

A Lewis Center Report on  
**Clergy Age Trends in the  
United Methodist Church**  
2018 Report

Elders • Deacons • Local Pastors

**2018 Report**  
**Lewis Center for Church Leadership**  
Wesley Theological Seminary



Lewis Center  
for Church Leadership

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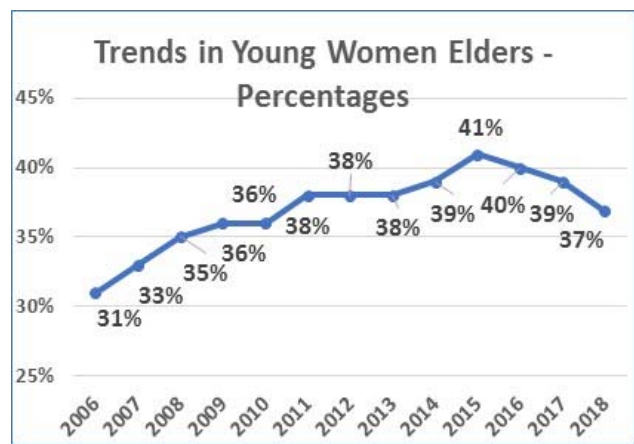
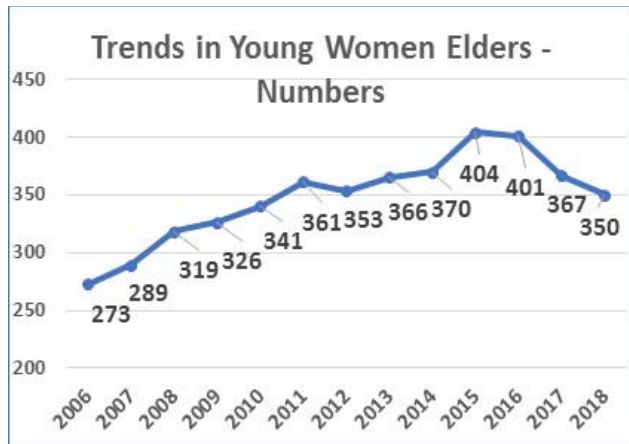
## Highlights of the 2018 Report

### Number of Young Elders Holds Steady at Somewhat Lower Level

After three consecutive years of growth, the number of elders under 35 declined in 2017 and 2018. 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 2018, there are 949 young elders that comprise 6.94 percent of the pool of active elders. Despite the decline by 54 young elders in the past two years, their relative percentage actually grew slightly because of the continuing decline in the total number of elders.

### Decline in Young Women Elders Continues for Third Year

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. This year marks the third consecutive year in which both the numbers of under-35 female elders and their percentage of all young elders have declined. These charts show the trends.



### 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. 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 2018. There are 483 fewer elders and 26 more local pastors in 2018 than in 2017. The result is that since 1990 there are 7,838 fewer elders and 3,602 more local pastors. In 1990, there were over five elders for each local pastor; today there are fewer than two elders for each local pastor. In 2018, there are 13,669 elders and 7,538 local pastors.

### Age of Retirement Declines Slightly

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 average retirement age had increased to just over 66.6. However, the average retirement age across all clergy categories in 2017, the last full year of data, declined to 66.2. The retirement ages for different types of clergy are similar but not the same. For example, in 2017 the retirement ages were: elders—66, deacons—67, full time local pastors—67, 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 2018.

This report is made possible through partnership with the denominational pension agency, Wespeth Benefits (WB). 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 cohorts of young clergy to provide advanced leader development.

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 - <https://www.churchleadership.com/to-the-point/to-the-point-why-young-clergy-matter/>
- Ways Established Church Leaders Can Work with Young Clergy - <https://www.churchleadership.com/to-the-point/to-the-point-ways-established-church-leaders-can-work-with-young-clergy/>
- Suggestions for Churches with a Young Pastor - <https://www.churchleadership.com/to-the-point/to-the-point-suggestions-for-churches-with-a-young-pastor/>
- Suggestions for Churches with a Single Pastor - <https://www.churchleadership.com/to-the-point/to-the-point-suggestions-for-churches-with-a-single-pastor/>
- Suggestions for Churches with a Clergywoman - <https://www.churchleadership.com/to-the-point/to-the-point-suggestions-for-churches-with-a-clergywoman/>

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

### Contributors

Lovett H. Weems, Jr., senior consultant of the Lewis Center for Church Leadership, was project director. F. Douglas Powe, Jr., director of the Lewis Center; Ann A. Michel, associate director; Matthew Lyons, marketing manager; and Reina Villanueva, media specialist; 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 by just one after a substantial decline last year. The numbers for the three most recent years are: 2016 – 1,003, 2017 – 950, and 2018 – 949.
- The percentage of young elders increased (6.94 percent compared to 6.71 percent in 2017) since the total pool of active elders continued to decline.
- The Arkansas Conference reported the highest percentage of young elders at 10.91 percent.
- The Top Ten Conferences by percentage
  - Arkansas (also #1 in 2017, 2008 and 2007)
  - Dakotas
  - Kentucky
  - North Alabama
  - Louisiana
  - North Carolina
  - North Texas (new since last report)
  - Virginia
  - Texas (#1 in 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2012)
  - Tennessee (new since last report)
- 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 with the second highest percentage at 10.71. 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 (54).

#### Young Deacons

- The number of under-35 deacons remained the same in 2018 at 124. This is a record high number of young deacons.
- The percentage of young deacons among all active deacons increased slightly from 12.30 percent in 2017 to 12.41 percent in 2018, 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

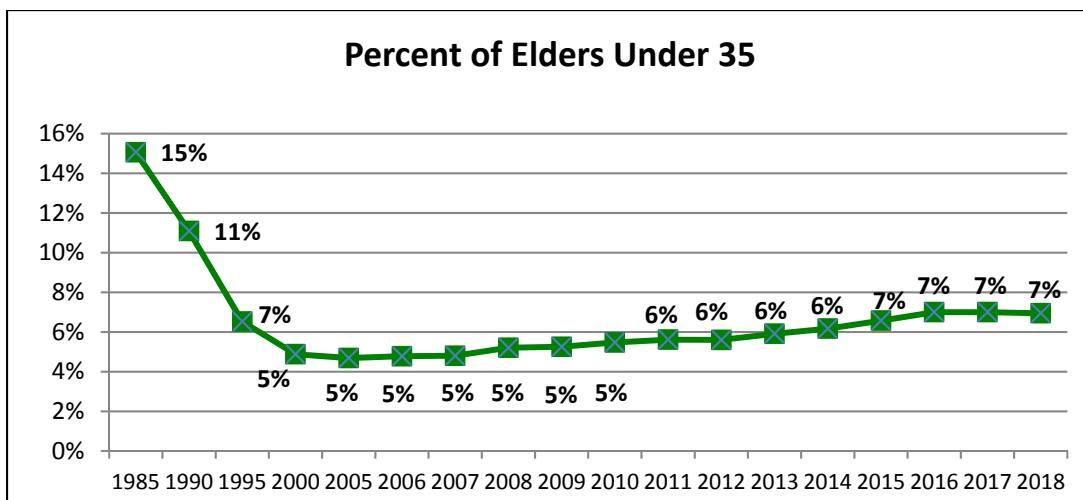
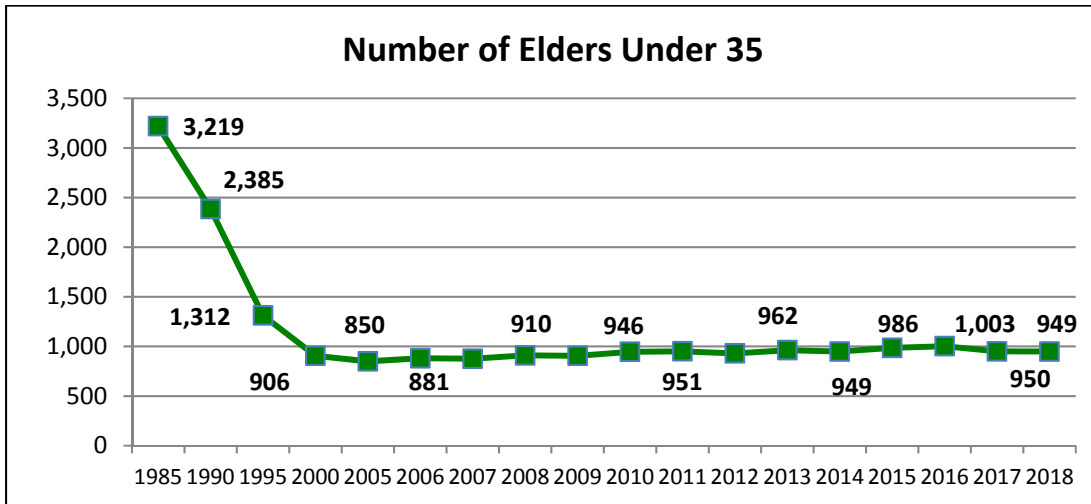
- The number of under-35 local pastors increased from 595 in 2017 to 626 in 2018.
- The percentage of young local pastors among all active local pastors stayed approximately the same, around 8 percent, in 2018.

