



Deliver Me From Email: How Pastors Use Electronic Technology

Results from Wave 2 of the U.S. Congregational Life Survey

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Description

- Using USCLS Wave 2 (2008) leader data (N=693 pastors)
- Are clergy leaders wired?
- Are there any differences by denominational family, gender, or age on whether they are wired?
- Are there any differences by denominational family, gender, or age in how they spend their time?



Internet Usage – the Big Picture

- An estimated 266 million people use the Internet. This has more than doubled since 2000 when it was 108 million. (www.internetworldstats.com)
- Eight out of ten U.S. adults (80%) go online. Up from 57% in 2000 and 9% in 1995. (Harris poll)
- The average Internet user is online 13 hours per week. (Harris poll)



Frequency of Online Activities

- Used the Internet?
- Sent or received emails?
- Used the Internet for religious or spiritual purposes (including sermon preparation)?
- Sent email to individual worshipers?
- Received email from a worshiper?

Response options: Daily, Weekly, Less Often, Never



Frequency of Online Activities

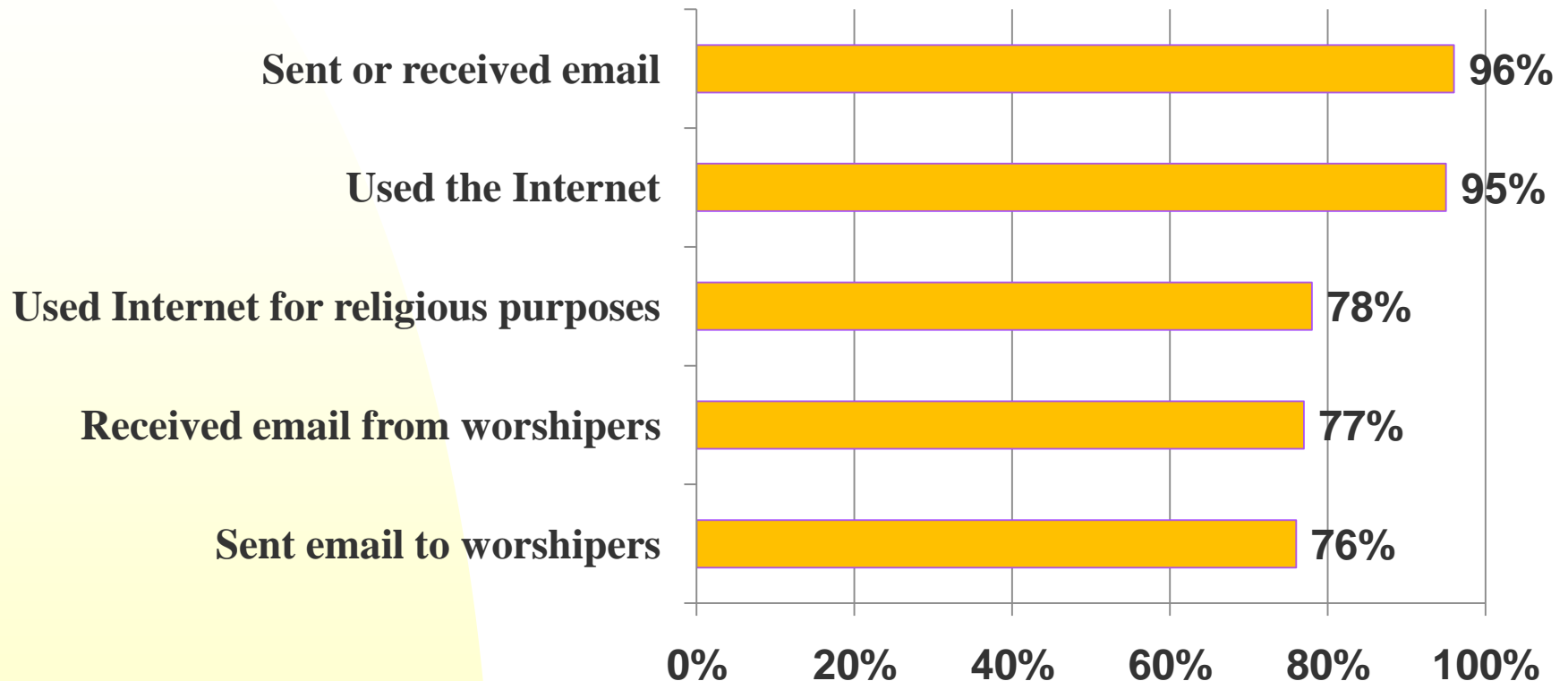
- Participated in a listserv or online group related to this congregation?
- Conducted any congregational business by email?
- Used email to plan an event for this congregation?
- Forwarded an email with spiritual or religious content to a member?
- Maintained a blog related to your ministry?

