

January 25, 2016

Poll: Americans Overwhelmingly Oppose United Methodist Decision to Ban Intelligent Design Group

According to a new poll, a super-majority of Americans oppose the decision of United Methodist Church (UMC) officials to ban the pro-intelligent design Discovery Institute from sponsoring an information table at the UMC's upcoming General Conference in May 2016. An even greater majority believes that the UMC's ban contradicts its stated commitment to "open hearts, open minds, open doors." Intelligent design is the idea that life and the universe show evidence of being the result of purposeful design rather than unguided processes.

More than 70% of the 1,946 respondents to the nationwide survey agreed that "the United Methodist Church should not have banned an intelligent design group from renting an information table at its conference." More than 78% of respondents agreed that "the United Methodist Church's ban on the intelligent design group seems inconsistent with the Church's stated commitment to encourage 'open hearts, open minds, open doors.'"

Opposition to the UMC's ban on intelligent design cuts across party affiliation, age, income, and region. Seventy-seven percent of Republicans oppose the UMC action, but so do 70% of Independents and nearly two-thirds (65%) of Democrats. Seventy percent of both men and women oppose the decision, and so do more than two-thirds of every age group, with the highest level of opposition by age coming from 18-29 year-olds, 74% of whom oppose the UMC action.

Survey Methodology

The poll was conducted by Discovery Institute using SurveyMonkey Audience, which randomly sampled the adult members of its nationally representative panel of more than 6 million U.S. residents. Survey responses were collected from Jan. 5-9, 2016. SurveyMonkey Audience panelists are recruited from the 30+ million people who take SurveyMonkey surveys each month. Widely respected, the SurveyMonkey platform has been utilized for public opinion surveys by NBC News, the *Los Angeles Times*, and other media organizations. According to SurveyMonkey, "SurveyMonkey Audience respondents represent a diverse group of people and are reflective of the general population. However, as with most online sampling, respondents have Internet access and voluntarily joined a program to take surveys... We automatically balance results according to census data for age and gender, while location tends to balance out

naturally.” SurveyMonkey conducts “regular benchmarking surveys to ensure our members are representative of the U.S. population.” More information on how respondents are recruited for SurveyMonkey Audience is available here:

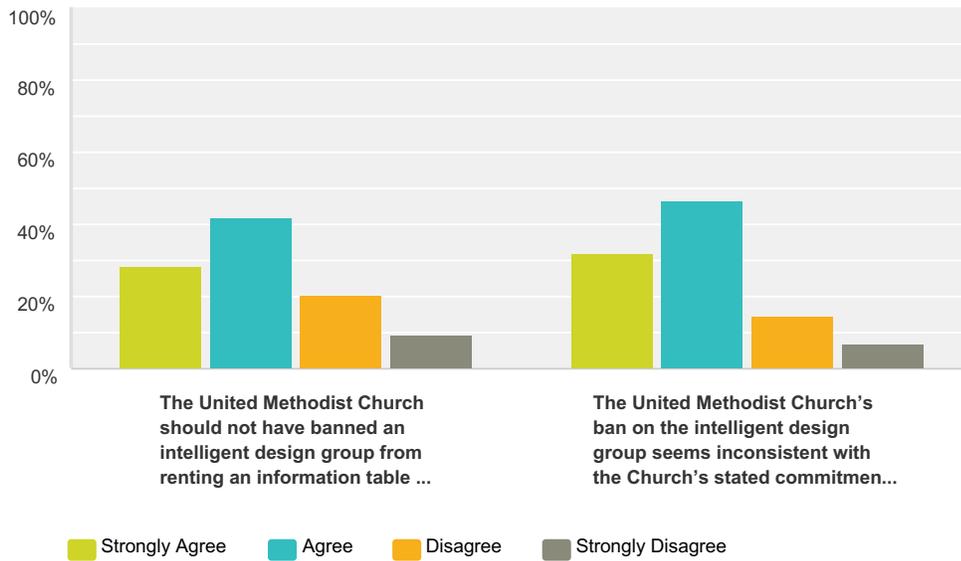
www.surveymonkey.com/mp/audience.

Survey Results

The following pages provide more detailed information about the survey results, including cross-tabulations comparing responses by age, gender, income, party affiliation, and region.