#### Comparison to U.S. Population Ages 25-72

- Of this age range, 24 percent are 25-34 (clergy percentages: elders-7; deacons-12, local pastors-8)
- Of this age range, 42 percent are 35-54 (clergy percentages: elders-37; deacons-40, local pastors-34)
- Of this age range, 34 percent are 55-72 (clergy percentages: elders-56; deacons-48, local pastors-58)

## 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 1985-2018**

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%
2018	13,669	949	7%	5,053	37%	7,667	56%

**Gender Breakdown within  
Age Cohorts – Elders**

Year	Gender	Under 35	35-54	55-72
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%
2018	Men	63%	68%	70%
	Women	37%	32%	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
2015	56	53.4	60
2016	56	53.4	61
2017	56	53.5	61
2018	56	53.5	61

\*Median – half older, half younger

\*Mode – single age most represented

**Elders by Jurisdiction**

Jurisdiction	Elders under 35 2018	% Elders under 35 2018	Elders 35-54 2018	% Elders 35-54 2018	Elders 55-72 2018	% Elders 55-72 2018	Total Elders 2018
North Central	177	6%	998	35%	1,679	59%	2,854
Northeastern	114	5%	802	33%	1,523	62%	2,439
South Central	219	8%	1,026	39%	1,397	53%	2,642
Southeastern	391	8%	1,828	39%	2,446	53%	4,665
Western	48	5%	399	37%	622	58%	1,069
Total	949	7%	5,053	37%	7,667	56%	13,669

## 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	2018 Mean	2018 Median	2018 Mode
ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA	52.5	55	63
ALASKA MISSIONARY			
ARKANSAS	51.5	53	61
BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON	54.1	57	63
CALIFORNIA-NEVADA	55.7	59	66
CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC	55.1	57	60
CENTRAL TEXAS	51.7	55	58
DAKOTAS	52.7	56	57
DESERT SOUTHWEST	54.3	57	65
DETROIT	54.3	57	58
EAST OHIO	54.1	58	61
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA	55.9	59	61
FLORIDA	52.8	55	54
GREAT PLAINS	53.1	56	62
GREATER NEW JERSEY	54.1	57	60
HOLSTON	51.5	53	58
ILLINOIS GREAT RIVERS	54.3	58	61
INDIANA	53.6	57	63
IOWA	54.0	57	62
KENTUCKY	52.1	55	63
LOUISIANA	52.2	55	61
MEMPHIS	55.2	58	64
MINNESOTA	53.6	57	61
MISSISSIPPI	52.1	54	58
MISSOURI	52.9	56	56
NEW ENGLAND	53.9	56	56
NEW MEXICO	55.3	58	63
NEW YORK	56.1	58	60

CONFERENCE	2018 Mean	2018 Median	2018 Mode
NORTH ALABAMA	52.2	54	62
NORTH CAROLINA	52.6	56	60
NORTH GEORGIA	53.2	56	61
NORTH TEXAS	52.5	55	59
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	52.9	55	62
NORTHWEST TEXAS	53.5	55	63
OKLAHOMA	52.7	56	59
OKLAHOMA INDIAN MSNY	57.8	61	62
OREGON IDAHO	56.1	59	62
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	52.4	54	65
PENINSULA-DELAWARE	56.8	58	63
RED BIRD MISSIONARY			
RIO TEXAS	53.6	56	65
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	52.5	54	54
SOUTH CAROLINA	54.2	57	64
SOUTH GEORGIA	52.9	55	63
SUSQUEHANNA	55.3	58	61
TENNESSEE	51.4	55	64
TEXAS	51.7	55	55
UPPER NEW YORK	55.6	58	61
VIRGINIA	52.0	55	62
WEST MICHIGAN	55.5	58	61
WEST OHIO	54.1	56	61
WEST VIRGINIA	54.6	58	58
WESTERN N. CAROLINA	52.9	55	62
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA	54.4	58	60
WISCONSIN	55.0	58	61
YELLOWSTONE	54.6	58	58



**Presence of Elders under 35  
by Annual Conference  
2016-2018**

CONFERENCE	2018 Elders under 35	2018 Elders under 35	2018 Elders	2017 Elders under 35	2017 Elders under 35	2017 Elders	2016 Elders under 35	2016 Elders under 35	2016 Elders
Alabama-West Florida	18	8.5%	213	13	6.2%	210	18	8.0%	224
Alaska Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Arkansas	24	10.9%	220	26	11.3%	231	20	8.5%	236
Baltimore-Washington	22	6.1%	358	23	6.3%	364	28	7.4%	381
California-Nevada	13	5.9%	219	13	5.4%	239	13	5.3%	245
California-Pacific	7	2.2%	312	7	2.3%	305	9	2.8%	318
Central Texas	18	8.5%	213	17	7.7%	221	19	8.4%	226
Dakotas	12	10.7%	112	12	10.0%	120	13	10.4%	125
Desert Southwest	4	4.0%	101	5	4.9%	103	5	4.9%	102
Detroit	14	7.1%	198	13	6.4%	204	12	5.6%	214
East Ohio	16	6.2%	260	19	7.0%	272	19	6.6%	286
Eastern Pennsylvania	7	3.2%	218	7	3.1%	224	8	3.4%	239
Florida	31	8.0%	386	29	7.3%	397	34	8.2%	414
Great Plains	32	8.6%	373	30	7.9%	378	33	8.1%	406
Greater New Jersey	16	5.6%	284	13	4.5%	288	11	3.7%	298
Holston	22	7.5%	295	27	8.9%	302	25	8.2%	304
Illinois Great Rivers	18	6.4%	280	16	5.4%	294	15	4.9%	309
Indiana	31	7.4%	421	32	7.1%	452	26	5.7%	458
Iowa	19	6.9%	275	20	6.8%	293	26	8.3%	313
Kentucky	25	10.6%	235	22	8.8%	249	21	8.4%	249
Louisiana	18	10.2%	176	17	9.4%	180	13	6.9%	188
Memphis	8	6.0%	133	6	4.4%	136	5	3.5%	144
Minnesota	8	4.7%	169	9	5.1%	177	10	5.5%	182
Mississippi	22	7.2%	304	28	8.8%	320	37	11.3%	327
Missouri	20	7.2%	279	19	6.9%	275	14	4.9%	288
New England	8	3.9%	203	7	3.2%	217	7	3.0%	234
New Mexico	2	2.4%	83	3	3.7%	82	3	3.4%	89
New York	7	2.4%	286	9	3.1%	290	10	3.4%	295

