

A Lewis Center Report
on
**Clergy Age
Trends**
in the
United Methodist Church
1985-2008

Elders □ Deacons □ Local Pastors □ Other Denominations



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Lewis Center for Church Leadership
Wesley Theological Seminary

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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 2008.

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. Thomas James was research assistant.

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 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 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 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 the last three years. In 2008 under-35 elders reached 5 percent of active elders for the first time this century.

- 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. In 2008 the number of young elders increased from 876 to 910, and the percentage grew from 4.92 to 5.21 percent.
- The actual number of young elders increased from 2007 to 2008 from 876 to 910.
- Young deacons increased in percentage and numbers in 2008.
- Young local pastors showed a slight decline in percentage and numbers between 2007 and 2008.

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 44.34 percent in 2007 to 45.67 percent in 2008. 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 2007 to 2008, from 42.24 percent to 43.14 percent.
- Local pastors, traditionally an older group, continue to have a larger percentage between 55 and 70, going from 48 percent in 2007 to 50 percent in 2008.

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

- Elders in this age group went from 50.74 percent in 2007 to 49.12 in 2008.
- Deacons of this age declined slightly from 50.67 percent in 2007 to 49.16 in 2008.
- Middle-age local pastors declined as a proportion of all local pastors from 46 percent to 44 percent between 2005 and 2008.

Median, average, and mode ages in 2008 are:

- Median - (half older, half younger): elders, 54; deacons, 53; local pastors, 55.
- Average - elders, 52; deacons, 51; local pastors, 53.
- Mode - (single age most represented): elders, 56; deacons (no single age); local pastors, 59.

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.

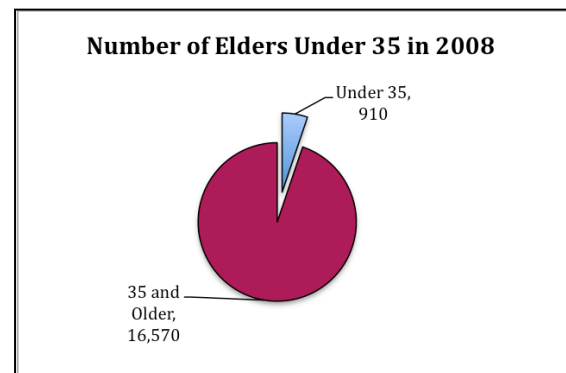
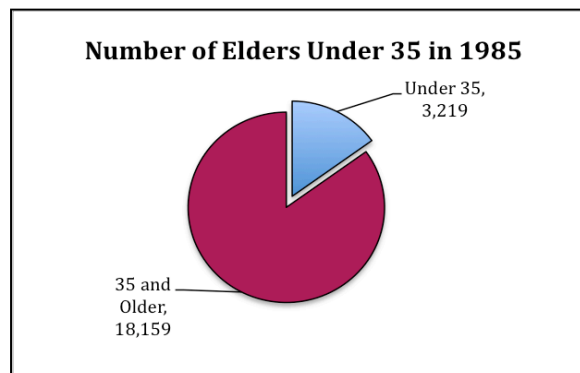
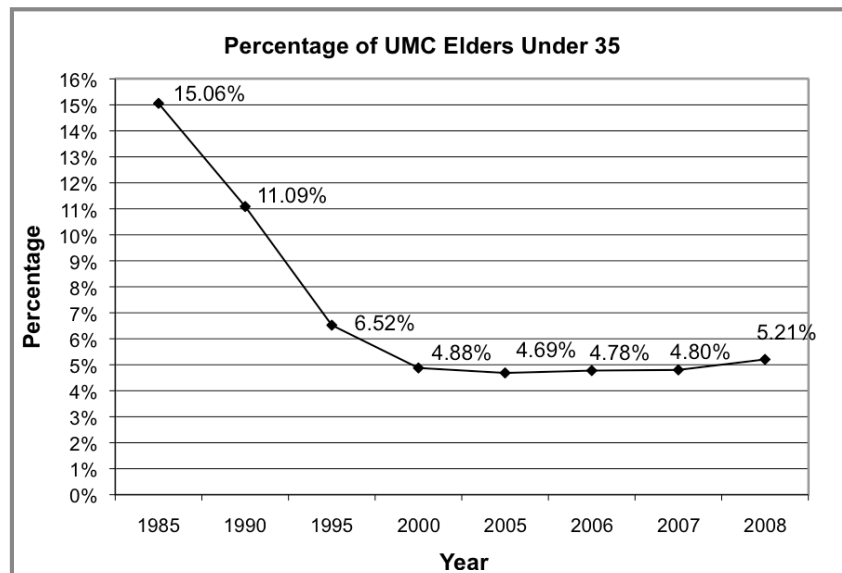
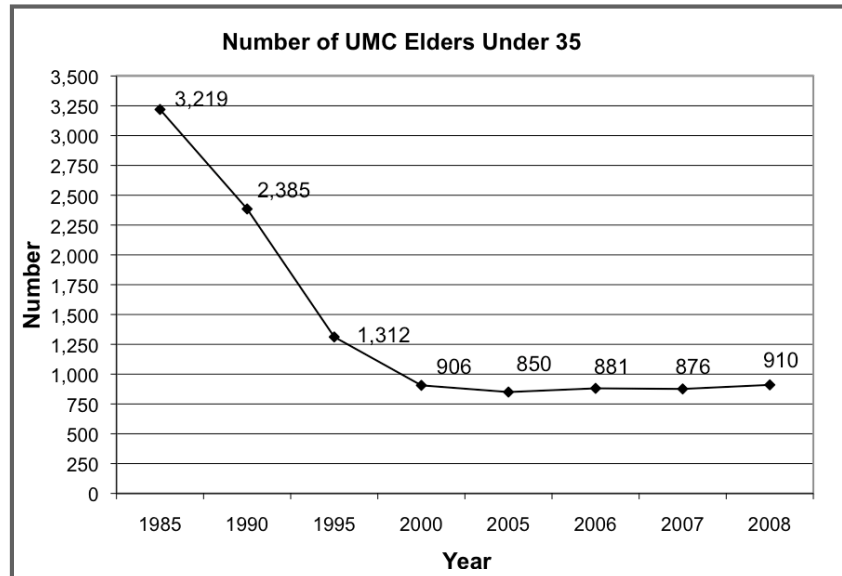
The dearth of young clergy is contributing to an impending leadership crisis in yet another way. The growing percentage of elders who are 55 and older raises the specter of a tidal wave of retirements hitting the system in the not-too-distant future. The aging of the church's clergy pool poses other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

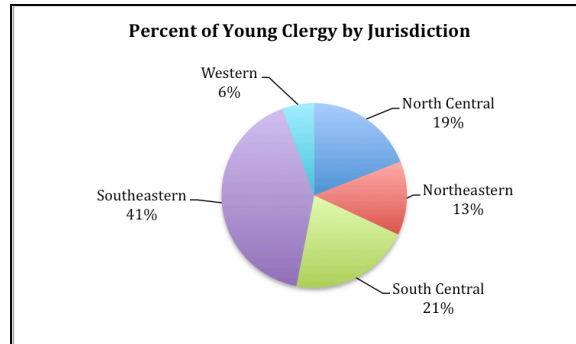
To have comparable figures across the years for elders, the figures include *not only those who have been ordained elder but also those who have been commissioned* on the elder track but not yet ordained. Since the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits does not keep records of clergy by race, we were not able to make comparisons by racial groups.



