

A Lewis Center Report on
**Clergy Age Trends in the
United Methodist Church**
2017 Report

Elders • Deacons • Local Pastors

2017 Report
Lewis Center for Church Leadership
Wesley Theological Seminary



Lewis Center
for Church Leadership

A Lewis Center Report on **Clergy Age Trends in the United Methodist Church** 2017 Report

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Highlights of the 2017 Report

Number of Young Elders Shows Downturn in 2017

After three consecutive years of growth, the number of elders under 35 declined in 2017. Growth among young elders has been slow but relatively steady since 2005 when the church had only 850 young elders who represented 4.69 percent of active elders. In 2017, there are 950 young elders that comprise 6.71 percent of the pool of active elders, declining from 1003 elders and 6.84 percent in 2016. Despite the loss of 53 young elders, their relative percentage remains about the same because of the continuing decline in the total number of elders. The overall pool of active elders is now smaller by 4,000 elders since 2005.

First Declines in Young Women Elders

Virtually all the increase in young elders since 2005 has come from clergywomen. Women as a percentage of young elders during this period went from 31 percent to a high of 41 percent in 2015. In 2016, for the first time, there was a modest drop in the number and percentage of women among young elders. However, in 2017, the decline is much more dramatic. There are 34 fewer young women elders in 2017 than in 2016, and their percentage of young elders dropped to 39 percent. However, the impact of the growth in the number of young women elders can be seen in these figures.

Young Male Elders in 2005 –	587	Young Female Elders in 2005 –	263
Young Male Elders in 2017 –	583	Young Female Elders in 2017 –	369
Change	-4	Change	104

Middle Age and Older Elders Mirror Recent Trends

The makeup of middle age elders (ages 35 to 54) and older elders (ages 55 to 72) remained proportionately about the same as last year even as their numbers declined. This middle age group is 37 percent of all active elders, a record low, and down from 65 percent in 2000 to 37 percent in 2017, a record low. Elders between ages 55 and 72 comprise 56 percent of elders in 2017, a record high, and up from 30 percent as recently as 2000.

Fewer Elders and More 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. This pattern continues in 2017. There are 513 fewer elders and 104 more local pastors in 2017 than in 2016. The result is that since 1990 there are 7,355 fewer elders and 3,576 more local pastors. In 1990, there were over five elders for each local pastor; today there are just under two elders for each local pastor. In 2017, there are 14,152 elders and 7,512 local pastors.

Age of Retirement Continues to Rise

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. In 2016, the last full year of data, the average retirement age had increased to just over 66.6, up slightly over 2015. The retirement ages for different types of clergy are similar but not the same. For example, in 2016 the retirement ages were: elders - 66, deacons - 67, full time local pastors - 67, and part time local pastors - 70.

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 2017.

This report is made possible through partnership with the denominational pension agency, Wespeth Benefits (WB), formerly known as the General Board of Pension and Health Benefits. The Lewis Center for Church Leadership 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 twenty young clergy each year.

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

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

A 5-minute video overview of this report is available to view or download at <https://vimeo.com/234312509>.

Contributors

Lovett H. Weems, Jr., senior consultant 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 Investments, and the staff, particularly Amit Dharna, Taylor Curran and Tanya Lerner, 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 decreased from 1,003 in 2016 to 950 in 2017.
- The percentage of young elders remained about the same (6.71 percent compared to 6.84 percent in 2016) since the total pool of active elders continued to decline.
- The Arkansas Conference reported the highest percentage of young elders at 11.26 percent.
- The Top Ten Conferences by percentage
 - Arkansas (also #1 in 2008 and 2007)
 - Texas (#1 in 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2012)
 - North Carolina
 - Dakotas
 - North Alabama
 - Louisiana (new since last report)
 - Virginia
 - Holston (new since last report; #1 in 2005)
 - Kentucky (new since last report)
 - Mississippi (#1 in 2010 and 2006; only conference in top ten every year since 2005)
- 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 (56) is in the Virginia Conference, followed by Western North Carolina (55) and Texas (48).

Young Deacons

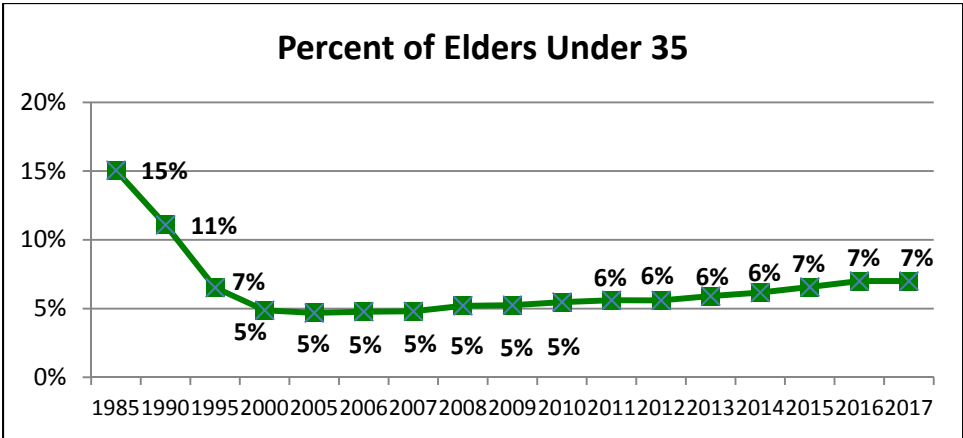
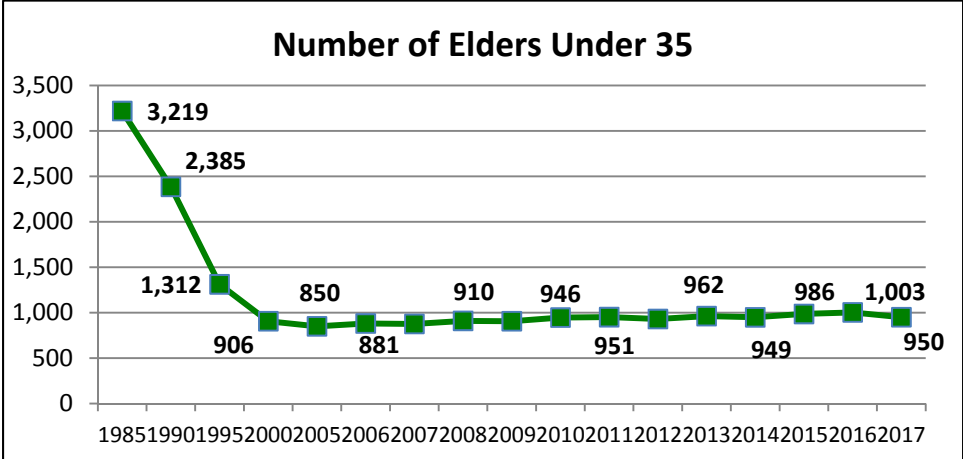
- The number of under-35 deacons increased again in 2017 to 124 from 113 in 2016. This is a record high number of young deacons.
- The percentage of young deacons increased from 11.27 percent in 2016 to 12.30 percent in 2017, also a record high.
- While the number of young deacons is still small compared to young elders, their percentage of all deacons has run consistently higher than that of young elders since 2008.

Young Local Pastors

- The number of under-35 local pastors declined by two from 597 in 2016 to 595 in 2017.
- The percentage of young local pastors stayed approximately the same, around 8 percent, in 2017.

