

# Pastors' Views on Caring for People with Disabilities

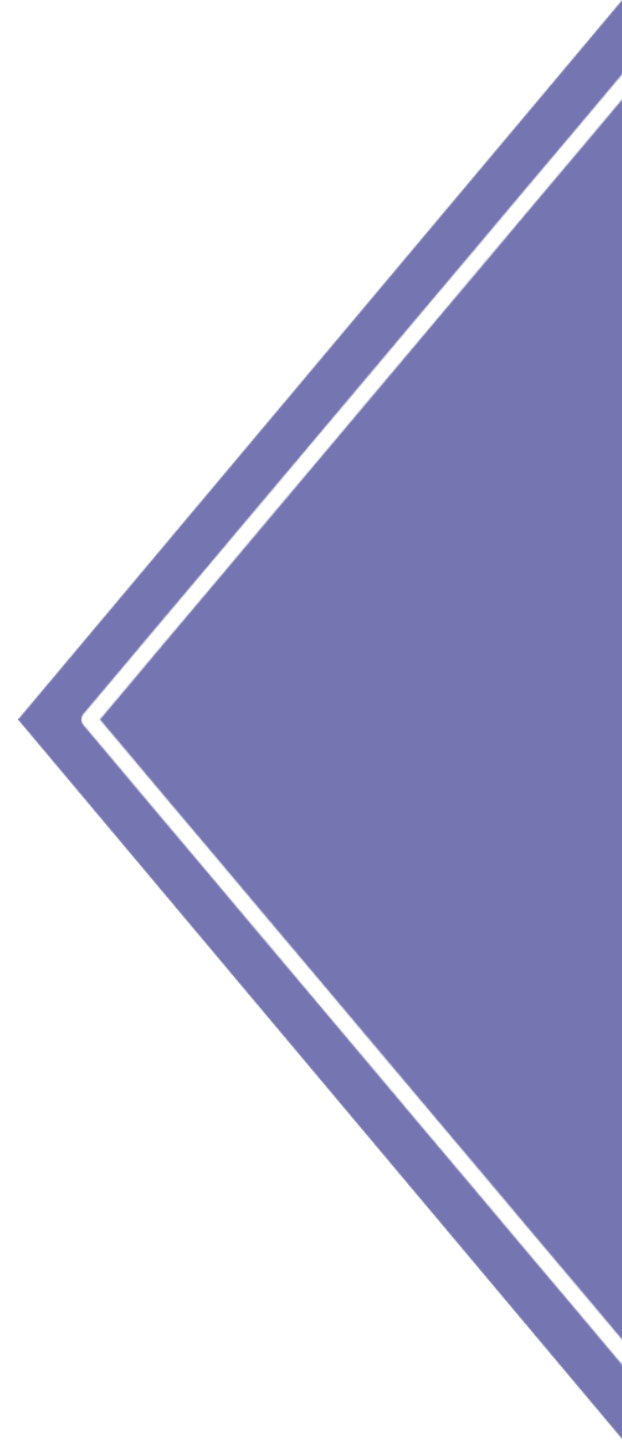
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Survey of American Protestant Pastors