Q7 The United Methodist Church recently banned a group from renting an information table at the Church’s upcoming general conference because the group supports intelligent design—the idea that nature is the product of purposeful design rather than an unguided process. Some have criticized the ban as contrary to the United Methodist Church’s stated commitment to encourage “open hearts, open minds, open doors.” Rate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements:

Answered: 1,946 Skipped: 171



	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
The United Methodist Church should not have banned an intelligent design group from renting an information table at its conference.	28.26% 550	41.88% 815	20.50% 399	9.35% 182	1,946
The United Methodist Church’s ban on the intelligent design group seems inconsistent with the Church’s stated commitment to encourage “open hearts, open minds, open doors.”	31.81% 619	46.45% 904	14.75% 287	6.99% 136	1,946

Q7 The United Methodist Church recently banned a group from renting an information table at the Church’s upcoming general conference because the group supports intelligent design—the idea that nature is the product of purposeful design rather than an unguided process. Some have criticized the ban as contrary to the United Methodist Church’s stated commitment to encourage “open hearts, open minds, open doors.” Rate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements:

Answered: 1,932 Skipped: 0

The United Methodist Church should not have banned an intelligent design group from renting an information table at its conference.					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Q11: 18 - 29	30.90% 131	43.16% 183	20.05% 85	5.90% 25	21.95% 424
Q11: 30 - 44	28.29% 142	42.83% 215	18.53% 93	10.36% 52	25.98% 502
Q11: 45 - 59	27.84% 142	39.22% 200	23.14% 118	9.80% 50	26.40% 510
Q11: 60+	25.81% 128	42.94% 213	20.36% 101	10.89% 54	25.67% 496
The United Methodist Church’s ban on the intelligent design group seems inconsistent with the Church’s stated commitment to encourage “open hearts, open minds, open doors.”					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Q11: 18 - 29	38.92% 165	42.45% 180	12.74% 54	5.90% 25	21.95% 424
Q11: 30 - 44	30.48% 153	47.21% 237	15.54% 78	6.77% 34	25.98% 502
Q11: 45 - 59	30.39% 155	48.24% 246	14.90% 76	6.47% 33	26.40% 510
Q11: 60+	28.23% 140	47.98% 238	15.32% 76	8.47% 42	25.67% 496

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Answered: 1,932 Skipped: 0

The United Methodist Church should not have banned an intelligent design group from renting an information table at its conference.					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Q12: Female	26.48% 268	43.28% 438	21.44% 217	8.79% 89	52.38% 1,012
Q12: Male	29.89% 275	40.54% 373	19.57% 180	10.00% 92	47.62% 920
The United Methodist Church’s ban on the intelligent design group seems inconsistent with the Church’s stated commitment to encourage “open hearts, open minds, open doors.”					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Q12: Female	32.61% 330	46.44% 470	15.22% 154	5.73% 58	52.38% 1,012
Q12: Male	30.76% 283	46.85% 431	14.13% 130	8.26% 76	47.62% 920

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Answered: 1,671 Skipped: 0

The United Methodist Church should not have banned an intelligent design group from renting an information table at its conference.					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Q13: \$0 to \$9,999	30.60% 41	45.52% 61	17.91% 24	5.97% 8	8.02% 134
Q13: \$10,000 to \$24,999	33.33% 56	35.12% 59	24.40% 41	7.14% 12	10.05% 168
Q13: \$25,000 to \$49,999	36.26% 124	38.30% 131	17.54% 60	7.89% 27	20.47% 342
Q13: \$50,000 to \$74,999	26.71% 82	42.67% 131	21.17% 65	9.45% 29	18.37% 307
Q13: \$75,000 to \$99,999	24.60% 62	44.84% 113	20.63% 52	9.92% 25	15.08% 252
Q13: \$100,000 to \$124,999	22.04% 41	41.94% 78	24.19% 45	11.83% 22	11.13% 186
Q13: \$125,000 to \$149,999	26.04% 25	33.33% 32	32.29% 31	8.33% 8	5.75% 96
Q13: \$150,000 to \$174,999	33.93% 19	39.29% 22	12.50% 7	14.29% 8	3.35% 56
Q13: \$175,000 to \$199,999	15.00% 6	42.50% 17	20.00% 8	22.50% 9	2.39% 40
Q13: \$200,000 and up	23.33% 21	36.67% 33	22.22% 20	17.78% 16	5.39% 90
The United Methodist Church’s ban on the intelligent design group seems inconsistent with the Church’s stated commitment to encourage “open hearts, open minds, open doors.”					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Q13: \$0 to \$9,999	34.33% 46	50.00% 67	10.45% 14	5.22% 7	8.02% 134
Q13: \$10,000 to \$24,999	39.88% 67	42.26% 71	12.50% 21	5.36% 9	10.05% 168
Q13: \$25,000 to \$49,999	38.89% 133	42.40% 145	11.99% 41	6.73% 23	20.47% 342

