

A Lewis Center Report on
**Clergy Age Trends in the
United Methodist Church**
2016 Report

Elders • Deacons • Local Pastors

2016 Report
Lewis Center for Church Leadership
Wesley Theological Seminary



Lewis Center
for Church Leadership

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2016 Report**

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Highlights of the 2016 Report

Decade-Long Modest but Steady Increase in Young Elders Continues

In 2005, the United Methodist Church reported the smallest percentage of under-35 elders ever. The 850 young elders that year represented 4.69 percent of active elders. Growth among young elders has been slow but relatively steady, about 14 per year, since 2005. In 2016, there are 1,003 young elders that comprise 6.84 percent of the pool of active elders, the highest since the 1990s. The overall pool of active elders is now smaller by almost 3,500 elders since 2005.

Gender has been a major factor in the gains. Through 2015, all the increases in young elders since the low point in 2005 came from women. There were gains in young male elders in 2016 so that the figures now show gains for both men and women.

Young Male Elders in 2005 –	587	Young Female Elders in 2005 –	263
Young Male Elders in 2016 –	602	Young Female Elders in 2016 –	401
Change	12	Change	138

Fewer Middle Age Elders

Unfortunately, the modest gain in the presence of young elders was offset by a continuing substantive decline in the number and percentage of elders aged 35 to 54. This mid-age group continues to shrink, from 65 percent of all active elders in 2000 to 37 percent in 2016.

This has major implications for bishops and superintendents who traditionally looked to elders in this broad age spectrum to fill appointments that required some years of experience. Today, when cabinets look to this pool for appointments, there are over 6,500 fewer such clergy than in 2000.

Proportion of Older Clergy Continues to Grow

Elders between ages 55 and 72 comprise 56 percent of all active elders, the highest percentage in history. This group reached 50 percent for the first time ever in 2010. This age cohort represented only 30 percent of active elders as recently as 2000. The median age of elders remained at 56 in 2016, the highest in history. The average age remains at 53, a historic high, though unchanged for seven years. The mode age (the single age most represented) is 61, up from 60 last year.

Fewer Elders and Local Pastors

Elders and local pastors are appointed as pastors of congregations. Since at least the 1980s there has been a major decline in the number of active elders while the number of local pastors increased dramatically. In 2016 there is a decline in both active elders and local pastors, though the elder decline is greater. The result is that since 1990 there are 6,842 fewer elders and 3,472 more local pastors. In 1990, there were over five elders for each local pastor; today there are two elders for each local pastor. In 2016, there are 14,665 elders and 7,408 local pastors.

Retirement Ages Increasing

A new feature of this year's report shows retirement age trends for United Methodist clergy in the U.S. Since 2000 there has been a fairly consistent increase in the age at which clergy retire. The average does not increase every year, but the trend is markedly upward. The average age at which United Methodist clergy retired in 2000 was just under 64. By 2015, the last full year of data, the average retirement age had increased to just over 66. The retirement ages for different types of clergy are similar but not the same. For example, in 2015 the retirement ages were: elders – 66, deacons – 67, full time local pastors – 68, and part time local pastors – 69.

Purpose and Description

The purpose of this ongoing research effort is to identify clergy age trends in the United Methodist Church so that denominational leaders have the data for planning and a baseline for monitoring future changes. This report builds on previous reports on clergy age trends issued by the Lewis Center for Church Leadership. The first report, *Clergy Age Trends in the United Methodist Church: 1985-2005*, documented the dramatic decline in United Methodist young clergy in both numbers and percentages over 20 years. This report presents a snapshot of where clergy age trends stand in May 2016.

This report is made possible through partnership with the denominational pension agency, Wespeth Benefits and Investments (WB), formerly known as the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The Lewis Center works with WB each year 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 in the United States. 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 total number of 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 WB. For local pastors, both full-time and part-time local pastors are included. Since WB does not keep records of clergy by race, we are not able to make comparisons by racial groups.

To help the church address the dramatic loss of young clergy first reported in 2005, the Lewis Center for Church Leadership has provided resources beginning with *The Crisis of Younger Clergy* by Lovett H. Weems, Jr., and Ann A. Michel (Abingdon, 2008) and the formation of the [Lewis Fellows program](#) to provide advanced leader development for approximately 20 young clergy each year.

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

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

A six-minute video overview of this report is available to view or download at vimeo.com/178190753.

Contributors

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

Young Clergy Trends

Young Elders

- The number of under-35 elders increased from 986 in 2015 to 1,003 in 2016.
- The percentage of young elders grew from 6.57 percent in 2015 to 6.84 percent in 2016.
- The Texas Conference again reported the highest percentage of young elders at 12.61 percent. This is the first time that an annual conference has been number one in three consecutive years.
- The Top Ten Conferences by percentage
 - Texas (also #1 in 2015, 2014, and 2012)
 - Mississippi (#1 in 2010 and 2006)
 - North Alabama
 - Dakotas
 - Virginia
 - North Carolina
 - South Carolina (new since last report)
 - Tennessee
 - Arkansas (new since last report; #1 in 2008 and 2007)
 - Western North Carolina (new since last report)
- Trending Conferences (those with strong increases over the past three years; in alphabetical order)
 - California-Nevada
 - Florida
 - North Texas
- As in previous years, most of the conferences with larger percentages of young clergy are from the Southeastern and South Central Jurisdictions. Dakotas from the North Central Jurisdiction appears in the Top Ten again this year. Since these reports began in 2005, the North Central and Western Jurisdictions have had two conferences each in the Top Ten, and the Northeastern Jurisdiction has had one conference in the Top Ten lists.
- The largest total number of young elders (60) is in the Virginia Conference, followed by Western North Carolina (58) and Texas (57).

Young Deacons

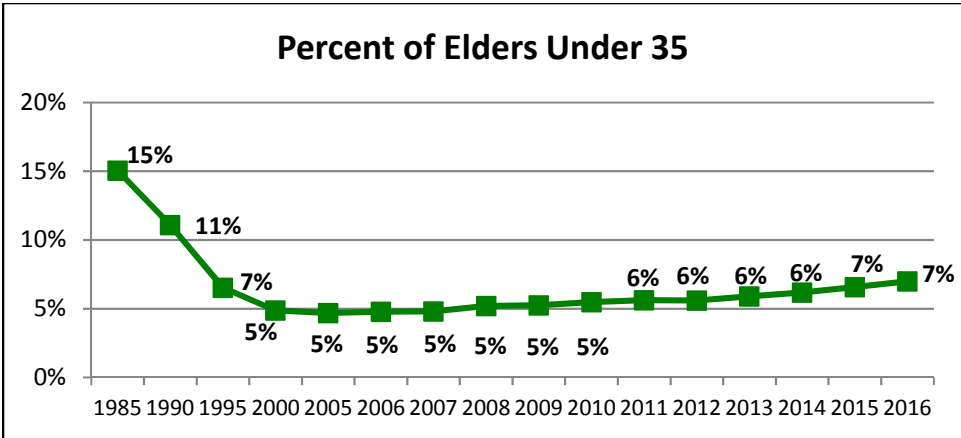
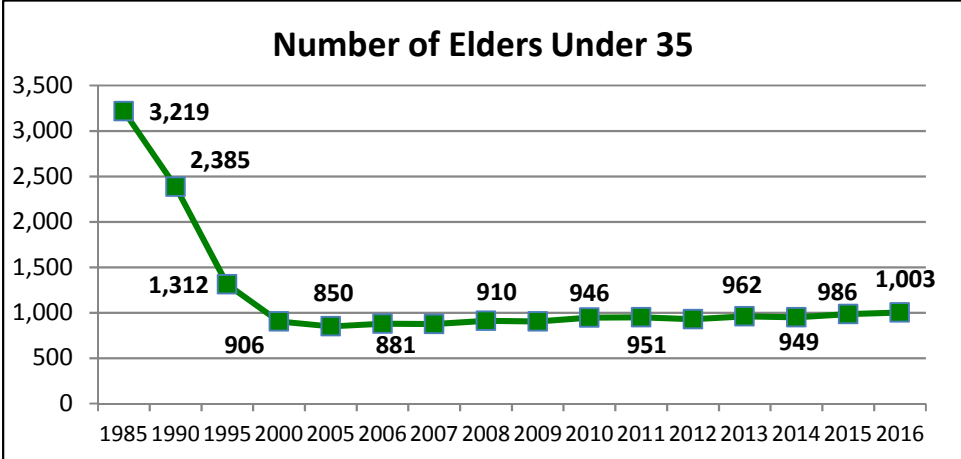
- The number of under-35 deacons increased significantly from 90 in 2015 to 113 in 2016. This is a record high number of young deacons.
- The percentage of young deacons increased from 9.43 percent in 2015 to 11.27 percent in 2016, also a record high.
- While the number of young deacons is still small compared to young elders, the percentage of all deacons has run consistently higher than that of young elders since 2008.

