

A Lewis Center Report
on

Clergy Age Trends

in the
United Methodist Church
1985-2009

Elders • Deacons • Local Pastors



2009
Lewis Center for Church Leadership
Wesley Theological Seminary

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For the latest figures available from other denominations, see the 2008 edition of the Lewis Center's clergy age trends report available at www.churchleadership.com.

Purpose and Description

The purpose of this research project is to identify clergy age trends in the United Methodist Church since 1985 so that denominational leaders will have the data for planning and a baseline for monitoring future changes. This report builds on the first report on clergy age trends issued by the Lewis Center for Church Leadership in 2006. That report, *Clergy Age Trends in the United Methodist Church: 1985-2005*, documented the dramatic decline in United Methodist young clergy in both numbers and percentages over twenty years. This report presents a snapshot of where clergy age trends stand in April 2009.

These clergy age trends are further analyzed in *The Crisis of Younger Clergy* (Abingdon Press, 2008) by Lovett H. Weems, Jr., and Ann A. Michel. The book considers why the number of young clergy has declined so precipitously in recent decades and what can be done to reverse this trend. Drawing on clergy age data and recent survey results, the book profiles the young clergy population in the United Methodist Church. It exposes the many challenges younger clergy face while lifting up the unique gifts they have to offer. The book is available for purchase at Amazon.com and Cokesbury.com.

Clergy ages are not easy to track because few units of the church have up-to-date age information on clergy. The one exception is the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits (GBOPHB). The Lewis Center for Church Leadership of Wesley Theological Seminary has worked with the Board to determine age trends for United Methodist clergy.

The project covers elders, deacons, and local pastors in the five jurisdictional conferences of the United Methodist Church. Ordained deacons as we have now in the United Methodist Church are relatively new, making trend comparisons over many years difficult. To have comparable figures across the years for elders, the figures include *not only those who have been ordained elder but also those who have been commissioned* on the elder track but not yet ordained. While not all clergy are in the denominational pension system, most are and the percentage not in the system tends to stay the same across the years, thus making trend comparisons possible. Readers should keep in mind that the number of total deacons is significantly lower in this report than their presence in the denomination because more deacons than other clergy work in employment settings with pension plans other than through the GBOPHB. For local pastors, full-time and part-time local pastors are included, but student local pastors are excluded. Since the GBOPHB does not keep records of clergy by race, we were not able to make comparisons by racial groups.

In addition to the cooperation of the GBOPHB, the Lewis Center for Church Leadership conducted this research project through funding from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. through its Sustaining Pastoral Excellence Initiative and from donors to the Lewis Center for Church Leadership.

Lovett H. Weems, Jr., distinguished professor of church leadership and founding director of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership, was project director. Joseph E. Arnold, research manager of the Lewis Center, and Ann A. Michel, associate director of the Lewis Center, were associate directors of the project. Barbara Boigegrain, general secretary of the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, and the staff of the Board, particularly Anne Borish, Peter Doheny, and Otisstea Arrington provided essential cooperation and data. Thanks go also to the General Council on Finance and Administration for sharing data they collect and to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry for their collaboration around enlistment and overall young clergy issues.

Changes Since Earlier Reports

Again this year, there is modest good news for United Methodists. The consistent decline in under-35 elders as a percentage of all elders hit its low point in 2005 and has held relatively steady with slight increases since then. In 2008 under-35 elders reached 5 percent of active elders for the first time this century. In 2009 the numbers are virtually unchanged both in numbers and percentage.

Young Elders

- The percentage of young elders continued to increase ever so slightly again in 2009, marking a consistent trend since the low point was reached in 2005 when under-35 elders made up only 4.69 percent of all active elders. The percentage in 2009 is 5.25, up from 5.21 percent in 2008.
- While the actual number of young elders remains well above the low point of 850 in 2005, there was a slight drop in the number of under-35 elders in 2009 to 906 from 910 in 2008.
- The number of young elders may be the number to watch more carefully than the percentage number in the years ahead since the same or fewer young elders should continue to represent a larger percentage of active elders simply because the total pool of active elders is declining significantly each year with retirements exceeding new entrants.

Young Deacons

- The growth in the number and percentage of young deacons in recent years has been significant. Young deacons now comprise 8.42 percent of deacons, well ahead of elders percentage wise, though their total numbers remain relatively small compared to elders.

Young Local Pastors

- Young local pastors showed a significant increase in percentage and numbers between 2008 and 2009, reaching their largest number and percentage in recent history. Now young local pastors are the same percentage as elders, though fewer in numbers.

Older Clergy

- On the other end of the age spectrum of active clergy, the greatest growth continues to occur in the 55 to 72 age cohort.
- This group among elders increased from 46 percent in 2008 to 48 percent in 2009.
- Twenty-seven conferences have 50 percent or more of their active elders in this category.
- Deacons in this older age group increased slightly from 2008 to 2009, from 43 percent to 44 percent.
- Local pastors, traditionally an older group, continue to have a larger percentage between 55 and 72, going from 50 percent in 2008 to 52 percent in 2009.

Middle Age Clergy

- The middle-age grouping, 35 to 54, declined in recent years.
- Elders in this age group went from 49 percent in 2008 to 47 in 2009.
- Deacons of this age declined slightly from 49 percent in 2008 to 48 in 2009.
- Middle-age local pastors declined as a proportion of all local pastors from 44 percent to 42 percent between 2008 and 2009.

Median, Average, and Mode Ages in 2009

- Median - (half older, half younger): elders, 54; deacons, 53; local pastors, 55.
- Average – elders, 54; deacons, 51; local pastors, 53.
- Mode - (single age most represented): elders, 57; deacons, 53; local pastors, 60.

What about the Baby Boomers?

Through 2006 the single age represented by the largest number of elders tracked consistently with the aging of the first cohort of Baby Boomers born in 1946. But since 2007 the first of the Baby Boomers have been outnumbered by groups of elders born somewhat later. Since the first Baby Boomer group had been the largest for so many years, the question arose whether the first Baby Boomers were retiring in great numbers than might be expected before the age of 64, the most common age in recent years for retirement. (The first of the Baby Boomers will reach 64 in 2010.) If Boomers are retiring earlier than expected, then conference projections for retirements would need to take account of such a trend.

The General Board of Pension and Health Benefits provided the following data about the entire Baby Boomer generational cohort. They seem to suggest that while there are some retirements, they tend to be relatively few in number through 2009.

Total Baby Boomer elders in the GBOPHB system in 2009	3,986
Total Baby Boomer elders active in 2009	3,630 (91.1 percent)
Total Baby Boomer retirees in 2009	54 (1.4 percent)
Total Baby Boomers on leave, disability, etc.	302 (7.5 percent)
Total Baby Boomer elders in full connection in 2009	3,053 (76.6 percent)
Total Baby Boomer provisional elders in 2009	933 (23.4 percent)

Note: Baby Boomers are those born in the years 1946 – 1964.

Why Young Clergy Matter **By Lovett H. Weems, Jr., and Ann A. Michel**

Younger clergy aren't necessarily better. They're just younger.

And that matters.

Lovett H. Weems, Jr.

In recent decades, many North American churches have suffered a serious and sustained decline in the number and percentages of clergy under the age of 35. In many denominations, the percentage of younger clergy has slipped close to 5 percent or even less. While middle-aged and older pastors bring vital gifts to the practice of ministry, it is troubling that the church allows so many younger persons to ignore God's call.

There are a number of important reasons why the pool of clergy must include a proportionate number of younger persons. The declining number of young clergy deprives the profession at both ends of the age spectrum. The new ideas, creativity, energy, and cultural awareness often exhibited by the young are lost. And with more persons entering ministry with fewer years to serve, the wisdom and experience that can come with long tenures in ministry are also in jeopardy.

Church leaders who gathered recently to discuss clergy age trends were asked the question "Why are young clergy important?" They responded with comments such as, "Younger clergy have an ability to see the world and the church through new eyes," "They bring enthusiasm, idealism, and fresh perspectives to the practice of ministry," and "Young clergy are more open to innovation and more nimble in working with new ideas."

In many instances, young clergy bring tremendous energy to the demands of ministry because of the mental and physical stamina associated with youth. The schedules and routines of the young may be more flexible, and they are available for and interested in innovative challenges holding significant risk.

Young clergy also have certain advantages in reaching out to their own generation. They are more likely to speak the language of an emerging generation whose world view and communication modes differ from those of their parents' generation. They show high sensitivity to diversity and other cultural realities in today's world. Just as important, the mere presence of young clergy in a church symbolizes that younger persons are valued as leaders and participants.

These factors help explain why young clergy seem particularly well-suited to the task of church planting. Research conducted in the Episcopal Church has found that pastors between the ages of 24 and 35 were the most successful in founding churches that reach 250 or more in worship attendance within seven years. An informal poll of congregational development officials in the United Methodist church also showed a preference for church planters aged 25 to 35.

Research on the differences between younger and older seminary students sheds light on some other attributes of younger clergy. While older students tend to bring important experience in

congregational life, younger students tend to enter seminary with better academic records in college or previous graduate studies, and they are more likely to have educational training in disciplines such as theology, religion, philosophy, and other humanities traditionally regarded as appropriate preparation for theological study. And preliminary data from Lewis Center research on pastoral effectiveness indicate that laity tend to rate young clergy as highly effective, even though they may not be as self-confident as their older peers.

But just as youthfulness has advantages in ministry, so does experience. Leadership is a form of expertise that has a long gestation period. In most fields, attaining the status of expert requires at least ten years of extensive experience and training. Without sufficient numbers of younger persons entering the profession, there will be fewer clergy in the pipeline who have achieved the longevity of service required for the most challenging pastoral assignments and denominational leadership roles. While the growing number of middle-aged and older persons who enter ministry bring many important gifts, it is also true that many will not achieve the longevity of service needed for some of the most demanding ministry roles such as serving as lead pastor of a very large congregation.