# Methodology

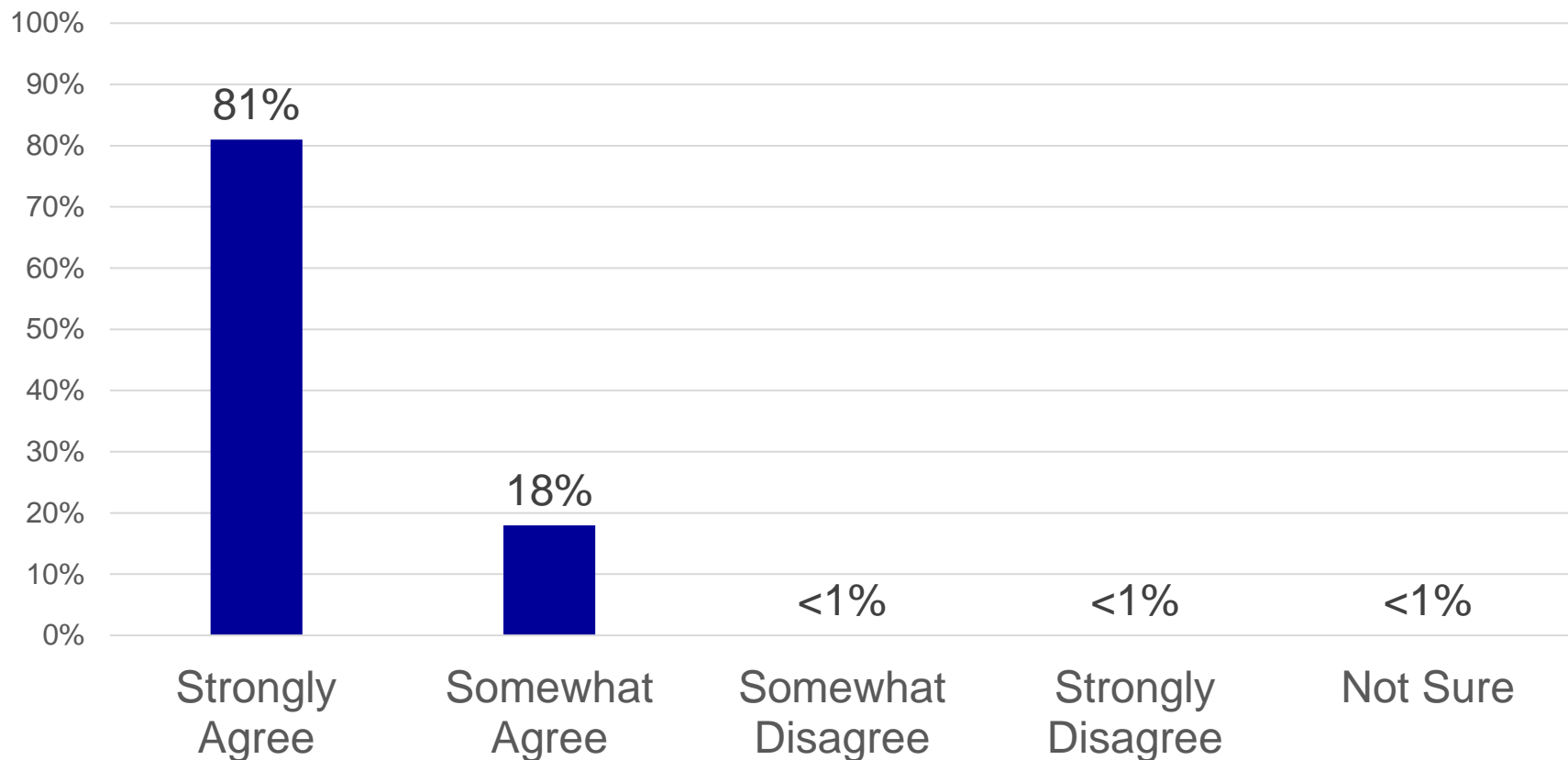
- The phone survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors was conducted August 30 -- September 24, 2019
- The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size
- Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest of the 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  $\pm 3.3\%$
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