Young Local Pastors

- The number of under-35 local pastors declined by four from 601 in 2015 to 597 in 2016.
- The percentage of young local pastors stayed the same at 8.05 percent in 2016.

Elders

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



Trends of Elders 1985-2015

Year	No. of Elders	No. of Elders Under 35	% Under 35	No. of Elders 35-54	% 35-54	No. of Elders 55-72	% 55-72
1985	21,378	3,219	15%	12,305	58%	5,854	27%
1990	21,507	2,385	11%	12,678	59%	6,444	30%
1995	20,117	1,312	7%	12,843	64%	5,962	30%
2000	18,576	906	5%	12,005	65%	5,665	30%
2005	18,141	850	5%	9,872	54%	7,419	41%
2010	17,293	946	5%	7,698	45%	8,649	50%
2015	15,019	986	7%	5,746	38%	8,287	55%
2016	14,665	1,003	7%	5,484	37%	8,178	56%

**Gender Breakdown within
Age Cohorts - Elders**

Year	Gender	Under 35	35-54	55-72
2013	Men	62%	70%	72%
	Women	38%	30%	28%
2014	Men	61%	70%	71%
	Women	39%	30%	29%
2015	Men	59%	70%	71%
	Women	41%	30%	29%
2016	Men	60%	71%	71%
	Women	40%	29%	29%

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
2010	55	52.8	58
2011	55	53	59
2012	55	53	60
2013	55	53	61
2014	56	53.4	61
2015	56	53.4	60
2016	56	53.4	61

*Median – half older, half younger

*Mode – single age most represented

Elders by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Elders under 35 2016	% Elders under 35 2016	Elders 35-54 2016	% Elders 35-54 2016	Elders 55-72 2016	% Elders 55-72 2016	Total Elders 2016
North Central	184	6%	1,083	35%	1,805	59%	3,072
Northeastern	120	5%	920	35%	1,614	61%	2,654
South Central	221	8%	1,090	39%	1,513	54%	2,824
Southeastern	424	9%	1,968	39%	2,591	52%	4,983
Western	54	5%	423	37%	655	58%	1,132
Total	1,003	7%	5,484	37%	8,178	56%	14,665

Elders

Mean, Median, and Mode Ages by Conference

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

CONFERENCE	2016 Mean	2016 Median	2016 Mode
Alabama-West Florida	52	55	61
Alaska Missionary	--	--	--
Arkansas	52	53.5	63
Baltimore-Washington	54	56	61
California-Nevada	55	58	64
California-Pacific	54	56	58
Central Texas	53	55.5	56
Dakotas	52	55	55
Desert Southwest	55	57.5	63
Detroit	54	56	56
East Ohio	54	57	58
Eastern Pennsylvania	55	58	58
Florida	53	55	63
Great Plains	54	57	64
Greater New Jersey	55	57	61
Holston	52	54	56
Illinois Great Rivers	55	57	59
Indiana	54	57	62
Iowa	54	57	64
Kentucky	53	56	61
Louisiana	53	56	59
Memphis	55	58	62
Minnesota	54	56	59
Mississippi	51	53	56
Missouri	53	55	54
New England	55	56	54
New Mexico	55	57	--
New York	56	57	58

CONFERENCE	2016 Mean	2016 Median	2016 Mode
North Alabama	52	53	--
North Carolina	53	55	58
North Georgia	53	55.5	59
North Texas	53	55	55
Northern Illinois	52	54	57
Northwest Texas	53	54	54
Oklahoma	53	56	64
OK Indian Missionary	60	62	63
Oregon-Idaho	56	58	--
Pacific Northwest	53	54	63
Peninsula-Delaware	56	58	61
Red Bird Missionary	65	65	65
Rio Texas	54	57	63
Rocky Mountain	53	54	--
South Carolina	53	56	--
South Georgia	53	55	61
Susquehanna	54	57	59
Tennessee	53	55	--
Texas	52	54	--
Upper New York	55	58	61
Virginia	52	55	62
West Michigan	55	57	57
West Ohio	54	56	63
West Virginia	54	57	--
Western North Carolina	52	55	60
Western Pennsylvania	55	58	62
Wisconsin	55	57	59
Yellowstone	58	59	62

**Presence of Elders under 35
by Annual Conference
2014-2016**

CONFERENCE	2016 Elders under 35	2016 Elders under 35	2016 Elders	2015 Elders under 35	2015 Elders under 35	2015 Elders	2014 Elders under 35	2014 Elders under 35	2014 Elders
Alabama-West Florida	18	8.04%	224	21	8.79%	239	23	9.20%	250
Alaska Missionary	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0
Arkansas	20	8.47%	236	20	8.37%	239	21	8.61%	244
Baltimore-Washington	28	7.35%	381	28	7.41%	378	25	6.61%	378
California-Nevada	13	5.31%	245	12	4.96%	242	4	1.61%	249
California-Pacific	9	2.83%	318	9	2.85%	316	8	2.45%	327
Central Texas	19	8.41%	226	18	7.93%	227	17	7.52%	226
Dakotas	13	10.40%	125	12	9.23%	130	11	8.21%	134
Desert Southwest	5	4.90%	102	6	5.61%	107	6	5.13%	117
Detroit	12	5.61%	214	13	5.70%	228	8	3.46%	231
East Ohio	19	6.64%	286	22	7.33%	300	26	8.23%	316
Eastern Pennsylvania	8	3.35%	239	9	3.72%	242	7	2.83%	247
Florida	34	8.21%	414	30	6.90%	435	19	4.40%	432
Great Plains	33	8.13%	406	38	8.74%	435	29	6.67%	435
Greater New Jersey	11	3.69%	298	9	2.92%	308	10	3.13%	319
Holston	25	8.22%	304	25	8.01%	312	28	8.78%	319
Illinois Great Rivers	15	4.85%	309	14	4.50%	311	18	5.42%	332
Indiana	26	5.68%	458	29	5.98%	485	33	6.69%	493
Iowa	26	8.31%	313	23	7.08%	325	20	5.93%	337
Kentucky	21	8.43%	249	25	9.77%	256	23	8.98%	256
Louisiana	13	6.91%	188	14	7.57%	185	14	7.00%	200
Memphis	5	3.47%	144	6	3.97%	151	8	5.06%	158
Minnesota	10	5.49%	182	10	5.21%	192	12	6.03%	199
Mississippi	37	11.31%	327	34	10.24%	332	31	8.78%	353
Missouri	14	4.86%	288	16	5.44%	294	18	6.06%	297
New England	7	2.99%	234	4	1.68%	238	6	2.35%	255
New Mexico	3	3.37%	89	3	3.23%	93	3	3.23%	93
New York	10	3.39%	295	9	3.00%	300	9	2.92%	308