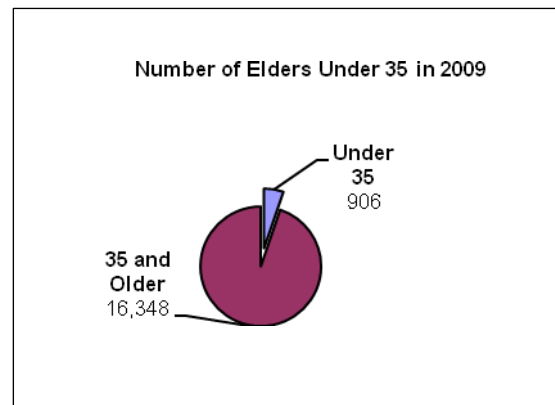
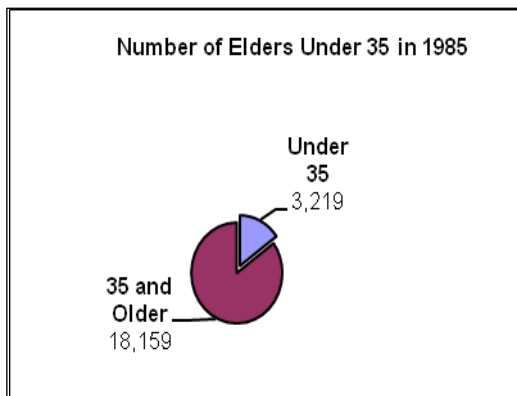
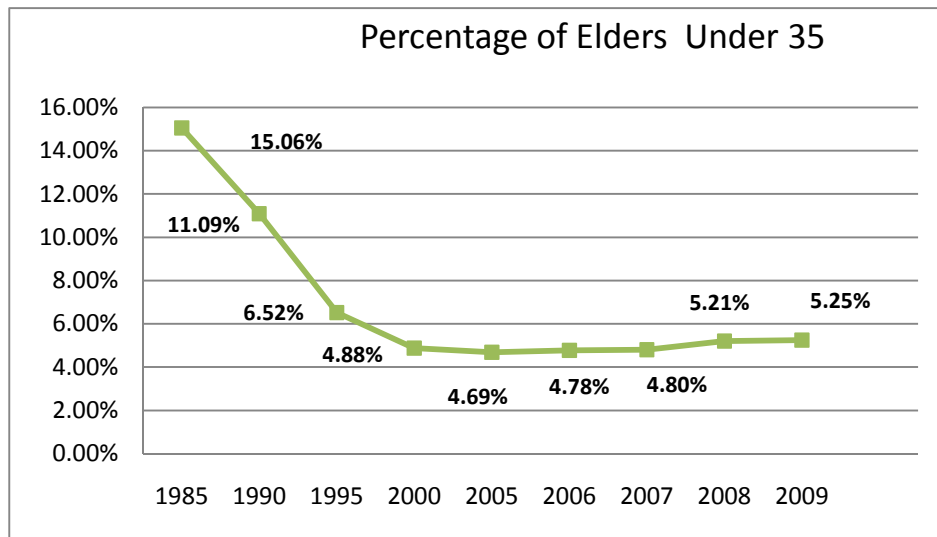
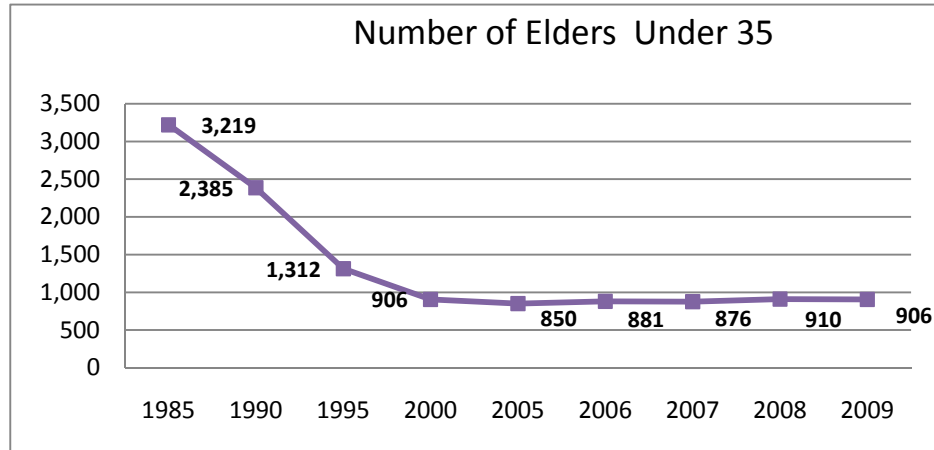
The dearth of young clergy is contributing to an impending leadership crisis in yet another way. The growing percentage of elders who are 55 and older raises the specter of a tidal wave of retirements hitting the system in the not-too-distant future. The aging of the church's clergy pool poses other practical and institutional challenges such as pension and health care challenges.

Having a proportionate number of young persons entering ordained ministry is vital to the vibrancy of the church, as well as its ability to attract younger congregants and form new congregations. And it is essential for developing the long-term experience in ministry necessary for the most challenging assignments. Young clergy do, indeed, matter.

Lovett H. Weems, Jr., and Ann A. Michel are the authors of *The Crisis of Younger Clergy*, copyright 2008, Abingdon Press. This material is adapted from chapter three of that book and used by permission.

Elders

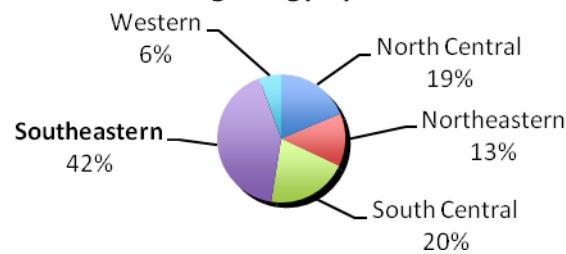
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Elders by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Elders under 35 2009	% Elders under 35 2009	Elders 35-54 2009	% Elders 35-54 2009	Elders 55-72 2009	% Elders 55-72 2009	Total Elders 2009
North Central	169	4.44%	1,807	47.44%	1,833	48.12%	3,809
Northeastern	121	3.72%	1,460	44.94%	1,668	51.34%	3,249
South Central	186	6.00%	1,461	47.13%	1,453	46.87%	3,100
Southeastern	379	6.69%	2,790	49.25%	2,496	44.06%	5,665
Western	51	3.56%	621	43.40%	759	53.04%	1,431
Total	906	5.25%	8,139	47.17%	8,209	47.58%	17,254

Percent of Young Clergy by Jurisdiction



Comparisons of Elders under 35 with Membership, Churches, and Charges

Change in Ratio of Elders under 35 to Membership

Year	Membership	Elders under 35	Ratio
1985	9,301,863	3,219	1:2,900
1990	8,872,370	2,385	1:3,700
1995	8,611,021	1,312	1:6,600
2000	8,356,816	906	1:9,200
2005	8,074,697	850	1:9,500
2007	7,853,955	876	1:8,966

Change in Ratio of Elders under 35 to Number of Churches

Year	Churches	Elders under 35	Ratio
1985	37,988	3,219	1:12
1990	37,407	2,385	1:16
1995	36,559	1,312	1:28
2000	35,609	906	1:39
2005	34,892	850	1:41
2007	34,300	876	1:39

Change in Ratio of Elders under 35 to Number of Pastoral Charges

Year	Charges	Elders under 35	Ratio
1985	25,727	3,219	1:8
1990	25,880	2,385	1:11
1995	25,934	1,312	1:20
2000	26,201	906	1:29
2005	26,307	850	1:31
2007	26,090	876	1:30

2008 and 2009 data were not available when this report was prepared.

Gender Breakdown within Age Cohorts - Elders

		Under 35	35 - 54	55 - 72
2007	Men	68.55%	74.66%	77.34%
2008		66.89%	74.19%	75.89%
2009		64.02%	72.75%	74.28%
2007	Women	31.40%	25.33%	22.69%
2008		33.10%	25.80%	24.10%
2009		35.98%	27.25%	25.72%

Median, Average, and Mode Ages by Year - Elders

Year	Median* Age	Average Age	Mode* Age
1985	48	46.8	54
1990	47	47.5	43
1995	48	48.4	48
2000	50	49.5	53
2005	52	51.5	58
2006	53	51.8	59
2007	53	52.0	59
2008	54	52.1	56
2009	54	54.4	57

*Median - half older, half younger

*Mode - single age most represented

Data on Age Trends for Elders 1985 – 2009

Year	No. of Elders	Elders under 35	% Elders under 35	Elders 35-54	% Elders 35-54	Elders 55-72	% Elders 55-72
1985	21,378	3,219	15.06%	12,305	57.56%	5,854	27.38%
1990	21,507	2,385	11.09%	12,678	58.95%	6,444	29.96%
1995	20,117	1,312	6.52%	12,843	63.84%	5,962	29.64%
2000	18,576	906	4.88%	12,005	64.63%	5,665	30.50%
2005	18,141	850	4.69%	9,872	54.42%	7,419	40.90%
2006	18,005	881	4.89%	9,482	52.66%	7,642	42.44%
2007	17,800	876	4.92%	9,032	50.74%	7,892	44.34%
2008	17,480	910	5.21%	8,587	49.12%	7,983	45.67%
2009	17,254	906	5.25%	8,139	47.17%	8,209	47.58%

Mean, Median, and Mode Ages by Conference

*Some have no mode value because no unique mode exists (no single age occurred more frequently than another).