# Survey Responses



# Almost all (99%) say that a person with a disability would feel welcomed and included at their church

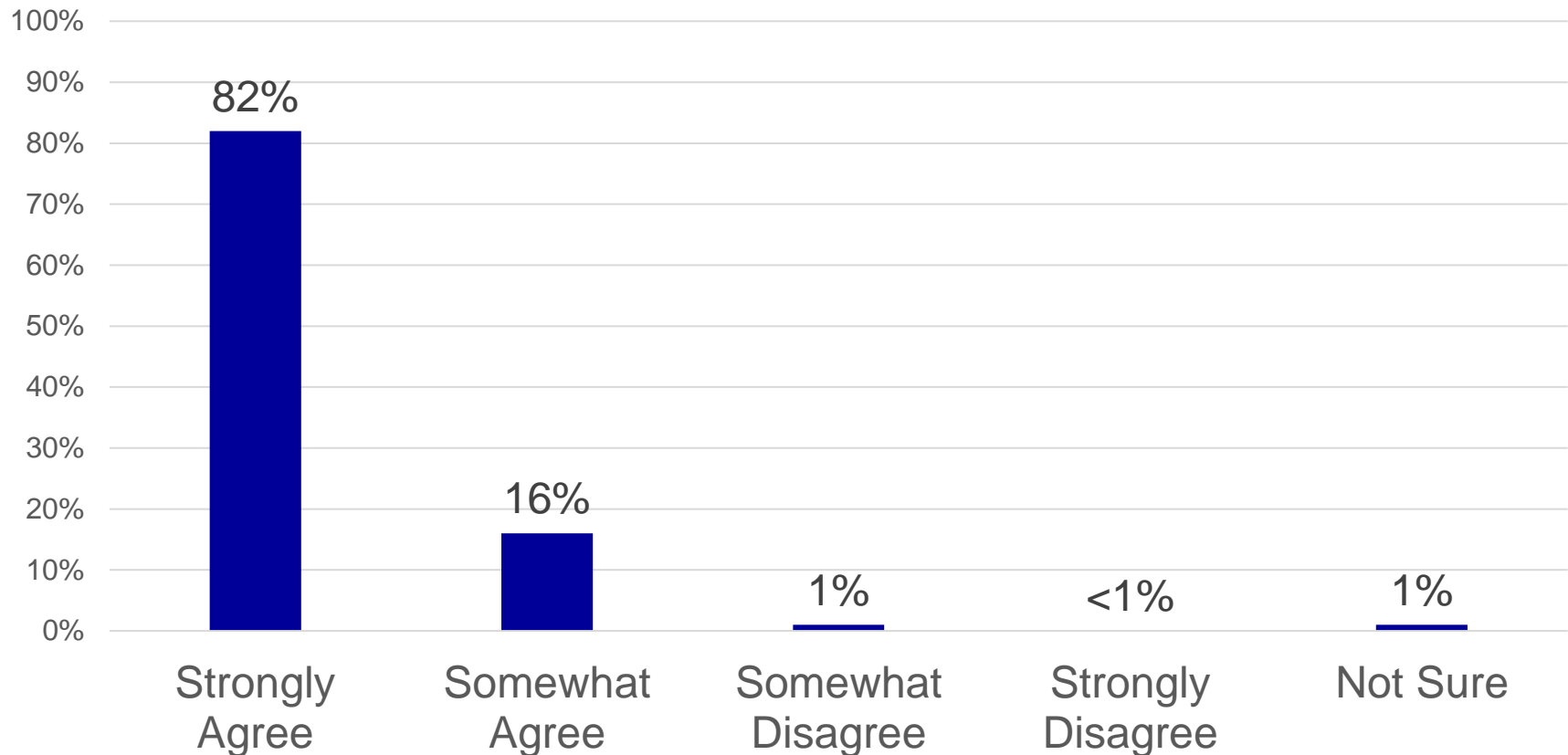
Among Protestant Pastors



Q22: "A person with a disability (including physical, sensory, cognitive, and intellectual impairments) would feel welcomed and included when coming to our church."

# 99% say that local churches should make necessary facility modifications to make them accessible to people with disabilities

