

How Do Religious Entities Work in Unity in the Midst of Diversity?

Texas Conference of Churches Assembly

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More often than not ...

They probably can't.

They probably won't.

They might, though some
probably won't much like it.

Decision making:

The interplay between

VALUES

&

INTERESTS

Values

Support

Oppose

Support

V & I Support

I-Support / V-Oppose

Interests

Oppose

V-Support/I-Oppose

V & I Oppose

When Values Support
and
Interests Oppose:

Protection at the expense of
Growth

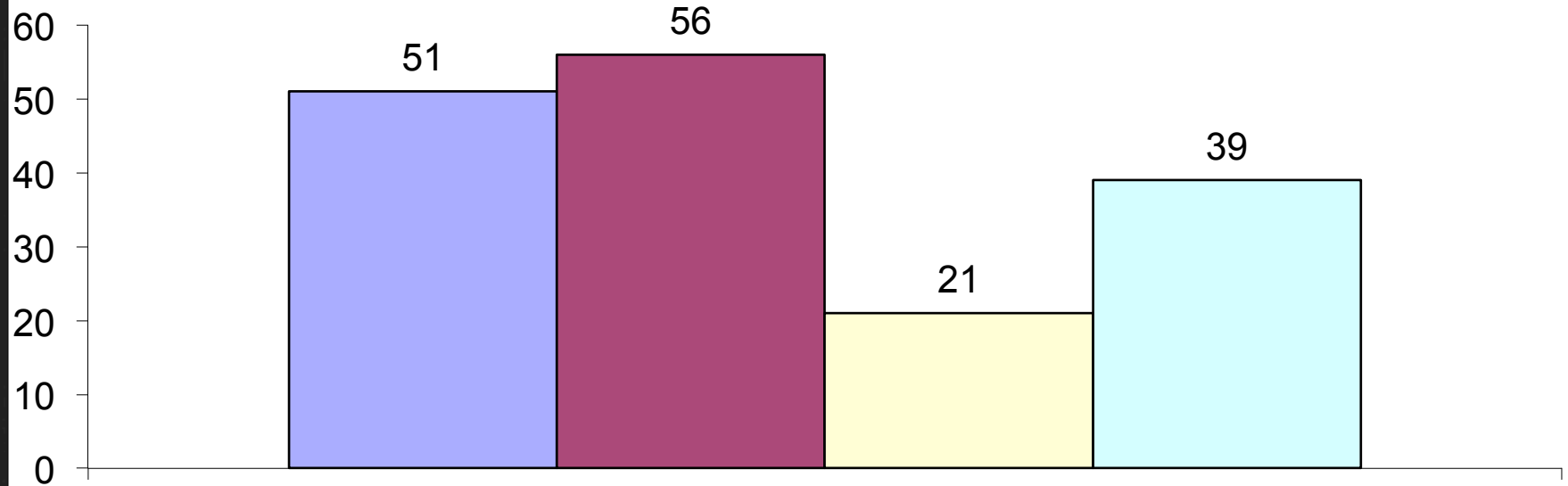
(They probably can't.)

Seeking the Moral Community: Religion, Deviance, and Well- Being Among American University Students.

