

A Lewis Center Report on  
**Clergy Age Trends in the  
United Methodist Church**  
2019 Report

Elders • Deacons • Local Pastors

**2019 Report**  
**Lewis Center for Church Leadership**  
Wesley Theological Seminary



Lewis Center  
for Church Leadership

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## Highlights

### Highlights of the 2019 Report

#### **Dramatic Decline in the Number of Young Elders**

Not only did the number of elders under 35 decline for the third consecutive year, the decline in 2019 is the largest since these reports began in 2005. In addition to the unprecedented size of the decline, another difference is that while the previous losses have come primarily from female elders, in 2019 the losses came proportionately among men and women. The decline among men means there are fewer male elders under 35 than any time for which we have records. Similarly, there are fewer young female elders than since 2008.

There was a decline of seventy-four young elders, 875 in 2019 compared to 949 the previous year. This is the lowest number of young elders since the record low year of 2005 in which there were only 850 elders under 35.

Young female elders reached a high point in numbers in 2015 with 404. The number in 2019 is 325. In terms of their percentage of young elders, the high point was in 2015 at 41 percent. The comparable figure in 2019 is 37 percent.

Interestingly, due to the overall decline in the total number of active elders in the United Methodist Church, the percentage of young elders of all active elders remains around 7 percent, up from the record low of 5 percent in 2005.

#### **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 2019. There are 514 fewer elders and 25 more local pastors in 2019 than in 2018. The result is that since 1990 there are 8,352 fewer elders and 3,627 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 2019, there are 13,155 elders and 7,563 local pastors.

#### **Baby Boomers Are Retiring Somewhat Later**

In recent years, there has been about a two-year increase in the age of retirement for all categories of clergy. The increase when all clergy groups are combined is from an average retirement age of 64 to 66. The first of the Baby Boomer generation reached 65 in 2011. While there are many variables in determining when someone retires, the increased retirement age of Boomer retirees matches patterns seen outside the church as well. The average retirement age across all clergy categories in 2018, the last full year of data, was 66.2, unchanged from the year before. The retirement ages for different types of clergy are similar but not the same. For example, in 2018 the retirement ages were: elders—66, deacons—66, 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 2019.

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](#)
- [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](#)

## 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.

## Summary of Findings

### Young Clergy Trends

#### Young Elders

- The number of under-35 elders decreased by 74, the largest annual decline since these reports began in 2005. The numbers for the three most recent years are: 2017 – 950, 2018 – 949, and 2019 – 875.
- The percentage of young elders decreased slightly (6.65 percent compared to 6.94 percent in 2018) since the total pool of active elders continued to decline.
- The Texas Conference reported the highest percentage of young elders at 11.00 percent.
- The Top Ten Conferences by percentage
  - Texas (also #1 in 2016, 2015, 2014 and 2012)
  - Dakotas
  - North Texas
  - Tennessee
  - North Carolina
  - Kentucky
  - Louisiana
  - Virginia
  - Arkansas (#1 in 2018, 2017, 2008 and 2007)
  - Western North Carolina (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. 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 (50) is in the Western North Carolina Conference, followed by Virginia (49) and Texas (45).

#### Young Deacons

- The number of under-35 deacons decline by one in 2019 to 123. Last year's 124 was a record high.
- The percentage of young deacons among all active deacons declined to 12.23 percent compared to 12.41 percent in 2018 (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