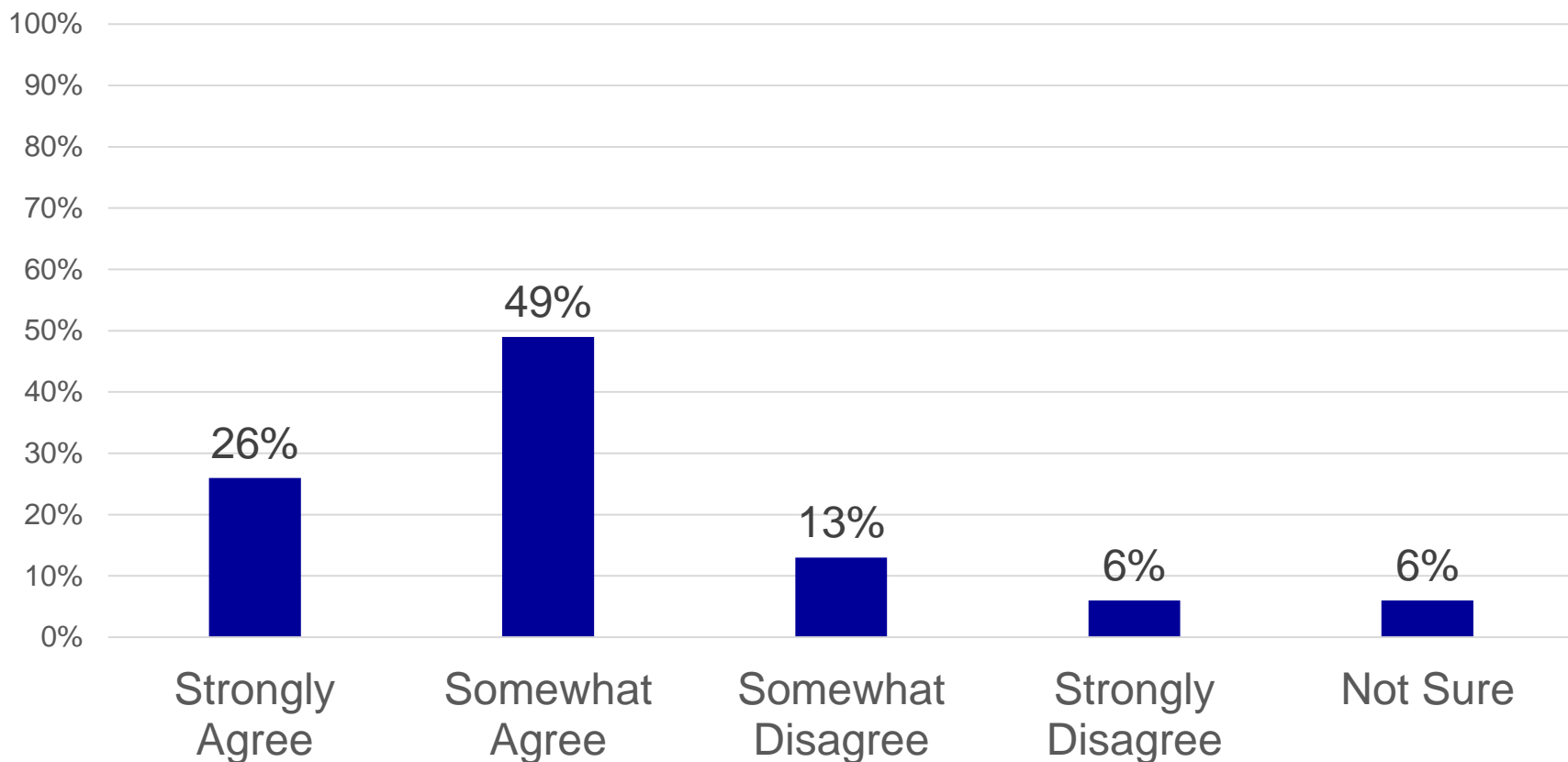
Among Protestant Pastors



Q23: "Local churches should make necessary modifications to their church facilities to make them accessible to people with physical disabilities even when it is not required by law."

