

A Lewis Center Report on
**Clergy Age Trends in the
United Methodist Church**
2015 Report

Elders • Deacons • Local Pastors

2015 Report
Lewis Center for Church Leadership
Wesley Theological Seminary



Lewis Center
for Church Leadership

A Lewis Center Report on **Clergy Age Trends in the United Methodist Church** 2015 Report

2015 Figures as of May 2015

Highlights _____	3
Purpose and Description _____	4
Summary of Findings _____	5
Elders _____	6
Deacons _____	13
Local Pastors _____	19
All Clergy by Annual Conference in Age Tiers _____	25
Other Denominations _____	29

Highlights of the 2015 Report

Numbers of Young Elders Grow Over Ten Years; All Gains from Clergywomen

In 2005, the United Methodist Church reported the smallest percentage of under-35 elders ever. The 850 young elders that year represented 4.69 percent of active elders. Growth among young elders has been slow but relatively steady over the past ten years. In 2015, there are 986 young elders that comprise 6.56 percent of the pool of active elders, a pool now smaller by over 3,000 elders.

Gender has been a major factor in the gains to the extent that there are actually fewer young male elders now than in 2005 with all the increases coming from young female clergy.

Young Male Elders in 2005 –	587
Young Male Elders in 2015 –	582
Change	(5)

Young Female Elders in 2005 –	263
Young Female Elders in 2015 –	404
Change	141

Percentage of Young Clergywomen Grows Consistently among Elders and Deacons

For many years after seminary enrollments showed a balance between men and women students, the presence of young United Methodist clergywomen seemed to fall much below their proportion of seminary students. That has now changed steadily over recent years. In the last ten years, the percentage of women among young elders has increased from 31 percent in 2005 to 41 percent in 2015, the highest ever.

Deacons, on the other hand, have traditionally been predominantly female. Yet, even among deacons, the percentage of women has increased. Since 2012 the percentage of female deacons has increased each year from 68 percent in 2012 to 80 percent in 2015.

Among local pastors, the young cohort is increasing but primarily among men, with the proportion of young female local pastors dropping somewhat.

Fewer Elders, More Local Pastors

Elders and local pastors are appointed as pastors of congregations. The number of active elders continues to decline as the number of local pastors grows. Since 1990 there are 6,488 fewer elders and 3,525 more local pastors. In 1990, there were over five elders for each local pastor; today there are two elders for each local pastor. In 2015, there are 15,019 elders and 7,464 local pastors.

Elders Older Despite More Young Elders

Elders between ages 55 and 72 comprise 55 percent of all active elders, the highest percentage in history. This group reached 50 percent for the first time ever in 2010. This age cohort represented only 30 percent of active elders as recently as 2000. Previously their percentage of the total was even lower. The median age of elders remained at 56 in 2015, the highest in history. The median age was 50 in 2000 and 45 in 1973. The average age remains at 53, a historic high, though unchanged for six years. The mode age (the single age most represented) is 60, down from 61 last year.

Unfortunately, the modest gain in the presence of young elders was offset by a decline in the percentage of elders aged 35 to 54. This mid-age group continues to shrink, from 65 percent of all active elders in 2000 to 38 percent in 2015.

Purpose and Description

The purpose of this ongoing research effort is to identify clergy age trends in the United Methodist Church so that denominational leaders have the data for planning and a baseline for monitoring future changes. This report builds on previous reports on clergy age trends issued by the Lewis Center for Church Leadership. The first 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 20 years. This report presents a snapshot of where clergy age trends stand in May 2015.

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 (GBPHB). 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. 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. For local pastors, both full-time and part-time local pastors are included. Since the GBPHB does not keep records of clergy by race, we are not able to make comparisons by racial groups.

To help the church address the dramatic loss of young clergy first reported in 2005, the Lewis Center for Church Leadership has provided resources beginning with *The Crisis of Younger Clergy* by Lovett H. Weems, Jr., and Ann A. Michel (Abingdon, 2008) and the formation of the [Lewis Fellows program](#) to provide advanced leader development for approximately twenty young clergy each year.

More recently, the Lewis Center developed a series of free one-page downloadable documents to assist those seeking to support younger clergy.

- [Why Young Clergy Matter](#)
- [Ways Established Church Leaders Can Work with Young Clergy](#)
- [Suggestions for Churches with a Young Pastor](#)
- [Suggestions for Churches with a Single Pastor](#)
- [Suggestions for Churches with a Clergywoman](#)

A 6 minute video overview of this report is available to view or download at <https://vimeo.com/138101400>

Contributors

Lovett H. Weems, Jr., professor of church leadership and founding director of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership, and Joseph E. Arnold, research manager of the Lewis Center, were project directors. Ann A. Michel, associate director of the Lewis Center, and Matthew Lyons, marketing manager of the Lewis Center, contributed to 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, Helen Exarhakos, Tanya Lerner, and Otissteann Arrington, provided essential cooperation and data. Thanks go also to the General Council on Finance and Administration for sharing data they collect.

Young Clergy Trends

Young Elders

- The number of under-35 elders increased from 949 in 2014 to 986 in 2015.
- The percentage of young elders grew from 6.17 percent in 2014 to 6.57 percent in 2015.
- The Texas Conference again reported the highest percentage of young elders at 11.74 percent. This is the first time that an annual conference has been number one in two consecutive years since the Arkansas Conference did so in 2007 and 2008.
- The Top Ten Conferences by percentage
 - Texas (#1 in 2014 and 2012)
 - Mississippi (#1 in 2010 and 2006)
 - Kentucky
 - North Alabama
 - Virginia
 - Dakotas (new since last report)
 - Alabama-West Florida
 - Great Plains (new since last report)
 - Tennessee (new since last report)
 - North Carolina (new since last report)
- Trending Conferences (those with strong increases over the past three years; in alphabetical order)
 - California-Nevada
 - Detroit
 - Florida
 - North Texas
 - West Ohio
- As in previous years, most of the conferences with larger percentages of young clergy are from the Southeastern and South Central Jurisdictions. Dakotas from the North Central Jurisdiction appears in the Top Ten for the first time since 2005-2008 when it was in the group each year. Since these reports began in 2005, the North Central and Western Jurisdictions have had two conferences each in the Top Ten, and the Northeastern Jurisdiction has had one conference in the Top Ten lists. There is great geographic diversity in the Trending Conferences list.
- The largest total number of young elders (60) is in the Virginia Conference.

