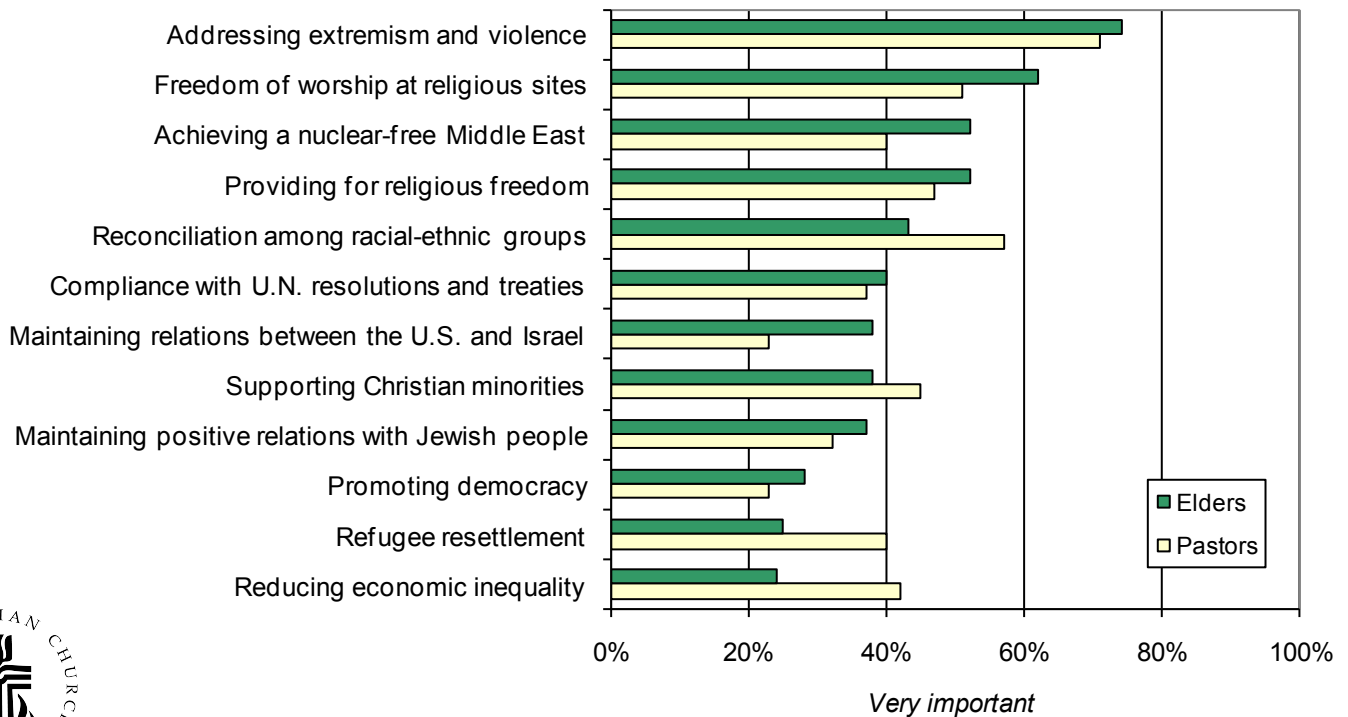


ISRAEL/PALESTINE AND THE REST OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Priorities for Improving the Situation in the Middle East

- ✓ Majorities of panelists in each group believe that pursuing the following actions is *very important* for improving the situation in Israel/Palestine and the rest of the Middle East (see also Figure 10):
 - Addressing extremism and the threat of violence (members, 72%; elders, 74%; pastors, 71%; specialized clergy, 70%).
 - Freedom of worship at all major religious sites (65%; 62%; 51%; 62%).
- ✓ Fewer panelists—but at least one-third in each group—believe that pursuing each of the following is *very important*:
 - Achieving a nuclear-free Middle East (members, 59%; elders, 52%; pastors, 40%; specialized clergy, 40%).
 - Providing for religious freedom throughout the Middle East (52%; 52%; 47%; 51%).
 - Reconciliation among racial-ethnic groups within Middle Eastern countries (45%; 43%; 57%; 57%).
 - Compliance with United Nations resolutions and human rights treaties (41%; 40%; 37%; 46%).
 - Supporting Christian minorities in Israel/Palestine (36%; 38%; 45%; 42%).
- ✓ Around two in five members and elders—but fewer ministers—view as *very important* both maintaining positive relations between Presbyterians and members of the U.S. Jewish community (members, 40%; elders, 37%; pastors, 32%; specialized clergy, 27%) and maintaining the close diplomatic and military relationship between the U.S. and Israeli governments (38%; 38%; 23%; 22%).
- ✓ Two other principles seen as *very important* by at least two in five ministers, but fewer laypeople, are reducing economic inequality within Middle Eastern countries (members, 25%; elders, 24%; pastors, 42%; specialized clergy, 48%) and refugee resettlement (26%; 25%; 40%; 47%).
- ✓ Relatively few panelists (members, 27%; elders, 28%; pastors, 23%; specialized clergy, 19%) believe that promoting democracy throughout the Middle East is *very important* for improving the situation there.

