

Membership Poll Data by Jurisdiction

May-June 2014

Methodology & Study Details

Sample: United Methodist members

- Sample source: Outside consumer research panel maintained by ResearchNow
- Data weighted to reflect number of members by jurisdiction
- Sample screening:
 - Two separate questions to identify United Methodists
 - Eliminated pastors, retired pastors, local church paid staff, AC/District/Agency paid staff
- 509 completed surveys
- Field dates: May 30-June 1, 2014
- Method of contact: Online

Survey Invitation

The United Methodist Church is conducting a study to enable a better understanding of the thoughts, feelings and opinions of members and leaders like you regarding various issues facing the church today. Your participation is very important to the church. Please take a few minutes to fill out the following online questionnaire. The survey will take about 10 minutes of your time and participation is very important to the church. All responses will remain confidential.

(Q. 1: Screening question only)

Q. 2: Most Important Issue Church is Facing Today

	Total	NC	NE	SC	SE	W
Creating disciples of Christ	24	23	21	30	22	26
Members' spiritual growth	15	12	10	13	21	9
Youth involvement	11	20	11	8	9	9
Decline in membership	11	12	11	11	11	14
Children at risk	8	6	10	8	7	7
Social injustice	7	5	9	8	7	7
Poverty	7	5	6	10	7	5
Sexual orientation and same-sex marriage	6	6	3	8	5	10
Structure of the UMC	3	3	6	0	4	3
Economic inequality	3	4	6	0	4	3
Women and minorities in UMC	3	2	3	3	2	2
Racism	2	2	2	1	2	3
Immigration reform	1	3	1	0	2	1

Q2: The church is involved in many areas and issues in today's life. Please review the list below and select the one that is most important to you.

Q. 3: Second Most Important Issue Church is Facing Today

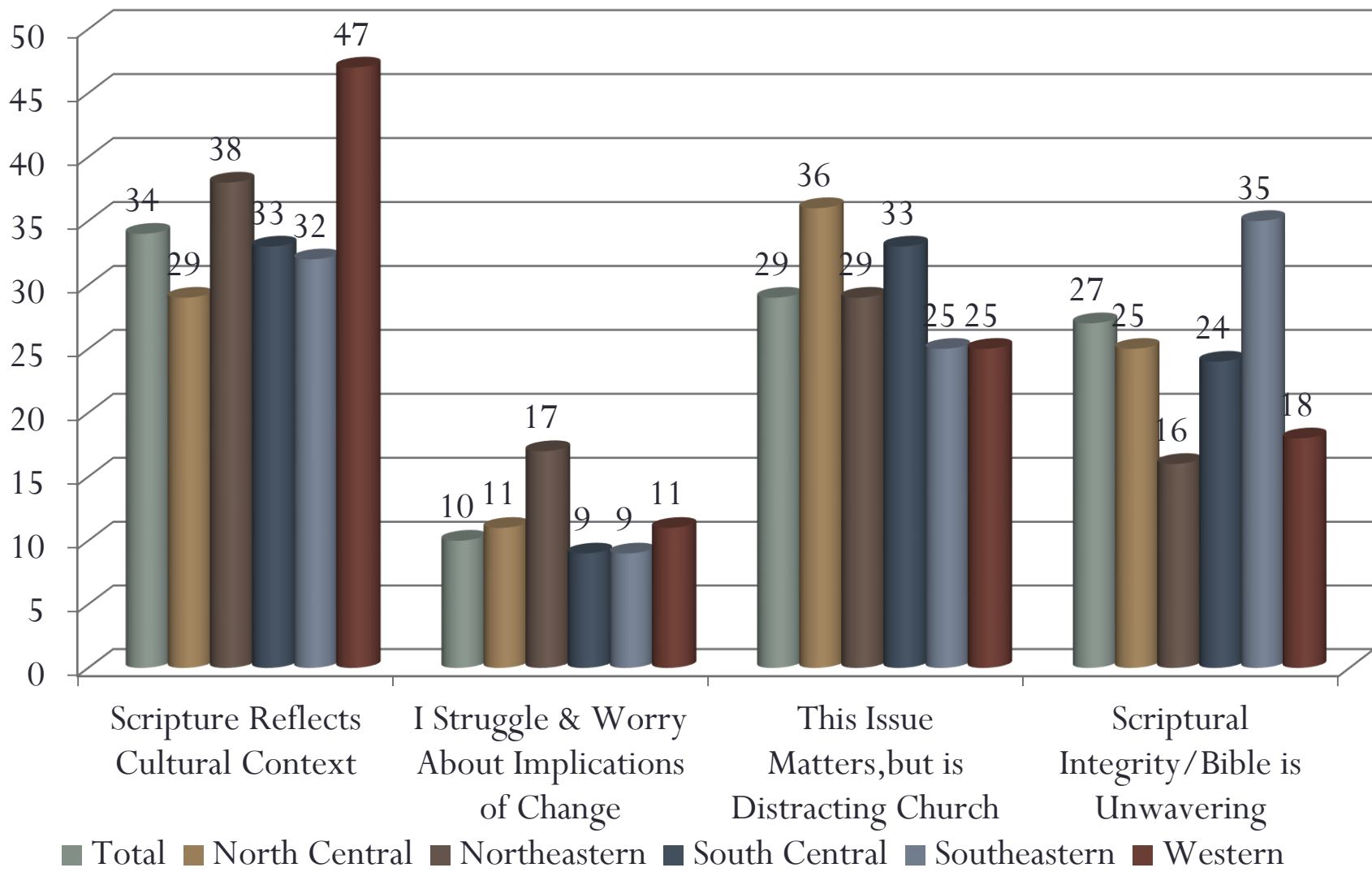
	Total	NC	NE	SC	SE	W
Creating disciples of Christ	15	14	15	14	17	11
Members' spiritual growth	11	9	9	17	10	7
Youth involvement	17	18	17	17	15	18
Decline in membership	8	14	7	3	9	11
Children at risk	9	9	9	11	8	9
Social injustice	9	10	9	6	12	9
Poverty	10	7	15	9	9	9
Sexual orientation and same-sex marriage	5	5	5	2	7	5
Structure of the UMC	5	5	8	6	3	6
Economic inequality	4	5	5	3	5	3
Women and minorities in UMC	2	2	2	4	2	2
Racism	2	2	0	3	2	3
Immigration reform	3	1	1	4	2	7