Young Deacons

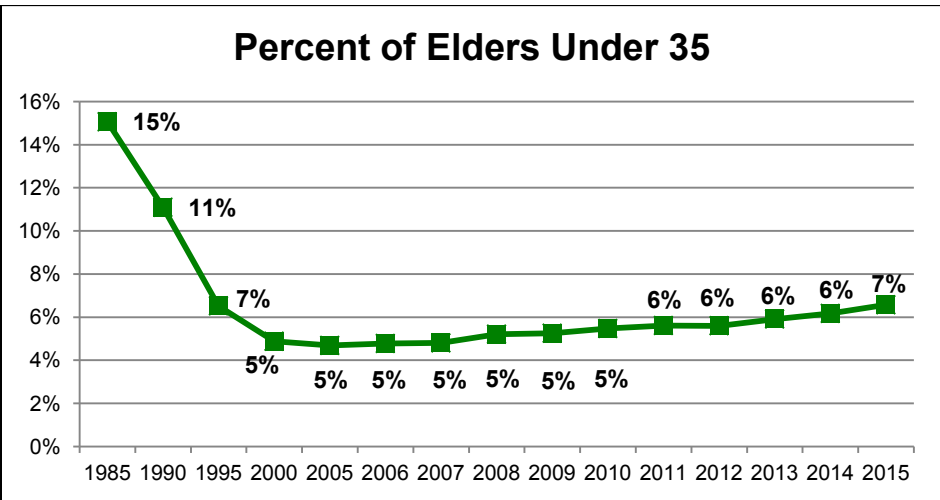
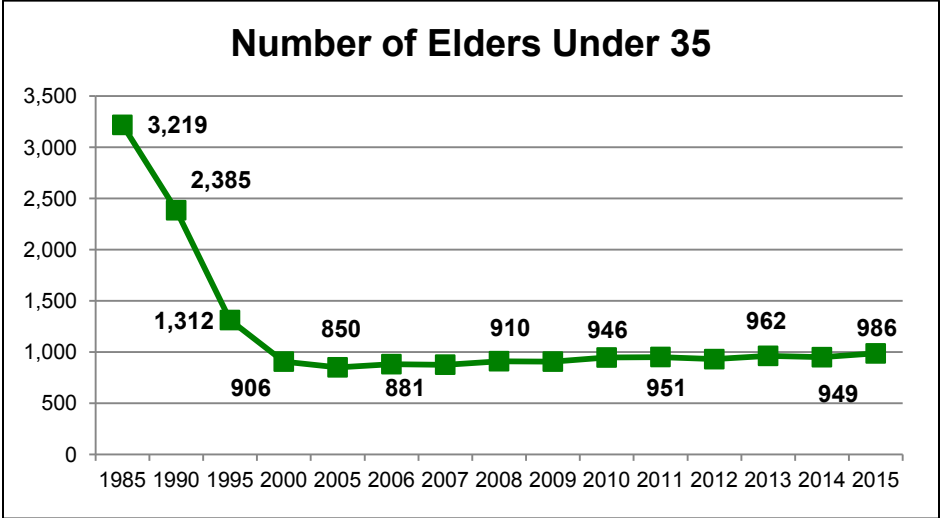
- The number of under-35 deacons increased from 86 in 2014 to 90 in 2015. This is a record high number of young deacons.
- The percentage of young deacons increased from 9.01 percent in 2014 to 9.43 percent in 2015, also a record high.
- While the number of young deacons is still small compared to young elders, their percentage of all deacons has run consistently higher than that of young elders since 2008.
- The percentage of women young deacons, currently 80 percent, continues to increase, up from 68 percent as recently as 2012.

Young Local Pastors

- The number of under-35 local pastors increased from 568 in 2014 to 601 in 2015.
- The percentage of young local pastors increased from 7.68 percent in 2014 to 8.05 percent in 2015.
- The number and percentage of young local pastors in 2015 are both record highs.

Elders

To have comparable figures across the years for elders, the figures include *not only those ordained elder but also those commissioned on the elder track but not yet ordained.*



Elders Under 35 by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Elders under 35 2015	% Elders under 35 2015	Elders 35-54 2015	% Elders 35-54 2015	Elders 55-72 2015	% Elders 55-72 2015	Total Elders 2015
North Central	183	6%	1,161	37%	1,831	58%	3,175
Northeastern	118	4%	984	36%	1,627	60%	2,729
South Central	218	8%	1,108	39%	1,535	54%	2,861
Southeastern	413	8%	2,058	40%	2,630	52%	5,101
Western	54	5%	435	38%	664	58%	1,153
Total	986	7%	5,746	38%	8,287	55%	15,019

**Gender Breakdown within
Age Cohorts - Elders**

Year	Gender	Under 35	35-54	55-72
2012	Men	62%	71%	72%
	Women	38%	29%	28%
2013	Men	62%	70%	72%
	Women	38%	30%	28%
2014	Men	61%	70%	71%
	Women	39%	30%	29%
2015	Men	59%	70%	71%
	Women	41%	30%	29%

Median, Average, and Mode Ages by Year - Elders

Year	Median* Age	Average Age	Mode* Age
1985	48	47	54
1990	47	48	43
1995	48	48	48
2000	50	50	53
2005	52	52	58
2010	55	53	58
2011	55	53	59
2012	55	53	60
2013	55	53	61
2014	56	53	61
2015	56	53	60

*Median – half older, half younger

*Mode – single age most represented

Trends of Elders 1985-2015

Year	No. of Elders	No. of Elders Under 35	% Under 35	No. of Elders 35-54	% 35-54	No. of Elders 55-72	% 55-72
1985	21,378	3,219	15%	12,305	58%	5,854	27%
1990	21,507	2,385	11%	12,678	59%	6,444	30%
1995	20,117	1,312	7%	12,843	64%	5,962	30%
2000	18,576	906	5%	12,005	65%	5,665	30%
2005	18,141	850	5%	9,872	54%	7,419	41%
2010	17,293	946	5%	7,698	45%	8,649	50%
2011	16,954	951	6%	7,213	43%	8,790	52%
2012	16,601	930	6%	6,876	41%	8,795	53%
2013	16,290	962	6%	6,486	40%	8,842	54%
2014	15,384	949	6%	5,998	39%	8,437	55%
2015	15,019	986	7%	5,746	38%	8,287	55%

Mean, Median, and Mode Ages by Conference

Median - half older, half younger. Mode - single age most represented
 Some have no mode value because no unique mode exists (no single age occurred more frequently than another).

CONFERENCE	2015 Mean	2015 Median	2015 Mode
Alabama-West Florida	52	54	58
Alaska Missionary	--	--	--
Arkansas	52	54	64
Baltimore-Washington	54	56	64
California-Nevada	55	57	63
California-Pacific	54	56	57
Central Texas	53	55	55
Dakotas	53	56	--
Desert Southwest	54	57	62
Detroit	54	56	55
East Ohio	54	57	59
Eastern Pennsylvania	55	57	57
Florida	53	55	62
Great Plains	54	57	63
Greater New Jersey	55	57	60
Holston	52	54	55
Illinois Great Rivers	54	57	58
Indiana	54	57	61
Iowa	54	57	63
Kentucky	52	55	60
Louisiana	54	56	58
Memphis	55	58	61
Minnesota	54	56	58
Mississippi	52	54	55
Missouri	53	55	53
New England	55	56	53
New Mexico	54	56	--
New York	56	57	59

CONFERENCE	2015 Mean	2015 Median	2015 Mode
North Alabama	52	53	61
North Carolina	52	55	57
North Georgia	53	55	58
North Texas	54	55	--
Northern Illinois	53	54	--
Northwest Texas	53	54	60
Oklahoma	53	56	63
OK Indian Missionary	59	61	--
Oregon-Idaho	56	58	59
Pacific Northwest	53	55	62
Peninsula-Delaware	56	57	60
Red Bird Missionary	--	--	--
Rio Texas	54	56	62
Rocky Mountain	53	55	--
South Carolina	54	57	61
South Georgia	53	55	60
Susquehanna	54	56	58
Tennessee	53	56	--
Texas	51	54	--
Upper New York	55	58	60
Virginia	52	55	59
West Michigan	55	57	56
West Ohio	53	55	62
West Virginia	54	56	61
Western North Carolina	52	55	60
Western Pennsylvania	55	57	61
Wisconsin	55	57	--
Yellowstone	57	58	55