Figure 10. Importance of Various Actions for Improving the Situation in Israel/Palestine and the Rest of the Middle East

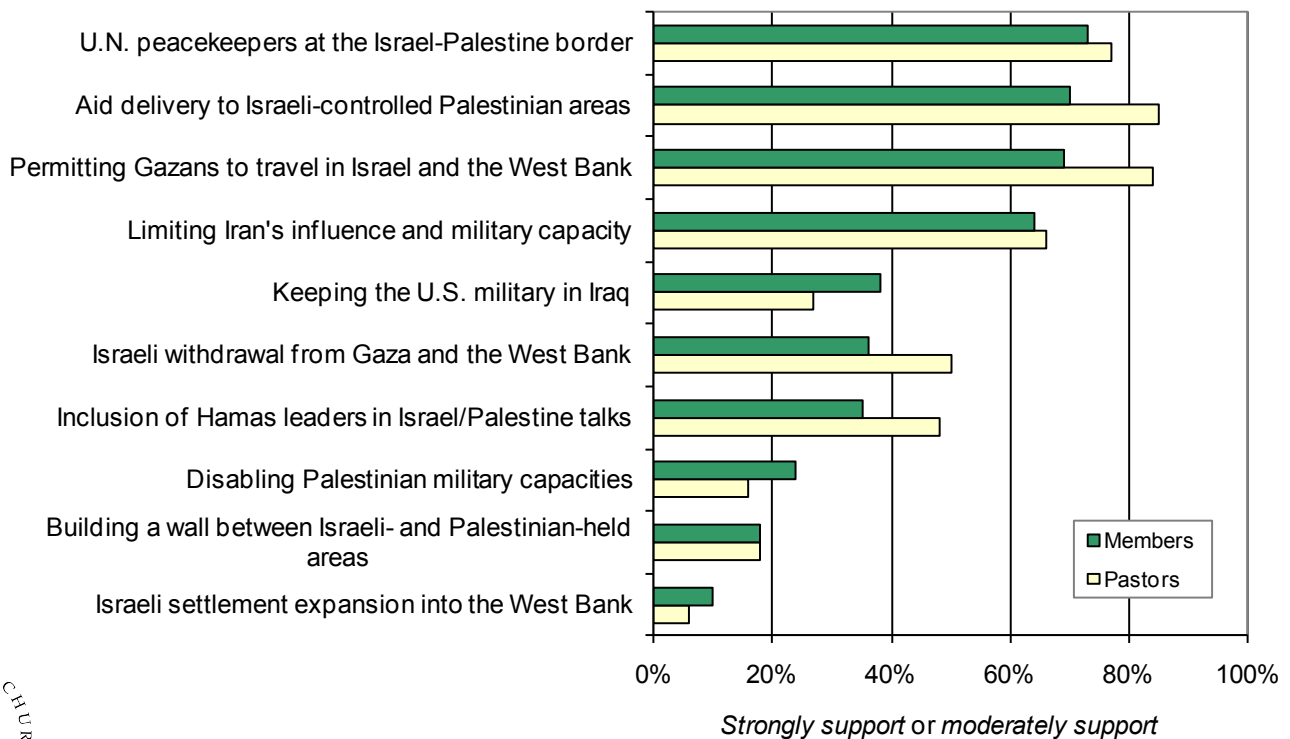


ISRAEL/PALESTINE AND THE REST OF THE MIDDLE EAST

Possible Peacemaking Strategies

- ✓ Large majorities of panelists in each group *strongly support* or *moderately support* the following peacemaking strategies (see also Figure 11):
 - The presence of United Nations peacekeepers to help supervise the borders between Israel and Palestine (members, 73%; elders, 70%; pastors, 77%; specialized clergy, 85%).
 - Delivery by international organizations of humanitarian aid to people living in Palestinian territory occupied or controlled by Israel (70%; 68%; 85%; 90%).
 - Permitting Gaza residents to enter the West Bank and Israel for trade or other legitimate purposes (69%; 72%; 84%; 87%).
 - Limiting the influence and military capacity of the Iranian government (64%; 66%; 66%; 60%).
- ✓ Almost half or more of ministers—but fewer members and elders—*strongly support* or *moderately support*:
 - Permanent Israeli withdrawal from all of Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem (members, 36%; elders, 33%; pastors, 50%; specialized clergy, 61%).
 - The inclusion of democratically elected Hamas leaders in negotiations about the future of Israel/Palestine (35%; 41%; 48%; 61%).
- ✓ Around two in five members (38%) and elders (43%)—but fewer ministers (pastors, 27%)—*strongly support* or *moderately support* maintaining a U.S. military presence in Iraq.
- ✓ Relatively few panelists in each group *strongly support* or *moderately support*:
 - Permanently disabling the military capacities of any Palestinian government (members, 24%; elders, 20%; pastors, 16%; specialized clergy, 14%).
 - Construction of a separation barrier between territory that the Israeli government administers and the Palestinian authorities administer (18%; 24%; 18%; 17%).
 - Expansion of Israeli settlements further into the West Bank and East Jerusalem on Palestinian land (10%; 10%; 6%; 5%).

Figure 11. Support for Various Peacemaking Strategies in the Middle East



A Two-State Solution?

- ✓ Two-thirds of members (65%) and elders (68%), four in five pastors (78%), and seven in eight specialized clergy (86%) support a two-state solution in the Middle East, with both a state of Israel and a state of Palestine.
- ✓ Three in ten members (30%) and one-quarter of elders (24%)—but fewer ministers (pastors, 15%; specialized clergy, 11%)—don’t know whether or not they support a two-state solution.