**Presence of Elders under 35  
by Annual Conference  
2016-2018, continued**

CONFERENCE	2018 Elders under 35	2018 Elders under 35	2018 Elders	2017 Elders under 35	2017 Elders under 35	2017 Elders	2016 Elders under 35	2016 Elders under 35	2016 Elders
North Alabama	29	10.6%	274	27	9.7%	279	30	10.6%	284
North Carolina	38	10.1%	375	39	10.3%	380	36	9.2%	392
North Georgia	34	7.2%	470	34	7.0%	487	36	7.1%	506
North Texas	25	10.1%	247	19	7.5%	253	18	7.0%	256
Northern Illinois	14	5.1%	275	14	5.0%	283	20	6.8%	293
Northwest Texas	3	3.5%	85	5	5.4%	93	5	5.2%	97
Oklahoma	25	8.8%	283	0	0.0%	13	0	0.0%	16
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.0%	16	17	5.7%	299	22	7.2%	304
Oregon-Idaho	2	2.5%	81	1	1.1%	90	2	2.0%	99
Pacific Northwest	11	7.5%	147	11	7.3%	150	10	6.5%	155
Peninsula-Delaware	5	3.8%	130	7	5.4%	130	5	3.7%	137
Red Bird Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	1
Rio Texas	11	4.7%	235	11	4.3%	255	17	6.4%	266
Rocky Mountain	9	5.1%	175	9	5.1%	177	14	7.9%	177
South Carolina	29	7.5%	388	34	8.5%	399	36	8.9%	405
South Georgia	9	4.3%	211	12	5.5%	220	11	4.8%	228
Susquehanna	11	4.7%	236	12	4.8%	252	13	4.9%	265
Tennessee	16	8.9%	180	16	8.4%	191	17	8.6%	198
Texas	41	9.5%	432	48	11.1%	432	57	12.6%	452
Upper New York	11	4.3%	255	9	3.3%	274	13	4.4%	296
Virginia	56	9.8%	573	56	9.4%	596	60	9.7%	622
West Michigan	7	4.5%	154	5	3.2%	156	6	3.6%	166
West Ohio	27	5.3%	506	29	5.7%	510	26	5.1%	511
West Virginia	8	4.4%	181	12	6.2%	195	15	7.2%	208
Western North Carolina	54	8.6%	628	55	8.3%	666	58	8.5%	685
Western Pennsylvania	19	6.6%	288	16	5.3%	302	10	3.3%	301
Wisconsin	11	5.4%	204	9	4.3%	211	11	5.1%	215
Yellowstone	2	5.9%	34	1	2.8%	36	1	2.8%	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>6.94%</b>	<b>13,669</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>6.71%</b>	<b>14,150</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>6.84%</b>	<b>14,665</b>

**Presence of Elders under 35  
by 2018 Percentage  
2016-2018**

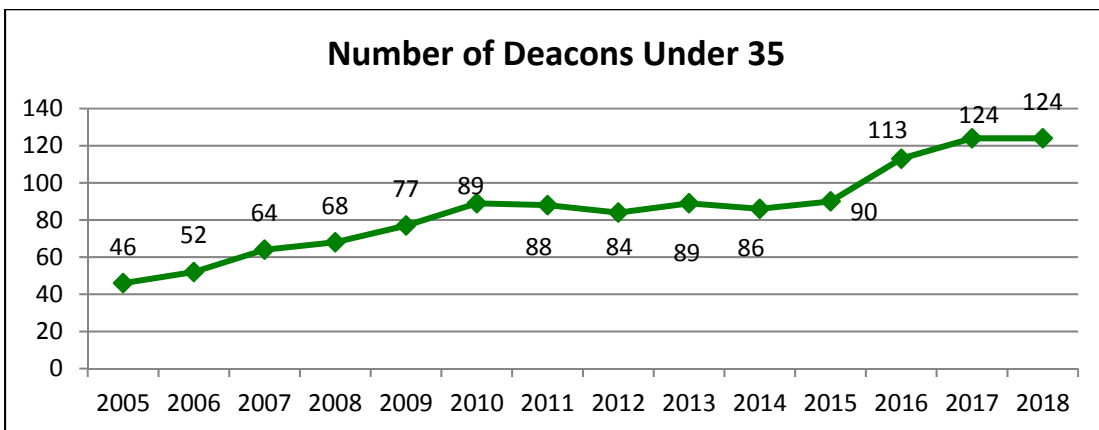
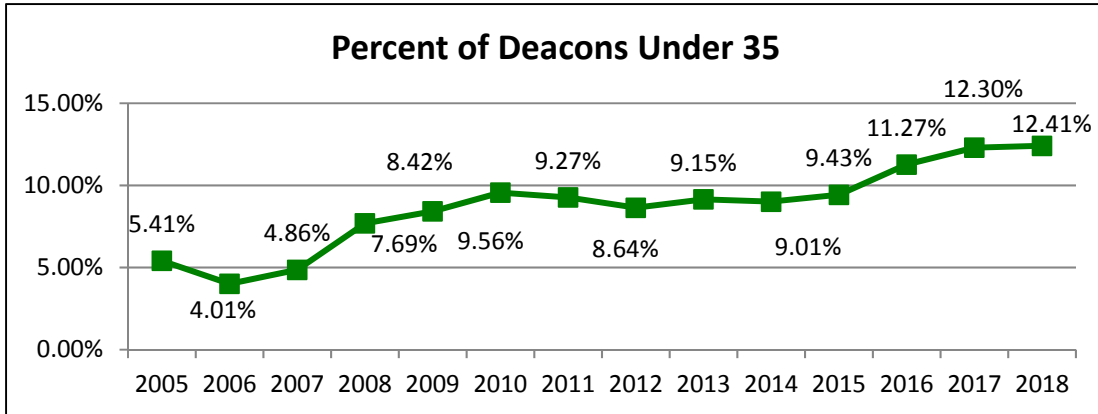
<b>CONFERENCE</b>	<b>2018 Elders under 35</b>	<b>2018 Elders under 35</b>	<b>2018 Elders</b>	<b>2017 Elders under 35</b>	<b>2017 Elders under 35</b>	<b>2017 Elders</b>	<b>2016 Elders under 35</b>	<b>2016 Elders under 35</b>	<b>2016 Elders</b>
Arkansas	24	10.9%	220	26	11.3%	231	20	8.5%	236
Dakotas	12	10.7%	112	12	10.0%	120	13	10.4%	125
Kentucky	25	10.6%	235	22	8.8%	249	21	8.4%	249
North Alabama	29	10.6%	274	27	9.7%	279	30	10.6%	284
Louisiana	18	10.2%	176	17	9.4%	180	13	6.9%	188
North Carolina	38	10.1%	375	39	10.3%	380	36	9.2%	392
North Texas	25	10.1%	247	19	7.5%	253	18	7.0%	256
Virginia	56	9.8%	573	56	9.4%	596	60	9.7%	622
Texas	41	9.5%	432	48	11.1%	432	57	12.6%	452
Tennessee	16	8.9%	180	16	8.4%	191	17	8.6%	198
Oklahoma	25	8.8%	283	17	5.7%	299	22	7.2%	304
Western North Carolina	54	8.6%	628	55	8.3%	666	58	8.5%	685
Great Plains	32	8.6%	373	30	7.9%	378	33	8.1%	406
Alabama-West Florida	18	8.5%	213	13	6.2%	210	18	8.0%	224
Central Texas	18	8.5%	213	17	7.7%	221	19	8.4%	226
Florida	31	8.0%	386	29	7.3%	397	34	8.2%	414
Pacific Northwest	11	7.5%	147	11	7.3%	150	10	6.5%	155
South Carolina	29	7.5%	388	34	8.5%	399	36	8.9%	405
Holston	22	7.5%	295	27	8.9%	302	25	8.2%	304
Indiana	31	7.4%	421	32	7.1%	452	26	5.7%	458
Mississippi	22	7.2%	304	28	8.8%	320	37	11.3%	327
North Georgia	34	7.2%	470	34	7.0%	487	36	7.1%	506
Missouri	20	7.2%	279	19	6.9%	275	14	4.9%	288
Detroit	14	7.1%	198	13	6.4%	204	12	5.6%	214
Iowa	19	6.9%	275	20	6.8%	293	26	8.3%	313
Western Pennsylvania	19	6.6%	288	16	5.3%	302	10	3.3%	301
Illinois Great Rivers	18	6.4%	280	16	5.4%	294	15	4.9%	309
East Ohio	16	6.2%	260	19	7.0%	272	19	6.6%	286

