

# PRESBYTERIAN PANEL REPORT

— Listening to Presbyterians —



## THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION The November 1996 Presbyterian Panel

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Keith M. Wulff, wrote this report and was assisted in this study by the following staff of the office of Research Services: John Marcum, Deborah Bruce, Ida Smith-Williams, Cynthia Woolever, Dorothy Dietrich, Vicki Rucker, Vittoria Conn, Charlene Briggs, and Louella Aker.

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RESEARCH SERVICES  
Congregational Ministries Division  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
100 Witherspoon Street  
Louisville, KY 40202

## THE PRESBYTERIAN PANEL: AN OVERVIEW

The Presbyterian Panel (1994-1996) consists of several thousand Presbyterians in the United States and Puerto Rico who agreed to respond to a quarterly mail survey beginning February 1994. The Panel contains independent, representative samples of four groups affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): members, elders, pastors, and clergy in specialized ministries. (The exact number of cases in each sample may be found at the beginning of the appendix.)

Participants in each of these samples were selected according to scientific sampling procedures, a detailed description of which can be found in Appendix B of the *Background Report for the 1994-1996 Panel* (Louisville: Research Services, Division of Congregational Ministries, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), 1994). The member sample was drawn in two stages. First, 425 congregations were sampled, with the probability of selection proportional to membership size. Each of the 425 congregations was, in turn, requested to supply the names of eight members, based on applying a set of random numbers to its current list of active members. The elder sample was drawn from a denominationally-maintained list of all elders currently serving on sessions of Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations. To ensure geographical representation, elders were sampled proportionately according to their overall distribution across the church's 16 synods. The pastor sample is a random sample of all ordained ministers of the Word and Sacrament who, at the time of sampling, occupied a staff position in a congregation or other parish. The specialized clergy sample is a random sample of all ordained ministers in the denomination who, at the time of sampling, worked outside a parish (e.g., chaplains, counselors, teachers, church officials). Retired clergy were excluded from the Panel. Pastors and specialized clergy were both slightly oversampled to permit individuals who had served in the 1991-1993 cycle of the Panel to be excluded from the new samples.

The office of Research Services, lodged in the Congregational Ministries Division of the national offices of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), maintains the Panel as a service to the General Assembly, its agencies, councils, committees, and other entities. The primary purpose of the Panel is to aid these national bodies within the church by gathering information on Presbyterian opinions and behavior for use in planning and evaluation. Secondly, the Panel exists to provide the church as a whole and the larger society with information of general interest on Presbyterians.

All Panel data are publicly available, with the exception that no data will be released that might compromise the confidentiality of respondents. Requests for Panel data in computer-readable format for research purposes will be considered on an individual basis. Responsibility for the maintenance and disposition of Panel files ultimately rests with the office of Research Services.

### SAMPLING ERROR

Time and costs preclude inclusive surveys of all but the smallest populations. With larger populations, representative samples are drawn and the responses of smaller subsets are used to extrapolate to the total population—much as medicine draws a sample of blood to profile the entire blood supply within the human body. The values obtained from a scientifically-selected sample will not necessarily be the same ones that would have been obtained if the entire population had been surveyed, but we can know, within a certain degree of probability, the range above and below the sample value within which the actual population value is likely to fall. By convention, surveys usually report 95% "confidence intervals," that is, the range above and below a sample value that, in 19 out of 20 samples (in other words, 95% of the time), will contain the true population value. This range is also known as sampling error.

Sampling error is dependent largely on the number of cases in the sample and, with percentages, how large or how small the particular values are. In general, the larger the sample, the smaller the sampling error, and the closer a percentage is to 50% (as opposed to 0% or 100%), the larger the sampling error. Approximate sampling errors for Panel samples are:

REPORTED PERCENTAGE	MEMBERS	ELDERS	PASTORS	SPECIALIZED CLERGY
	95% CONFIDENCE INTERVAL			
50%	±4%	±4%	±4%	±5%
30% or 70%	±4%	±4%	±4%	±5%
20% or 80%	±4%	±4%	±4%	±4%
10% or 90%	±3%	±3%	±3%	±3%
5% or 95%	±2%	±2%	±2%	±2%

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Only about half of members (41%) and elders (52%) know “with certainty” the name of the theological school from which their pastor graduated. (p. 1)
- Given the lack of knowledge that members and elders have concerning the denomination’s theological schools, it is not surprising that most (60% of members and 46% of elders) indicated that they “don’t know” whether these theological schools “have responded to the needs of the church in the last ten years” or not. Pastors and specialized clergy were far more likely to express an opinion on this issue—almost three-quarters in each sample think that the denomination’s seminaries have responded “to a great extent” or “to some extent” to the needs of the church in the last ten years. (p. 1)
- Pastors who describe their theological position as liberal were more likely than were those who describe their position as conservative to indicate that seminaries *have* responded to the needs of the church in the last ten years. (p. 1)
- “Affirming the ministry of women” is the phrase that the largest percentage of pastors see as descriptive of Presbyterian theological schools, while “faithful to the church of Jesus Christ” is the phrase that the largest percentage of members believe describes our schools. (p. 2)
- About one-fifth of panelists report that their congregation has “a program to help identify candidates for ministry.” Larger percentages of respondents (28% of members, 41% of pastors) report that their presbytery has such a program. (p. 4)
- Just 17% of members and 32% of elders reported having received an appeal for funds from a theological school in the previous two years. In contrast, almost all clergy had received such an appeal (96% of pastors; 94% of specialized clergy). (p. 5)
- Only 8% of members and 18% of elders reported familiarity with the Theological Education Fund (the 1% Plan). In contrast, 92% of pastors are familiar with this offering. Surprisingly, only 72% of specialized clergy are familiar with the 1% Plan. (p. 6)
- Almost six in ten members and almost half of elders indicated they were also not aware that “money given directly to a Presbyterian theological school supports only that particular school.” (p. 7)
- The largest percentages of members and elders believe that seminaries should emphasize “personal/spiritual development,” while pastors and specialized clergy are more likely to stress “preaching.” (p. 7)
- The largest percentages of members reported that their pastors were doing an “excellent” job in these five areas: “preaching” (47%), “leading Bible study” (39%), “pastoral care” (32%), “leading people in spiritual development” (31%), and “general interpersonal skills” (30%). (p. 8)
- When panelists were asked to indicate the extent to which 14 sources of news and commentary have had an impact on their impressions of Presbyterian theological schools, the largest percentage of members and elders named their pastor as having had a “very significant” impact (23% of members and elders so responded). (p. 9)

## THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

November 1996

The subject of the November 1996 Presbyterian Panel was Theological Education. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s Council on Theological Education (COTE) serves as the primary governance, program, and funding link between the denomination and its seminaries. Membership includes representatives from each of the seminaries, 12 at-large members elected by the General Assembly, and non-voting representatives from each of the schools in covenant with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). COTE was interested in obtaining information about Presbyterians' attitudes concerning Presbyterian theological institutions and toward other issues related to theological education.

The survey was mailed to panelists on November 20, 1996, and those who had not responded by early December were sent a reminder postcard. Total response rates by sample are: members, 60%; elders, 64%; pastors, 70%; specialized clergy, 71%. The percentage distributions of responses to all survey questions, for every sample, are presented as an appendix (pp. A-1 to A-17). The narrative that follows summarizes many of these results.<sup>1</sup>

### KNOWLEDGE OF THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS

#### Theological School From Which The Pastor Graduated

Only about half of members (41%) and elders (52%) know "with certainty" the name of the theological school from which their pastor graduated (Q-1). About half of members (48%) and a third of elders (36%) reported that they know "almost nothing" about any of the 11 Presbyterian theological schools (Q-2; note that the names of these schools were listed in Q-1). When those who chose the option "I know almost nothing about any of them" are combined with those who said "I know a little about one or two of them," almost four-fifths of members and elders (78% and 73%, respectively) admit that they have scant knowledge about any of the denomination's theological schools.