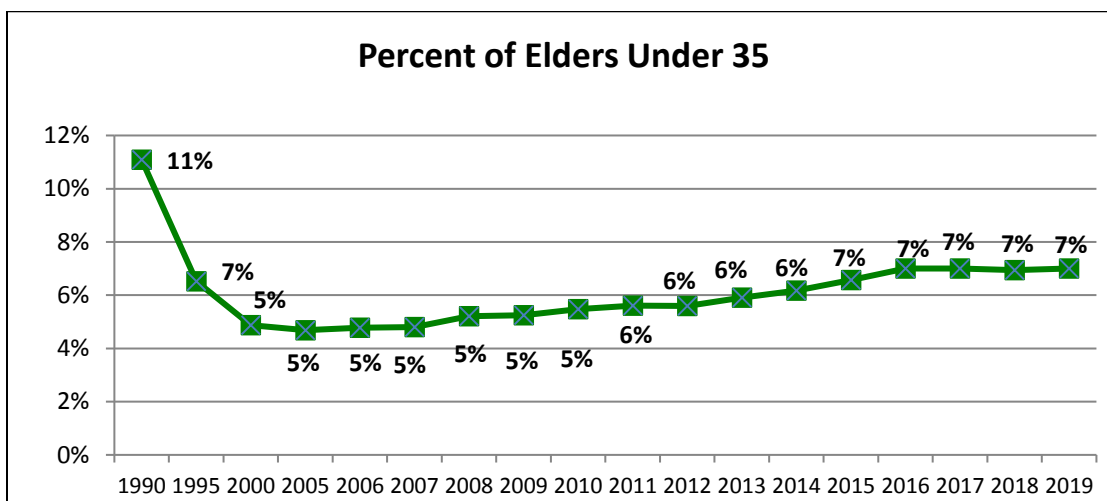
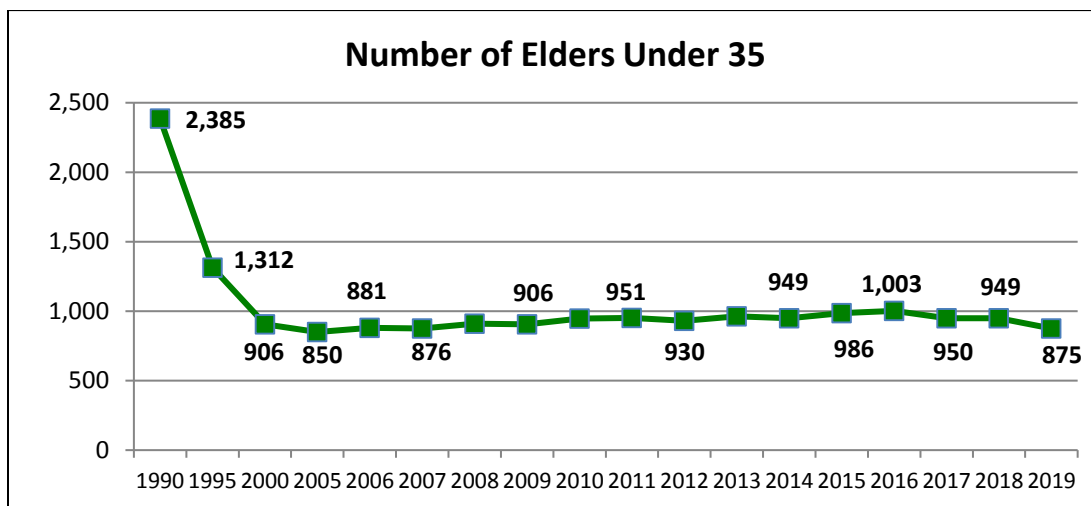
- The number of under-35 local pastors increased from 626 in 2018 to 648 in 2019.
- The percentage of young local pastors among all active local pastors increased slightly to 8.57 percent (8.30 percent in 2018).

#### 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-9)
- Of this age range, 42 percent are 35-54 (clergy percentages: elders-37; deacons-41, local pastors-33)
- Of this age range, 34 percent are 55-72 (clergy percentages: elders-56; deacons-47, 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 1985-2019**

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%
2019	13,155	875	7%	4,911	37%	7,369	56%

## Gender Breakdown within Age Cohorts – Elders

Year	Gender	Under 35	35-54	55-72
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%
2019	Men	63%	67%	71%
	Women	37%	33%	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
2015	56	53.4	60
2016	56	53.4	61
2017	56	53.5	61
2018	56	53.5	61
2019	56	53.6	61

