

A Lewis Center Report
on
**Clergy Age
Trends**

in the
United Methodist Church
1985-2007

Elders • Deacons • Local Pastors • Other Denominations



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Lewis Center for Church Leadership
Wesley Theological Seminary

A Lewis Center Report on
Clergy Age Trends
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Purpose and Description

The purpose of this research project is to identify clergy age trends in the United Methodist Church over the last twenty-two years 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 2007.

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. 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, but we do report current age data. 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 General Board. For local pastors, full-time and part-time local pastors are included, but student local pastors are excluded. Since the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits 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 General Board of Pension and Health Benefits, 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.

Study Contributors

Lovett H. Weems, Jr., distinguished professor of church leadership and founding director of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership, was project director. Joe 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 of the United Methodist Church, and the staff of the Board, particularly Anne Borish, Peter Doheny, and Otissteann Arrington provided essential cooperation and data. Thanks go also to the General Council on Finance and Administration for sharing data they collect and to administrators and staff from other denominations for data on age trends in their churches. We have valued the collaboration of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry with our work, given their efforts around enlistment and overall clergy issues.

Changes since the 2005 Report

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 in 2006 and 2007.

- Young elders were 4.69 percent of all elders in 2005. In 2006 and 2007, the figures are 4.89 percent and 4.92 percent respectively.
- The actual number of young elders declined in 2007 over 2006 but still showed an increase as a percentage because of the decreasing size of the pool of elders. This trend may continue in the coming years as Baby Boomers retire in large numbers.
- Young deacons increased in percentage and numbers in both 2006 and 2007, going from 5.41 percent of all deacons in 2005 to 7.10 percent in 2007.
- Young local pastors declined in percentage and numbers between 2005 and 2007, going from 5.69 percent of all local pastors in 2005 to 5.48 percent in 2007.

On the other end of the age spectrum of active clergy, the greatest growth continues to occur in the 55 to 70 age cohort.

- This group increased from 40.90 percent in 2005 to 44.34 percent in 2007. A number of conferences have over 50 percent of their active elders in this category.
- Deacons in this older age group increased very slightly from 2006 to 2007, from 41.94 percent to 42.24 percent.
- Local pastors, traditionally an older group, continue to have a larger percentage between 55 and 70, going from 45.01 percent in 2005 to 48.39 percent in 2007.

The middle-age grouping, 35 to 54, declined since 2005.

- Elders in this age group went from 54.42 percent in 2005 to 50.74 in 2007.
- Deacons of this age declined slightly from 51.90 percent in 2006 to 50.67 in 2007.
- Middle-age local pastors declined as a proportion of all local pastors from 49.30 percent to 46.13 percent between 2005 and 2007.

Median, average, and mode ages in 2007 are:

- Median - (half older, half younger): elders, 53; deacons, 51; local pastors, 54.
- Average – elders, 53; deacons, 52; local pastors, 53.
- Mode - (single age most represented): elders, 59; deacons, 51; local pastors, 60.

Regarding other denominations, we have limited historical data, but can state the following:

- Of those denominations for which we have data for more than one year, joining the United Methodist Church in showing increases in young clergy as a percentage of total clergy was the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which went from 4.86 percent in 2005 to 5.92 percent in 2007.
- Young clergy in the Church of the Nazarene declined from 12.72 percent in 2006 to 10.68 percent in 2007, though they continue to have a higher percentage of young clergy than most denominations. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) showed a decline from 7.10 percent in 2002 to 6.20 percent in 2007, though this is a modest decline for a five-year period, and they continue to have the strongest cohort of under-35 clergy of the traditional mainline churches.
- Other denominations showing proportionate declines in young clergy are the American Baptist (from 5.50 percent in 2006 to 5.10 percent in 2007) and the Episcopal Church (from 4.10 percent in 2006 to 3.43 percent in 2007.)

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.

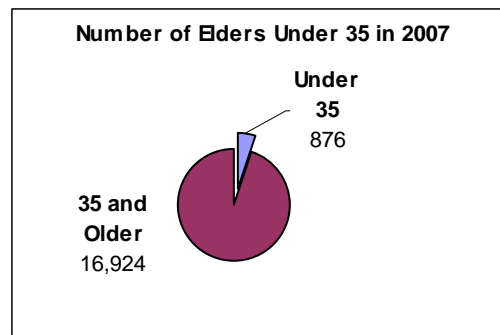
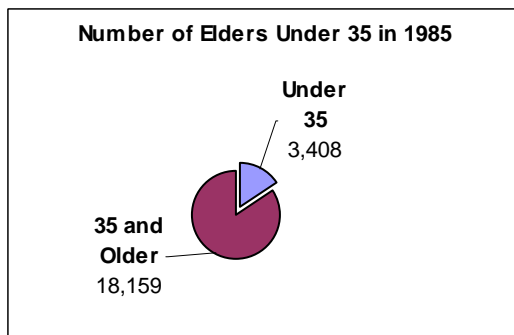
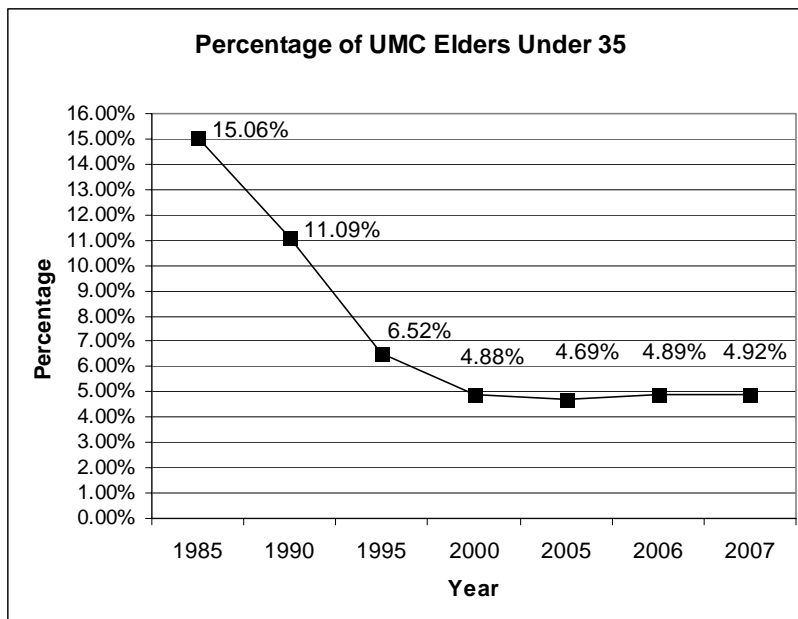
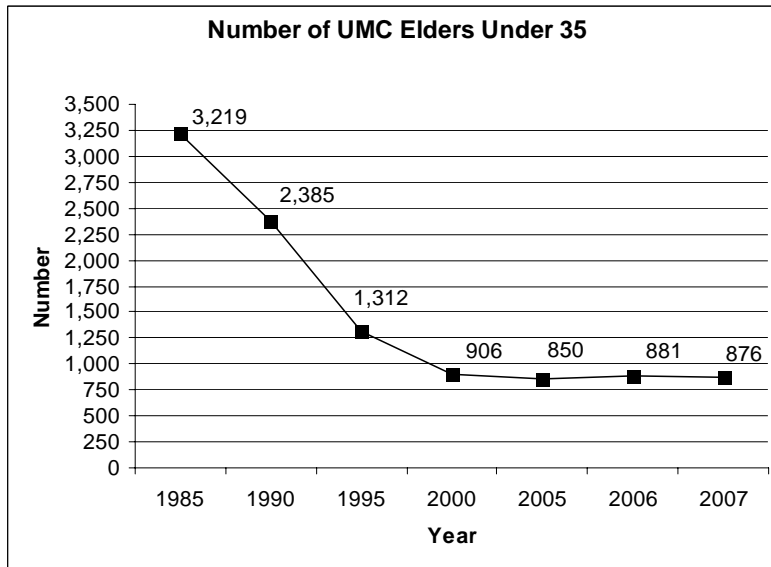
The dearth of young clergy is contributing to an impending leadership crisis in yet another way. The growing percentage of elders who are 55 and older raises the specter of a tidal wave of retirements hitting the system in the not-too-distant future. The aging of the church's clergy pool poses other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