Q3: Again, looking at the same list, which is your second most important?

Q. 4: Answer Key (Attitudinal Statements)

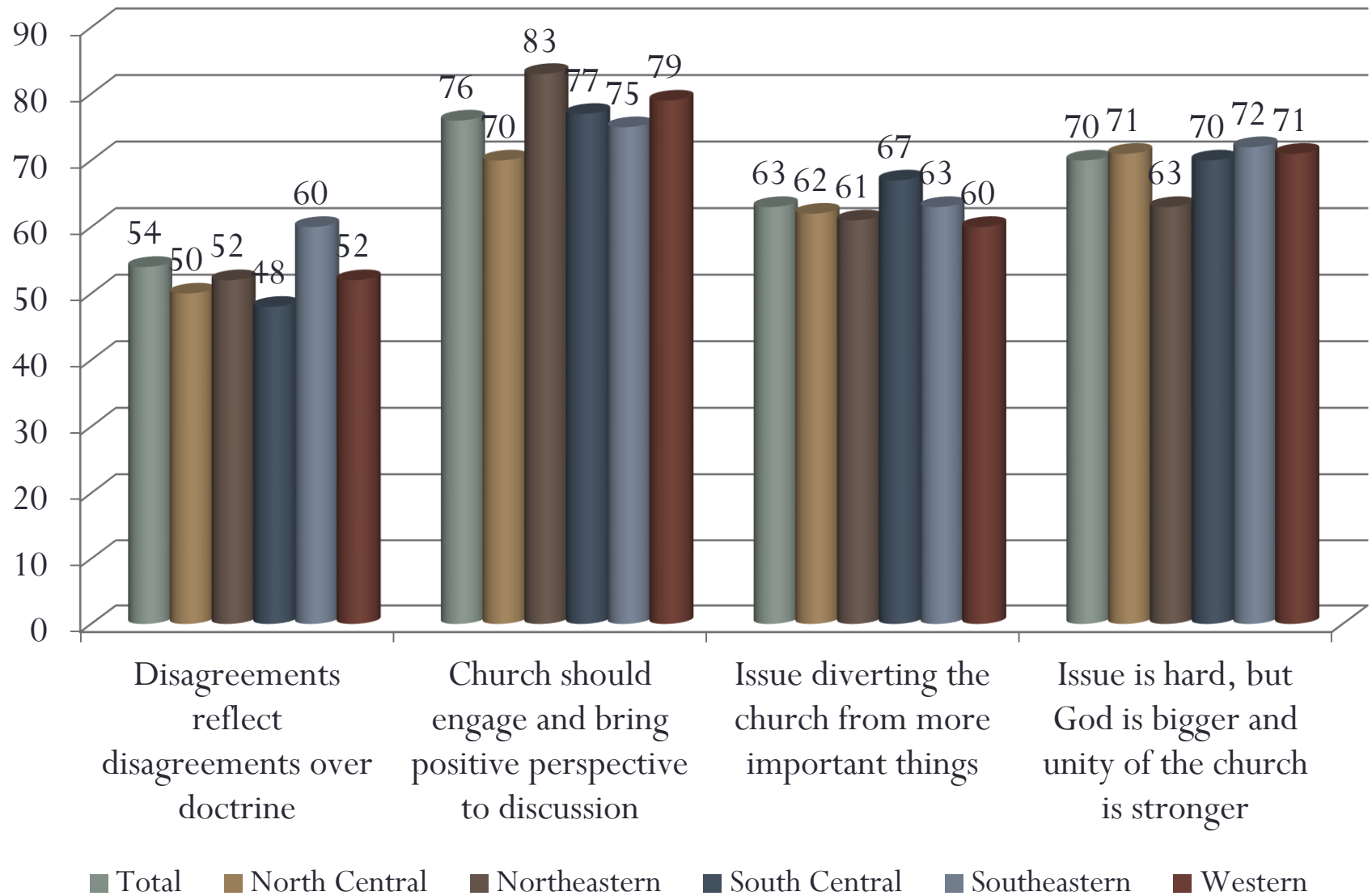
- A. **Scripture Reflects Cultural Context** - Scripture related to homosexuality, as scripture related to slavery or the subordination of women, reflects the cultural context of the time it was written. God's love calls us to affirm Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgendered (LGBT) people and offer them full inclusion in our church.
- B. **Struggle & Worry About Implications of Change** - I struggle with this issue because I know gay people who would be good church leaders or are in loving committed relationships, but I also worry about the implications of changing the doctrine of the church.
- C. **This Issue Matters, but is Distracting Church** - I know this issue matters, but I am more concerned about the anger and judgment that often surrounds these debates and how this issue is dividing our church and distracting us from focusing on what the church should be doing.
- D. **Scriptural Integrity/Bible is Unwavering** - This is an issue of scriptural integrity and whether we believe the Bible is truly God's word. The Bible is unwavering in its teaching about homosexuality and marriage, and we cannot just ignore parts we do not like or think might become unpopular.

Q. 4: Which most closely reflects how you feel about sexual orientation and same-sex marriage as topics at the upcoming GC?



Q4. Sexual orientation and same-sex marriage will be topics at the upcoming General Conference. Which of the following phrases **most closely** reflects how you feel?

Q. 5: Thinking about sexual orientation and same-sex marriage, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? (% Strongly Agree/Agree)