Presence of Elders under 35
by Annual Conference
2014-2016, continued

CONFERENCE	2016 Elders under 35	2016 Elders under 35	2016 Elders	2015 Elders under 35	2015 Elders under 35	2015 Elders	2014 Elders under 35	2014 Elders under 35	2014 Elders
North Alabama	30	10.56%	284	28	9.69%	289	25	8.74%	286
North Carolina	36	9.18%	392	34	8.44%	403	29	7.25%	400
North Georgia	36	7.11%	506	42	8.02%	524	42	7.89%	532
North Texas	18	7.03%	256	14	5.47%	256	11	4.28%	257
Northern Illinois	20	6.83%	293	22	7.33%	300	19	6.19%	307
Northwest Texas	5	5.15%	97	5	5.10%	98	6	5.61%	107
Oklahoma	22	7.24%	304	24	7.74%	310	23	7.42%	310
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.00%	16	0	0.00%	13	0	0.00%	11
Oregon-Idaho	2	2.02%	99	1	0.96%	104	2	1.80%	111
Pacific Northwest	10	6.45%	155	11	6.55%	168	10	5.81%	172
Peninsula-Delaware	5	3.65%	137	4	2.92%	137	4	2.80%	143
Red Bird Missionary	0	0.00%	1	0	0.00%	1	0	0.00%	1
Rio Texas	17	6.39%	266	14	5.22%	268	15	6.33%	271
Rocky Mountain	14	7.91%	177	14	7.73%	181	12	6.42%	187
South Carolina	36	8.89%	405	32	7.64%	419	36	8.55%	421
South Georgia	11	4.82%	228	9	3.77%	239	12	4.76%	252
Susquehanna	13	4.91%	265	17	5.86%	290	22	7.28%	302
Tennessee	17	8.59%	198	17	8.63%	197	16	8.21%	195
Texas	57	12.61%	452	52	11.74%	443	45	10.18%	442
Upper New York	13	4.39%	296	13	4.28%	304	13	4.06%	320
Virginia	60	9.65%	622	60	9.55%	628	56	8.75%	640
West Michigan	6	3.61%	166	7	4.14%	169	6	3.45%	174
West Ohio	26	5.09%	511	22	4.36%	505	24	4.60%	522
West Virginia	15	7.21%	208	14	6.36%	220	13	5.83%	223
Western North Carolina	58	8.47%	685	50	7.40%	676	48	6.94%	692
Western Pennsylvania	10	3.32%	301	11	3.53%	312	11	3.45%	319
Wisconsin	11	5.12%	215	9	3.91%	230	11	4.55%	242
Yellowstone	1	2.78%	36	1	2.86%	35	1	2.50%	40
Total	1,003	6.84%	14,665	986	6.57%	15,019	949	6.17%	15,384

**Presence of Elders under 35
by 2016 Percentage
2014-2016**

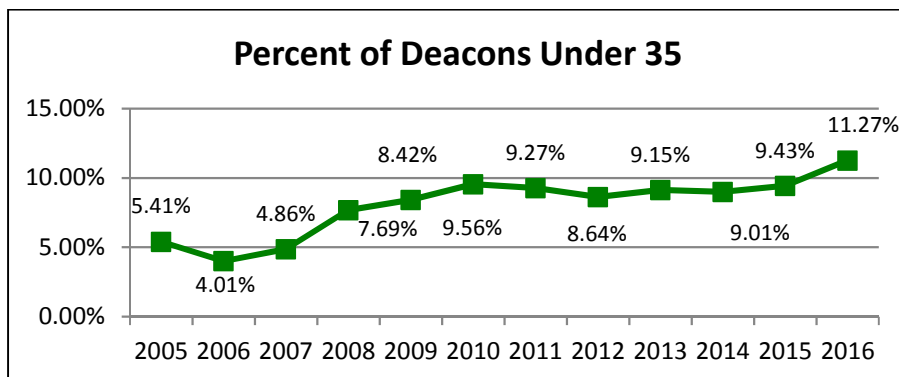
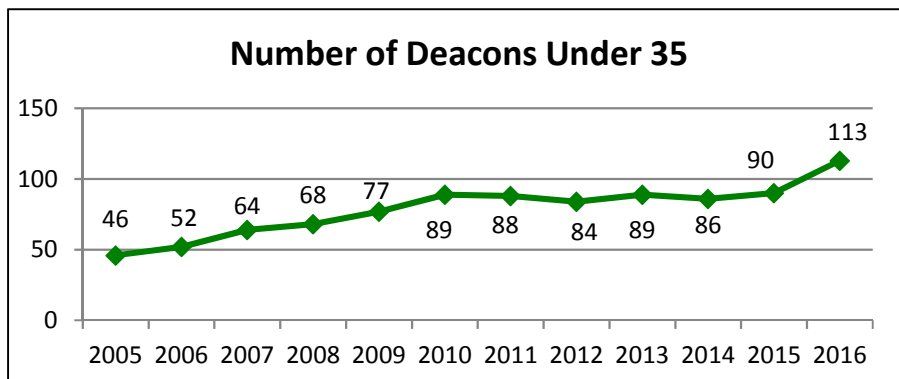
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Rio Texas	17	6.39%	266	14	5.22%	268	15	6.33%	271

**Presence of Elders under 35
by 2016 Percentage
2014-2016, continued**

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Indiana	26	5.68%	458	29	5.98%	485	33	6.69%	493
Detroit	12	5.61%	214	13	5.70%	228	8	3.46%	231
Minnesota	10	5.49%	182	10	5.21%	192	12	6.03%	199
California-Nevada	13	5.31%	245	12	4.96%	242	4	1.61%	249
Northwest Texas	5	5.15%	97	5	5.10%	98	6	5.61%	107
Wisconsin	11	5.12%	215	9	3.91%	230	11	4.55%	242
West Ohio	26	5.09%	511	22	4.36%	505	24	4.60%	522
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Desert Southwest	5	4.90%	102	6	5.61%	107	6	5.13%	117
Missouri	14	4.86%	288	16	5.44%	294	18	6.06%	297
Illinois Great Rivers	15	4.85%	309	14	4.50%	311	18	5.42%	332
South Georgia	11	4.82%	228	9	3.77%	239	12	4.76%	252
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Greater New Jersey	11	3.69%	298	9	2.92%	308	10	3.13%	319
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Eastern Pennsylvania	8	3.35%	239	9	3.72%	242	7	2.83%	247
Western Pennsylvania	10	3.32%	301	11	3.53%	312	11	3.45%	319
New England	7	2.99%	234	4	1.68%	238	6	2.35%	255
California-Pacific	9	2.83%	318	9	2.85%	316	8	2.45%	327
Yellowstone	1	2.78%	36	1	2.86%	35	1	2.50%	40
Oregon-Idaho	2	2.02%	99	1	0.96%	104	2	1.80%	111
Alaska Missionary	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.00%	16	0	0.00%	13	0	0.00%	11
Red Bird Missionary	0	0.00%	1	0	0.00%	1	0	0.00%	1
Total	1,003	6.84%	14,665	986	6.57%	15,019	949	6.17%	15,384

Deacons

Deacon numbers include *not only those who have been ordained deacon but also those who have been commissioned* on the deacon track but not yet ordained. Readers should keep in mind that the total number of 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 WB.



Trends for Deacons 2005-2016

Year	No. of Deacons	No. of Deacons Under 35	% Under 35	No. of Deacons 35-54	% 35-54	No. of Deacons 55-72	% 55-72
2005	850	46	5%				
2006	844	52	6%	438	52%	354	42%
2007	902	64	7%	457	51%	381	42%
2008	897	69	8%	441	49%	387	43%
2009	915	77	8%	438	48%	400	44%
2010	930	89	10%	419	45%	422	45%
2014	954	86	9%	382	40%	486	51%
2015	954	90	9%	398	42%	466	49%
2016	1,003	113	11%	415	41%	475	48%

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

Year	Median* Age	Average Age	Mode* Age
2006	53	51.7	50
2007	52	51.4	51
2008	53	51.3	-
2009	53	51.4	53
2010	54	51.6	53
2015	54	51.7	60
2016	54	51.4	60

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

**Gender Breakdown within Age Cohorts
Deacons**

Year	Gender	Under 35	35-54	55-72
2013	Men	26%	31%	25%
	Women	74%	69%	75%
2014	Men	21%	31%	26%
	Women	79%	69%	74%
2015	Men	20%	32%	25%
	Women	80%	68%	75%
2016	Men	21%	31%	23%
	Women	79%	69%	77%

Deacons Under 35 by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
North Central	9	9	11	14	20	18	13	16	16	17	18
Northeastern	1	3	3	3	5	3	4	4	5	4	4
South Central	19	22	20	18	18	18	17	18	15	23	27
Southeastern	22	30	33	40	45	46	47	48	47	44	61
Western	3	0	1	2	1	3	3	3	3	2	3
Total	52	64	68	77	89	88	84	89	86	90	113