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*. Since the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits does not keep records of clergy by race, we were not able to make comparisons by racial groups.

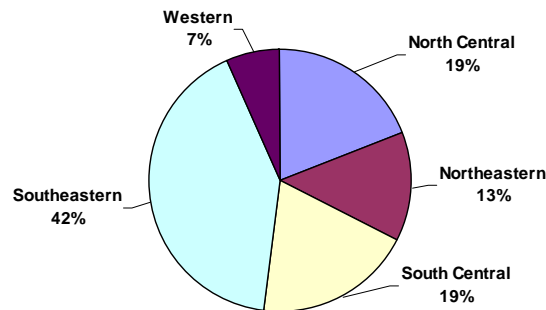


Elders

Elders by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Elders under 35 2007	% Elders under 35 2007	Elders 35-54 2007	% Elders 35-54 2007	Elders 55-70 2007	% Elders 55-70 2007	Total Elders 2007
North Central	168	4.22%	2,095	52.59%	1,721	43.20%	3,984
Northeastern	117	3.43%	1,644	48.15%	1,653	48.42%	3,414
South Central	169	5.38%	1,598	50.83%	1,377	43.80%	3,144
Southeastern	363	6.32%	2,977	51.80%	2,407	41.88%	5,747
Western	59	3.90%	718	47.52%	734	48.58%	1,511
Total	876	4.92%	9,032	50.74%	7,892	44.34%	17,800

Percent of Young Clergy By Jurisdiction



Comparisons of Elders under 35 with U.S. Population Ages 25-34

Change in Ratio of Elders under 35 to Population 25-34

Year	Population 25-34	Elders under 35	Ratio
1985	42,027,000	3,219	1:13,000
1990	43,161,000	2,385	1:18,000
1995	40,730,000	1,312	1:31,000
2000	39,891,000	906	1:44,000
2005	39,600,000	850	1:47,000
2007	40,100,000	876	1:45,000

Ratio of Elders under 35 to Population 25-34 by Jurisdictions (2007)

Jurisdiction	Population 25-34	Elders under 35	Ratio
North Central	7,481,000	169	1:44,000
Northeastern	8,210,000	116	1:70,000
South Central	6,482,000	150	1:43,000
Southeastern	8,504,000	388	1:22,000
Western	9,423,000	58	1:162,000
Total	40,100,000	876	1:45,000

Percentage of Elders under 35 Compared to Population 25-34 by Jurisdictions (2006)

Jurisdiction	% Population 25-34	% Elders under 35
North Central	18%	19%
Northeastern	20%	13%
South Central	16%	17%
Southeastern	22%	44%
Western	24%	7%

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
2006	7,931,733	881	1:9,000

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
2006	34,398	881	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
2006	26,083	881	1:30

2007 data were not available when this report was prepared.

Gender Breakdown within Age Cohorts - Elders

	Under 35	35 - 54	55 - 70
Men			
2005	69%	75%	77%
2006	69%	75%	77%
2007	67%	74%	76%
Women			
2005	31%	25%	23%
2006	31%	25%	23%
2007	33%	26%	24%

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

*Median - half older, half younger

*Mode - single age most represented

Data on Age Trends for Elders 1985 – 2007

Year	No. of Elders	Elders under 35	% Elders under 35	Elders 35-54	% Elders 35-54	Elders 55-70	% Elders 55-70
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%