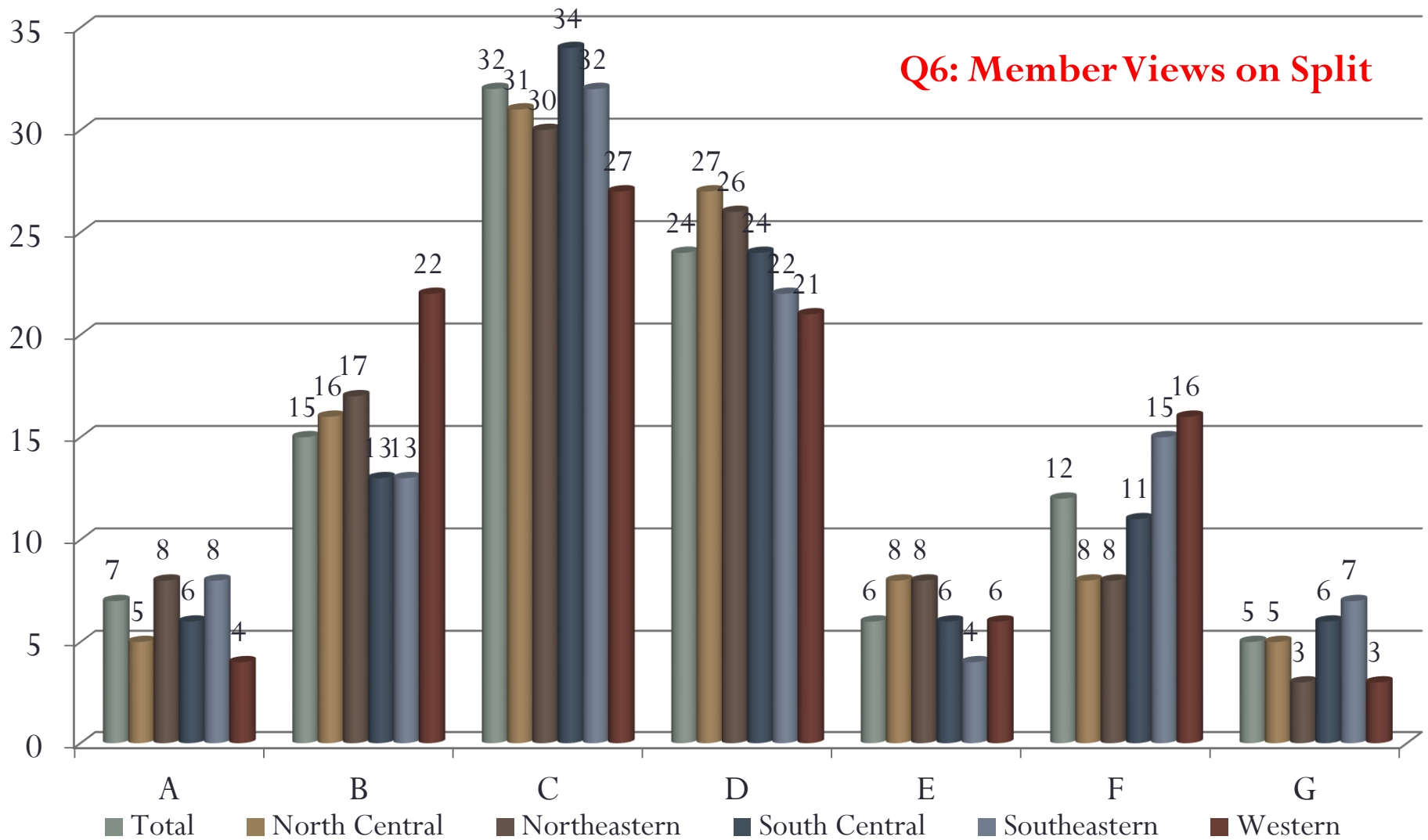
Q5. Thinking about sexual orientation and same-sex marriage, how much do you agree with each of the following statements?

Q. 6: Answer Key (Attitudinal Statements)

“A” is most Progressive.....”G” is most Traditional.