Response options: Daily, Weekly, Less Often, Never



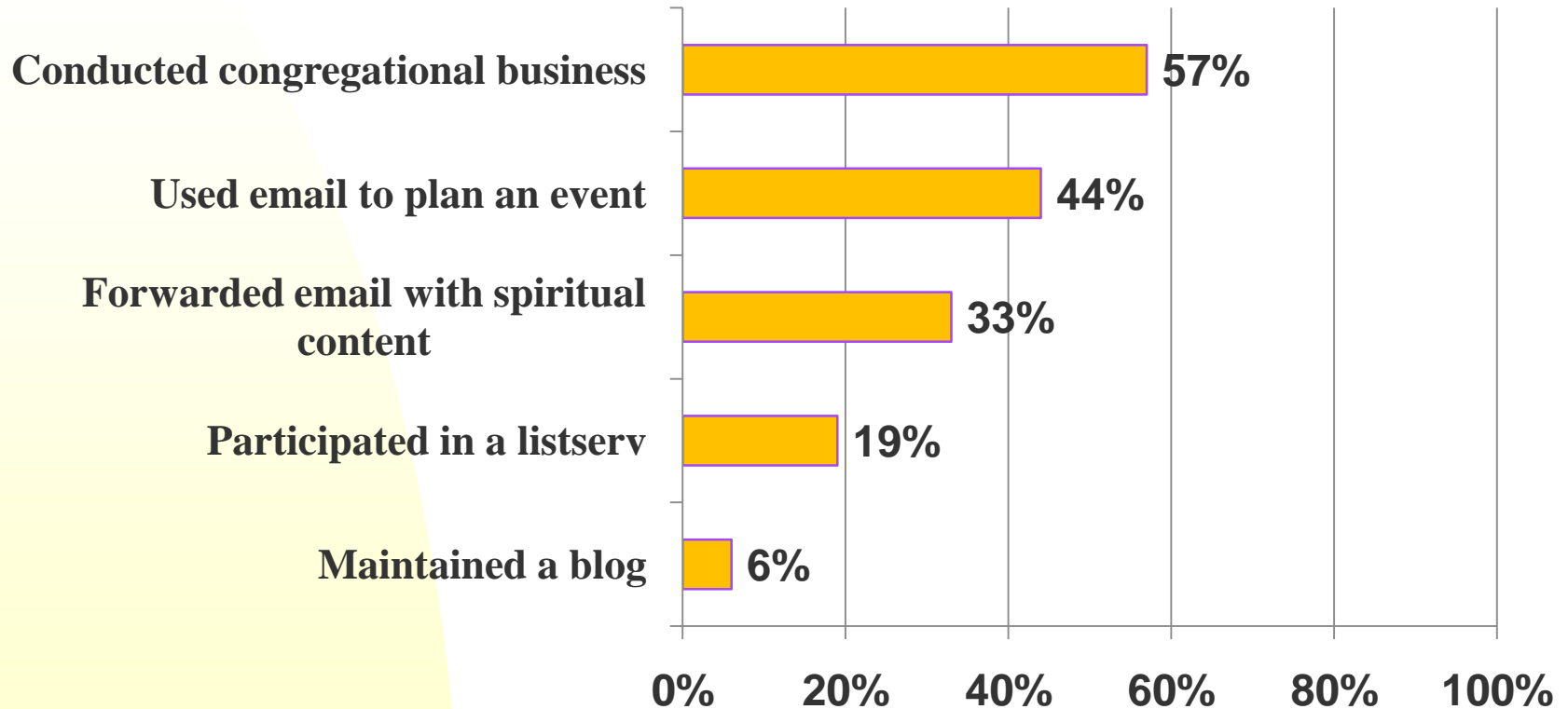
Are Pastors Wired?