Elders

Elders by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Elders under 35 2008	% Elders under 35 2008	Elders 35-54 2008	% Elders 35-54 2008	Elders 55-70 2008	% Elders 55-70 2008	Total Elders 2008
North Central	183	4.70%	1,952	50.18%	1,755	45.12%	3,890
Northeastern	118	3.59%	1,544	47.00%	1,623	49.41%	3,285
South Central	192	6.11%	1,532	48.73%	1,420	45.17%	3,144
Southeastern	376	6.60%	2,879	50.55%	2,440	42.84%	5,695
Western	51	3.46%	680	46.07%	745	50.47%	1,476
Total	910	5.21%	8,587	49.12%	7,983	45.67%	17,480



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

Gender Breakdown within Age Cohorts - Elders

	Under 35	35 - 54	55 - 70
Men			
2006	69%	75%	77%
2007	67%	74%	76%
2008	65%	73%	75%
Women			
2006	31%	25%	23%
2007	33%	26%	24%
2008	35%	27%	25%

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

*Median - half older, half younger

*Mode - single age most represented

Data on Age Trends for Elders 1985 – 2008

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%
2008	17,480	910	5.21%	8,587	49.12%	7,983	45.67%

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	2008 Mean	2008 Median	2008 Mode
ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA	50.49	52	60
ALASKA MISSIONARY	54.67	53	
ARKANSAS	50.91	53	59
BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON	53.77	55	57
CALIFORNIA-NEVADA	53.59	55	58
CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC	52.73	53	50
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA	51.81	53	60
CENTRAL TEXAS	51.86	53	54
DAKOTAS	51.66	54	56
DESERT SOUTHWEST	52.73	55	55
DETROIT	53.26	55	60
EAST OHIO	52.73	54	61
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA	53.10	54	
FLORIDA	51.55	53	61
GREATER NEW JERSEY	53.71	55	59
HOLSTON	51.17	53	60
ILLINOIS GREAT RIVERS	51.90	53	51
IOWA	52.85	55	56
KANSAS EAST	52.06	55	61
KANSAS WEST	52.88	55	
KENTUCKY	51.59	53	
LOUISIANA	50.81	52	51
MEMPHIS	53.14	55	60
MINNESOTA	51.36	53	55
MISSISSIPPI	50.83	53	
MISSOURI	51.76	53	53
NEBRASKA	53.75	55	56
NEW ENGLAND	53.43	55	60
NEW MEXICO	51.87	52	
NEW YORK	55.27	57	59
NORTH ALABAMA	50.16	52	52
NORTH CAROLINA	51.31	53	

CONFERENCE	2008 Mean	2008 Median	2008 Mode
NORTH CENTRAL NEW YORK	54.30	55	60
NORTH GEORGIA	51.72	53	59
NORTH INDIANA	51.73	53	54
NORTH TEXAS	51.34	53	59
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	52.60	54	59
NORTHWEST TEXAS	51.67	53	
OKLAHOMA	50.91	53	56
OKLAHOMA INDIAN	57.23	55	
OREGON IDAHO	52.77	54	61
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	52.83	54	61
PENINSULA-DELAWARE	53.89	55	58
RIO GRANDE	54.42	56	
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	52.99	55	56
SOUTH CAROLINA	52.54	55	60
SOUTH GEORGIA	51.20	53	57
SOUTH INDIANA	52.69	54	61
SOUTHWEST TEXAS	53.79	55	55
TENNESSEE	51.41	53	59
TEXAS	51.72	53	53
TROY	54.89	56	61
VIRGINIA	51.49	53	52
WEST MICHIGAN	53.02	54	60
WEST OHIO	51.63	53	
WEST VIRGINIA	52.13	54	59
WESTERN NEW YORK	53.59	54	61
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA	50.40	52	56
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA	51.60	53	54
WISCONSIN	52.25	53	58
WYOMING	52.38	54	
YELLOWSTONE	54.80	55	61

**Presence of Elders under 35
by Annual Conference
2006 to 2008**

CONFERENCE	2008 Elders under 35	2008 Elders under 35	2008 Elders	2007 Elders under 35	2007 Elders under 35	2007 Elders	2006 Elders under 35	2006 Elders under 35	2006 Elders
ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA	8.51%	24	282	8.19%	23	281	7.75%	22	284
ALASKA MISSIONARY	0.00%	0	3	0.00%	0	2	0.00%	0	2
ARKANSAS	9.29%	25	269	8.80%	25	284	7.34%	21	286
BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON	4.17%	18	432	3.75%	17	453	3.17%	15	473
CALIFORNIA-NEVADA	3.15%	10	317	3.35%	11	328	2.82%	9	319
CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC	2.72%	11	405	3.73%	15	402	4.39%	18	410
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA	7.02%	21	299	6.21%	20	322	6.06%	20	330
CENTRAL TEXAS	7.54%	19	252	6.91%	17	246	6.43%	16	249
DAKOTAS	7.53%	11	146	8.28%	12	145	7.84%	12	153
DESERT SOUTHWEST	3.70%	5	135	5.11%	7	137	5.11%	7	137
DETROIT	5.56%	17	306	6.19%	19	307	5.50%	17	309
EAST OHIO	4.90%	20	408	4.21%	18	428	3.50%	15	428
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA	2.36%	7	297	3.88%	12	309	4.56%	15	329
FLORIDA	5.62%	29	516	6.18%	32	518	5.69%	30	527
GREATER NEW JERSEY	2.86%	11	384	3.52%	14	398	3.90%	16	410
HOLSTON	7.30%	23	315	8.70%	28	322	8.54%	28	328
ILLINOIS GREAT RIVERS	3.62%	14	387	3.05%	12	393	3.71%	15	404
IOWA	4.36%	17	390	4.24%	17	401	4.68%	19	406
KANSAS EAST	6.79%	11	162	5.52%	9	163	3.18%	5	157
KANSAS WEST	6.40%	11	172	2.33%	4	172	1.15%	2	174
KENTUCKY	2.20%	6	273	3.51%	10	285	3.89%	11	283
LOUISIANA	8.05%	19	236	5.65%	13	230	6.03%	14	232
MEMPHIS	3.76%	7	186	2.62%	5	191	4.12%	8	194
MINNESOTA	5.28%	13	246	3.23%	8	248	2.76%	7	254
MISSISSIPPI	8.79%	32	364	7.14%	26	364	8.97%	33	368
MISSOURI	6.19%	21	339	5.74%	19	331	4.50%	15	333
NEBRAKSA	1.20%	2	166	1.21%	2	165	1.73%	3	173
NEW ENGLAND	2.52%	7	278	3.06%	9	294	2.64%	8	303
NEW MEXICO	5.26%	5	95	3.67%	4	109	3.57%	4	112
NEW YORK	2.65%	8	302	2.54%	8	315	1.88%	6	320
NORTH ALABAMA	8.50%	30	353	8.42%	31	368	7.82%	29	371