**Presence of Deacons under 35
by Annual Conference
2014-2016**

CONFERENCE	2016 Deacons under 35	2016 Deacons under 35	2016 Deacons	2015 Deacons under 35	2015 Deacons under 35	2015 Deacons	2014 Deacons under 35	2014 Deacons under 35	2014 Deacons
Alabama-West Florida	3	8.11%	37	1	3.03%	33	1	3.13%	32
Alaska Missionary	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0
Arkansas	0	0.00%	12	0	0.00%	10	0	0.00%	13
Baltimore-Washington	0	0.00%	21	0	0.00%	20	0	0.00%	21
California-Nevada	0	0.00%	10	0	0.00%	9	1	14.29%	7
California-Pacific	0	0.00%	15	0	0.00%	15	0	0.00%	16
Central Texas	4	14.81%	27	3	12.50%	24	2	8.70%	23
Dakotas	1	14.29%	7	1	16.67%	6	0	0.00%	4
Desert Southwest	0	0.00%	9	0	0.00%	9	0	0.00%	9
Detroit	2	11.76%	17	3	17.65%	17	3	17.65%	17
East Ohio	2	14.29%	14	2	12.50%	16	2	11.76%	17
Eastern Pennsylvania	1	5.56%	18	1	5.56%	18	1	6.25%	16
Florida	2	6.45%	31	3	9.68%	31	3	9.38%	32
Great Plains	2	8.70%	23	2	9.52%	21	2	9.52%	21
Greater New Jersey	0	0.00%	15	1	8.33%	12	0	0.00%	11
Holston	2	16.67%	12	2	16.67%	12	3	23.08%	13
Illinois Great Rivers	2	15.38%	13	2	14.29%	14	2	13.33%	15
Indiana	2	13.33%	15	4	26.67%	15	2	13.33%	15
Iowa	0	0.00%	12	1	9.09%	11	3	27.27%	11
Kentucky	4	16.00%	25	2	8.70%	23	2	8.33%	24
Louisiana	2	9.09%	22	3	13.64%	22	3	12.50%	24
Memphis	0	0.00%	9	0	0.00%	9	0	0.00%	10
Minnesota	1	6.25%	16	0	0.00%	15	0	0.00%	15
Mississippi	3	15.00%	20	1	4.55%	22	1	4.00%	25
Missouri	4	16.67%	24	4	16.67%	24	0	0.00%	19
New England	1	25.00%	4	1	25.00%	4	1	25.00%	4
New Mexico	0	0.00%	6	0	0.00%	6	0	0.00%	5
New York	0	0.00%	7	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%	3

Deacons

Presence of Deacons under 35 by Annual Conference 2014-2016, continued

CONFERENCE	2016 Deacons under 35	2016 Deacons under 35	2016 Deacons	2015 Deacons under 35	2015 Deacons under 35	2015 Deacons	2014 Deacons under 35	2014 Deacons under 35	2014 Deacons
North Alabama	1	7.14%	14	1	7.69%	13	0	0.00%	15
North Carolina	5	20.83%	24	3	14.29%	21	3	15.79%	19
North Georgia	10	15.15%	66	8	11.76%	68	10	15.15%	66
North Texas	5	12.82%	39	3	8.11%	37	3	8.33%	36
Northern Illinois	2	6.90%	29	1	4.17%	24	1	4.35%	23
Northwest Texas	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1
Oklahoma	1	3.23%	31	1	3.33%	30	1	2.86%	35
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1	0	0.00%	1
Oregon-Idaho	0	0.00%	11	0	0.00%	11	0	0.00%	10
Pacific Northwest	1	20.00%	5	1	20.00%	5	1	16.67%	6
Peninsula-Delaware	1	33.33%	3	1	33.33%	3	1	50.00%	2
Red Bird Missionary	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0
Rio Texas	3	12.50%	24	3	13.04%	23	3	13.64%	22
Rocky Mountain	2	6.90%	29	1	2.94%	34	1	3.23%	31
South Carolina	7	30.43%	23	6	26.09%	23	4	17.39%	23
South Georgia	5	33.33%	15	3	25.00%	12	4	23.53%	17
Susquehanna	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%	5	1	16.67%	6
Tennessee	5	13.51%	37	3	10.00%	30	4	12.90%	31
Texas	6	18.18%	33	4	13.33%	30	1	3.57%	28
Upper New York	1	6.25%	16	0	0.00%	12	0	0.00%	10
Virginia	6	18.75%	32	6	17.65%	34	6	18.18%	33
West Michigan	1	14.29%	7	0	0.00%	6	0	0.00%	6
West Ohio	5	15.63%	32	3	11.54%	26	3	12.00%	25
West Virginia	0	0.00%	11	0	0.00%	10	1	8.33%	12
Western North Carolina	8	12.90%	62	5	8.77%	57	6	10.34%	58
Western Pennsylvania	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%	6	0	0.00%	6
Wisconsin	0	0.00%	9	0	0.00%	10	0	0.00%	9
Yellowstone	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1
Total	113	11.27%	1,003	90	9.43%	954	86	9.01%	954

Deacons

Presence of Deacons under 35 by 2016 Percentage 2014-2016

CONFERENCE	2016 Deacons under 35	2016 Deacons under 35	2016 Deacons	2015 Deacons under 35	2015 Deacons under 35	2015 Deacons	2014 Deacons under 35	2014 Deacons under 35	2014 Deacons
Peninsula-Delaware	1	33.33%	3	1	33.33%	3	1	50.00%	2
South Georgia	5	33.33%	15	3	25.00%	12	4	23.53%	17
South Carolina	7	30.43%	23	6	26.09%	23	4	17.39%	23
New England	1	25.00%	4	1	25.00%	4	1	25.00%	4
North Carolina	5	20.83%	24	3	14.29%	21	3	15.79%	19
Pacific Northwest	1	20.00%	5	1	20.00%	5	1	16.67%	6
Virginia	6	18.75%	32	6	17.65%	34	6	18.18%	33
Texas	6	18.18%	33	4	13.33%	30	1	3.57%	28
Holston	2	16.67%	12	2	16.67%	12	3	23.08%	13
Missouri	4	16.67%	24	4	16.67%	24	0	0.00%	19
Kentucky	4	16.00%	25	2	8.70%	23	2	8.33%	24
West Ohio	5	15.63%	32	3	11.54%	26	3	12.00%	25
Illinois Great Rivers	2	15.38%	13	2	14.29%	14	2	13.33%	15
North Georgia	10	15.15%	66	8	11.76%	68	10	15.15%	66
Mississippi	3	15.00%	20	1	4.55%	22	1	4.00%	25
Central Texas	4	14.81%	27	3	12.50%	24	2	8.70%	23
Dakotas	1	14.29%	7	1	16.67%	6	0	0.00%	4
East Ohio	2	14.29%	14	2	12.50%	16	2	11.76%	17
West Michigan	1	14.29%	7	0	0.00%	6	0	0.00%	6
Tennessee	5	13.51%	37	3	10.00%	30	4	12.90%	31
Indiana	2	13.33%	15	4	26.67%	15	2	13.33%	15
Western North Carolina	8	12.90%	62	5	8.77%	57	6	10.34%	58
North Texas	5	12.82%	39	3	8.11%	37	3	8.33%	36
Rio Texas	3	12.50%	24	3	13.04%	23	3	13.64%	22
Detroit	2	11.76%	17	3	17.65%	17	3	17.65%	17
Louisiana	2	9.09%	22	3	13.64%	22	3	12.50%	24
Great Plains	2	8.70%	23	2	9.52%	21	2	9.52%	21
Alabama-West Florida	3	8.11%	37	1	3.03%	33	1	3.13%	32