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 1985-2017

Year	No. of Elders	No. of Elders Under 35	% Under 35	No. of Elders 35-54	% 35-54	No. of Elders 55-70	% 55-70
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%
2017	14,152	950	7%	5,273	37%	7,927	56%

**Gender Breakdown within
Age Cohorts - Elders**

Year	Gender	Under 35	35-54	55-72
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%
2017	Men	62%	69%	70%
	Women	38%	31%	30%

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
2017	56	53.5	62

*Median – half older, half younger

*Mode – single age most represented

Elders by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Elders under 35 2017	% Elders under 35 2017	Elders 35-54 2017	% Elders 35-54 2017	Elders 55-72 2017	% Elders 55-72 2017	Total Elders 2017
North Central	178	6%	1,041	35%	1,753	59%	2,972
Northeastern	115	5%	859	34%	1,560	62%	2,534
South Central	212	8%	1,049	39%	1,451	54%	2,712
Southeastern	398	8%	1,920	40%	2,514	52%	4,832
Western	47	4%	404	37%	649	59%	1,100
Total	950	7%	5,273	37%	7,927	56%	14,150

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	2017 Mean	2017 Median	2017 Mode
ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA	52.6	55	60
ALASKA			
ARKANSAS	51.5	53	60
BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON	54.1	56	62
CALIFORNIA-NEVADA	55.4	58	65
CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC	55.1	57	59
CENTRAL TEXAS	52.7	55	57
DAKOTAS	52.7	56	56
DESERT SOUTHWEST	54.7	57	64
DETROIT	53.6	56	57
EAST OHIO	53.9	57	59
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA	55.5	58	59
FLORIDA	52.7	55	64
GREAT PLAINS	53.4	57	65
GREATER NEW JERSEY	54.3	57	59
HOLSTON	51.4	54	57
ILLINOIS GREAT RIVERS	54.4	57	60
INDIANA	53.6	57	63
IOWA	54.0	57	59
KENTUCKY	52.6	55	62
LOUISIANA	52.6	56	60
MEMPHIS	55.0	58	63
MINNESOTA	53.8	56	60
MISSISSIPPI	51.7	54	57
MISSOURI	52.8	55	55
NEW ENGLAND	53.9	55	55
NEW MEXICO	54.9	57	56
NEW YORK	55.8	57	59

CONFERENCE	2017 Mean	2017 Median	2017 Mode
NORTH ALABAMA	52.3	54	61
NORTH CAROLINA	52.7	56	59
NORTH GEORGIA	53.3	56	60
NORTH TEXAS	53.1	56	62
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	52.9	55	58
NORTHWEST TEXAS	52.9	54	62
OKLAHOMA	53.3	56	58
OKLAHOMA INDIAN MSNY	60.8	62	61
OREGON IDAHO	55.8	58	61
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	52.7	55	64
PENINSULA-DELAWARE	56.2	58	62
RED BIRD MISSIONARY			
RIO TEXAS	54.0	56	64
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	52.4	54	53
SOUTH CAROLINA	53.5	56	63
SOUTH GEORGIA	52.8	55	62
SUSQUEHANNA	55.0	58	60
TENNESSEE	51.9	55	63
TEXAS	51.9	54	63
UPPER NEW YORK	55.8	58	62
VIRGINIA	52.1	55	63
WEST MICHIGAN	55.2	58	58
WEST OHIO	54.2	56	60
WEST VIRGINIA	54.2	57	62
WESTERN N. CAROLINA	52.9	55	60
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA	54.6	57	63
WISCONSIN	55.0	58	60
YELLOWSTONE	57.2	59	57

Presence of Elders under 35
by Annual Conference
2015-2017

CONFERENCE	2017 Elders under 35	2017 Elders under 35	2017 Elders	2016 Elders under 35	2016 Elders under 35	2016 Elders	2015 Elders under 35	2015 Elders under 35	2015 Elders
Alabama-West Florida	13	6.19%	210	18	8.04%	224	21	8.79%	239
Alaska Missionary	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0
Arkansas	26	11.26%	231	20	8.47%	236	20	8.37%	239
Baltimore-Washington	23	6.32%	364	28	7.35%	381	28	7.41%	378
California-Nevada	13	5.44%	239	13	5.31%	245	12	4.96%	242
California-Pacific	7	2.30%	305	9	2.83%	318	9	2.85%	316
Central Texas	17	7.69%	221	19	8.41%	226	18	7.93%	227
Dakotas	12	10.00%	120	13	10.40%	125	12	9.23%	130
Desert Southwest	5	4.85%	103	5	4.90%	102	6	5.61%	107
Detroit	13	6.37%	204	12	5.61%	214	13	5.70%	228
East Ohio	19	6.99%	272	19	6.64%	286	22	7.33%	300
Eastern Pennsylvania	7	3.13%	224	8	3.35%	239	9	3.72%	242
Florida	29	7.30%	397	34	8.21%	414	30	6.90%	435
Great Plains	30	7.94%	378	33	8.13%	406	38	8.74%	435
Greater New Jersey	13	4.51%	288	11	3.69%	298	9	2.92%	308
Holston	27	8.94%	302	25	8.22%	304	25	8.01%	312
Illinois Great Rivers	16	5.44%	294	15	4.85%	309	14	4.50%	311
Indiana	32	7.08%	452	26	5.68%	458	29	5.98%	485
Iowa	20	6.83%	293	26	8.31%	313	23	7.08%	325
Kentucky	22	8.84%	249	21	8.43%	249	25	9.77%	256
Louisiana	17	9.44%	180	13	6.91%	188	14	7.57%	185
Memphis	6	4.41%	136	5	3.47%	144	6	3.97%	151
Minnesota	9	5.08%	177	10	5.49%	182	10	5.21%	192
Mississippi	28	8.75%	320	37	11.31%	327	34	10.24%	332
Missouri	19	6.91%	275	14	4.86%	288	16	5.44%	294
New England	7	3.23%	217	7	2.99%	234	4	1.68%	238
New Mexico	3	3.66%	82	3	3.37%	89	3	3.23%	93
New York	9	3.10%	290	10	3.39%	295	9	3.00%	300