\*Median – half older, half younger

\*Mode – single age most represented

## Elders by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Elders under 35 2019	% Elders under 35 2019	Elders 35-54 2019	% Elders 35-54 2019	Elders 55-72 2019	% Elders 55-72 2019	Total Elders 2019
North Central	162	6%	955	35%	1,576	59%	2,693
Northeastern	121	5%	777	33%	1,457	62%	2,439
South Central	194	8%	1,003	40%	1,324	52%	2,521
Southeastern	345	8%	1,779	39%	2,395	53%	4,519
Western	53	5%	397	37%	617	58%	1,067
Total	875	7%	4,911	37%	7,369	56%	13,155

## 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	2019 Mean	2019 Median	2019 Mode
ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA	52.9	55	64
ALASKA MISSIONARY			
ARKANSAS	51.6	53	62
BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON	54.3	57	64
CALIFORNIA-NEVADA	55.5	59	61
CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC	55.4	58	60
CENTRAL TEXAS	51.8	55	59
DAKOTAS	52.5	55	58
DESERT SOUTHWEST	54.8	58	66
EAST OHIO	54.1	58	62
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA	56.5	59	61
FLORIDA	52.6	55	63
GREAT PLAINS	53.2	56	64
GREATER NEW JERSEY	54.1	57	64
HOLSTON	51.7	53	61
ILLINOIS GREAT RIVERS	54.1	58	62
INDIANA	54.0	57	64
IOWA	54.2	57	63
KENTUCKY	53.7	56	61
LOUISIANA	52.6	55	62
MEMPHIS	55.5	58	65
MICHIGAN	54.7	58	59
MINNESOTA	53.6	56	62
MISSISSIPPI	52.6	55	59
MISSOURI	53.4	56	65
NEW ENGLAND	53.8	56	57
NEW MEXICO	55.6	59	62
NEW YORK	56.1	58	61

CONFERENCE	2019 Mean	2019 Median	2019 Mode
NORTH ALABAMA	52.5	54	54
NORTH CAROLINA	52.7	56	61
NORTH GEORGIA	53.5	56	62
NORTH TEXAS	52.8	56	60
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	52.7	55	61
NORTHWEST TEXAS	53.8	55	57
OKLAHOMA	53.2	56	60
OKLAHOMA INDIAN MSNY	59.8	62	64
OREGON IDAHO	56.2	60	66
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	52.2	54	65
PENINSULA-DELAWARE	56.9	59	64
RED BIRD MISSIONARY			
RIO TEXAS	53.4	55	60
ROCKY MOUNTAIN	52.7	55	57
SOUTH CAROLINA	54.4	57	63
SOUTH GEORGIA	53.5	56	64
SUSQUEHANNA	54.2	58	60
TENNESSEE	51.4	52	59
TEXAS	51.6	54	56
UPPER NEW YORK	55.9	58	63
VIRGINIA	51.9	55	62
WEST OHIO	54.1	56	58
WEST VIRGINIA	54.6	58	58
WESTERN N. CAROLINA	52.7	55	57
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA	54.3	57	61
WISCONSIN	55.2	58	63
YELLOWSTONE	54.1	58	59
All Elders	53.6	56	61