CONFERENCE NAME	2009 Mean	2009 Median	2009 Mode
ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA	51.38	53	
ALASKA MISSIONARY	43.67	43	
ARKANSAS	50.78	53	60
BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON	53.60	55	58
CALIFORNIA-NEVADA	54.46	56	
CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC	52.87	54	51
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA	52.45	54	61
CENTRAL TEXAS	52.14	54	
DAKOTAS	52.81	55	57
DESERT SOUTHWEST	53.59	56	56
DETROIT	53.52	55	58
EAST OHIO	52.98	54	61
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA	53.52	55	51
FLORIDA	51.89	53	62
GREATER NEW JERSEY	53.70	55	60
HOLSTON	50.69	52	61
ILLINOIS GREAT RIVERS	52.12	54	52
IOWA	53.18	55	57
KANSAS EAST	53.00	56	
KANSAS WEST	53.71	56	56
KENTUCKY	51.67	53	
LOUISIANA	51.53	53	52
MEMPHIS	53.91	56	
MINNESOTA	52.07	53	52
MISSISSIPPI	50.61	53	
MISSOURI	51.95	53	
NEBRASKA	53.72	55	57
NEW ENGLAND	54.04	56	
NEW MEXICO	52.24	53	
NEW YORK	55.85	57	60
NORTH ALABAMA	50.90	52	53
NORTH CAROLINA	51.40	53	56

CONFERENCE NAME	2009 Mean	2009 Median	2009 Mode
NORTH CENTRAL NEW YORK	54.38	56	61
NORTH GEORGIA	51.65	53	
NORTH INDIANA	52.20	54	55
NORTH TEXAS	51.67	53	60
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	52.44	54	60
NORTHWEST TEXAS	51.61	53	59
OKLAHOMA	51.47	53	57
OKLAHOMA INDIAN MSNY	58.00	56	55
OREGON IDAHO	53.56	55	
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	53.45	55	60
PENINSULA-DELAWARE	54.00	55	59
RIO GRANDE	53.36	52	
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	52.95	55	57
SOUTH CAROLINA	52.69	55	
SOUTH GEORGIA	51.64	54	58
SOUTH INDIANA	53.10	54	
SOUTHWEST TEXAS	54.18	56	
TENNESSEE	51.85	54	60
TEXAS	51.77	53	54
TROY	54.52	57	57
VIRGINIA	51.64	53	53
WEST MICHIGAN	53.64	55	61
WEST OHIO	52.12	53	
WEST VIRGINIA	51.85	54	60
WESTERN NEW YORK	54.03	55	62
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA	50.61	52	57
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA	52.36	54	55
WISCONSIN	53.03	54	59
WYOMING	53.15	55	49
YELLOWSTONE	56.19	58	62

**Presence of Elders under 35
by Annual Conference
2007 to 2009**

CONFERENCE	2009 Elders under 35	2009 Elders under 35	2009 Elders	2008 Elders under 35	2008 Elders under 35	2008 Elders	2007 Elders under 35	2007 Elders under 35	2007 Elders
Alabama-West Florida	5.56%	16	288	8.51%	24	282	8.19%	23	281
Alaska Missionary	33.33%	1	3	0.00%	0	3	0.00%	0	2
Arkansas	8.61%	23	267	9.29%	25	269	8.80%	25	284
Baltimore-Washington	4.51%	19	421	4.17%	18	432	3.75%	17	453
California-Neveda	2.56%	8	313	3.15%	10	317	3.35%	11	328
California-Pacific	3.15%	12	381	2.72%	11	405	3.73%	15	402
Central Pennsylvania	6.56%	20	305	7.02%	21	299	6.21%	20	322
Central Texas	8.20%	21	256	7.54%	19	252	6.91%	17	246
Dakotas	5.59%	8	143	7.53%	11	146	8.28%	12	145
Desert Southwest	3.76%	5	133	3.70%	5	135	5.11%	7	137
Detroit	4.07%	12	295	5.56%	17	306	6.19%	19	307
East Ohio	4.66%	18	386	4.90%	20	408	4.21%	18	428
Eastern Pennsylvania	1.74%	5	288	2.36%	7	297	3.88%	12	309
Florida	4.40%	22	500	5.62%	29	516	6.18%	32	518
Greater New Jersey	3.76%	15	399	2.86%	11	384	3.52%	14	398
Holston	9.82%	32	326	7.30%	23	315	8.70%	28	322
Illinois Great Rivers	4.59%	17	370	3.62%	14	387	3.05%	12	393
Indiana	5.35%	32	598	5.02%	30	598	4.64%	28	603
Iowa	4.63%	18	389	4.36%	17	390	4.24%	17	401
Kansas East	4.46%	7	157	6.79%	11	162	5.52%	9	163
Kansas West	5.78%	10	173	6.40%	11	172	2.33%	4	172
Kentucky	3.69%	10	271	2.20%	6	273	3.51%	10	285
Louisiana	7.96%	18	226	8.05%	19	236	5.65%	13	230
Memphis	3.93%	7	178	3.76%	7	186	2.62%	5	191
Minnesota	6.00%	15	250	5.28%	13	246	3.23%	8	248
Mississippi	11.11%	41	369	8.79%	32	364	7.14%	26	364
Missouri	6.12%	20	327	6.19%	21	339	5.74%	19	331
Nebraska	2.40%	4	167	1.20%	2	166	1.21%	2	165
New England	2.65%	8	302	2.52%	7	278	3.06%	9	294
New Mexico	4.21%	4	95	5.26%	5	95	3.67%	4	109
New York	2.42%	7	289	2.65%	8	302	2.54%	8	315
North Alabama	6.78%	23	339	8.50%	30	353	8.42%	31	368

**Presence of Elders under 35
by Annual Conference
2007 to 2009, continued**

CONFERENCE	2009 Elders under 35	2009 Elders under 35	2009 Elders	2008 Elders under 35	2008 Elders under 35	2008 Elders	2007 Elders under 35	2007 Elders under 35	2007 Elders
North Carolina	6.22%	28	450	5.49%	25	455	5.62%	26	463
North Central New York	4.03%	5	124	3.65%	5	137	3.36%	5	149
North Georgia	6.06%	35	578	6.45%	38	589	6.38%	38	596
North Texas	6.25%	17	272	5.88%	16	272	6.44%	17	264
Northern Illinois	5.47%	17	311	4.09%	13	318	4.00%	13	325
Northwest Texas	6.19%	7	113	5.98%	7	117	5.83%	7	120
Oklahoma	8.51%	28	329	8.36%	28	335	8.51%	28	329
OK Indian Missionary	0.00%	0	14	0.00%	0	13	0.00%	0	14
Oregon-Idaho	4.29%	6	140	4.79%	7	146	5.33%	8	150
Pacific Northwest	2.91%	6	206	3.43%	7	204	3.60%	8	222
Peninsula-Delaware	1.71%	3	175	1.08%	2	186	0.55%	1	183
Rio Grande	0.00%	0	42	0.00%	0	38	0.00%	0	39
Rocky Mountain	5.66%	12	212	4.55%	10	220	4.15%	9	217
South Carolina	5.98%	28	468	6.67%	32	480	5.94%	29	488
South Georgia	6.57%	19	289	5.19%	15	289	3.65%	11	301
Southwest Texas	2.59%	6	232	3.23%	8	248	1.23%	3	243
Tennessee	4.90%	10	204	6.06%	12	198	6.47%	13	201
Texas	4.88%	21	430	4.65%	20	430	4.83%	21	435
Troy	1.06%	1	94	1.11%	1	90	0.99%	1	101
Virginia	6.94%	46	663	6.55%	43	656	5.59%	36	644
West Michigan	2.79%	6	215	2.76%	6	217	3.11%	7	225
West Ohio	2.55%	15	588	2.99%	18	603	3.34%	21	628
West Virginia	7.05%	17	241	5.20%	13	250	2.47%	6	243
Western New York	2.50%	3	120	3.15%	4	127	4.58%	6	131
Western North Carolina	8.36%	62	742	8.12%	60	739	7.59%	55	725
Western Pennsylvania	3.96%	15	379	4.33%	17	393	1.93%	14	725
Wisconsin	4.17%	11	264	5.36%	14	261	3.24%	13	281
Wyoming	2.68%	3	112	3.64%	4	110	3.48%	4	115
Yellowstone	2.33%	1	43	2.17%	1	46	1.89%	1	53
Total	5.25%	906	17,254	5.21%	910	17,480	4.80%	876	18,244

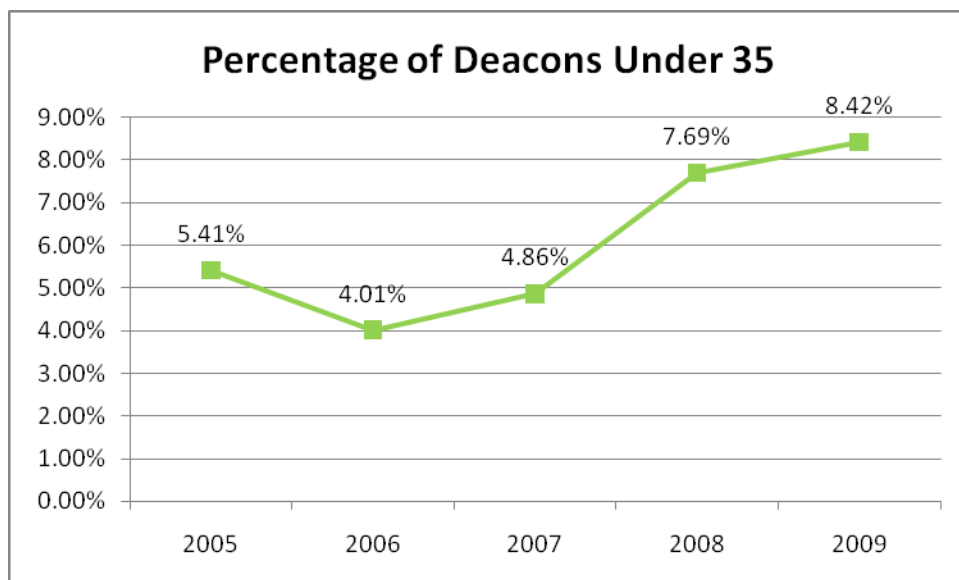
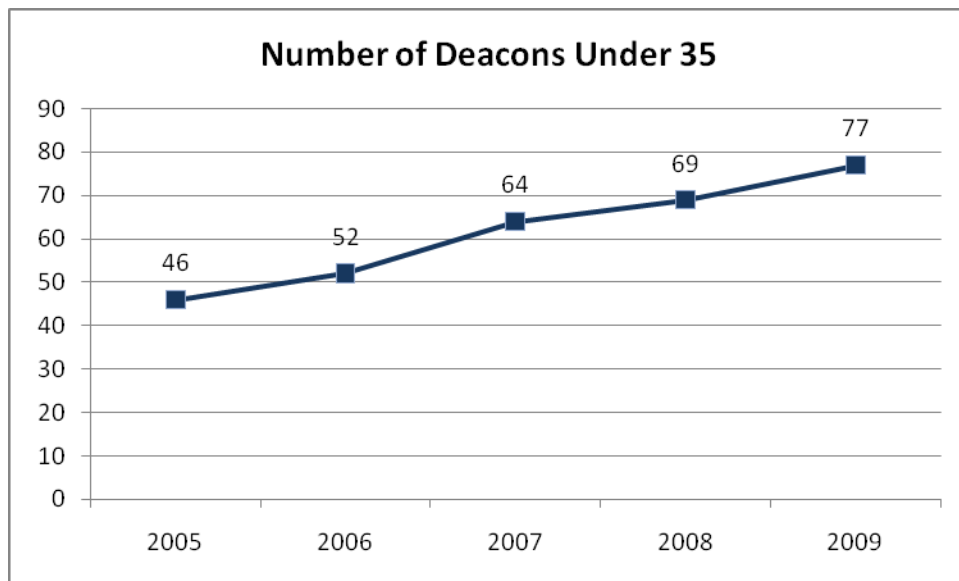
**Presence of Elders under 35
by 2009 Percentage
2007 to 2009**