Presence of Elders under 35
by Annual Conference
2015-2017, continued

CONFERENCE	2017 Elders under 35	2017 Elders under 35	2017 Elders	2016 Elders under 35	2016 Elders under 35	2016 Elders	2015 Elders under 35	2015 Elders under 35	2015 Elders
North Alabama	27	9.68%	279	30	10.56%	284	28	9.69%	289
North Carolina	39	10.26%	380	36	9.18%	392	34	8.44%	403
North Georgia	34	6.98%	487	36	7.11%	506	42	8.02%	524
North Texas	19	7.51%	253	18	7.03%	256	14	5.47%	256
Northern Illinois	14	4.95%	283	20	6.83%	293	22	7.33%	300
Northwest Texas	5	5.38%	93	5	5.15%	97	5	5.10%	98
Oklahoma	17	5.69%	299	22	7.24%	304	24	7.74%	310
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.00%	13	0	0.00%	16	0	0.00%	13
Oregon-Idaho	1	1.11%	90	2	2.02%	99	1	0.96%	104
Pacific Northwest	11	7.33%	150	10	6.45%	155	11	6.55%	168
Peninsula-Delaware	7	5.38%	130	5	3.65%	137	4	2.92%	137
Red Bird Missionary	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1	0	0.00%	1
Rio Texas	11	4.31%	255	17	6.39%	266	14	5.22%	268
Rocky Mountain	9	5.08%	177	14	7.91%	177	14	7.73%	181
South Carolina	34	8.52%	399	36	8.89%	405	32	7.64%	419
South Georgia	12	5.45%	220	11	4.82%	228	9	3.77%	239
Susquehanna	12	4.76%	252	13	4.91%	265	17	5.86%	290
Tennessee	16	8.38%	191	17	8.59%	198	17	8.63%	197
Texas	48	11.11%	432	57	12.61%	452	52	11.74%	443
Upper New York	9	3.28%	274	13	4.39%	296	13	4.28%	304
Virginia	56	9.40%	596	60	9.65%	622	60	9.55%	628
West Michigan	5	3.21%	156	6	3.61%	166	7	4.14%	169
West Ohio	29	5.69%	510	26	5.09%	511	22	4.36%	505
West Virginia	12	6.15%	195	15	7.21%	208	14	6.36%	220
Western North Carolina	55	8.26%	666	58	8.47%	685	50	7.40%	676
Western Pennsylvania	16	5.30%	302	10	3.32%	301	11	3.53%	312
Wisconsin	9	4.27%	211	11	5.12%	215	9	3.91%	230
Yellowstone	1	2.78%	36	1	2.78%	36	1	2.86%	35
Total	950	6.71%	14,150	1,003	6.84%	14,665	986	6.57%	15,019

Elders

Presence of Elders under 35 by 2017 Percentage 2015-2017

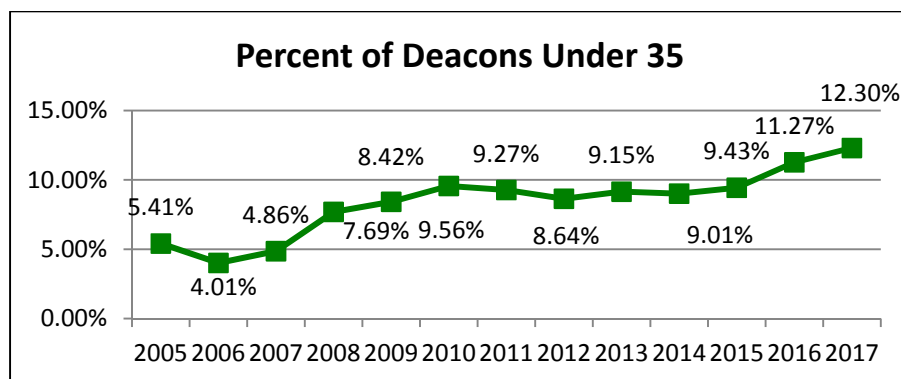
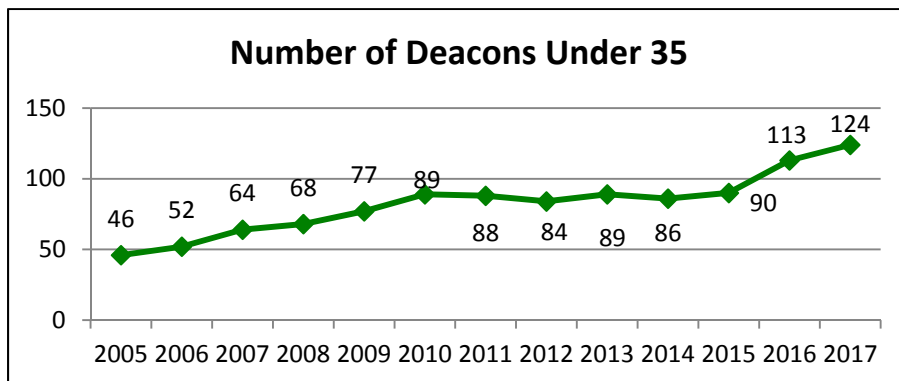
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by 2017 Percentage
2015-2017, continued

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Desert Southwest	5	4.85%	103	5	4.90%	102	6	5.61%	107
Susquehanna	12	4.76%	252	13	4.91%	265	17	5.86%	290
Greater New Jersey	13	4.51%	288	11	3.69%	298	9	2.92%	308
Memphis	6	4.41%	136	5	3.47%	144	6	3.97%	151
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Wisconsin	9	4.27%	211	11	5.12%	215	9	3.91%	230
New Mexico	3	3.66%	82	3	3.37%	89	3	3.23%	93
Upper New York	9	3.28%	274	13	4.39%	296	13	4.28%	304
New England	7	3.23%	217	7	2.99%	234	4	1.68%	238
West Michigan	5	3.21%	156	6	3.61%	166	7	4.14%	169
Eastern Pennsylvania	7	3.13%	224	8	3.35%	239	9	3.72%	242
New York	9	3.10%	290	10	3.39%	295	9	3.00%	300
Yellowstone	1	2.78%	36	1	2.78%	36	1	2.86%	35
California-Pacific	7	2.30%	305	9	2.83%	318	9	2.85%	316
Oregon-Idaho	1	1.11%	90	2	2.02%	99	1	0.96%	104
Alaska Missionary	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.00%	13	0	0.00%	16	0	0.00%	13
Red Bird Missionary	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1	0	0.00%	1
Total	950	6.71%	14,150	1,003	6.84%	14,665	986	6.57%	15,019

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 2005-2017

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%
2017	1,008	124	12%	404	40%	480	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
2017	54	51.4	61

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

**Gender Breakdown within Age Cohorts
Deacons**

Year	Gender	Under 35	35-54	55-72
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%
2017	Men	23%	33%	23%
	Women	77%	67%	77%

Deacons Under 35 by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
North Central	9	9	11	14	20	18	13	16	16	17	18	13
Northeastern	1	3	3	3	5	3	4	4	5	4	4	9
South Central	19	22	20	18	18	18	17	18	15	23	27	28
Southeastern	22	30	33	40	45	46	47	48	47	44	61	73
Western	3	0	1	2	1	3	3	3	3	2	3	1
Total	52	64	68	77	89	88	84	89	86	90	113	124

Deacons

Presence of Deacons under 35 by Annual Conference 2015-2017

CONFERENCE	2017 Deacons under 35	2017 Deacons under 35	2017 Deacons	2016 Deacons under 35	2016 Deacons under 35	2016 Deacons	2015 Deacons under 35	2015 Deacons under 35	2015 Deacons
Alabama-West Florida	3	7.9%	38	3	8.11%	37	1	3.03%	33
Alaska Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0
Arkansas	2	12.5%	16	0	0.00%	12	0	0.00%	10
Baltimore-Washington	0	0.0%	23	0	0.00%	21	0	0.00%	20
California-Nevada	0	0.0%	10	0	0.00%	10	0	0.00%	9
California-Pacific	0	0.0%	15	0	0.00%	15	0	0.00%	15
Central Texas	3	10.7%	28	4	14.81%	27	3	12.50%	24
Dakotas	1	14.3%	7	1	14.29%	7	1	16.67%	6
Desert Southwest	0	0.0%	7	0	0.00%	9	0	0.00%	9
Detroit	2	11.8%	17	2	11.76%	17	3	17.65%	17
East Ohio	2	12.5%	16	2	14.29%	14	2	12.50%	16
Eastern Pennsylvania	2	11.1%	18	1	5.56%	18	1	5.56%	18
Florida	4	12.1%	33	2	6.45%	31	3	9.68%	31
Great Plains	2	8.3%	24	2	8.70%	23	2	9.52%	21
Greater New Jersey	0	0.0%	14	0	0.00%	15	1	8.33%	12
Holston	3	25.0%	12	2	16.67%	12	2	16.67%	12
Illinois Great Rivers	2	14.3%	14	2	15.38%	13	2	14.29%	14
Indiana	2	15.4%	13	2	13.33%	15	4	26.67%	15
Iowa	0	0.0%	12	0	0.00%	12	1	9.09%	11
Kentucky	2	9.1%	22	4	16.00%	25	2	8.70%	23
Louisiana	1	5.3%	19	2	9.09%	22	3	13.64%	22
Memphis	0	0.0%	10	0	0.00%	9	0	0.00%	9
Minnesota	1	6.3%	16	1	6.25%	16	0	0.00%	15
Mississippi	4	20.0%	20	3	15.00%	20	1	4.55%	22
Missouri	2	9.1%	22	4	16.67%	24	4	16.67%	24
New England	1	20.0%	5	1	25.00%	4	1	25.00%	4
New Mexico	0	0.0%	5	0	0.00%	6	0	0.00%	6
New York	1	12.5%	8	0	0.00%	7	0	0.00%	5