- ✓ Very few panelists in any group (members, 5%; elders, 8%; pastors, 8%; specialized clergy, 3%) do not support this solution.

Presbyterian Opinions on Middle East Issues Remain Stable

Presbyterians’ opinions about issues related to Israel/Palestine and the Middle East have been relatively stable, results of the August 2009 Panel survey and earlier surveys suggest.

The May 2002 Panel survey on Peacemaking, International Conflict, and Related Issues and the August 2009 survey asked virtually identical questions about support for a two-state solution in the Middle East, with both a state of Israel and a state of Palestine.

The November 2004 Panel survey on Current Issues in Church and Society and the August 2009 survey asked somewhat similar questions about support for the building of a wall between Israeli- and Palestinian-held areas. The 2004 survey asked panelists whether they *favor*, *oppose*, or have *no opinion* about the “current construction by Israel of a security barrier or wall between it and occupied Palestinian territories.” The 2009 survey asked panelists whether they *strongly support*, *moderately support*, *neither support nor oppose*, *moderately oppose*, *strongly oppose*, or have *no opinion* about the “construction of a separation barrier between territory that the Israeli government administers and the Palestinian authorities administer.”

The levels of support for a two-state solution and building a wall have not changed over time with two exceptions. Members’ support for building a wall declined over time, and specialized clergy’s support for a two-state solution declined. (Table 1 provides additional information.)

Table 1
Support for a Two-State Solution and for Building a Wall

	Favor a Two-State Solution		Support the Building of a Wall	
	2002	2009	2004	2009
Members	71%	65%	30%	18%*
Elders	72%	68%	29%	24%
Pastors.....	82%	78%	22%	18%
Specialized clergy.....	92%	86%*	17%	17%

*Statistically significant difference over time (p < .001)

ISRAEL/PALESTINE AND THE REST OF THE MIDDLE EAST

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Support for Israeli Withdrawal Among Presbyterians with Different Theological and Political Leanings

Presbyterians with different theological orientations, as well as those who prefer different political parties, have very different opinions about permanent Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem.