CONFERENCE	2009 Elders under 35	2009 Elders under 35	2009 Elders	2008 Elders under 35	2008 Elders under 35	2008 Elders	2007 Elders under 35	2007 Elders under 35	2007 Elders
Alaska Missionary	33.33%	1	3	0.00%	0	3	0.00%	0	2
Mississippi	11.11%	41	369	8.79%	32	364	7.14%	26	364
Holston	9.82%	32	326	7.30%	23	315	8.70%	28	322
Arkansas	8.61%	23	267	9.29%	25	269	8.80%	25	284
Oklahoma	8.51%	28	329	8.36%	28	335	8.51%	28	329
Western North Carolina	8.36%	62	742	8.12%	60	739	7.59%	55	725
Central Texas	8.20%	21	256	7.54%	19	252	6.91%	17	246
Louisiana	7.96%	18	226	8.05%	19	236	5.65%	13	230
West Virginia	7.05%	17	241	5.20%	13	250	2.47%	6	243
Virginia	6.94%	46	663	6.55%	43	656	5.59%	36	644
North Alabama	6.78%	23	339	8.50%	30	353	8.42%	31	368
South Georgia	6.57%	19	289	5.19%	15	289	3.65%	11	301
Central Pennsylvania	6.56%	20	305	7.02%	21	299	6.21%	20	322
North Texas	6.25%	17	272	5.88%	16	272	6.44%	17	264
North Carolina	6.22%	28	450	5.49%	25	455	5.62%	26	463
Northwest Texas	6.19%	7	113	5.98%	7	117	5.83%	7	120
Missouri	6.12%	20	327	6.19%	21	339	5.74%	19	331
North Georgia	6.06%	35	578	6.45%	38	589	6.38%	38	596
Minnesota	6.00%	15	250	5.28%	13	246	3.23%	8	248
South Carolina	5.98%	28	468	6.67%	32	480	5.94%	29	488
Kansas West	5.78%	10	173	6.40%	11	172	2.33%	4	172
Rocky Mountain	5.66%	12	212	4.55%	10	220	4.15%	9	217
Dakotas	5.59%	8	143	7.53%	11	146	8.28%	12	145
Alabama-West Florida	5.56%	16	288	8.51%	24	282	8.19%	23	281
Northern Illinois	5.47%	17	311	4.09%	13	318	4.00%	13	325
Indiana	5.35%	32	598	5.02%	30	598	4.64%	28	603
Tennessee	4.90%	10	204	6.06%	12	198	6.47%	13	201
Texas	4.88%	21	430	4.65%	20	430	4.83%	21	435
East Ohio	4.66%	18	386	4.90%	20	408	4.21%	18	428
Iowa	4.63%	18	389	4.36%	17	390	4.24%	17	401
Illinois Great Rivers	4.59%	17	370	3.62%	14	387	3.05%	12	393
Baltimore-Washington	4.51%	19	421	4.17%	18	432	3.75%	17	453

**Presence of Elders under 35
by 2009 Percentage
2007 to 2009, continued**

CONFERENCE	2009 Elders under 35	2009 Elders under 35	2009 Elders	2008 Elders under 35	2008 Elders under 35	2008 Elders	2007 Elders under 35	2007 Elders under 35	2007 Elders
Kansas East	4.46%	7	157	6.79%	11	162	5.52%	9	163
Florida	4.40%	22	500	5.62%	29	516	6.18%	32	518
Oregon-Idaho	4.29%	6	140	4.79%	7	146	5.33%	8	150
New Mexico	4.21%	4	95	5.26%	5	95	3.67%	4	109
Wisconsin	4.17%	11	264	5.36%	14	261	3.24%	13	281
Detroit	4.07%	12	295	5.56%	17	306	6.19%	19	307
North Central New York	4.03%	5	124	3.65%	5	137	3.36%	5	149
Western Pennsylvania	3.96%	15	379	4.33%	17	393	1.93%	14	401
Memphis	3.93%	7	178	3.76%	7	186	2.62%	5	191
Desert Southwest	3.76%	5	133	3.70%	5	135	5.11%	7	137
Greater New Jersey	3.76%	15	399	2.86%	11	384	3.52%	14	398
Kentucky	3.69%	10	271	2.20%	6	273	3.51%	10	285
California-Pacific	3.15%	12	381	2.72%	11	405	3.73%	15	402
Pacific Northwest	2.91%	6	206	3.43%	7	204	3.60%	8	222
West Michigan	2.79%	6	215	2.76%	6	217	3.11%	7	225
Wyoming	2.68%	3	112	3.64%	4	110	3.48%	4	115
New England	2.65%	8	302	2.52%	7	278	3.06%	9	294
Southwest Texas	2.59%	6	232	3.23%	8	248	1.23%	3	243
California-Neveda	2.56%	8	313	3.15%	10	317	3.35%	11	328
West Ohio	2.55%	15	588	2.99%	18	603	3.34%	21	628
Western New York	2.50%	3	120	3.15%	4	127	4.58%	6	131
New York	2.42%	7	289	2.65%	8	302	2.54%	8	315
Nebraska	2.40%	4	167	1.20%	2	166	1.21%	2	165
Yellowstone	2.33%	1	43	2.17%	1	46	1.89%	1	53
Eastern Pennsylvania	1.74%	5	288	2.36%	7	297	3.88%	12	309
Peninsula-Delaware	1.71%	3	175	1.08%	2	186	0.55%	1	183
Troy	1.06%	1	94	1.11%	1	90	0.99%	1	101
OK Indian Missionary	0.00%	0	14	0.00%	0	13	0.00%	0	14
Rio Grande	0.00%	0	42	0.00%	0	38	0.00%	0	39
Total	5.25%	906	17,254	5.21%	910	17,480	4.80%	876	18,244

Ordained deacons as we have now in the United Methodist Church are relatively new, making trend comparisons over many years difficult, but we do report current age data. We include *not only those who have been ordained deacon but also those who have been commissioned on the deacon track but not yet ordained*. Readers should keep in mind that the number of total deacons is significantly lower in this report than their presence in the denomination because more deacons than other clergy work in employment settings with pension plans other than through the General Board.



Median, Average, and Mode Ages - Deacons by Year

Year	Median* Age	Average Age	Mode* Age
2006	53	51.67	50
2007	52	51.40	51
2008	53	51.34	-
2009	53	51.42	53

*Median - half older, half younger *Mode - single age most represented

*Some groups have no mode value because no unique mode exists--
no age occurred more frequently than another.

Gender Breakdown within Age Cohorts – Deacons

	Men	Under 35	35 - 54	55 - 72
2007		37%	32%	19%
2008		36%	34%	21%
2009		35%	33%	29%
	Women	Under 35	35 - 54	55 - 72
2007		63%	68%	81%
2008		64%	66%	79%
2009		65%	67%	71%

Deacons Under 35 by Jurisdiction

	2007	2008	2009
Jurisdiction	Under 35	Under 35	Under 35
North Central	9	11	14
Northeastern	3	3	3
South Central	22	20	18
Southeastern	30	33	40
Western	0	1	2
Total	64	68	77

Data on Age Trends for Deacons 2006 – 2009

Year	No. of Deacons	No. of Deacons Under 35	% Deacons Under 35	No. of Deacons 35-54	% Deacons 35-54	No. of Deacons 55-70	% Deacons 55-72
2006	844	52	6.16%	438	51.90%	354	41.94%
2007	902	64	7.10%	457	50.67%	381	42.24%
2008	897	69	7.69%	441	49.16%	387	43.14%
2009	915	77	8.42%	438	47.87%	400	43.72%

