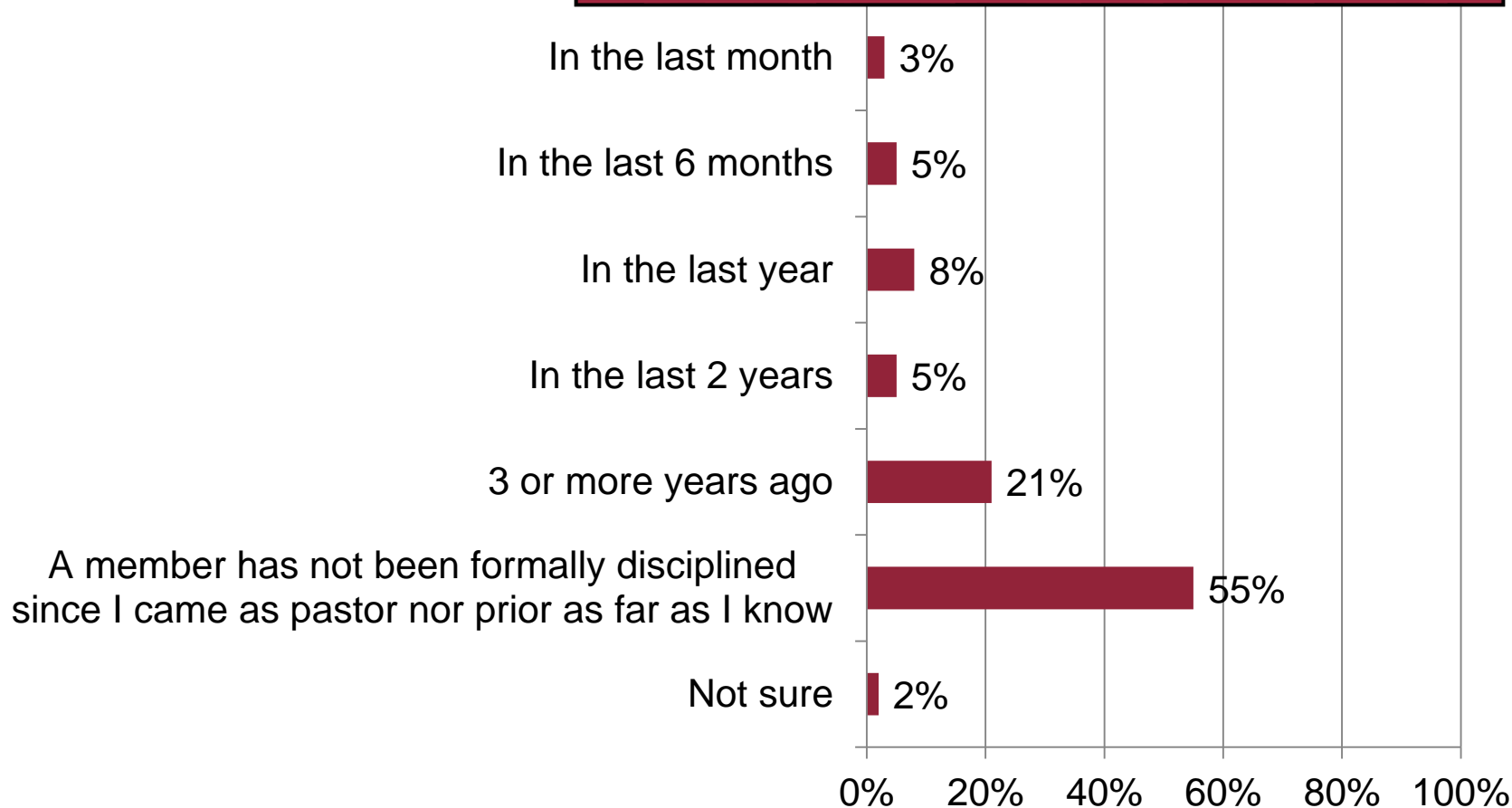
Methodology

- ❑ The phone survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors was conducted August 30 – September 18, 2017
- ❑ 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 $\pm 3.2\%$
- ❑ Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