#### Theological Schools' Responses to the Needs of the Church

Given the lack of knowledge that members and elders have concerning the denomination's theological schools, it is not surprising that most (60% of members and 46% of elders) indicated that they "don't know" whether these theological schools "have responded to the needs of the church in the last ten years" or not (Q-3). Pastors and specialized clergy were far more likely to express an opinion on this issue—almost three-quarters in each sample think that the denomination's seminaries have responded "to a great extent" or "to some extent" to the needs of the church in the last ten years.

Pastors' responses to this question differed by age. One-quarter of pastors 50 years of age and over (26%), compared to 18% of those under 50 years of age, believe seminaries have responded "to a great extent" to the church's needs. At the other end of the scale, 19% of pastors 50 years of age and over think the seminaries have responded "to a little extent" or "have not responded at all," compared to 26% of those under 50 who responded in this manner. (There was no difference in the responses of specialized clergy of different ages.)

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<sup>1</sup> As part of an internal methodological assessment, the last third of the questionnaire (Q-19 and forward) consisted of items repeated from earlier surveys of the same panelists. The percentage distribution of responses to each of these questions may be found in the appendix, but these results are not discussed in the text of this report.

There is also a difference in pastors' responses to this item based on their self-identified theological position (Q-19). Pastors who describe their theological position as liberal were more likely than were those who describe their position as conservative to indicate that seminaries *have* responded to the needs of the church in the last ten years: 11% of conservatives, 23% of moderates, and 32% of liberals believe that seminaries have responded "to a great extent" to the needs of the church. A similar pattern of responses was found for specialized clergy.

### **Theological Schools' Performance in Educating Presbyterian Students**

It is clear that panelists think Presbyterian theological schools do a better job of educating Presbyterian students than do non-Presbyterian theological schools (Q-4a and Q4b). At least one-third of members and elders and slightly more than 50% of pastors and specialized clergy "agree" or "strongly agree" that "Presbyterian theological schools do an excellent job of educating Presbyterian students. This compares to no more than 20% of panelists who "agree" or "strongly agree" that "*non*-Presbyterian schools do an excellent job educating Presbyterian students" (10% of members, 20% of pastors so responded).

The percentage of panelists who responded "not sure" regarding the effectiveness of theological school was much larger when they were asked about the performance of non-Presbyterian theological schools. For example, 32% of members were "not sure" regarding the effectiveness of Presbyterian schools, and 58% were "not sure" about the performance of non-Presbyterian schools. Even after eliminating the "not sure" responses, the results still show that more panelists think Presbyterian theological schools do an excellent job of educating Presbyterian students than do non-Presbyterian theological schools.

It appears that many panelists are not sure if "the quality of Presbyterians graduating from theological schools has fallen in the last ten years" (Q-4c) or if "Presbyterian theological schools are turning out too many graduates these days" (Q-4d). Over 60% of members, about half of elders, and from one-sixth to one-fifth of pastors and specialized clergy responded "not sure" regarding these two issues. In addition over 20% of members and elders and over 40% of pastors and specialized clergy responded either "tend to agree" or "tend not to agree." Few panelists took more extreme positions on these two questions.

Members and elders are somewhat hesitant to express an opinion on whether "Presbyterian theological schools turn out pastors who are able to help members practice their faith" (Q-4e). One-third of members (36%) and 24% of elders responded "not sure." Three in ten members (28%) and elders (29%) "strongly agree" or "agree" that graduates of these schools are able to help members with their personal spirituality. Members of the clergy were more likely to express an opinion on this issue, but many responded with the lukewarm "tend to agree" (41% of pastors and 40% of specialized clergy). One-third of pastors (31%) and specialized clergy (29%) indicated that they "strongly agree" or "agree" with this statement, percentages that were similar to those of members and elders.

### **Phrases that Describe Presbyterian Theological Schools**

In Q-5, panelists were presented with a list of 21 words and phrases and asked to indicate the extent to which they believe each describes Presbyterian theological schools. These items are listed in Table 1 in rank order based on the percentage of members who think each describes Presbyterian theological schools either "very well" or "well." Results for pastors are also included. It should be noted that large percentages of members responded "not sure" to each. "Affirming the ministry of women" is the phrase that the largest percentage of pastors see as descriptive of Presbyterian theological schools, while "faithful to the church of Jesus Christ" is the phrase that the largest percentage of members believe describes our schools.

The phrase that the *fewest* panelists (no more than 5% in any sample) believe describes Presbyterian theological schools "very well" or "well" is "wealthy and not in need of additional funding." Nonetheless, about half of members (53%), 44% of elders, and about 10% of clergy responded "not sure" about this descriptor.

The responses of male and female pastors regarding the extent to which “affirming the ministry of women” describes Presbyterian theological schools differ. One-half of men (49%) believe that “affirming the ministry of women” describes Presbyterian theological schools “very well.” However, only 25% of women believe that phrase describes Presbyterian theological schools “very well.”

**Table 1**  
**Perceptions of Presbyterian Theological Schools (Q-5)**  
**Members’ and Pastors’ Responses**

	<b>Percentage Responding “Well” or “Very Well”</b>			
	<b>Members</b>		<b>Pastors</b>	
	<b>%</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Rank</b>
faithful to the church of Jesus Christ . . . . .	50%	1	59%	7
Biblically sound . . . . .	49%	2	63%	5
academic excellence . . . . .	48%	3	83%	2
affirming the ministry of women . . . . .	42%	4	89%	1
socially responsible . . . . .	37%	5	54%	10
committed to ecumenism . . . . .	35%	6	77%	4
committed to promoting inclusiveness and diversity . . . . .	34%	7	80%	3
spiritually rich . . . . .	33%	8	26%	16
committed to the Reformed tradition . . . . .	32%	9	63%	5
financially sound, yet in need of ongoing support . . . . .	32%	9	57%	9
traditional . . . . .	30%	11	38%	13
racially inclusive . . . . .	30%	11	59%	7
focused on practical skills for pastors . . . . .	28%	13	24%	17
setting directions for the church . . . . .	25%	14	17%	18
liberal . . . . .	24%	15	44%	11
innovative . . . . .	19%	16	29%	15
evangelical . . . . .	18%	17	9%	19
moderate/middle of the road . . . . .	17%	18	32%	14
conservative . . . . .	16%	19	8%	20
on the cutting edge of theology . . . . .	14%	20	40%	12
wealthy and not in need of additional funding . . . . .	5%	21	5%	21

Members’ stance on theological issues appears to influence their perceptions of theological schools. For instance, members who consider themselves to be liberal or very liberal on theological issues are much more likely to say that “biblically sound” describes our seminaries “very well” or “well” than are those who describe themselves as very conservative (see Table 2). A similar pattern was found for elders, pastors, and specialized clergy. (Note that the percentages for members and elders are influenced by the large percentages who responded “not sure.”)