Elders

Presence of Elders under 35 by Annual Conference 2005 to 2007

CONFERENCE	2005 Elders	2006 Elders	2007 Elders	2005 Elders under 35	2006 Elders under 35	2007 Elders under 35	2005 Elders under 35	2006 Elders under 35	2007 Elders under 35
Alabama-West Florida	288	284	281	21	22	23	7.29%	7.75%	8.19%
Alaska Missionary	1	2	2	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Arkansas	268	286	284	21	21	25	7.84%	7.34%	8.80%
Baltimore-Washington	472	473	453	15	15	17	3.18%	3.17%	3.75%
California-Nevada	326	319	328	10	9	11	3.07%	2.82%	3.35%
California-Pacific	407	410	402	16	18	15	3.93%	4.39%	3.73%
Central Pennsylvania	339	330	322	18	20	20	5.31%	6.06%	6.21%
Central Texas	253	249	246	13	16	17	5.14%	6.43%	6.91%
Dakotas	151	153	145	10	12	12	6.62%	7.84%	8.28%
Desert Southwest	138	137	137	8	7	7	5.80%	5.11%	5.11%
Detroit	318	309	307	18	17	19	5.66%	5.50%	6.19%
East Ohio	442	428	428	15	15	18	3.39%	3.50%	4.21%
Eastern Pennsylvania	331	329	309	16	15	12	4.83%	4.56%	3.88%
Florida	533	527	518	28	30	32	5.25%	5.69%	6.18%
Greater New Jersey	405	410	398	11	16	14	2.72%	3.90%	3.52%
Holston	335	328	322	35	28	28	10.45%	8.54%	8.70%
Illinois Great Rivers	407	404	393	17	15	12	4.18%	3.71%	3.05%
Iowa	405	406	401	13	19	17	3.21%	4.68%	4.24%
Kansas East	167	157	163	4	5	9	2.40%	3.18%	5.52%
Kansas West	170	174	172	5	2	4	2.94%	1.15%	2.33%
Kentucky	281	283	285	12	11	10	4.27%	3.89%	3.51%
Louisiana	232	232	230	15	14	13	6.47%	6.03%	5.65%
Memphis	201	194	191	6	8	5	2.99%	4.12%	2.62%
Minnesota	261	254	248	8	7	8	3.07%	2.76%	3.23%
Mississippi	355	368	364	25	33	26	7.04%	8.97%	7.14%
Missouri	342	333	331	12	15	19	3.51%	4.50%	5.74%
Nebraska	171	173	165	4	3	2	2.34%	1.73%	1.21%
New England	322	303	294	7	8	9	2.17%	2.64%	3.06%
New Mexico	107	112	109	2	4	4	1.87%	3.57%	3.67%
New York	329	320	315	6	6	8	1.82%	1.88%	2.54%
North Alabama	364	371	368	24	29	31	6.59%	7.82%	8.42%

Elders

Presence of Elders under 35 by Annual Conference 2005 to 2007

Continued

CONFERENCE	2005 Elders	2006 Elders	2007 Elders	2005 Elders under 35	2006 Elders under 35	2007 Elders under 35	2005 Elders under 35	2006 Elders under 35	2007 Elders under 35
North Carolina	445	454	463	26	30	26	5.84%	6.61%	7.07%
North Central New York	154	153	149	2	3	5	1.30%	1.96%	3.36%
North Georgia	613	601	596	43	46	38	7.01%	7.65%	6.38%
North Indiana	319	308	308	14	15	14	4.39%	4.87%	4.55%
North Texas	257	260	264	17	16	17	6.61%	6.15%	6.44%
Northern Illinois	341	330	325	14	10	13	4.11%	3.03%	4.00%
Northwest Texas	117	118	120	8	7	7	6.84%	5.93%	5.83%
OK Indian Missionary	13	13	14	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Oklahoma	322	325	329	18	23	28	5.59%	7.08%	8.51%
Oregon-Idaho	152	147	150	7	5	8	4.61%	3.40%	5.33%
Pacific Northwest	216	219	222	5	8	8	2.31%	3.65%	3.60%
Peninsula-Delaware	182	180	183	2	1	1	1.10%	0.56%	0.55%
Rio Grande	34	40	39	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Rocky Mountain	235	220	217	10	10	9	4.26%	4.55%	4.15%
South Carolina	483	485	488	25	29	29	5.18%	5.98%	5.94%
South Georgia	290	291	301	15	15	11	5.17%	5.15%	3.65%
South Indiana	303	298	295	9	14	14	2.97%	4.70%	4.75%
Southwest Texas	250	248	243	7	6	3	2.80%	2.42%	1.23%
Tennessee	209	208	201	15	14	13	7.18%	6.73%	6.47%
Texas	441	451	435	26	18	21	5.90%	3.99%	4.83%
Troy	110	106	101	1	1	1	0.91%	0.94%	0.99%
Virginia	669	659	644	32	37	36	4.78%	5.61%	5.59%
West Michigan	235	233	225	7	8	7	2.98%	3.43%	3.11%
West Ohio	659	636	628	29	25	21	4.40%	3.93%	3.34%
West Virginia	232	239	243	6	7	6	2.59%	2.93%	2.47%
Western New York	136	132	131	7	7	6	5.15%	5.30%	4.58%
Western North Carolina	711	723	725	53	56	55	7.45%	7.75%	7.59%
Western Pennsylvania	425	416	401	18	14	14	4.24%	3.37%	3.49%
Wisconsin	284	280	281	14	12	13	4.93%	4.29%	4.63%
Wyoming	126	119	115	4	3	4	3.17%	2.52%	3.48%
Yellowstone	57	54	53	1	1	1	1.75%	1.85%	1.89%
TOTAL	18,141	18,447	17,800	850	881	876	4.69%	4.78%	4.92%

Elders

Presence of Elders under 35 by 2007 Percentage 2005 to 2007

CONFERENCE	2005 Elders	2006 Elders	2007 Elders	2005 Elders under 35	2006 Elders under 35	2007 Elders under 35	2005 Elders under 35	2006 Elders under 35	2007 Elders under 35
Arkansas	268	286	284	21	21	25	7.84%	7.34%	8.80%
Holston	335	328	322	35	28	28	10.45%	8.54%	8.70%
Oklahoma	322	325	329	18	23	28	5.59%	7.08%	8.51%
North Alabama	364	371	368	24	29	31	6.59%	7.82%	8.42%
Dakotas	151	153	145	10	12	12	6.62%	7.84%	8.28%
Alabama-West Florida	288	284	281	21	22	23	7.29%	7.75%	8.19%
Western North Carolina	711	723	725	53	56	55	7.45%	7.75%	7.59%
Mississippi	355	368	364	25	33	26	7.04%	8.97%	7.14%
North Carolina	445	454	463	26	30	26	5.84%	6.61%	7.14%
Central Texas	253	249	246	13	16	17	5.14%	6.43%	6.91%
Tennessee	209	208	201	15	14	13	7.18%	6.73%	6.47%
North Texas	257	260	264	17	16	17	6.61%	6.15%	6.44%
North Georgia	613	601	596	43	46	38	7.01%	7.65%	6.38%
Central Pennsylvania	339	330	322	18	20	20	5.31%	6.06%	6.21%
Detroit	318	309	307	18	17	19	5.66%	5.50%	6.19%
Florida	533	527	518	28	30	32	5.25%	5.69%	6.18%
South Carolina	483	485	488	25	29	29	5.18%	5.98%	5.94%
Northwest Texas	117	118	120	8	7	7	6.84%	5.93%	5.83%
Missouri	342	333	331	12	15	19	3.51%	4.50%	5.74%
Louisiana	232	232	230	15	14	13	6.47%	6.03%	5.65%
Virginia	669	659	644	32	37	36	4.78%	5.61%	5.59%
Kansas East	167	157	163	4	5	9	2.40%	3.18%	5.52%
Oregon-Idaho	152	147	150	7	5	8	4.61%	3.40%	5.33%
Desert Southwest	138	137	137	8	7	7	5.80%	5.11%	5.11%
Texas	441	451	435	26	18	21	5.90%	3.99%	4.83%
South Indiana	303	298	295	9	14	14	2.97%	4.70%	4.75%
Western New York	136	132	131	7	7	6	5.15%	5.30%	4.58%
North Indiana	319	308	308	14	15	14	4.39%	4.87%	4.55%
Iowa	405	406	401	13	19	17	3.21%	4.68%	4.24%
East Ohio	442	428	428	15	15	18	3.39%	3.50%	4.21%
Rocky Mountain	235	220	217	10	10	9	4.26%	4.55%	4.15%