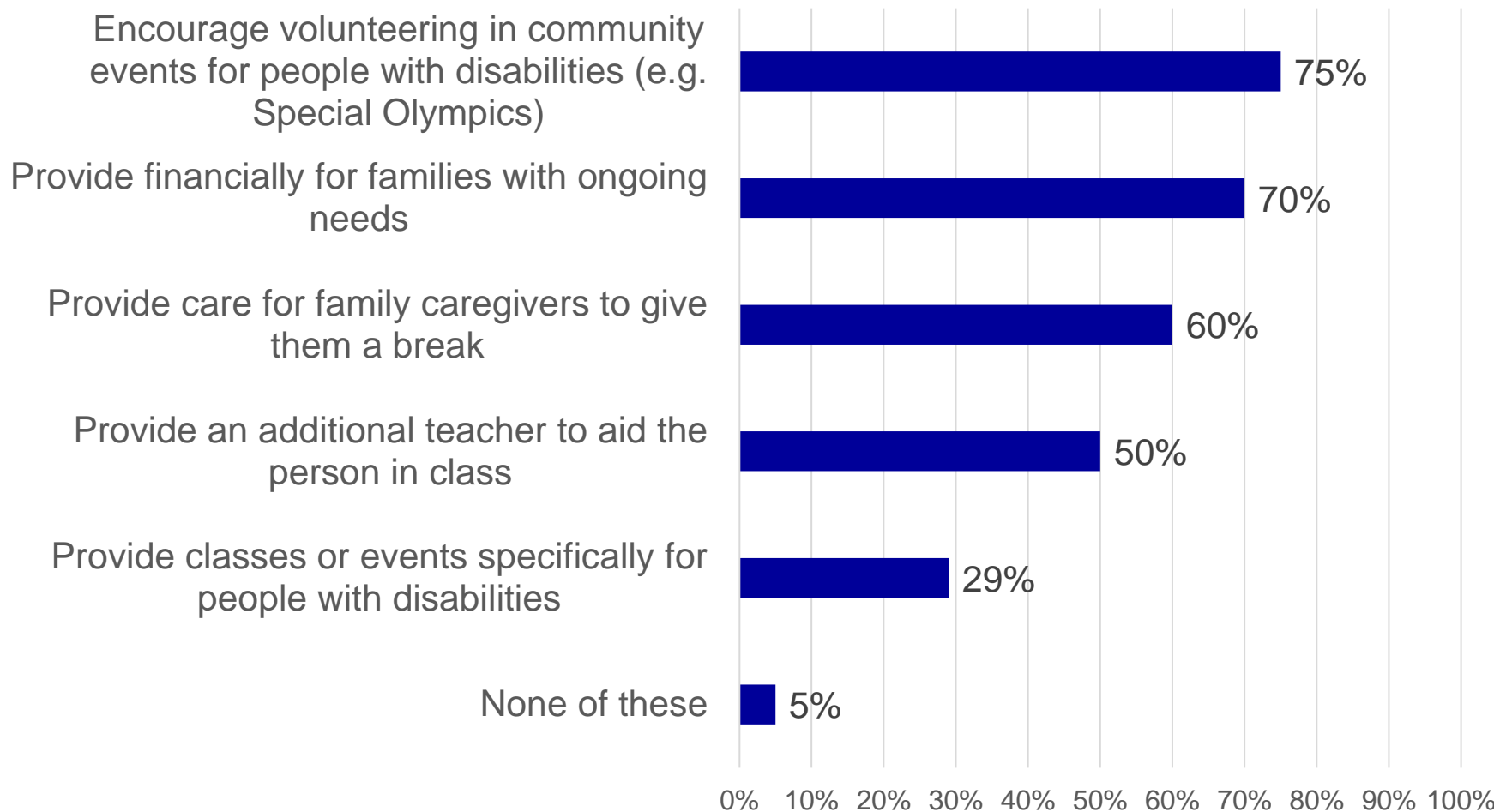
# 76% say that local churches have a responsibility to provide financial resources and support to individuals with disabilities and their families

## Among Protestant Pastors



# “In which, if any, of the following ways does your church currently care for people with disabilities and their families?”

## Among Protestant Pastors



\*Not sure <1%

# 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 pastor's ethnicity, age, gender, education, and self-identified Evangelical or Mainline.

