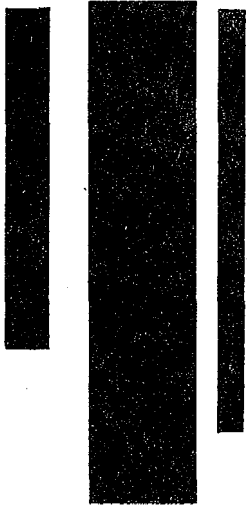


# A STUDY OF LOUISIANA PASTORS: THEIR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND THE NATURE OF THEIR MINISTRY



BX  
6248  
.L6  
A54  
1973



HOME MISSION BOARD / SBC

A STUDY OF LOUISIANA PASTORS:  
THEIR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND THE NATURE OF THEIR MINISTRY

August, 1973

**DARGAN-CARVIER LIBRARY**  
**S. B. C. HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Prepared by

Sarah Frances Anders  
Department of Sociology  
Louisiana College

James A. Young  
Department of Religion  
Louisiana College

for the

DEPARTMENT OF SURVEY AND SPECIAL STUDIES

HOME MISSION BOARD, SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION  
Arthur B. Rutledge, Executive Secretary-Treasurer  
1350 Spring Street, N.W.  
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

6539

**SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL**  
**LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES**  
Historical Commission, SBC  
Nashville, Tennessee

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. The Purpose and Methodology of the Pastoral Survey	3
II. The Nature of the Study Variables	5
III. The Pastoral Sample	9
IV. The Background of the Pastor and His Current Ministry	25
V. Pastoral Ministry in Relation to Church and Community	31
VI. Implications and Conclusions of the Study	36
Appendix A	43
The inventory	
Summary of late respondents	
Summary of cited research project	
Appendix B	49
Summary of Chi Square Tests	
Tables	

## I. THE PURPOSE AND METHODOLOGY OF THE PASTORAL SURVEY

Few, if any objective studies have been made concerning the nature of the educational background and ministry of the Southern Baptist pastor. In the fall of 1972 a pastoral inventory was devised and a survey made of Louisiana Baptist pastors in the belief that they were not significantly different from the pastors across the convention and that such an investigation would bring insight into the relationship of their training and church setting to various aspects of their ministry. The objectives and direction of this project conducted by the Departments of Religion and Sociology at Louisiana College<sup>1</sup> were greatly supported and encouraged by the Survey and Special Studies Department of the Home Mission Board.

There are approximately 1300 churches in the Louisiana Baptist Convention, at least 200 of which might be expected to have pastors in a state of transition or absent at any given time. The pastors of these churches served as the population to whom the Pastoral Inventory was mailed. The inventory was a concise single page questionnaire containing items relative to

---

<sup>1</sup>The Pastoral Inventory was devised jointly by the Sociology and Religion Departments; the collation and statistical testing was done by a senior Methods of Research class in the Sociology Department laboratory; the conclusions and writing was completed by the two chairmen of these departments.

education, pastoral history, church membership size, sermon content, various pastoral duties, community activities, and attitudes concerning pertinent issues. (See Appendix A, page 44). Two follow-up requests were made to pastors who had failed to respond to the initial letter and inventory.

Generally, 10 to 20 per cent returns from mail surveys are considered good by professional researchers, but it was hoped that pastoral interest in the findings of such a study as this would elicit much greater response. In view of the number of pastorless churches, the 35 per cent returns from the 1300 church-pastorates (42 per cent based on the approximate 1100 with pastors) seemed better-than-average. The 464 pastors who returned usable questionnaires by the deadline for initiating the analysis of the data constituted the sample used throughout this report. The fifteen inventories which came in during subsequent weeks are summarized in a separate table in Appendix A, page 45, but are not included in the major conclusions of the study.

## II. THE NATURE OF THE STUDY VARIABLES

Much care went into the selection of the personal and social factors which were to be the basis of the relationships studied in this investigation of the pastor and his ministry. Only the most pertinent could be used in such a concise inventory. These generally may be identified as either dependent variables or influential variables (determinants). The dependent variable was concerned with the "behavior" of the pastor or his church: i.e., time distribution of pastoral responsibilities; preparation and content of sermons; involvement in community activities; attitudes concerning the most critical problem of the church, the need for church action in social problems, and trends in the liberal/conservative position of the Southern Baptist Convention.

The determining variables which were selected to be control factors in the investigation of pastoral behaviors and opinions were primarily related to the pastor's educational background and the setting of his ministry. Therefore, these five factors were expected to have a bearing on the dependent variables: the pastor's total years of schooling, the nature of his seminary training, his years in the ministry, the size of his present congregation and the size of the community in which the church was located.

Various statistical measures were used to ascertain the relationship that existed among these several variables. Other than the usual measures of central tendency (the arithmetic mean or "average," the median, and the mode), the Chi Square and Critical Ratio tests were the primary ones used in the larger study. Generally, only the most significant statistical findings will be reported in this paper.

The following is a list of the relationships that were hypothesized to be meaningful (statistically significant) as the research project was being designed initially:

1. Years of Schooling of Pastor to:

- (1) Actual time spent in sermon preparation, administrative duties, pastoral care, and other activities.
- (2) Preferred time schedule for above activities.
- (3) Method of sermon preparation.
- (4) Major content areas of sermons.
- (5) Type and extent of participation in community activities.
- (6) Attitude about the church's most critical problem.
- (7) Attitude about liberal/conservative trend of the Southern Baptist Convention.
- (8) Attitude about the church's involvement in social action in community problems.

2. Seminary Education or Not:

- (1) Actual time spent in sermon preparation, administration, pastoral care, and other duties.
- (2) Nature of sermon preparation.
- (3) Major content areas of sermons.
- (4) Type and extent of activity in community activities.
- (5) Attitude about the church's most critical problem.
- (6) Attitude about the church's involvement in social action.

3. Seminary Attended:

- (1) Method of sermon preparation.
- (2) Major content areas of sermons.
- (3) Type and extent of participation in community activities.
- (4) Attitude about the church's most critical problem.
- (5) Attitude about the church's involvement in social action.
- (6) Attitude about the liberal/conservative trend of the SBC.

4. Total Years in the Ministry:

- (1) Pastor's education.
- (2) Major content areas of sermons.
- (3) Type and extent of pastor's community activities.
- (4) Attitude about the church's most critical problem.
- (5) Attitude about the church's involvement in social problems.
- (6) Attitude about the liberal/conservative trend of the SBC.

5. Size of Resident Church Membership

- (1) Actual time spent in sermon preparation, administration, and pastoral care.
- (2) Number of degrees of pastor.
- (3) Method of sermon preparation.
- (4) Major areas of sermon content.
- (5) Type and extent of pastors participation in communities activities.
- (6) Attitude about church's most critical problem.

6. Size of Community:

- (1) Actual time spent in sermon preparation, administration, and pastoral care.
- (2) Pastor's years of schooling.
- (3) The method of sermon preparation.
- (4) Majors areas of sermon content.
- (5) Attitude about the church's most critical problem.
- (6) Attitude about the church's involvement in social problems.
- (7) Attitude about the liberal/conservative trend of the SBC.

### III. THE PASTORAL SAMPLE

The profile of the typical respondent was a 42 year-old pastor who had served in three full-time and two part-time churches in a ministry of 17½ years.<sup>1</sup> He has been in his current pastorate over five years, with a resident membership at this time of 375 and a Sunday School enrollment of 265. His education includes a college degree and at least one and one-half years of graduate work, both probably from Baptist institutions. He serves in a rural area or small town.<sup>2</sup>

The 1972 Louisiana Baptist Convention Annual reports statistics on churches in the state which would indicate that the average resident membership for Louisiana churches is approximately 270 and the average Sunday School enrollment is about 208. This would indicate that our sample is biased upward, with more pastors responding from somewhat larger churches.