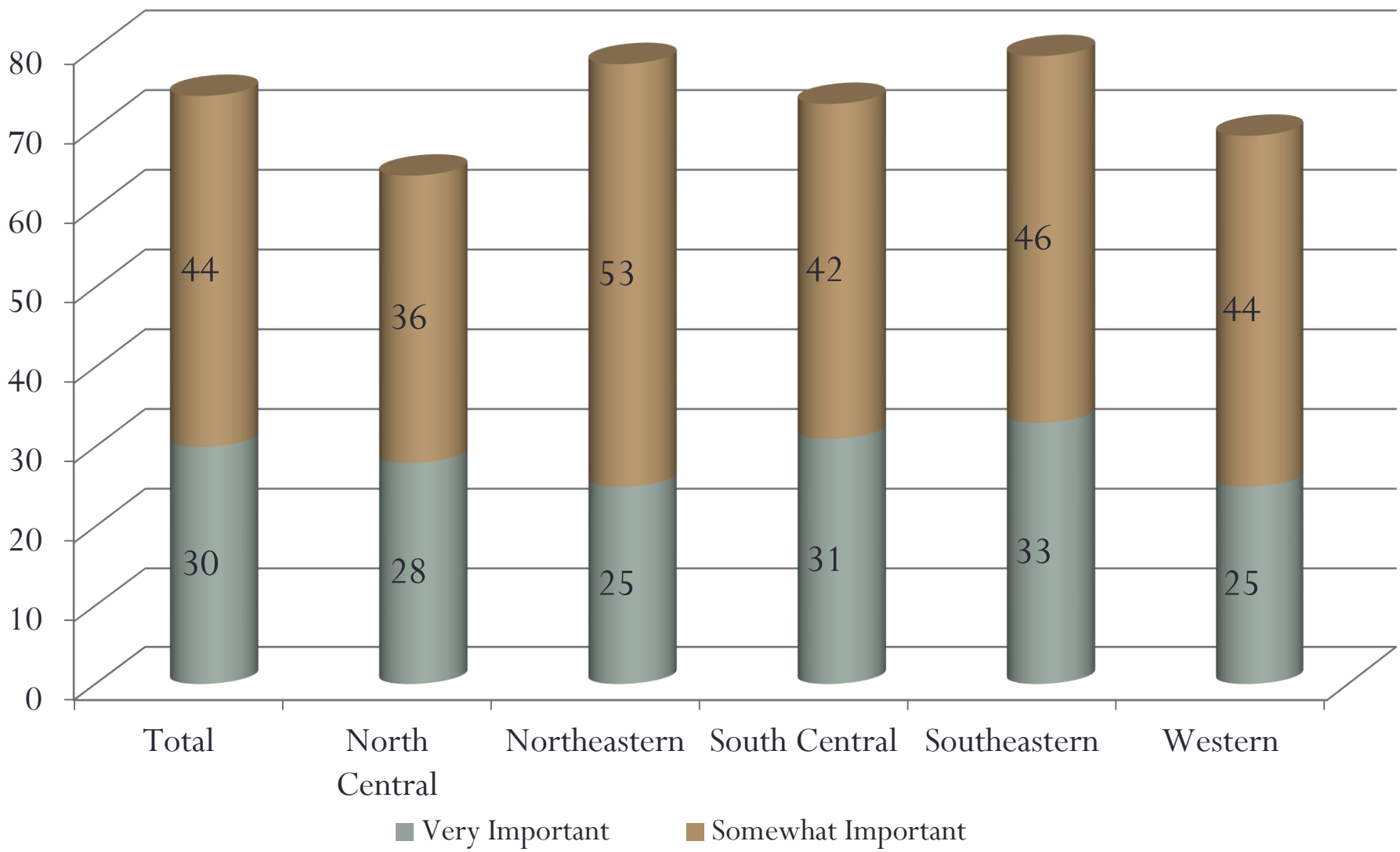
- A. These issues are the most important issues facing the church. If the church does not change its position on these issues, it should split.
- B. I support changes in the church’s positions; however, I do not feel these issues are big enough to warrant a split.
- C. These issues are important; however, there are other important issues. The church should not split because of disagreements over these issues.
- D. I have mixed feelings on these issues and can see both sides. These issues should not divide the church.
- E. These issues are not important to me and I do not understand why the church is spending so much time talking about them.
- F. I do not support changes in the church’s positions and I do not think these issues are big enough to warrant a split.
- G. Making changes to the church’s positions on these issues is indefensible and I would support a split if this happened.

Q. 6: The disagreements over sexual orientation and same-sex marriage have led several leaders to suggest the UMC should split into two or more denominations. Which of the following statements most closely aligns with your views?