Elders

Presence of Elders under 35 by 2007 Percentage 2005 to 2007

Continued

CONFERENCE	2005 Elders	2006 Elders	2007 Elders	2005 Elders under 35	2006 Elders under 35	2007 Elders under 35	2005 Elders under 35	2006 Elders under 35	2007 Elders under 35
Northern Illinois	341	330	325	14	10	13	4.11%	3.03%	4.00%
Eastern Pennsylvania	331	329	309	16	15	12	4.83%	4.56%	3.88%
Baltimore-Washington	472	473	453	15	15	17	3.18%	3.17%	3.75%
California-Pacific	407	410	402	16	18	15	3.93%	4.39%	3.73%
New Mexico	107	112	109	2	4	4	1.87%	3.57%	3.67%
South Georgia	290	291	301	15	15	11	5.17%	5.15%	3.65%
Pacific Northwest	216	219	222	5	8	8	2.31%	3.65%	3.60%
Greater New Jersey	405	410	398	11	16	14	2.72%	3.90%	3.52%
Kentucky	281	283	285	12	11	10	4.27%	3.89%	3.51%
Wyoming	126	119	115	4	3	4	3.17%	2.52%	3.48%
California-Nevada	326	319	328	10	9	11	3.07%	2.82%	3.35%
West Ohio	659	636	628	29	25	21	4.40%	3.93%	3.34%
Wisconsin	284	280	281	14	12	13	4.93%	4.29%	4.63%
Minnesota	261	254	248	8	7	8	3.07%	2.76%	3.23%
West Michigan	235	233	225	7	8	7	2.98%	3.43%	3.11%
New England	322	303	294	7	8	9	2.17%	2.64%	3.06%
Illinois Great Rivers	407	404	393	17	15	12	4.18%	3.71%	3.05%
Memphis	201	194	191	6	8	5	2.99%	4.12%	2.62%
New York	329	320	315	6	6	8	1.82%	1.88%	2.54%
West Virginia	232	239	243	6	7	6	2.59%	2.93%	2.47%
Kansas West	170	174	172	5	2	4	2.94%	1.15%	2.33%
Western Pennsylvania	425	416	401	18	14	14	4.24%	3.37%	3.49%
Yellowstone	57	54	53	1	1	1	1.75%	1.85%	1.89%
Southwest Texas	250	248	243	7	6	3	2.80%	2.42%	1.23%
Nebraska	171	173	165	4	3	2	2.34%	1.73%	1.21%
North Central New York	154	153	149	2	3	5	1.30%	1.96%	3.03%
Troy	110	106	101	1	1	1	0.91%	0.94%	0.99%
Peninsula-Delaware	182	180	183	2	1	1	1.10%	0.56%	0.55%
Alaska Missionary	1	2	2	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
OK Indian Missionary	13	13	14	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Rio Grande	34	40	39	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
TOTAL	18,141	18,447	17,800	850	881	876	4.69%	4.78%	4.92%

Deacons

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

*Median - half older, half younger

*Mode - single age most represented

Gender Breakdown within Age Cohorts - Deacons

	Men	Under 35	35- 54	55 -70
2006		36%	32%	18%
2007		37%	32%	19%
	Women	Under 35	35- 54	55 -70
2006		64%	68%	82%
2007		63%	68%	81%

Deacons Under 35 by Jurisdiction

	2005	2006	2007
Jurisdiction	Under 35	Under 35	Under 35
North Central	8	9	9
Northeastern	2	1	3
South Central	15	19	22
Southeastern	17	22	30
Western	4	3	0
Total	46	52	64

Deacons

Presence of Deacons under 35 by Annual Conference 2005 to 2007

CONFERENCE	2005 Deacons Total	2006 Deacons Total	2007 Deacons Total	2005 Deacons Under 35	2006 Deacons Under 35	2007 Deacons Under 35	2005 Deacons Under 35	2006 Deacons Under 35	2007 Deacons Under 35
ALABAMA WEST FLORIDA	20	25	30	0	3	3	0.00%	12.00%	10.00%
ARKANSAS	16	18	17	0	0	1	0.00%	0.00%	5.88%
BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON	23	24	22	0	0	1	0.00%	0.00%	4.55%
CALIFORNIA-NEVADA	12	12	11	1	1	0	8.33%	8.33%	0.00%
CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC	21	20	16	2	1	0	9.52%	5.00%	0.00%
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA	4	3	5	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
CENTRAL TEXAS	21	26	26	1	4	3	4.76%	15.38%	11.54%
DAKOTAS	4	3	5	1	1	0	25.00%	33.33%	0.00%
DESERT SOUTHWEST	12	11	12	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
DETROIT	10	9	8	1	1	1	10.00%	11.11%	12.50%
EAST OHIO	16	16	17	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA	8	6	6	2	0	0	25.00%	0.00%	0.00%
FLORIDA	43	42	41	1	2	3	2.33%	4.76%	7.32%
GREATER NEW JERSEY	15	15	19	0	1	2	0.00%	6.67%	10.53%
HOLSTON	14	13	12	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
ILL GREAT RIVERS	11	11	11	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
IOWA	9	11	10	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
KANSAS EAST	6	7	9	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
KANSAS WEST	7	6	4	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
KENTUCKY	18	20	24	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
LOUISIANA	23	25	22	0	1	1	0.00%	4.00%	4.55%
MEMPHIS	10	9	11	1	1	2	10.00%	11.11%	18.18%
MINNESOTA	13	14	15	1	2	2	7.69%	14.29%	13.33%
MISSISSIPPI	20	19	24	2	1	2	10.00%	5.26%	8.33%
MISSOURI	15	18	17	1	2	1	6.67%	11.11%	5.88%
NEBRASKA	4	3	3	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
NEW ENGLAND	3	3	4	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
NEW MEXICO	8	7	8	1	0	1	12.50%	0.00%	12.50%
NEW YORK	3	3	3	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
NO. CENTRAL NEW YORK	3	1	3	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
NORTH ALABAMA	8	11	17	1	1	2	12.50%	9.09%	11.76%