**Presence of Deacons under 35
by Annual Conference
2007 to 2009**

CONFERENCE NAME	% younger than 35 in 09	Total under 35 in 09	2009 Deacons Total	% younger than 35 in 08	Total under 35 in 08	2008 Deacons Total	% younger than 35 in 07	Total under 35 in 07	2007 Deacons Total
ALABAMA WEST FLORIDA	13.89%	5	36	11.76%	4	34	10.00%	3	30
ALASKA MISSIONARY	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0
ARKANSAS	0.00%	0	19	5.88%	1	17	5.88%	1	17
BALTIMORE-WASH	0.00%	0	23	0.00%	0	23	4.55%	1	22
CALIFORNIA-NEVADA	9.09%	1	11	11.11%	1	9	0.00%	0	11
CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC	5.26%	1	19	0.00%	0	17	0.00%	0	16
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA	14.29%	1	7	14.29%	1	7	0.00%	0	5
CENTRAL TEXAS	7.69%	2	26	6.90%	2	29	11.54%	3	26
DAKOTAS	0.00%	0	4	0.00%	0	5	0.00%	0	5
DESERT SOUTHWEST	0.00%	0	11	0.00%	0	11	0.00%	0	12
DETROIT	12.50%	2	16	6.67%	1	15	12.50%	1	8
EAST OHIO	0.00%	0	18	0.00%	0	18	0.00%	0	17
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA	0.00%	0	6	0.00%	0	5	0.00%	0	6
FLORIDA	9.38%	3	32	6.06%	2	33	7.32%	3	41
GREATER NEW JERSEY	12.50%	2	16	12.50%	2	16	10.53%	2	19
HOLSTON	8.33%	1	12	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	12
ILL GREAT RIVERS	0.00%	0	10	0.00%	0	11	0.00%	0	11
INDIANA	10.00%	2	20	0.00%	0	17	0.00%	0	10
IOWA	7.69%	1	13	0.00%	0	11	0.00%	0	10
KANSAS EAST	0.00%	0	8	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	9
KANSAS WEST	0.00%	0	7	0.00%	0	6	0.00%	0	4
KENTUCKY	7.41%	2	27	4.00%	1	25	0.00%	0	24
LOUISIANA	9.09%	2	22	4.76%	1	21	4.55%	1	22
MEMPHIS	8.33%	1	12	18.18%	2	11	18.18%	2	11
MINNESOTA	18.75%	3	16	12.50%	2	16	13.33%	2	15
MISSISSIPPI	8.33%	2	24	7.69%	2	26	8.33%	2	24
MISSOURI	0.00%	0	20	6.25%	1	16	5.88%	1	17
NEBRASKA	0.00%	0	1	0.00%	0	1	0.00%	0	3
NEW ENGLAND	0.00%	0	4	0.00%	0	4	0.00%	0	4
NEW MEXICO	0.00%	0	7	0.00%	0	7	12.50%	1	8
NEW YORK	0.00%	0	3	0.00%	0	2	0.00%	0	3
NO. CENTRAL NEW YORK	7.69%	0	3	6.67%	0	2	0.00%	0	3
NORTH ALABAMA	7.69%	1	13	0.00%	0	22	11.76%	2	17

**Presence of Deacons under 35
by Annual Conference
2007 to 2009, continued**

CONFERENCE NAME	% younger than 35 in 09	Total under 35 in 09	2009 Deacons Total	% younger than 35 in 08	Total under 35 in 08	2008 Deacons Total	% younger than 35 in 07	Total under 35 in 07	2007 Deacons Total
NORTH CAROLINA	0.00%	0	22	0.00%	0	24	0.00%	0	25
NORTH GEORGIA	19.61%	10	51	15.38%	8	52	13.46%	7	52
NORTH TEXAS	13.51%	5	37	11.43%	4	35	14.29%	5	35
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	27.78%	5	18	26.32%	5	19	20.00%	4	20
NORTHWEST TEXAS	0.00%	0	5	0.00%	0	5	0.00%	0	6
OKLAHOMA	16.67%	6	36	22.86%	8	35	21.88%	7	32
OREGON-IDAHO	0.00%	0	6	0.00%	0	6	0.00%	0	9
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	0.00%	0	8	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	10
PENINSULA-DELAWARE	0.00%	0	2	0.00%	0	3	0.00%	0	4
RIO GRANDE	50.00%	1	2	50.00%	1	2	50.00%	1	2
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	0.00%	0	23	0.00%	0	23	0.00%	0	25
SOUTH CAROLINA	4.35%	1	23	4.35%	1	23	4.17%	1	24
SOUTH GEORGIA	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	11	0.00%	0	13
SOUTHWEST TEXAS	14.29%	2	14	14.29%	2	14	6.25%	1	16
TENNESSEE	11.43%	4	35	12.12%	4	33	8.82%	3	34
TEXAS	0.00%	0	24	3.85%	1	26	3.85%	1	26
TROY	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0
VIRGINIA	10.00%	3	30	9.38%	3	32	3.45%	1	29
WEST MICHIGAN	0.00%	0	4	0.00%	0	4	0.00%	0	3
WEST OHIO	12.00%	3	25	8.33%	2	24	8.00%	2	25
WEST VIRGINIA	0.00%	0	11	0.00%	0	8	0.00%	0	8
WESTERN NEW YORK	0.00%	0	5	0.00%	0	6	0.00%	0	7
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	9
WEST NORTH CAROLINA	11.63%	5	43	12.20%	5	41	14.63%	6	41
WISCONSIN	0.00%	0	5	20.00%	1	5	0.00%	0	1
WYOMING	0.00%	0	1	0.00%	0	1	0.00%	0	1
YELLOWSTONE	0.00%	0	1	0.00%	0	1	0.00%	0	1
TOTAL	8.42%	77	915	7.69%	69	897	7.10%	64	902

**Presence of Deacons under 35
by 2009 Percentage
2007 to 2009**

CONFERENCE NAME	% younger than 35 in 09	Total under 35 in 09	2009 Deacons Total	% younger than 35 in 08	Total under 35 in 08	2008 Deacons Total	% younger than 35 in 07	Total under 35 in 07	2007 Deacons Total
RIO GRANDE	50.00%	1	2	50.00%	1	2	50.00%	1	2
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	27.78%	5	18	26.32%	5	19	20.00%	4	20
NORTH GEORGIA	19.61%	10	51	15.38%	8	52	13.46%	7	52
MINNESOTA	18.75%	3	16	12.50%	2	16	13.33%	2	15
OKLAHOMA	16.67%	6	36	22.86%	8	35	21.88%	7	32
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA	14.29%	1	7	14.29%	1	7	0.00%	0	5
SOUTHWEST TEXAS	14.29%	2	14	14.29%	2	14	6.25%	1	16
ALABAMA WEST FLORIDA	13.89%	5	36	11.76%	4	34	10.00%	3	30
NORTH TEXAS	13.51%	5	37	11.43%	4	35	14.29%	5	35
DETROIT	12.50%	2	16	6.67%	1	15	12.50%	1	8
GREATER NEW JERSEY	12.50%	2	16	12.50%	2	16	10.53%	2	19
WEST OHIO	12.00%	3	25	8.33%	2	24	8.00%	2	25
WEST NORTH CAROLINA	11.63%	5	43	12.20%	5	41	14.63%	6	41
TENNESSEE	11.43%	4	35	12.12%	4	33	8.82%	3	34
INDIANA	10.00%	2	20	0.00%	0	17	0.00%	0	10
VIRGINIA	10.00%	3	30	9.38%	3	32	3.45%	1	29
FLORIDA	9.38%	3	32	6.06%	2	33	7.32%	3	41
CALIFORNIA-NEVADA	9.09%	1	11	11.11%	1	9	0.00%	0	11
LOUISIANA	9.09%	2	22	4.76%	1	21	4.55%	1	22
HOLSTON	8.33%	1	12	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	12
MEMPHIS	8.33%	1	12	18.18%	2	11	18.18%	2	11
MISSISSIPPI	8.33%	2	24	7.69%	2	26	8.33%	2	24
CENTRAL TEXAS	7.69%	2	26	6.90%	2	29	11.54%	3	26
IOWA	7.69%	1	13	0.00%	0	11	0.00%	0	10
KENTUCKY	7.41%	2	27	4.00%	1	25	0.00%	0	24
CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC	5.26%	1	19	0.00%	0	17	0.00%	0	16
SOUTH CAROLINA	4.35%	1	23	4.35%	1	23	4.17%	1	24
NORTHWEST TEXAS	0.00%	0	5	0.00%	0	5	0.00%	0	6
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	9
YELLOWSTONE	0.00%	0	1	0.00%	0	1	0.00%	0	1

Deacons

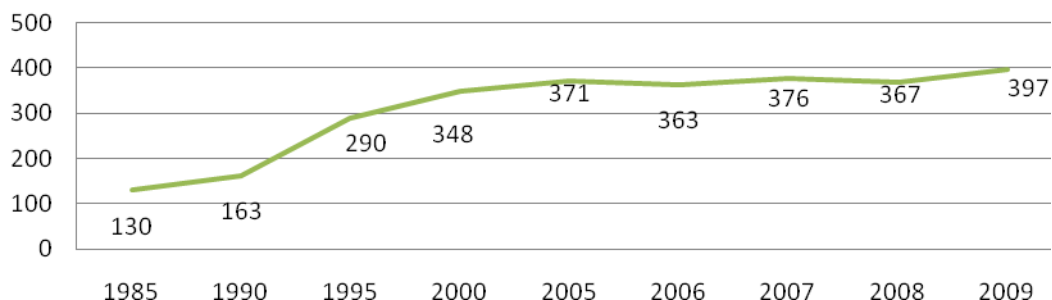
Presence of Deacons under 35 by 2009 Percentage 2007 to 2009, continued

CONFERENCE NAME	% younger than 35 in 09	Total under 35 in 09	2009 Deacons Total	% younger than 35 in 08	Total under 35 in 08	2008 Deacons Total	% younger than 35 in 07	Total under 35 in 07	2007 Deacons Total
NO. CENTRAL NEW YORK	0.00%	0	3	6.67%	1	15	0.00%	0	3
ALASKA MISSIONARY	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0
ARKANSAS	0.00%	0	19	5.88%	1	17	5.88%	1	17
BALTIMORE-WASH	0.00%	0	23	0.00%	0	23	4.55%	1	22
DAKOTAS	0.00%	0	4	0.00%	0	5	0.00%	0	5
DESERT SOUTHWEST	0.00%	0	11	0.00%	0	11	0.00%	0	12
EAST OHIO	0.00%	0	18	0.00%	0	18	0.00%	0	17
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA	0.00%	0	6	0.00%	0	5	0.00%	0	6
ILL GREAT RIVERS	0.00%	0	10	0.00%	0	11	0.00%	0	11
KANSAS EAST	0.00%	0	8	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	9
KANSAS WEST	0.00%	0	7	0.00%	0	6	0.00%	0	4
MISSOURI	0.00%	0	20	6.25%	1	16	5.88%	1	17
NEBRASKA	0.00%	0	1	0.00%	0	1	0.00%	0	3
NEW ENGLAND	0.00%	0	4	0.00%	0	4	0.00%	0	4
NEW MEXICO	0.00%	0	7	0.00%	0	7	12.50%	1	8
NEW YORK	0.00%	0	3	0.00%	0	2	0.00%	0	3
NORTH ALABAMA	0.00%	1	13	0.00%	0	15	11.76%	2	17
NORTH CAROLINA	0.00%	0	22	0.00%	0	24	0.00%	0	25
OREGON-IDAHO	0.00%	0	6	0.00%	0	6	0.00%	0	9
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	0.00%	0	8	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	10
PENINSULA-DELAWARE	0.00%	0	2	0.00%	0	3	0.00%	0	4
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	0.00%	0	23	0.00%	0	23	0.00%	0	25
SOUTH GEORGIA	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	11	0.00%	0	13
TEXAS	0.00%	0	24	3.85%	1	26	3.85%	1	26
TROY	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0
WEST MICHIGAN	0.00%	0	4	0.00%	0	4	0.00%	0	3
WEST VIRGINIA	0.00%	0	11	0.00%	0	8	0.00%	0	8
WESTERN NEW YORK	0.00%	0	5	0.00%	0	6	0.00%	0	7
WISCONSIN	0.00%	0	5	20.00%	1	5	0.00%	0	1
WYOMING	0.00%	0	1	0.00%	0	1	0.00%	0	1
TOTAL	8.42%	77	915	7.69%	69	897	7.10%	64	902