**Presence of Elders under 35
by Annual Conference
2006 to 2008, continued**

CONFERENCE	2008 Elders under 35	2008 Elders under 35	2008 Elders	2007 Elders under 35	2007 Elders under 35	2007 Elders	2006 Elders under 35	2006 Elders under 35	2006 Elders
NORTH CAROLINA	5.49%	25	455	5.62%	26	463	6.61%	30	454
NORTH CENTRAL NEW YORK	3.65%	5	137	3.36%	5	149	1.96%	3	153
NORTH GEORGIA	6.45%	38	589	6.38%	38	596	7.65%	46	601
NORTH INDIANA	5.00%	15	300	4.55%	14	308	4.87%	15	308
NORTH TEXAS	5.88%	16	272	6.44%	17	264	6.15%	16	260
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	4.09%	13	318	4.00%	13	325	3.03%	10	330
NORTHWEST TEXAS	5.98%	7	117	5.83%	7	120	5.93%	7	118
OKLAHOMA INDIAN	0.00%	0	13	0.00%	0	14	0.00%	0	13
OKLAHOMA	8.36%	28	335	8.51%	28	329	7.08%	23	325
OREGON-IDAHO	4.79%	7	146	5.33%	8	150	3.40%	5	147
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	3.43%	7	204	3.60%	8	222	3.65%	8	219
PENNISULA-DELEWARE	1.08%	2	186	0.55%	1	183	0.56%	1	180
RIO GRANDE	0.00%	0	38	0.00%	0	39	0.00%	0	40
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	4.55%	10	220	4.15%	9	217	4.55%	10	220
SOUTH CAROLINA	6.67%	32	480	5.94%	29	488	5.98%	29	485
SOUTH GEORGIA	5.19%	15	289	3.65%	11	301	5.15%	15	291
SOUTH INDIANA	5.03%	15	298	4.75%	14	295	4.70%	14	298
SOUTHWEST TEXAS	3.23%	8	248	1.23%	3	243	2.42%	6	248
TENNESSEE	6.06%	12	198	6.47%	13	201	6.73%	14	208
TEXAS	4.65%	20	430	4.83%	21	435	3.99%	18	451
TROY	1.11%	1	90	0.99%	1	101	0.94%	1	106
VIRGINIA	6.55%	43	656	5.59%	36	644	5.61%	37	659
WEST MICHINGAN	2.76%	6	217	3.11%	7	225	3.43%	8	233
WEST OHIO	2.99%	18	603	3.34%	21	628	3.93%	25	636
WEST VIRGINIA	5.20%	13	250	2.47%	6	243	2.93%	7	239
WESTERN NEW YORK	3.15%	4	127	4.58%	6	131	5.30%	7	132
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA	8.12%	60	739	7.59%	55	725	7.75%	56	723
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA	4.33%	17	393	1.93%	14	725	1.94%	14	723
WISCONSIN	5.36%	14	261	3.24%	13	401	2.88%	12	416
WYOMING	3.64%	4	110	3.48%	4	115	2.52%	3	119
YELLOWSTONE	2.17%	1	46	1.89%	1	53	1.85%	1	54
TOTAL	5.21%	910	17,480	4.80%	876	18,244	4.78%	881	18,447

**Presence of Elders under 35
by 2008 Percentage
2006 to 2008**

CONFERENCE	2008 Elders under 35	2008 Elders under 35	2008 Elders	2007 Elders under 35	2007 Elders under 35	2007 Elders	2006 Elders under 35	2006 Elders under 35	2006 Elders
ARKANSAS	9.29%	25	269	8.80%	25	284	7.34%	21	286
MISSISSIPPI	8.79%	32	364	7.14%	26	364	8.97%	33	368
ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA	8.51%	24	282	8.19%	23	281	7.75%	22	284
NORTH ALABAMA	8.50%	30	353	8.42%	31	368	7.82%	29	371
OKLAHOMA	8.36%	28	335	8.51%	28	329	7.08%	23	325
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA	8.12%	60	739	7.59%	55	725	7.75%	56	723
LOUISIANA	8.05%	19	236	5.65%	13	230	6.03%	14	232
CENTRAL TEXAS	7.54%	19	252	6.91%	17	246	6.43%	16	249
DAKOTAS	7.53%	11	146	8.28%	12	145	7.84%	12	153
HOLSTON	7.30%	23	315	8.70%	28	322	8.54%	28	328
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA	7.02%	21	299	6.21%	20	322	6.06%	20	330
KANSAS EAST	6.79%	11	162	5.52%	9	163	3.18%	5	157
SOUTH CAROLINA	6.67%	32	480	5.94%	29	488	5.98%	29	485
VIRGINIA	6.55%	43	656	5.59%	36	644	5.61%	37	659
NORTH GEORGIA	6.45%	38	589	6.38%	38	596	7.65%	46	601
KANSAS WEST	6.40%	11	172	2.33%	4	172	1.15%	2	174
MISSOURI	6.19%	21	339	5.74%	19	331	4.50%	15	333
TENNESSEE	6.06%	12	198	6.47%	13	201	6.73%	14	208
NORTHWEST TEXAS	5.98%	7	117	5.83%	7	120	5.93%	7	118
NORTH TEXAS	5.88%	16	272	6.44%	17	264	6.15%	16	260
FLORIDA	5.62%	29	516	6.18%	32	518	5.69%	30	527
DETROIT	5.56%	17	306	6.19%	19	307	5.50%	17	309
NORTH CAROLINA	5.49%	25	455	5.62%	26	463	6.61%	30	454
WISCONSIN	5.36%	14	261	3.24%	13	401	2.88%	12	416
MINNESOTA	5.28%	13	246	3.23%	8	248	2.76%	7	254
NEW MEXICO	5.26%	5	95	3.67%	4	109	3.57%	4	112
WEST VIRGINIA	5.20%	13	250	2.47%	6	243	2.93%	7	239
SOUTH GEORGIA	5.19%	15	289	3.65%	11	301	5.15%	15	291
SOUTH INDIANA	5.03%	15	298	4.75%	14	295	4.70%	14	298
NORTH INDIANA	5.00%	15	300	4.55%	14	308	4.87%	15	308
EAST OHIO	4.90%	20	408	4.21%	18	428	3.50%	15	428