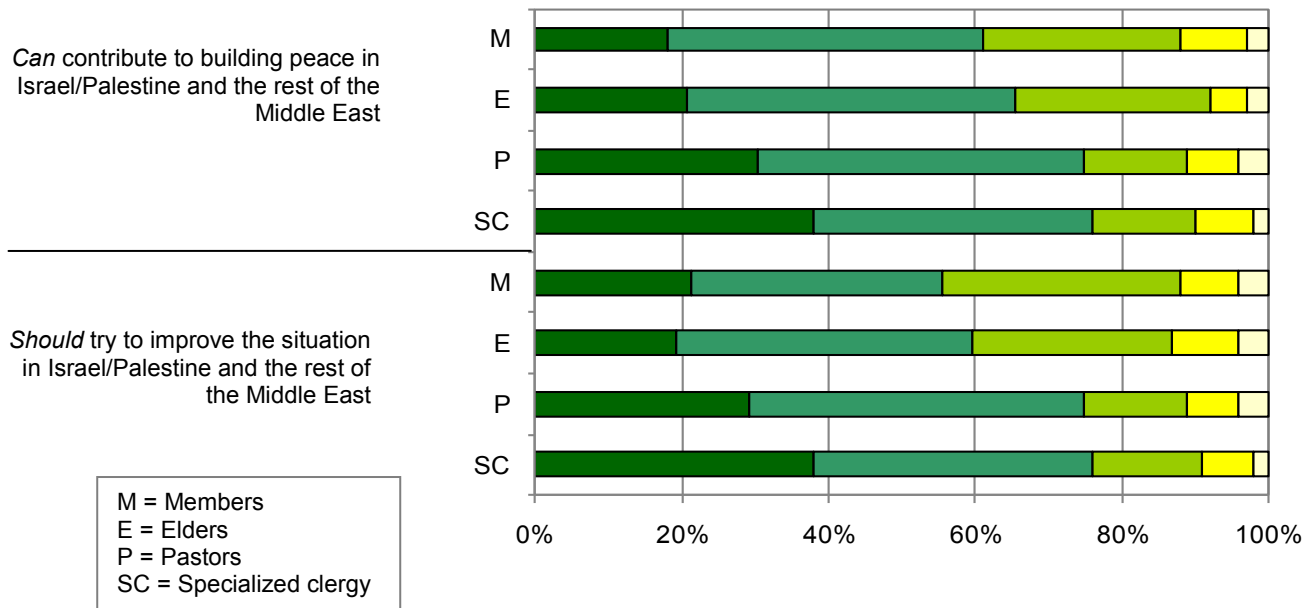
Larger fractions of panelists in each group who are theologically *very liberal* or *liberal* (members, 62%; elders, 61%; pastors, 72%; specialized clergy, 76%) than those who are theologically *moderate* (29%; 37%; 50%; 52%) *strongly support* or *moderately support* Israeli withdrawal, and more theologically *moderate* panelists support withdrawal than do *very conservative* or *conservative* panelists (20%; 16%; 26%; 34%). A similar pattern emerged among panelists who have different political party preferences. More Democrats than Independents support withdrawal, and more Independents than Republicans support withdrawal.

Presbyterian Involvement?

- ✓ At least three in five panelists in each group (members, 61%; elders, 66%; pastors, 74%; specialized clergy, 76%) *strongly agree* or *moderately agree* that Presbyterians *can* contribute to building peace in Israel/Palestine and the rest of the Middle East.
- ✓ Majorities of panelists in each group (members, 55%; elders, 59%; pastors, 74%; specialized clergy, 76%) *strongly agree* or *moderately agree* that Presbyterians *should* try to improve the situation in Israel/Palestine and the rest of the Middle East (see also Figure 12).

Figure 12. Opinion About Middle East Engagement

Presbyterians . . .