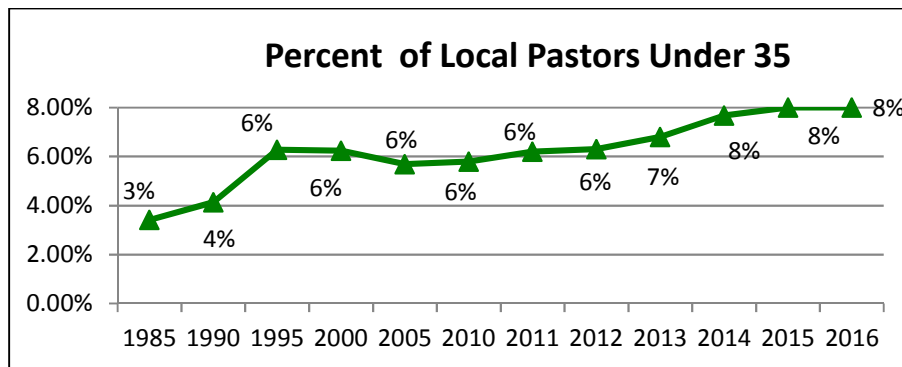
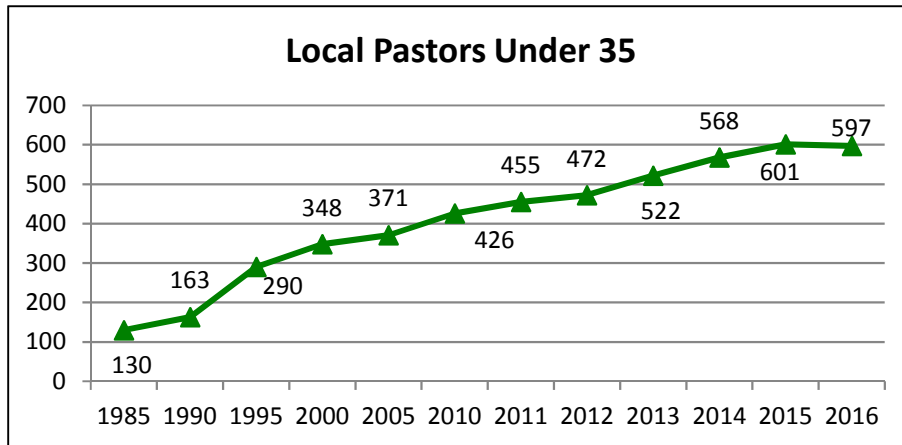
Deacons

Presence of Deacons under 35 by 2016 Percentage 2014-2016, continued

CONFERENCE	2016 Deacons under 35	2016 Deacons under 35	2016 Deacons	2015 Deacons under 35	2015 Deacons under 35	2015 Deacons	2014 Deacons under 35	2014 Deacons under 35	2014 Deacons
North Alabama	1	7.14%	14	1	7.69%	13	0	0.00%	15
Northern Illinois	2	6.90%	29	1	4.17%	24	1	4.35%	23
Rocky Mountain	2	6.90%	29	1	2.94%	34	1	3.23%	31
Florida	2	6.45%	31	3	9.68%	31	3	9.38%	32
Minnesota	1	6.25%	16	0	0.00%	15	0	0.00%	15
Upper New York	1	6.25%	16	0	0.00%	12	0	0.00%	10
Eastern Pennsylvania	1	5.56%	18	1	5.56%	18	1	6.25%	16
Oklahoma	1	3.23%	31	1	3.33%	30	1	2.86%	35
Alaska Missionary	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0
Arkansas	0	0.00%	12	0	0.00%	10	0	0.00%	13
Baltimore-Washington	0	0.00%	21	0	0.00%	20	0	0.00%	21
California-Nevada	0	0.00%	10	0	0.00%	9	1	14.29%	7
California-Pacific	0	0.00%	15	0	0.00%	15	0	0.00%	16
Desert Southwest	0	0.00%	9	0	0.00%	9	0	0.00%	9
Greater New Jersey	0	0.00%	15	1	8.33%	12	0	0.00%	11
Iowa	0	0.00%	12	1	9.09%	11	3	27.27%	11
Memphis	0	0.00%	9	0	0.00%	9	0	0.00%	10
New Mexico	0	0.00%	6	0	0.00%	6	0	0.00%	5
New York	0	0.00%	7	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%	3
Northwest Texas	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1	0	0.00%	1
Oregon-Idaho	0	0.00%	11	0	0.00%	11	0	0.00%	10
Red Bird Missionary	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0
Susquehanna	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%	5	1	16.67%	6
West Virginia	0	0.00%	11	0	0.00%	10	1	8.33%	12
Western Pennsylvania	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%	6	0	0.00%	6
Wisconsin	0	0.00%	9	0	0.00%	10	0	0.00%	9
Yellowstone	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1
Total	113	11.27%	1,003	90	9.43%	954	86	9.01%	954

Local Pastors

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



Trends for Local Pastors 1985-2016

Year	No. of Local Pastors	Local Pastors Under 35	% Under 35	Local Pastors 35-54	% 35-54	Local Pastors 55-72	% 55-72
1985	3,804	130	3%	2,212	58%	1,462	38%
1990	3,936	163	4%	2,244	57%	1,529	39%
1995	4,622	290	6%	2,641	57%	1,691	37%
2000	5,571	348	6%	3,109	56%	2,114	38%
2005	6,517	371	6%	3,213	49%	2,933	45%
2010	7,341	426	6%	2,932	40%	3,983	54%
2011	7,353	455	6%	2,790	37%	4,108	57%
2012	7,532	472	6%	2,753	37%	4,307	57%
2013	7,671	522	7%	2,716	35%	4,433	58%
2014	7,395	568	8%	2,597	35%	4,230	57%
2015	7,464	601	8%	2,579	35%	4,284	57%
2016	7,408	597	8%	2,531	34%	4,280	58%

Local Pastors

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

Year	Median Age	Average Age	Mode Age
1985	51	49.6	59
1990	51	50.4	60
1995	51	50.3	48
2000	52	50.8	53
2005	53	52.2	58
2006	54	52.5	59
2007	54	52.8	60
2008	55	53.3	59
2009	55	53.5	60
2010	55	53.9	51
2015	57	54.0	60
2016	57	54.1	61

* Median – half older, half younger

* Mode – single age most represented

Gender Breakdown within Age Cohorts Local Pastors

Year	Gender	Under 35	35-54	55-72
2013	Men	75%	70%	66%
	Women	25%	30%	34%
2014	Men	77%	70%	66%
	Women	23%	30%	34%
2015	Men	78%	70%	66%
	Women	22%	30%	34%
2016	Men	77%	70%	66%
	Women	23%	30%	34%

Local Pastors under 35 by Jurisdictions

Jurisdiction	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
North Central	70	56	49	57	62	70	75	87	98	114	112
Northeastern	42	44	53	91	79	70	72	85	81	108	119
South Central	91	93	90	99	99	98	96	99	116	113	115
Southeastern	143	164	158	130	171	201	203	221	246	245	227
Western	17	19	17	20	15	16	26	30	27	21	24
Total	363	376	367	397	426	455	472	522	568	601	597

Local Pastors

Presence of Local Pastors under 35 by Annual Conference 2014-2016

CONFERENCE NAME	2016 Local Pastors under 35	2016 Local Pastors under 35	2016 Local Pastors	2015 Local Pastors under 35	2015 Local Pastors under 35	2015 Local Pastors	2014 Local Pastors under 35	2014 Local Pastors under 35	2014 Local Pastors
Alabama-West Florida	11	6.83%	161	10	6.49%	154	10	6.67%	150
Alaska Missionary	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%	3
Arkansas	0	0.00%	112	1	0.85%	118	3	2.29%	131
Baltimore-Washington	11	10.58%	104	12	10.71%	112	5	4.50%	111
California-Nevada	1	2.44%	41	4	7.55%	53	9	20.00%	45
California-Pacific	8	8.42%	95	5	5.81%	86	3	3.85%	78
Central Texas	8	12.70%	63	11	15.71%	70	12	16.44%	73
Dakotas	7	13.46%	52	6	12.77%	47	4	10.00%	40
Desert Southwest	4	11.11%	36	1	3.23%	31	2	7.14%	28
Detroit	5	4.90%	102	7	6.93%	101	12	12.24%	98
East Ohio	18	7.86%	229	18	7.53%	239	14	6.22%	225
Eastern Pennsylvania	5	5.00%	100	5	4.76%	105	5	4.42%	113
Florida	8	4.60%	174	12	6.78%	177	13	7.03%	185
Great Plains	17	7.11%	239	12	5.33%	225	23	10.04%	229
Greater New Jersey	12	7.95%	151	16	10.46%	153	9	6.47%	139
Holston	5	4.07%	123	8	6.06%	132	10	7.52%	133
Illinois Great Rivers	20	11.49%	174	20	11.11%	180	15	8.47%	177
Indiana	14	8.14%	172	14	8.48%	165	13	7.78%	167
Iowa	7	4.38%	160	9	5.42%	166	7	4.12%	170
Kentucky	29	12.83%	226	26	11.87%	219	21	9.50%	221
Louisiana	5	4.10%	122	5	3.70%	135	4	3.05%	131
Memphis	2	2.25%	89	5	5.49%	91	6	6.38%	94
Minnesota	9	13.64%	66	5	10.00%	50	6	12.77%	47
Mississippi	8	3.31%	242	11	4.47%	246	13	5.22%	249
Missouri	25	10.33%	242	21	8.43%	249	19	7.54%	252
New England	10	7.87%	127	11	8.53%	129	10	7.94%	126
New Mexico	0	0.00%	20	0	0.00%	18	0	0.00%	19
New York	5	8.93%	56	4	7.55%	53	5	10.00%	50