Deacons

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

CONFERENCE	2017 Deacons under 35	2017 Deacons under 35	2017 Deacons	2016 Deacons under 35	2016 Deacons under 35	2016 Deacons	2015 Deacons under 35	2015 Deacons under 35	2015 Deacons
North Alabama	2	11.8%	17	1	7.14%	14	1	7.69%	13
North Carolina	8	33.3%	24	5	20.83%	24	3	14.29%	21
North Georgia	12	17.9%	67	10	15.15%	66	8	11.76%	68
North Texas	5	13.2%	38	5	12.82%	39	3	8.11%	37
Northern Illinois	2	6.7%	30	2	6.90%	29	1	4.17%	24
Northwest Texas	0	0.0%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0
Oklahoma	1	3.8%	26	1	3.23%	31	1	3.33%	30
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1
Oregon-Idaho	0	0.0%	0	0	0.00%	11	0	0.00%	11
Pacific Northwest	0	0.0%	4	1	20.00%	5	1	20.00%	5
Peninsula-Delaware	1	25.0%	4	1	33.33%	3	1	33.33%	3
Red Bird Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0
Rio Texas	3	13.0%	23	3	12.50%	24	3	13.04%	23
Rocky Mountain	1	3.2%	31	2	6.90%	29	1	2.94%	34
South Carolina	7	33.3%	21	7	30.43%	23	6	26.09%	23
South Georgia	6	40.0%	15	5	33.33%	15	3	25.00%	12
Susquehanna	0	0.0%	4	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%	5
Tennessee	9	24.3%	37	5	13.51%	37	3	10.00%	30
Texas	6	17.1%	35	6	18.18%	33	4	13.33%	30
Upper New York	1	5.9%	17	1	6.25%	16	0	0.00%	12
Virginia	5	16.7%	30	6	18.75%	32	6	17.65%	34
West Michigan	1	14.3%	7	1	14.29%	7	0	0.00%	6
West Ohio	3	9.7%	31	5	15.63%	32	3	11.54%	26
West Virginia	0	0.0%	12	0	0.00%	11	0	0.00%	10
Western North Carolina	8	12.3%	65	8	12.90%	62	5	8.77%	57
Western Pennsylvania	3	42.9%	7	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%	6
Wisconsin	0	0.0%	8	0	0.00%	9	0	0.00%	10
Yellowstone	0	0.0%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0
Total	124	12.3%	1008	113	11.27%	1,003	90	9.43%	954

Deacons

Presence of Deacons under 35 by 2017 Percentage 2015-2017

CONFERENCE	2017 Deacons under 35	2017 Deacons under 35	2017 Deacons	2016 Deacons under 35	2016 Deacons under 35	2016 Deacons	2015 Deacons under 35	2015 Deacons under 35	2015 Deacons
Western Pennsylvania	3	42.9%	7	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%	6
South Georgia	6	40.0%	15	5	33.33%	15	3	25.00%	12
North Carolina	8	33.3%	24	5	20.83%	24	3	14.29%	21
South Carolina	7	33.3%	21	7	30.43%	23	6	26.09%	23
Holston	3	25.0%	12	2	16.67%	12	2	16.67%	12
Peninsula-Delaware	1	25.0%	4	1	33.33%	3	1	33.33%	3
Tennessee	9	24.3%	37	5	13.51%	37	3	10.00%	30
Mississippi	4	20.0%	20	3	15.00%	20	1	4.55%	22
New England	1	20.0%	5	1	25.00%	4	1	25.00%	4
North Georgia	12	17.9%	67	10	15.15%	66	8	11.76%	68
Texas	6	17.1%	35	6	18.18%	33	4	13.33%	30
Virginia	5	16.7%	30	6	18.75%	32	6	17.65%	34
Indiana	2	15.4%	13	2	13.33%	15	4	26.67%	15
Dakotas	1	14.3%	7	1	14.29%	7	1	16.67%	6
Illinois Great Rivers	2	14.3%	14	2	15.38%	13	2	14.29%	14
West Michigan	1	14.3%	7	1	14.29%	7	0	0.00%	6
North Texas	5	13.2%	38	5	12.82%	39	3	8.11%	37
Rio Texas	3	13.0%	23	3	12.50%	24	3	13.04%	23
Arkansas	2	12.5%	16	0	0.00%	12	0	0.00%	10
East Ohio	2	12.5%	16	2	14.29%	14	2	12.50%	16
New York	1	12.5%	8	0	0.00%	7	0	0.00%	5
Western North Carolina	8	12.3%	65	8	12.90%	62	5	8.77%	57
Florida	4	12.1%	33	2	6.45%	31	3	9.68%	31
Detroit	2	11.8%	17	2	11.76%	17	3	17.65%	17
North Alabama	2	11.8%	17	1	7.14%	14	1	7.69%	13
Eastern Pennsylvania	2	11.1%	18	1	5.56%	18	1	5.56%	18
Central Texas	3	10.7%	28	4	14.81%	27	3	12.50%	24
West Ohio	3	9.7%	31	5	15.63%	32	3	11.54%	26

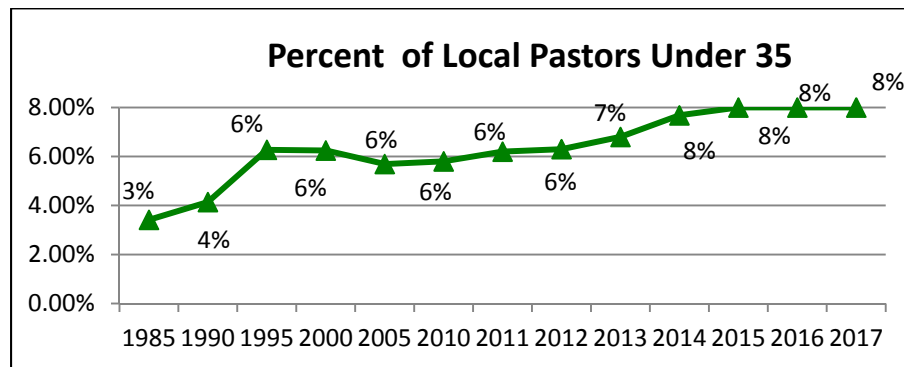
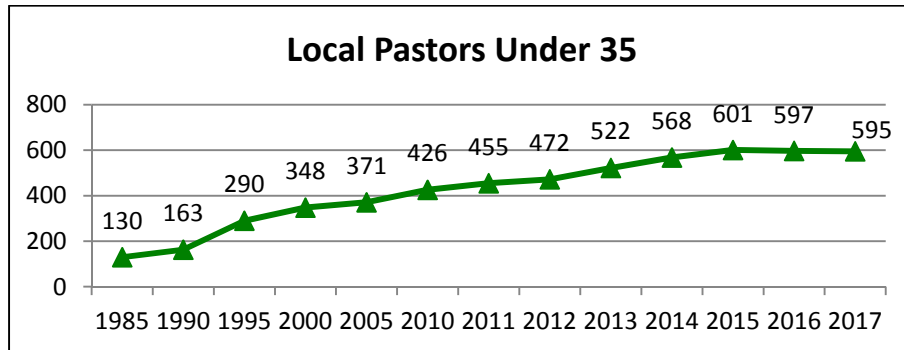
Deacons