**Presence of Elders under 35
by Annual Conference
2013-2015**

CONFERENCE	2015 Elders under 35	2015 Elders under 35	2015 Elders	2014 Elders under 35	2014 Elders under 35	2014 Elders	2013 Elders under 35	2013 Elders under 35	2013 Elders
Alabama-West Florida	21	8.79%	239	23	9.20%	250	23	8.65%	266
Alaska Missionary	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0
Arkansas	20	8.37%	239	21	8.61%	244	17	6.83%	249
Baltimore-Washington	28	7.41%	378	25	6.61%	378	21	5.68%	370
California-Nevada	12	4.96%	242	4	1.61%	249	4	1.44%	277
California-Pacific	9	2.85%	316	8	2.45%	327	11	3.13%	352
Central Texas	18	7.93%	227	17	7.52%	226	19	8.48%	224
Dakotas	12	9.23%	130	11	8.21%	134	9	6.34%	142
Desert Southwest	6	5.61%	107	6	5.13%	117	6	4.69%	128
Detroit	13	5.70%	228	8	3.46%	231	7	2.77%	253
East Ohio	22	7.33%	300	26	8.23%	316	19	5.74%	331
Eastern Pennsylvania	9	3.72%	242	7	2.83%	247	6	2.21%	271
Florida	30	6.90%	435	19	4.40%	432	17	3.81%	446
Great Plains	38	8.74%	435	29	6.67%	435	37	7.89%	469
Greater New Jersey	9	2.92%	308	10	3.13%	319	12	3.26%	368
Holston	25	8.01%	312	28	8.78%	319	30	9.12%	329
Illinois Great Rivers	14	4.50%	311	18	5.42%	332	16	4.66%	343
Indiana	29	5.98%	485	33	6.69%	493	32	6.12%	523
Iowa	23	7.08%	325	20	5.93%	337	23	6.50%	354
Kentucky	25	9.77%	256	23	8.98%	256	21	8.08%	260
Louisiana	14	7.57%	185	14	7.00%	200	14	6.70%	209
Memphis	6	3.97%	151	8	5.06%	158	5	3.14%	159
Minnesota	10	5.21%	192	12	6.03%	199	14	6.33%	221
Mississippi	34	10.24%	332	31	8.78%	353	35	9.56%	366
Missouri	16	5.44%	294	18	6.06%	297	22	7.05%	312
New England	4	1.68%	238	6	2.35%	255	9	3.09%	291
New Mexico	3	3.23%	93	3	3.23%	93	3	3.06%	98
New York	9	3.00%	300	9	2.92%	308	14	4.18%	335

Presence of Elders under 35
by Annual Conference
2013-2015, continued

CONFERENCE	2015 Elders under 35	2015 Elders under 35	2015 Elders	2014 Elders under 35	2014 Elders under 35	2014 Elders	2013 Elders under 35	2013 Elders under 35	2013 Elders
North Alabama	28	9.69%	289	25	8.74%	286	32	9.61%	333
North Carolina	34	8.44%	403	29	7.25%	400	26	6.21%	419
North Georgia	42	8.02%	524	42	7.89%	532	41	7.56%	542
North Texas	14	5.47%	256	11	4.28%	257	7	2.64%	265
Northern Illinois	22	7.33%	300	19	6.19%	307	18	5.81%	310
Northwest Texas	5	5.10%	98	6	5.61%	107	5	4.31%	116
Oklahoma	24	7.74%	310	23	7.42%	310	29	8.55%	339
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.00%	13	0	0.00%	11	0	0.00%	13
Oregon-Idaho	1	0.96%	104	2	1.80%	111	3	2.10%	143
Pacific Northwest	11	6.55%	168	10	5.81%	172	12	6.38%	188
Peninsula-Delaware	4	2.92%	137	4	2.80%	143	6	3.82%	157
Red Bird Missionary	0	0.00%	1	0	0.00%	1	0	0.00%	1
Rio Texas	14	5.22%	268	15	6.33%	271	16	6.48%	280
Rocky Mountain	14	7.73%	181	12	6.42%	187	14	7.25%	193
South Carolina	32	7.64%	419	36	8.55%	421	34	7.89%	431
South Georgia	9	3.77%	239	12	4.76%	252	14	5.28%	265
Susquehanna	17	5.86%	290	22	7.28%	302	20	6.23%	321
Tennessee	17	8.63%	197	16	8.21%	195	19	9.31%	204
Texas	52	11.74%	443	45	10.18%	442	40	8.91%	449
Upper New York	13	4.28%	304	13	4.06%	320	15	4.07%	370
Virginia	60	9.55%	628	56	8.75%	640	55	8.40%	655
West Michigan	7	4.14%	169	6	3.45%	174	5	2.62%	191
West Ohio	22	4.36%	505	24	4.60%	522	12	2.31%	519
West Virginia	14	6.36%	220	13	5.83%	223	11	4.91%	224
Western North Carolina	50	7.40%	676	48	6.94%	692	57	7.27%	784
Western Pennsylvania	11	3.53%	312	11	3.45%	319	12	3.58%	335
Wisconsin	9	3.91%	230	11	4.55%	242	12	4.80%	250
Yellowstone	1	2.86%	35	1	2.50%	40	1	2.13%	47
Total	986	6.57%	15,019	949	6.17%	15,384	962	5.91%	16,290

Elders

Presence of Elders under 35 by 2015 Percentage 2013-2015

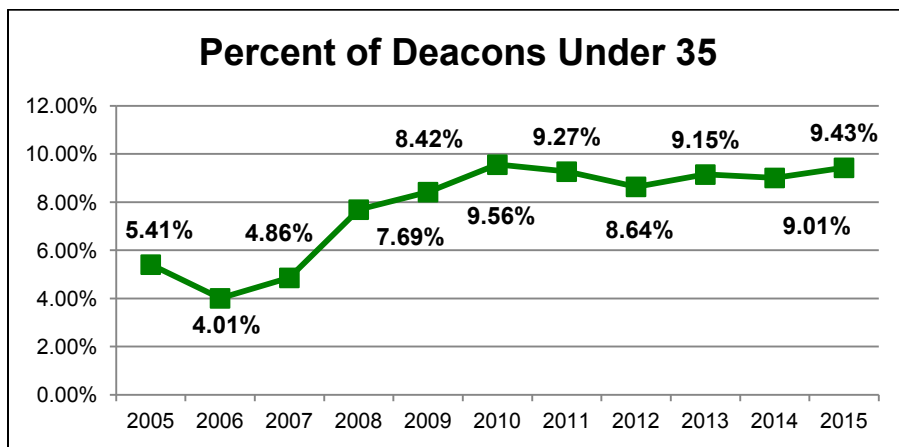
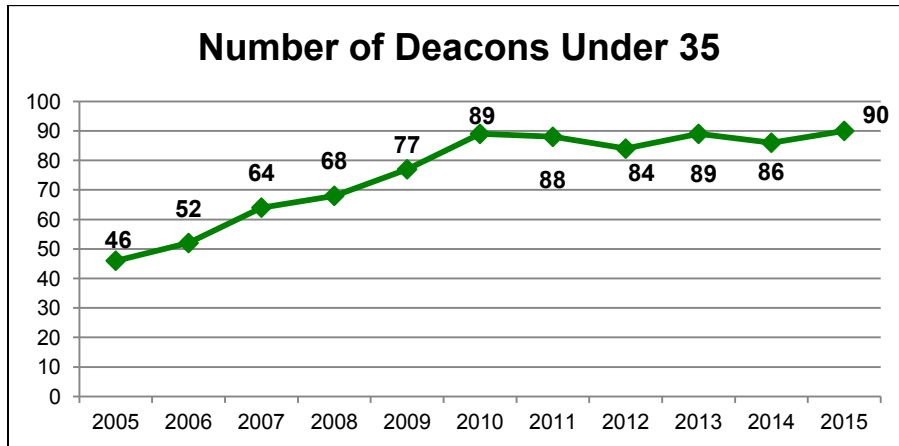
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by 2015 Percentage
2013-2015, continued**

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New England	4	1.68%	238	6	2.35%	255	9	3.09%	291
Oregon-Idaho	1	0.96%	104	2	1.80%	111	3	2.10%	143
Alaska Missionary	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.00%	13	0	0.00%	11	0	0.00%	13
Red Bird Missionary	0	0.00%	1	0	0.00%	1	0	0.00%	1
Total	986	6.57%	15,019	949	6.17%	15,384	962	5.91%	16,290

Deacons

Deacon numbers include *not only those who have been ordained deacon but also those who have been commissioned on the deacon track but not yet ordained.*



Deacons Under 35 by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
North Central	9	9	11	14	20	18	13	16	16	17
Northeastern	1	3	3	3	5	3	4	4	5	4
South Central	19	22	20	18	18	18	17	18	15	23
Southeastern	22	30	33	40	45	46	47	48	47	44
Western	3	0	1	2	1	3	3	3	3	2
Total	52	64	68	77	89	88	84	89	86	90