**Presence of Elders under 35  
by 2018 Percentage  
2016-2018, continued**

CONFERENCE	2018 Elders under 35	2018 Elders under 35	2018 Elders	2017 Elders under 35	2017 Elders under 35	2017 Elders	2016 Elders under 35	2016 Elders under 35	2016 Elders
Baltimore-Washington	22	6.1%	358	23	6.3%	364	28	7.4%	381
Memphis	8	6.0%	133	6	4.4%	136	5	3.5%	144
California-Nevada	13	5.9%	219	13	5.4%	239	13	5.3%	245
Yellowstone	2	5.9%	34	1	2.8%	36	1	2.8%	36
Greater New Jersey	16	5.6%	284	13	4.5%	288	11	3.7%	298
Wisconsin	11	5.4%	204	9	4.3%	211	11	5.1%	215
West Ohio	27	5.3%	506	29	5.7%	510	26	5.1%	511
Rocky Mountain	9	5.1%	175	9	5.1%	177	14	7.9%	177
Northern Illinois	14	5.1%	275	14	5.0%	283	20	6.8%	293
Minnesota	8	4.7%	169	9	5.1%	177	10	5.5%	182
Rio Texas	11	4.7%	235	11	4.3%	255	17	6.4%	266
Susquehanna	11	4.7%	236	12	4.8%	252	13	4.9%	265
West Michigan	7	4.5%	154	5	3.2%	156	6	3.6%	166
West Virginia	8	4.4%	181	12	6.2%	195	15	7.2%	208
Upper New York	11	4.3%	255	9	3.3%	274	13	4.4%	296
South Georgia	9	4.3%	211	12	5.5%	220	11	4.8%	228
Desert Southwest	4	4.0%	101	5	4.9%	103	5	4.9%	102
New England	8	3.9%	203	7	3.2%	217	7	3.0%	234
Peninsula-Delaware	5	3.8%	130	7	5.4%	130	5	3.7%	137
Northwest Texas	3	3.5%	85	5	5.4%	93	5	5.2%	97
Eastern Pennsylvania	7	3.2%	218	7	3.1%	224	8	3.4%	239
Oregon-Idaho	2	2.5%	81	1	1.1%	90	2	2.0%	99
New York	7	2.4%	286	9	3.1%	290	10	3.4%	295
New Mexico	2	2.4%	83	3	3.7%	82	3	3.4%	89
California-Pacific	7	2.2%	312	7	2.3%	305	9	2.8%	318
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.0%	16	0	0.0%	13	0	0.0%	16
Alaska Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Red Bird Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	1
	<b>949</b>	<b>6.9%</b>	<b>13,669</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>6.71%</b>	<b>14,150</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>6.84%</b>	<b>14,665</b>

## 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 2005-2018**

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%
2018	999	124	12%	399	40%	476	48%

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

<b>Year</b>	<b>Median* Age</b>	<b>Average Age</b>	<b>Mode* Age</b>
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
2018	53	51.2	62

\*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**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Under 35</b>	<b>35-54</b>	<b>55-72</b>
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%
2018	Men	20%	32%	24%
	Women	80%	68%	76%

**Deacons Under 35 by Jurisdictions**

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>
North Central	9	9	11	14	20	18	13	16	16	17	18	13	18
Northeastern	1	3	3	3	5	3	4	4	5	4	4	9	8
South Central	19	22	20	18	18	18	17	18	15	23	27	28	25
Southeastern	22	30	33	40	45	46	47	48	47	44	61	73	71
Western	3	0	1	2	1	3	3	3	3	2	3	1	2
<b>Total</b>	52	64	68	77	89	88	84	89	86	90	113	124	124

**Presence of Deacons under 35  
by Annual Conference  
2016-2018**

<b>CONFERENCE</b>	<b>2018 Deacons under 35</b>	<b>2018 Deacons under 35</b>	<b>2018 Deacons</b>	<b>2017 Deacons under 35</b>	<b>2017 Deacons under 35</b>	<b>2017 Deacons</b>	<b>2016 Deacons under 35</b>	<b>2016 Deacons under 35</b>	<b>2016 Deacons</b>
Alabama-West Florida	2	5.6%	36	3	7.9%	38	3	8.1%	37
Alaska Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Arkansas	1	9.1%	11	2	12.5%	16	0	0.0%	12
Baltimore-Washington	0	0.0%	22	0	0.0%	23	0	0.0%	21
California-Nevada	0	0.0%	9	0	0.0%	10	0	0.0%	10
California-Pacific	2	10.5%	19	0	0.0%	15	0	0.0%	15
Central Texas	4	14.3%	28	3	10.7%	28	4	14.8%	27
Dakotas	1	14.3%	7	1	14.3%	7	1	14.3%	7
Desert Southwest	0	0.0%	7	0	0.0%	7	0	0.0%	9
Detroit	1	6.3%	16	2	11.8%	17	2	11.8%	17
East Ohio	3	17.6%	17	2	12.5%	16	2	14.3%	14
Eastern Pennsylvania	2	10.5%	19	2	11.1%	18	1	5.6%	18
Florida	4	12.5%	32	4	12.1%	33	2	6.5%	31
Great Plains	2	9.1%	22	2	8.3%	24	2	8.7%	23
Greater New Jersey	0	0.0%	13	0	0.0%	14	0	0.0%	15
Holston	2	16.7%	12	3	25.0%	12	2	16.7%	12
Illinois Great Rivers	1	7.1%	14	2	14.3%	14	2	15.4%	13
Indiana	2	15.4%	13	2	15.4%	13	2	13.3%	15
Iowa	0	0.0%	12	0	0.0%	12	0	0.0%	12
Kentucky	1	5.6%	18	2	9.1%	22	4	16.0%	25
Louisiana	2	8.7%	23	1	5.3%	19	2	9.1%	22
Memphis	0	0.0%	11	0	0.0%	10	0	0.0%	9
Minnesota	1	6.7%	15	1	6.3%	16	1	6.3%	16
Mississippi	6	28.6%	21	4	20.0%	20	3	15.0%	20
Missouri	2	10.0%	20	2	9.1%	22	4	16.7%	24
New England	1	16.7%	6	1	20.0%	5	1	25.0%	4
New Mexico	0	0.0%	6	0	0.0%	5	0	0.0%	6
New York	1	16.7%	6	1	12.5%	8	0	0.0%	7

## Deacons

### Presence of Deacons under 35 by Annual Conference 2016-2018, continued

CONFERENCE	2018 Deacons under 35	2018 Deacons under 35	2018 Deacons	2017 Deacons under 35	2017 Deacons under 35	2017 Deacons	2016 Deacons under 35	2016 Deacons under 35	2016 Deacons
North Alabama	2	12.5%	16	2	11.8%	17	1	7.1%	14
North Carolina	8	29.6%	27	8	33.3%	24	5	20.8%	24
North Georgia	8	11.9%	67	12	17.9%	67	10	15.2%	66
North Texas	7	15.6%	45	5	13.2%	38	5	12.8%	39
Northern Illinois	4	12.1%	33	2	6.7%	30	2	6.9%	29
Northwest Texas	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Oklahoma	0	0.0%	25	1	3.8%	26	1	3.2%	31
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Oregon-Idaho	0	0.0%	9	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	11
Pacific Northwest	0	0.0%	5	0	0.0%	4	1	20.0%	5
Peninsula-Delaware	1	25.0%	4	1	25.0%	4	1	33.3%	3
Red Bird Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Rio Texas	2	11.1%	18	3	13.0%	23	3	12.5%	24
Rocky Mountain	0	0.0%	24	1	3.2%	31	2	6.9%	29
South Carolina	6	30.0%	20	7	33.3%	21	7	30.4%	23
South Georgia	6	40.0%	15	6	40.0%	15	5	33.3%	15
Susquehanna	0	0.0%	4	0	0.0%	4	0	0.0%	5
Tennessee	11	24.4%	45	9	24.3%	37	5	13.5%	37
Texas	5	14.7%	34	6	17.1%	35	6	18.2%	33
Upper New York	0	0.0%	15	1	5.9%	17	1	6.3%	16
Virginia	6	21.4%	28	5	16.7%	30	6	18.8%	32
West Michigan	1	14.3%	7	1	14.3%	7	1	14.3%	7
West Ohio	4	11.8%	34	3	9.7%	31	5	15.6%	32
West Virginia	0	0.0%	12	0	0.0%	12	0	0.0%	11
Western North Carolina	9	14.3%	63	8	12.3%	65	8	12.9%	62
Western Pennsylvania	3	42.9%	7	3	42.9%	7	0	0.0%	5
Wisconsin	0	0.0%	7	0	0.0%	8	0	0.0%	9
Yellowstone	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>12.41%</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>12.30%</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>11.27%</b>	<b>1003</b>