Presence of Deacons under 35 by 2017 Percentage 2015-2017, continued

CONFERENCE	2017 Deacons under 35	2017 Deacons under 35	2017 Deacons	2016 Deacons under 35	2016 Deacons under 35	2016 Deacons	2015 Deacons under 35	2015 Deacons under 35	2015 Deacons
Kentucky	2	9.1%	22	4	16.00%	25	2	8.70%	23
Missouri	2	9.1%	22	4	16.67%	24	4	16.67%	24
Great Plains	2	8.3%	24	2	8.70%	23	2	9.52%	21
Alabama-West Florida	3	7.9%	38	3	8.11%	37	1	3.03%	33
Northern Illinois	2	6.7%	30	2	6.90%	29	1	4.17%	24
Minnesota	1	6.3%	16	1	6.25%	16	0	0.00%	15
Upper New York	1	5.9%	17	1	6.25%	16	0	0.00%	12
Louisiana	1	5.3%	19	2	9.09%	22	3	13.64%	22
Oklahoma	1	3.8%	26	1	3.23%	31	1	3.33%	30
Rocky Mountain	1	3.2%	31	2	6.90%	29	1	2.94%	34
Alaska Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0
Baltimore-Washington	0	0.0%	23	0	0.00%	21	0	0.00%	20
California-Nevada	0	0.0%	10	0	0.00%	10	0	0.00%	9
California-Pacific	0	0.0%	15	0	0.00%	15	0	0.00%	15
Desert Southwest	0	0.0%	7	0	0.00%	9	0	0.00%	9
Greater New Jersey	0	0.0%	14	0	0.00%	15	1	8.33%	12
Iowa	0	0.0%	12	0	0.00%	12	1	9.09%	11
Memphis	0	0.0%	10	0	0.00%	9	0	0.00%	9
New Mexico	0	0.0%	5	0	0.00%	6	0	0.00%	6
Northwest Texas	0	0.0%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	1
Oregon-Idaho	0	0.0%	0	0	0.00%	11	0	0.00%	11
Pacific Northwest	0	0.0%	4	1	20.00%	5	1	20.00%	5
Red Bird Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0
Susquehanna	0	0.0%	4	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%	5
West Virginia	0	0.0%	12	0	0.00%	11	0	0.00%	10
Wisconsin	0	0.0%	8	0	0.00%	9	0	0.00%	10
Yellowstone	0	0.0%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0
Total	124	12.3%	1,008	113	11.27%	1,003	90	9.43%	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 1985-2017

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%
2017	7,512	595	8%	2,544	34%	4,373	58%

**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
2017	57	54.1	62

* 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
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%
2017	Men	78%	71%	65%
	Women	22%	29%	35%

Local Pastors under 35 by Jurisdictions

Jurisdiction	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
North Central	70	56	49	57	62	70	75	87	98	114	112	114
Northeastern	42	44	53	91	79	70	72	85	81	108	119	125
South Central	91	93	90	99	99	98	96	99	116	113	115	122
Southeastern	143	164	158	130	171	201	203	221	246	245	227	210
Western	17	19	17	20	15	16	26	30	27	21	24	24
Total	363	376	367	397	426	455	472	522	568	601	597	595

Local Pastors

Presence of Local Pastors under 35 by Annual Conference 2015-2017

CONFERENCE NAME	2017 Local Pastors under 35	2017 Local Pastors under 35	2017 Local Pastors	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
Alabama-West Florida	11	7.33%	150	11	6.83%	161	10	6.49%	154
Alaska Missionary	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%	5
Arkansas	6	4.92%	122	0	0.00%	112	1	0.85%	118
Baltimore-Washington	13	11.93%	109	11	10.58%	104	12	10.71%	112
California-Nevada	3	6.82%	44	1	2.44%	41	4	7.55%	53
California-Pacific	9	9.89%	91	8	8.42%	95	5	5.81%	86
Central Texas	9	16.07%	56	8	12.70%	63	11	15.71%	70
Dakotas	8	14.04%	57	7	13.46%	52	6	12.77%	47
Desert Southwest	1	3.03%	33	4	11.11%	36	1	3.23%	31
Detroit	8	7.92%	101	5	4.90%	102	7	6.93%	101
East Ohio	18	7.76%	232	18	7.86%	229	18	7.53%	239
Eastern Pennsylvania	5	5.10%	98	5	5.00%	100	5	4.76%	105
Florida	10	5.85%	171	8	4.60%	174	12	6.78%	177
Great Plains	19	7.54%	252	17	7.11%	239	12	5.33%	225
Greater New Jersey	16	10.74%	149	12	7.95%	151	16	10.46%	153
Holston	5	4.20%	119	5	4.07%	123	8	6.06%	132
Illinois Great Rivers	18	10.00%	180	20	11.49%	174	20	11.11%	180
Indiana	13	6.47%	201	14	8.14%	172	14	8.48%	165
Iowa	6	3.80%	158	7	4.38%	160	9	5.42%	166
Kentucky	27	11.49%	235	29	12.83%	226	26	11.87%	219
Louisiana	8	6.50%	123	5	4.10%	122	5	3.70%	135
Memphis	4	4.21%	95	2	2.25%	89	5	5.49%	91
Minnesota	6	8.96%	67	9	13.64%	66	5	10.00%	50
Mississippi	8	3.23%	248	8	3.31%	242	11	4.47%	246
Missouri	18	7.47%	241	25	10.33%	242	21	8.43%	249
New England	9	7.14%	126	10	7.87%	127	11	8.53%	129
New Mexico	1	5.00%	20	0	0.00%	20	0	0.00%	18
New York	1	1.75%	57	5	8.93%	56	4	7.55%	53