**Table 2**  
**Relationship Between Theological Stance (Q-19) and**  
**the Belief that “Biblically Sound” Describes Presbyterian Theological Schools (Q-5)**

Sample	Percentage Who Believe “Biblically Sound” Describes PCUSA Theological Schools “Very Well” or “Well” by Self-Identified Theological Stance				
	Very Conservative	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal	Very Liberal
Members .....	26%	40%	63%	65%	54%
Elders .....	38%	50%	55%	67%	50%
Pastors .....	14%	24%	72%	87%	77%
Specialized Clergy .....	20%	38%	66%	83%	72%

### SEMINARIES AND CONGREGATIONS

About one-fifth of panelists report that their congregation has “a program to help identify candidates for ministry” (Q-6a). Larger percentages of respondents (28% of members, 41% of pastors) report that their presbytery has such a program (Q-6b). Large percentages of members and elders responded “not sure” for each of these questions, ranging from 22% of elders who are unsure if their congregation has a program for identifying potential candidates for ministry to 69% of members who are unsure if their presbytery has such a program. One-fourth of pastors and specialized clergy are also “not sure” if their presbytery has such a program.

Panelists were also asked how many persons from their congregation “attended seminary as candidates or inquirers for the ministry” in the last ten years (Q-7). Many members (30%) responded “don’t know.” The largest percentage of both pastors (41%) and elders (37%) indicated that there had been no one from their congregation who attended seminary during that period. About one-quarter indicated that one person had attended seminary, and one in ten have had four or more persons attend seminary in the past ten years.

When asked whether a representative from a Presbyterian theological school had preached in their congregation in the last five years (Q-8), almost half of members (47%) and elders (43%), and one-third of pastors (34%), responded “yes.”

Panelists in Southern congregations are more likely than those in other regions to report having had a representative of a Presbyterian theological school preach at their congregation (see Table 3).

**Table 3**  
**Panelists Who Have Had a PCUSA Theological School Representative**  
**Preach in Their Congregation in the Last Five Years (Q-8)**  
**By Region**

Sample	Percentage Responding "Yes" by Region			
	South	West	Northeast	Midwest
Members .....	55%	38%	55%	37%
Elders .....	58%	34%	41%	36%
Pastors .....	46%	34%	30%	25%
Specialized Clergy .....	43%	43%	27%	32%

Far fewer panelists indicated that a representative of a *non-Presbyterian* theological school had preached at their congregation in the last five years (Q-9)—ranging from 10% of pastors to 26% of elders. Almost one-half of members and one-quarter of elders indicated that they did not know if such a person had preached in their congregation.

There are also regional differences in responses regarding having had a representative from a *non-Presbyterian* theological school preach at the congregation (Q-9). These differences are not as great as that for the likelihood of having had a preacher from a Presbyterian theological school. (See Table 4.)

**Table 4**  
**Panelists Who Have Had a Representative of a Non-PCUSA Theological School**  
**Preach in Their Congregation in the Last Five Years (Q-9)**  
**By Region**

Sample	Percentage Responding "Yes" by Region			
	South	West	Northeast	Midwest
Members .....	20%	18%	26%	20%
Elders .....	21%	25%	26%	31%
Pastors .....	8%	21%	12%	6%
Specialized Clergy .....	10%	26%	14%	14%

## GIVING TO THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS

### Appeals for Contributions

Just 17% of members and 32% of elders reported having received an appeal for funds from a theological school in the previous two years (Q-10). In contrast, almost all clergy had received such an appeal (96% of pastors; 94% of specialized clergy).



Members and elders in the South and elders in the West are more likely than those in other regions to have received appeals for funds from theological institutions in the previous two years (see Table 5). No similar regional differences were found for pastors or specialized clergy.

**Table 5**  
**Panelists Who Have Received an Appeal for Funds from a Theological School (Q-10)**  
**By Region**

Sample	Percentage Responding "Yes" by Region			
	South	West	Northeast	Midwest
Members .....	22%	16%	13%	15%
Elders .....	42%	37%	25%	24%

**Contributions to Theological Schools**

Only 7% of members and 13% of elders, but two-thirds of clergy have "personally made one or more financial contributions to a theological school" in the last two years (Q-11). Compared to elders living in other regions, those in the South are more likely to have contributed to a theological school: 19% of elders in the South compared to about 11% of elders in other region made such a contribution in the last two years. This should not be surprising since elders in the South were also the group of elders most likely to have received an appeal for a contribution. There were no regional differences in giving rates among members and clergy.

There is an old saying that if you do not ask for money, you will not receive any. This saying is supported by results of this survey. Among members, 30% of those who received an appeal from a theological school made a contribution, whereas of those who did not receive an appeal, only 2% gave money. Similarly, among elders, 36% of those who received an appeal, compared to 3% of those who were not solicited, made a contribution to a theological school.

Panel staff intended "personal appeal" to refer to a phone call or visit. It is fairly impressive that about a third of members and elders who received a personal appeal from a theological school actually made a contribution. Conversations with others indicate that some people see a personalized form letter as a "personal appeal," and if panelists were including such solicitations in their response regarding "personal appeals," the results are even more impressive.

One other possible explanation for this high response is that persons returning this questionnaire might be more committed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) than those not returning the questionnaire. More committed individuals might, in turn, be more likely to support the denomination's seminaries with financial contributions. (Also, persons who made a contribution in response to an appeal may more readily recall the appeal, compared to those who ignored the solicitation.)

**The 1% Plan**

Only 8% of members and 18% of elders reported familiarity with the Theological Education Fund (the 1% Plan; Q-12). In contrast, 92% of pastors are familiar with this fund-raising program. Surprisingly, only 72% of specialized clergy are familiar with the 1% Plan.

Among respondents who are to any extent familiar with the 1% Plan, about one-half of members and elders and one-third of clergy reported that their congregations give to the fund (Q-13). Nonetheless, one-quarter to one-third of lay respondents indicated that they did not know whether or not their congregations participate in this plan.

When asked about their knowledge of this fund, more than three-quarters of members and elders, but only 16% of pastors and 26% of specialized clergy, indicated that, before receiving the survey, they did *not* know that “the only denomination-wide source of funding for the theological schools of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is the Theological Education Fund” (Q-14a). Likewise, almost six in ten members and almost half of elders indicated they were also not aware that “money given directly to a Presbyterian theological school supports only that particular school” (Q-14b). Only 6% of clergy were not aware of this.

### WHAT SHOULD SEMINARIES EMPHASIZE?

Panelists were presented with a list of 13 potential areas of emphasis for theological schools and asked to indicate to what extent Presbyterian theological schools *should* emphasize each “in their programs of research, study and training of candidates for ministry” (Q-15). As can be seen in Table 6, the largest percentages of members and elders believe that seminaries should emphasize “personal/spiritual development,” while pastors and specialized clergy are more likely to stress “preaching.” Nonetheless, in each sample, “personal/spiritual development,” “preaching,” and “pastoral care” are the three that appear to be most important.

**Table 6**  
**To What Extent Should Presbyterian Theological Schools Emphasize These Factors? (Q-15)**

	Percentage Responding “Great Extent”			
	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
personal/spiritual development . . . . .	84%	87%	81%	80%
preaching . . . . .	80%	82%	86%	84%
pastoral care . . . . .	76%	79%	75%	76%
leadership skills . . . . .	71%	71%	64%	60%
theological issues . . . . .	67%	64%	73%	75%
evangelism . . . . .	50%	58%	58%	48%
interpersonal skills, in general . . . . .	49%	43%	44%	50%
stewardship . . . . .	39%	45%	39%	33%
practical skills, in general . . . . .	38%	36%	48%	48%
administrative skills . . . . .	37%	36%	31%	34%
staying true to the Reformed tradition . . . . .	36%	44%	57%	53%
social issues . . . . .	33%	33%	27%	40%
specialized ministries . . . . .	19%	18%	6%	17%

Panelists were then asked to select the one item from the list in Q-15 that they believe “should get the *most* emphasis in the program of education and research at Presbyterian theological schools” (Q-16). Results (shown in Table 7) are almost identical to the ranking in Table 6. It is interesting that, compared to members and elders, larger percentages of pastors and specialized clergy chose “theological issues” as the one most important factor.