**Presence of Elders under 35
by 2008 Percentage
2006 to 2008, continued**

CONFERENCE	2008 Elders under 35	2008 Elders under 35	2008 Elders	2007 Elders under 35	2007 Elders under 35	2007 Elders	2006 Elders under 35	2006 Elders under 35	2006 Elders
OREGON-IDAHO	4.79%	7	146	5.33%	8	150	3.40%	5	147
TEXAS	4.65%	20	430	4.83%	21	435	3.99%	18	451
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	4.55%	10	220	4.15%	9	217	4.55%	10	220
IOWA	4.36%	17	390	4.24%	17	401	4.68%	19	406
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA	4.33%	17	393	1.93%	14	725	1.94%	14	723
BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON	4.17%	18	432	3.75%	17	453	3.17%	15	473
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	4.09%	13	318	4.00%	13	325	3.03%	10	330
MEMPHIS	3.76%	7	186	2.62%	5	191	4.12%	8	194
DESERT SOUTHWEST	3.70%	5	135	5.11%	7	137	5.11%	7	137
NORTH CENTRAL NEW YORK	3.65%	5	137	3.36%	5	149	1.96%	3	153
WYOMING	3.64%	4	110	3.48%	4	115	2.52%	3	119
ILLINOIS GREAT RIVERS	3.62%	14	387	3.05%	12	393	3.71%	15	404
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	3.43%	7	204	3.60%	8	222	3.65%	8	219
SOUTHWEST TEXAS	3.23%	8	248	1.23%	3	243	2.42%	6	248
CALIFORNIA-NEVADA	3.15%	10	317	3.35%	11	328	2.82%	9	319
WESTERN NEW YORK	3.15%	4	127	4.58%	6	131	5.30%	7	132
WEST OHIO	2.99%	18	603	3.34%	21	628	3.93%	25	636
GREATER NEW JERSEY	2.86%	11	384	3.52%	14	398	3.90%	16	410
WEST MICHIGAN	2.76%	6	217	3.11%	7	225	3.43%	8	233
CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC	2.72%	11	405	3.73%	15	402	4.39%	18	410
NEW YORK	2.65%	8	302	2.54%	8	315	1.88%	6	320
NEW ENGLAND	2.52%	7	278	3.06%	9	294	2.64%	8	303
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA	2.36%	7	297	3.88%	12	309	4.56%	15	329
KENTUCKY	2.20%	6	273	3.51%	10	285	3.89%	11	283
YELLOWSTONE	2.17%	1	46	1.89%	1	53	1.85%	1	54
NEBRASKA	1.20%	2	166	1.21%	2	165	1.73%	3	173
TROY	1.11%	1	90	0.99%	1	101	0.94%	1	106
PENNISULA-DELAWARE	1.08%	2	186	0.55%	1	183	0.56%	1	180
RIO GRANDE	0.00%	0	38	0.00%	0	39	0.00%	0	40
OKLAHOMA INDIAN	0.00%	0	13	0.00%	0	14	0.00%	0	13
ALASKA MISISONARY	0.00%	0	3	0.00%	0	2	0.00%	0	2
TOTAL	5.21%	910	17,480	4.80%	876	18,244	4.78%	881	18,447

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	-

*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 - 70
2006		36%	32%	18%
2007		37%	32%	19%
2008		36%	34%	21%
	Women	Under 35	35 - 54	55 - 70
2006		64%	68%	82%
2007		63%	68%	81%
2008		64%	66%	79%

Deacons Under 35 by Jurisdiction

	2006	2007	2008
Jurisdiction	Under 35	Under 35	Under 35
North Central	9	9	11
Northeastern	1	3	3
South Central	19	22	20
Southeastern	22	30	33
Western	3	0	1
Total	52	64	68

**Presence of Deacons under 35
by Annual Conference
2006 to 2008**

CONFERENCE	2008 Deacons under 35	2008 Deacons under 35	2008 Deacons	2007 Deacons under 35	2007 Deacons under 35	2007 Deacons	2006 Deacons under 35	2006 Deacons under 35	2006 Deacons
ALABAMA WEST FLORIDA	11.76%	4	34	10.00%	3	30	12.00%	3	25
ARKANSAS	5.88%	1	17	5.88%	1	17	0.00%	0	18
BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON	0.00%	0	23	4.55%	1	22	0.00%	0	24
CALIFORNIA-NEVADA	11.11%	1	9	0.00%	0	11	8.33%	1	12
CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC	0.00%	0	17	0.00%	0	16	5.00%	1	20
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA	14.29%	1	7	0.00%	0	5	0.00%	0	3
CENTRAL TEXAS	6.90%	2	29	11.54%	3	26	15.38%	4	26
DAKOTAS	0.00%	0	5	0.00%	0	5	33.33%	1	3
DESERT SOUTHWEST	0.00%	0	11	0.00%	0	12	0.00%	0	11
DETROIT	6.67%	1	15	12.50%	1	8	11.11%	1	9
EAST OHIO	0.00%	0	18	0.00%	0	17	0.00%	0	16
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA	0.00%	0	5	0.00%	0	6	0.00%	0	6
FLORIDA	6.06%	2	33	7.32%	3	41	4.76%	2	42
GREATER NEW JERSEY	12.50%	2	16	10.53%	2	19	6.67%	1	15
HOLSTON	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	12	0.00%	0	13
ILLINOIS GREAT RIVERS	0.00%	0	11	0.00%	0	11	0.00%	0	11
IOWA	0.00%	0	11	0.00%	0	10	0.00%	0	11
KANSAS EAST	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	7
KANSAS WEST	0.00%	0	6	0.00%	0	4	0.00%	0	6
KENTUCKY	4.00%	1	25	0.00%	0	24	0.00%	0	20
LOUISIANA	4.76%	1	21	4.55%	1	22	4.00%	1	25
MEMPHIS	18.18%	2	11	18.18%	2	11	11.11%	1	9
MINNESOTA	12.50%	2	16	13.33%	2	15	14.29%	2	14
MISSISSIPPI	7.69%	2	26	8.33%	2	24	5.26%	1	19
MISSOURI	6.25%	1	16	5.88%	1	17	11.11%	2	18
NEBRASKA	0.00%	0	1	0.00%	0	3	0.00%	0	3
NEW ENGLAND	0.00%	0	4	0.00%	0	4	0.00%	0	3
NEW MEXICO	0.00%	0	7	12.50%	1	8	0.00%	0	7
NEW YORK	0.00%	0	2	0.00%	0	3	0.00%	0	3
NORTH CENTRAL NEW YORK	6.67%	1	15	0.00%	0	3	0.00%	0	1
NORTH ALABAMA	0.00%	0	22	11.76%	2	17	9.09%	1	11