2016 Science and Society Survey

Q13: \$50,000 to \$74,999	29.97% 92	46.91% 144	16.94% 52	6.19% 19	18.37% 307
Q13: \$75,000 to \$99,999	27.38% 69	49.21% 124	15.87% 40	7.54% 19	15.08% 252
Q13: \$100,000 to \$124,999	26.88% 50	48.39% 90	16.67% 31	8.06% 15	11.13% 186
Q13: \$125,000 to \$149,999	28.13% 27	37.50% 36	28.13% 27	6.25% 6	5.75% 96
Q13: \$150,000 to \$174,999	37.50% 21	46.43% 26	8.93% 5	7.14% 4	3.35% 56
Q13: \$175,000 to \$199,999	17.50% 7	55.00% 22	15.00% 6	12.50% 5	2.39% 40
Q13: \$200,000 and up	22.22% 20	46.67% 42	16.67% 15	14.44% 13	5.39% 90

Q7 The United Methodist Church recently banned a group from renting an information table at the Church’s upcoming general conference because the group supports intelligent design—the idea that nature is the product of purposeful design rather than an unguided process. Some have criticized the ban as contrary to the United Methodist Church’s stated commitment to encourage “open hearts, open minds, open doors.” Rate your level of agreement or disagreement with the following statements:

Answered: 1,935 Skipped: 0

The United Methodist Church should not have banned an intelligent design group from renting an information table at its conference.					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Q10: Independent	29.67% 208	40.94% 287	20.54% 144	8.84% 62	36.23% 701
Q10: Democrat	24.51% 138	40.50% 228	23.27% 131	11.72% 66	29.10% 563
Q10: Lean Democrat	23.33% 42	42.22% 76	25.56% 46	8.89% 16	9.30% 180
Q10: Republican	32.59% 103	43.35% 137	16.14% 51	7.91% 25	16.33% 316
Q10: Lean Republican	30.86% 54	48.00% 84	14.29% 25	6.86% 12	9.04% 175
The United Methodist Church’s ban on the intelligent design group seems inconsistent with the Church’s stated commitment to encourage “open hearts, open minds, open doors.”					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Q10: Independent	33.67% 236	45.22% 317	14.12% 99	6.99% 49	36.23% 701
Q10: Democrat	28.77% 162	45.29% 255	17.41% 98	8.53% 48	29.10% 563
Q10: Lean Democrat	25.00% 45	52.78% 95	15.00% 27	7.22% 13	9.30% 180
Q10: Republican	34.49% 109	47.15% 149	12.97% 41	5.38% 17	16.33% 316
Q10: Lean Republican	36.00% 63	49.14% 86	10.86% 19	4.00% 7	9.04% 175

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Answered: 1,885 Skipped: 0

The United Methodist Church should not have banned an intelligent design group from renting an information table at its conference.					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Q14: New England	22.73% 25	40.00% 44	29.09% 32	8.18% 9	5.84% 110
Q14: Middle Atlantic	28.91% 74	42.19% 108	18.75% 48	10.16% 26	13.58% 256
Q14: East North Central	28.57% 82	38.68% 111	23.34% 67	9.41% 27	15.23% 287
Q14: West North Central	28.26% 39	44.20% 61	18.84% 26	8.70% 12	7.32% 138
Q14: South Atlantic	32.37% 101	41.03% 128	18.27% 57	8.33% 26	16.55% 312
Q14: East South Central	28.72% 27	40.43% 38	20.21% 19	10.64% 10	4.99% 94
Q14: West South Central	32.37% 56	44.51% 77	16.76% 29	6.36% 11	9.18% 173
Q14: Mountain	21.82% 36	38.18% 63	29.70% 49	10.30% 17	8.75% 165
Q14: Pacific	26.86% 94	44.57% 156	18.29% 64	10.29% 36	18.57% 350

The United Methodist Church’s ban on the intelligent design group seems inconsistent with the Church’s stated commitment to encourage “open hearts, open minds, open doors.”					
	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Q14: New England	27.27% 30	50.00% 55	19.09% 21	3.64% 4	5.84% 110
Q14: Middle Atlantic	29.69% 76	48.83% 125	14.45% 37	7.03% 18	13.58% 256
Q14: East North Central	32.06% 92	46.34% 133	15.33% 44	6.27% 18	15.23% 287
Q14: West North Central	36.23% 50	44.93% 62	13.04% 18	5.80% 8	7.32% 138

2016 Science and Society Survey

Q14: South Atlantic	34.29% 107	45.83% 143	14.10% 44	5.77% 18	16.55% 312
Q14: East South Central	34.04% 32	43.62% 41	18.09% 17	4.26% 4	4.99% 94
Q14: West South Central	31.21% 54	46.82% 81	14.45% 25	7.51% 13	9.18% 173
Q14: Mountain	25.45% 42	49.70% 82	15.76% 26	9.09% 15	8.75% 165
Q14: Pacific	33.14% 116	44.57% 156	13.43% 47	8.86% 31	18.57% 350