**Median, Average, and Mode Ages - Deacons
by Year**

Year	Median* Age	Average Age	Mode* Age
2008	53	51	-
2009	53	51	53
2010	54	52	54
2011	54	52	55
2012	54	52	-
2013	55	52	58
2014	55	52	59
2015	54	52	60

*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**

Year	Gender	Under 35	35-54	55-72
2012	Men	32%	30%	26%
	Women	68%	70%	74%
2013	Men	26%	31%	25%
	Women	74%	69%	75%
2014	Men	21%	31%	26%
	Women	79%	69%	74%
2015	Men	20%	32%	25%
	Women	80%	68%	75%

Trends for Deacons 2005-2015

Year	No. of Deacons	No. of Deacons Under 35	% Under 35	No. of Deacons 35-54	% 35-54	No. of Deacons 55-72	% 55-72
2005	850	46	5%				
2006	844	52	6%	438	52%	354	42%
2007	902	64	7%	457	51%	381	42%
2008	897	69	8%	441	49%	387	43%
2009	915	77	8%	438	48%	400	44%
2010	930	89	10%	419	45%	422	45%
2011	949	88	9%	398	42%	463	49%
2012	972	84	9%	402	41%	486	50%
2013	973	89	9%	397	41%	487	50%
2014	954	86	9%	382	40%	486	51%
2015	954	90	9%	398	42%	466	49%

Deacons

Presence of Deacons under 35 by Annual Conference 2013-2015

CONFERENCE	2015 Deacons under 35	2015 Deacons under 35	2015 Deacons	2014 Deacons under 35	2014 Deacons under 35	2014 Deacons	2013 Deacons under 35	2013 Deacons under 35	2013 Deacons
Alabama-West Florida	1	3.03%	33	1	3.13%	32	3	9.68%	31
Alaska Missionary	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0
Arkansas	0	0.00%	10	0	0.00%	13	0	0.00%	16
Baltimore-Washington	0	0.00%	20	0	0.00%	21	0	0.00%	22
California-Nevada	0	0.00%	9	1	14.29%	7	0	0.00%	6
California-Pacific	0	0.00%	15	0	0.00%	16	1	5.56%	18
Central Texas	3	12.50%	24	2	8.70%	23	1	3.85%	26
Dakotas	1	16.67%	6	0	0.00%	4	0	0.00%	4
Desert Southwest	0	0.00%	9	0	0.00%	9	0	0.00%	11
Detroit	3	17.65%	17	3	17.65%	17	3	20.00%	15
East Ohio	2	12.50%	16	2	11.76%	17	2	11.76%	17
Eastern Pennsylvania	1	5.56%	18	1	6.25%	16	1	6.67%	15
Florida	3	9.68%	31	3	9.38%	32	4	11.76%	34
Great Plains	2	9.52%	21	2	9.52%	21	2	9.09%	22
Greater New Jersey	1	8.33%	12	0	0.00%	11	0	0.00%	14
Holston	2	16.67%	12	3	23.08%	13	2	22.22%	9
Illinois Great Rivers	2	14.29%	14	2	13.33%	15	0	0.00%	11
Indiana	4	26.67%	15	2	13.33%	15	3	20.00%	15
Iowa	1	9.09%	11	3	27.27%	11	3	25.00%	12
Kentucky	2	8.70%	23	2	8.33%	24	3	10.71%	28
Louisiana	3	13.64%	22	3	12.50%	24	3	13.04%	23
Memphis	0	0.00%	9	0	0.00%	10	1	10.00%	10
Minnesota	0	0.00%	15	0	0.00%	15	0	0.00%	13
Mississippi	1	4.55%	22	1	4.00%	25	3	12.50%	24
Missouri	4	16.67%	24	0	0.00%	19	0	0.00%	21
New England	1	25.00%	4	1	25.00%	4	0	0.00%	3
New Mexico	0	0.00%	6	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%	5
New York	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%	3	0	0.00%	4

Deacons

Presence of Deacons under 35 by Annual Conference 2013-2015, continued

CONFERENCE	2015 Deacons under 35	2015 Deacons under 35	2015 Deacons	2014 Deacons under 35	2014 Deacons under 35	2014 Deacons	2013 Deacons under 35	2013 Deacons under 35	2013 Deacons
North Alabama	1	7.69%	13	0	0.00%	15	0	0.00%	16
North Carolina	3	14.29%	21	3	15.79%	19	1	4.55%	22
North Georgia	8	11.76%	68	10	15.15%	66	10	14.71%	68
North Texas	3	8.11%	37	3	8.33%	36	5	12.82%	39
Northern Illinois	1	4.17%	24	1	4.35%	23	2	7.41%	27
Northwest Texas	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1	0	0.00%	2
Oklahoma	1	3.33%	30	1	2.86%	35	3	8.33%	36
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.00%	1	0	0.00%	1	0	0.00%	1
Oregon-Idaho	0	0.00%	11	0	0.00%	10	0	0.00%	11
Pacific Northwest	1	20.00%	5	1	16.67%	6	2	22.22%	9
Peninsula-Delaware	1	33.33%	3	1	50.00%	2	1	50.00%	2
Red Bird Missionary	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0
Rio Texas	3	13.04%	23	3	13.64%	22	3	16.67%	19
Rocky Mountain	1	2.94%	34	1	3.23%	31	0	0.00%	28
South Carolina	6	26.09%	23	4	17.39%	23	2	8.33%	24
South Georgia	3	25.00%	12	4	23.53%	17	4	23.53%	17
Susquehanna	0	0.00%	5	1	16.67%	6	1	14.29%	7
Tennessee	3	10.00%	30	4	12.90%	31	3	9.68%	31
Texas	4	13.33%	30	1	3.57%	28	1	3.85%	26
Upper New York	0	0.00%	12	0	0.00%	10	0	0.00%	11
Virginia	6	17.65%	34	6	18.18%	33	5	17.24%	29
West Michigan	0	0.00%	6	0	0.00%	6	0	0.00%	6
West Ohio	3	11.54%	26	3	12.00%	25	3	12.00%	25
West Virginia	0	0.00%	10	1	8.33%	12	1	8.33%	12
Western North Carolina	5	8.77%	57	6	10.34%	58	7	12.28%	57
Western Pennsylvania	0	0.00%	6	0	0.00%	6	0	0.00%	7
Wisconsin	0	0.00%	10	0	0.00%	9	0	0.00%	11
Yellowstone	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1	0	0.00%	1
Total	90	9.43%	954	86	9.01%	954	89	9.15%	973

Deacons

Presence of Deacons under 35 by 2015 Percentage 2013-2015

CONFERENCE NAME	2015 Deacons under 35	2015 Deacons under 35	2015 Deacons	2014 Deacons under 35	2014 Deacons under 35	2014 Deacons	2013 Deacons under 35	2013 Deacons under 35	2013 Deacons
Peninsula-Delaware	1	33.33%	3	1	50.00%	2	1	50.00%	2
Indiana	4	26.67%	15	2	13.33%	15	3	20.00%	15
South Carolina	6	26.09%	23	4	17.39%	23	2	8.33%	24
New England	1	25.00%	4	1	25.00%	4	0	0.00%	3
South Georgia	3	25.00%	12	4	23.53%	17	4	23.53%	17
Pacific Northwest	1	20.00%	5	1	16.67%	6	2	22.22%	9
Detroit	3	17.65%	17	3	17.65%	17	3	20.00%	15
Virginia	6	17.65%	34	6	18.18%	33	5	17.24%	29
Dakotas	1	16.67%	6	0	0.00%	4	0	0.00%	4
Holston	2	16.67%	12	3	23.08%	13	2	22.22%	9
Missouri	4	16.67%	24	0	0.00%	19	0	0.00%	21
Illinois Great Rivers	2	14.29%	14	2	13.33%	15	0	0.00%	11
North Carolina	3	14.29%	21	3	15.79%	19	1	4.55%	22
Louisiana	3	13.64%	22	3	12.50%	24	3	13.04%	23
Texas	4	13.33%	30	1	3.57%	28	1	3.85%	26
Rio Texas	3	13.04%	23	3	13.64%	22	3	16.67%	19
Central Texas	3	12.50%	24	2	8.70%	23	1	3.85%	26
East Ohio	2	12.50%	16	2	11.76%	17	2	11.76%	17
North Georgia	8	11.76%	68	10	15.15%	66	10	14.71%	68
West Ohio	3	11.54%	26	3	12.00%	25	3	12.00%	25
Tennessee	3	10.00%	30	4	12.90%	31	3	9.68%	31
Florida	3	9.68%	31	3	9.38%	32	4	11.76%	34
Great Plains	2	9.52%	21	2	9.52%	21	2	9.09%	22
Iowa	1	9.09%	11	3	27.27%	11	3	25.00%	12
Western North Carolina	5	8.77%	57	6	10.34%	58	7	12.28%	57
Kentucky	2	8.70%	23	2	8.33%	24	3	10.71%	28
Greater New Jersey	1	8.33%	12	0	0.00%	11	0	0.00%	14
North Texas	3	8.11%	37	3	8.33%	36	5	12.82%	39