**Table 7**  
**Which One Factor Should Get the Most Emphasis at Presbyterian Theological Schools? (Q-16)**

	<u>Members</u>		<u>Elders</u>		<u>Pastors</u>		<u>Specialized Clergy</u>	
	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	%	Rank	%
personal/spiritual development . . . . .	1	27%	1	32%	1	25%	1	25%
preaching . . . . .	2	17%	2	14%	3	12%	4	10%
pastoral care . . . . .	3	13%	3	11%	5	8%	3	11%
theological issues . . . . .	4	11%	4	9%	2	20%	2	20%
leadership skills . . . . .	5	9%	6	7%	6	7%	7	5%
staying true to the Reformed tradition .	6	6%	7	7%	4	9%	5	6%
evangelism . . . . .	7	6%	5	8%	7	6%	6	6%
interpersonal skills, in general . . . . .	8	5%	8	5%	8	3%	8	4%
social issues . . . . .	9	4%	9	2%	11	*	10	2%
practical skills, in general . . . . .	10	1%	10	2%	9	3%	9	3%
administrative skills . . . . .	11	*	11	1%	10	1%	11	1%
stewardship . . . . .	12	*	13	*	12	*	12	1%
specialized ministries . . . . .	13	--	12	1%	13	*	13	--

\* = less than 0.5%; rounds to zero  
 -- = zero; no cases in this category

### RATING THE PERFORMANCE OF PASTORS AND THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS

Panelists were presented with a list of 11 areas that are typically part of a pastor's job (Q-17). Members and elders were asked to rate their pastors in each of these areas. The largest percentages of members reported that their pastors were doing an "excellent" job in these five areas: "preaching" (47%), "leading Bible study" (39%), "pastoral care" (32%), "leading people in spiritual development" (31%), and "general interpersonal skills" (30%). Elders' responses were similar.

Pastors and specialized clergy were asked to rate the same 11 areas in terms of how well their seminary did in preparing them for ministry in these areas. The five areas in which members rated their pastors most favorably were also the areas in which pastors reported their seminaries did the best job in preparing them. However, in general, pastors' ratings were less favorable than were those of members. These differences for the five highest rated fields are shown in Table 8.

Another way to look at these results is to examine the areas in which panelists gave the most negative responses. Table 9 shows the percentage of panelists responding "fair" or "not good at all" regarding each area. As can be seen, "teaching others to do evangelism," "financial management," and "promoting stewardship" are not seen as strengths.

**Table 8**  
**Members' and Elders' Evaluations of their Pastors and**  
**Clergy Evaluations of the Preparation They Received from Their Seminary (Q-17):**  
**Five Areas Evaluated Most Positively**

	Percentage Rating Their Pastor as "Excellent"		Percentage Rating Their Seminary's Preparation as "Excellent"	
	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
preaching . . . . .	47%	43%	30%	30%
leading Bible studies . . . . .	39%	33%	22%	22%
pastoral care . . . . .	32%	32%	17%	18%
leading people in spiritual development . . . . .	31%	26%	5%	6%
general interpersonal skills . . . . .	30%	28%	4%	8%

**Table 9**  
**Members' and Elders' Evaluations of their Pastors and**  
**Clergy Evaluations of the Preparation They Received from Their Seminary (Q-17):**  
**Three Areas Evaluated Most Negatively**

	Percentage Rating Their Pastor as "Fair" or "Not Good at All"		Percentage Rating Their Seminary's Preparation as "Fair" or "Not Good at All"	
	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
teaching others to do evangelism . . . . .	26%	36%	78%	72%
financial management . . . . .	16%	20%	80%	75%
promoting stewardship . . . . .	12%	16%	74%	62%

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION ABOUT THEOLOGICAL SCHOOLS**

When panelists were asked to indicate the extent to which 14 sources of news and commentary have had an impact on their impressions of Presbyterian theological schools (Q-18), the largest percentage of members and elders named their pastor as having had a "very significant" impact (23% of members and elders so responded). This is also the source that the largest percentage of clergy identified as having a "very significant" impact (34% of pastors and 27% of specialized clergy). One possible interpretation of this finding is that pastors and specialized clergy obtain such information from fellow pastors. Seminary publications were also an important source of information about theological schools for clergy, but not for members and elders. This difference is not surprising since it is likely that few members and elders receive seminary publications. Table 10 shows the

percentages in each sample who indicated each source of information has had either a “very significant” or a “significant” impact on their impressions of Presbyterian theological schools.

**Table 10**  
**Sources of Impressions About Presbyterian Theological Schools (Q-18)**

	<u>Percentage Responding “Significant” or “Very Significant”</u>			
	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
pastor .....	53%	64%	77%	63%
friend or relative .....	38%	36%	50%	45%
congregational newsletter .....	30%	29%	10%	10%
<i>Presbyterians Today</i> .....	21%	29%	34%	28%
<i>Presbyterian Outlook</i> .....	19%	24%	50%	46%
<i>The Layman</i> .....	18%	23%	10%	13%
presbytery publication .....	17%	25%	24%	27%
seminary publication .....	14%	16%	63%	65%
synod publication .....	12%	16%	14%	17%
secular newspaper .....	10%	9%	3%	3%
radio .....	9%	8%	1%	2%
television .....	9%	8%	1%	3%
<i>Monday Morning</i> .....	8%	11%	35%	36%
secular magazine .....	8%	8%	3%	3%

### SUMMARY

It appears that members and elders do not know very much about Presbyterian theological schools. What they do know about them has come primarily from their pastors. Those who have some knowledge about these schools have a generally positive impression of them.

Members and elders also have little knowledge regarding how theological schools are funded. Most do not know about the 1% Plan, or that that fund is the only denomination-wide source of funding for the theological schools of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

There seems to be no major conflict between what pastors think they need and what they believe the seminaries provide.

8.11.1196+14

NOVEMBER 1996 PRESBYTERIAN PANEL

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

APPENDIX

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
Questionnaires sent: .....	1019	1036	1113	585
Questionnaires returned: .....	616	668	780	416
Percent returned: .....	60%	64%	70%	71%

Q-1. Do you know the name of the theological school from which your pastor graduated (received her/his M.Div. or B.D. degree)? (Answer with regard to the senior pastor if your congregation has more than one pastor.) *Pastors and specialized clergy, please skip to Q-2.*

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
yes, with certainty .....	41%	52%	-	-
yes, with some uncertainty .....	14%	14%	-	-
no → Skip to Q-2 .....	45%	34%	-	-

Q-1a. If yes, please indicate below the seminary from which you believe your (senior) pastor graduated.

	Members (n=334)	Elders (n=417)	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (Austin, TX) ..	6%	4%	-	-
Columbia Theological Seminary (Decatur, GA) .....	8%	10%	-	-
University of Dubuque Theological Seminary (Dubuque, IA) .....	1%	4%	-	-
Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary (Atlanta, GA) .... *		2%	-	-
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary (Louisville, KY) .....	6%	4%	-	-
McCormick Theological Seminary (Chicago, IL) .....	8%	8%	-	-
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (Pittsburgh, PA) .....	12%	12%	-	-
Presbyterian School of Christian Education (Richmond, VA) .....	1%	2%	-	-
Princeton Theological Seminary (Princeton, NJ) .....	27%	24%	-	-
San Francisco Theological Seminary (San Francisco, CA) 6%		6%	-	-
Union Theological Seminary in Virginia (Richmond, VA) 10%		8%	-	-
other (please specify) .....	13%	14%	-	-
more than one selected .....	2%	2%	-	-

Q-2. Please circle the number corresponding to the *one* statement below that *best* describes your knowledge of the 11 Presbyterian theological schools (those listed by name in Q-1a).