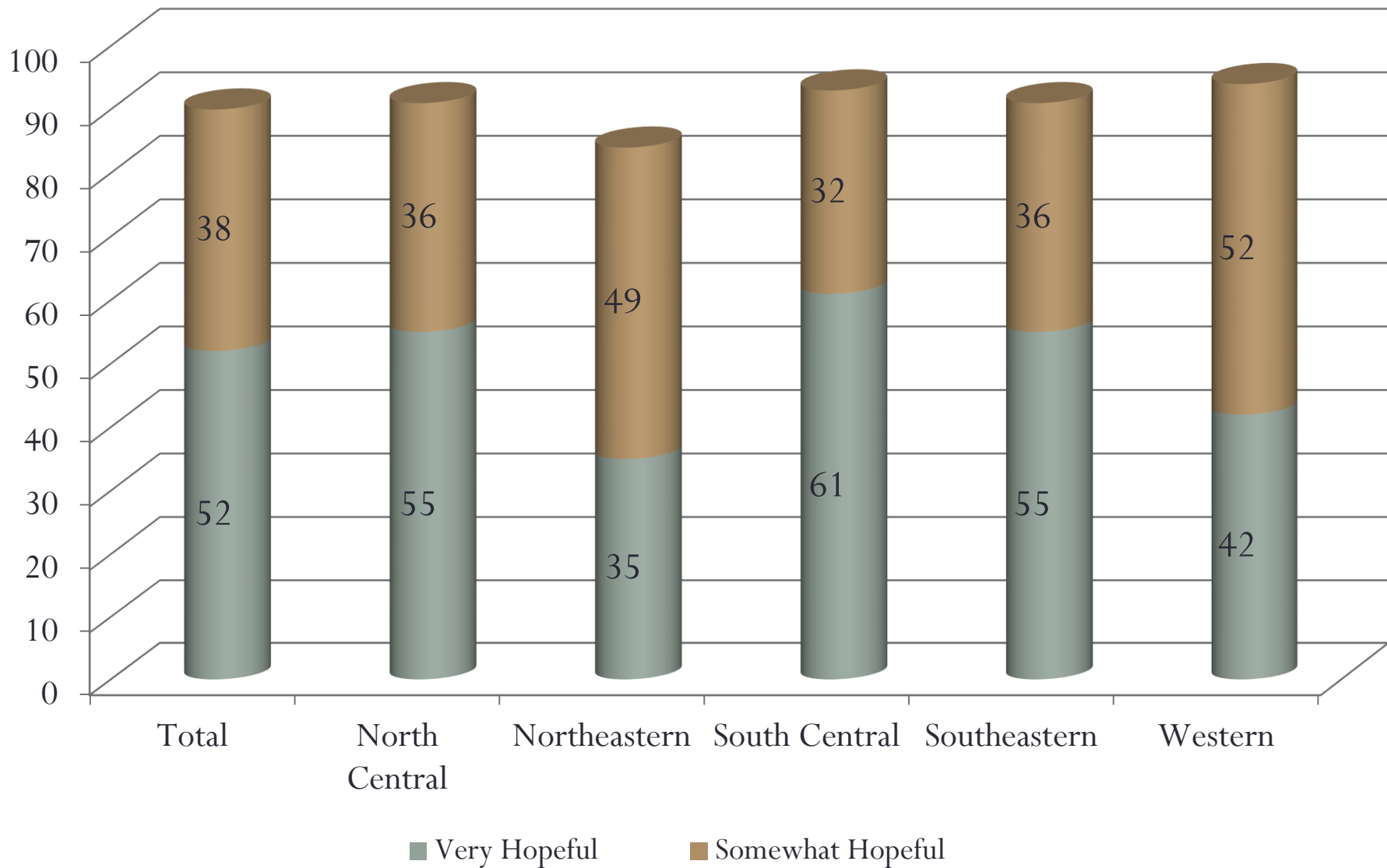
Q6. The disagreements over sexual orientation and same-sex marriage have led several leaders to suggest that The United Methodist Church should split into two or more separate denominations. Which of the following statements **most closely** aligns with your views?