Local Pastors

Presence of Local Pastors under 35 by Annual Conference 2014-2016, continued

CONFERENCE NAME	2016 Local Pastors under 35	2016 Local Pastors under 35	2016 Local Pastors	2015 Local Pastors under 35	2015 Local Pastors under 35	2015 Local Pastors	2014 Local Pastors under 35	2014 Local Pastors under 35	2014 Local Pastors
North Alabama	17	7.20%	236	21	8.20%	256	25	9.69%	258
North Carolina	42	15.44%	272	41	14.70%	279	44	15.71%	280
North Georgia	23	8.36%	275	22	7.75%	284	24	8.08%	297
North Texas	9	8.33%	108	12	10.81%	111	10	8.93%	112
Northern Illinois	6	10.34%	58	6	10.71%	56	6	10.34%	58
Northwest Texas	4	5.63%	71	4	6.15%	65	2	2.86%	70
Oklahoma	17	12.32%	138	15	11.11%	135	16	12.12%	132
OK Indian Missionary	1	6.67%	15	1	5.00%	20	1	5.00%	20
Oregon-Idaho	1	4.76%	21	2	11.11%	18	2	12.50%	16
Pacific Northwest	7	13.46%	52	6	12.00%	50	5	11.90%	42
Peninsula-Delaware	8	7.69%	104	7	6.93%	101	7	7.37%	95
Red Bird Missionary	0	0.00%	7	0	0.00%	7	0	0.00%	7
Rio Texas	8	6.35%	126	13	10.74%	121	13	9.92%	131
Rocky Mountain	1	1.92%	52	1	1.89%	53	5	8.77%	57
South Carolina	14	6.45%	217	13	6.34%	205	11	5.21%	211
South Georgia	15	11.81%	127	15	11.45%	131	18	13.33%	135
Susquehanna	28	13.93%	201	19	9.50%	200	16	8.29%	193
Tennessee	13	6.81%	191	15	8.24%	182	14	7.87%	178
Texas	21	13.64%	154	18	11.69%	154	13	8.18%	159
Upper New York	12	5.43%	221	10	4.33%	231	8	3.62%	221
Virginia	20	6.97%	287	19	6.64%	286	21	7.29%	288
West Michigan	5	5.15%	97	3	3.09%	97	4	4.12%	97
West Ohio	15	9.55%	157	19	11.66%	163	10	7.30%	137
West Virginia	7	3.45%	203	7	3.37%	208	8	3.74%	214
Western North Carolina	20	8.89%	225	27	11.16%	242	16	6.96%	230
Western Pennsylvania	21	10.77%	195	17	9.55%	178	8	5.06%	158
Wisconsin	6	6.45%	93	7	7.07%	99	7	7.37%	95
Yellowstone	2	9.09%	22	2	8.70%	23	1	5.00%	20
Total	597	8.06%	7,408	601	8.05%	7,464	568	7.68%	7,395

Local Pastors

Presence of Local Pastors under 35 by 2016 Percentage 2014-2016

CONFERENCE NAME	2016 Local Pastors under 35	2016 Local Pastors under 35	2016 Local Pastors	2015 Local Pastors under 35	2015 Local Pastors under 35	2015 Local Pastors	2014 Local Pastors under 35	2014 Local Pastors under 35	2014 Local Pastors
North Carolina	42	15.44%	272	41	14.70%	279	44	15.71%	280
Susquehanna	28	13.93%	201	19	9.50%	200	16	8.29%	193
Minnesota	9	13.64%	66	5	10.00%	50	6	12.77%	47
Texas	21	13.64%	154	18	11.69%	154	13	8.18%	159
Dakotas	7	13.46%	52	6	12.77%	47	4	10.00%	40
Pacific Northwest	7	13.46%	52	6	12.00%	50	5	11.90%	42
Kentucky	29	12.83%	226	26	11.87%	219	21	9.50%	221
Central Texas	8	12.70%	63	11	15.71%	70	12	16.44%	73
Oklahoma	17	12.32%	138	15	11.11%	135	16	12.12%	132
South Georgia	15	11.81%	127	15	11.45%	131	18	13.33%	135
Illinois Great Rivers	20	11.49%	174	20	11.11%	180	15	8.47%	177
Desert Southwest	4	11.11%	36	1	3.23%	31	2	7.14%	28
Western Pennsylvania	21	10.77%	195	17	9.55%	178	8	5.06%	158
Baltimore-Washington	11	10.58%	104	12	10.71%	112	5	4.50%	111
Northern Illinois	6	10.34%	58	6	10.71%	56	6	10.34%	58
Missouri	25	10.33%	242	21	8.43%	249	19	7.54%	252
West Ohio	15	9.55%	157	19	11.66%	163	10	7.30%	137
Yellowstone	2	9.09%	22	2	8.70%	23	1	5.00%	20
New York	5	8.93%	56	4	7.55%	53	5	10.00%	50
Western North Carolina	20	8.89%	225	27	11.16%	242	16	6.96%	230
California-Pacific	8	8.42%	95	5	5.81%	86	3	3.85%	78
North Georgia	23	8.36%	275	22	7.75%	284	24	8.08%	297
North Texas	9	8.33%	108	12	10.81%	111	10	8.93%	112
Indiana	14	8.14%	172	14	8.48%	165	13	7.78%	167
Greater New Jersey	12	7.95%	151	16	10.46%	153	9	6.47%	139
New England	10	7.87%	127	11	8.53%	129	10	7.94%	126
East Ohio	18	7.86%	229	18	7.53%	239	14	6.22%	225
Peninsula-Delaware	8	7.69%	104	7	6.93%	101	7	7.37%	95

Local Pastors

Presence of Local Pastors under 35 by 2016 Percentage 2014-2016, continued

CONFERENCE NAME	2016 Local Pastors under 35	2016 Local Pastors under 35	2016 Local Pastors	2015 Local Pastors under 35	2015 Local Pastors under 35	2015 Local Pastors	2014 Local Pastors under 35	2014 Local Pastors under 35	2014 Local Pastors
North Alabama	17	7.20%	236	21	8.20%	256	25	9.69%	258
Great Plains	17	7.11%	239	12	5.33%	225	23	10.04%	229
Virginia	20	6.97%	287	19	6.64%	286	21	7.29%	288
Alabama-West Florida	11	6.83%	161	10	6.49%	154	10	6.67%	150
Tennessee	13	6.81%	191	15	8.24%	182	14	7.87%	178
OK Indian Missionary	1	6.67%	15	1	5.00%	20	1	5.00%	20
South Carolina	14	6.45%	217	13	6.34%	205	11	5.21%	211
Wisconsin	6	6.45%	93	7	7.07%	99	7	7.37%	95
Rio Texas	8	6.35%	126	13	10.74%	121	13	9.92%	131
Northwest Texas	4	5.63%	71	4	6.15%	65	2	2.86%	70
Upper New York	12	5.43%	221	10	4.33%	231	8	3.62%	221
West Michigan	5	5.15%	97	3	3.09%	97	4	4.12%	97
Eastern Pennsylvania	5	5.00%	100	5	4.76%	105	5	4.42%	113
Detroit	5	4.90%	102	7	6.93%	101	12	12.24%	98
Oregon-Idaho	1	4.76%	21	2	11.11%	18	2	12.50%	16
Florida	8	4.60%	174	12	6.78%	177	13	7.03%	185
Iowa	7	4.38%	160	9	5.42%	166	7	4.12%	170
Louisiana	5	4.10%	122	5	3.70%	135	4	3.05%	131
Holston	5	4.07%	123	8	6.06%	132	10	7.52%	133
West Virginia	7	3.45%	203	7	3.37%	208	8	3.74%	214
Mississippi	8	3.31%	242	11	4.47%	246	13	5.22%	249
California-Nevada	1	2.44%	41	4	7.55%	53	9	20.00%	45
Memphis	2	2.25%	89	5	5.49%	91	6	6.38%	94
Rocky Mountain	1	1.92%	52	1	1.89%	53	5	8.77%	57
Alaska Missionary	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%	3
Arkansas	0	0.00%	112	1	0.85%	118	3	2.29%	131
New Mexico	0	0.00%	20	0	0.00%	18	0	0.00%	19
Red Bird Missionary	0	0.00%	7	0	0.00%	7	0	0.00%	7
Total	597	8.06%	7,408	601	8.05%	7,464	568	7.68%	7,395