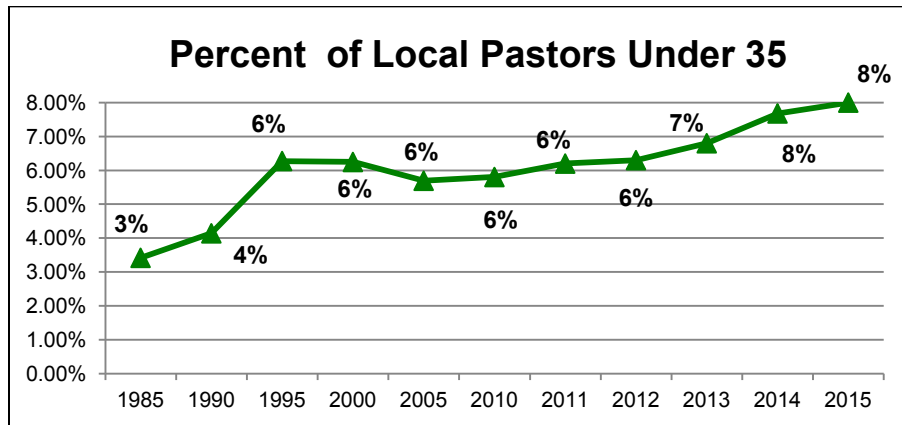
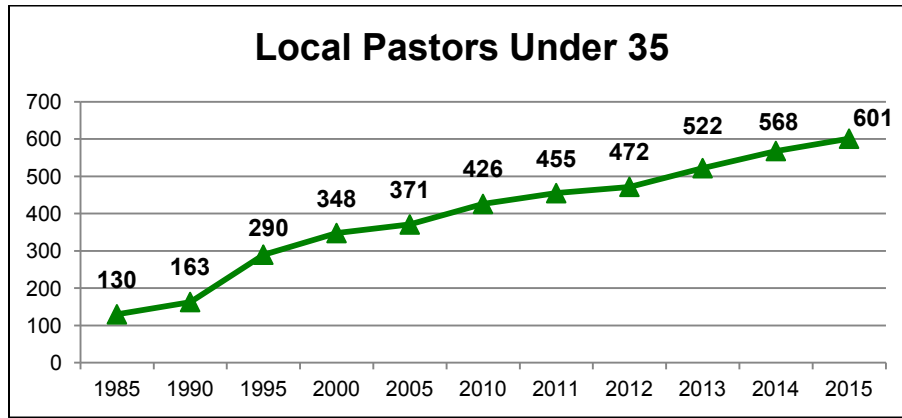
Deacons

Presence of Deacons under 35 by 2015 Percentage 2013-2015, continued

CONFERENCE NAME	2015 Deacons under 35	2015 Deacons under 35	2015 Deacons	2014 Deacons under 35	2014 Deacons under 35	2014 Deacons	2013 Deacons under 35	2013 Deacons under 35	2013 Deacons
North Alabama	1	7.69%	13	0	0.00%	15	0	0.00%	16
Eastern Pennsylvania	1	5.56%	18	1	6.25%	16	1	6.67%	15
Mississippi	1	4.55%	22	1	4.00%	25	3	12.50%	24
Northern Illinois	1	4.17%	24	1	4.35%	23	2	7.41%	27
Oklahoma	1	3.33%	30	1	2.86%	35	3	8.33%	36
Alabama-West Florida	1	3.03%	33	1	3.13%	32	3	9.68%	31
Rocky Mountain	1	2.94%	34	1	3.23%	31	0	0.00%	28
Alaska Missionary	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0
Arkansas	0	0.00%	10	0	0.00%	13	0	0.00%	16
Baltimore-Washington	0	0.00%	20	0	0.00%	21	0	0.00%	22
California-Nevada	0	0.00%	9	1	14.29%	7	0	0.00%	6
California-Pacific	0	0.00%	15	0	0.00%	16	1	5.56%	18
Desert Southwest	0	0.00%	9	0	0.00%	9	0	0.00%	11
Memphis	0	0.00%	9	0	0.00%	10	1	10.00%	10
Minnesota	0	0.00%	15	0	0.00%	15	0	0.00%	13
New Mexico	0	0.00%	6	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%	5
New York	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%	3	0	0.00%	4
Northwest Texas	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1	0	0.00%	2
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.00%	1	0	0.00%	1	0	0.00%	1
Oregon-Idaho	0	0.00%	11	0	0.00%	10	0	0.00%	11
Red Bird Missionary	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0
Susquehanna	0	0.00%	5	1	16.67%	6	1	14.29%	7
Upper New York	0	0.00%	12	0	0.00%	10	0	0.00%	11
West Michigan	0	0.00%	6	0	0.00%	6	0	0.00%	6
West Virginia	0	0.00%	10	1	8.33%	12	1	8.33%	12
Western Pennsylvania	0	0.00%	6	0	0.00%	6	0	0.00%	7
Wisconsin	0	0.00%	10	0	0.00%	9	0	0.00%	11
Yellowstone	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1	0	0.00%	1
Total	90	9.43%	954	86	9.01%	954	89	9.15%	973

Local Pastors

Local pastor numbers include both full-time and part-time local pastors. Full-time local pastors represent just under 40 percent of local pastors.



Trends for Local Pastors 1985-2015

Year	No. of Local Pastors	Local Pastors Under 35	% Under 35	Local Pastors 35-54	% 35-54	Local Pastors 55-72	% 55-72
1985	3,804	130	3%	2,212	58%	1,462	38%
1990	3,936	163	4%	2,244	57%	1,529	39%
1995	4,622	290	6%	2,641	57%	1,691	37%
2000	5,571	348	6%	3,109	56%	2,114	38%
2005	6,517	371	6%	3,213	49%	2,933	45%
2010	7,341	426	6%	2,932	40%	3,983	54%
2011	7,353	455	6%	2,790	37%	4,108	57%
2012	7,532	472	6%	2,753	37%	4,307	57%
2013	7,671	522	7%	2,716	35%	4,433	58%
2014	7,395	568	8%	2,597	35%	4,230	57%
2015	7,464	601	8%	2,579	35%	4,284	57%

Local Pastors

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

Year	Median Age*	Average Age	Mode Age*
1985	51	50	59
1990	51	50	60
1995	51	50	48
2000	52	51	53
2010	55	54	51
2011	56	54	62
2012	56	54	63
2013	56	54	59
2014	57	54	60
2015	57	54	60

* Median – half older, half younger

* Mode – single age most represented

Gender Breakdown within Age Cohorts Local Pastors

Year	Gender	Under 35	35-54	55-72
2012	Men	74%	70%	67%
	Women	26%	30%	33%
2013	Men	75%	70%	66%
	Women	25%	30%	34%
2014	Men	77%	70%	66%
	Women	23%	30%	34%
2015	Men	78%	70%	66%
	Women	22%	30%	34%