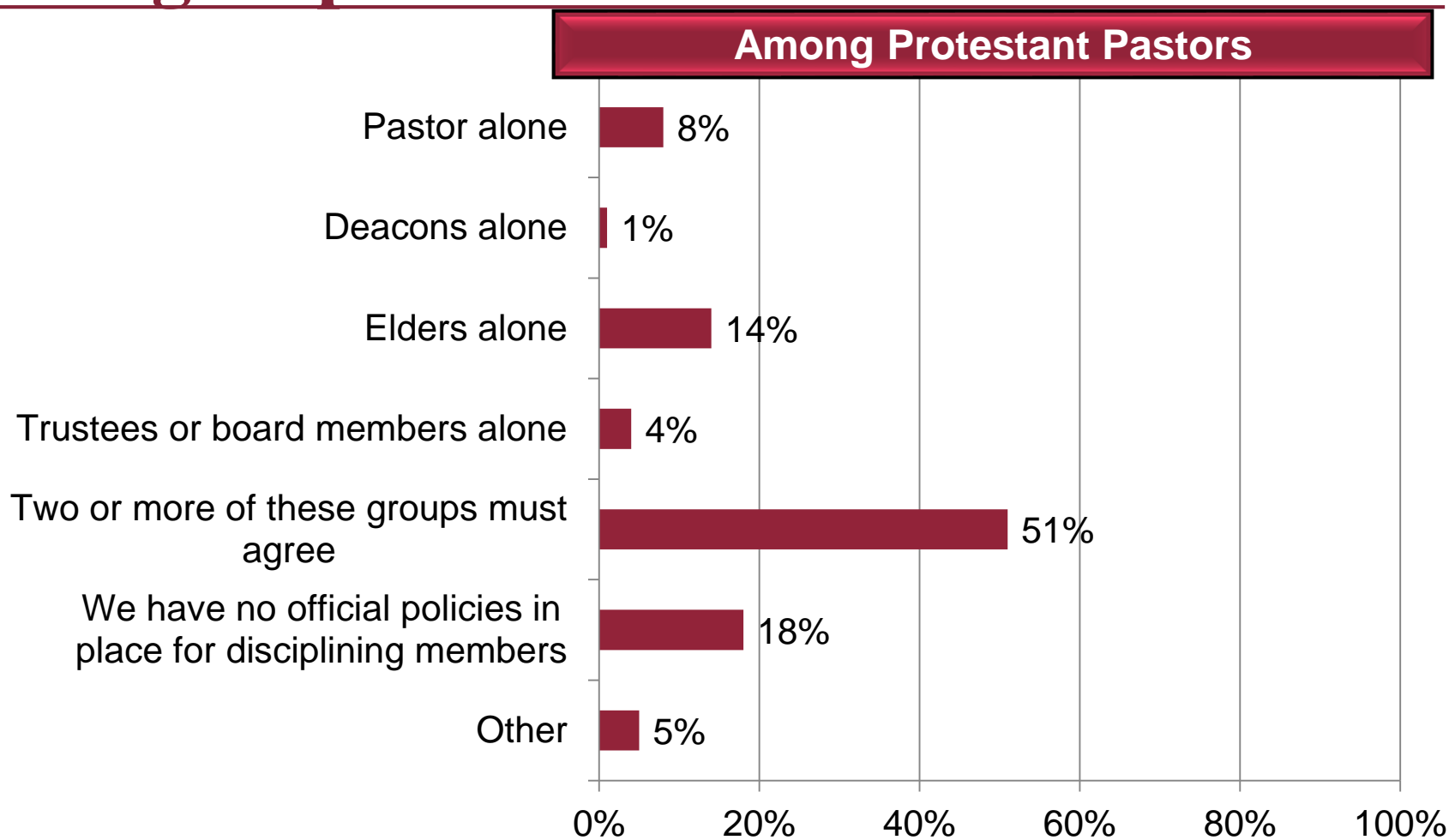
Survey Responses

The majority of churches have not formally disciplined a member as far as the current pastor knows

Among Protestant Pastors



For the majority of churches discipline is a responsibility shared by more than one group of leaders



Significant Differences

Pastor

Ethnicity

Age

Gender

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 gender, age and ethnicity.

Attendance	Region	Pastor's Gender	Pastor's Age	Pastor's Ethnicity
0-49	Northeast	Male	18-44	White
50-99	Midwest	Female	45-54	African-American
100-249	South		55-64	Other Ethnicities
250+	West		65+	

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 education level, the self-identified Evangelical or Mainline, and denomination.