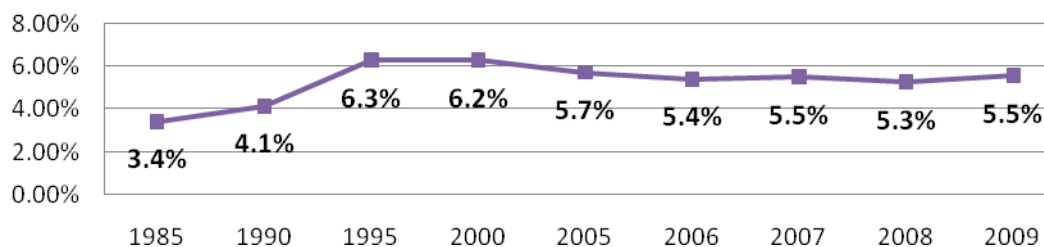
Local Pastors

For local pastors, full-time and part-time local pastors are included, but student local pastors are excluded.

Number of Local Pastors Under 35



Percentage of United Methodist Local Pastors Under 35



**Data on Age Trends for Local Pastors
1985 - 2009**

Year	No. of Local Pastors	Local Pastors Under 35	% Under 35	Local Pastors 35-54	% 35-54	Local Pastors 55-70	% 55-70
1985	3,804	130	3.4%	2,212	58.1%	1,462	38.4%
1990	3,936	163	4.1%	2,244	57.0%	1,529	38.8%
1995	4,622	290	6.3%	2,641	57.1%	1,691	36.6%
2000	5,571	348	6.2%	3,109	55.8%	2,114	37.9%
2005	6,517	371	5.7%	3,213	49.3%	2,933	45.0%
2006	6,731	363	5.4%	3,201	47.6%	3,167	47.1%
2007	6,863	376	5.5%	3,166	46.1%	3,321	48.4%
2008	6,981	367	5.3%	3,094	44.3%	3,520	50.4%
2009	7,164	397	5.5%	3,039	42.4%	3,728	52.0%

**Median, Average, and Mode Ages – Local Pastors
by Year**

	Median Age*	Average Age	Mode Age*
1985	51	49.6	59
1990	51	50.4	60
1995	51	50.3	48
2000	52	50.8	53
2005	53	52.2	58
2006	54	52.5	59
2007	54	52.8	60
2008	55	53.3	59
2009	55	53.5	60

* Median – half older, half younger

* Mode – single age most represented

Gender Breakdown within Age Cohorts - Local Pastors

	Men	Under 35	35 - 54	55 - 72
2007		76%	71%	69%
2008		75%	70%	68%
2009		77%	70%	68%
	Women	Under 35	35 - 54	55 - 72
2007		24%	29%	31%
2008		25%	30%	32%
2009		23%	30%	32%

Local Pastors under 35 by Jurisdictions

	2009	2008	2007
Jurisdiction	Under 35	Under 35	Under 35
North Central	57	46	56
Northeastern	91	76	44
South Central	99	93	93
Southeastern	130	135	164
Western	20	17	19
Total	397	367	376

**Presence of Local Pastors under 35
by Annual Conference
2007 to 2009**

CONFERENCE NAME	% Under 35 in 09	Under 35 in 09	2009 Local Pastors Total	% Under 35 in 08	Under 35 in 08	2008 Local Pastors Total	% Under 35 in 07	Under 35 in 07	2007 Local Pastors Total
ALABAMA WEST FLORIDA	7.98%	13	163	6.76%	10	148	4.94%	8	162
ALASKA MISSIONARY	25.00%	1	4	0.00%	0	2	0.00%	0	2
ARKANSAS	3.72%	7	188	4.74%	9	190	5.38%	10	186
BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON	3.96%	4	101	4.12%	4	97	2.20%	2	91
CALIFORNIA NEVADA	3.70%	2	54	1.85%	1	54	3.70%	2	54
CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC	12.66%	10	79	12.33%	9	73	12.33%	9	73
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA	8.92%	14	157	7.53%	11	146	7.30%	10	137
CENTRAL TEXAS	5.41%	2	37	7.50%	3	40	11.11%	5	45
DAKOTAS	5.13%	2	39	6.45%	2	31	6.06%	2	33
DESERT SOUTHWEST	0.00%	0	28	0.00%	0	26	0.00%	0	25
DETROIT	2.20%	2	91	1.11%	1	90	2.41%	2	83
EAST OHIO	2.55%	5	196	2.58%	5	194	6.25%	12	192
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA	5.13%	6	117	2.83%	3	106	2.08%	2	96
FLORIDA	4.00%	6	150	3.47%	5	144	4.76%	7	147
GREATER NEW JERSEY	6.62%	10	151	6.72%	9	134	7.58%	10	132
HOLSTON	3.25%	5	154	6.63%	11	166	7.39%	13	176
ILL GREAT RIVERS	5.62%	10	178	4.09%	7	171	2.78%	5	180
INDIANA	2.88%	12	188	5.79%	11	190	4.10%	8	195
IOWA	3.78%	7	185	3.21%	6	187	2.19%	4	183
KANSAS EAST	9.09%	6	66	10.45%	7	67	12.31%	8	65
KANSAS WEST	5.33%	4	75	0.00%	0	67	1.43%	1	70
KENTUCKY	6.50%	8	123	6.50%	8	123	1.72%	2	116
LOUISIANA	9.80%	15	153	8.05%	12	149	6.76%	10	148
MEMPHIS	8.06%	5	62	12.31%	8	65	7.81%	5	64
MINNESOTA	6.98%	3	43	0.00%	0	39	8.57%	3	35
MISSISSIPPI	4.94%	12	243	3.40%	8	235	4.18%	10	239
MISSOURI	8.48%	19	224	9.01%	21	233	9.13%	21	230
NEBRASKA	4.55%	3	66	3.45%	2	58	5.08%	3	59
NEW ENGLAND	4.50%	5	111	3.23%	3	93	3.03%	3	99
NEW MEXICO	0.00%	0	24	0.00%	0	24	0.00%	0	22
NEW YORK	8.62%	5	58	9.84%	6	61	8.82%	6	68
NO. CENTRAL NEW YORK	0.00%	0	83	1.31%	1	76	1.49%	1	67

**Presence of Local Pastors under 35
by Annual Conference
2007 to 2009, continued**

CONFERENCE NAME	% Under 35 in 09	Under 35 in 09	2009 Local Pastors Total	% Under 35 in 08	Under 35 in 08	2008 Local Pastors Total	% Under 35 in 07	Under 35 in 07	2007 Local Pastors Total
NORTH ALABAMA	6.20%	16	258	4.44%	11	248	4.02%	10	249
NORTH CAROLINA	5.74%	12	209	8.17%	17	208	7.47%	13	174
NORTH GEORGIA	7.30%	23	315	6.78%	20	295	5.86%	16	273
NORTH TEXAS	4.17%	4	96	6.82%	6	88	7.41%	6	81
NORTHWEST TEXAS	8.51%	4	47	8.70%	4	46	2.67%	2	75
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	2.86%	2	70	1.41%	1	71	7.32%	3	41
OKLAHOMA	9.60%	12	125	7.02%	8	114	9.38%	12	128
OKLAHOMA INDIAN MSNY	16.00%	4	25	11.11%	3	27	8.82%	3	34
OREGON IDAHO	14.29%	4	28	16.00%	4	25	16.00%	4	25
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	11.54%	3	26	4.55%	1	22	9.52%	2	21
PENINSULA-DELAWARE	1.28%	1	78	0.00%	0	77	0.00%	0	77
RED BIRD MISSIONARY	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	9
RIO GRANDE	0.00%	0	19	0.00%	0	16	11.11%	2	18
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	0.00%	0	46	4.26%	2	47	4.26%	2	47
SOUTH CAROLINA	4.32%	8	185	3.65%	7	192	4.42%	8	181
SOUTH GEORGIA	5.48%	8	146	6.62%	9	136	7.75%	11	142
SOUTHWEST TEXAS	8.62%	10	116	4.63%	5	108	4.76%	5	105
TENNESSEE	7.41%	12	162	6.29%	10	159	8.23%	13	158
TEXAS	5.23%	9	172	7.39%	13	176	2.94%	5	170
TROY	0.00%	0	50	1.96%	1	51	1.89%	1	53
VIRGINIA	5.73%	16	279	6.60%	19	288	10.12%	26	257
WEST MICHIGAN	2.88%	3	104	1.98%	2	101	2.33%	2	86
WEST OHIO	6.52%	9	138	6.43%	9	140	8.61%	13	151
WEST VIRGINIA	3.75%	9	240	2.95%	7	237	2.38%	5	210
WESTERN NEW YORK	14.71%	10	68	7.25%	5	69	5.97%	4	67
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA	1.94%	2	103	2.08%	2	96	0.00%	0	86
WESTN NORTH CAROLINA	3.80%	10	263	5.54%	15	271	7.56%	22	291
WISCONSIN	2.25%	2	89	2.33%	2	86	2.33%	2	86
WYOMING	1.23%	1	81	1.49%	1	67	0.00%	0	62
YELLOWSTONE	0.00%	0	26	0.00%	0	25	0.00%	0	23
Total	5.37%	397	7,392	5.26%	367	6,981	5.48%	376	6,863