Local Pastors under 35 by Jurisdictions

Jurisdiction	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
North Central	70	56	49	57	62	70	75	87	98	114
Northeastern	42	44	53	91	79	70	72	85	81	108
South Central	91	93	90	99	99	98	96	99	116	113
Southeastern	143	164	158	130	171	201	203	221	246	245
Western	17	19	17	20	15	16	26	30	27	21
Total	363	376	367	397	426	455	472	522	568	601

Local Pastors

Presence of Local Pastors under 35 by Annual Conference 2013-2015

CONFERENCE NAME	2015 Local Pastors under 35	2015 Local Pastors under 35	2015 Local Pastors	2014 Local Pastors under 35	2014 Local Pastors under 35	2014 Local Pastors	2013 Local Pastors under 35	2013 Local Pastors under 35	2013 Local Pastors
Alabama-West Florida	10	6.49%	154	10	6.67%	150	14	9.15%	153
Alaska Missionary	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%	3	0	0.00%	4
Arkansas	1	0.85%	118	3	2.29%	131	5	3.27%	153
Baltimore-Washington	12	10.71%	112	5	4.50%	111	9	8.33%	108
California-Nevada	4	7.55%	53	9	20.00%	45	10	21.28%	47
California-Pacific	5	5.81%	86	3	3.85%	78	5	6.41%	78
Central Texas	11	15.71%	70	12	16.44%	73	10	16.67%	60
Dakotas	6	12.77%	47	4	10.00%	40	7	17.07%	41
Desert Southwest	1	3.23%	31	2	7.14%	28	1	4.35%	23
Detroit	7	6.93%	101	12	12.24%	98	6	6.45%	93
East Ohio	18	7.53%	239	14	6.22%	225	21	9.13%	230
Eastern Pennsylvania	5	4.76%	105	5	4.42%	113	6	4.26%	141
Florida	12	6.78%	177	13	7.03%	185	19	9.31%	204
Great Plains	12	5.33%	225	23	10.04%	229	15	6.82%	220
Greater New Jersey	16	10.46%	153	9	6.47%	139	5	3.13%	160
Holston	8	6.06%	132	10	7.52%	133	7	5.04%	139
Illinois Great Rivers	20	11.11%	180	15	8.47%	177	10	5.88%	170
Indiana	14	8.48%	165	13	7.78%	167	10	6.06%	165
Iowa	9	5.42%	166	7	4.12%	170	6	3.66%	164
Kentucky	26	11.87%	219	21	9.50%	221	13	6.47%	201
Louisiana	5	3.70%	135	4	3.05%	131	3	2.07%	145
Memphis	5	5.49%	91	6	6.38%	94	11	12.36%	89
Minnesota	5	10.00%	50	6	12.77%	47	0	0.00%	43
Mississippi	11	4.47%	246	13	5.22%	249	14	5.58%	251
Missouri	21	8.43%	249	19	7.54%	252	15	6.28%	239
New England	11	8.53%	129	10	7.94%	126	14	9.59%	146
New Mexico	0	0.00%	18	0	0.00%	19	0	0.00%	26
New York	4	7.55%	53	5	10.00%	50	7	13.21%	53

Local Pastors

Presence of Local Pastors under 35 by Annual Conference 2013-2015, continued

CONFERENCE NAME	2015 Local Pastors under 35	2015 Local Pastors under 35	2015 Local Pastors	2014 Local Pastors under 35	2014 Local Pastors under 35	2014 Local Pastors	2013 Local Pastors under 35	2013 Local Pastors under 35	2013 Local Pastors
North Alabama	21	8.20%	256	25	9.69%	258	26	7.90%	329
North Carolina	41	14.70%	279	44	15.71%	280	23	9.27%	248
North Georgia	22	7.75%	284	24	8.08%	297	18	5.88%	306
North Texas	12	10.81%	111	10	8.93%	112	10	9.35%	107
Northern Illinois	6	10.71%	56	6	10.34%	58	2	3.45%	58
Northwest Texas	4	6.15%	65	2	2.86%	70	2	3.28%	61
Oklahoma	15	11.11%	135	16	12.12%	132	21	12.43%	169
OK Indian Missionary	1	5.00%	20	1	5.00%	20	0	0.00%	20
Oregon-Idaho	2	11.11%	18	2	12.50%	16	3	13.04%	23
Pacific Northwest	6	12.00%	50	5	11.90%	42	4	10.26%	39
Peninsula-Delaware	7	6.93%	101	7	7.37%	95	3	3.30%	91
Red Bird Missionary	0	0.00%	7	0	0.00%	7	0	0.00%	9
Rio Texas	13	10.74%	121	13	9.92%	131	10	7.81%	128
Rocky Mountain	1	1.89%	53	5	8.77%	57	6	10.34%	58
South Carolina	13	6.34%	205	11	5.21%	211	9	4.41%	204
South Georgia	15	11.45%	131	18	13.33%	135	17	12.41%	137
Susquehanna	19	9.50%	200	16	8.29%	193	14	7.14%	196
Tennessee	15	8.24%	182	14	7.87%	178	15	7.39%	203
Texas	18	11.69%	154	13	8.18%	159	8	5.16%	155
Upper New York	10	4.33%	231	8	3.62%	221	16	6.13%	261
Virginia	19	6.64%	286	21	7.29%	288	20	7.07%	283
West Michigan	3	3.09%	97	4	4.12%	97	6	5.66%	106
West Ohio	19	11.66%	163	10	7.30%	137	12	8.11%	148
West Virginia	7	3.37%	208	8	3.74%	214	6	2.59%	232
Western North Carolina	27	11.16%	242	16	6.96%	230	15	5.36%	280
Western Pennsylvania	17	9.55%	178	8	5.06%	158	5	3.33%	150
Wisconsin	7	7.07%	99	7	7.37%	95	7	7.00%	100
Yellowstone	2	8.70%	23	1	5.00%	20	1	4.17%	24
Total	601	8.05%	7,464	568	7.68%	7,395	522	6.80%	7,671

Local Pastors

Presence of Local Pastors under 35 by 2015 Percentage 2013-2015

CONFERENCE NAME	2015 Local Pastors under 35	2015 Local Pastors under 35	2015 Local Pastors	2014 Local Pastors under 35	2014 Local Pastors under 35	2014 Local Pastors	2013 Local Pastors under 35	2013 Local Pastors under 35	2013 Local Pastors
Central Texas	11	15.71%	70	12	16.44%	73	10	16.67%	60
North Carolina	41	14.70%	279	44	15.71%	280	23	9.27%	248
Dakotas	6	12.77%	47	4	10.00%	40	7	17.07%	41
Pacific Northwest	6	12.00%	50	5	11.90%	42	4	10.26%	39
Kentucky	26	11.87%	219	21	9.50%	221	13	6.47%	201
Texas	18	11.69%	154	13	8.18%	159	8	5.16%	155
West Ohio	19	11.66%	163	10	7.30%	137	12	8.11%	148
South Georgia	15	11.45%	131	18	13.33%	135	17	12.41%	137
Western North Carolina	27	11.16%	242	16	6.96%	230	15	5.36%	280
Illinois Great Rivers	20	11.11%	180	15	8.47%	177	10	5.88%	170
Oklahoma	15	11.11%	135	16	12.12%	132	21	12.43%	169
Oregon-Idaho	2	11.11%	18	2	12.50%	16	3	13.04%	23
North Texas	12	10.81%	111	10	8.93%	112	10	9.35%	107
Rio Texas	13	10.74%	121	13	9.92%	131	10	7.81%	128
Baltimore-Washington	12	10.71%	112	5	4.50%	111	9	8.33%	108
Northern Illinois	6	10.71%	56	6	10.34%	58	2	3.45%	58
Greater New Jersey	16	10.46%	153	9	6.47%	139	5	3.13%	160
Minnesota	5	10.00%	50	6	12.77%	47	0	0.00%	43
Western Pennsylvania	17	9.55%	178	8	5.06%	158	5	3.33%	150
Susquehanna	19	9.50%	200	16	8.29%	193	14	7.14%	196
Yellowstone	2	8.70%	23	1	5.00%	20	1	4.17%	24
New England	11	8.53%	129	10	7.94%	126	14	9.59%	146
Indiana	14	8.48%	165	13	7.78%	167	10	6.06%	165
Missouri	21	8.43%	249	19	7.54%	252	15	6.28%	239
Tennessee	15	8.24%	182	14	7.87%	178	15	7.39%	203
North Alabama	21	8.20%	256	25	9.69%	258	26	7.90%	329
North Georgia	22	7.75%	284	24	8.08%	297	18	5.88%	306
California-Nevada	4	7.55%	53	9	20.00%	45	10	21.28%	47