## Presence of Elders under 35 by Annual Conference 2017-2019

CONFERENCE	2019 Elders under 35	2019 Elders under 35	2019 Elders	2018 Elders under 35	2018 Elders under 35	2018 Elders	2017 Elders under 35	2017 Elders under 35	2017 Elders
Alabama-West Florida	14	7.0%	200	18	8.5%	213	13	6.2%	210
Alaska Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Arkansas	18	8.5%	212	24	10.9%	220	26	11.3%	231
Baltimore-Washington	21	6.0%	352	22	6.1%	358	23	6.3%	364
California-Nevada	12	5.8%	207	13	5.9%	219	13	5.4%	239
California-Pacific	11	3.5%	318	7	2.2%	312	7	2.3%	305
Central Texas	15	7.4%	203	18	8.5%	213	17	7.7%	221
Dakotas	11	10.7%	103	12	10.7%	112	12	10.0%	120
Desert Southwest	3	3.1%	98	4	4.0%	101	5	4.9%	103
East Ohio	13	5.2%	248	16	6.2%	260	19	7.0%	272
Eastern Pennsylvania	6	2.8%	218	7	3.2%	218	7	3.1%	224
Florida	27	7.3%	369	31	8.0%	386	29	7.3%	397
Great Plains	26	7.3%	357	32	8.6%	373	30	7.9%	378
Greater New Jersey	17	6.2%	273	16	5.6%	284	13	4.5%	288
Holston	21	7.4%	284	22	7.5%	295	27	8.9%	302
Illinois Great Rivers	16	6.1%	262	18	6.4%	280	16	5.4%	294
Indiana	26	6.6%	395	31	7.4%	421	32	7.1%	452
Iowa	17	6.4%	265	19	6.9%	275	20	6.8%	293
Kentucky	24	9.5%	252	25	10.6%	235	22	8.8%	249
Louisiana	16	9.4%	171	18	10.2%	176	17	9.4%	180
Memphis	8	6.3%	126	8	6.0%	133	6	4.4%	136
Michigan	21	6.5%	322	21	6.0%	352	18	5.0%	360
Minnesota	6	3.7%	162	8	4.7%	169	9	5.1%	177
Mississippi	17	5.7%	297	22	7.2%	304	28	8.8%	320
Missouri	15	5.6%	270	20	7.2%	279	19	6.9%	275
New England	9	4.6%	195	8	3.9%	203	7	3.2%	217
New Mexico	1	1.4%	72	2	2.4%	83	3	3.7%	82
New York	8	2.9%	274	7	2.4%	286	9	3.1%	290

## Presence of Elders under 35 by Annual Conference 2017-2019, continued

CONFERENCE	2019 Elders under 35	2019 Elders under 35	2019 Elders	2018 Elders under 35	2018 Elders under 35	2018 Elders	2017 Elders under 35	2017 Elders under 35	2017 Elders
North Alabama	19	7.5%	255	29	10.6%	274	27	9.7%	279
North Carolina	37	9.7%	380	38	10.1%	375	39	10.3%	380
North Georgia	32	7.0%	460	34	7.2%	470	34	7.0%	487
North Texas	24	10.0%	239	25	10.1%	247	19	7.5%	253
Northern Illinois	19	7.2%	264	14	5.1%	275	14	5.0%	283
Northwest Texas	2	2.6%	76	3	3.5%	85	5	5.4%	93
Oklahoma	22	7.9%	280	25	8.8%	283	0	0.0%	13
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.0%	14	0	0.0%	16	17	5.7%	299
Oregon-Idaho	3	3.9%	77	2	2.5%	81	1	1.1%	90
Pacific Northwest	12	7.6%	158	11	7.5%	147	11	7.3%	150
Peninsula-Delaware	4	3.3%	122	5	3.8%	130	7	5.4%	130
Red Bird Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Rio Texas	10	4.6%	217	11	4.7%	235	11	4.3%	255
Rocky Mountain	9	5.2%	172	9	5.1%	175	9	5.1%	177
South Carolina	25	6.6%	377	29	7.5%	388	34	8.5%	399
South Georgia	5	2.5%	198	9	4.3%	211	12	5.5%	220
Susquehanna	18	8.0%	226	11	4.7%	236	12	4.8%	252
Tennessee	17	9.9%	172	16	8.9%	180	16	8.4%	191
Texas	45	11.0%	410	41	9.5%	432	48	11.1%	432
Upper New York	9	3.8%	237	11	4.3%	255	9	3.3%	274
Virginia	49	9.0%	546	56	9.8%	573	56	9.4%	596
West Ohio	27	5.7%	476	27	5.3%	506	29	5.7%	510
West Virginia	11	6.3%	174	8	4.4%	181	12	6.2%	195
Western North Carolina	50	8.3%	603	54	8.6%	628	55	8.3%	666
Western Pennsylvania	18	6.3%	284	19	6.6%	288	16	5.3%	302
Wisconsin	6	3.1%	196	11	5.4%	204	9	4.3%	211
Yellowstone	3	8.1%	37	2	5.9%	34	1	2.8%	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>6.65%</b>	<b>13,155</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>6.94%</b>	<b>13,669</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>6.71%</b>	<b>14,150</b>