**Presence of Deacons under 35
by Annual Conference
2006 to 2008, continued**

CONFERENCE	2008 Deacons under 35	2008 Deacons under 35	2008 Deacons	2007 Deacons under 35	2007 Deacons under 35	2007 Deacons	2006 Deacons under 35	2006 Deacons under 35	2006 Deacons
NORTH CAROLINA	0.00%	0	2	0.00%	0	25	0.00%	0	23
NORTH GEORGIA	15.38%	8	52	13.46%	7	52	13.04%	6	46
NORTH INDIANA	0.00%	0	8	0.00%	0	3	0.00%	0	6
NORTH TEXAS	11.43%	4	35	14.29%	5	35	11.76%	4	34
NORTHWEST TEXAS	26.32%	5	19	0.00%	0	6	0.00%	0	5
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	0.00%	0	5	20.00%	4	20	9.52%	2	21
OKLAHOMA	22.86%	8	35	21.88%	7	32	15.15%	5	33
OREGON-IDAHO	0.00%	0	6	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	9
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	10	7.69%	1	13
PENINSULA-DELAWARE	0.00%	0	3	0.00%	0	4	0.00%	0	2
RIO GRANDE	50.00%	1	2	50.00%	1	2	0.00%	0	0
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	0.00%	0	23	0.00%	0	25	0.00%	0	21
SOUTH CAROLINA	4.35%	1	23	4.17%	1	24	0.00%	0	14
SOUTH GEORGIA	0.00%	0	11	0.00%	0	13	0.00%	0	15
SOUTH INDIANA	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	7	14.29%	1	7
SOUTHWEST TEXAS	14.29%	2	14	6.25%	1	16	7.14%	1	14
TENNESSEE	12.12%	4	33	8.82%	3	34	6.45%	2	31
TEXAS	3.85%	1	26	3.85%	1	26	0.00%	0	26
VIRGINIA	9.38%	3	32	3.45%	1	29	4.55%	1	22
WEST MICHIGAN	0.00%	0	4	0.00%	0	3	0.00%	0	4
WEST OHIO	8.33%	2	24	8.00%	2	25	7.69%	2	26
WEST VIRGINIA	0.00%	0	8	0.00%	0	8	0.00%	0	6
WESTERN NEW YORK	0.00%	0	6	0.00%	0	7	0.00%	0	6
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA	12.20%	5	41	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	8
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA	0.00%	0	9	14.63%	6	41	13.89%	5	36
WISCONSIN	20.00%	1	5	0.00%	0	3	0.00%	0	3
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	7.69%	69	897	7.10%	64	902	6.16%	52	844

