

2008 Survey of Mainline Protestant Clergy

This project is a new national survey of a random sample of Mainline Protestant clergy. This survey builds on the two previous national surveys of Mainline Protestant clergy conducted in 1989 and 2000. The goal of the survey is to capture the full diversity and vibrancy of the Mainline clergy and their views on issues and public affairs.

The survey includes random samples of senior ministers from the seven largest Mainline Protestant denominations (The Disciples of Christ, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, The Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., The United Church of Christ, The Methodist Church, The American Baptist Churches, and the Episcopal Church in the U.S.A.). The original mailings lists were provided by the denominations themselves. Complete confidentiality is guaranteed for all respondents and is conducted according to highest standards of survey research.

The survey is funded by the Clergy Voices Project, a non-partisan, nonprofit independent research project designed to expand understanding of clergy attitudes and activities at the intersection of religion and public life. The principal researcher for the project is Dr. Robert P. Jones, a published scholar of American religion and politics. Dr. Jones serves on the national steering committee on Religion, Politics, and the State at the American Academy of Religion and is the author of *Liberalism's Troubled Search for Equality* (University of Notre Dame 2007).

The survey is being conducted in collaboration with the Bliss Institute, a nonpartisan research organization at the University of Akron. Dr. John C. Green, Director of the Bliss Institute, is also a widely-published scholar of American religion. He is co-author of *The Bully Pulpit: The Politics of Protestant Clergy* (Kansas 1997) and is a contributor to *Pulpits and Politics: Clergy in American Politics* (Baylor 2004).