## Presence of Elders under 35 by 2019 Percentage 2017-2019

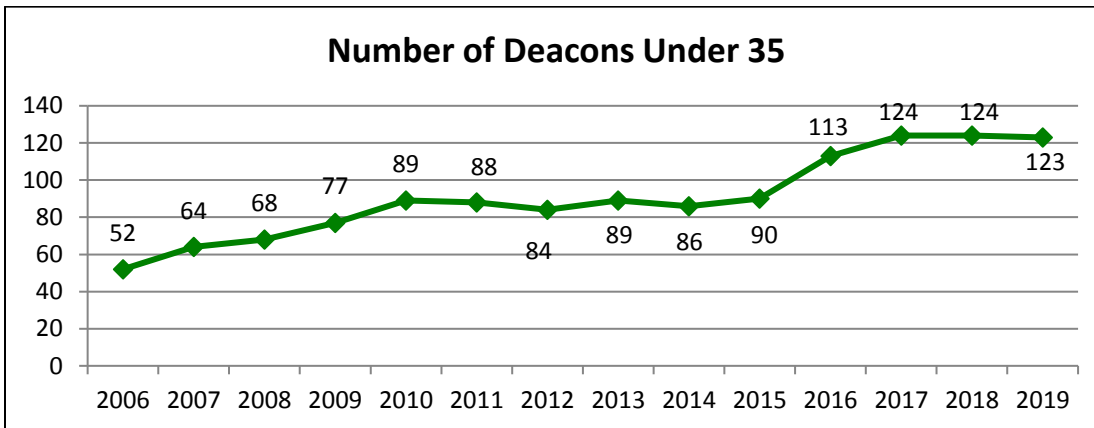
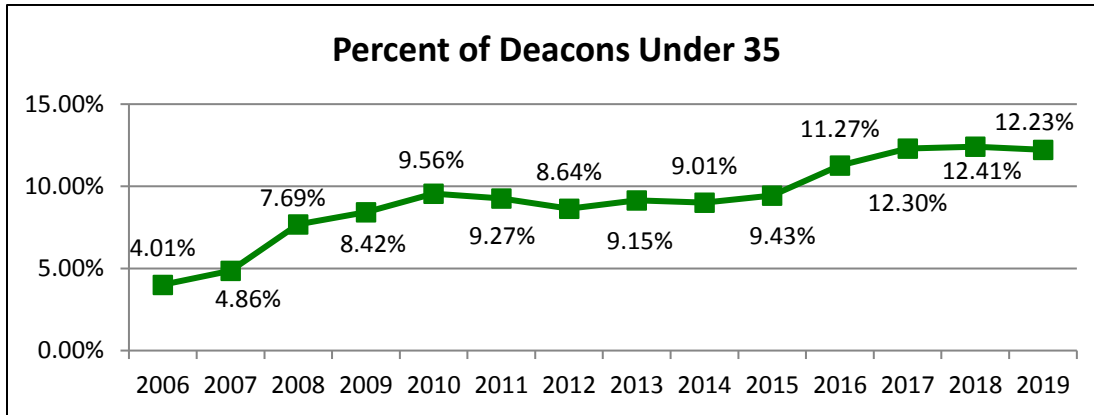
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Western North Carolina	50	8.3%	603	54	8.6%	628	55	8.3%	666
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Susquehanna	18	8.0%	226	11	4.7%	236	12	4.8%	252
Oklahoma	22	7.9%	280	25	8.8%	283	0	0.0%	13
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Iowa	17	6.4%	265	19	6.9%	275	20	6.8%	293
Memphis	8	6.3%	126	8	6.0%	133	6	4.4%	136
Western Pennsylvania	18	6.3%	284	19	6.6%	288	16	5.3%	302