**Presence of Deacons under 35
by 2008 Percentage
2006 to 2008**

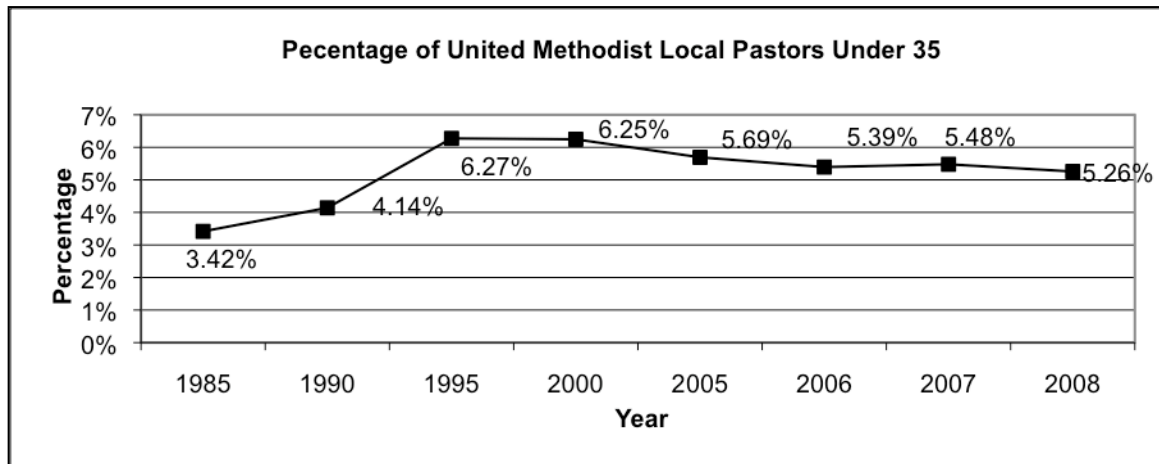
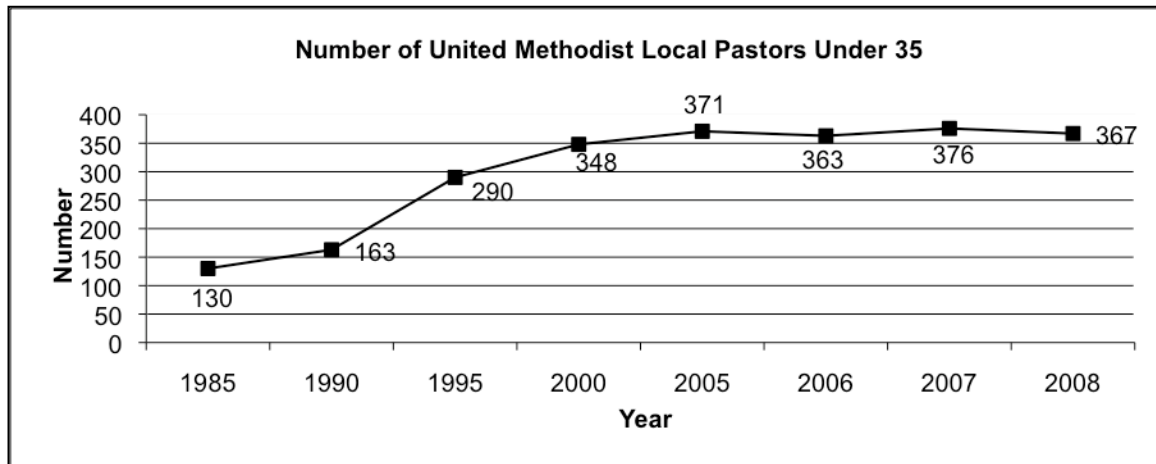
CONFERENCE	2008 Deacon s under 35	2008 Deacons under 35	2008 Deacons	2007 Deacons under 35	2007 Deacons under 35	2007 Deacons	2006 Deacons under 35	2006 Deacons under 35	2006 Deacons
RIO GRANDE	50.00%	1	2	50.00%	1	2	0.00%	0	0
NORTHWEST TEXAS	26.32%	5	19	0.00%	0	6	0.00%	0	5
OKLAHOMA	22.86%	8	35	21.88%	7	32	15.15%	5	33
WISCONSIN	20.00%	1	5	0.00%	0	3	0.00%	0	3
MEMPHIS	18.18%	2	11	18.18%	2	11	11.11%	1	9
NORTH GEORGIA	15.38%	8	52	13.46%	7	52	13.04%	6	46
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA	14.29%	1	7	0.00%	0	5	0.00%	0	3
SOUTHWEST TEXAS	14.29%	2	14	6.25%	1	16	7.14%	1	14
GREATER NEW JERSEY	12.50%	2	16	10.53%	2	19	6.67%	1	15
MINNESOTA	12.50%	2	16	13.33%	2	15	14.29%	2	14
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA	12.20%	5	41	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	8
TENNESSEE	12.12%	4	33	8.82%	3	34	6.45%	2	31
ALABAMA WEST FLORIDA	11.76%	4	34	10.00%	3	30	12.00%	3	25
NORTH TEXAS	11.43%	4	35	14.29%	5	35	11.76%	4	34
CALIFORNIA-NEVADA	11.11%	1	9	0.00%	0	11	8.33%	1	12
VIRGINIA	9.38%	3	32	3.45%	1	29	4.55%	1	22
WEST OHIO	8.33%	2	24	8.00%	2	25	7.69%	2	26
MISSISSIPPI	7.69%	2	26	8.33%	2	24	5.26%	1	19
CENTRAL TEXAS	6.90%	2	29	11.54%	3	26	15.38%	4	26
DETROIT	6.67%	1	15	12.50%	1	8	11.11%	1	9
NORTH CENTRAL NEW YORK	6.67%	1	15	0.00%	0	3	0.00%	0	1
MISSOURI	6.25%	1	16	5.88%	1	17	11.11%	2	18
FLORIDA	6.06%	2	33	7.32%	3	41	4.76%	2	42
ARKANSAS	5.88%	1	17	5.88%	1	17	0.00%	0	18
LOUISIANA	4.76%	1	21	4.55%	1	22	4.00%	1	25
SOUTH CAROLINA	4.35%	1	23	4.17%	1	24	0.00%	0	14
KENTUCKY	4.00%	1	25	0.00%	0	24	0.00%	0	20
TEXAS	3.85%	1	26	3.85%	1	26	0.00%	0	26
BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON	0.00%	0	23	4.55%	1	22	0.00%	0	24

**Presence of Deacons under 35
by 2008 Percentage
2006 to 2008, continued**

CONFERENCE	2008 Deacons under 35	2008 Deacons under 35	2008 Deacons	2007 Deacons under 35	2007 Deacons under 35	2007 Deacons	2006 Deacons under 35	2006 Deacons under 35	2006 Deacons
CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC	0.00%	0	17	0.00%	0	16	5.00%	1	20
DAKOTAS	0.00%	0	5	0.00%	0	5	33.33%	1	3
DESERT SOUTHWEST	0.00%	0	11	0.00%	0	12	0.00%	0	11
EAST OHIO	0.00%	0	18	0.00%	0	17	0.00%	0	16
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA	0.00%	0	5	0.00%	0	6	0.00%	0	6
HOLSTON	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	12	0.00%	0	13
ILLINOIS GREAT RIVERS	0.00%	0	11	0.00%	0	11	0.00%	0	11
IOWA	0.00%	0	11	0.00%	0	10	0.00%	0	11
KANSAS EAST	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	7
KANSAS WEST	0.00%	0	6	0.00%	0	4	0.00%	0	6
NEBRASKA	0.00%	0	1	0.00%	0	3	0.00%	0	3
NEW ENGLAND	0.00%	0	4	0.00%	0	4	0.00%	0	3
NEW MEXICO	0.00%	0	7	12.50%	1	8	0.00%	0	7
NEW YORK	0.00%	0	2	0.00%	0	3	0.00%	0	3
NORTH ALABAMA	0.00%	0	22	11.76%	2	17	9.09%	1	11
NORTH CAROLINA	0.00%	0	2	0.00%	0	25	0.00%	0	23
NORTH INDIANA	0.00%	0	8	0.00%	0	3	0.00%	0	6
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	0.00%	0	5	20.00%	4	20	9.52%	2	21
OREGON-IDAHO	0.00%	0	6	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	9
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	10	7.69%	1	13
PENINSULA-DELAWARE	0.00%	0	3	0.00%	0	4	0.00%	0	2
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	0.00%	0	23	0.00%	0	25	0.00%	0	21
SOUTH GEORGIA	0.00%	0	11	0.00%	0	13	0.00%	0	15
SOUTH INDIANA	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	7	14.29%	1	7
WEST MICHIGAN	0.00%	0	4	0.00%	0	3	0.00%	0	4
WEST VIRGINIA	0.00%	0	8	0.00%	0	8	0.00%	0	6
WESTERN NEW YORK	0.00%	0	6	0.00%	0	7	0.00%	0	6
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA	0.00%	0	9	14.63%	6	41	13.89%	5	36
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	7.69%	69	897	7.10%	64	902	6.16%	52	844

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 - 2008

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%
2008	6,981	367	5%	3,094	44%	3,520	50%

**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

* 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%
2008		75%	70%	68%
	Women	Under 35	35- 54	55 -70
2006		24%	29%	30%
2007		24%	29%	31%
2008		25%	30%	32%

Local Pastors under 35 by Jurisdictions

	2006	2007	2008
Jurisdiction	Under 35	Under 35	Under 35
North Central	70	56	46
Northeastern	42	44	76
South Central	91	93	93
Southeastern	143	164	135
Western	17	19	17
Total	363	375	367