At Least Weekly



Are Pastors Wired? (Cont'd)

At Least Weekly



Activities by Denomination Family

At Least Weekly	Catholic	Mainline	Conservative
Used Internet	84%	97%	95%
Sent or received email	88%	96%	95%
Used Internet for religious purposes	60%	82%	75%
Received email from worshipers	70%	81%	71%
Sent email to worshipers	59%	82%	68%

Significant at $P < .05$



Activities by Denomination Family (Cont'd)

At Least Weekly	Catholic	Mainline	Conservative
Conducted congregational business by email	48%	65%	39%
Used email to plan event	36%	49%	32%

Significant at $P < .05$



Activities By Gender

	Male	Female
At Least Weekly		
Used Internet	94%	100%
Sent or received email	94%	100%
Used Internet for religious purposes	75%	94%
Received email from worshipers	73%	94%
Sent email to worshipers	72%	94%

Significant at $P < .05$



Activities by Gender (Cont'd)

At Least Weekly	Male	Female
Conducted congregational business by email	54%	70%
Used email to plan event for congreg	41%	58%
Forwarded email with religious content	30%	44%
Participated in listserv	16%	30%

Significant at $P < .05$



Activities by Age

At Least Weekly	<40	40-49	50-59	60+
Used Internet	98%	98%	98%	89%
Sent or received email	97%	98%	99%	90%
Used Internet for religious purposes	92%	82%	82%	68%
Received email from worshipers	79%	77%	83%	70%
Sent email to worshipers	81%	76%	81%	68%

Significant at $P < .05$



Activities by Age (Cont'd)

At Least Weekly	<40	40-49	50-59	60+
Conducted congregational business by email	67%	56%	62%	48%
Used email to plan event	55%	40%	50%	36%
Participated in listserv	28%	14%	16%	22%
Maintained a blog	18%	11%	5%	2%

Significant at $P < .05$



Hours Spent in Activities

- Prayer, meditation, Bible reading, and other spiritual disciplines
- Reading (other than for specific sermons or teaching)
- Using the Internet (including searching the web, reading blogs or online news, downloading music or videos, and using online social networking sites like Facebook)

Hours spent within the past seven days



Hours Spent in Activities (Cont'd)

- Email and text messaging
- Family life (time spent on family activities including meals)
- Physical exercise for your health
- Recreation and hobbies
- Watching television (including news, sports, movies, and shows)
- Socializing or eating out with friends

Hours spent within the past seven days



Hours in Activities by Denomination

Mean hours spent in:	Catholic	Mainline	Conservative
Prayer/meditation/Bible reading	11.2	5.4	8.1
Using Internet	3.5	5.4	5.9
Family life	3.9	14.3	12.7
Recreation/hobbies	3.3	2.5	2.0
Socializing with friends	3.9	2.8	2.7

Significant at $P < .05$

Ranking of Hours Spent by Denomination

Mean hours spent in:	Total	Catholic	Mainline	Conservative
Family life	13.3	3.9	14.4 1	12.7 1
Watching television	7.5	6.9 2	7.9 2	7.1 3
Prayer/meditation	6.6	11.2 1	5.4	8.2 2
Internet	5.4	3.5	5.4 3	5.9
Reading	4.9	5.2 3	4.7	5.5
Email/text	4.0	3.5	3.9	4.2
Exercise	3.7	4.5	3.7	3.5
Socializing with friends	2.9	3.9	2.8	2.7
Recreation/hobbies	2.5	3.3	2.5	2.0

Hours by Gender

Mean hours spent in:	Male	Female	Total
Prayer/meditation/Bible reading	6.8	5.7	6.6
Using Internet	5.1	6.4	5.4
Email/Text messaging	3.8	5.0	4.0
Family life	12.8	15.7	13.3
Physical exercise	3.9	2.9	3.7
Recreation/hobbies	2.6	2.0	2.4
Socializing with friends	2.7	3.6	2.9

Significant at $P < .05$

Hours Spent by Age Group

Mean hours spent in:	<40	40-49	50-59	60+
Prayer/meditation/Bible reading	5.8	6.6	6.2	7.5
Reading	3.3	4.6	4.9	5.7
Email/text messaging	3.5	3.7	3.8	4.8
Family life	18.9	15.1	12.4	11.5
Physical exercise	2.8	3.5	4.0	3.8
Watching television	6.3	6.6	7.5	8.6

Significant at $P < .05$

Conclusions

- Use of the Internet and email by pastors has kept pace with use in the general population.
- Mainline Protestant pastors, female pastors, and younger pastors use the Internet more often than their counterparts.
- Electronic technology is going to continue to grow and shape ministry.



For the future?

FOR TODAY'S READING, PLEASE OPEN
YOUR LAPTOPS AND CLICK WITH ME, TO
WWW.BIBLE.COM/JOHN/CHAP_7/V_2.HTM



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U.S. CONGREGATIONS