Annual Conference Clergy by Age Group – Numeric

CONFERENCE	Elders				Deacons				Local Pastors			
	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72	Total	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72	Total	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72	Total
Alabama-West Florida	18	93	113	224	3	18	16	37	11	63	87	161
Alaska Missionary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	5
Arkansas	20	103	113	236	0	2	10	12	0	37	75	112
Baltimore-Washington	28	141	212	381	0	8	13	21	11	23	70	104
California-Nevada	13	77	155	245	0	4	6	10	1	13	27	41
California-Pacific	9	127	182	318	0	4	11	15	8	41	46	95
Central Texas	19	86	121	226	4	13	10	27	8	21	34	63
Dakotas	13	43	69	125	1	5	1	7	7	17	28	52
Desert Southwest	5	34	63	102	0	2	7	9	4	14	18	36
Detroit	12	76	126	214	2	10	5	17	5	34	63	102
East Ohio	19	94	173	286	2	6	6	14	18	68	143	229
Eastern Pennsylvania	8	74	157	239	1	9	8	18	5	24	71	100
Florida	34	171	209	414	2	14	15	31	8	65	101	174
Great Plains	33	139	234	406	2	6	15	23	17	83	139	239
Greater New Jersey	11	115	172	298	0	7	8	15	12	60	79	151
Holston	25	134	145	304	2	3	7	12	5	32	86	123
Illinois Great Rivers	15	100	194	309	2	6	5	13	20	44	110	174
Indiana	26	154	278	458	2	8	5	15	14	54	104	172
Iowa	26	101	186	313	0	8	4	12	7	44	109	160
Kentucky	21	94	134	249	4	8	13	25	29	94	103	226
Louisiana	13	70	105	188	2	6	14	22	5	35	82	122
Memphis	5	51	88	144	0	5	4	9	2	37	50	89
Minnesota	10	63	109	182	1	4	11	16	9	23	34	66
Mississippi	37	139	151	327	3	10	7	20	8	84	150	242
Missouri	14	127	147	288	4	11	9	24	25	96	121	242
New England	7	99	128	234	1	0	3	4	10	50	67	127
New Mexico	3	27	59	89	0	4	2	6	0	8	12	20
New York	10	97	188	295	0	3	4	7	5	19	32	56

Annual Conference Clergy by Age Group – Numeric (continued)

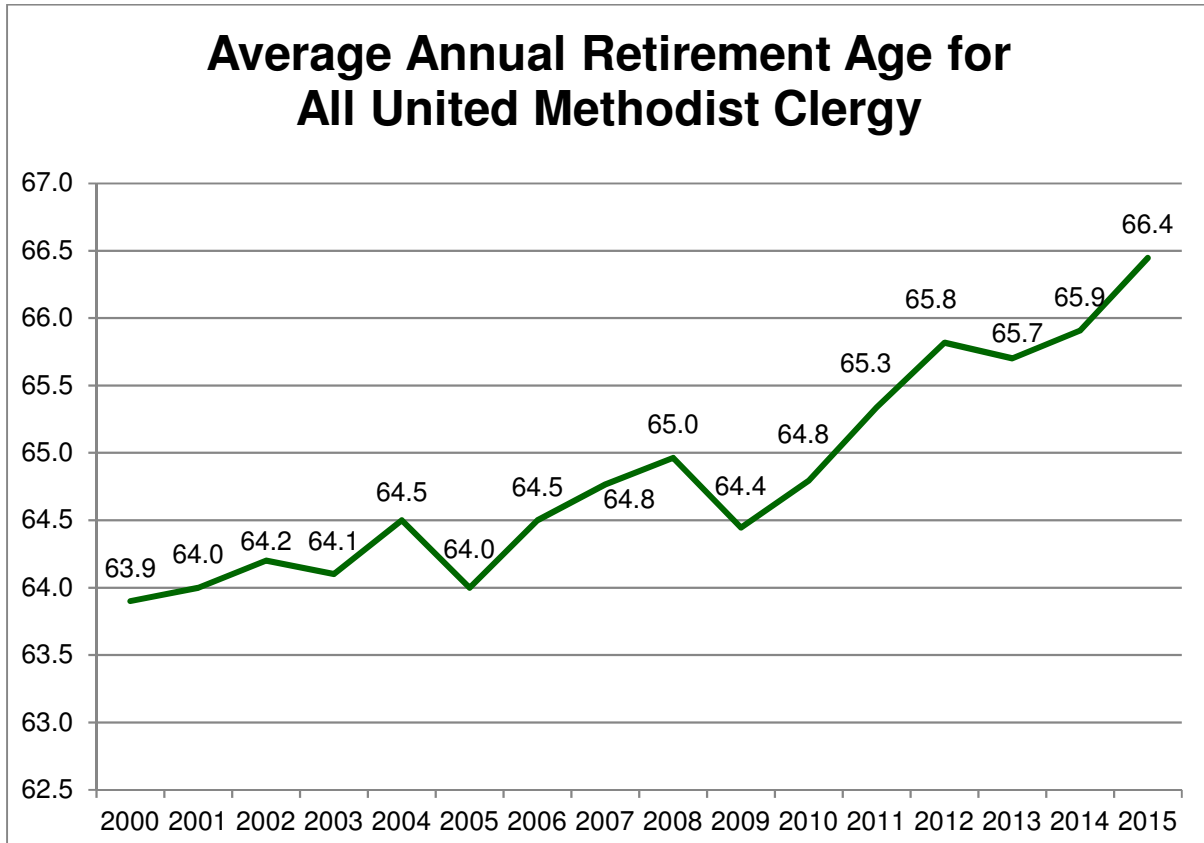
CONFERENCE	Elders				Deacons				Local Pastors			
	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72	Total	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72	Total	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72	Total
North Alabama	30	124	130	284	1	7	6	14	17	89	130	236
North Carolina	36	145	211	392	5	7	12	24	42	89	141	272
North Georgia	36	194	276	506	10	28	28	66	23	108	144	275
North Texas	18	97	141	256	5	16	18	39	9	41	58	108
Northern Illinois	20	128	145	293	2	15	12	29	6	26	26	58
Northwest Texas	5	45	47	97	0	0	0	0	4	21	46	71
Oklahoma	22	118	164	304	1	12	18	31	17	49	72	138
OK Indian Mission	0	3	13	16	0	0	0	0	1	6	8	15
Oregon-Idaho	2	33	64	99	0	4	7	11	1	7	13	21
Pacific Northwest	10	68	77	155	1	0	4	5	7	16	29	52
Peninsula-Delaware	5	41	91	137	1	1	1	3	8	27	69	104
Red Bird Mission	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	7
Rio Texas	17	98	151	266	3	9	12	24	8	47	71	126
Rocky Mountain	14	78	85	177	2	7	20	29	1	24	27	52
South Carolina	36	143	226	405	7	11	5	23	14	55	148	217
South Georgia	11	98	119	228	5	7	3	15	15	53	59	127
Susquehanna	13	87	165	265	0	1	4	5	28	62	111	201
Tennessee	17	72	109	198	5	15	17	37	13	79	99	191
Texas	57	177	218	452	6	12	15	33	21	49	84	154
Upper New York	13	94	189	296	1	6	9	16	12	62	147	221
Virginia	60	233	329	622	6	16	10	32	20	98	169	287
West Michigan	6	49	111	166	1	2	4	7	5	33	59	97
West Ohio	26	204	281	511	5	15	12	32	15	63	79	157
West Virginia	15	70	123	208	0	4	7	11	7	53	143	203
West. North Carolina	58	277	350	685	8	30	24	62	20	88	117	225
West. Pennsylvania	10	102	189	301	0	2	3	5	21	61	113	195
Wisconsin	11	71	133	215	0	4	5	9	6	36	51	93
Yellowstone	1	6	29	36	0	0	0	0	2	3	17	22
Total	1003	5,484	8,178	14,665	113	415	475	1,003	597	2,531	4,280	7,408