**Presence of Local Pastors under 35
by Annual Conference
2006 to 2008**

CONFERENCE	2008 Local Pastors under 35	2008 Local Pastors under 35	2008 Local Pastors	2007 Local Pastors under 35	2007 Local Pastors under 35	2007 Local Pastors	2006 Local Pastors under 35	2006 Local Pastors under 35	2006 Local Pastors
ALABAMA WEST FLORIDA	6.76%	10	148	4.94%	8	162	7.27%	12	165
ALASKA MISSIONARY	0.00%	0	2	0.00%	0	2	0.00%	0	2
ARKANSAS	4.74%	9	190	5.38%	10	186	6.25%	11	176
BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON	4.12%	4	97	2.20%	2	91	2.20%	2	91
CALIFORNIA NEVADA	1.85%	1	54	3.70%	2	54	9.68%	6	62
CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC	12.33%	9	73	12.33%	9	73	8.70%	6	69
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA	7.53%	11	146	7.30%	10	137	7.63%	10	131
CENTRAL TEXAS	7.50%	3	40	11.11%	5	45	8.33%	4	48
DAKOTAS	6.45%	2	31	6.06%	2	33	3.23%	1	31
DESERT SOUTHWEST	0.00%	0	26	0.00%	0	25	0.00%	0	24
DETROIT	1.11%	1	90	2.41%	2	83	2.50%	2	80
EAST OHIO	2.58%	5	194	6.25%	12	192	6.81%	13	191
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA	2.83%	3	106	2.08%	2	96	1.09%	1	92
FLORIDA	3.47%	5	144	4.76%	7	147	5.41%	8	148
GREATER NEW JERSEY	6.72%	9	134	7.58%	10	132	6.87%	9	131
HOLSTON	6.63%	11	166	7.39%	13	176	4.76%	8	168
ILLINOIS GREAT RIVERS	4.09%	7	171	2.78%	5	180	1.65%	3	182
IOWA	3.21%	6	187	2.19%	4	183	4.35%	8	184
KANSAS EAST	10.45%	7	67	12.31%	8	65	10.29%	7	68
KANSAS WEST	0.00%	0	67	1.43%	1	70	1.49%	1	67
KENTUCKY	6.50%	8	123	1.72%	2	116	3.23%	4	124
LOUISIANA	8.05%	12	149	6.76%	10	148	4.96%	7	141
MEMPHIS	12.31%	8	65	7.81%	5	64	4.84%	3	62
MINNESOTA	0.00%	0	39	8.57%	3	35	7.14%	2	28
MISSISSIPPI	3.40%	8	235	4.18%	10	239	3.35%	8	239
MISSOURI	9.01%	21	233	9.13%	21	230	9.29%	21	226
NEBRASKA	3.45%	2	58	5.08%	3	59	3.85%	2	52
NEW ENGLAND	3.23%	3	93	3.03%	3	99	0.99%	1	101
NEW MEXICO	0.00%	0	24	0.00%	0	22	4.17%	1	24
NEW YORK	9.84%	6	61	8.82%	6	68	6.06%	4	66
NORTH CENTRAL NEW YORK	4.44%	11	248	1.32%	1	76	1.49%	1	67
NORTH ALABAMA	8.17%	17	208	4.02%	10	249	5.77%	15	260
NORTH CAROLINA	1.20%	1	83	7.47%	13	174	7.23%	12	166
NORTH GEORGIA	6.78%	20	295	5.86%	16	273	3.48%	7	201

**Presence of Local Pastors under 35
by Annual Conference
2006 to 2008, continued**

CONFERENCE	2008 Local Pastors under 35	2008 Local Pastors under 35	2008 Local Pastors	2007 Local Pastors under 35	2007 Local Pastors under 35	2007 Local Pastors	2006 Local Pastors under 35	2006 Local Pastors under 35	2006 Local Pastors
NORTH INDIANA	7.62%	8	105	5.94%	6	101	6.06%	6	99
NORTH TEXAS	6.82%	6	88	7.41%	6	81	13.51%	10	74
NORTH WEST TEXAS	8.70%	4	46	2.67%	2	75	3.85%	3	78
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	1.41%	1	71	7.32%	3	41	17.65%	9	51
OKLAHOMA	7.02%	8	114	9.38%	12	128	9.60%	12	125
OKLAHOMA INDIAN	11.11%	3	27	8.82%	3	34	6.06%	2	33
OREGON IDAHO	16.00%	4	25	16.00%	4	25	8.33%	2	24
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	4.55%	1	22	9.52%	2	21	9.09%	2	22
PENINSULA-DELAWARE	0.00%	0	77	0.00%	0	77	2.86%	2	70
RED BIRD MISSIONARY	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	8
RIO GRANDE	0.00%	0	16	11.11%	2	18	13.04%	3	23
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	4.26%	2	47	4.26%	2	47	2.22%	1	45
SOUTH CAROLINA	3.65%	7	192	4.42%	8	181	2.76%	5	181
SOUTH GEORGIA	6.62%	9	136	7.75%	11	142	8.28%	12	145
SOUTH INDIANA	3.53%	3	85	2.13%	2	94	2.91%	3	103
SOUTHWEST TEXAS	4.63%	5	108	4.76%	5	105	5.66%	6	106
TENNESSEE	6.29%	10	159	8.23%	13	158	7.78%	13	167
TEXAS	7.39%	13	176	2.94%	5	170	0.58%	1	172
TROY	1.96%	1	51	1.89%	1	53	3.64%	2	55
VIRGINIA	6.60%	19	288	10.12%	26	269	9.58%	23	267
WEST MICHIGAN	1.98%	2	101	2.33%	2	86	4.65%	4	86
WEST OHIO	6.43%	9	140	8.61%	13	151	10.06%	16	159
WEST VIRGINIA	2.95%	7	237	2.38%	5	210	2.48%	5	202
WESTERN NEW YORK	7.25%	5	69	5.97%	4	67	6.25%	4	64
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA	5.54%	15	271	0.00%	0	86	0.00%	0	88
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA	2.08%	2	96	7.56%	22	291	4.76%	13	273
WISCONSIN	2.33%	2	86	2.33%	2	86	3.49%	3	86
WYOMING	1.49%	1	67	0.00%	0	62	1.67%	1	60
YELLOWSTONE	0.00%	0	25	0.00%	0	23	0.00%	0	25
TOTAL	5.26%	367	6,981	5.48%	376	6,863	5.39%	363	6,731