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
I know almost nothing about any of them .....	48%	36%	1%	1%
I know a little about one or two of them .....	30%	37%	7%	5%
I know a moderate amount about one or two of them .....	10%	14%	10%	12%
I know one or two quite well .....	4%	5%	23%	22%
I know a moderate amount about more than two of them ...	4%	6%	33%	29%
I know more than two of them quite well .....	3%	2%	27%	31%

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Q-3. To what extent do *you personally* think the theological schools of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) have responded to the needs of the church in the last ten years?

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
have responded to a great extent .....	8%	8%	22%	21%
have responded to some extent .....	23%	31%	51%	50%
have responded to a little extent .....	7%	12%	20%	17%
have not responded at all .....	1%	3%	3%	3%
don't know .....	60%	46%	4%	8%

Q-4. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
<b>a. In general, Presbyterian theological schools do an excellent job of educating Presbyterian students</b>				
strongly agree .....	9%	7%	14%	15%
agree .....	26%	32%	41%	38%
tend to agree .....	28%	33%	28%	31%
tend to disagree .....	3%	4%	9%	8%
disagree .....	2%	1%	4%	3%
strongly disagree .....	1%	1%	2%	3%
not sure .....	32%	23%	1%	2%
<b>b. In general, <i>non</i>-Presbyterian theological schools do an excellent job of educating Presbyterian students</b>				
strongly agree .....	2%	1%	3%	2%
agree .....	8%	13%	17%	16%
tend to agree .....	22%	27%	33%	33%
tend to disagree .....	8%	7%	23%	24%
disagree .....	2%	1%	7%	7%
strongly disagree .....	1%	*	4%	5%
not sure .....	58%	51%	13%	12%
<b>c. The quality of Presbyterians graduating from theological schools has fallen in the last ten years</b>				
strongly agree .....	1%	3%	3%	4%
agree .....	5%	6%	11%	9%
tend to agree .....	9%	13%	19%	19%
tend to disagree .....	12%	18%	23%	24%
disagree .....	8%	10%	21%	17%
strongly disagree .....	2%	3%	7%	7%
not sure .....	63%	48%	16%	19%
<b>d. Presbyterian theological schools are turning out too many graduates these days</b>				
strongly agree .....	1%	1%	5%	4%
agree .....	2%	2%	10%	11%
tend to agree .....	4%	6%	20%	17%
tend to disagree .....	14%	19%	24%	23%
disagree .....	10%	20%	18%	19%
strongly disagree .....	4%	6%	4%	6%
not sure .....	66%	47%	20%	18%

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Q-4. (cont.) Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
e. Presbyterians theological schools turn out pastors who are able to help members practice their religion (in terms of living out their faith or engaging the world ethically)				
strongly agree	4%	4%	3%	5%
agree	24%	25%	28%	24%
tend to agree	29%	37%	41%	40%
tend to disagree	5%	6%	16%	13%
disagree	2%	3%	5%	7%
strongly disagree	1%	1%	3%	4%
not sure	36%	24%	5%	7%

Q-5. Please indicate the extent to which you believe each of the following words or phrases (presented in alphabetical order) describes Presbyterian theological schools.

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
a. academic excellence				
very well	12%	14%	32%	31%
well	36%	41%	51%	46%
somewhat well	11%	12%	14%	19%
very little	1%	1%	1%	2%
not at all	*	*	*	-
not sure	40%	31%	1%	2%
b. affirming the ministry of women				
very well	8%	13%	46%	32%
well	34%	36%	43%	45%
somewhat well	14%	19%	9%	17%
very little	2%	2%	1%	3%
not at all	*	-	-	-
not sure	41%	30%	1%	3%
c. Biblically sound				
very well	14%	14%	22%	21%
well	35%	39%	41%	45%
somewhat well	13%	13%	23%	22%
very little	4%	5%	10%	9%
not at all	1%	1%	2%	1%
not sure	34%	28%	2%	2%
d. committed to ecumenism				
very well	7%	8%	31%	24%
well	28%	34%	46%	41%
somewhat well	16%	18%	16%	22%
very little	2%	4%	3%	8%
not at all	*	*	*	1%
not sure	46%	37%	4%	4%

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Q-5. (cont.) Please indicate the extent to which you believe each of the following words or phrases (presented in alphabetical order) describes Presbyterian theological schools.

		Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
e.	committed to promoting inclusiveness and diversity				
	very well	7%	9%	40%	29%
	well	27%	31%	40%	39%
	somewhat well	15%	19%	14%	22%
	very little	4%	4%	3%	6%
	not at all	1%	1%	*	1%
	not sure	46%	36%	2%	4%
f.	committed to the Reformed tradition				
	very well	8%	10%	27%	23%
	well	24%	29%	36%	39%
	somewhat well	13%	18%	25%	25%
	very little	4%	6%	8%	10%
	not at all	1%	1%	2%	1%
	not sure	50%	36%	2%	2%
g.	conservative				
	very well	2%	4%	1%	2%
	well	14%	15%	7%	11%
	somewhat well	17%	21%	29%	35%
	very little	16%	17%	40%	36%
	not at all	4%	6%	13%	9%
	not sure	46%	37%	9%	7%
h.	evangelical				
	very well	2%	2%	1%	1%
	well	16%	18%	8%	12%
	somewhat well	24%	26%	31%	36%
	very little	12%	18%	41%	36%
	not at all	3%	2%	11%	9%
	not sure	44%	34%	9%	6%
i.	faithful to the church of Jesus Christ				
	very well	17%	21%	23%	20%
	well	33%	36%	36%	41%
	somewhat well	11%	13%	28%	26%
	very little	4%	5%	10%	9%
	not at all	1%	1%	2%	1%
	not sure	33%	24%	2%	3%
j.	financially sound, yet in need of ongoing support				
	very well	7%	6%	14%	13%
	well	25%	29%	43%	44%
	somewhat well	17%	19%	30%	28%
	very little	1%	3%	4%	4%
	not at all	1%	1%	1%	*
	not sure	49%	41%	9%	11%

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Q-5. (cont.) Please indicate the extent to which you believe each of the following words or phrases (presented in alphabetical order) describes Presbyterian theological schools.

		Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
k.	focused on practical skills for pastors				
	very well	4%	4%	3%	5%
	well	24%	20%	21%	22%
	somewhat well	19%	27%	44%	42%
	very little	6%	8%	26%	22%
	not at all	1%	2%	4%	5%
	not sure	47%	38%	3%	5%
l.	innovative				
	very well	3%	3%	5%	5%
	well	16%	16%	24%	26%
	somewhat well	21%	26%	40%	39%
	very little	7%	9%	22%	20%
	not at all	1%	1%	4%	4%
	not sure	51%	45%	6%	7%
m.	liberal				
	very well	8%	9%	14%	12%
	well	16%	18%	30%	26%
	somewhat well	17%	20%	33%	40%
	very little	7%	10%	13%	14%
	not at all	1%	1%	1%	2%
	not sure	51%	43%	8%	6%
n.	moderate/middle of the road				
	very well	1%	2%	5%	4%
	well	16%	17%	27%	32%
	somewhat well	22%	27%	41%	46%
	very little	10%	10%	17%	11%
	not at all	3%	2%	3%	3%
	not sure	48%	42%	7%	4%
o.	on the cutting edge of theology				
	very well	3%	3%	9%	6%
	well	11%	12%	31%	24%
	somewhat well	13%	21%	28%	33%
	very little	9%	10%	16%	20%
	not at all	4%	3%	6%	6%
	not sure	61%	51%	10%	11%
p.	racially inclusive				
	very well	7%	10%	24%	17%
	well	23%	26%	35%	37%
	somewhat well	16%	21%	25%	22%
	very little	7%	6%	10%	17%
	not at all	1%	1%	2%	2%
	not sure	45%	35%	4%	5%

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Q-5. (cont.) Please indicate the extent to which you believe each of the following words or phrases (presented in alphabetical order) describes Presbyterian theological schools.

		Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
q.	setting directions for the church				
	very well	5%	4%	3%	3%
	well	20%	20%	14%	16%
	somewhat well	19%	24%	34%	27%
	very little	9%	13%	34%	38%
	not at all	2%	2%	9%	8%
	not sure	45%	37%	6%	8%
r.	socially responsible				
	very well	5%	6%	11%	8%
	well	32%	32%	43%	34%
	somewhat well	18%	26%	31%	39%
	very little	4%	5%	9%	13%
	not at all	1%	1%	2%	2%
	not sure	40%	31%	4%	5%
s.	spiritually rich				
	very well	8%	7%	5%	6%
	well	25%	28%	21%	19%
	somewhat well	21%	20%	36%	38%
	very little	5%	10%	25%	24%
	not at all	3%	3%	8%	7%
	not sure	39%	32%	5%	6%
t.	traditional				
	very well	6%	6%	8%	7%
	well	24%	25%	30%	28%
	somewhat well	17%	23%	36%	42%
	very little	8%	9%	16%	12%
	not at all	2%	3%	4%	6%
	not sure	41%	34%	6%	6%
u.	wealthy and not in need of additional funding				
	very well	1%	1%	1%	1%
	well	4%	3%	4%	3%
	somewhat well	7%	9%	14%	12%
	very little	15%	17%	34%	28%
	not at all	21%	26%	36%	42%
	not sure	53%	44%	11%	13%

Q-6. Does your congregation have a program to help identify candidates for the ministry? Does your presbytery have such a program?

		Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
a.	does your congregation?				
	yes, it does	21%	20%	22%	24%
	no, it does not	30%	58%	74%	58%
	don't know	48%	22%	4%	19%
b.	does your presbytery?				
	yes, it does	28%	40%	41%	52%
	no, it does not	4%	4%	34%	20%
	don't know	69%	55%	25%	28%

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Q-7. In the last ten years, how many individuals from your congregation have attended seminary as candidates or inquirers for the ministry?

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
none .....	18%	37%	41%	34%
one .....	16%	21%	26%	17%
two or three .....	24%	21%	18%	22%
four or more .....	13%	10%	11%	12%
don't know .....	30%	11%	4%	16%

Q-8. In the last five years, has a representative from a Presbyterian theological school preached in your congregation?

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
yes .....	47%	43%	34%	38%
no .....	25%	41%	57%	45%
don't know .....	28%	16%	8%	18%

Q-9. In the last five years, has a representative from a *non*-Presbyterian theological school preached in your congregation?

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
yes .....	21%	26%	10%	15%
no .....	34%	51%	80%	66%
don't know .....	45%	23%	10%	20%

Q-10. In the last two years, have you *personally* received appeals for funds from any theological school?

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
yes .....	17%	32%	96%	94%
no .....	83%	68%	4%	6%

Q-11. In the last two years, have *you personally* made one or more financial contributions to a theological school?

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
yes .....	7%	13%	66%	68%
no .....	93%	87%	34%	32%

Q-12. How familiar are you with the Theological Educational Fund ("the 1% Plan") of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)?

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
very familiar .....	1%	5%	52%	36%
familiar .....	7%	13%	40%	36%
not very familiar .....	15%	20%	6%	18%
not at all familiar → Skip to Q-14 .....	78%	61%	2%	10%

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Q-13. Does your congregation give to the Theological Education Fund of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)?

	Members (n=135)	Elders (n=251)	Pastors (n=755)	Specialized Clergy (n=367)
yes .....	49%	47%	37%	32%
no .....	14%	26%	58%	49%
don't know .....	38%	27%	5%	20%

Q-14. Prior to receiving this questionnaire, were you aware that:

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
a. the only denomination-wide source of funding for the theological schools of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is the Theological Education Fund?				
yes .....	7%	11%	82%	67%
no .....	85%	78%	16%	26%
not sure .....	8%	11%	3%	7%
b. money given directly to a Presbyterian theological school supports only that particular school?				
yes .....	29%	37%	92%	88%
no .....	57%	46%	6%	6%
not sure .....	14%	17%	3%	5%

Q-15. In your view, to what extent, if any, should Presbyterian theological schools emphasize each of these factors in their programs of research, study and training of candidates for ministry?

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
a. personal/spiritual development				
great extent .....	84%	87%	81%	80%
some extent .....	14%	12%	18%	19%
only a little extent .....	1%	1%	1%	1%
not at all .....	*	*	-	-
b. staying true to the Reformed tradition				
great extent .....	36%	44%	57%	53%
some extent .....	53%	47%	41%	43%
only a little extent .....	10%	9%	2%	4%
not at all .....	2%	1%	*	*
c. social issues				
great extent .....	33%	33%	27%	40%
some extent .....	58%	55%	62%	50%
only a little extent .....	8%	11%	11%	9%
not at all .....	1%	1%	-	-
d. theological issues				
great extent .....	67%	64%	73%	75%
some extent .....	31%	34%	26%	24%
only a little extent .....	2%	2%	1%	1%
not at all .....	*	*	*	*

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- = zero (0.0); no cases in this category

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n = number of respondents eligible to answer this question

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Q-15. (cont.) In your view, to what extent, if any, should Presbyterian theological schools emphasize each of these factors in their programs of research, study and training of candidates for ministry?

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
e. administrative skills				
great extent	37%	36%	31%	34%
some extent	55%	57%	61%	57%
only a little extent	7%	6%	7%	9%
not at all	1%	1%	-	*
f. leadership skills				
great extent	71%	71%	64%	60%
some extent	28%	28%	34%	36%
only a little extent	1%	1%	2%	3%
not at all	*	*	-	-
g. evangelism				
great extent	50%	58%	58%	48%
some extent	42%	37%	38%	44%
only a little extent	7%	4%	3%	6%
not at all	1%	*	*	2%
h. stewardship				
great extent	39%	45%	39%	33%
some extent	54%	50%	54%	58%
only a little extent	6%	5%	8%	8%
not at all	*	*	-	1%
i. pastoral care				
great extent	76%	79%	75%	76%
some extent	23%	20%	24%	24%
only a little extent	1%	1%	1%	1%
not at all	*	*	-	-
j. preaching				
great extent	80%	82%	86%	84%
some extent	19%	17%	14%	15%
only a little extent	1%	1%	*	1%
not at all	-	*	-	-
k. specialized ministries				
great extent	19%	18%	6%	17%
some extent	66%	65%	52%	56%
only a little extent	15%	17%	40%	26%
not at all	1%	1%	2%	1%
l. interpersonal skills, in general				
great extent	49%	43%	44%	50%
some extent	44%	47%	47%	43%
only a little extent	6%	9%	9%	7%
not at all	1%	1%	1%	*
m. practical skills, in general				
great extent	38%	36%	48%	48%
some extent	55%	56%	45%	45%
only a little extent	7%	7%	6%	7%
not at all	*	1%	*	1%
n. other	4%	4%	18%	17%

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Q-16. Of the eight items in Q-15, which *one* factor should get the *most* emphasis in the program of education and research at Presbyterian theological schools? Write the letter corresponding to that factor on the line below.