Annual Conference Clergy by Age Group – Percentage

CONFERENCE	Elders			Deacons			Local Pastors		
	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72
Alabama-West Florida	8.04%	41.52%	50.45%	8.11%	48.65%	43.24%	6.83%	39.13%	54.04%
Alaska Mission	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%
Arkansas	8.47%	43.64%	47.88%	0.00%	16.67%	83.33%	0.00%	33.04%	66.96%
Baltimore-Washington	7.35%	37.01%	55.64%	0.00%	38.10%	61.90%	10.58%	22.12%	67.31%
California-Nevada	5.31%	31.43%	63.27%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	2.44%	31.71%	65.85%
California-Pacific	2.83%	39.94%	57.23%	0.00%	26.67%	73.33%	8.42%	43.16%	48.42%
Central Texas	8.41%	38.05%	53.54%	14.81%	48.15%	37.04%	12.70%	33.33%	53.97%
Dakotas	10.40%	34.40%	55.20%	14.29%	71.43%	14.29%	13.46%	32.69%	53.85%
Desert Southwest	4.90%	33.33%	61.76%	0.00%	22.22%	77.78%	11.11%	38.89%	50.00%
Detroit	5.61%	35.51%	58.88%	11.76%	58.82%	29.41%	4.90%	33.33%	61.76%
East Ohio	6.64%	32.87%	60.49%	14.29%	42.86%	42.86%	7.86%	29.69%	62.45%
Eastern Pennsylvania	3.35%	30.96%	65.69%	5.56%	50.00%	44.44%	5.00%	24.00%	71.00%
Florida	8.21%	41.30%	50.48%	6.45%	45.16%	48.39%	4.60%	37.36%	58.05%
Great Plains	8.13%	34.24%	57.64%	8.70%	26.09%	65.22%	7.11%	34.73%	58.16%
Greater New Jersey	3.69%	38.59%	57.72%	0.00%	46.67%	53.33%	7.95%	39.74%	52.32%
Holston	8.22%	44.08%	47.70%	16.67%	25.00%	58.33%	4.07%	26.02%	69.92%
Illinois Great Rivers	4.85%	32.36%	62.78%	15.38%	46.15%	38.46%	11.49%	25.29%	63.22%
Indiana	5.68%	33.62%	60.70%	13.33%	53.33%	33.33%	8.14%	31.40%	60.47%
Iowa	8.31%	32.27%	59.42%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%	4.38%	27.50%	68.13%
Kentucky	8.43%	37.75%	53.82%	16.00%	32.00%	52.00%	12.83%	41.59%	45.58%
Louisiana	6.91%	37.23%	55.85%	9.09%	27.27%	63.64%	4.10%	28.69%	67.21%
Memphis	3.47%	35.42%	61.11%	0.00%	55.56%	44.44%	2.25%	41.57%	56.18%
Minnesota	5.49%	34.62%	59.89%	6.25%	25.00%	68.75%	13.64%	34.85%	51.52%
Mississippi	11.31%	42.51%	46.18%	15.00%	50.00%	35.00%	3.31%	34.71%	61.98%
Missouri	4.86%	44.10%	51.04%	16.67%	45.83%	37.50%	10.33%	39.67%	50.00%
New England	2.99%	42.31%	54.70%	25.00%	0.00%	75.00%	7.87%	39.37%	52.76%
New Mexico	3.37%	30.34%	66.29%	0.00%	66.67%	33.33%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%
New York	3.39%	32.88%	63.73%	0.00%	42.86%	57.14%	8.93%	33.93%	57.14%

Annual Conference Clergy by Age Group – Percentage (continued)

CONFERENCE	Elders			Deacons			Local Pastors		
	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72
North Alabama	10.56%	43.66%	45.77%	7.14%	50.00%	42.86%	7.20%	37.71%	55.08%
North Carolina	9.18%	36.99%	53.83%	20.83%	29.17%	50.00%	15.44%	32.72%	51.84%
North Georgia	7.11%	38.34%	54.55%	15.15%	42.42%	42.42%	8.36%	39.27%	52.36%
North Texas	7.03%	37.89%	55.08%	12.82%	41.03%	46.15%	8.33%	37.96%	53.70%
Northern Illinois	6.83%	43.69%	49.49%	6.90%	51.72%	41.38%	10.34%	44.83%	44.83%
Northwest Texas	5.15%	46.39%	48.45%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	5.63%	29.58%	64.79%
Oklahoma	7.24%	38.82%	53.95%	3.23%	38.71%	58.06%	12.32%	35.51%	52.17%
OK Indian Mission	0.00%	18.75%	81.25%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	6.67%	40.00%	53.33%
Oregon-Idaho	2.02%	33.33%	64.65%	0.00%	36.36%	63.64%	4.76%	33.33%	61.90%
Pacific Northwest	6.45%	43.87%	49.68%	20.00%	0.00%	80.00%	13.46%	30.77%	55.77%
Peninsula-Delaware	3.65%	29.93%	66.42%	33.33%	33.33%	33.33%	7.69%	25.96%	66.35%
Red Bird Mission	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	28.57%	71.43%
Rio Texas	6.39%	36.84%	56.77%	12.50%	37.50%	50.00%	6.35%	37.30%	56.35%
Rocky Mountain	7.91%	44.07%	48.02%	6.90%	24.14%	68.97%	1.92%	46.15%	51.92%
South Carolina	8.89%	35.31%	55.80%	30.43%	47.83%	21.74%	6.45%	25.35%	68.20%
South Georgia	4.82%	42.98%	52.19%	33.33%	46.67%	20.00%	11.81%	41.73%	46.46%
Susquehanna	4.91%	32.83%	62.26%	0.00%	20.00%	80.00%	13.93%	30.85%	55.22%
Tennessee	8.59%	36.36%	55.05%	13.51%	40.54%	45.95%	6.81%	41.36%	51.83%
Texas	12.61%	39.16%	48.23%	18.18%	36.36%	45.45%	13.64%	31.82%	54.55%
Upper New York	4.39%	31.76%	63.85%	6.25%	37.50%	56.25%	5.43%	28.05%	66.52%
Virginia	9.65%	37.46%	52.89%	18.75%	50.00%	31.25%	6.97%	34.15%	58.89%
West Michigan	3.61%	29.52%	66.87%	14.29%	28.57%	57.14%	5.15%	34.02%	60.82%
West Ohio	5.09%	39.92%	54.99%	15.63%	46.88%	37.50%	9.55%	40.13%	50.32%
West Virginia	7.21%	33.65%	59.13%	0.00%	36.36%	63.64%	3.45%	26.11%	70.44%
West. North Carolina	8.47%	40.44%	51.09%	12.90%	48.39%	38.71%	8.89%	39.11%	52.00%
West. Pennsylvania	3.32%	33.89%	62.79%	0.00%	40.00%	60.00%	10.77%	31.28%	57.95%
Wisconsin	5.12%	33.02%	61.86%	0.00%	44.44%	55.56%	6.45%	38.71%	54.84%
Yellowstone	2.78%	16.67%	80.56%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	9.09%	13.64%	77.27%



Average Retirement Ages

	2005	2015
Elders	64	66
Deacons	64	67
Full Time Local Pastors	65	68
Part Time Local Pastors	67	69

About the Lewis Center for Church Leadership

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

Committed to the broad goal of helping the church reach more people, younger people, and more diverse people, the Center focuses on improving leadership effectiveness and providing actionable insights and best practices to promote effective ministry. The Center seeks to be a trusted resource for church leaders so that congregations increase in service, vitality, and growth. The Center staff of five, along with other researchers and consultants who assist with special projects, also draws on the expertise of the entire Wesley Seminary faculty and a wide array of gifted practitioners.

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Lewis Center for Church Leadership
Wesley Theological Seminary
4500 Massachusetts Ave., NW • Washington, DC 20016
(202) 885-8757
churchleadership.com • lewiscenter@wesleyseminary.edu



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