A recent survey conducted by the Department of Research of the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention indicated that 37.7 per cent of the pastors across the convention had not received a college degree.<sup>3</sup> Since 32.3 per cent of the

---

<sup>1</sup>See Table 1 for summary data on pastoral history.

<sup>2</sup>See Table 2 for summary on present pastorate.

<sup>3</sup>See Appendix A, page 47.

TABLE 1

SUMMARY OF PASTORAL MINISTRY OF SAMPLE OF PASTORS

<u>Total Years in Ministry</u>	<u>Number of Pastors</u>	<u>% of Pastors</u>
0 - 4	56	12.1
5 - 9	52	11.2
10 - 14	77	16.6
15 - 19	69	14.9
20 - 24	101	21.7
25 or more	99	21.3
No answer	<u>10</u>	<u>2.1</u>
Total	464	99.9

Average Data on Type of Pastorates and  
Length of Ministry

Average Number of Full-time Pastorates	3.3
Average Number of Part-time Pastorates	1.7
Average Number of Years in Ministry	17.5 years
Average Length of Present Pastorate	5.3 years

TABLE 2

## SUMMARY DATA ON PRESENT PASTORATES OF THE MINISTERS IN THIS SAMPLE

Size of Resident Church Membership

<u>Number of Members</u>	<u>Number of Pastors</u>	<u>% of Pastors</u>
100 & unders	91	19.6
101 - 200	110	23.7
201 - 300	73	15.7
301 - 500	63	13.6
501 - 1,000	68	14.7
1,000 - 2,000	22	4.7
2,001 & over	8	1.7
No answer	<u>29</u>	<u>6.3</u>
Total	464	100.0

Population Size of Community

<u>Size</u>	<u>Number of Pastors</u>	<u>% of Pastors</u>
Under 2,500	213	45.9
2,500 - 9,999	100	21.6
10,000 - 24,999	53	11.4
25,000 - 49,999	16	3.5
50,000 & over	70	15.1
No answer	<u>12</u>	<u>2.6</u>
Total	464	100.0

Louisiana pastors completing these questionnaires had not received a baccalaureate degree, it appears that this sample of pastors is slightly above average in education.

Education: Of the 604 degrees reported by the pastors responding, 315 (68 per cent) were baccalaureate and 289 (47 per cent) were graduate degrees.<sup>4</sup> There were 248 college-educated pastors (78 per cent) who had attended Baptist colleges, about evenly divided between those attending Louisiana College and those attending out-of-state Baptist colleges.

Not only is the contribution of Louisiana College evident in the education of the state pastors, but also that of New Orleans Baptist Seminary. Of the 308 pastors who had attended any seminary, 67 per cent (205) had gone to New Orleans; of the ones who had earned graduate degrees (289), 87 per cent were from New Orleans Seminary.

Of the 248 who earned degrees at Baptist colleges, 217 went on to earn a seminary degree on the B.D. or M. Div. level and 23 completed the Th.D. or Ph.D. degrees. However, only four of the 67 who earned degrees in state schools went on to earn the B.D. or M. Div. degree and none earned the Th.D. or Ph.D. degree. This means that 88 per cent of those who received their

---

<sup>4</sup>See Table 3 for summary of pastors' education.

TABLE 3

## SUMMARY DATA ON EDUCATION OF PASTORS

<u>Types of Degrees</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Seminary Attended</u>	<u>No.</u>
B.A./B.S.	315	New Orleans	205
M.A./M.R.E.	45	Southwestern	57
B.D./M.Div.	221	Southern	13
PhD./ThD.	<u>23</u>	Others	33
Total	604	None	<u>156</u>
		Total	464

## LOCATION AND TYPE OF SCHOOL GRANTING DEGREES

<u>Degree</u>	<u>Baptist In-state</u>	<u>Baptist Out-of-state</u>	<u>State In-state</u>	<u>State Out-of-state</u>	<u>Total</u>
B.A./B.S.	127	121	36	31	315
M.A./M.R.E.	26	4	10	5	45
B.D./M.Div.	206	11	0	4	221
PhD./ThD.	20	3	0	0	<u>23</u>
Total	379	139	46	40	604

undergraduate work in Baptist colleges went on to complete a seminary degree compared with only six per cent from the state colleges. For these pastors, the Baptist college played a predominant role in the training for the ministry and in the motivation for seminary education.

Time Distribution: A number of items were directed toward the nature of the pastor's ministry. He was asked both to give his usual allotment of time for sermon preparation, pastoral care and administrative duties, and to state the time distribution he would prefer. (See Table 4). The pastoral responses indicated obvious disparities between preference and practice. The average minister spends 25 per cent of his time in sermon preparation, but would prefer having up to 40 per cent of his time for such study. He gives 21 per cent to administrative responsibilities, but indicates that 15 per cent would be preferable. There was no significant change suggested for time devoted to pastoral care, since both actual and preferred expenditure of time in this part of his ministry accounted for 39 per cent of the schedule.

Nature and Content of Sermons: Two basic approaches to preaching were assumed -- biblical and topical. When questioned about their method of sermon preparation, these Louisiana pastors indicated that about 61 per cent prepared their sermons

TABLE 4

## ACTUAL AND DESIRED TIME DISTRIBUTION OF MINISTRY

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Actual % of Schedule</u>	<u>Desired % of Schedule</u>
Sermon Preparation Study	25.5	39.7
Pastoral Care	38.5	38.5
Administration	20.7	14.7
Other	<u>12.1</u>	<u>7.6</u>
Total	96.8*	100.5*
Number of pastors reporting	440	414

\*Reported distribution of many pastors did not total 100%.

TABLE 5

SUMMARY DATA ON NATURE OF SERMON PREPARATION AND SERMON CONTENT

Major Approach to Sermon Preparation

<u>Approach</u>	<u>No. of Pastors</u>	<u>% of Pastors</u>
Biblical	286	61.1
Topical	79	17.0
Both/Other	77	16.6
No answer	<u>22</u>	<u>4.7</u>
Total	464	99.9

Major Sermon Themes in Preaching

<u>Nature of Content</u>	<u>No. of Pastors</u>	<u>% of Pastors</u>
Beliefs	133	28.7
Social Evils	17	3.7
Evangelism	186	40.1
Christian growth	121	26.1
Supportive	0	0
No answer	<u>7</u>	<u>1.5</u>
Total	464	100.1

Number & Percent of Sermon Themes

<u>Nature of Content</u>	<u>No. of Pastors</u>	<u>% of Pastors</u>
Beliefs	125	20.4
Social Evils	39	6.4
Evangelism	239	38.9
Christian growth	196	31.9
Supportive	<u>14</u>	<u>2.3</u>
Topics reported	613	99.9
Pastors answering	457	

from a biblical orientation and only 17 per cent from a topical approach. Another 17 per cent indicated they used both or other approaches. (See Table 5).

The questionnaire provided five major categories to cover the content of the pastor's sermons: evangelism, Christian growth, beliefs, social problems, and supportive (as in loss, illness, death). The focus of most of the preaching by this sample of ministers was fairly evenly distributed among evangelism (39 per cent), Christian growth (32 per cent) and beliefs (20 per cent) with considerably less emphasis being placed on social problems (6 per cent) and supportive messages (2 per cent). (Also Table 5).

Critical Church Problems: An open-end question was used to elicit the pastor's opinion of the most pressing problem he felt his church congregation faced at this time and content analysis revealed a variety of problem situations. (See Table 6). Some of the recurring areas of difficulty mentioned were financial, inadequacy of buildings, theological differences, personal conflicts, evangelistic outreach, inadequate leadership, social problems, and attitudes (apathy, resistance, ignorance). The 435 pastors who completed this question said that the number one problem (34 per cent) was the attitude-set of the membership and leadership. Other major problems, in order, were evangelistic

TABLE 6  
 TYPES OF CHURCH PROBLEMS  
 Listed as Most Critical by Sample Pastors

	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
Attitudes	159	34.3
Outreach	81	17.3
Financial	29	6.3
Social Problems	24	5.2
Personality Conflicts	14	3.0
Theological Differences	7	1.5
Miscellaneous	121	26.1
No answer	<u>29</u>	<u>6.3</u>
Total	464	100.2

outreach (18 per cent) and financial matters (6 per cent).