Local Pastors

Presence of Local Pastors under 35 by 2015 Percentage 2013-2015, continued

CONFERENCE NAME	2015 Local Pastors under 35	2015 Local Pastors under 35	2015 Local Pastors	2014 Local Pastors under 35	2014 Local Pastors under 35	2014 Local Pastors	2013 Local Pastors under 35	2013 Local Pastors under 35	2013 Local Pastors
New York	4	7.55%	53	5	10.00%	50	7	13.21%	53
East Ohio	18	7.53%	239	14	6.22%	225	21	9.13%	230
Wisconsin	7	7.07%	99	7	7.37%	95	7	7.00%	100
Detroit	7	6.93%	101	12	12.24%	98	6	6.45%	93
Peninsula-Delaware	7	6.93%	101	7	7.37%	95	3	3.30%	91
Florida	12	6.78%	177	13	7.03%	185	19	9.31%	204
Virginia	19	6.64%	286	21	7.29%	288	20	7.07%	283
Alabama-West Florida	10	6.49%	154	10	6.67%	150	14	9.15%	153
South Carolina	13	6.34%	205	11	5.21%	211	9	4.41%	204
Northwest Texas	4	6.15%	65	2	2.86%	70	2	3.28%	61
Holston	8	6.06%	132	10	7.52%	133	7	5.04%	139
California-Pacific	5	5.81%	86	3	3.85%	78	5	6.41%	78
Memphis	5	5.49%	91	6	6.38%	94	11	12.36%	89
Iowa	9	5.42%	166	7	4.12%	170	6	3.66%	164
Great Plains	12	5.33%	225	23	10.04%	229	15	6.82%	220
OK Indian Missionary	1	5.00%	20	1	5.00%	20	0	0.00%	20
Eastern Pennsylvania	5	4.76%	105	5	4.42%	113	6	4.26%	141
Mississippi	11	4.47%	246	13	5.22%	249	14	5.58%	251
Upper New York	10	4.33%	231	8	3.62%	221	16	6.13%	261
Louisiana	5	3.70%	135	4	3.05%	131	3	2.07%	145
West Virginia	7	3.37%	208	8	3.74%	214	6	2.59%	232
Desert Southwest	1	3.23%	31	2	7.14%	28	1	4.35%	23
West Michigan	3	3.09%	97	4	4.12%	97	6	5.66%	106
Rocky Mountain	1	1.89%	53	5	8.77%	57	6	10.34%	58
Arkansas	1	0.85%	118	3	2.29%	131	5	3.27%	153
Alaska Missionary	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%	3	0	0.00%	4
New Mexico	0	0.00%	18	0	0.00%	19	0	0.00%	26
Red Bird Missionary	0	0.00%	7	0	0.00%	7	0	0.00%	9
Total	601	8.05%	7,464	568	7.68%	7,395	522	6.80%	7,671

Annual Conference Clergy by Age Group – Numeric

CONFERENCE	Elders				Deacons				Local Pastors			
	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72	Total	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72	Total	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72	Total
Alabama-West Florida	21	101	117	239	1	17	15	33	10	63	81	154
Alaska Missionary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	5
Arkansas	20	106	113	239	0	2	8	10	1	37	80	118
Baltimore-Washington	28	146	204	378	0	8	12	20	12	32	68	112
California-Nevada	12	77	153	242	0	3	6	9	4	21	28	53
California-Pacific	9	134	173	316	0	5	10	15	5	45	36	86
Central Texas	18	83	126	227	3	11	10	24	11	22	37	70
Dakotas	12	51	67	130	1	4	1	6	6	15	26	47
Desert Southwest	6	39	62	107	0	3	6	9	1	12	18	31
Detroit	13	82	133	228	3	8	6	17	7	33	61	101
East Ohio	22	94	184	300	2	7	7	16	18	77	144	239
Eastern Pennsylvania	9	82	151	242	1	10	7	18	5	28	72	105
Florida	30	186	219	435	3	14	14	31	12	64	101	177
Great Plains	38	138	259	435	2	7	12	21	12	76	137	225
Greater New Jersey	9	119	180	308	1	5	6	12	16	56	81	153
Holston	25	135	152	312	2	3	7	12	8	37	87	132
Illinois Great Rivers	14	103	194	311	2	5	7	14	20	48	112	180
Indiana	29	173	283	485	4	7	4	15	14	50	101	165
Iowa	23	107	195	325	1	7	3	11	9	46	111	166
Kentucky	25	96	135	256	2	10	11	23	26	91	102	219
Louisiana	14	64	107	185	3	5	14	22	5	44	86	135
Memphis	6	54	91	151	0	6	3	9	5	39	47	91
Minnesota	10	75	107	192	0	4	11	15	5	15	30	50
Mississippi	34	140	158	332	1	12	9	22	11	83	152	246
Missouri	16	127	151	294	4	8	12	24	21	102	126	249
New England	4	101	133	238	1	2	1	4	11	51	67	129
New Mexico	3	36	54	93	0	4	2	6	0	6	12	18
New York	9	101	190	300	0	2	3	5	4	20	29	53

Annual Conference Clergy by Age Group – Numeric (continued)

CONFERENCE	Elders				Deacons				Local Pastors			
	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72	Total	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72	Total	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72	Total
North Alabama	28	129	132	289	1	7	5	13	21	92	143	256
North Carolina	34	159	210	403	3	7	11	21	41	95	143	279
North Georgia	42	206	276	524	8	31	29	68	22	110	152	284
North Texas	14	106	136	256	3	16	18	37	12	42	57	111
Northern Illinois	22	130	148	300	1	12	11	24	6	28	22	56
Northwest Texas	5	47	46	98	0	0	0	0	4	22	39	65
Oklahoma	24	117	169	310	1	12	17	30	15	46	74	135
OK Indian Missionary	0	3	10	13	0	1	0	1	1	6	13	20
Oregon-Idaho	1	32	71	104	0	3	8	11	2	5	11	18
Pacific Northwest	11	71	86	168	1	0	4	5	6	15	29	50
Peninsula-Delaware	4	49	84	137	1	1	1	3	7	29	65	101
Red Bird Missionary	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	7
Rio Texas	14	101	153	268	3	8	12	23	13	40	68	121
Rocky Mountain	14	74	93	181	1	6	27	34	1	24	28	53
South Carolina	32	148	239	419	6	12	5	23	13	51	141	205
South Georgia	9	109	121	239	3	5	4	12	15	53	63	131
Susquehanna	17	105	168	290	0	1	4	5	19	68	113	200
Tennessee	17	69	111	197	3	12	15	30	15	74	93	182
Texas	52	180	211	443	4	11	15	30	18	49	87	154
Upper New York	13	100	191	304	0	5	7	12	10	67	154	231
Virginia	60	239	329	628	6	15	13	34	19	96	171	286
West Michigan	7	51	111	169	0	1	5	6	3	37	57	97
West Ohio	22	219	264	505	3	12	11	26	19	64	80	163
West Virginia	14	73	133	220	0	3	7	10	7	57	144	208
Western North Carolina	50	287	339	676	5	31	21	57	27	91	124	242
Western Pennsylvania	11	108	193	312	0	2	4	6	17	59	102	178
Wisconsin	9	76	145	230	0	5	5	10	7	36	56	99
Yellowstone	1	8	26	35	0	0	0	0	2	5	16	23
Total	986	5,746	8,287	15,019	90	398	466	954	601	2,579	4,284	7,464