**Presence of Elders under 35  
by 2019 Percentage  
2017-2019, continued**

<b>CONFERENCE</b>	<b>2019 Elders under 35</b>	<b>2019 Elders under 35</b>	<b>2019 Elders</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>
West Virginia	11	6.3%	174	8	4.4%	181	12	6.2%	195
Greater New Jersey	17	6.2%	273	16	5.6%	284	13	4.5%	288
Illinois Great Rivers	16	6.1%	262	18	6.4%	280	16	5.4%	294
Baltimore-Washington	21	6.0%	352	22	6.1%	358	23	6.3%	364
California-Nevada	12	5.8%	207	13	5.9%	219	13	5.4%	239
Mississippi	17	5.7%	297	22	7.2%	304	28	8.8%	320
West Ohio	27	5.7%	476	27	5.3%	506	29	5.7%	510
Missouri	15	5.6%	270	20	7.2%	279	19	6.9%	275
East Ohio	13	5.2%	248	16	6.2%	260	19	7.0%	272
Rocky Mountain	9	5.2%	172	9	5.1%	175	9	5.1%	177
New England	9	4.6%	195	8	3.9%	203	7	3.2%	217
Rio Texas	10	4.6%	217	11	4.7%	235	11	4.3%	255
Oregon-Idaho	3	3.9%	77	2	2.5%	81	1	1.1%	90
Upper New York	9	3.8%	237	11	4.3%	255	9	3.3%	274
Minnesota	6	3.7%	162	8	4.7%	169	9	5.1%	177
California-Pacific	11	3.5%	318	7	2.2%	312	7	2.3%	305
Peninsula-Delaware	4	3.3%	122	5	3.8%	130	7	5.4%	130
Desert Southwest	3	3.1%	98	4	4.0%	101	5	4.9%	103
Wisconsin	6	3.1%	196	11	5.4%	204	9	4.3%	211
New York	8	2.9%	274	7	2.4%	286	9	3.1%	290
Eastern Pennsylvania	6	2.8%	218	7	3.2%	218	7	3.1%	224
Northwest Texas	2	2.6%	76	3	3.5%	85	5	5.4%	93
South Georgia	5	2.5%	198	9	4.3%	211	12	5.5%	220
New Mexico	1	1.4%	72	2	2.4%	83	3	3.7%	82
Alaska Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Oklahoma Indian	0	0.0%	14	0	0.0%	16	17	5.7%	299
Red Bird Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
	<b>875</b>	<b>6.65%</b>	<b>13,155</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>6.94%</b>	<b>13,669</b>	<b>950</b>	<b>6.71%</b>	<b>14,150</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 Wespeth Benefits.



**Trends for Deacons 2005-2019**

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%
2019	1006	123	12%	415	41%	468	47%

## Deacons

### 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
2018	53	51.2	62
2019	53	53.6	63

\*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
2015	Men	20%	32%	25%
	Women	80%	68%	75%
2016	Men	21%	31%	23%
	Women	79%	69%	77%
2018	Men	20%	32%	24%
	Women	80%	68%	76%
2019	Men	20%	33%	24%
	Women	80%	67%	76%

### Deacons Under 35 by Jurisdictions

Jurisdiction	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
North Central	9	9	11	14	20	18	13	16	16	17	18	13	18	19
Northeastern	1	3	3	3	5	3	4	4	5	4	4	9	8	8
South Central	19	22	20	18	18	18	17	18	15	23	27	28	25	26
Southeastern	22	30	33	40	45	46	47	48	47	44	61	73	71	66
Western	3	0	1	2	1	3	3	3	3	2	3	1	2	4
Total	52	64	68	77	89	88	84	89	86	90	113	124	124	123