**Presence of Local Pastors under 35
by 2009 Percentage
2007 to 2009**

CONFERENCE NAME	% Under 35 in 09	Under 35 in 09	2009 Local Pastors Total	% Under 35 in 08	Under 35 in 08	2008 Local Pastors Total	% Under 35 in 07	Under 35 in 07	2007 Local Pastors Total
ALASKA MISSIONARY	25.00%	1	4	0.00%	0	2	0.00%	0	2
OKLAHOMA INDIAN	16.00%	4	25	11.11%	3	27	8.82%	3	34
WESTERN NEW YORK	14.71%	10	68	7.25%	5	69	5.97%	4	67
OREGON IDAHO	14.29%	4	28	16.00%	4	25	16.00%	4	25
CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC	12.66%	10	79	12.33%	9	73	12.33%	9	73
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	11.54%	3	26	4.55%	1	22	9.52%	2	21
LOUISIANA	9.80%	15	153	8.05%	12	149	6.76%	10	148
OKLAHOMA	9.60%	12	125	7.02%	8	114	9.38%	12	128
KANSAS EAST	9.09%	6	66	10.45%	7	67	12.31%	8	65
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA	8.92%	14	157	7.53%	11	146	7.30%	10	137
NEW YORK	8.62%	5	58	9.84%	6	61	8.82%	6	68
SOUTHWEST TEXAS	8.62%	10	116	4.63%	5	108	4.76%	5	105
NORTHWEST TEXAS	8.51%	4	47	8.70%	4	46	2.67%	2	75
MISSOURI	8.48%	19	224	9.01%	21	233	9.13%	21	230
MEMPHIS	8.06%	5	62	12.31%	8	65	7.81%	5	64
ALABAMA WEST FLORIDA	7.98%	13	163	6.76%	10	148	4.94%	8	162
TENNESSEE	7.41%	12	162	6.29%	10	159	8.23%	13	158
NORTH GEORGIA	7.30%	23	315	6.78%	20	295	5.86%	16	273
MINNESOTA	6.98%	3	43	0.00%	0	39	8.57%	3	35
GREATER NEW JERSEY	6.62%	10	151	6.72%	9	134	7.58%	10	132
WEST OHIO	6.52%	9	138	6.43%	9	140	8.61%	13	151
KENTUCKY	6.50%	8	123	6.50%	8	123	1.72%	2	116
NORTH ALABAMA	6.20%	16	258	4.44%	11	248	4.02%	10	249
NORTH CAROLINA	5.74%	12	209	8.17%	17	208	7.47%	13	174
VIRGINIA	5.73%	16	279	6.60%	19	288	10.12%	26	257
ILL GREAT RIVERS	5.62%	10	178	4.09%	7	171	2.78%	5	180
SOUTH GEORGIA	5.48%	8	146	6.62%	9	136	7.75%	11	142
CENTRAL TEXAS	5.41%	2	37	7.50%	3	40	11.11%	5	45
KANSAS WEST	5.33%	4	75	0.00%	0	67	1.43%	1	70
TEXAS	5.23%	9	172	7.39%	13	176	2.94%	5	170

**Presence of Local Pastors under 35
by 2009 Percentage
2007 to 2009, continued**

CONFERENCE NAME	% Under 35 in 09	Under 35 in 09	2009 Local Pastors Total	% Under 35 in 08	Under 35 in 08	2008 Local Pastors Total	% Under 35 in 07	Under 35 in 07	2007 Local Pastors Total
DAKOTAS	5.13%	2	39	6.45%	2	31	6.06%	2	33
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA	5.13%	6	117	2.83%	3	106	2.08%	2	96
MISSISSIPPI	4.94%	12	243	3.40%	8	235	4.18%	10	239
NEBRASKA	4.55%	3	66	3.45%	2	58	5.08%	3	59
NEW ENGLAND	4.50%	5	111	3.23%	3	93	3.03%	3	99
SOUTH CAROLINA	4.32%	8	185	3.65%	7	192	4.42%	8	181
NORTH TEXAS	4.17%	4	96	6.82%	6	88	7.41%	6	81
FLORIDA	4.00%	6	150	3.47%	5	144	4.76%	7	147
BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON	3.96%	4	101	4.12%	4	97	2.20%	2	91
WESTN NORTH CAROLINA	3.80%	10	263	5.54%	15	271	7.56%	22	291
IOWA	3.78%	7	185	3.21%	6	187	2.19%	4	183
WEST VIRGINIA	3.75%	9	240	2.95%	7	237	2.38%	5	210
ARKANSAS	3.72%	7	188	4.74%	9	190	5.38%	10	186
CALIFORNIA NEVADA	3.70%	2	54	1.85%	1	54	3.70%	2	54
HOLSTON	3.25%	5	154	6.63%	11	166	7.39%	13	176
INDIANA	2.88%	12	416	5.79%	11	190	4.10%	8	195
WEST MICHIGAN	2.88%	3	104	1.98%	2	101	2.33%	2	86
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	2.86%	2	70	1.41%	1	71	7.32%	3	41
EAST OHIO	2.55%	5	196	2.58%	5	194	6.25%	12	192
WISCONSIN	2.25%	2	89	2.33%	2	86	2.33%	2	86
DETROIT	2.20%	2	91	1.11%	1	90	2.41%	2	83
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA	1.94%	2	103	2.08%	2	96	0.00%	0	86
PENINSULA-DELAWARE	1.28%	1	78	0.00%	0	77	0.00%	0	77
WYOMING	1.23%	1	81	1.49%	1	67	0.00%	0	62
DESERT SOUTHWEST	0.00%	0	28	0.00%	0	26	0.00%	0	25
NEW MEXICO	0.00%	0	24	0.00%	0	24	0.00%	0	22
NO. CENTRAL NEW YORK	0.00%	0	83	1.31%	1	76	1.49%	1	67
RED BIRD MISSIONARY	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	9
RIO GRANDE	0.00%	0	19	0.00%	0	16	11.11%	2	18
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	0.00%	0	46	4.26%	2	47	4.26%	2	47
TROY	0.00%	0	50	1.96%	1	51	1.89%	1	53
YELLOWSTONE	0.00%	0	26	0.00%	0	25	0.00%	0	23
Total	5.37%	397	7,392	5.26%	367	6,981	5.48%	376	6,863

Annual Conference Clergy by Age Group - Numeric

CONFERENCE NAME	Elders				Deacons				Local Pastors			
	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72	2009 Total	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72	2009 Total	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72	2009 Total
ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA	16	154	118	288	5	23	8	36	13	59	91	163
ALASKA Missionary	1	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	4
ARKANSAS	23	126	118	267	0	10	9	19	7	65	116	188
BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON	19	188	214	421	0	12	11	23	4	38	59	101
CALIFORNIA-NEVADA	8	126	179	313	1	4	6	11	2	20	32	54
CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC	12	192	177	381	1	7	11	19	10	39	30	79
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA	20	146	139	305	1	2	4	7	14	61	82	157
CENTRAL TEXAS	21	114	121	256	2	12	12	26	2	15	20	37
DAKOTAS	8	57	78	143	0	4	0	4	2	25	12	39
DESERT SOUTHWEST	5	50	78	133	0	4	7	11	0	10	18	28
DETROIT	12	128	155	295	2	8	6	16	2	27	62	91
EAST OHIO	18	179	189	386	0	7	11	18	5	75	116	196
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA	5	139	144	288	0	4	2	6	6	45	66	117
FLORIDA	22	248	230	500	3	11	18	32	6	65	79	150
GREATER NEW JERSEY	15	183	201	399	2	4	10	16	10	52	89	151
HOLSTON	32	157	137	326	1	6	5	12	5	65	84	154
ILLINOIS GREAT RIVERS	17	188	165	370	0	3	7	10	10	69	99	178
INDIANA	32	278	288	598	0	8	8	16	12	86	90	188
IOWA	18	164	207	389	1	11	1	13	7	72	106	185
KANSAS EAST	7	65	85	157	0	6	2	8	6	25	35	66
KANSAS WEST	10	63	100	173	0	3	4	7	4	34	37	75
KENTUCKY	10	149	112	271	2	15	10	27	8	59	56	123
LOUISIANA	18	111	97	226	2	8	12	22	15	65	73	153
MEMPHIS	7	66	105	178	1	9	2	12	5	26	31	62
MINNESOTA	15	124	111	250	3	6	7	16	3	15	25	43
MISSISSIPPI	41	170	158	369	2	13	9	24	12	107	124	243
MISSOURI	20	169	138	327	0	13	7	20	19	96	109	224
NEBRASKA	4	76	87	167	0	1	0	1	3	26	37	66
NEW ENGLAND	8	127	167	302	0	2	2	4	5	49	57	111
NEW MEXICO	4	52	39	95	0	4	3	7	0	7	17	24
NEW YORK	7	105	177	289	0	0	3	3	5	26	27	58
NORTH ALABAMA	23	175	141	339	1	6	6	13	16	110	132	258

Annual Conference Clergy by Age Group – Numeric (continued)