Community Involvement:<sup>1</sup> The average pastor in the study was involved more in civic organizations than any other type of community activity (172 pastors). These were primarily identified as service groups such as Rotary, Exchange, or United Fund.

Running a quite low second to civic participation was the category of organizations labeled social/fraternal (45 pastors). This included a broad range of leisure and lodge type of memberships, such as golf clubs, Masonic Lodges, et. al. About 58 per cent of the respondents (259) completed this question; but among those who did, the average was almost two per pastor (1.9). Even fewer (116 pastors) indicated the approximate time they devoted to such non-church activities, which was for them an average of three hours per week.

The question concerning the pastor's activities in the community might well be related to his opinion on his church's rightful involvement in social action. Since only 38 pastors indicated they were involved in social action organizations, it might be expected that the entire sample would see relatively little need for their churches to be involved in correcting various social/community problems. However, 85 per cent of the pastors

---

<sup>1</sup>See Table 7.

TABLE 7

## NATURE AND EXTENT OF PASTORS' INVOLVEMENT IN COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number of Pastors</u>	<u>Number of Activities</u>
Civic	172	308
Political	4	4
Social Action	38	38
Social/Fraternal	<u>45</u>	<u>59</u>
Total	259	507

TABLE 8

## PASTORAL CONCERN ABOUT CHURCH INVOLVEMENT IN SOCIAL PROBLEMS

<u>Degree</u>	<u>Number of Pastors</u>
A great deal	151
Somewhat	241
Very little	43
No answer	<u>29</u>
Total	464

indicated their church should be somewhat or greatly involved in social problems. (See Table 8, preceding page).

The Convention and Conservatism: Since the average pastor in this study had been in the ministry over seventeen years, this span of ministry would provide a view of any liberal-conservative shift in the Southern Baptist Convention's theological position. No attempt was made to ascertain the pastor's original value judgment concerning the convention's conservatism or liberalism at the time they began to preach, for the intent was to obtain an impression concerning any direction of change. The consensus appeared to be that Southern Baptists are less conservative than a decade or so ago. (See Table 9). More than one-half of the sample (248 or 53 per cent) felt that there was a less conservative trend, whereas 162 (35 per cent) felt the Convention was about the same as at the beginning of their ministry, and 45 (10 per cent) believed the denomination has become more conservative.

TABLE 9

PASTORAL VIEWS ON THE LIBERAL/CONSERVATIVE TREND OF THE  
SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

<u>Degree</u>	<u>Number of Pastors</u>	<u>% of Pastors</u>
More Conservative	45	9.6
About the same	162	35.0
Less Conservative	248	53.4
No answer	<u>9</u>	<u>1.9</u>
Total	464	99.9

## SOME OBSERVATIONS CONCERNING THE SAMPLE

1. Baptist education appears to be a significant factor in the training of our Baptist pastors. In Louisiana, both Louisiana College and New Orleans Seminary provide the dominant educational influence of Louisiana pastors.
2. The pastor feels that the pressure of his administrative duties steals valuable time from his study and sermon preparation. This fact may indicate the need for laymen to be more involved in the administration of the church program and for additional staff members, even in the smaller churches. This would release the pastor for more personal ministry among the members and for study of the Word of God in sermon preparation.
3. The pastor sees his preaching as Bible-based with the major thrust being on evangelism, doctrines, and growth. Some might observe a weakness in the ministry if it devotes so little attention to social problems and supportive messages for the bereaved, troubled, or ill.
4. Pastors apparently are preoccupied with internal church problems more than issues affecting the community-at-large. This suggests further investigation.
5. The above-mentioned concern for his Church's problems and his

heavy schedule may be related to the limited activity of the pastor in community organizations.

6. More research is suggested in the relationship of the pastor's theological position on the liberal/conservative continuum and his view of the trend of the Convention.

#### IV. THE BACKGROUND OF THE PASTOR AND HIS CURRENT MINISTRY

Four of the determinants used in this study concerned the educational and pastoral background of the pastor: his total years of schooling past high school, whether he attended seminary or not, the seminary he attended, and his total number of years in the ministry. As noted in Section II, there were twenty-six hypothesized relationships between these variables and the nature of his current ministry. Analysis of the data for this sample of ministers produced statistically significant relationships in only about one-third of the tests. The major portion of the following discussion will deal with the obvious observable relationships, but occasionally notice will be given to the patterns of association in 'borderline' cases of significance.<sup>1</sup>

Total Years of Schooling: Generally the less educated a pastor was, the more time he gave to other duties, such as nonpastoral work and schooling, whereas the more-educated one reported having to give a larger proportion of his time to administrative duties. Education made little difference in the amount of time

---

<sup>1</sup>A summary of all Chi Square Tests of Significance will be found in Appendix B, pages 50 ff. Immediately following this summary, pages 53 ff, are the two-factor tables showing the responses of pastors. The total in each table reflects the number of the total sample who completed the two questionnaire items which pertain to the relationship demonstrated in that particular table.

that was devoted to various areas of pastoral care, as visitation and counseling.

While no statistical relationship between education and sermon preparation proved significant, a definite pattern emerged that indicated the less-educated minister spent more time in study and sermon preparation than did the man with more education. As education of the respondent increased, he tended to prefer a time schedule which would give him more time for sermon preparation and pastoral care, but would demand less for administration of the church program. It was apparent that the less educated pastor would like to spend less time in another job and schooling in order to devote more time to his pastoral duties.

As noted earlier, only 58 per cent of these men stated any involvement in community organizations and most of these were civic or service clubs. Of those who held such memberships, this was not a major claim on their time schedules in terms of extent of memberships or hours spent during a week. Although it was a case of 'borderline' significance, there was a tendency for the college-educated minister to be more involved in such activities. Possibly there was some association in this very moderate activity on the part of the pastor and his equally moderate view on the church's involvement in social problems in the community. Education was not a differentiating factor in this attitude: the

great majority of ministers expressed that they were "somewhat concerned" over this aspect of the application of the gospel.

All pastors in the sample, regardless of educational level, showed a strong preference for the biblical approach in sermon preparation. Those with less education indicated a greater percentage of sermons that were topically-oriented. (This was not statistically significant, however.) Louisiana pastors preach sermons mainly on evangelism, doctrines, and Christian growth, with little attention given to social evils or supportive messages, such as in death or other crises.

The educational level of a minister did have a bearing on his view of the current position of the Southern Baptist Convention, as compared with the beginning of his ministry. The better educated the pastor was, the more definitely he viewed the convention as less conservative than in his earlier days of preaching.

Seminary Training: The expectation was that attending seminary for any period of time would have a bearing on such aspects of a pastor's ministry as sermon preparation and content, time schedule, personal and church involvement in community matters, and perspective on church problems. In only three areas did there prove to be a significant relationship.

Pastors without seminary background spent a great deal more

time in sermon preparation and appeared to be in churches which required less administrative time from them. The majority of these pastors (62 per cent) reported no community activities and the ones who did, tended to participate in fraternal lodges. One explanation might be the time factor -- perhaps these are the pastors more apt to be working in other jobs or going to school. Their focus in preaching was evangelistic with some attention to social evils, whereas the seminary graduates were the largest group among those preaching sermons on Christian growth.

Location of Seminary Training: The more localized the college and seminary education had been, the more likely was the pastor in this study to view his church's most critical problem as internal and attitudinal rather than one of social application. There were some other 'borderline' relationships that could be noted. Those who had attended New Orleans Seminary were more likely to belong to fraternal lodges than other seminary alumni and, like those from Southwestern, to focus on evangelism and Christian growth in their preaching. Southern Seminary pastors appeared to stress Christian growth in their preaching, to be concerned about the church's involvement in social problems, and to belong to civic organizations. Those who attended Southwestern Seminary appeared 'civic-minded,' and felt some concern about

both internal and social problems.