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
	(+)	(+)		(+)
personal/spiritual development . . . . .	27%	32%	25%	25%
staying true to the Reformed tradition . . . . .	6%	7%	9%	6%
social issues . . . . .	4%	2%	*	2%
theological issues . . . . .	11%	9%	20%	20%
administrative skills . . . . .	*	1%	1%	1%
leadership skills . . . . .	9%	7%	7%	5%
evangelism . . . . .	6%	8%	6%	6%
stewardship . . . . .	*	*	*	1%
pastoral care . . . . .	13%	11%	8%	11%
preaching . . . . .	17%	14%	12%	10%
specialized ministries . . . . .	-	1%	*	-
interpersonal skills, in general . . . . .	5%	5%	3%	4%
practical skills, in general . . . . .	1%	2%	3%	3%
other . . . . .	1%	1%	5%	6%

Q-17. **Members and Elders:** How would you rate your pastor in each of the following areas? (Again, if your congregation has more than one pastor, answer in terms of the senior pastor.)  
**Pastors and Other Clergy:** Please rate your seminary in terms of how good a job you think it did in preparing you for the ministry in each of these areas.

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
a. leading Bible studies				
excellent . . . . .	39%	33%	22%	22%
very good . . . . .	29%	32%	28%	32%
good . . . . .	16%	18%	25%	23%
fair . . . . .	5%	6%	16%	15%
not good at all . . . . .	1%	3%	8%	7%
not sure . . . . .	10%	6%	-	1%
b. pastoral care				
excellent . . . . .	32%	32%	17%	18%
very good . . . . .	30%	33%	33%	33%
good . . . . .	19%	18%	32%	26%
fair . . . . .	12%	11%	16%	18%
not good at all . . . . .	3%	4%	2%	5%
not sure . . . . .	4%	2%	-	-
c. promoting stewardship				
excellent . . . . .	26%	20%	1%	2%
very good . . . . .	35%	33%	6%	8%
good . . . . .	24%	29%	18%	28%
fair . . . . .	10%	14%	41%	37%
not good at all . . . . .	2%	2%	33%	25%
not sure . . . . .	3%	2%	*	*

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Q-17. (cont.) **Members and Elders:** How would you rate your pastor in each of the following areas? (Again, if your congregation has more than one pastor, answer in terms of the senior pastor.)

**Pastors and Other Clergy:** Please rate your seminary in terms of how good a job you think it did in preparing you for the ministry in each of these areas.

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
d. doing evangelism				
excellent	16%	14%	2%	4%
very good	28%	29%	10%	7%
good	28%	26%	19%	26%
fair	16%	20%	36%	36%
not good at all	3%	7%	33%	25%
not sure	10%	5%	*	1%
e. teaching others to do evangelism				
excellent	12%	9%	1%	3%
very good	23%	23%	7%	6%
good	23%	24%	14%	18%
fair	22%	27%	31%	35%
not good at all	4%	9%	47%	37%
not sure	15%	8%	1%	1%
f. preaching				
excellent	47%	43%	30%	30%
very good	25%	29%	37%	38%
good	16%	18%	22%	22%
fair	8%	7%	9%	8%
not good at all	1%	2%	2%	2%
not sure	2%	1%	-	-
g. administration				
excellent	21%	17%	2%	3%
very good	32%	31%	12%	15%
good	20%	28%	25%	26%
fair	12%	15%	37%	34%
not good at all	5%	6%	24%	23%
not sure	10%	3%	1%	*
h. financial management				
excellent	17%	12%	1%	2%
very good	30%	28%	5%	8%
good	22%	31%	13%	15%
fair	12%	15%	31%	26%
not good at all	4%	5%	49%	49%
not sure	14%	8%	1%	1%
i. chairing meetings				
excellent	26%	29%	2%	2%
very good	34%	30%	8%	13%
good	19%	24%	18%	19%
fair	8%	9%	29%	28%
not good at all	2%	4%	42%	36%
not sure	12%	4%	1%	2%

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Q-17. (cont.) **Members and Elders:** How would you rate your pastor in each of the following areas? (Again, if your congregation has more than one pastor, answer in terms of the senior pastor.)

**Pastors and Other Clergy:** Please rate your seminary in terms of how good a job you think it did in preparing you for the ministry in each of these areas.

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
j. general interpersonal skills				
excellent .....	30%	28%	4%	8%
very good .....	34%	30%	20%	22%
good .....	18%	25%	30%	28%
fair .....	11%	9%	27%	27%
not good at all .....	3%	5%	18%	14%
not sure .....	4%	2%	1%	1%
k. leading people in spiritual development				
excellent .....	31%	26%	5%	6%
very good .....	30%	36%	17%	17%
good .....	20%	22%	23%	24%
fair .....	11%	11%	29%	28%
not good at all .....	3%	4%	26%	23%
not sure .....	5%	2%	*	1%

Q-18. Listed below, in alphabetical order, are a number of sources of news and commentary. Please indicate the extent to which each source has had an impact on the impression you have of Presbyterian theological schools.

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
	(+)			
a. congregational newsletter				
very significant .....	8%	6%	2%	3%
significant .....	22%	23%	8%	7%
somewhat significant .....	23%	24%	19%	18%
not at all significant .....	47%	48%	71%	72%
b. friend or relative	(+)			
very significant .....	11%	12%	16%	16%
significant .....	27%	24%	34%	29%
somewhat significant .....	19%	22%	26%	24%
not at all significant .....	43%	42%	24%	30%
c. <i>The Layman</i>	(+)	(+)		
very significant .....	5%	7%	3%	4%
significant .....	13%	16%	7%	9%
somewhat significant .....	19%	19%	21%	12%
not at all significant .....	63%	58%	69%	75%
d. <i>Monday Morning</i>	(+)	(+)		
very significant .....	2%	2%	6%	8%
significant .....	6%	9%	29%	28%
somewhat significant .....	11%	10%	41%	38%
not at all significant .....	81%	79%	23%	26%
e. pastor	(+)		(+)	
very significant .....	23%	23%	34%	27%
significant .....	30%	41%	43%	36%
somewhat significant .....	21%	21%	14%	22%
not at all significant .....	25%	15%	9%	15%

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Q-18. (cont.) Listed below, in alphabetical order, are a number of sources of news and commentary. Please indicate the extent to which each source has had an impact on the impression you have of Presbyterian theological schools.

		Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
f.	<i>Presbyterian Outlook</i>	(+)	(+)		
	very significant	3%	4%	16%	13%
	significant	16%	20%	34%	33%
	somewhat significant	15%	22%	28%	24%
	not at all significant	66%	54%	22%	30%
g.	<i>Presbyterians Today</i>				
	very significant	5%	6%	8%	6%
	significant	16%	23%	26%	22%
	somewhat significant	17%	25%	36%	32%
	not at all significant	62%	46%	30%	40%
h.	presbytery publication	(+)	(+)		
	very significant	3%	4%	4%	5%
	significant	14%	21%	20%	22%
	somewhat significant	23%	26%	32%	34%
	not at all significant	59%	48%	44%	39%
i.	radio	(+)	(+)		
	very significant	2%	2%	*	1%
	significant	7%	6%	1%	1%
	somewhat significant	11%	12%	6%	6%
	not at all significant	80%	80%	93%	92%
j.	secular newspaper	(+)	(+)		
	very significant	1%	1%	-	1%
	significant	9%	8%	3%	2%
	somewhat significant	19%	20%	13%	14%
	not at all significant	72%	71%	85%	82%
k.	secular magazine	(+)	(+)		
	very significant	1%	*	*	1%
	significant	7%	8%	3%	2%
	somewhat significant	15%	18%	10%	12%
	not at all significant	77%	74%	86%	84%
l.	seminary publication	(+)	(+)		
	very significant	3%	3%	23%	23%
	significant	11%	13%	40%	42%
	somewhat significant	14%	19%	27%	23%
	not at all significant	72%	66%	10%	12%
m.	synod publication	(+)	(+)		
	very significant	2%	2%	2%	3%
	significant	10%	14%	12%	14%
	somewhat significant	16%	21%	31%	30%
	not at all significant	72%	62%	55%	53%
n.	television	(+)	(+)		
	very significant	2%	1%	*	1%
	significant	7%	7%	1%	2%
	somewhat significant	13%	14%	7%	8%
	not at all significant	78%	78%	92%	89%
o.	other				
		4%	4%	9%	12%

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Q-19. Which of the following terms best describes your current stand on *theological* issues?

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
very conservative	7%	6%	2%	1%
conservative	34%	36%	23%	16%
moderate	43%	42%	52%	47%
liberal	14%	14%	19%	27%
very liberal	2%	2%	4%	9%

Q-20. Please indicate the strength of your agreement or disagreement with each of the following statements:

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
a. all the different religions are equally good ways of helping a person find ultimate truth				
strongly agree	8%	5%	2%	4%
agree	28%	25%	8%	9%
neither agree nor disagree	16%	19%	12%	16%
disagree	34%	36%	42%	45%
strongly disagree	14%	15%	37%	26%
b. not all the churches have God's Truth; many are in serious error				
strongly agree	13%	13%	11%	10%
agree	39%	43%	40%	45%
neither agree nor disagree	29%	29%	26%	26%
disagree	16%	12%	20%	15%
strongly disagree	3%	3%	3%	4%
c. the only absolute truth for humankind is Jesus Christ				
strongly agree	42%	50%	41%	31%
agree	31%	30%	30%	28%
neither agree nor disagree	16%	11%	13%	17%
disagree	9%	8%	14%	19%
strongly disagree	2%	1%	3%	5%
d. all the great religions of the world are equally good and true				
strongly agree	4%	2%	1%	2%
agree	17%	16%	6%	7%
neither agree nor disagree	27%	23%	14%	19%
disagree	35%	40%	44%	47%
strongly disagree	17%	18%	35%	25%
e. only the followers of Jesus Christ and members of His church can be saved				
strongly agree	19%	22%	13%	8%
agree	22%	23%	16%	15%
neither agree nor disagree	24%	19%	23%	22%
disagree	26%	27%	33%	35%
strongly disagree	8%	8%	15%	20%

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Q-20. (cont.) Please indicate the strength of your agreement or disagreement with each of the following statements:

		Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
f.	the primary purpose of men and women in this life is to prepare for the next life				
	strongly agree	8%	11%	4%	3%
	agree	26%	26%	7%	6%
	neither agree nor disagree	23%	22%	17%	14%
	disagree	36%	33%	48%	47%
	strongly disagree	7%	8%	25%	30%
g.	it is not as important to worry about life after death as what one can do in this life				
	strongly agree	15%	15%	17%	23%
	agree	42%	45%	44%	48%
	neither agree nor disagree	17%	14%	17%	14%
	disagree	20%	21%	18%	13%
	strongly disagree	6%	5%	4%	2%
h.	I believe in a divine judgment after death where some shall be rewarded and others punished				
	strongly agree	16%	19%	17%	12%
	agree	44%	43%	44%	39%
	neither agree nor disagree	23%	23%	21%	26%
	disagree	14%	12%	13%	14%
	strongly disagree	3%	3%	6%	8%
i.	today, people should think for themselves about religion and not accept the teachings of any one church				
	strongly agree	3%	3%	3%	3%
	agree	20%	20%	20%	19%
	neither agree nor disagree	25%	24%	19%	25%
	disagree	43%	40%	45%	42%
	strongly disagree	9%	14%	13%	11%
j.	the individual can find religious truth without any help from a church				
	strongly agree	2%	2%	1%	2%
	agree	25%	21%	16%	19%
	neither agree nor disagree	20%	15%	11%	17%
	disagree	40%	44%	48%	44%
	strongly disagree	12%	17%	24%	18%
k.	religious ideas should be the results of the individual's search, without regard to any churches or church teachings				
	strongly agree	2%	2%	1%	1%
	agree	13%	12%	4%	6%
	neither agree nor disagree	22%	18%	8%	9%
	disagree	52%	56%	61%	58%
	strongly disagree	12%	12%	26%	26%

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Q-20. (cont.) Please indicate the strength of your agreement or disagreement with each of the following statements:

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
i. to know God's Truth, it is important to follow the teachings of ministers				
strongly agree	4%	3%	1%	1%
agree	27%	25%	11%	9%
neither agree nor disagree	37%	37%	41%	37%
disagree	28%	31%	40%	43%
strongly disagree	4%	4%	8%	10%
m. God's Truth was given to the church, and all persons must follow the church's teachings (+)				
strongly agree	3%	3%	1%	1%
agree	20%	23%	13%	10%
neither agree nor disagree	35%	34%	30%	30%
disagree	34%	34%	45%	44%
strongly disagree	7%	3%	10%	15%

Q-21. How often *in the last year* have you had each of the following experiences?

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
a. felt the presence of God				
never	9%	7%	*	1%
once or twice	18%	15%	6%	6%
several times	29%	33%	27%	31%
frequently	31%	34%	64%	60%
not sure	13%	11%	2%	2%
b. prayed or spoken in tongues				
never	66%	65%	73%	71%
once or twice	2%	2%	3%	1%
several times	6%	5%	5%	4%
frequently	21%	25%	17%	22%
not sure	5%	4%	2%	2%

Q-22. How often do you attend your congregation's *Sunday* worship services?

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
never	1%	1%	*	1%
less than once a year	1%	*	-	*
about once or twice a year	1%	-	*	*
several times a year	4%	1%	1%	4%
about once a month	9%	2%	1%	4%
2-3 times a year	1%	*	*	1%
nearly every week	55%	58%	18%	40%
every week	28%	38%	79%	50%

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Q-23. Do you regularly participate in any volunteer activities for your congregation or for your community? That is, do you do work to help others for which you receive no pay? (Please circle one response for each item.)

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
a. do you do volunteer work for your <i>congregation</i> ?				
yes .....	79%	94%	85%	78%
no .....	21%	6%	15%	22%
b. do you do volunteer work for your <i>community</i> ?				
yes .....	66%	73%	86%	75%
no .....	34%	26%	14%	25%
c. do you do <i>community service</i> volunteer work for your <i>congregation</i> ?	(+)			
yes .....	38%	55%	69%	50%
no .....	62%	45%	31%	50%

Q-24. Would you like to receive the remaining two Panel *Summaries*, that is, the *Summary* for this survey and for the one you completed in August 1996 on evangelism?

	Members	Elders	Pastors	Specialized Clergy
yes .....	72%	83%	89%	87%
no .....	29%	17%	11%	13%

Q-25. Please use the space below to make any other comments about these issues.

[not tabulated]

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