Local Pastors

Presence of Local Pastors under 35 by Annual Conference 2015-2017, continued

CONFERENCE NAME	2017 Local Pastors under 35	2017 Local Pastors under 35	2017 Local Pastors	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
North Alabama	19	7.95%	239	17	7.20%	236	21	8.20%	256
North Carolina	36	13.19%	273	42	15.44%	272	41	14.70%	279
North Georgia	26	9.42%	276	23	8.36%	275	22	7.75%	284
North Texas	9	8.26%	109	9	8.33%	108	12	10.81%	111
Northern Illinois	4	7.02%	57	6	10.34%	58	6	10.71%	56
Northwest Texas	4	5.63%	71	4	5.63%	71	4	6.15%	65
Oklahoma	13	9.49%	137	17	12.32%	138	15	11.11%	135
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.00%	15	1	6.67%	15	1	5.00%	20
Oregon-Idaho	0	0.00%	19	1	4.76%	21	2	11.11%	18
Pacific Northwest	7	14.58%	48	7	13.46%	52	6	12.00%	50
Peninsula-Delaware	4	3.54%	113	8	7.69%	104	7	6.93%	101
Red Bird Missionary	1	14.29%	7	0	0.00%	7	0	0.00%	7
Rio Texas	8	5.48%	146	8	6.35%	126	13	10.74%	121
Rocky Mountain	1	2.08%	48	1	1.92%	52	1	1.89%	53
South Carolina	11	4.64%	237	14	6.45%	217	13	6.34%	205
South Georgia	11	8.40%	131	15	11.81%	127	15	11.45%	131
Susquehanna	37	18.14%	204	28	13.93%	201	19	9.50%	200
Tennessee	8	4.32%	185	13	6.81%	191	15	8.24%	182
Texas	27	16.67%	162	21	13.64%	154	18	11.69%	154
Upper New York	17	7.66%	222	12	5.43%	221	10	4.33%	231
Virginia	19	6.51%	292	20	6.97%	287	19	6.64%	286
West Michigan	6	6.82%	88	5	5.15%	97	3	3.09%	97
West Ohio	19	10.61%	179	15	9.55%	157	19	11.66%	163
West Virginia	8	4.08%	196	7	3.45%	203	7	3.37%	208
Western North Carolina	14	6.54%	214	20	8.89%	225	27	11.16%	242
Western Pennsylvania	15	8.33%	180	21	10.77%	195	17	9.55%	178
Wisconsin	8	7.92%	101	6	6.45%	93	7	7.07%	99
Yellowstone	3	13.04%	23	2	9.09%	22	2	8.70%	23
Total	595	7.92%	7,512	597	8.06%	7,408	601	8.05%	7,464

Local Pastors

Presence of Local Pastors under 35 by 2017 Percentage 2015-2017

CONFERENCE NAME	2017 Local Pastors under 35	2017 Local Pastors under 35	2017 Local Pastors	2016 Local Pastors under 35	2016 Local Pastors under 35	2016 Local Pastors	2015 Local Pastors under 35	2015 Local Pastors under 35	2014 Local Pastors
Susquehanna	37	18.14%	204	28	13.93%	201	19	9.50%	200
Texas	27	16.67%	162	21	13.64%	154	18	11.69%	154
Central Texas	9	16.07%	56	8	12.70%	63	11	15.71%	70
Pacific Northwest	7	14.58%	48	7	13.46%	52	6	12.00%	50
Red Bird Missionary	1	14.29%	7	0	0.00%	7	0	0.00%	7
Dakotas	8	14.04%	57	7	13.46%	52	6	12.77%	47
North Carolina	36	13.19%	273	42	15.44%	272	41	14.70%	279
Yellowstone	3	13.04%	23	2	9.09%	22	2	8.70%	23
Baltimore-Washington	13	11.93%	109	11	10.58%	104	12	10.71%	112
Kentucky	27	11.49%	235	29	12.83%	226	26	11.87%	219
Greater New Jersey	16	10.74%	149	12	7.95%	151	16	10.46%	153
West Ohio	19	10.61%	179	15	9.55%	157	19	11.66%	163
Illinois Great Rivers	18	10.00%	180	20	11.49%	174	20	11.11%	180
California-Pacific	9	9.89%	91	8	8.42%	95	5	5.81%	86
Oklahoma	13	9.49%	137	17	12.32%	138	15	11.11%	135
North Georgia	26	9.42%	276	23	8.36%	275	22	7.75%	284
Minnesota	6	8.96%	67	9	13.64%	66	5	10.00%	50
South Georgia	11	8.40%	131	15	11.81%	127	15	11.45%	131
Western Pennsylvania	15	8.33%	180	21	10.77%	195	17	9.55%	178
North Texas	9	8.26%	109	9	8.33%	108	12	10.81%	111
North Alabama	19	7.95%	239	17	7.20%	236	21	8.20%	256
Detroit	8	7.92%	101	5	4.90%	102	7	6.93%	101
Wisconsin	8	7.92%	101	6	6.45%	93	7	7.07%	99
East Ohio	18	7.76%	232	18	7.86%	229	18	7.53%	239
Upper New York	17	7.66%	222	12	5.43%	221	10	4.33%	231
Great Plains	19	7.54%	252	17	7.11%	239	12	5.33%	225
Missouri	18	7.47%	241	25	10.33%	242	21	8.43%	249
Alabama-West Florida	11	7.33%	150	11	6.83%	161	10	6.49%	154

Local Pastors

Presence of Local Pastors under 35 by 2017 Percentage 2017-2015, continued

CONFERENCE NAME	2017 Local Pastors under 35	2017 Local Pastors under 35	2017 Local Pastors	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
New England	9	7.14%	126	10	7.87%	127	11	8.53%	129
Northern Illinois	4	7.02%	57	6	10.34%	58	6	10.71%	56
California-Nevada	3	6.82%	44	1	2.44%	41	4	7.55%	53
West Michigan	6	6.82%	88	5	5.15%	97	3	3.09%	97
Western North Carolina	14	6.54%	214	20	8.89%	225	27	11.16%	242
Virginia	19	6.51%	292	20	6.97%	287	19	6.64%	286
Louisiana	8	6.50%	123	5	4.10%	122	5	3.70%	135
Indiana	13	6.47%	201	14	8.14%	172	14	8.48%	165
Florida	10	5.85%	171	8	4.60%	174	12	6.78%	177
Northwest Texas	4	5.63%	71	4	5.63%	71	4	6.15%	65
Rio Texas	8	5.48%	146	8	6.35%	126	13	10.74%	121
Eastern Pennsylvania	5	5.10%	98	5	5.00%	100	5	4.76%	105
New Mexico	1	5.00%	20	0	0.00%	20	0	0.00%	18
Arkansas	6	4.92%	122	0	0.00%	112	1	0.85%	118
South Carolina	11	4.64%	237	14	6.45%	217	13	6.34%	205
Tennessee	8	4.32%	185	13	6.81%	191	15	8.24%	182
Memphis	4	4.21%	95	2	2.25%	89	5	5.49%	91
Holston	5	4.20%	119	5	4.07%	123	8	6.06%	132
West Virginia	8	4.08%	196	7	3.45%	203	7	3.37%	208
Iowa	6	3.80%	158	7	4.38%	160	9	5.42%	166
Peninsula-Delaware	4	3.54%	113	8	7.69%	104	7	6.93%	101
Mississippi	8	3.23%	248	8	3.31%	242	11	4.47%	246
Desert Southwest	1	3.03%	33	4	11.11%	36	1	3.23%	31
Rocky Mountain	1	2.08%	48	1	1.92%	52	1	1.89%	53
New York	1	1.75%	57	5	8.93%	56	4	7.55%	53
Alaska Missionary	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%	5
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.00%	15	1	6.67%	15	1	5.00%	20
Oregon-Idaho	0	0.00%	19	1	4.76%	21	2	11.11%	18
Total	595	7.92%	7,512	597	8.06%	7,408	601	8.05%	7,464