**Presence of Deacons under 35  
by 2018 Percentage  
2016-2018**

<b>CONFERENCE</b>	<b>2018 Deacons under 35</b>	<b>2018 Deacons under 35</b>	<b>2018 Deacons</b>	<b>2017 Deacons under 35</b>	<b>2017 Deacons under 35</b>	<b>2017 Deacons</b>	<b>2016 Deacons under 35</b>	<b>2016 Deacons under 35</b>	<b>2016 Deacons</b>
Western Pennsylvania	3	42.9%	7	3	42.9%	7	0	0.0%	5
South Georgia	6	40.0%	15	6	40.0%	15	5	33.3%	15
South Carolina	6	30.0%	20	7	33.3%	21	7	30.4%	23
North Carolina	8	29.6%	27	8	33.3%	24	5	20.8%	24
Mississippi	6	28.6%	21	4	20.0%	20	3	15.0%	20
Peninsula-Delaware	1	25.0%	4	1	25.0%	4	1	33.3%	3
Tennessee	11	24.4%	45	9	24.3%	37	5	13.5%	37
Virginia	6	21.4%	28	5	16.7%	30	6	18.8%	32
East Ohio	3	17.6%	17	2	12.5%	16	2	14.3%	14
Holston	2	16.7%	12	3	25.0%	12	2	16.7%	12
New England	1	16.7%	6	1	20.0%	5	1	25.0%	4
New York	1	16.7%	6	1	12.5%	8	0	0.0%	7
North Texas	7	15.6%	45	5	13.2%	38	5	12.8%	39
Indiana	2	15.4%	13	2	15.4%	13	2	13.3%	15
Texas	5	14.7%	34	6	17.1%	35	6	18.2%	33
Central Texas	4	14.3%	28	3	10.7%	28	4	14.8%	27
Dakotas	1	14.3%	7	1	14.3%	7	1	14.3%	7
West Michigan	1	14.3%	7	1	14.3%	7	1	14.3%	7
Western North Carolina	9	14.3%	63	8	12.3%	65	8	12.9%	62
Florida	4	12.5%	32	4	12.1%	33	2	6.5%	31
North Alabama	2	12.5%	16	2	11.8%	17	1	7.1%	14
Northern Illinois	4	12.1%	33	2	6.7%	30	2	6.9%	29
North Georgia	8	11.9%	67	12	17.9%	67	10	15.2%	66
West Ohio	4	11.8%	34	3	9.7%	31	5	15.6%	32
Rio Texas	2	11.1%	18	3	13.0%	23	3	12.5%	24
California-Pacific	2	10.5%	19	0	0.0%	15	0	0.0%	15
Eastern Pennsylvania	2	10.5%	19	2	11.1%	18	1	5.6%	18
Missouri	2	10.0%	20	2	9.1%	22	4	16.7%	24

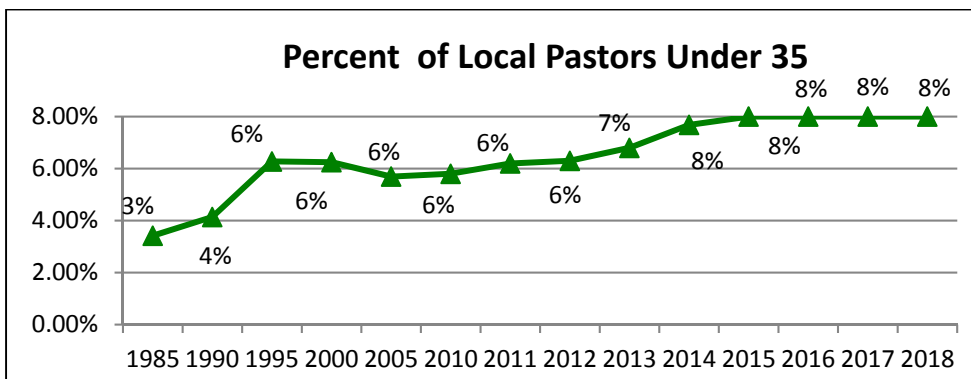
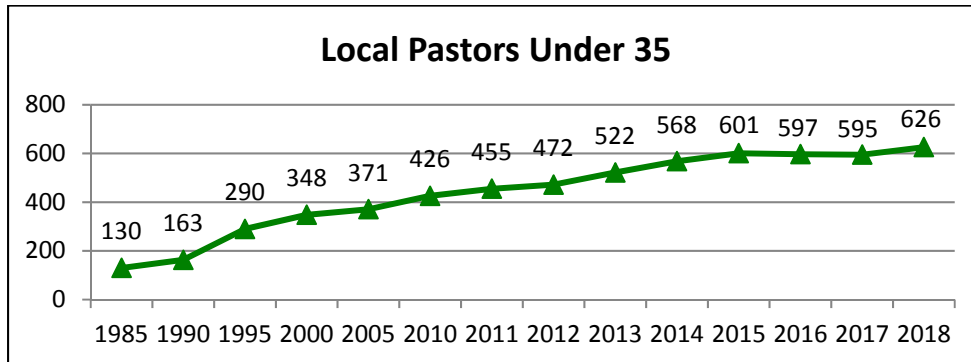
## Deacons

### Presence of Deacons under 35 by 2018 Percentage 2016-2018, continued

CONFERENCE	2018 Deacons under 35	2018 Deacons under 35	2018 Deacons	2017 Deacons under 35	2017 Deacons under 35	2017 Deacons	2016 Deacons under 35	2016 Deacons under 35	2016 Deacons
Arkansas	1	9.1%	11	2	12.5%	16	0	0.0%	12
Great Plains	2	9.1%	22	2	8.3%	24	2	8.7%	23
Louisiana	2	8.7%	23	1	5.3%	19	2	9.1%	22
Illinois Great Rivers	1	7.1%	14	2	14.3%	14	2	15.4%	13
Minnesota	1	6.7%	15	1	6.3%	16	1	6.3%	16
Detroit	1	6.3%	16	2	11.8%	17	2	11.8%	17
Alabama-West Florida	2	5.6%	36	3	7.9%	38	3	8.1%	37
Kentucky	1	5.6%	18	2	9.1%	22	4	16.0%	25
Baltimore-Washington	0	0.0%	22	0	0.0%	23	0	0.0%	21
California-Nevada	0	0.0%	9	0	0.0%	10	0	0.0%	10
Desert Southwest	0	0.0%	7	0	0.0%	7	0	0.0%	9
Greater New Jersey	0	0.0%	13	0	0.0%	14	0	0.0%	15
Iowa	0	0.0%	12	0	0.0%	12	0	0.0%	12
Memphis	0	0.0%	11	0	0.0%	10	0	0.0%	9
New Mexico	0	0.0%	6	0	0.0%	5	0	0.0%	6
Oklahoma	0	0.0%	25	1	3.8%	26	1	3.2%	31
Oregon-Idaho	0	0.0%	9	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	11
Pacific Northwest	0	0.0%	5	0	0.0%	4	1	20.0%	5
Rocky Mountain	0	0.0%	24	1	3.2%	31	2	6.9%	29
Susquehanna	0	0.0%	4	0	0.0%	4	0	0.0%	5
Upper New York	0	0.0%	15	1	5.9%	17	1	6.3%	16
West Virginia	0	0.0%	12	0	0.0%	12	0	0.0%	11
Wisconsin	0	0.0%	7	0	0.0%	8	0	0.0%	9
Alaska Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Northwest Texas	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Red Bird Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Yellowstone	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>12.41%</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>12.30%</b>	<b>1,008</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>11.27%</b>	<b>1003</b>

## 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 1985-2018**

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%
2018	7,538	626	8%	2,519	34%	4,393	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
2018	57	54.3	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
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%
2018	Men	76%	71%	65%
	Women	24%	29%	35%

**Local Pastors under 35 by Jurisdictions**

Jurisdiction	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
North Central	70	56	49	57	62	70	75	87	98	114	112	114	117
Northeastern	42	44	53	91	79	70	72	85	81	108	119	125	134
South Central	91	93	90	99	99	98	96	99	116	113	115	122	113
Southeastern	143	164	158	130	171	201	203	221	246	245	227	210	231
Western	17	19	17	20	15	16	26	30	27	21	24	24	31
Total	363	376	367	397	426	455	472	522	568	601	597	595	626