**Presence of Local Pastors under 35
by 2008 Percentage
2006 to 2008**

CONFERENCE	2008 Local Pastors under 35	2008 Local Pastors under 35	2008 Local Pastors	2007 Local Pastors under 35	2007 Local Pastors under 35	2007 Local Pastors	2006 Local Pastors under 35	2006 Local Pastors under 35	2006 Local Pastors
OREGON IDAHO	16.00%	4	25	16.00%	4	25	8.33%	2	24
CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC	12.33%	9	73	12.33%	9	73	8.70%	6	69
MEMPHIS	12.31%	8	65	7.81%	5	64	4.84%	3	62
OKLAHOMA INDIAN	11.11%	3	27	8.82%	3	34	6.06%	2	33
KANSAS EAST	10.45%	7	67	12.31%	8	65	10.29%	7	68
NEW YORK	9.84%	6	61	8.82%	6	68	6.06%	4	66
MISSOURI	9.01%	21	233	9.13%	21	230	9.29%	21	226
NORTH WEST TEXAS	8.70%	4	46	2.67%	2	75	3.85%	3	78
NORTH ALABAMA	8.17%	17	208	4.02%	10	249	5.77%	15	260
LOUISIANA	8.05%	12	149	6.76%	10	148	4.96%	7	141
NORTH INDIANA	7.62%	8	105	5.94%	6	101	6.06%	6	99
CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA	7.53%	11	146	7.30%	10	137	7.63%	10	131
CENTRAL TEXAS	7.50%	3	40	11.11%	5	45	8.33%	4	48
TEXAS	7.39%	13	176	2.94%	5	170	0.58%	1	172
WESTERN NEW YORK	7.25%	5	69	5.97%	4	67	6.25%	4	64
OKLAHOMA	7.02%	8	114	9.38%	12	128	9.60%	12	125
NORTH TEXAS	6.82%	6	88	7.41%	6	81	13.51%	10	74
NORTH GEORGIA	6.78%	20	295	5.86%	16	273	3.48%	7	201
ALABAMA WEST FLORIDA	6.76%	10	148	4.94%	8	162	7.27%	12	165
GREATER NEW JERSEY	6.72%	9	134	7.58%	10	132	6.87%	9	131
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SOUTH GEORGIA	6.62%	9	136	7.75%	11	142	8.28%	12	145
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DAKOTAS	6.45%	2	31	6.06%	2	33	3.23%	1	31
WEST OHIO	6.43%	9	140	8.61%	13	151	10.06%	16	159
TENNESSEE	6.29%	10	159	8.23%	13	158	7.78%	13	167
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA	5.54%	15	271	0.00%	0	86	0.00%	0	88
ARKANSAS	4.74%	9	190	5.38%	10	186	6.25%	11	176
SOUTHWEST TEXAS	4.63%	5	108	4.76%	5	105	5.66%	6	106
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	4.55%	1	22	9.52%	2	21	9.09%	2	22
NORTH CENTRAL NEW YORK	4.44%	11	248	1.32%	1	76	1.49%	1	67
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	4.26%	2	47	4.26%	2	47	2.22%	1	45
BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON	4.12%	4	97	2.20%	2	91	2.20%	2	91

**Presence of Local Pastors under 35
by 2008 Percentage
2006 to 2008, continued**

CONFERENCE	2008 Local Pastors under 35	2008 Local Pastors under 35	2008 Local Pastors	2007 Local Pastors under 35	2007 Local Pastors under 35	2007 Local Pastors	2006 Local Pastors under 35	2006 Local Pastors under 35	2006 Local Pastors
ILLINOIS GREAT RIVERS	4.09%	7	171	2.78%	5	180	1.65%	3	182
SOUTH CAROLINA	3.65%	7	192	4.42%	8	181	2.76%	5	181
SOUTH INDIANA	3.53%	3	85	2.13%	2	94	2.91%	3	103
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NEBRASKA	3.45%	2	58	5.08%	3	59	3.85%	2	52
MISSISSIPPI	3.40%	8	235	4.18%	10	239	3.35%	8	239
NEW ENGLAND	3.23%	3	93	3.03%	3	99	0.99%	1	101
IOWA	3.21%	6	187	2.19%	4	183	4.35%	8	184
WEST VIRGINIA	2.95%	7	237	2.38%	5	210	2.48%	5	202
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA	2.83%	3	106	2.08%	2	96	1.09%	1	92
EAST OHIO	2.58%	5	194	6.25%	12	192	6.81%	13	191
WISCONSIN	2.33%	2	86	2.33%	2	86	3.49%	3	86
WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA	2.08%	2	96	7.56%	22	291	4.76%	13	273
WEST MICHIGAN	1.98%	2	101	2.33%	2	86	4.65%	4	86
TROY	1.96%	1	51	1.89%	1	53	3.64%	2	55
CALIFORNIA NEVADA	1.85%	1	54	3.70%	2	54	9.68%	6	62
WYOMING	1.49%	1	67	0.00%	0	62	1.67%	1	60
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	1.41%	1	71	7.32%	3	41	17.65%	9	51
NORTH CAROLINA	1.20%	1	83	7.47%	13	174	7.23%	12	166
DETROIT	1.11%	1	90	2.41%	2	83	2.50%	2	80
ALASKA MISSIONARY	0.00%	0	2	0.00%	0	2	0.00%	0	2
DESERT SOUTHWEST	0.00%	0	26	0.00%	0	25	0.00%	0	24
KANSAS WEST	0.00%	0	67	1.43%	1	70	1.49%	1	67
MINNESOTA	0.00%	0	39	8.57%	3	35	7.14%	2	28
NEW MEXICO	0.00%	0	24	0.00%	0	22	4.17%	1	24
PENINSULA-DELAWARE	0.00%	0	77	0.00%	0	77	2.86%	2	70
RED BIRD MISSIONARY	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	9	0.00%	0	8
RIO GRANDE	0.00%	0	16	11.11%	2	18	13.04%	3	23
YELLOWSTONE	0.00%	0	25	0.00%	0	23	0.00%	0	25
TOTAL	5.26%	367	6,981	5.48%	376	6,863	5.39%	363	6,731

Clergy Age Comparisons Across Denominations

(All data is from 2007 unless otherwise indicated)

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 <i>2008 data</i>	5.21%	49.12%	45.67%

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 <i>2008 data</i>	910	8,587	7,983

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

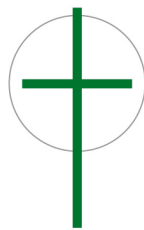
Established by Wesley Theological Seminary in 2003, the Lewis Center for Church Leadership has developed a solid track record in helping the United Methodist Church address its current challenges. The Center is building a vision for church leadership grounded in faith, informed by knowledge, and exercised 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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for Church Leadership

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**Wesley Theological Seminary
4500 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20016
202-885-8757**

**www.churchleadership.com
lewiscenter@wesleyseminary.edu**