Deacons

Presence of Deacons under 35 by Annual Conference 2005 to 2007

Continued

CONFERENCE	2005 Deacons Total	2006 Deacons Total	2007 Deacons Total	2005 Deacons Under 35	2006 Deacons Under 35	2007 Deacons Under 35	2005 Deacons Under 35	2006 Deacons Under 35	2007 Deacons Under 35
NORTH CAROLINA	21	23	25	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
NORTH GEORGIA	45	46	52	4	6	7	8.89%	13.04%	13.46%
NORTH INDIANA	9	6	3	1	0	0	11.11%	0.00%	0.00%
NORTH TEXAS	35	34	35	3	4	5	8.57%	11.76%	14.29%
NORTHWEST TEXAS	7	5	6	1	0	0	14.29%	0.00%	0.00%
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	19	21	20	0	2	4	0.00%	9.52%	20.00%
OKLAHOMA	36	33	32	6	5	7	16.67%	15.15%	21.88%
OREGON-IDAHO	10	9	9	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	14	13	10	1	1	0	7.14%	7.69%	0.00%
PENINSULA-DELAWARE	2	2	4	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
RIO GRANDE	0	0	2	0	0	1	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	23	21	25	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
SOUTH CAROLINA	13	14	24	0	0	1	0.00%	0.00%	4.17%
SOUTH GEORGIA	15	15	13	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
SOUTH INDIANA	8	7	7	1	1	0	12.50%	14.29%	0.00%
SOUTHWEST TEXAS	12	14	16	0	1	1	0.00%	7.14%	6.25%
TENNESSEE	29	31	34	1	2	3	3.45%	6.45%	8.82%
TEXAS	30	26	26	2	0	1	6.67%	0.00%	3.85%
VIRGINIA	25	22	29	1	1	1	4.00%	4.55%	3.45%
WEST MICHIGAN	5	4	3	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
WEST OHIO	32	26	25	3	2	2	9.38%	7.69%	8.00%
WEST VIRGINIA	7	6	8	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
WESTERN NEW YORK	6	6	7	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA	8	8	9	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
WESTN NORTH CAROLINA	33	36	41	6	5	6	18.18%	13.89%	14.63%
WISCONSIN	4	3	3	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
WYOMING	1	1	1	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
YELLOWSTONE	1	1	1	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
TOTAL	850	844	902	46	52	64	5.41%	6.16%	7.10%

Deacons

Presence of Deacons under 35 by Percentage 2005 to 2007

CONFERENCE NAME	2005 Deacons Total	2006 Deacons Total	2007 Deacons Total	Total Under 35 05	Total Under 35 06	Total under 35 07	% younger than 35	% younger than 35	% younger than 35
RIO GRANDE	0	0	2	0	0	1	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%
OKLAHOMA	36	33	32	6	5	7	16.67%	15.15%	21.88%
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	19	21	20	0	2	4	0.00%	9.52%	20.00%
MEMPHIS	10	9	11	1	1	2	10.00%	11.11%	18.18%
WESTN NORTH CAROLINA	33	36	41	6	5	6	18.18%	13.89%	14.63%
NORTH TEXAS	35	34	35	3	4	5	8.57%	11.76%	14.29%
NORTH GEORGIA	45	46	52	4	6	7	8.89%	13.04%	13.46%
MINNESOTA	13	14	15	1	2	2	7.69%	14.29%	13.33%
DETROIT	10	9	8	1	1	1	10.00%	11.11%	12.50%
NEW MEXICO	8	7	8	1	0	1	12.50%	0.00%	12.50%
NORTH ALABAMA	8	11	17	1	1	2	12.50%	9.09%	11.76%
CENTRAL TEXAS	21	26	26	1	4	3	4.76%	15.38%	11.54%
GREATER NEW JERSEY	15	15	19	0	1	2	0.00%	6.67%	10.53%
ALABAMA WEST FLORIDA	20	25	30	0	3	3	0.00%	12.00%	10.00%
TENNESSEE	29	31	34	1	2	3	3.45%	6.45%	8.82%
MISSISSIPPI	20	19	24	2	1	2	10.00%	5.26%	8.33%
WEST OHIO	32	26	25	3	2	2	9.38%	7.69%	8.00%
FLORIDA	43	42	41	1	2	3	2.33%	4.76%	7.32%
SOUTHWEST TEXAS	12	14	16	0	1	1	0.00%	7.14%	6.25%
ARKANSAS	16	18	17	0	0	1	0.00%	0.00%	5.88%
MISSOURI	15	18	17	1	2	1	6.67%	11.11%	5.88%
BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON	23	24	22	0	0	1	0.00%	0.00%	4.55%
LOUISIANA	23	25	22	0	1	1	0.00%	4.00%	4.55%
SOUTH CAROLINA	13	14	24	0	0	1	0.00%	0.00%	4.17%
TEXAS	30	26	26	2	0	1	6.67%	0.00%	3.85%
VIRGINIA	25	22	29	1	1	1	4.00%	4.55%	3.45%
CALIFORNIA-NEVADA	12	12	11	1	1	0	8.33%	8.33%	0.00%
CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC	21	20	16	2	1	0	9.52%	5.00%	0.00%
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA	4	3	5	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
DAKOTAS	4	3	5	1	1	0	25.00%	33.33%	0.00%
DESERT SOUTHWEST	12	11	12	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
EAST OHIO	16	16	17	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA	8	6	6	2	0	0	25.00%	0.00%	0.00%