Length of Ministry: This was not a significant factor in any of the areas of the pastor's ministry which were analyzed. However, as might be expected, the pastor in the early years of his ministry generally had less education, gave less time to community activities and saw less change in the position of the Convention.

## OBSERVATIONS ON THE BACKGROUND OF THE PASTOR AND HIS MINISTRY

1. The amount of education a pastor has appears to be a more influential factor on the nature of his pastoral ministry than the theological institution he attended.
2. Pastors who attended or graduated from seminary seem to draw on these academic resources in reducing the amount of time spent in sermon preparation. Perhaps they are able to make more meaningful use of the limited time they have.
3. Those ministers who attended local Baptist institutions appeared definitely evangelistic in their ministry and particularly concerned about church members' attitudes, such as apathy and resistance to change.
4. Most of these pastors were moderate in their community involvement and their concern for their church to be involved in community problems. Their education or length of ministry had little, if any, effect on either of these behaviors. There is then an inward-facing nature to their service, whether this is due to their expectations or those of their church.

## V. PASTORAL MINISTRY IN RELATION TO CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

The pastor serves a church in a unique community setting. This study sought to relate only the quantitative impact of the church and community on the roles and attitudes of the pastor. The concept of church size used was the pastor's reported figure of resident church membership, and random checks of these figures with those listed in the Louisiana Baptist Convention Annual, 1972, indicated consistency in reporting. The measurement of community size used was the most recent (1972) estimate of population size from the United States Bureau of the Census.

### Resident Church Membership

Six relationships were hypothesized between size of church congregation and aspects of the pastor's ministry. The areas of ministry used were the pastor's time schedule of activities, his total number of academic degrees, his methods of sermon preparation, the major content areas of his sermons, the degree of his involvement in community affairs and his attitude about his church's most critical problem. Only four significant relationships were discovered.

Church membership certainly appeared to have a bearing on the allocation of time to various pastoral duties. AS the size of the church membership increased, the pastor appeared to give

more and more of his time to administrative duties as compared to sermon preparation, pastoral care, and the like. To be more specific, time spent in sermon preparation and study was the area most diminished by added administrative demands of the larger church.

Apparently, the larger church demands a better educated minister, as one might expect. The larger the church, the more likely was the pastor to have multiple degrees. Again, the greater education may be noted to be his 'protection' or resource as he faces less time for study and sermon preparation.

The pastor of a larger church appears also to have more community involvement than the one in a small church. As will be noted later, this may be further affected by the size of the community: community activities can be spread over a larger, more diverse group in the larger city.

Resident church membership did not affect appreciably either the pastor's sermon content<sup>1</sup> or his type of sermon preparation. Pastors of all sizes of churches appeared to devote about-equal time to the pastoral areas of counseling, visitation and the like. Moreover, it is not church size that determines the attitude of the pastor about its involvement in social problems.

---

<sup>1</sup>Though not statistically significant, there was a tendency for the pastor of a larger church (1,000 or over) to be less varied in his sermon topics, indeed to be more exclusively evangelistic in approach.

### Size of Pastoral Community

In an attempt to determine the relationship between pastoral duties and the size of the community in which the church was located, seven relationships were investigated. (See page 8, Section II). Of these, four proved to be significant in the Chi Square tests: those concerned with the pastor's time distribution in pastoral duties, his education, and his view of the position of the Convention.

While pastors in communities of all sizes report about the same amount of time given to pastoral counseling and visitation, those who serve in the very small and very large communities devoted more time to sermon preparation. The census uses 2,500 as the cutting point between rural and urban communities and 50,000 as the minimum for metropolitan populations. These are the communities here defined as 'very small' and 'very large.' The pastor in the metropolitan community gave significantly more time to administrative duties.

The pastor with seven or more years pasto high school (the minimum possible for a B.D. or M. Div. degree) was much more likely to be serving a church in a larger community. This pastor in the city definitely saw the Convention as becoming less conservative, as he viewed it from the beginning of his ministry.

The size of the community appeared to have little bearing on the pastor's approach to sermon preparation nor to the major content areas of his preacher. Regardless of where the pastor served in this state, his major thrust was through Biblically oriented messages on evangelism, doctrines and Christian growth.

There was no statistical significance in the relationship between community size and the pastor's appraisal of the church's major problem. However, there was a tendency for pastors in larger communities to couch their description of the most critical problem in terms of financial matters or need for social action.

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF CHURCH AND COMMUNITY SIZE  
ON THE PASTOR'S MINISTRY

1. Larger churches as compared with the average Louisiana church of 270, want a well-educated, professional administrator. He is somewhat active in community affairs, but does not necessarily prod them in social action programs.
2. The larger churches do not get a very different type of preaching nor emphasis from the pulpit; they hear the usual Bible-oriented evangelistic messages that predominate throughout the state.
3. It was not surprising that churches in the larger urban communities call pastors who have at least one seminary degree. Such a pastor, in turn, views the average church member as growing less conservative, although this does not alter his preaching style or emphasis to any noticeable degree.

## VI. IMPLICATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE STUDY

From the outset of this investigation of pastoral background and ministry, certain imposed limitations were recognized that might affect the extent to which general applications could be made. One of the most obvious was the deliberately concise, one-page inventory designed to get as full a response as possible from the total population of Louisiana pastors. The limitation to fifteen pertinent variables for analysis and cross-tabulation was justified considerably by the 35 to 40 per cent mail returns. Seldom would one find a questionnaire that revealed more usable data on so many different factors in such brevity.

The original questionnaire was distributed to each ordained minister on the faculty of Louisiana College as well as other staff members. It was also submitted to advanced classes in both sociology and religion for criticism. The Department of Survey and Special Studies of the Home Mission Board evaluated the form at this stage and made constructive suggestions. A full year was devoted to the design of the research project, to the multiple revisions of the pastoral inventory, and to the statistical analysis. This permitted ample time for thoughtful consideration to the conclusions stated in this report. It is hoped that the findings contained in this report will prove valuable in themselves

as well as serve to stimulate further studies in areas where limited investigation was made.

In light of some of the pastoral responses, some of the concepts appeared ambiguous to men of different educational and professional experience. The answers to a few of the questions depended on the individual interpretation. An example of this was Question 5, in which biblical and topical methods of sermon preparation did not convey precise ideas. However, the "other" category elicited responses from pastors who were unsure of the distinction. These could generally be categorized with a high degree of certainty by the statisticians.

Dr. James C. Taylor, Professor of Preaching at the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, (See Appendix A, page 48), states that the approach to preaching on the national level is about 50 per cent biblical exposition and 50 per cent topical. Since 61 per cent of the Louisiana pastors reported they preached biblical exposition sermons and 17 per cent reported they preached both biblical exposition and topical, this indicates either a lack of understanding on the part of these pastors as to the definition of terms or an above average emphasis on biblical exposition.

Another multi-meaning concept was "conservative" in Question 8. Since "liberal" and "conservative" are relative terms and no definitions were included in the form, even pastors of the same

educational background might vary in their use of them. No indication was made as to whether the term "conservative" referred to a position on social or theological matters. The decision was made to use only "more conservative" and "less conservative" and to allow the respondent to set his own reference points.

Only the term "supportive" in Question 6 was defined. It was assumed that sermon topics, such as beliefs, social evils, evangelism, and christian growth were self-explanatory. In retrospect, this may not have been an accurate assumption.

The upward bias of the pastors in the sample must be kept in mind. Many of the findings probably reflect that they are better-educated men in larger churches and communities. However, they may compare very favorably with pastors in a more urban state than Louisiana. In all fairness, the pastors with less education from smaller churches are the ones most involved in outside work and/or school. They may have had limited time to complete even a short questionnaire.