## Local Pastors

### Presence of Local Pastors under 35 by Annual Conference 2016-2018

CONFERENCE NAME	2018 Local Pastors under 35	2018 Local Pastors under 35	2018 Local Pastors	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
Alabama-West Florida	12	8.2%	147	11	7.3%	150	11	6.8%	161
Alaska Missionary	0	0.0%	7	0	0.0%	5	0	0.0%	5
Arkansas	3	2.7%	111	6	4.9%	122	0	0.0%	112
Baltimore-Washington	14	11.9%	118	13	11.9%	109	11	10.6%	104
California-Nevada	5	10.0%	50	3	6.8%	44	1	2.4%	41
California-Pacific	7	8.0%	87	9	9.9%	91	8	8.4%	95
Central Texas	7	13.0%	54	9	16.1%	56	8	12.7%	63
Dakotas	10	14.9%	67	8	14.0%	57	7	13.5%	52
Desert Southwest	2	6.9%	29	1	3.0%	33	4	11.1%	36
Detroit	10	9.7%	103	8	7.9%	101	5	4.9%	102
East Ohio	24	10.2%	235	18	7.8%	232	18	7.9%	229
Eastern Pennsylvania	3	3.0%	100	5	5.1%	98	5	5.0%	100
Florida	13	7.3%	179	10	5.8%	171	8	4.6%	174
Great Plains	17	7.0%	244	19	7.5%	252	17	7.1%	239
Greater New Jersey	15	10.0%	150	16	10.7%	149	12	7.9%	151
Holston	6	5.3%	113	5	4.2%	119	5	4.1%	123
Illinois Great Rivers	15	8.3%	181	18	10.0%	180	20	11.5%	174
Indiana	16	7.5%	212	13	6.5%	201	14	8.1%	172
Iowa	7	4.4%	160	6	3.8%	158	7	4.4%	160
Kentucky	23	10.0%	231	27	11.5%	235	29	12.8%	226
Louisiana	6	5.0%	121	8	6.5%	123	5	4.1%	122
Memphis	3	3.1%	96	4	4.2%	95	2	2.2%	89
Minnesota	7	10.4%	67	6	9.0%	67	9	13.6%	66
Mississippi	14	5.4%	261	8	3.2%	248	8	3.3%	242
Missouri	13	5.5%	237	18	7.5%	241	25	10.3%	242
New England	11	8.3%	133	9	7.1%	126	10	7.9%	127
New Mexico	0	0.0%	18	1	5.0%	20	0	0.0%	20
New York	2	4.0%	50	1	1.8%	57	5	8.9%	56

## Local Pastors

### Presence of Local Pastors under 35 by Annual Conference 2016-2018, continued

CONFERENCE NAME	2018 Local Pastors under 35	2018 Local Pastors under 35	2018 Local Pastors	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
North Alabama	26	11.4%	228	19	7.9%	239	17	7.2%	236
North Carolina	34	12.5%	272	36	13.2%	273	42	15.4%	272
North Georgia	22	8.2%	268	26	9.4%	276	23	8.4%	275
North Texas	12	11.7%	103	9	8.3%	109	9	8.3%	108
Northern Illinois	5	7.9%	63	4	7.0%	57	6	10.3%	58
Northwest Texas	4	5.7%	70	4	5.6%	71	4	5.6%	71
Oklahoma	12	9.2%	130	13	9.5%	137	17	12.3%	138
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.0%	8	0	0.0%	15	1	6.7%	15
Oregon-Idaho	3	12.5%	24	0	0.0%	19	1	4.8%	21
Pacific Northwest	6	13.3%	45	7	14.6%	48	7	13.5%	52
Peninsula-Delaware	6	5.4%	112	4	3.5%	113	8	7.7%	104
Red Bird Missionary	1	16.7%	6	1	14.3%	7	0	0.0%	7
Rio Texas	7	4.8%	145	8	5.5%	146	8	6.3%	126
Rocky Mountain	7	13.0%	54	1	2.1%	48	1	1.9%	52
South Carolina	13	5.5%	238	11	4.6%	237	14	6.5%	217
South Georgia	10	7.7%	130	11	8.4%	131	15	11.8%	127
Susquehanna	43	20.1%	214	37	18.1%	204	28	13.9%	201
Tennessee	12	6.5%	185	8	4.3%	185	13	6.8%	191
Texas	32	20.6%	155	27	16.7%	162	21	13.6%	154
Upper New York	17	7.7%	222	17	7.7%	222	12	5.4%	221
Virginia	24	7.7%	311	19	6.5%	292	20	7.0%	287
West Michigan	3	3.3%	90	6	6.8%	88	5	5.2%	97
West Ohio	14	7.5%	187	19	10.6%	179	15	9.6%	157
West Virginia	11	5.7%	193	8	4.1%	196	7	3.4%	203
Western North Carolina	18	8.5%	211	14	6.5%	214	20	8.9%	225
Western Pennsylvania	12	6.3%	189	15	8.3%	180	21	10.8%	195
Wisconsin	6	5.7%	105	8	7.9%	101	6	6.5%	93
Yellowstone	1	5.3%	19	3	13.0%	23	2	9.1%	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>8.30%</b>	<b>7,538</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>7.92%</b>	<b>7,512</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>8.06%</b>	<b>7,408</b>

## Local Pastors

### Presence of Local Pastors under 35 by 2018 Percentage 2016-2018

CONFERENCE NAME	2018 Local Pastors under 35	2018 Local Pastors under 35	2018 Local Pastors	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
Texas	32	20.6%	155	27	16.7%	162	21	13.6%	154
Susquehanna	43	20.1%	214	37	18.1%	204	28	13.9%	201
Red Bird Missionary	1	16.7%	6	1	14.3%	7	0	0.0%	7
Dakotas	10	14.9%	67	8	14.0%	57	7	13.5%	52
Pacific Northwest	6	13.3%	45	7	14.6%	48	7	13.5%	52
Central Texas	7	13.0%	54	9	16.1%	56	8	12.7%	63
Rocky Mountain	7	13.0%	54	1	2.1%	48	1	1.9%	52
North Carolina	34	12.5%	272	36	13.2%	273	42	15.4%	272
Oregon-Idaho	3	12.5%	24	0	0.0%	19	1	4.8%	21
Baltimore-Washington	14	11.9%	118	13	11.9%	109	11	10.6%	104
North Texas	12	11.7%	103	9	8.3%	109	9	8.3%	108
North Alabama	26	11.4%	228	19	7.9%	239	17	7.2%	236
Minnesota	7	10.4%	67	6	9.0%	67	9	13.6%	66
East Ohio	24	10.2%	235	18	7.8%	232	18	7.9%	229
California-Nevada	5	10.0%	50	3	6.8%	44	1	2.4%	41
Greater New Jersey	15	10.0%	150	16	10.7%	149	12	7.9%	151
Kentucky	23	10.0%	231	27	11.5%	235	29	12.8%	226
Detroit	10	9.7%	103	8	7.9%	101	5	4.9%	102
Oklahoma	12	9.2%	130	13	9.5%	137	17	12.3%	138
Western North Carolina	18	8.5%	211	14	6.5%	214	20	8.9%	225
Illinois Great Rivers	15	8.3%	181	18	10.0%	180	20	11.5%	174
New England	11	8.3%	133	9	7.1%	126	10	7.9%	127
North Georgia	22	8.2%	268	26	9.4%	276	23	8.4%	275
Alabama-West Florida	12	8.2%	147	11	7.3%	150	11	6.8%	161
California-Pacific	7	8.0%	87	9	9.9%	91	8	8.4%	95
Northern Illinois	5	7.9%	63	4	7.0%	57	6	10.3%	58
Virginia	24	7.7%	311	19	6.5%	292	20	7.0%	287
South Georgia	10	7.7%	130	11	8.4%	131	15	11.8%	127