CONFERENCE NAME	Elders				Deacons				Local Pastors			
	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72	2009 Total	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72	2009 Total	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72	2009 Total
NORTH CAROLINA	28	227	195	450	0	8	14	22	12	97	100	209
NORTH CENT NEW YORK	5	50	69	124	0	3	0	3	0	27	56	83
NORTH GEORGIA	35	301	242	578	10	24	17	51	23	161	131	315
NORTH TEXAS	17	133	122	272	5	19	13	37	4	48	44	96
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	17	148	146	311	5	11	2	18	4	21	22	47
NORTHWEST TEXAS	7	58	48	113	0	3	2	5	2	34	34	70
OKLAHOMA	28	149	152	329	6	13	17	36	12	51	62	125
OKLAHOMA INDIAN MSNY	0	3	11	14	0	1	0	1	4	10	11	25
OREGON IDAHO	6	60	74	140	0	2	4	6	4	7	17	28
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	6	88	112	206	0	1	7	8	3	7	16	26
PENINSULA-DELAWARE	3	80	92	175	0	0	2	2	1	29	48	78
RED BIRD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	3	9
RIO GRANDE	0	23	19	42	1	1	0	2	0	7	12	19
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	12	88	112	212	0	11	12	23	0	24	22	46
SOUTH CAROLINA	28	195	245	468	1	13	9	23	8	71	106	185
SOUTH GEORGIA	19	135	135	289	2	6	5	13	8	80	58	146
SOUTHWEST TEXAS	6	95	131	232	2	6	6	14	10	43	63	116
TENNESSEE	10	98	96	204	4	18	13	35	12	73	77	162
TEXAS	21	224	185	430	0	6	18	24	9	66	97	172
TROY	1	38	55	94	0	0	0	0	0	23	27	50
VIRGINIA	46	322	295	663	3	15	12	30	16	120	143	279
WEST MICHIGAN	6	100	109	215	0	3	1	4	3	41	60	104
WEST OHIO	15	315	258	588	3	12	10	25	9	60	69	138
WEST VIRGINIA	17	113	111	241	0	3	8	11	9	96	135	240
WESTERN NEW YORK	3	55	62	120	0	5	0	5	10	37	21	68
WESTERN NO CAROLINA	62	393	287	742	5	23	15	43	10	144	109	263
WESTERN PENN	15	185	179	379	0	3	6	9	2	37	64	103
WISCONSIN	11	126	127	264	0	2	3	5	2	41	46	89
WYOMING	3	51	58	112	0	0	0	5	1	38	42	81
YELLOWSTONE	1	15	27	43	0	0	1	1	0	6	20	26
TOTAL	906	8,139	8,209	17,254	77	438	400	915	397	3,039	3,728	7,164

Annual Conference Clergy by Age Group - Percentage

	Elders			Deacons			Local Pastors		
CONFERENCE NAME	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72
ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA	5.56%	53.47%	40.97%	13.89%	63.89%	22.22%	7.98%	36.20%	55.83%
ALASKA MISSIONARY	33.33%	66.67%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	25.00%	50.00%
ARKANSAS	8.61%	47.19%	44.19%	0.00%	52.63%	47.37%	3.72%	34.57%	61.70%
BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON	4.51%	44.66%	50.83%	0.00%	52.17%	47.83%	3.96%	37.62%	58.42%
CALIFORNIA-NEVADA	2.56%	40.26%	57.19%	9.09%	36.36%	54.55%	3.70%	37.04%	59.26%
CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC	3.15%	50.39%	46.46%	5.26%	36.84%	57.89%	12.66%	49.37%	37.97%
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA	6.56%	47.87%	45.57%	14.29%	28.57%	57.14%	8.92%	38.85%	52.23%
CENTRAL TEXAS	8.20%	44.53%	47.27%	7.69%	46.15%	46.15%	5.41%	40.54%	54.05%
DAKOTAS	5.59%	39.86%	54.55%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	5.13%	64.10%	30.77%
DESERT SOUTHWEST	3.76%	37.59%	58.65%	0.00%	36.36%	63.64%	0.00%	35.71%	64.29%
DETROIT	4.07%	43.39%	52.54%	12.50%	50.00%	37.50%	2.20%	29.67%	68.13%
EAST OHIO	4.66%	46.37%	48.96%	0.00%	38.89%	61.11%	2.55%	38.27%	59.18%
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA	1.74%	48.26%	50.00%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%	5.13%	38.46%	56.41%
FLORIDA	4.40%	49.60%	46.00%	9.38%	34.38%	56.25%	4.00%	43.33%	52.67%
GREATER NEW JERSEY	3.76%	45.86%	50.38%	12.50%	25.00%	62.50%	6.62%	34.44%	58.94%
HOLSTON	9.82%	48.16%	42.02%	8.33%	50.00%	41.67%	3.25%	42.21%	54.55%
ILLINOIS GREAT RIVERS	4.59%	50.81%	44.59%	0.00%	30.00%	70.00%	5.62%	38.76%	55.62%
INDIANA	5.35%	46.49%	48.16%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	6.38%	45.74%	47.87%
IOWA	4.63%	42.16%	53.21%	7.69%	84.62%	7.69%	3.78%	38.92%	57.30%
KANSAS EAST	4.46%	41.40%	54.14%	0.00%	75.00%	25.00%	9.09%	37.88%	53.03%
KANSAS WEST	5.78%	36.42%	57.80%	0.00%	42.86%	57.14%	5.33%	45.33%	49.33%
KENTUCKY	3.69%	54.98%	41.33%	7.41%	55.56%	37.04%	6.50%	47.97%	45.53%
LOUISIANA	7.96%	49.12%	42.92%	9.09%	36.36%	54.55%	9.80%	42.48%	47.71%
MEMPHIS	3.93%	37.08%	58.99%	8.33%	75.00%	16.67%	8.06%	41.94%	50.00%
MINNESOTA	6.00%	49.60%	44.40%	18.75%	37.50%	43.75%	6.98%	34.88%	58.14%
MISSISSIPPI	11.11%	46.07%	42.82%	8.33%	54.17%	37.50%	4.94%	44.03%	51.03%
MISSOURI	6.12%	51.68%	42.20%	0.00%	65.00%	35.00%	8.48%	42.86%	48.66%
NEBRASKA	2.40%	45.51%	52.10%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	4.55%	39.39%	56.06%
NEW ENGLAND	2.65%	42.05%	55.30%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	4.50%	44.14%	51.35%
NEW MEXICO	4.21%	54.74%	41.05%	0.00%	57.14%	42.86%	0.00%	29.17%	70.83%
NEW YORK	2.42%	36.33%	61.25%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	8.62%	44.83%	46.55%
NORTH ALABAMA	6.78%	51.62%	41.59%	7.69%	46.15%	46.15%	6.20%	42.64%	51.16%
NORTH CAROLINA	6.22%	50.44%	43.33%	0.00%	36.36%	63.64%	5.74%	46.41%	47.85%
NORTH CENT NEW YORK	4.03%	40.32%	55.65%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	32.53%	67.47%

Annual Conference Clergy by Age Group – Percentage (continued)

	Elders			Deacons			Local Pastors		
CONFERENCE NAME	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72
NORTH GEORGIA	6.06%	52.08%	41.87%	19.61%	47.06%	33.33%	7.30%	51.11%	41.59%
NORTH TEXAS	6.25%	48.90%	44.85%	13.51%	51.35%	35.14%	4.17%	50.00%	45.83%
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	5.47%	47.59%	46.95%	27.78%	61.11%	11.11%	8.51%	44.68%	46.81%
NORTHWEST TEXAS	6.19%	51.33%	42.48%	0.00%	60.00%	40.00%	2.86%	48.57%	48.57%
OKLAHOMA	8.51%	45.29%	46.20%	16.67%	36.11%	47.22%	9.60%	40.80%	49.60%
OKLAHOMA INDIAN MSNY	0.00%	21.43%	78.57%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	16.00%	40.00%	44.00%
OREGON IDAHO	4.29%	42.86%	52.86%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	14.29%	25.00%	60.71%
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	2.91%	42.72%	54.37%	0.00%	12.50%	87.50%	11.54%	26.92%	61.54%
PENINSULA-DELAWARE	1.71%	45.71%	52.57%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	1.28%	37.18%	61.54%
RED BIRD	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%
RIO GRANDE	0.00%	54.76%	45.24%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	36.84%	63.16%
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	5.66%	41.51%	52.83%	0.00%	47.83%	52.17%	0.00%	52.17%	47.83%
SOUTH CAROLINA	5.98%	41.67%	52.35%	4.35%	56.52%	39.13%	4.32%	38.38%	57.30%
SOUTH GEORGIA	6.57%	46.71%	46.71%	15.38%	46.15%	38.46%	5.48%	54.79%	39.73%
SOUTHWEST TEXAS	2.59%	40.95%	56.47%	14.29%	42.86%	42.86%	8.62%	37.07%	54.31%
TENNESSEE	4.90%	48.04%	47.06%	11.43%	51.43%	37.14%	7.41%	45.06%	47.53%
TEXAS	4.88%	52.09%	43.02%	0.00%	25.00%	75.00%	5.23%	38.37%	56.40%
TROY	1.06%	40.43%	58.51%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	46.00%	54.00%
VIRGINIA	6.94%	48.57%	44.49%	10.00%	50.00%	40.00%	5.73%	43.01%	51.25%
WEST MICHIGAN	2.79%	46.51%	50.70%	0.00%	75.00%	25.00%	2.88%	39.42%	57.69%
WEST OHIO	2.55%	53.57%	43.88%	12.00%	48.00%	40.00%	6.52%	43.48%	50.00%
WEST VIRGINIA	7.05%	46.89%	46.06%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%	3.75%	40.00%	56.25%
WESTERN NEW YORK	2.50%	45.83%	51.67%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	14.71%	54.41%	30.88%
WESTERN NO CAROLINA	8.36%	52.96%	38.68%	11.63%	53.49%	34.88%	3.80%	54.75%	41.44%
WESTERN PENN	3.96%	48.81%	47.23%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	1.94%	35.92%	62.14%
WISCONSIN	4.17%	47.73%	48.11%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	2.25%	46.07%	51.69%
WYOMING	2.68%	45.54%	51.79%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	1.23%	46.91%	51.85%
YELLOWSTONE	2.33%	34.88%	62.79%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	23.08%	76.92%
TOTAL	5.25%	47.17%	47.58%	8.42%	47.87%	43.72%	5.54%	42.42%	52.04%

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Established by Wesley Theological Seminary in 2003, the Lewis Center for Church Leadership has developed a solid track record in helping the United Methodist Church address its current challenges. The Center is building a vision for church leadership grounded in faith, informed by knowledge, and exercised in effective action. It seeks a holistic understanding of Christian leadership that brings together theology and management, scholarship and practice, research and application.

Committed to the broad goal of helping the church reach more people, younger people, and more diverse people, the Center focuses on improving leadership effectiveness and providing actionable insights and best practices to promote effective ministry. The Center seeks to be a trusted resource for church leadership helping congregations and denominations serve, thrive, and grow. The Center staff of six, along with other researchers and consultants who assist with special projects, also draws on the expertise of the entire Wesley faculty and a wide array of gifted practitioners.

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Building a New Vision for Church Leadership

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