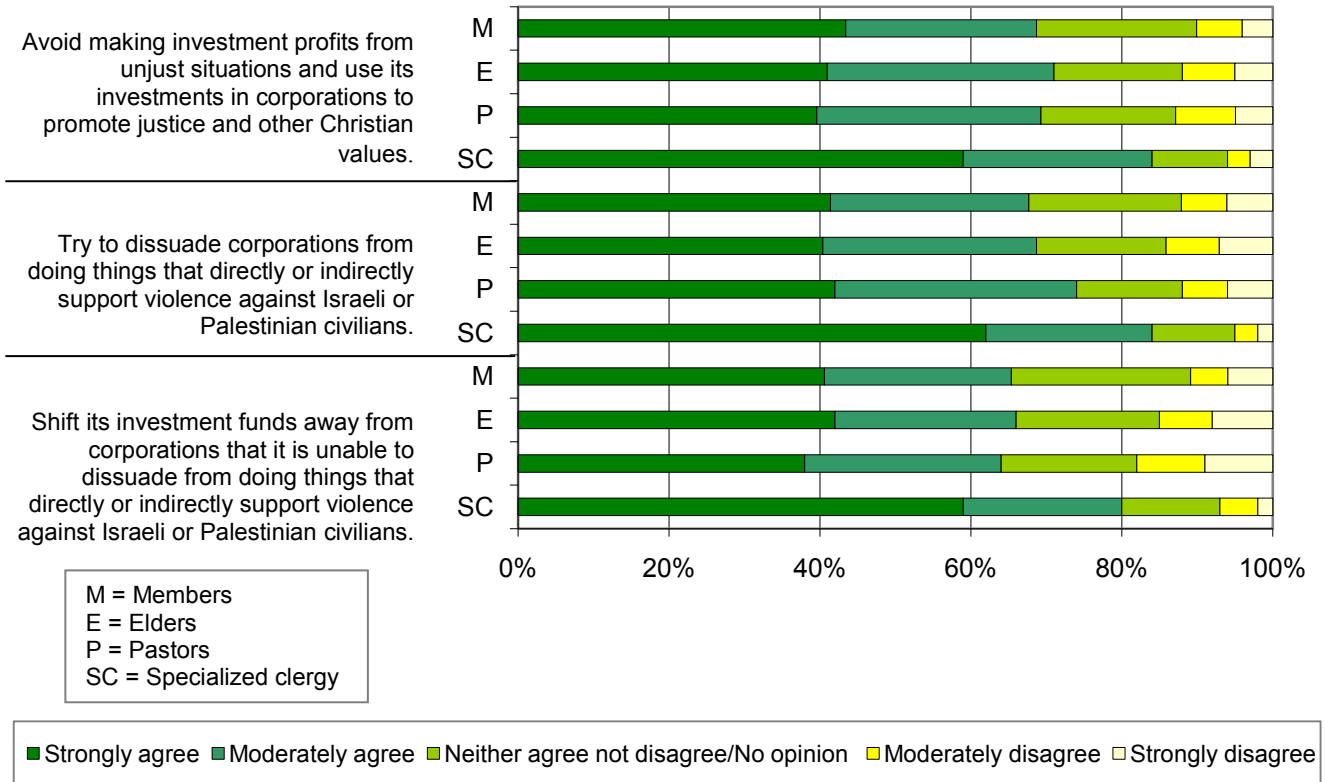
ISRAEL/PALESTINE AND THE REST OF THE MIDDLE EAST

PC(USA) Investments and Israel/Palestine

- ✓ At least two-thirds of panelists in each group (members, 68%; elders, 71%; pastors, 70%; specialized clergy, 84%) *strongly agree* or *moderately agree* that the PC(USA) should avoid making investment profits from unjust situations and should use its investments in corporations to promote justice and other Christian values (see also Figure 13).

Figure 13. Opinion about PC(USA) Investment Policies

The PC(USA) should . . .



- ✓ Five in six specialized clergy (84%) and three-quarters of pastors (74%)—but only two-thirds of members (67%) and elders (68%)—*strongly agree* or *moderately agree* that the PC(USA) should try to dissuade corporations from doing things that directly or indirectly support violence against Israeli or Palestinian civilians.
- ✓ Four in five specialized clergy (80%)—but only two-thirds of other panelists (members, 66%; elders, 66%; pastors, 64%)—agree that the PC(USA) should shift its investment funds away from such corporations if it is unable to dissuade them from doing things that directly or indirectly support violence against Israeli or Palestinian civilians (as it already does from corporations involved in tobacco, military-related production, and human rights violations).