Some pastors in the state may have questioned the intent or use of the research project. Some may have felt that the questions were too personal or required too much effort and time. Yet the questions were carefully devised to give the pastor freedom to express himself without reservation. It might be more effective in future surveys of this nature to omit the name of the

pastor and the church and ask only for the size of the church membership. This observation is prompted by the fact that several inventories were returned filled out but with the name of the church and pastor left blank.

In summary, the strength of this project is that it involves a reasonably in-depth view of a proportionately large sample of ministers. Any bias that occurs in the nature of the sample was not due to the research design. The same anonymity and follow-up was assured every pastor in the state.

After careful evaluation of the findings of this study, the authors feel that several areas of the ministry of the Southern Baptist pastor demand more intensive investigation. One of these is the study of any differences in the ministries of pastors educated in state and church-related schools. Also of interest would be the effects of particular undergraduate fields of study on the subsequent preaching ministry and community involvement of the pastor.

Further probing into Biblical preaching might indicate a predominance of either Old or New Testament focus, but more accurate conclusions might be reached by asking for specific sermon titles, outlines, and scripture passages for a sample month of sermons. A question relative to the nature of special occasion messages (funerals, holidays, banquets, and prayer services)

could add another dimension to the findings of this report on sermon content.

More research is suggested in the area of community leadership, not just membership in specific organizations. Active involvement on institutional boards, as well as holding office in organizations, needs to be isolated from nominal membership in various groups. In this study some relationship was hypothesized between a pastor's community involvement and his attitude regarding his church's participation in social action programs. However, the inventory did not define a social problem. A listing of certain types of community problems might elicit even more meaningful responses than this survey produced.

Some correlation may exist between the nature of the church's involvement in social action programs. In response to Question 7, many pastors in this sample listed internal problems as being most crucial; and in answering Question 9, they tended to be moderate in their desire for their church to be involved in social problems. Further corroboration is needed on this. Responses to the question on the church's most critical problem would probably vary considerably if a checklist of typical trouble spots were provided and pastors were asked to rank order the top two or three in their churches. The modal one checked on such a list might be quite different from the one that surfaced that particular

day on which the pastor received the questionnaire.

Very little has been done on the objective participation of Baptist churches in local community action programs. The inquiry into programs other than evangelistic (preaching) missions which have to do with community betterment, amelioration of problems of various age groups, preventive and counseling services would point up just how inward-facing our church ministries may be. Yet another dimension to such a study would be to discover any organized efforts to legislate or consolidate public opinion on issues such as gambling, corruption in public offices, state lotteries, child abuse, sexual and racial discrimination.

Studies have been done on the theological position of a pastor, but this study indicates that both a subjective and objective evaluation of the pastor's theological position would be useful in a comparison with his view of the convention's general trend to or from conservatism. Although size of community was a control variable in this study of the pastor's ministry, the type of community was not considered. To categorize communities, such as suburban, recreational, industrial, financial, educational, governmental or agricultural types, probably would produce interesting variations in the nature of a man's ministry.

The benefits that accrue from such a study as this are at least two-fold: (1) the cooperation of concerned pastors who

respond to such a research effort, and (2) the approach of "what is" rather than "what ought to be" in the ministry of the local pastor and his church. This type of report does not direct the pastor or church to any "approved" program or ministry.

APPENDIX A

PASTORAL INVENTORY

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ PARISH (County) \_\_\_\_\_ ASSOCIATION \_\_\_\_\_

AGE \_\_\_\_\_ Resident Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Average Sunday School Enrollment \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the approximate percentage of your ministry devoted to these various responsibilities?

Study/Sermon Preparation	_____
Pastoral care (visitation, etc)	_____
Administration, Meetings	_____
Other: _____	_____
Total	100%

2. If you were free to change your schedule, what would be your preferred time distribution?

Study/Sermon Preparation	_____
Pastoral care	_____
Administration, Meetings	_____
Other: _____	_____
Total	100%

3. Educational background: Total years of schooling \_\_\_\_\_  
 Degrees earned: \_\_\_\_\_  
 College attended: \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_  
 Seminary attended: \_\_\_\_\_ years \_\_\_\_\_

4. List your major community/civic organizations & activities: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Indicate, if "none") \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total hours spent per week \_\_\_\_\_

5. What approach do you usually use in sermon preparation? (Give %)

Biblical exposition	_____
Topical development	_____
Other: _____	_____
Total	100%

6. What subjects make up the bulk of your sermon content? (Give %)

Beliefs (doctrines)	_____
Social evils (problems)	_____
Evangelism	_____
Christian growth	_____
Supportive (loss, illness, death)	_____
Total	100%

7. What is the most critical problem your church faces? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Would you say that the average Southern Baptist seems more conservative than when you began your ministry?

More conservative	_____
About the same	_____
Less conservative	_____

9. Do you feel that your church should become involved in the social problems of its community?

A great deal	_____
Somewhat	_____
Very little	_____
Other: _____	_____

10. Record of your ministry:

Number of full-time pastorates	_____
Number of part-time pastorates	_____
Total years in the ministry	_____
Length of present pastorate	_____

TABLE 10

SUMMARY DATA ON FIFTEEN PASTORS RETURNING QUESTIONNAIRES  
AFTER DEADLINE FOR ANALYSIS

Average age (in years)	38.8	
Average resident membership	324.3	
Average Sunday School enrollment	217.1	
Average Number of years past high school	3.85	
Number reporting bachelor's degree or higher education	11	(73.3%)
Number attending New Orleans Seminary	8	(53.3%)
Average number of full-time pastorates	2.0	
Average of total years in the ministry	14.9	
Average number of years in current pastorate	4.3	

# The Sunday School Board

JAMES L. SULLIVAN, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER

June 22, 1973

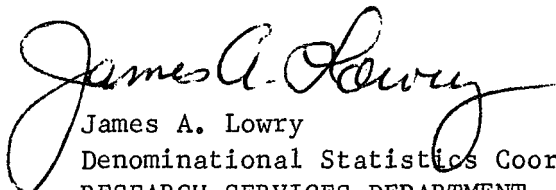
Dr. Sarah Frances Anders  
Sociology Department  
Box 817  
Louisiana College  
Pineville, Louisiana 71360

Dear Dr. Anders:

Mr. Bradley told me of his recent phone conversation with you and asked me to respond to your request for information on pastors education. Enclosed you will find estimates based on studies completed in the last two-three years and a brief explanation of the data.

If we can be of help in any other way, please let us know.

Cordially,

  
James A. Lowry  
Denominational Statistics Coordinator  
RESEARCH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

JAL:cad

Enclosure

Based on recent studies, the Research Services Department estimates that approximately:

2,500 Southern Baptist pastors have less than 12 years of education  
3,000 Have 12 years of education but no further training  
6,000 Have 13-15 years of education but no further training  
4,500 Have 16 years of education but no further training  
5,100 Have 17-18 years of education but no further training  
4,100 Have 19 years of education but no further training  
5,300 Have 20 or more years of education but no further training  
30,500

Based on the above data, the average years of schooling for pastors is 16.3 years.

This estimate is based on an analysis of data from seven studies completed in the last two-three years. The results of these studies were weighted to make them representative of the Southern Baptist Convention. All seven studies showed reasonably similar findings for education of pastor, thus creating a strong measure of confidence in the data. A slight downward education adjustment for nonresponse was made due to evidence that the lower the education level of a pastor, the less likely that he will respond to a survey.

# NEW ORLEANS BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

3939 GENTILLY BOULEVARD • NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA 70126

June 28, 1973



GRADY C. COTHEN, *President*

JAMES C. TAYLOR  
*Preaching*

Dr. James A. Young  
Chairman Department of Religion  
Louisiana College  
Pineville, LA 71360

Dear Dr. Young:

In connection with the survey made by you and another professor, I am happy to share some of my views related to Biblical Exposition and Topical preaching.