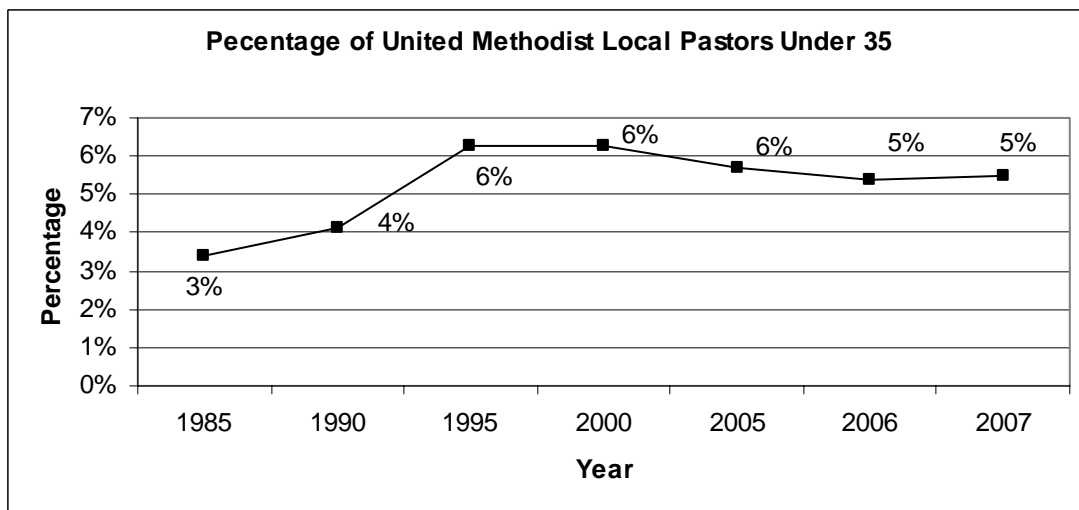
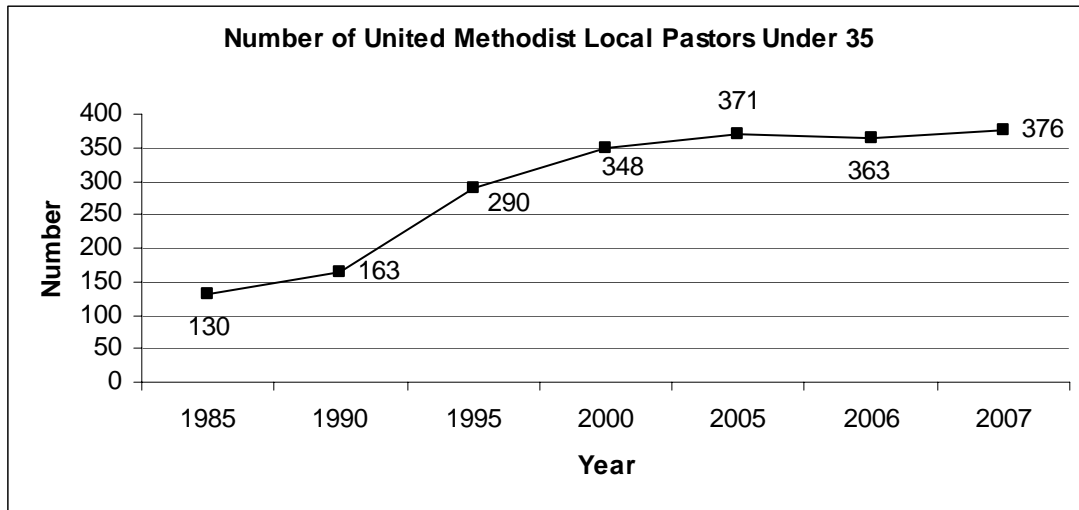
Presence of Deacons under 35
by Percentage
2005 to 2007

Continued

CONFERENCE NAME	2005 Deacons Total	2006 Deacons Total	2007 Deacons Total	Total Under 35 05	Total Under 35 06	Total under 35 07	% younger than 35	% younger than 35	% younger than 35
HOLSTON	14	13	12	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
ILL GREAT RIVERS	11	11	11	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
IOWA	9	11	10	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
KANSAS EAST	6	7	9	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
KANSAS WEST	7	6	4	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
KENTUCKY	18	20	24	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
NEBRASKA	4	3	3	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
NEW ENGLAND	3	3	4	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
NEW YORK	3	3	3	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
NO. CENTRAL NEW YORK	3	1	3	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
NORTH CAROLINA	21	23	25	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
NORTH INDIANA	9	6	3	1	0	0	11.11%	0.00%	0.00%
NORTHWEST TEXAS	7	5	6	1	0	0	14.29%	0.00%	0.00%
OREGON-IDAHO	10	9	9	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	14	13	10	1	1	0	7.14%	7.69%	0.00%
PENINSULA-DELAWARE	2	2	4	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	23	21	25	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
SOUTH GEORGIA	15	15	13	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
SOUTH INDIANA	8	7	7	1	1	0	12.50%	14.29%	0.00%
WEST MICHIGAN	5	4	3	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
WEST VIRGINIA	7	6	8	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
WESTERN NEW YORK	6	6	7	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA	8	8	9	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
WISCONSIN	4	3	3	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
WYOMING	1	1	1	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
YELLOWSTONE	1	1	1	0	0	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
TOTAL	397	404	440	32	52	56	8.06%	6.16%	12.73%

Local Pastors

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



Data on Age Trends for Local Pastors
1985 - 2007

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%	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%
2006	6,731	363	5%	3,201	48%	3,167	47%
2007	6,863	376	5%	3,166	46%	3,321	48%

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

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

Gender Breakdown within Age Cohorts - Local Pastors

	Men	Under 35	35- 54	55 -70
2006		76%	71%	70%
2007		76%	71%	69%
	Women	Under 35	35- 54	55 -70
2006		24%	29%	30%
2007		24%	29%	31%

Local Pastors under 35 by Jurisdictions

	2006	2007
Jurisdiction	Under 35	Under 35
North Central	70	56
Northeastern	42	44
South Central	91	93
Southeastern	143	164
Western	17	19
Total	363	375