Education Level	Self-Identified	Denomination
No College Degree	Evangelical	Baptist
Bachelor's Degree	Mainline	Lutheran
Master's Degree		Methodist
Doctoral Degree		Pentecostal
		Presbyterian/ Reformed
		Holiness

“When was the last time your church formally disciplined a member?”

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 100-249 (20%) and 250+ (20%) are more likely to answer “Within the last year” than those with attendance of 50-99 (13%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 (65%) and 50-99 (63%) are more likely to answer “A member has not been formally disciplined since I came as pastor nor prior as far as I know” than those with attendance of 100-249 (48%) and 250+ (38%)
- Pastors in the West are the most likely to answer “Within the last year” (24%)
- Pastors in the South (56%) and Midwest (59%) are more likely to answer “A member has not been formally disciplined since I came as pastor nor prior as far as I know” than those in the West (46%)
- Male pastors are more likely to answer “More than a year” than female pastors (28% v. 12%) and less likely to answer “A member has not been formally disciplined since I came as pastor nor prior as far as I know” (53% v. 72%)

“When was the last time your church formally disciplined a member?” (continued)

- Pastors age 18-44 (21%) are more likely to answer “Within the last year” than those 55-64 (14%)
- Pastors age 18-44 (59%) are more likely to answer “A member has not been formally disciplined since I came as pastor nor prior as far as I know” than those 45-54 (50%)
- African-American pastors are more likely to answer “Within the last year” than White pastors (34% v. 15%) and less likely to select “More than a year ago” (11% v. 27%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s degree are the most likely to answer “Within the last year” (26%)
- Those with no college degree (59%) or a Master’s degree (58%) are more likely to answer “A member has not been formally disciplined since I came as pastor nor prior as far as I know” than those with a Bachelor’s degree (46%)

“When was the last time your church formally disciplined a member?” (continued)

- Evangelical pastors are more likely to answer “Within the last year” than Mainline pastors (19% v. 11%), more likely to select “More than a year ago” (31% v. 19%), and less likely to answer “A member has not been formally disciplined since I came as pastor nor prior as far as I know” (49% v. 67%)
- Baptists (19%), Pentecostals (29%), and Holiness (23%) are more likely to answer “Within the last year” than Methodists (4%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (9%)
- Methodists are the least likely to answer “More than a year ago” (8%) and the most likely to answer “A member has not been formally disciplined since I came as pastor nor prior as far as I know” (85%)

“Who at your church is officially responsible for administering formal discipline of a church member?”

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 100-249 (17%) are more likely to answer “Elders alone” than those with attendance of 0-49 (10%) and 50-99 (11%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 50-99 (53%) and 100-249 (53%) are more likely to answer “Two or more of these groups must agree” than those with attendance of 0-49 (43%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 (24%) and 50-99 (20%) are more likely to answer “We have no official policies in place for disciplining” than those with attendance of 100-249 (14%)
- Pastors in the South (9%) are more likely to answer “Pastor alone” than Pastors in the Midwest (5%)
- Male pastors are more likely to answer “Elders alone” than female pastors (15% v. 4%) and less likely to answer “We have no official policies in place for disciplining” (17% v. 29%)

“Who at your church is officially responsible for administering formal discipline of a church member?” (continued)

- Pastors age 18-44 (58%) and 45-54 (54%) are more likely to answer “Two or more of these groups must agree” than those 65+ (42%)
- Pastors age 55-64 (22%) and 65+ (22%) are more likely to answer “We have no official policies in place for disciplining” than those 18-44 (14%) and 45-54 (14%)
- African-American pastors (21%) are more likely to answer “Pastor alone” than White pastors (6%)
- Those with a Master’s degree (15%) are more likely to answer “Elders alone” than those with a no college degree (7%)
- Those with no college degree (28%) are more likely to answer “We have no official policies in place for disciplining” than those with a Bachelor’s degree (13%) or a Master’s degree (19%)
- Mainline pastors (24%) are more likely to answer “We have no official policies in place for disciplining” than Evangelical pastors (15%)

“Who at your church is officially responsible for administering formal discipline of a church member?” (continued)

- Presbyterian/Reformed are the most likely to answer “Elders alone” (41%) and the least likely to answer “Two or more of these groups must agree” (27%)
- Methodists are the most likely to answer “We have no official policies in place for disciplining” (37%)

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