## Local Pastors

### Presence of Local Pastors under 35 by 2018 Percentage 2016-2018, continued

CONFERENCE NAME	2018 Local Pastors under 35	2018 Local Pastors under 35	2018 Local Pastors	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
Upper New York	17	7.7%	222	17	7.7%	222	12	5.4%	221
Indiana	16	7.5%	212	13	6.5%	201	14	8.1%	172
West Ohio	14	7.5%	187	19	10.6%	179	15	9.6%	157
Florida	13	7.3%	179	10	5.8%	171	8	4.6%	174
Great Plains	17	7.0%	244	19	7.5%	252	17	7.1%	239
Desert Southwest	2	6.9%	29	1	3.0%	33	4	11.1%	36
Tennessee	12	6.5%	185	8	4.3%	185	13	6.8%	191
Western Pennsylvania	12	6.3%	189	15	8.3%	180	21	10.8%	195
Northwest Texas	4	5.7%	70	4	5.6%	71	4	5.6%	71
Wisconsin	6	5.7%	105	8	7.9%	101	6	6.5%	93
West Virginia	11	5.7%	193	8	4.1%	196	7	3.4%	203
Missouri	13	5.5%	237	18	7.5%	241	25	10.3%	242
South Carolina	13	5.5%	238	11	4.6%	237	14	6.5%	217
Mississippi	14	5.4%	261	8	3.2%	248	8	3.3%	242
Peninsula-Delaware	6	5.4%	112	4	3.5%	113	8	7.7%	104
Holston	6	5.3%	113	5	4.2%	119	5	4.1%	123
Yellowstone	1	5.3%	19	3	13.0%	23	2	9.1%	22
Louisiana	6	5.0%	121	8	6.5%	123	5	4.1%	122
Rio Texas	7	4.8%	145	8	5.5%	146	8	6.3%	126
Iowa	7	4.4%	160	6	3.8%	158	7	4.4%	160
New York	2	4.0%	50	1	1.8%	57	5	8.9%	56
West Michigan	3	3.3%	90	6	6.8%	88	5	5.2%	97
Memphis	3	3.1%	96	4	4.2%	95	2	2.2%	89
Eastern Pennsylvania	3	3.0%	100	5	5.1%	98	5	5.0%	100
Arkansas	3	2.7%	111	6	4.9%	122	0	0.0%	112
Alaska Missionary	0	0.0%	7	0	0.0%	5	0	0.0%	5
New Mexico	0	0.0%	18	1	5.0%	20	0	0.0%	20
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.0%	8	0	0.0%	15	1	6.7%	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>8.30%</b>	<b>7,538</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>7.92%</b>	<b>7,512</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>8.06%</b>	<b>7,408</b>



## 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	2	15	19	36	18	83	112	213	12	60	75	147
Alaska Missionary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	4	7
Arkansas	1	1	9	11	24	96	100	220	3	34	74	111
Baltimore-Washington	0	8	14	22	22	126	210	358	14	25	79	118
California-Nevada	0	4	5	9	13	64	142	219	5	17	28	50
California-Pacific	2	6	11	19	7	115	190	312	7	30	50	87
Central Texas	4	14	10	28	18	84	111	213	7	21	26	54
Dakotas	1	3	3	7	12	40	60	112	10	29	28	67
Desert Southwest	0	1	6	7	4	41	56	101	2	8	19	29
Detroit	1	9	6	16	14	59	125	198	10	31	62	103
East Ohio	3	8	6	17	16	84	160	260	24	74	137	235
Eastern Pennsylvania	2	5	12	19	7	62	149	218	3	31	66	100
Florida	4	12	16	32	31	154	201	386	13	68	98	179
Great Plains	2	6	14	22	32	133	208	373	17	79	148	244
Greater New Jersey	0	3	10	13	16	100	168	284	15	64	71	150
Holston	2	4	6	12	22	134	139	295	6	31	76	113
Illinois Great Rivers	1	6	7	14	18	85	177	280	15	48	118	181
Indiana	2	9	2	13	31	143	247	421	16	65	131	212
Iowa	0	6	6	12	19	95	161	275	7	46	107	160
Kentucky	1	5	12	18	25	90	120	235	23	93	115	231
Louisiana	2	5	16	23	18	68	90	176	6	35	80	121
Memphis	0	6	5	11	8	47	78	133	3	34	59	96
Minnesota	1	5	9	15	8	64	97	169	7	28	32	67
Mississippi	6	8	7	21	22	134	148	304	14	98	149	261
Missouri	2	10	8	20	20	106	153	279	13	98	126	237
New England	1	2	3	6	8	82	113	203	11	44	78	133
New Mexico	0	4	2	6	2	30	51	83	0	6	12	18
New York	1	3	2	6	7	88	191	286	2	20	28	50

## 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	5	16	29	114	131	274	26	68	134	228
North Carolina	8	9	10	27	38	131	206	375	34	100	138	272
North Georgia	8	29	30	67	34	186	250	470	22	86	160	268
North Texas	7	21	17	45	25	91	131	247	12	38	53	103
Northern Illinois	4	14	15	33	14	122	139	275	5	22	36	63
Northwest Texas	0	0	0	0	3	38	44	85	4	23	43	70
Oklahoma	0	12	13	25	25	107	151	283	12	46	72	130
OK Indian Mission	0	0	0	0	0	5	11	16	0	2	6	8
Oregon-Idaho	0	6	3	9	2	25	54	81	3	9	12	24
Pacific Northwest	0	2	3	5	11	63	73	147	6	20	19	45
Peninsula-Delaware	1	1	2	4	5	38	87	130	6	25	81	112
Red Bird Mission	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	6
Rio Texas	2	7	9	18	11	95	129	235	7	59	79	145
Rocky Mountain	0	6	18	24	9	81	85	175	7	15	32	54
South Carolina	6	10	4	20	29	134	225	388	13	64	161	238
South Georgia	6	5	4	15	9	93	109	211	10	55	65	130
Susquehanna	0	1	3	4	11	67	158	236	43	64	107	214
Tennessee	11	14	20	45	16	73	91	180	12	70	103	185
Texas	5	15	14	34	41	173	218	432	32	43	80	155
Upper New York	0	3	12	15	11	80	164	255	17	64	141	222
Virginia	6	12	10	28	56	220	297	573	24	96	191	311
West Michigan	1	2	4	7	7	45	102	154	3	31	56	90
West Ohio	4	16	14	34	27	193	286	506	14	77	96	187
West Virginia	0	3	9	12	8	65	108	181	11	53	129	193
West. North Carolina	9	27	27	63	54	235	339	628	18	69	124	211
West. Pennsylvania	3	2	2	7	19	94	175	288	12	58	119	189
Wisconsin	0	5	2	7	11	68	125	204	6	39	60	105
Yellowstone	0	0	0	0	2	10	22	34	1	2	16	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>476</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>5,053</b>	<b>7,667</b>	<b>13,669</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>2,519</b>	<b>4,393</b>	<b>7,538</b>

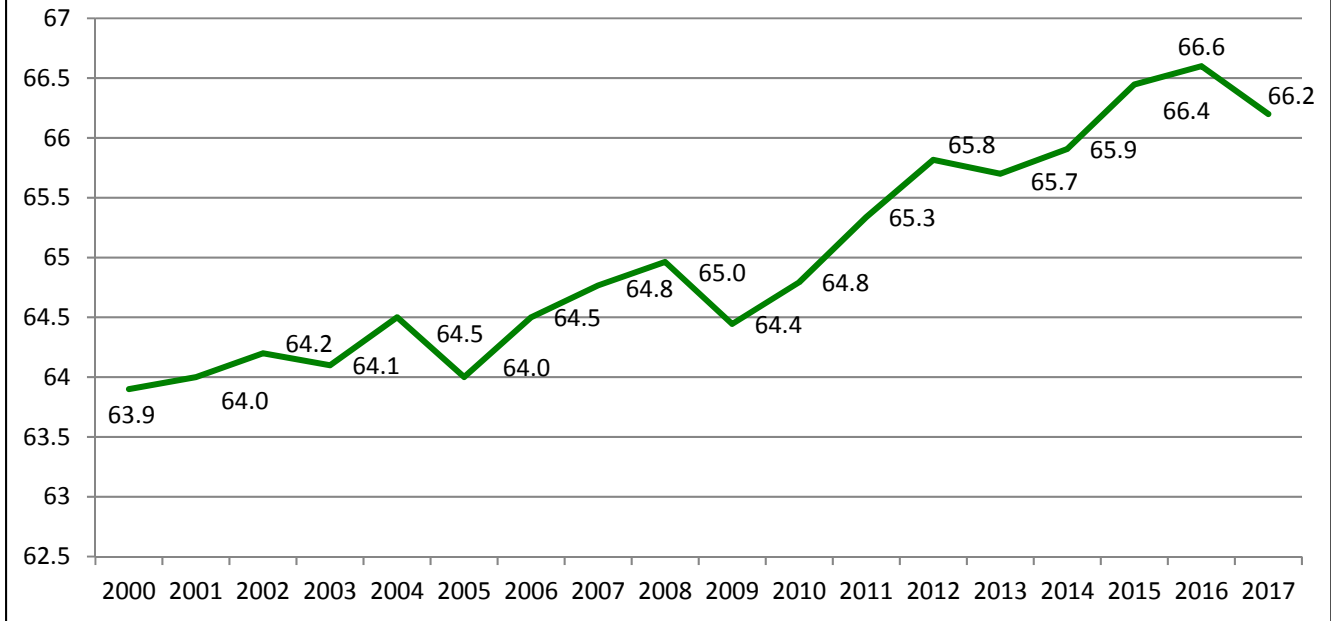
## Annual Conference Clergy by Age Group – Percentage