Presence of Local Pastors under 35
by Annual Conference
2006 to 2007

CONFERENCE NAME	Under 35 in 06	Under 35 in 07	2006 Local Pastors Total	2007 Local Pastors Total	% Under 35 in 06	% Under 35 in 07
ALABAMA WEST FLORIDA	12	8	165	162	7.27%	4.94%
ALASKA MISSIONARY	0	0	2	2	0.00%	0.00%
ARKANSAS	11	10	176	186	6.25%	5.38%
BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON	2	2	91	91	2.20%	2.20%
CALIFORNIA NEVADA	6	2	62	54	9.68%	3.70%
CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC	6	9	69	73	8.70%	12.33%
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA	10	10	131	137	7.63%	7.30%
CENTRAL TEXAS	4	5	48	45	8.33%	11.11%
DAKOTAS	1	2	31	33	3.23%	6.06%
DESERT SOUTHWEST	0	0	24	25	0.00%	0.00%
DETROIT	2	2	80	83	2.50%	2.41%
EAST OHIO	13	12	191	192	6.81%	6.25%
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA	1	2	92	96	1.09%	2.08%
FLORIDA	8	7	148	147	5.41%	4.76%
GREATER NEW JERSEY	9	10	131	132	6.87%	7.58%
HOLSTON	8	13	168	176	4.76%	7.39%
ILL GREAT RIVERS	3	5	182	180	1.65%	2.78%
IOWA	8	4	184	183	4.35%	2.19%
KANSAS EAST	7	8	68	65	10.29%	12.31%
KANSAS WEST	1	1	67	70	1.49%	1.43%
KENTUCKY	4	2	124	116	3.23%	1.72%
LOUISIANA	7	10	141	148	4.96%	6.76%
MEMPHIS	3	5	62	64	4.84%	7.81%
MINNESOTA	2	3	28	35	7.14%	8.57%
MISSISSIPPI	8	10	239	239	3.35%	4.18%
MISSOURI	21	21	226	230	9.29%	9.13%
NEBRASKA	2	3	52	59	3.85%	5.08%
NEW ENGLAND	1	3	101	99	0.99%	3.03%
NEW MEXICO	1	0	24	22	4.17%	0.00%
NEW YORK	4	6	66	68	6.06%	8.82%
NO. CENTRAL NEW YORK	1	1	67	76	1.49%	1.32%
NORTH ALABAMA	15	10	260	249	5.77%	4.02%
NORTH CAROLINA	12	13	166	174	7.23%	7.47%

Local Pastors

Presence of Local Pastors under 35 by Annual Conference 2006 to 2007 continued

CONFERENCE NAME	Under 35 in 06	Under 35 in 07	2006 Local Pastors Total	2007 Local Pastors Total	% Under 35 in 06	% Under 35 in 07
NORTH GEORGIA	7	16	201	273	3.48%	5.86%
NORTH INDIANA	6	6	99	101	6.06%	5.94%
NORTH TEXAS	10	6	74	81	13.51%	7.41%
NORTH WEST TEXAS	3	2	78	75	3.85%	2.67%
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	9	3	51	41	17.65%	7.32%
OKLAHOMA	12	12	125	128	9.60%	9.38%
OKLAHOMA INDIAN MSNY	2	3	33	34	6.06%	8.82%
OREGON IDAHO	2	4	24	25	8.33%	16.00%
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	2	2	22	21	9.09%	9.52%
PENINSULA-DELAWARE	2	0	70	77	2.86%	0.00%
RED BIRD MISSIONARY	0	0	8	9	0.00%	0.00%
RIO GRANDE	3	2	23	18	13.04%	11.11%
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	1	2	45	47	2.22%	4.26%
SOUTH CAROLINA	5	8	181	181	2.76%	4.42%
SOUTH GEORGIA	12	11	145	142	8.28%	7.75%
SOUTH INDIANA	3	2	103	94	2.91%	2.13%
SOUTHWEST TEXAS	6	5	106	105	5.66%	4.76%
TENNESSEE	13	13	167	158	7.78%	8.23%
TEXAS	1	5	172	170	0.58%	2.94%
TROY	2	1	55	53	3.64%	1.89%
VIRGINIA	23	26	240	257	9.58%	10.12%
WEST MICHIGAN	4	2	86	86	4.65%	2.33%
WEST OHIO	16	13	159	151	10.06%	8.61%
WEST VIRGINIA	5	5	202	210	2.48%	2.38%
WESTERN NEW YORK	4	4	64	67	6.25%	5.97%
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA	0	0	88	86	0.00%	0.00%
WESTN NORTH CAROLINA	13	22	273	291	4.76%	7.56%
WISCONSIN	3	2	86	86	3.49%	2.33%
WYOMING	1	0	60	62	1.67%	0.00%
YELLOWSTONE	0	0	25	23	0.00%	0.00%
TOTAL	363	376	6,731	6,863	5.39%	5.48%

Local Pastors

Presence of Local Pastors under 35 by Percentage 2006 to 2007

CONFERENCE NAME	Under 35 in 06	Under 35 in 07	2006 Local Pastors Total	2007 Local Pastors Total	% Under 35 in 06	% Under 35 in 07
OREGON IDAHO	2	4	24	25	8.33%	16.00%
CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC	6	9	69	73	8.70%	12.33%
KANSAS EAST	7	8	68	65	10.29%	12.31%
CENTRAL TEXAS	4	5	48	45	8.33%	11.11%
VIRGINIA	23	26	240	257	9.58%	10.12%
RIO GRANDE	3	2	23	18	13.04%	11.11%
OKLAHOMA	12	12	125	128	9.60%	9.38%
MINNESOTA	2	3	28	35	7.14%	8.57%
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	2	2	22	21	9.09%	9.52%
MISSOURI	21	21	226	230	9.29%	9.13%
NEW YORK	4	6	66	68	6.06%	8.82%
OKLAHOMA INDIAN MSNY	2	3	33	34	6.06%	8.82%
WEST OHIO	16	13	159	151	10.06%	8.61%
TENNESSEE	13	13	167	158	7.78%	8.23%
NORTH TEXAS	10	6	74	81	13.51%	7.41%
MEMPHIS	3	5	62	64	4.84%	7.81%
SOUTH GEORGIA	12	11	145	142	8.28%	7.75%
WESTN NORTH CAROLINA	13	22	273	291	4.76%	7.56%
NORTH CAROLINA	12	13	166	174	7.23%	7.47%
GREATER NEW JERSEY	9	10	131	132	6.87%	7.58%
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA	10	10	131	137	7.63%	7.30%
HOLSTON	8	13	168	176	4.76%	7.39%
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	9	3	51	41	17.65%	7.32%
LOUISIANA	7	10	141	148	4.96%	6.76%
NORTH GEORGIA	7	16	201	273	3.48%	5.86%
EAST OHIO	13	12	191	192	6.81%	6.25%
DAKOTAS	1	2	31	33	3.23%	6.06%
WESTERN NEW YORK	4	4	64	67	6.25%	5.97%
NORTH INDIANA	6	6	99	101	6.06%	5.94%
ARKANSAS	11	10	176	186	6.25%	5.38%
NEBRASKA	2	3	52	59	3.85%	5.08%
ALABAMA WEST FLORIDA	12	8	165	162	7.27%	4.94%