J.R. Koch, A.E. Roberts,
& M.L. Armstrong
Work in Progress

<http://courses.ttu.edu/jkoch>

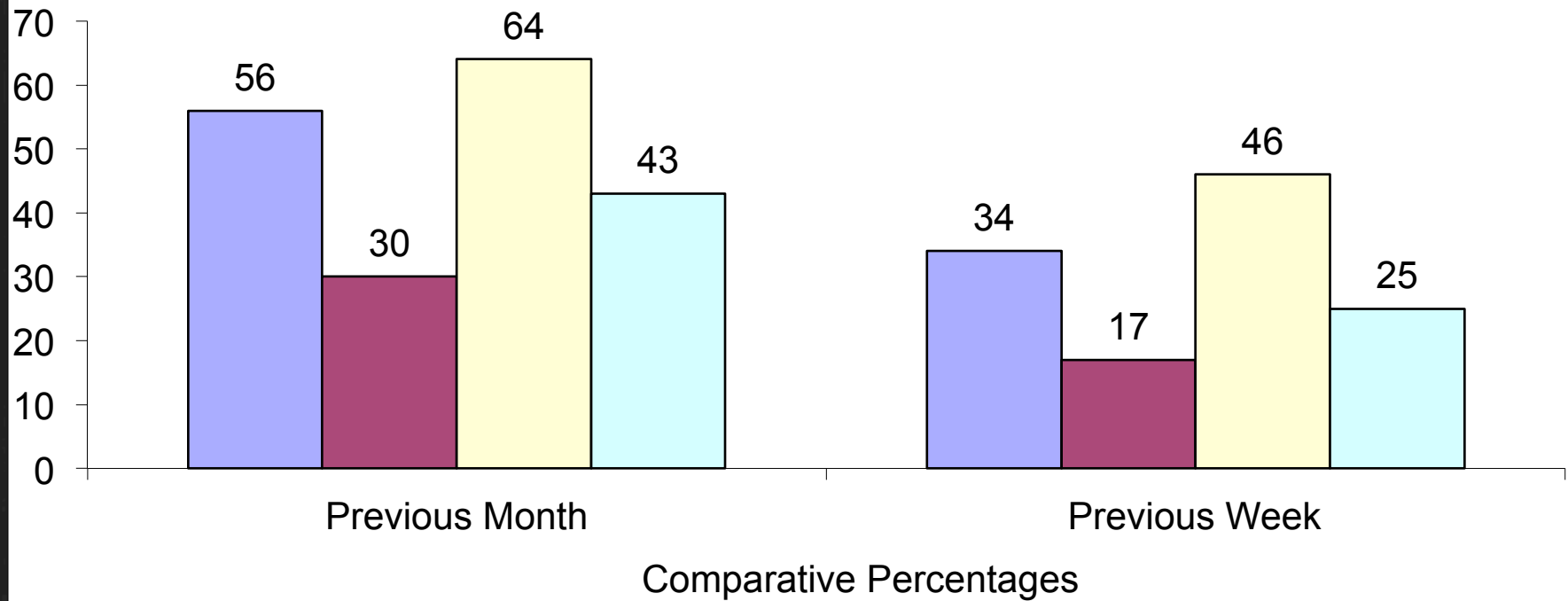
Strongly Agree/Agree – Bible is Infallible



Comparative Percentages

■ South State ■ Southern Baptist ■ SE Private ■ SE State

Binge Drinking – 5+ Drinks on One Occasion



■ South State ■ Southern Baptist ■ SE Private ■ SE State

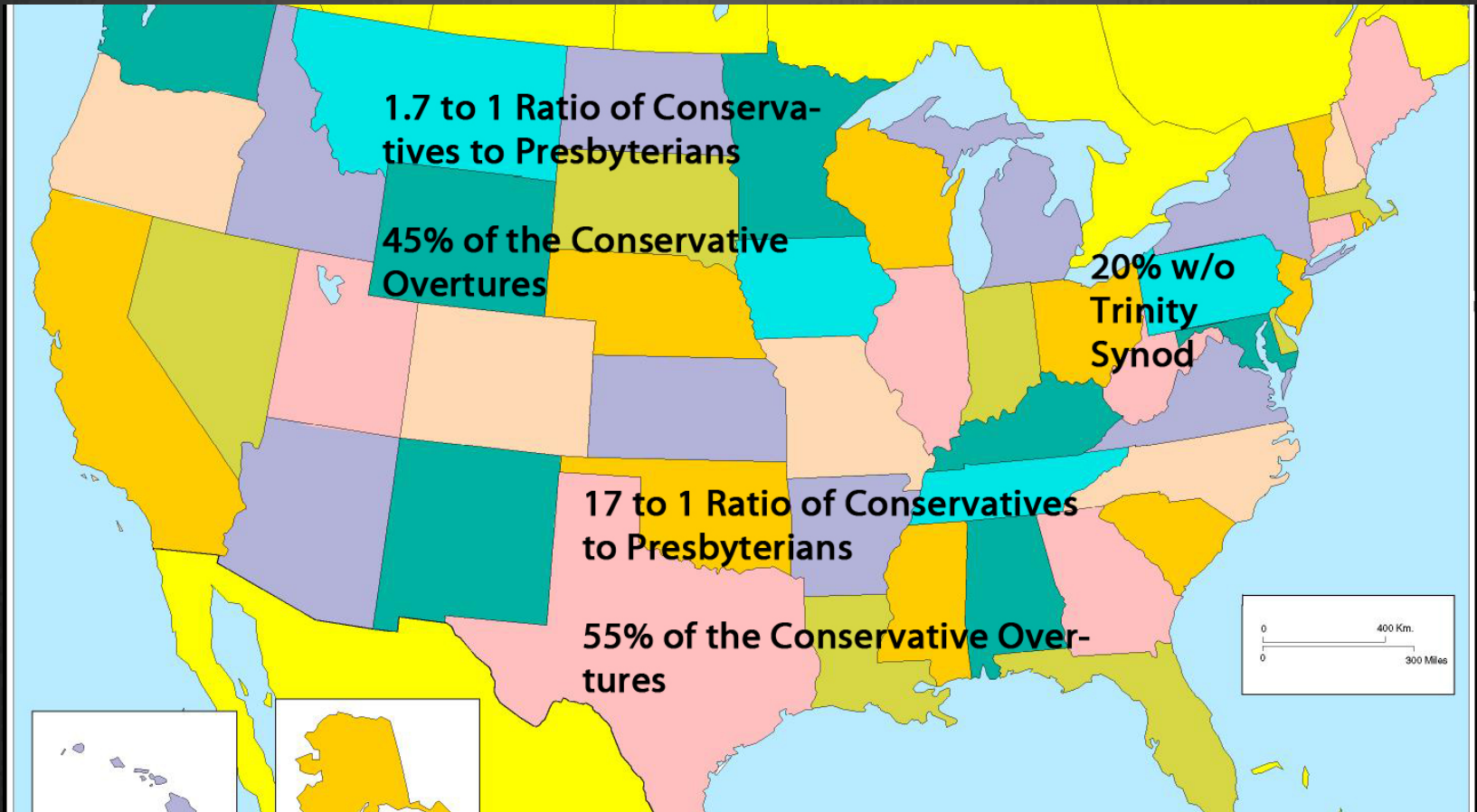
When Interests Support
and
Values Oppose:

Accommodation at the expense
of
History/Integrity

(They probably won't.)

Social Context and the Presbyterian Gay/Lesbian Ordination Debate.

J.R. Koch & E.W. Curry. Review of
Religious Research, 2000.



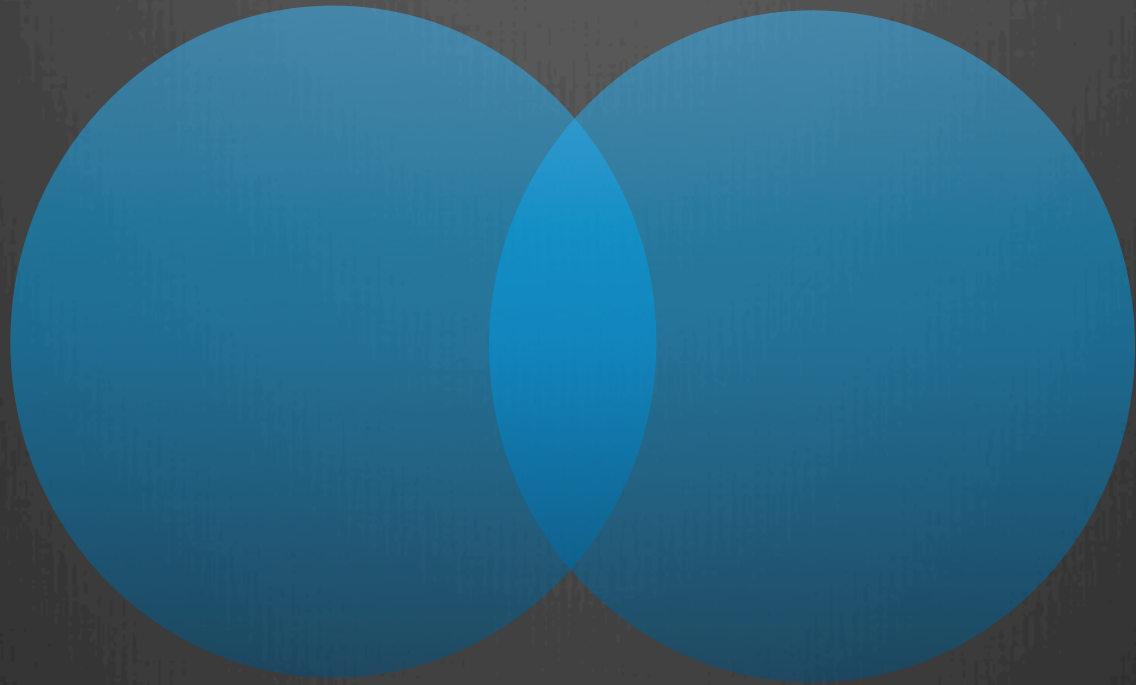
When Values and Interests are
Negotiated:

Targeted Partnerships
on Common Ground

(They might, though some
probably won't much like it.)

Under the Radar: AIDS Ministry in the Bible Belt.

J.R. Koch & R.E. Beckley. Review of
Religious Research, 2006



“Ok ... as long as you don't put
condoms in the fishbowl.”

The Baylor Paradox

131 Muslim students.

(Whose parents appreciate
segregated dormitories.)

Questions and Comments

Where Values Trump Interests

- ⊗ Reproductive Health and Abortion Rights
- ⊗ Illegal Drug Policy
- ⊗ In and among your “religious entities.”

Imagine negotiating a targeted partnership on common ground.

Discuss the process and possibilities.

Where Interests Trump Values

- ⊗ Immigration policy
- ⊗ Health care reform
- ⊗ In and among your “religious entities.”

Imagine negotiating a targeted partnership on common ground.

Discuss the process and possibilities.

Thank you!