Annual Conference Clergy by Age Group – Numeric

CONFERENCE	Deacons				Elders				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	3	17	18	38	13	86	111	210	11	60	79	150
Alaska Missionary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	5
Arkansas	2	1	13	16	26	98	107	231	6	41	75	122
Baltimore-Washington	0	8	15	23	23	129	212	364	13	26	70	109
California-Nevada	0	4	6	10	13	71	155	239	3	18	23	44
California-Pacific	0	5	10	15	7	114	184	305	9	37	45	91
Central Texas	3	15	10	28	17	89	115	221	9	19	28	56
Dakotas	1	4	2	7	12	41	67	120	8	22	27	57
Desert Southwest	0	1	6	7	5	38	60	103	1	13	19	33
Detroit	2	9	6	17	13	70	121	204	8	30	63	101
East Ohio	2	9	5	16	19	89	164	272	18	75	139	232
Eastern Pennsylvania	2	7	9	18	7	69	148	224	5	25	68	98
Florida	4	14	15	33	29	169	199	397	10	63	98	171
Great Plains	2	6	16	24	30	131	217	378	19	86	147	252
Greater New Jersey	0	4	10	14	13	106	169	288	16	56	77	149
Holston	3	3	6	12	27	133	142	302	5	29	85	119
Illinois Great Rivers	2	7	5	14	16	94	184	294	18	41	121	180
Indiana	2	7	4	13	32	155	265	452	13	63	125	201
Iowa	0	7	5	12	20	96	177	293	6	43	109	158
Kentucky	2	5	15	22	22	96	131	249	27	100	108	235
Louisiana	1	4	14	19	17	67	96	180	8	36	79	123
Memphis	0	5	5	10	6	52	78	136	4	34	57	95
Minnesota	1	5	10	16	9	64	104	177	6	29	32	67
Mississippi	4	7	9	20	28	143	149	320	8	88	152	248
Missouri	2	11	9	22	19	104	152	275	18	99	124	241
New England	1	1	3	5	7	89	121	217	9	45	72	126
New Mexico	0	3	2	5	3	27	52	82	1	7	12	20
New York	1	3	4	8	9	94	187	290	1	22	34	57

Annual Conference Clergy by Age Group – Numeric (continued)

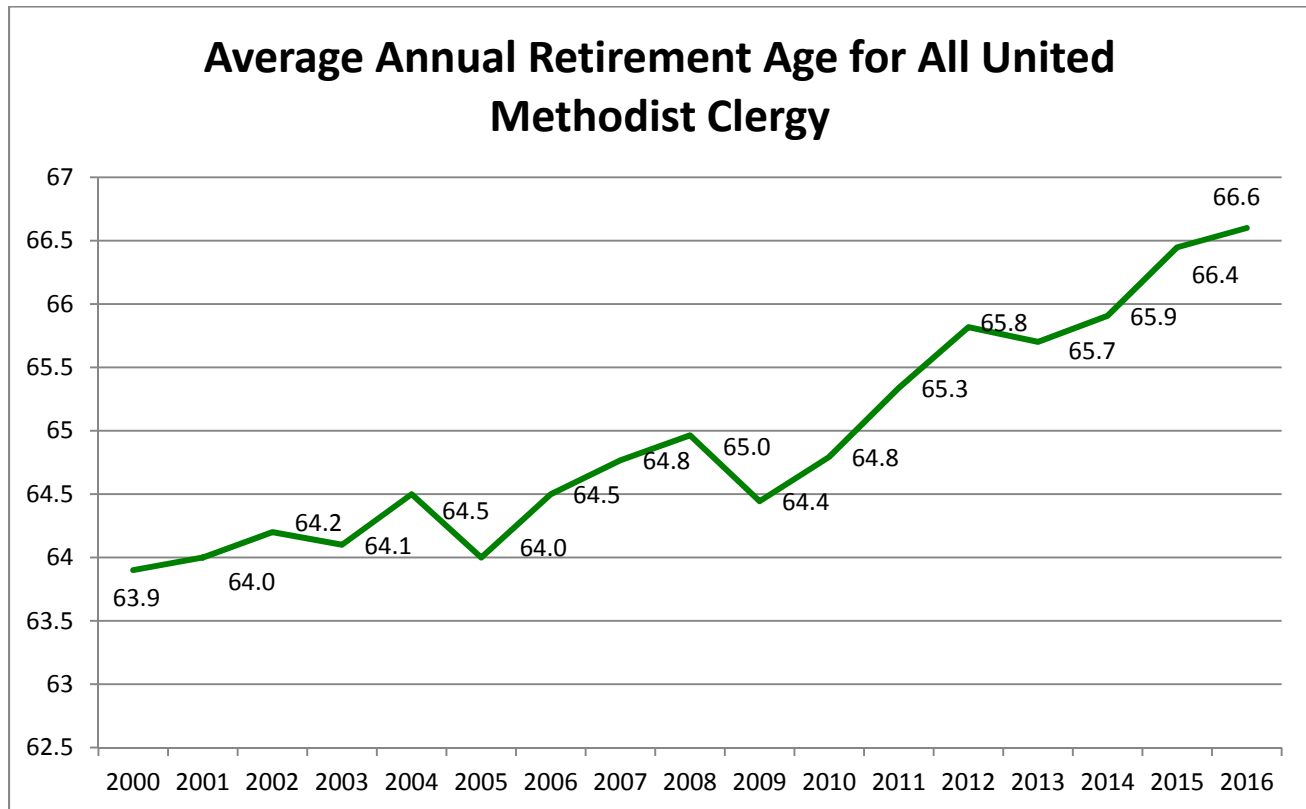
CONFERENCE	Deacons				Elders				Local Pastors			
	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72	Total	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72	Total	Under 35	35 to 54	55 to 72	Total
North Alabama	2	9	6	17	27	118	134	279	19	84	136	239
North Carolina	8	8	8	24	39	129	212	380	36	103	134	273
North Georgia	12	27	28	67	34	187	266	487	26	96	154	276
North Texas	5	17	16	38	19	99	135	253	9	40	60	109
Northern Illinois	2	14	14	30	14	124	145	283	4	22	31	57
Northwest Texas	0	0	0	0	5	42	46	93	4	22	45	71
Oklahoma	1	12	13	26	17	119	163	299	13	52	72	137
OK Indian Mission	0	0	0	0		3	10	13	0	5	10	15
Oregon-Idaho	0	5	6	11	1	32	57	90	0	8	11	19
Pacific Northwest	0	1	3	4	11	62	77	150	7	17	24	48
Peninsula-Delaware	1	1	2	4	7	39	84	130	4	31	78	113
Red Bird Mission	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	4	7
Rio Texas	3	8	12	23	11	99	145	255	8	61	77	146
Rocky Mountain	1	7	23	31	9	80	88	177	1	25	22	48
South Carolina	7	8	6	21	34	141	224	399	11	63	163	237
South Georgia	6	6	3	15	12	98	110	220	11	54	66	131
Susquehanna	0	1	3	4	12	80	160	252	37	60	107	204
Tennessee	9	13	15	37	16	77	98	191	8	72	105	185
Texas	6	16	13	35	48	171	213	432	27	46	89	162
Upper New York	1	6	10	17	9	85	178	274	17	63	142	222
Virginia	5	14	11	30	56	236	304	596	19	87	186	292
West Michigan	1	2	4	7	5	45	106	156	6	26	56	88
West Ohio	3	15	13	31	29	193	288	510	19	73	87	179
West Virginia	0	6	6	12	12	68	115	195	8	53	135	196
West. North Carolina	8	29	28	65	55	255	356	666	14	78	122	214
West. Pennsylvania	3	2	2	7	16	100	186	302	15	50	115	180
Wisconsin	0	5	3	8	9	70	132	211	8	37	56	101
Yellowstone	0	0	0	0	1	7	28	36	3	5	15	23
Total	124	404	480	1,008	950	5,273	7,927	14,152	595	2,544	4,373	7,512