Local Pastors

Presence of Local Pastors under 35 by Percentage 2006 to 2007

continued

CONFERENCE NAME	Under 35 in 06	Under 35 in 07	2006 Local Pastors Total	2007 Local Pastors Total	% Under 35 in 06	% Under 35 in 07
SOUTHWEST TEXAS	6	5	106	105	5.66%	4.76%
FLORIDA	8	7	148	147	5.41%	4.76%
SOUTH CAROLINA	5	8	181	181	2.76%	4.42%
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	1	2	45	47	2.22%	4.26%
MISSISSIPPI	8	10	239	239	3.35%	4.18%
NORTH ALABAMA	15	10	260	249	5.77%	4.02%
CALIFORNIA NEVADA	6	2	62	54	9.68%	3.70%
NEW ENGLAND	1	3	101	99	0.99%	3.03%
TEXAS	1	5	172	170	0.58%	2.94%
ILL GREAT RIVERS	3	5	182	180	1.65%	2.78%
NORTH WEST TEXAS	3	2	78	75	3.85%	2.67%
DETROIT	2	2	80	83	2.50%	2.41%
WEST VIRGINIA	5	5	202	210	2.48%	2.38%
WEST MICHIGAN	4	2	86	86	4.65%	2.33%
WISCONSIN	3	2	86	86	3.49%	2.33%
IOWA	8	4	184	183	4.35%	2.19%
BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON	2	2	91	91	2.20%	2.20%
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA	1	2	92	96	1.09%	2.08%
SOUTH INDIANA	3	2	103	94	2.91%	2.13%
TROY	2	1	55	53	3.64%	1.89%
KENTUCKY	4	2	124	116	3.23%	1.72%
KANSAS WEST	1	1	67	70	1.49%	1.43%
NO. CENTRAL NEW YORK	1	1	67	76	1.49%	1.32%
NEW MEXICO	1	0	24	22	4.17%	0.00%
PENINSULA-DELAWARE	2	0	70	77	2.86%	0.00%
WYOMING	1	0	60	62	1.67%	0.00%
ALASKA MISSIONARY	0	0	2	2	0.00%	0.00%
DESERT SOUTHWEST	0	0	24	25	0.00%	0.00%
RED BIRD MISSIONARY	0	0	8	9	0.00%	0.00%
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA	0	0	88	86	0.00%	0.00%
YELLOWSTONE	0	0	25	23	0.00%	0.00%
TOTAL	363	376	6,731	6,863	5.39%	5.48%

Clergy Age Comparisons Across Denominations

By Percentage

Denomination	Under 35	35 - 54	55 - 70
American Baptist	5.10%	51.35%	43.54%
Assemblies of God <i>2006 Data</i>	7.16%	54.64%	38.20%
Christian Church (DOC) <i>2006 data</i>	5.53%	50.79%	43.68%
Church of God (Anderson, IN)	8.41%	52.24%	39.34%
Church of the Nazarene	10.68%	54.00%	35.31%
Episcopal Church	3.43%	37.81%	58.76%
Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)	5.92%	50.57%	43.50%
Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)	8.34%	54.59%	37.07%
Presbyterian Church (USA)	6.20%	51.39%	42.41%
Reform Judaism	10.15%	53.38%	36.78%
Seventh Day Adventist	1.19%	44.72%	54.09%
United Church of Canada	2.66%	50.38%	48.62%
United Methodist Church	4.92%	50.74%	44.34%

By Numbers

Denomination	Under 35	35 - 54	55 - 70
American Baptist	247	2,486	2,108
Assemblies of God <i>2006 Data</i>	998	7,620	5,327
Christian Church (DOC) <i>2006 data</i>	223	2,142	1,842
Church of God (Anderson, IN)	278	1,726	1,300
Church of the Nazarene	623	3,150	2,060
Episcopal Church	408	4,500	6,993
Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)	659	5,625	4,839
Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod)	451	2,952	2,005
Presbyterian Church (USA)	594	4,921	4,061
Reform Judaism	140	1,422	523
Seventh Day Adventist	29	1,088	1,316
United Church of Canada	59	1,116	1,077
United Methodist Church	876	9,032	7,892

Some Other Related Data (most recent available)

Roman Catholic Priests in 2001	
Under 35	3.10%
35 - 54	31.70%
55 and older	65.20%
Median Age	60

United Church of Christ 2005		
25 - 44	17.00%	409
45 - 64	81.00%	1,929
65 and older	2.00%	36

Sources of United Methodist Clergy Data

The United Methodist clergy age statistics in this report are prepared by the Lewis Center for Church Leadership of Wesley Theological Seminary from data provided by the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of the United Methodist Church (GBOPHB) of “active participants.” Active participants mean that the person is active in clergy service, therefore excluding statuses such as retired, sabbatical, leave of absence, maternity leave, disability, or administrative location. Those who have been commissioned on the elder and deacon tracks but not yet ordained are included. Regarding deacons, this report captures a lower percentage of active deacons because a higher percentage of them, when compared to elders, work in employment settings with pension plans other than through the General Board.

Sources for Other Denominations

American Baptist Churches USA (ABC) - Ministers and Missionaries Benefit Board

Assemblies of God – Statistician’s Office

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) - Pension Fund

Church of God (Anderson, Indiana) – Board of Pensions

Church of the Nazarene - Pensions and Benefits USA

Episcopal Church - Church Pension Fund

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

Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) – Concordia Plan Services

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

Reform Judaism – Reform Pension Board

Roman Catholic - No central office keeps information on Catholic priests' ages. Researchers at Catholic University did a survey of American priests in 2001 from which these figures come. The survey had a high response rate of 71%. Dean R. Hoge and Jacqueline E. Wenger, *Evolving Visions of the Priesthood*, Liturgical Press, 2003, p. 200.

Seventh Day Adventist Church – Adventist Retirement Plan

United Church of Canada – Ministry and Employment Services Unit

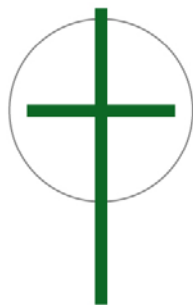
United Church of Christ – The Pension Boards

About the Lewis Center for Church Leadership

The Lewis Center for Church Leadership was established in 2003 by Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington, DC, to advance the understanding of Christian leadership and promote the faithful and fruitful practice of Christian leadership in the church and in society. 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.

The Lewis Center serves as a resource for seminary students, lay and clergy congregational leaders, and denominational officials. Through teaching, research, publications, and training, the Lewis Center supports visionary spiritual leaders and addresses those key leadership issues that are crucial to the church's witness. The Center seeks to be a trusted resource for church leadership helping congregations and denominations serve, thrive, and grow.

For more information or to subscribe to the Center's free online newsletter, *Leading Ideas*, go to: wwwchurchleadership.com



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