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	5.6%	41.7%	52.8%	8.5%	39.0%	52.6%	8.2%	40.8%	51.0%
Alaska Missionary	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	42.9%	57.1%
Arkansas	9.1%	9.1%	81.8%	10.9%	43.6%	45.5%	2.7%	30.6%	66.7%
Baltimore-Washington	0.0%	36.4%	63.6%	6.1%	35.2%	58.7%	11.9%	21.2%	66.9%
California-Nevada	0.0%	44.4%	55.6%	5.9%	29.2%	64.8%	10.0%	34.0%	56.0%
California-Pacific	10.5%	31.6%	57.9%	2.2%	36.9%	60.9%	8.0%	34.5%	57.5%
Central Texas	14.3%	50.0%	35.7%	8.5%	39.4%	52.1%	13.0%	38.9%	48.1%
Dakotas	14.3%	42.9%	42.9%	10.7%	35.7%	53.6%	14.9%	43.3%	41.8%
Desert Southwest	0.0%	14.3%	85.7%	4.0%	40.6%	55.4%	6.9%	27.6%	65.5%
Detroit	6.3%	56.3%	37.5%	7.1%	29.8%	63.1%	9.7%	30.1%	60.2%
East Ohio	17.6%	47.1%	35.3%	6.2%	32.3%	61.5%	10.2%	31.5%	58.3%
Eastern Pennsylvania	10.5%	26.3%	63.2%	3.2%	28.4%	68.3%	3.0%	31.0%	66.0%
Florida	12.5%	37.5%	50.0%	8.0%	39.9%	52.1%	7.3%	38.0%	54.7%
Great Plains	9.1%	27.3%	63.6%	8.6%	35.7%	55.8%	7.0%	32.4%	60.7%
Greater New Jersey	0.0%	23.1%	76.9%	5.6%	35.2%	59.2%	10.0%	42.7%	47.3%
Holston	16.7%	33.3%	50.0%	7.5%	45.4%	47.1%	5.3%	27.4%	67.3%
Illinois Great Rivers	7.1%	42.9%	50.0%	6.4%	30.4%	63.2%	8.3%	26.5%	65.2%
Indiana	15.4%	69.2%	15.4%	7.4%	34.0%	58.7%	7.5%	30.7%	61.8%
Iowa	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	6.9%	34.5%	58.5%	4.4%	28.8%	66.9%
Kentucky	5.6%	27.8%	66.7%	10.6%	38.3%	51.1%	10.0%	40.3%	49.8%
Louisiana	8.7%	21.7%	69.6%	10.2%	38.6%	51.1%	5.0%	28.9%	66.1%
Memphis	0.0%	54.5%	45.5%	6.0%	35.3%	58.6%	3.1%	35.4%	61.5%
Minnesota	6.7%	33.3%	60.0%	4.7%	37.9%	57.4%	10.4%	41.8%	47.8%
Mississippi	28.6%	38.1%	33.3%	7.2%	44.1%	48.7%	5.4%	37.5%	57.1%
Missouri	10.0%	50.0%	40.0%	7.2%	38.0%	54.8%	5.5%	41.4%	53.2%
New England	16.7%	33.3%	50.0%	3.9%	40.4%	55.7%	8.3%	33.1%	58.6%
New Mexico	0.0%	66.7%	33.3%	2.4%	36.1%	61.4%	0.0%	33.3%	66.7%
New York	16.7%	50.0%	33.3%	2.4%	30.8%	66.8%	4.0%	40.0%	56.0%

## 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	12.5%	56.3%	31.3%	10.6%	41.6%	47.8%	11.4%	29.8%	58.8%
North Carolina	29.6%	33.3%	37.0%	10.1%	34.9%	54.9%	12.5%	36.8%	50.7%
North Georgia	11.9%	43.3%	44.8%	7.2%	39.6%	53.2%	8.2%	32.1%	59.7%
North Texas	15.6%	46.7%	37.8%	10.1%	36.8%	53.0%	11.7%	36.9%	51.5%
Northern Illinois	12.1%	42.4%	45.5%	5.1%	44.4%	50.5%	7.9%	34.9%	57.1%
Northwest Texas	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.5%	44.7%	51.8%	5.7%	32.9%	61.4%
Oklahoma	0.0%	48.0%	52.0%	8.8%	37.8%	53.4%	9.2%	35.4%	55.4%
OK Indian Mission	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	31.3%	68.8%	0.0%	25.0%	75.0%
Oregon-Idaho	0.0%	66.7%	33.3%	2.5%	30.9%	66.7%	12.5%	37.5%	50.0%
Pacific Northwest	0.0%	40.0%	60.0%	7.5%	42.9%	49.7%	13.3%	44.4%	42.2%
Peninsula-Delaware	25.0%	25.0%	50.0%	3.8%	29.2%	66.9%	5.4%	22.3%	72.3%
Red Bird Mission	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	16.7%	66.7%
Rio Texas	11.1%	38.9%	50.0%	4.7%	40.4%	54.9%	4.8%	40.7%	54.5%
Rocky Mountain	0.0%	25.0%	75.0%	5.1%	46.3%	48.6%	13.0%	27.8%	59.3%
South Carolina	30.0%	50.0%	20.0%	7.5%	34.5%	58.0%	5.5%	26.9%	67.6%
South Georgia	40.0%	33.3%	26.7%	4.3%	44.1%	51.7%	7.7%	42.3%	50.0%
Susquehanna	0.0%	25.0%	75.0%	4.7%	28.4%	66.9%	20.1%	29.9%	50.0%
Tennessee	24.4%	31.1%	44.4%	8.9%	40.6%	50.6%	6.5%	37.8%	55.7%
Texas	14.7%	44.1%	41.2%	9.5%	40.0%	50.5%	20.6%	27.7%	51.6%
Upper New York	0.0%	20.0%	80.0%	4.3%	31.4%	64.3%	7.7%	28.8%	63.5%
Virginia	21.4%	42.9%	35.7%	9.8%	38.4%	51.8%	7.7%	30.9%	61.4%
West Michigan	14.3%	28.6%	57.1%	4.5%	29.2%	66.2%	3.3%	34.4%	62.2%
West Ohio	11.8%	47.1%	41.2%	5.3%	38.1%	56.5%	7.5%	41.2%	51.3%
West Virginia	0.0%	25.0%	75.0%	4.4%	35.9%	59.7%	5.7%	27.5%	66.8%
West. North Carolina	14.3%	42.9%	42.9%	8.6%	37.4%	54.0%	8.5%	32.7%	58.8%
West. Pennsylvania	42.9%	28.6%	28.6%	6.6%	32.6%	60.8%	6.3%	30.7%	63.0%
Wisconsin	0.0%	71.4%	28.6%	5.4%	33.3%	61.3%	5.7%	37.1%	57.1%
Yellowstone	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.9%	29.4%	64.7%	5.3%	10.5%	84.2%

**Average Annual Retirement Age for All United Methodist Clergy**



**Average Retirement Ages**

	<b>2005</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Elders</b>	64	66
<b>Deacons</b>	64	67
<b>Full-Time Local Pastors</b>	65	67
<b>Part-Time Local Pastors</b>	67	69

### About the Lewis Center for Church Leadership

Established by Wesley Theological Seminary in 2003, the Lewis Center for Church Leadership helps 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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