Annual Conference Clergy by Age Group – Percentage

CONFERENCE	Deacons			Elders			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	7.9%	44.7%	47.4%	6.2%	41.0%	52.9%	7.3%	40.0%	52.7%
Alaska Mission	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	40.0%	60.0%
Arkansas	12.5%	6.3%	81.3%	11.3%	42.4%	46.3%	4.9%	33.6%	61.5%
Baltimore-Washington	0.0%	34.8%	65.2%	6.3%	35.4%	58.2%	11.9%	23.9%	64.2%
California-Nevada	0.0%	40.0%	60.0%	5.4%	29.7%	64.9%	6.8%	40.9%	52.3%
California-Pacific	0.0%	33.3%	66.7%	2.3%	37.4%	60.3%	9.9%	40.7%	49.5%
Central Texas	10.7%	53.6%	35.7%	7.7%	40.3%	52.0%	16.1%	33.9%	50.0%
Dakotas	14.3%	57.1%	28.6%	10.0%	34.2%	55.8%	14.0%	38.6%	47.4%
Desert Southwest	0.0%	14.3%	85.7%	4.9%	36.9%	58.3%	3.0%	39.4%	57.6%
Detroit	11.8%	52.9%	35.3%	6.4%	34.3%	59.3%	7.9%	29.7%	62.4%
East Ohio	12.5%	56.3%	31.3%	7.0%	32.7%	60.3%	7.8%	32.3%	59.9%
Eastern Pennsylvania	11.1%	38.9%	50.0%	3.1%	30.8%	66.1%	5.1%	25.5%	69.4%
Florida	12.1%	42.4%	45.5%	7.3%	42.6%	50.1%	5.8%	36.8%	57.3%
Great Plains	8.3%	25.0%	66.7%	7.9%	34.7%	57.4%	7.5%	34.1%	58.3%
Greater New Jersey	0.0%	28.6%	71.4%	4.5%	36.8%	58.7%	10.7%	37.6%	51.7%
Holston	25.0%	25.0%	50.0%	8.9%	44.0%	47.0%	4.2%	24.4%	71.4%
Illinois Great Rivers	14.3%	50.0%	35.7%	5.4%	32.0%	62.6%	10.0%	22.8%	67.2%
Indiana	15.4%	53.8%	30.8%	7.1%	34.3%	58.6%	6.5%	31.3%	62.2%
Iowa	0.0%	58.3%	41.7%	6.8%	32.8%	60.4%	3.8%	27.2%	69.0%
Kentucky	9.1%	22.7%	68.2%	8.8%	38.6%	52.6%	11.5%	42.6%	46.0%
Louisiana	5.3%	21.1%	73.7%	9.4%	37.2%	53.3%	6.5%	29.3%	64.2%
Memphis	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	4.4%	38.2%	57.4%	4.2%	35.8%	60.0%
Minnesota	6.3%	31.3%	62.5%	5.1%	36.2%	58.8%	9.0%	43.3%	47.8%
Mississippi	20.0%	35.0%	45.0%	8.8%	44.7%	46.6%	3.2%	35.5%	61.3%
Missouri	9.1%	50.0%	40.9%	6.9%	37.8%	55.3%	7.5%	41.1%	51.5%
New England	20.0%	20.0%	60.0%	3.2%	41.0%	55.8%	7.1%	35.7%	57.1%
New Mexico	0.0%	60.0%	40.0%	3.7%	32.9%	63.4%	5.0%	35.0%	60.0%
New York	12.5%	37.5%	50.0%	3.1%	32.4%	64.5%	1.8%	38.6%	59.6%

Annual Conference Clergy by Age Group – Percentage (continued)

CONFERENCE	Deacons			Elders			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	11.8%	52.9%	35.3%	9.7%	42.3%	48.0%	7.9%	35.1%	56.9%
North Carolina	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	10.3%	33.9%	55.8%	13.2%	37.7%	49.1%
North Georgia	17.9%	40.3%	41.8%	7.0%	38.4%	54.6%	9.4%	34.8%	55.8%
North Texas	13.2%	44.7%	42.1%	7.5%	39.1%	53.4%	8.3%	36.7%	55.0%
Northern Illinois	6.7%	46.7%	46.7%	4.9%	43.8%	51.2%	7.0%	38.6%	54.4%
Northwest Texas	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.4%	45.2%	49.5%	5.6%	31.0%	63.4%
Oklahoma	3.8%	46.2%	50.0%	5.7%	39.8%	54.5%	9.5%	38.0%	52.6%
OK Indian Mission	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	23.1%	76.9%	0.0%	33.3%	66.7%
Oregon-Idaho	0.0%	45.5%	54.5%	1.1%	35.6%	63.3%	0.0%	42.1%	57.9%
Pacific Northwest	0.0%	25.0%	75.0%	7.3%	41.3%	51.3%	14.6%	35.4%	50.0%
Peninsula-Delaware	25.0%	25.0%	50.0%	5.4%	30.0%	64.6%	3.5%	27.4%	69.0%
Red Bird Mission	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	14.3%	28.6%	57.1%
Rio Texas	13.0%	34.8%	52.2%	4.3%	38.8%	56.9%	5.5%	41.8%	52.7%
Rocky Mountain	3.2%	22.6%	74.2%	5.1%	45.2%	49.7%	2.1%	52.1%	45.8%
South Carolina	33.3%	38.1%	28.6%	8.5%	35.3%	56.1%	4.6%	26.6%	68.8%
South Georgia	40.0%	40.0%	20.0%	5.5%	44.5%	50.0%	8.4%	41.2%	50.4%
Susquehanna	0.0%	25.0%	75.0%	4.8%	31.7%	63.5%	18.1%	29.4%	52.5%
Tennessee	24.3%	35.1%	40.5%	8.4%	40.3%	51.3%	4.3%	38.9%	56.8%
Texas	17.1%	45.7%	37.1%	11.1%	39.6%	49.3%	16.7%	28.4%	54.9%
Upper New York	5.9%	35.3%	58.8%	3.3%	31.0%	65.0%	7.7%	28.4%	64.0%
Virginia	16.7%	46.7%	36.7%	9.4%	39.6%	51.0%	6.5%	29.8%	63.7%
West Michigan	14.3%	28.6%	57.1%	3.2%	28.8%	67.9%	6.8%	29.5%	63.6%
West Ohio	9.7%	48.4%	41.9%	5.7%	37.8%	56.5%	10.6%	40.8%	48.6%
West Virginia	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	6.2%	34.9%	59.0%	4.1%	27.0%	68.9%
West. North Carolina	12.3%	44.6%	43.1%	8.3%	38.3%	53.5%	6.5%	36.4%	57.0%
West. Pennsylvania	42.9%	28.6%	28.6%	5.3%	33.1%	61.6%	8.3%	27.8%	63.9%
Wisconsin	0.0%	62.5%	37.5%	4.3%	33.2%	62.6%	7.9%	36.6%	55.4%
Yellowstone	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.8%	19.4%	77.8%	13.0%	21.7%	65.2%



Average Retirement Ages

	2005	2016
Elders	64	66
Deacons	64	67
Full Time Local Pastors	65	67
Part-Time Local Pastors	67	70

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 six, 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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