I was surprised to note that the percentage for Biblical Exposition was as high as it was. I doubt this would be true in general, though I could hope so. Of course this is to be evaluated in the light of the meaning of Biblical Exposition as understood by the one reporting. If the restricted view held by some authors in the field of homiletics is accepted, then the percentage is much too high. However, I feel that a broader view can be and is accepted by many. But even with the broader view I doubt that more than fifty percent of sermons preached would be classified as Biblical Exposition.

In my opinion, Biblical Exposition is on the rise in practice among preachers and is popularity among the hearers. I like this trend but believe there is still a place for the Topical Sermon at times.

Yours sincerely,

*James C. Taylor*  
James C. Taylor

APPENDIX B

TABLE 11

## SUMMARY OF CHI SQUARE TESTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Factors:	Chi Square	Degrees of Freedom	Significance*
<u>Years of Schooling of Pastor:</u>			
Actual Time in:			
Sermon Preparation	3.1	8	N.S.
Pastoral Care	23.76	8	.01
Administration	32.88	8	.001
Other duties	28.81	8	.001
Preferred Time in:			
Sermon Preparation	7.44	8	N.S.
Pastoral Care	222.41	6	.001
Administration	30.78	6	.001
Other duties	28.96	6	.001
Approach to sermons	12.85	8	N.S.
Major content of sermons	14.88	16	N.S.
Church's critical problem	17.56	18	N.S.
Participation in community activities	16.06	12	N.S.
Trend of the SBC	17.08	8	.05
Church's social action	5.02	6	N.S.
<u>Seminary Education or Not:</u>			
Actual Time in:			
Sermon Preparation	10.99	4	.05
Pastoral Care	5.13	4	N.S.
Administration	33.65	4	.001
Other duties	25.22	4	.001
Community activities	4.81	4	N.S.
Church's critical problem	17.23	4	N.S.
Church's social action	5.21	4	N.S.

\*N.S. = not significant; .05 = first & lowest level of significance;  
.001 = most significant levels of relationship.

SUMMARY OF CHI SQUARE TESTS (cont.)

<u>Factors:</u>	<u>Chi Square</u>	<u>Degrees of Freedom</u>	<u>Significance*</u>
<u>Seminary Attended:</u>			
Approach to sermons	4.50	15	N.S.
Major content of sermons	13.24	12	N.S.
Community activities	8.86	9	N.S.
Church's critical problem	35.31	18	.01
Church's social action	2.33	6	N.S.
Trend of the SBC	8.04	6	N.S.
<u>Years in the Ministry:</u>			
Pastor's years of schooling	30.12	20	N.S.
Major content of sermons	12.23	15	N.S.
Community activities	6.41	10	N.S.
Time spent in community activities	2.96	5	N.S.
Church's critical problem	24.32	20	N.S.
Trend of SBC	14.29	10	N.S.
<u>Resident Church Membership:</u>			
Actual Time in:			
Sermon preparation	43.39	12	.001
Administration	50.76	12	.001
Pastoral care	9.90	12	N.S.
Pastor's degrees	32.43	12	.01
Approach to sermons	6.68	12	N.S.
Major content of sermons	26.89	18	N.S.
Community activities	30.23	12	.01
Amount of time in community activities	16.69	18	N.S.
Church's critical problem	35.2	30	N.S.

SUMMARY OF CHI SQUARE TESTS (cont.)

<u>Factors:</u>	<u>Chi Square</u>	<u>Degrees of Freedom</u>	<u>Significance*</u>
<u>Size of Community:</u>			
Actual time in:			
Sermon preparation	27.47	8	.001
Administration	31.23	8	.001
Pastoral care	10.50	8	N.S.
Pastor's years of schooling	46.97	16	.001
Approach to sermons	5.47	8	.001
Major content of sermons	15.56	16	N.S.
Church's critical problem	30.29	24	N.S.
Church's social action	4.00	6	N.S.
Trend of SBC	51.88	8	.001

TABLE 12

EDUCATION OF PASTOR:  
Time Spent in Study and Sermon Preparation

% of time	Number of Years Past High School					Totals
	1-3	4	5-7	8-9	10+	
10%	12	10	27	13	8	70
20%	22	19	68	26	18	153
30+%	30	25	75	34	13	177
Totals	64	54	170	73	39	400

TABLE 13

EDUCATION OF PASTOR:  
Time Spent in Pastoral Care

% of time	Number of Years Past High School					Totals
	1-3	4	5-7	8-9	10+	
10%	7	3	6	9	0	25
20%	9	18	27	13	12	79
30+%	48	33	138	49	28	296
Totals	64	54	171	71	40	400

TABLE 14

EDUCATION OF PASTOR  
Time Spent in Administrative Duties

% of time	Number of Years Past High School					Totals
	1-3	4	5-7	8-9	10+	
10%	29	26	56	17	6	134
20%	18	18	59	23	17	135
30+%	7	7	49	31	16	110
Totals	54	51	164	71	39	379

TABLE 15

EDUCATION OF PASTOR:  
Time Spent in Other Duties

% of time	Number of Years Past High School					Totals
	1-3	4	5-7	8-9	10+	
10%	15	9	51	26	9	110
20%	4	4	21	10	6	45
30+%	17	14	12	8	2	53
Totals	36	27	84	44	17	208

TABLE 16

EDUCATION OF PASTOR:  
Preferred Time Spent in Study and Sermon Preparation

% of time	Number of Years Past High School				Totals
	1-3	4	5-6	7+	
10%	12	10	17	31	70
20%	22	19	20	92	153
30+%	30	25	35	87	177
Totals	64	54	72	210	400

TABLE 17

EDUCATION OF PASTOR:  
Preferred Time Spent in Pastoral Care

% of time	Number of Years Past High School				Totals
	1-3	4	5-6	7+	
10%	7	3	59	10	79
20%	9	18	9	45	81
30+%	48	33	5	156	242
Totals	64	54	73	211	402

TABLE 18

EDUCATION OF PASTOR:  
Preferred Time Spent in Administrative Duties

% of time	Number of Years Past High School				Totals
	1-3	4	5-6	7+	
10%	29	26	28	51	134
20%	19	18	20	79	136
30+%	7	7	19	77	110
Totals	55	51	67	207	380

TABLE 19

EDUCATION OF PASTOR:  
Preferred Time Spent in Other Duties

% of time	Number of Years Past High School				Totals
	1-3	4	5-6	7+	
10%	15	9	16	68	108
20%	4	4	10	28	46
30+%	17	14	7	15	53
Totals	36	27	33	111	207

TABLE 20

EDUCATION OF PASTOR:  
Type and Extent of Community Activities

Type of Activity	Number of Years Past High School					Totals
	1-3	4	5-7	8-9	10+	
Civic	18	18	65	36	23	160
Political	0	0	2	2	0	4
Social Activities	0	2	23	5	7	37
Social/Fraternal	5	5	15	12	3	40
Totals	23	25	105	55	33	241

TABLE 21

EDUCATION OF PASTOR:  
Approach to Sermon Preparation

Type of Sermon Preparation	Number of Years Past High School					Totals
	1-3	4	5-7	8-9	10+	
Biblical Exposition	35	27	115	54	23	254
Topical Development	14	14	29	9	5	71
Other	15	11	27	9	10	72
Totals	64	52	171	72	38	397

TABLE 22  
EDUCATION OF PASTOR:  
Sermon Content

Sermon Content	Number of Years Past High School					Totals
	1-3	4	5-7	8-9	10+	
Beliefs	19	17	51	19	12	118
Social Evils	3	1	3	4	2	13
Evangelism	29	18	78	23	13	161
Christian Growth	15	18	42	25	13	113
Supportive	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	66	54	174	71	40	405

TABLE 23  
EDUCATION OF PASTOR:  
Church's Critical Problem

Church's Critical Problem	Number of Years Past High School				Totals
	1-3	4	5-6	7+	
Financial	3	1	9	13	26
Theological Difficulty	2	0	0	3	5
Personal Confrontation	1	3	3	7	14
Attitudes	25	15	20	80	140
Social Problems	4	4	4	11	23
Outreach	12	11	10	37	70
Others	16	18	24	50	108
Totals	63	52	70	201	386

