Pastors’ Views on Same Sex Marriage and Civil Unions

Survey of American Protestant Pastors
Methodology

• The phone survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors was conducted August 29 – September 11, 2018
• 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
20% say they see nothing wrong with two people of the same gender getting married among Protestant Pastors.

Q20: "I see nothing wrong with two people of the same gender getting married."
28% say they see nothing wrong with legal civil unions between two people of the same gender

Among Protestant Pastors

Q21: “I see nothing wrong with legal civil unions between two people of the same gender.”
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.

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

Note: Region is defined by US Census locations
Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the church’s denomination and the pastor’s education level and identification as evangelical or mainline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Self-Identified</th>
<th>Denomination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No College Degree</td>
<td>Evangelical</td>
<td>Baptist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
<td>Mainline</td>
<td>Lutheran</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master’s Degree</td>
<td></td>
<td>Methodist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral Degree</td>
<td></td>
<td>Pentecostal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Presbyterian/Reformed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Christian/Church of Christ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“I see nothing wrong with two people of the same gender getting married.”

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 are the most likely to Agree (29%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (33%) and South (24%) are more likely to Agree than those in the South (16%) and West (16%)
- Female pastors are more likely to Agree than males (47% v. 14%)
- Pastors with a Master’s degree (28%) or a Doctoral degree (23%) are more likely to Agree than those with no college degree (10%) or a Bachelor’s degree (6%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to Agree than Evangelical pastors (36% v. 8%)
- Lutherans (34%), Methodists (42%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (46%) are more likely to Agree than Baptists (3%), Pentecostals (1%), and Christian/Church of Christ (14%)
“I see nothing wrong with legal civil unions between two people of the same gender.”

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 (36%) are more likely to Agree than those with attendance of 100-249 (27%) and 250+ (19%)
- Pastors in the Northeast are the most likely to Agree (42%)
- Female pastors are more likely to Agree than males (49% v. 24%)
- Pastors age 55-64 (70%) are more likely to Disagree than pastors age 18-44 (62%)
- Pastors with a Master’s degree (38%) or a Doctoral degree (33%) are more likely to Agree than those with no college degree (13%) or a Bachelor’s degree (11%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to Agree than Evangelical pastors (45% v. 17%)
- Methodists (55%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (57%) are more likely to Agree than Baptist (9%), Lutherans (40%), Pentecostals (1%), and Christian/Church of Christ (23%)
Pastors’ Views on Same Sex Marriage and Civil Unions

Survey of American Protestant Pastors

LifeWay Research
Biblical Solutions for Life