Q. 7: How important to you is it that The United Methodist Church come to an agreement on the issues of sexual orientation and same-sex marriage at the next General Conference? (% very or somewhat important)

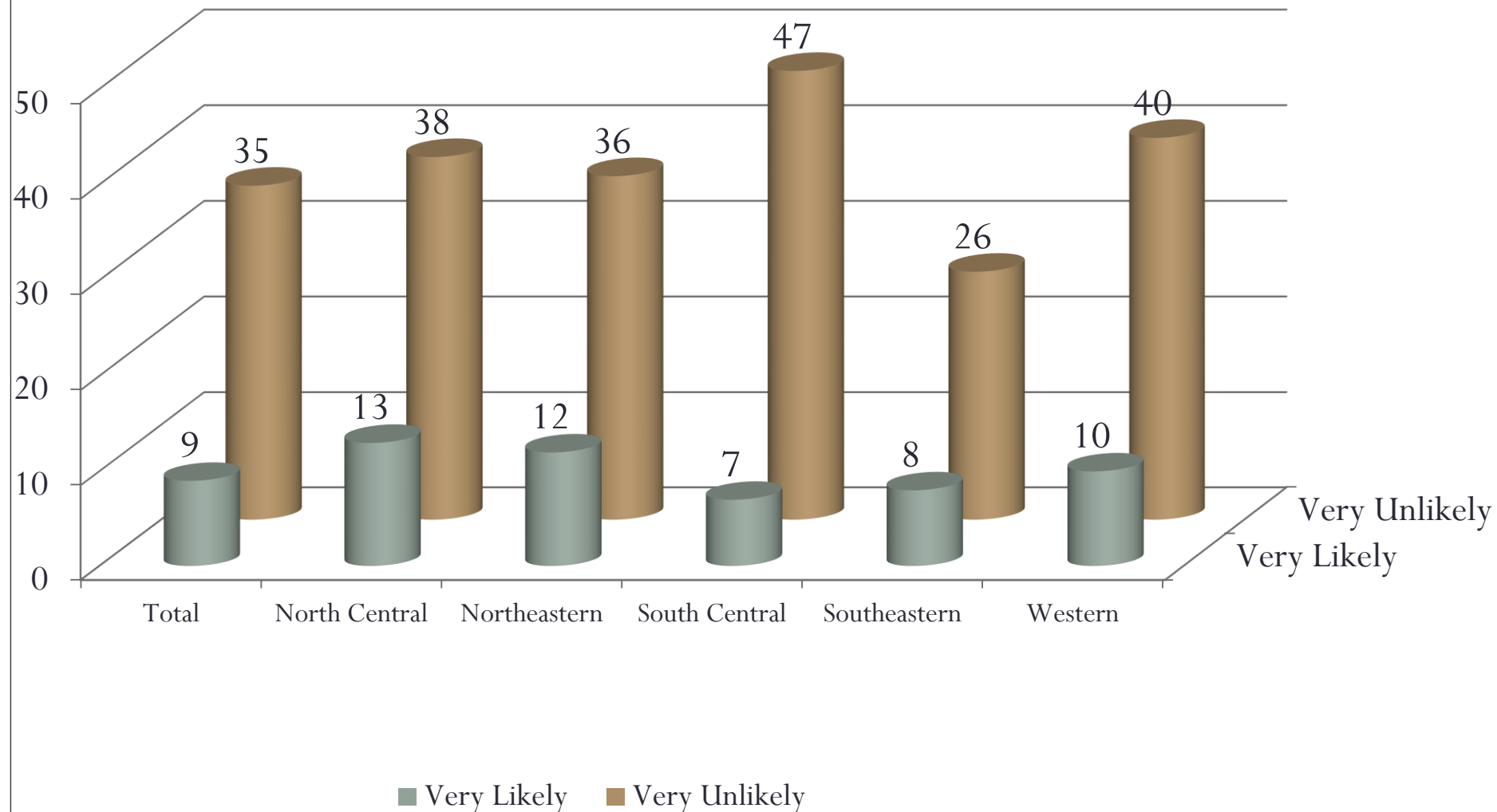


Q7. How important to you is it that The United Methodist Church come to an agreement on the issues of sexual orientation and same-sex marriage at the next General Conference?

Q. 8: How hopeful are you for the future of the United Methodist denomination?



Q. 9: How likely is it that you would leave The United Methodist Church if The General Conference does not support your views on the issues of sexual orientation and same-sex marriage?



Q9. How likely is it that you would leave The United Methodist Church if the General Conference does not support your views on the issues of sexual orientation and same-sex marriage?