TABLE 24

EDUCATION OF PASTOR:  
Evaluation of Southern Baptist Status

Status	Number of Years Past High School					Totals
	1-3	4	5-7	8-9	10+	
More Conservative	2	10	16	3	2	33
Same	29	14	62	28	9	142
Less Conservative	35	30	95	40	28	228
Totals	66	54	173	71	39	403

TABLE 25

EDUCATION OF PASTOR:  
Need for Church in Social Action

Social Action	Number of Years Past High School				Totals
	1-3	4	5-6	7+	
Great Deal	25	17	22	66	130
Somewhat	30	29	38	122	219
Very Little	7	6	9	14	36
Totals	62	52	69	202	385

TABLE 26

SEMINARY EDUCATION:  
Time Spent in Study and Sermon Preparation

% of time	Some Seminary	Seminary Degree	No Seminary	Totals
	5-6 years	7+ years		
10%	22	29	24	75
20%	29	91	46	166
30+%	47	81	74	202
Totals	98	201	144	443

TABLE 27

SEMINARY EDUCATION:  
Time Spent in Pastoral Care

% of time	Some Seminary	Seminary Degree	No Seminary	Totals
	5-6 years	7+ years		
10%	7	9	14	30
20%	16	40	32	88
30+%	76	153	100	329
Totals	99	202	146	447

TABLE 28

SEMINARY EDUCATION:  
Time Spent in Administrative Duties

% of time	Some Seminary	Seminary Degree	No Seminary	Totals
	5-6 years	7+ years		
10%	39	48	64	151
20%	28	75	41	144
30+%	23	76	18	117
Totals	90	199	123	412

TABLE 29

SEMINARY EDUCATION:  
Time Spent in Other Duties

% of time	Some Seminary	Seminary Degree	No Seminary	Totals
	5-6 years	7+ years		
10%	22	68	26	116
20%	12	27	15	54
30+%	16	12	31	59
Totals	50	107	72	229

TABLE 30

SEMINARY EDUCATION:  
Type and Extent of Community Activities

Type of Activities	Some Seminary	Seminary Degree	No Seminary	Totals
	5-6 years	7+ years		
Civic	34	94	44	172
Political	1	2	1	4
Social Activities	4	28	6	38
Social/ Fraternal	7	26	11	44
Totals	46	150	62	258

TABLE 31

SEMINARY EDUCATION:  
Sermon Content

Sermon Content	Some Seminary	Seminary Degree	No Seminary	Totals
	5-6 years	7+ years		
Beliefs	31	59	43	133
Social Evils	3	18	18	39
Evangelism	54	106	90	250
Christian Growth	44	103	58	205
Supportive	2	7	6	15
Totals	134	293	215	642

TABLE 32

SEMINARY EDUCATION:  
Church's Critical Problem

Church's Critical Problem	Some Seminary	Seminary Degree	No Seminary	Totals
	5-6 years	7+ years		
Financial	10	13	6	29
Theological Difficulty	0	3	4	7
Personal Conflict	3	7	4	14
Attitudes	28	76	55	159
Social Problems	5	11	8	24
Outreach	14	33	34	81
Others	38	49	34	121
Totals	98	192	145	435

TABLE 33

SEMINARY EDUCATION:  
Need for Church in Social Action

Social Action	Some Seminary	Seminary Degree	No Seminary	Totals
	5-6 years	7+ years		
Great Deal	33	63	54	150
Somewhat	52	117	72	241
Very little	10	14	19	43
Totals	95	194	145	434

TABLE 34

SEMINARY ATTENDED BY PASTOR:  
Type and Extent of Community Activities

Community Activities	Seminary Attended				Totals
	New Orleans	Southwestern	Southern	Other	
Civic	79	25	11	12	127
Political	1	1	0	0	2
Social Action	13	5	0	2	20
Social/ Fraternal	12	0	0	1	13
Totals	105	31	11	15	162

TABLE 35

SEMINARY ATTENDED BY PASTOR:  
Approach to Sermon Preparation

Sermon Preparation	Seminary Attended				Totals
	New Orleans	Southwestern	Southern	Other	
Biblical	164	50	9	23	246
Topical	32	6	2	9	49
Totals	196	56	11	32	295

TABLE 36

SEMINARY ATTENDED BY PASTOR:  
Sermon Content

Sermon Content	Seminary Attended				Totals
	New Orleans	Southwestern	Southern	Other	
Beliefs	63	18	1	7	89
Social Evils	14	5	0	3	22
Evangelism	104	32	4	20	160
Christian Growth	100	25	11	10	146
Supportive	6	2	0	1	9
Totals	287	82	16	41	426

TABLE 37

SEMINARY ATTENDED BY PASTOR:  
Church's Critical Problem

Problems	Seminary Attended				Totals
	New Orleans	Southwestern	Southern	Other	
Financial	15	5	0	3	23
Theological Difficulty	2	0	0	1	3
Personal Confrontation	6	1	2	1	10
Attitudes	70	22	0	7	99
Social Problems	11	5	4	1	21
Outreach	29	10	3	5	47
Others	58	10	3	15	86
Totals	191	53	12	33	289

TABLE 38

SEMINARY ATTENDED BY PASTOR:  
Evaluation of Southern Baptist Status

Southern Baptist Status	Seminary Attended				Totals
	New Orleans	Southwestern	Southern	Other	
More Conservative	13	5	1	6	25
Same	81	17	4	9	111
Less Conservative	105	35	8	17	165
Totals	199	57	13	32	301

TABLE 39

SEMINARY ATTENDED BY PASTOR:  
Need for Church in Social Action

Social Action	Seminary Attended				Totals
	New Orleans	Southwestern	Southern	Other	
Great Deal	61	19	6	10	96
Somewhat	114	32	7	15	168
Very Little	16	5	0	3	24
Totals	191	56	13	28	288

TABLE 40

YEARS IN THE MINISTRY:  
Pastor's Education

Years past High School	Number of Years in Ministry						Totals
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25+	
1-3	15	10	11	10	8	11	65
4	4	8	12	6	13	11	54
5-7	19	20	27	27	40	41	174
8-9	6	7	15	10	17	16	71
10+	2	1	2	9	14	12	40
Totals	46	46	67	62	92	91	404

TABLE 41

YEARS IN THE MINISTRY:  
Type and Extent of Community Activities

Type of Activities	Number of Years in Ministry						Totals
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25+	
Civic	8	11	29	32	44	43	167
Political	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Social Activities	1	2	4	5	7	15	34
Social/ Fraternal	3	2	9	7	10	10	41
Totals	12	15	42	46	61	69	245

TABLE 42

YEARS IN THE MINISTRY:  
Hours Spent in Community Activities

hours per week	Number of Years in Ministry						Totals
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25+	
0-4	6	6	16	21	25	34	108
5-9	0	1	3	4	5	5	18
10-14	0	0	0	4	1	3	8
Totals	6	7	19	29	31	42	134

TABLE 43

YEARS IN THE MINISTRY:  
Sermon Content

Sermon Content	Number of Years in Ministry						Totals
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25+	
Beliefs	15	13	18	18	35	31	130
Social Evils	7	3	5	10	6	7	38
Evangelism	26	26	40	43	60	48	243
Christian Growth	28	30	33	31	41	38	201
Supportive	0	1	3	4	4	1	13
Totals	76	73	99	106	146	125	625

TABLE 44

YEARS IN THE MINISTRY  
Church's Critical Problem

Church's Critical Problem	Number of Years in Ministry						Totals
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25+	
Financial	2	3	7	3	9	4	28
Theological Difficulty	2	0	1	0	2	1	6
Personal Conflict	2	1	2	1	3	4	13
Attitudes	14	24	22	27	36	31	154
Social Problems	4	3	1	2	3	11	24
Outreach	14	7	13	15	15	17	81
Others	16	12	24	17	27	24	120
Totals	54	50	70	65	95	92	426