Annual Conference Clergy by Age Group – Percentage

CONFERENCE	Elders			Deacons			Local Pastors		
	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	8.79%	42.26%	48.95%	3.03%	51.52%	45.45%	6.49%	40.91%	52.60%
Alaska Missionary	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%
Arkansas	8.37%	44.35%	47.28%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	0.85%	31.36%	67.80%
Baltimore-Washington	7.41%	38.62%	53.97%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	10.71%	28.57%	60.71%
California-Nevada	4.96%	31.82%	63.22%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	7.55%	39.62%	52.83%
California-Pacific	2.85%	42.41%	54.75%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	5.81%	52.33%	41.86%
Central Texas	7.93%	36.56%	55.51%	12.50%	45.83%	41.67%	15.71%	31.43%	52.86%
Dakotas	9.23%	39.23%	51.54%	16.67%	66.67%	16.67%	12.77%	31.91%	55.32%
Desert Southwest	5.61%	36.45%	57.94%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	3.23%	38.71%	58.06%
Detroit	5.70%	35.96%	58.33%	17.65%	47.06%	35.29%	6.93%	32.67%	60.40%
East Ohio	7.33%	31.33%	61.33%	12.50%	43.75%	43.75%	7.53%	32.22%	60.25%
Eastern Pennsylvania	3.72%	33.88%	62.40%	5.56%	55.56%	38.89%	4.76%	26.67%	68.57%
Florida	6.90%	42.76%	50.34%	9.68%	45.16%	45.16%	6.78%	36.16%	57.06%
Great Plains	8.74%	31.72%	59.54%	9.52%	33.33%	57.14%	5.33%	33.78%	60.89%
Greater New Jersey	2.92%	38.64%	58.44%	8.33%	41.67%	50.00%	10.46%	36.60%	52.94%
Holston	8.01%	43.27%	48.72%	16.67%	25.00%	58.33%	6.06%	28.03%	65.91%
Illinois Great Rivers	4.50%	33.12%	62.38%	14.29%	35.71%	50.00%	11.11%	26.67%	62.22%
Indiana	5.98%	35.67%	58.35%	26.67%	46.67%	26.67%	8.48%	30.30%	61.21%
Iowa	7.08%	32.92%	60.00%	9.09%	63.64%	27.27%	5.42%	27.71%	66.87%
Kentucky	9.77%	37.50%	52.73%	8.70%	43.48%	47.83%	11.87%	41.55%	46.58%
Louisiana	7.57%	34.59%	57.84%	13.64%	22.73%	63.64%	3.70%	32.59%	63.70%
Memphis	3.97%	35.76%	60.26%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%	5.49%	42.86%	51.65%
Minnesota	5.21%	39.06%	55.73%	0.00%	26.67%	73.33%	10.00%	30.00%	60.00%
Mississippi	10.24%	42.17%	47.59%	4.55%	54.55%	40.91%	4.47%	33.74%	61.79%
Missouri	5.44%	43.20%	51.36%	16.67%	33.33%	50.00%	8.43%	40.96%	50.60%
New England	1.68%	42.44%	55.88%	25.00%	50.00%	25.00%	8.53%	39.53%	51.94%
New Mexico	3.23%	38.71%	58.06%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%
New York	3.00%	33.67%	63.33%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	7.55%	37.74%	54.72%

Annual Conference Clergy by Age Group – Percentage (continued)

CONFERENCE	Elders			Deacons			Local Pastors		
	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 Alabama	9.69%	44.64%	45.67%	7.69%	53.85%	38.46%	8.20%	35.94%	55.86%
North Carolina	8.44%	39.45%	52.11%	14.29%	33.33%	52.38%	14.70%	34.05%	51.25%
North Georgia	8.02%	39.31%	52.67%	11.76%	45.59%	42.65%	7.75%	38.73%	53.52%
North Texas	5.47%	41.41%	53.13%	8.11%	43.24%	48.65%	10.81%	37.84%	51.35%
Northern Illinois	7.33%	43.33%	49.33%	4.17%	50.00%	45.83%	10.71%	50.00%	39.29%
Northwest Texas	5.10%	47.96%	46.94%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.15%	33.85%	60.00%
Oklahoma	7.74%	37.74%	54.52%	3.33%	40.00%	56.67%	11.11%	34.07%	54.81%
OK Indian Missionary	0.00%	23.08%	76.92%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	5.00%	30.00%	65.00%
Oregon-Idaho	0.96%	30.77%	68.27%	0.00%	27.27%	72.73%	11.11%	27.78%	61.11%
Pacific Northwest	6.55%	42.26%	51.19%	20.00%	0.00%	80.00%	12.00%	30.00%	58.00%
Peninsula-Delaware	2.92%	35.77%	61.31%	33.33%	33.33%	33.33%	6.93%	28.71%	64.36%
Red Bird Missionary	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	57.14%	42.86%
Rio Texas	5.22%	37.69%	57.09%	13.04%	34.78%	52.17%	10.74%	33.06%	56.20%
Rocky Mountain	7.73%	40.88%	51.38%	2.94%	17.65%	79.41%	1.89%	45.28%	52.83%
South Carolina	7.64%	35.32%	57.04%	26.09%	52.17%	21.74%	6.34%	24.88%	68.78%
South Georgia	3.77%	45.61%	50.63%	25.00%	41.67%	33.33%	11.45%	40.46%	48.09%
Susquehanna	5.86%	36.21%	57.93%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	9.50%	34.00%	56.50%
Tennessee	8.63%	35.03%	56.35%	10.00%	40.00%	50.00%	8.24%	40.66%	51.10%
Texas	11.74%	40.63%	47.63%	13.33%	36.67%	50.00%	11.69%	31.82%	56.49%
Upper New York	4.28%	32.89%	62.83%	0.00%	41.67%	58.33%	4.33%	29.00%	66.67%
Virginia	9.55%	38.06%	52.39%	17.65%	44.12%	38.24%	6.64%	33.57%	59.79%
West Michigan	4.14%	30.18%	65.68%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	3.09%	38.14%	58.76%
West Ohio	4.36%	43.37%	52.28%	11.54%	46.15%	42.31%	11.66%	39.26%	49.08%
West Virginia	6.36%	33.18%	60.45%	0.00%	30.00%	70.00%	3.37%	27.40%	69.23%
Western North Carolina	7.40%	42.46%	50.15%	8.77%	54.39%	36.84%	11.16%	37.60%	51.24%
Western Pennsylvania	3.53%	34.62%	61.86%	0.00%	33.33%	66.67%	9.55%	33.15%	57.30%
Wisconsin	3.91%	33.04%	63.04%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	7.07%	36.36%	56.57%
Yellowstone	2.86%	22.86%	74.29%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8.70%	21.74%	69.57%

Clergy Age Comparisons Across Denominations

(All data are from 2012)

By Percentage

Denomination	Under 35	35-54	55-72
American Baptist	8.10%	41.52%	50.38%
Christian Church (DOC)	7.47%	39.35%	53.18%
Episcopal Church	5.70%	35.60%	58.70%
Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)	7.64%	38.82%	53.54%
Presbyterian Church (USA)	7.16%	40.04%	52.80%
Reformed Church In America	9.23%	43.92%	46.85%

By Numbers

Denomination	Under 35	35-54	55-72
American Baptist	600	3,076	3,733
Christian Church (DOC)	165	868	1,173
Episcopal Church	484	2,997	4,941
Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)	766	3,893	5,369
Presbyterian Church (USA)	605	3,385	4,463
Reformed Church in America	120	571	609

Sources for Other Denominations

American Baptist Churches USA – Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) – Pension Fund

Episcopal Church – Church Pension Fund

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) – Department of Research & Evaluation

Reformed Church in America – Office of the General Secretary

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) – Board of Pensions

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Established by Wesley Theological Seminary in 2003, the Lewis Center for Church Leadership has worked to help 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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