Ethnicity	Age	Gender	Education	Self-Identified
White	18-44	Male	No College Degree	Evangelical
African-American	45-54	Female	Bachelor's Degree	Mainline
Other Ethnicity	55-64		Master's Degree	
	65+		Doctoral Degree	

# Significant Statistical Differences

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

Region	Denomination	Attendance
Northeast	Baptist	0-49
South	Lutheran	50-99
Midwest	Methodist	100-249
West	Pentecostal	250+
	Presbyterian/Reformed	
	Christian/ Church of Christ	

**“A person with a disability (including physical, sensory, cognitive, and intellectual impairments) would feel welcomed and included when coming to our church.”**

- Pastors in the South (84%) are more likely to Strongly agree than those in the Midwest (76%)
- Pastors age 65+ are the most likely to Strongly agree (90%)
- Pastors of Other Ethnicities (92%) are more likely to Strongly agree than White pastors (80%)
- Pastors with no college degree (91%) or a Bachelor’s degree (89%) are more likely to Strongly agree than those with a Master’s degree (77%) or Doctoral degree (81%)
- Lutherans are the least likely to Strongly agree (68%)

**“Local churches should make necessary modifications to their church facilities to make them accessible to people with physical disabilities even when it is not required by law.”**

- Pastors in the South are the most likely to Strongly agree (88%)
- Pastors age 55-64 (86%) are more likely to Strongly agree than those age 45-54 (79%)
- African American pastors (90%) are more likely to Strongly agree than Pastors of Other Ethnicities (75%)
- Female pastors are more likely to Strongly agree than male pastors (89% v. 81%)
- Methodists (90%) are more likely to Strongly agree than Lutherans (76%) and Pentecostals (76%)

# **“Local churches have a responsibility to provide financial resources and support to individuals with disabilities and their families.”**

- Pastors of Other Ethnicities are the most likely to Disagree (29%)
- Pastors age 18-44 are the most likely to Agree (85%)
- Pastors with no college degree (23%) are more likely to Disagree than those with a Doctoral degree (13%)
- Pastors in the West (26%) are more likely to Disagree than those in the South (17%) and Midwest (16%)
- Methodists (83%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (82%) are more likely to Agree than Baptists (71%) and Pentecostals (67%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ (82%) are more likely to Agree than those with attendance of 0-49 (71%)

# “In which, if any, of the following ways does your church currently care for people with disabilities and their families?”

## **Provide an additional teacher to aid the person in class**

- Pastors age 45-54 (55%) are more likely to select than pastors age 65+ (43%)
- Pastors with a Bachelor's degree (57%) or a Doctoral degree (60%) are more likely to select than those with a Master's degree (47%)
- Baptists (60%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (39%), Methodists (44%), Presbyterian/Reformed (49%), and Christian/Church of Christ (42%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 100-249 (54%) and 250+ (75%) are more likely to select than those with attendance 0-49 (35%) or 50-99 (46%)

# “In which, if any, of the following ways does your church currently care for people with disabilities and their families?”

## **Provide care for family caregivers to give them a break**

- Pastors of Other Ethnicities (73%) are more likely to select than White pastors (59%)
- Pastors age 55-64 (66%) are more likely to select than pastors age 18-44 (55%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select than female pastors (62% v. 51%)
- Baptists (65%), Methodists (61%), Presbyterian/Reformed (66%), and Christian/Church of Christ (67%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (47%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to select (71%)

# “In which, if any, of the following ways does your church currently care for people with disabilities and their families?”

## **Provide financially for families with ongoing needs**

- Baptists (72%) and Christian/Church of Christ (76%) are more likely to select than Methodists (63%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ (79%) are more likely to select than those with attendance of 0-49 (64%) and 50-99 (67%)



# “In which, if any, of the following ways does your church currently care for people with disabilities and their families?”

## **Provide classes or events specifically for people with disabilities**

- African American pastors (43%) are more likely to select than White pastors (27%)
- Pastors with a Doctoral degree (38%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor's degree (26%) or a Master's degree (28%)
- Pastors in the South (32%) are more likely to select than those in the Northeast (22%)
- Pentecostals (41%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (20%), Presbyterian/Reformed (26%), and Christian/Church of Christ (24%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ are the most likely to select (44%)

# “In which, if any, of the following ways does your church currently care for people with disabilities and their families?”

**Encourage volunteering in community events for people with disabilities (e.g. Special Olympics)**

- Pastors with a Doctoral degree (81%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor's degree (71%)

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