TABLE 45

YEARS IN THE MINISTRY:  
Evaluation of Southern Baptist Status

Status	Number of Years in Ministry						Totals
	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25+	
More Conservative	9	4	9	7	8	8	45
Same	23	20	32	20	37	27	159
Less Conservative	20	27	35	41	55	63	241
Totals	52	51	76	68	100	98	445

TABLE 46

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:  
Time Spent in Study and Sermon Preparation

% of time	Number of Church Members							Totals
	0-100	101-200	201-300	301-400	401-500	501-1000	1000+	
10%	13	17	12	8	6	8	13	77
20%	25	30	30	14	11	36	12	158
30+%	45	56	28	3	12	24	4	172
Totals	83	103	70	25	29	68	29	407

TABLE 47

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:  
Time Spent in Pastoral Care

% of time	Number of Church Members							Totals
	0-100	101-200	201-300	301-400	401-500	501-1000	1000+	
10%	11	7	4	2	1	3	1	29
20%	17	20	12	6	4	16	5	80
30+%	54	79	56	25	24	49	24	311
Totals	82	106	72	33	29	68	30	420

TABLE 48

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:  
Time Spent in Administrative Duties

% of time	Number of Church Members							Totals
	0-100	101-200	201-300	301-400	401-500	501-1000	1000+	
10%	32	41	31	15	10	8	5	142
20%	23	35	23	8	11	29	6	135
30+%	11	18	16	10	7	30	19	111
Totals	66	94	70	33	28	67	30	388

TABLE 49

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:  
Number of Degrees

# of Degrees	Number of Church Members							Totals
	0-100	101-200	201-300	301-400	401-500	501-1000	1000+	
1	19	34	15	12	4	8	5	97
2	16	30	29	11	12	35	20	153
3+	7	9	8	3	6	18	5	56
Totals	42	73	52	26	22	61	30	306

TABLE 50

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:  
Type and Extent of Community Activities

Type of Activities	Number of Church Members							Totals
	0-100	101-200	201-300	301-400	401-500	501-1000	1000+	
Civic	20	43	26	6	14	28	15	152
Political	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Social Activities	4	2	6	2	2	7	3	26
Social/ Fraternal	8	5	2	7	1	4	0	27
Totals	32	50	35	16	17	39	18	207

TABLE 51

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:  
Hours Spent in Community Activities

Hours per week	Number of Church Members							Totals
	0-100	101-200	201-300	301-400	401-500	501-1000	1000+	
1	7	8	3	1	2	6	3	30
2	10	8	8	5	4	12	3	50
3	2	1	5	0	1	4	1	14
4+	3	12	9	2	3	4	3	36
Totals	22	29	25	8	10	26	10	130

TABLE 52

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:  
Approach to Sermon Preparation

Approach	Number of Church Members							Totals
	0-100	101-200	201-300	301-400	401-500	501-1000	1000+	
Biblical	57	66	43	16	18	45	21	266
Topical	15	21	13	7	5	11	5	77
Both	11	20	14	9	4	9	4	71
Totals	83	107	70	32	27	65	30	414

TABLE 53

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:  
Sermon Content

Sermon Content	Number of Church Members							Totals
	0-100	101-200	201-300	301-400	401-500	501-1000	1000+	
Beliefs	29	35	24	7	5	20	2	122
Social Evils	5	5	2	0	3	0	1	16
Evangelism	29	48	25	16	14	26	17	175
Christian Growth	27	22	21	9	5	22	9	115
Totals	90	110	72	32	27	68	29	428

TABLE 54

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:  
Church's Critical Problem

Church's Critical Problem	Number of Church Members						Totals
	0-100	101-200	201-300	301-500	501-1000	1000+	
Financial	3	4	8	3	5	4	27
Theological Difficulty	2	3	1	1	0	0	7
Personal Conflict	4	0	3	3	4	0	14
Attitudes	25	45	20	23	24	12	149
Social Problems	8	7	0	2	2	3	22
Outreach	15	18	15	13	10	4	75
Others	28	32	19	12	19	4	114
Totals	85	109	66	57	64	27	408

TABLE 55

SIZE OF COMMUNITY:  
Time Spent in Study and Sermon Preparation

% of time	Number in Community					Totals
	0- 2,499	2,500- 9,999	10,000- 24,999	25,000- 49,999	50,000+	
10%	41	6	8	8	12	75
20%	66	47	22	6	22	163
30%+	93	44	21	2	34	194
Totals	200	97	51	16	68	432

TABLE 56

SIZE OF COMMUNITY:  
Time Spent in Pastoral Care

% of time	Number in Community					Totals
	0- 2,499	2,500- 9,999	10,000- 24,999	25,000- 49,999	50,000	
10%	17	8	0	1	4	30
20%	39	13	11	6	15	84
30%+	149	76	39	9	49	322
Totals	205	97	50	16	68	436

TABLE 57

SIZE OF COMMUNITY:  
Time Spent in Administrative Duties

% of time	Number in Community					Totals
	0- 2,499	2,500- 9,999	10,000- 24,999	25,000- 49,999	50,000+	
10%	41	6	8	8	12	75
20%	66	47	22	6	22	163
30+%	93	44	21	2	34	194
Totals	200	97	51	16	68	432

TABLE 58

SIZE OF COMMUNITY:  
Time Spent in Pastoral Care

% of time	Number in Community					Totals
	0- 2,499	2,500- 9,999	10,000- 24,999	25,000- 49,999	50,000+	
10%	17	8	0	1	4	30
20%	39	13	11	6	15	84
30+%	149	76	39	9	49	322
Totals	205	97	50	16	68	436

TABLE 59

SIZE OF COMMUNITY:  
Type and Extent of Community Activities

Type of Activities	Number in Community					Totals
	0- 2,499	2,500 9,999	10,000 24,999	25,000- 49,999	50,000+	
Civic	76	42	24	3	24	169
Political	2	1	0	0	1	4
Social Activities	15	11	3	1	8	38
Social/ Fraternal	23	13	4	0	5	45
Totals	116	67	31	4	38	256

TABLE 60

SIZE OF COMMUNITY:  
Approach to Sermon Preparation

Approach	Number in Community					Totals
	0- 2,499	2,500- 9,999	10,000- 24,999	25,000- 49,999	50,000+	
Biblical	124	66	34	8	46	278
Topical	43	14	7	4	10	78
Both	37	14	9	4	11	75
Totals	204	94	50	16	67	431

TABLE 61

SIZE OF COMMUNITY:  
Sermon Content

Sermon Content	Number in Community					Totals
	0- 2,499	2,500- 9,999	10,000- 24,999	25,000- 49,999	50,000+	
Beliefs	65	22	18	1	19	125
Social Problems	20	7	2	9	7	39
Evangelism	109	59	22	9	40	239
Christian Growth	97	39	24	4	32	196
Supportive	5	3	2	0	4	14
Totals	296	130	68	17	102	613

TABLE 62

SIZE OF COMMUNITY:  
Church's Most Critical Problem

Church's Critical Problem	Number in Community					Totals
	0- 2,499	2,500- 9,999	10,000- 24,999	25,000- 49,999	50,000+	
Financial	7	6	4	3	9	29
Theological Difficulty	3	2	2	0	0	7
Personal Conflict	7	5	0	1	1	14
Attitudes	76	31	21	4	23	155
Social Problems	16	3	1	0	4	24
Outreach	33	19	8	3	15	78
Others	60	29	13	3	12	117
Totals	202	95	49	14	64	424

TABLE 63

SIZE OF COMMUNITY:  
Evaluation of Southern Baptist Status

Status	Number in Community					Totals
	0- 2,499	2,500- 9,999	10,000- 24,999	25,000- 49,999	50,000+	
More Conserva- tive	66	9	4	1	4	84
Same	66	41	14	2	26	149
Less Conserva- tive	78	47	34	13	38	210
Totals	210	97	52	16	68	443