## Deacons

### Presence of Deacons under 35 by Annual Conference 2017-2019

CONFERENCE	2019 Deacons under 35	2019 Deacons under 35	2019 Deacons	2018 Deacons under 35	2018 Deacons under 35	2018 Deacons	2017 Deacons under 35	2017 Deacons under 35	2017 Deacons
Alabama-West Florida	3	8.8%	34	2	5.6%	36	3	7.9%	38
Alaska Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Arkansas	2	16.7%	12	1	9.1%	11	2	12.5%	16
Baltimore-Washington	1	4.8%	21	0	0.0%	22	0	0.0%	23
California-Nevada	1	12.5%	8	0	0.0%	9	0	0.0%	10
California-Pacific	1	5.3%	19	2	10.5%	19	0	0.0%	15
Central Texas	3	10.7%	28	4	14.3%	28	3	10.7%	28
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%	7
East Ohio	3	17.6%	17	3	17.6%	17	2	12.5%	16
Eastern Pennsylvania	1	5.0%	20	2	10.5%	19	2	11.1%	18
Florida	3	11.1%	27	4	12.5%	32	4	12.1%	33
Great Plains	2	10.5%	19	2	9.1%	22	2	8.3%	24
Greater New Jersey	0	0.0%	12	0	0.0%	13	0	0.0%	14
Holston	1	7.1%	14	2	16.7%	12	3	25.0%	12
Illinois Great Rivers	1	7.7%	13	1	7.1%	14	2	14.3%	14
Indiana	2	10.5%	19	2	15.4%	13	2	15.4%	13
Iowa	0	0.0%	8	0	0.0%	12	0	0.0%	12
Kentucky	2	9.1%	22	1	5.6%	18	2	9.1%	22
Louisiana	2	10.5%	19	2	8.7%	23	1	5.3%	19
Memphis	0	0.0%	9	0	0.0%	11	0	0.0%	10
Michigan	3	12.0%	25	2	8.7%	23	3	12.5%	24
Minnesota	2	13.3%	15	1	6.7%	15	1	6.3%	16
Mississippi	6	26.1%	23	6	28.6%	21	4	20.0%	20
Missouri	3	14.3%	21	2	10.0%	20	2	9.1%	22
New England	2	20.0%	10	1	16.7%	6	1	20.0%	5
New Mexico	0	0.0%	7	0	0.0%	6	0	0.0%	5
New York	1	11.1%	9	1	16.7%	6	1	12.5%	8

## Deacons

### Presence of Deacons under 35 by Annual Conference 2017-2019, continued

CONFERENCE	2019 Deacons under 35	2019 Deacons under 35	2019 Deacons	2018 Deacons under 35	2018 Deacons under 35	2018 Deacons	2017 Deacons under 35	2017 Deacons under 35	2017 Deacons
North Alabama	1	7.1%	14	2	12.5%	16	2	11.8%	17
North Carolina	8	28.6%	28	8	29.6%	27	8	33.3%	24
North Georgia	8	11.9%	67	8	11.9%	67	12	17.9%	67
North Texas	7	14.6%	48	7	15.6%	45	5	13.2%	38
Northern Illinois	3	10.0%	30	4	12.1%	33	2	6.7%	30
Northwest Texas	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Oklahoma	1	4.2%	24	0	0.0%	25	1	3.8%	26
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Oregon-Idaho	1	12.5%	8	0	0.0%	9	0	0.0%	0
Pacific Northwest	1	12.5%	8	0	0.0%	5	0	0.0%	4
Peninsula-Delaware	0	0.0%	4	1	25.0%	4	1	25.0%	4
Red Bird Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Rio Texas	2	10.5%	19	2	11.1%	18	3	13.0%	23
Rocky Mountain	0	0.0%	24	0	0.0%	24	1	3.2%	31
South Carolina	6	30.0%	20	6	30.0%	20	7	33.3%	21
South Georgia	6	40.0%	15	6	40.0%	15	6	40.0%	15
Susquehanna	0	0.0%	4	0	0.0%	4	0	0.0%	4
Tennessee	9	22.0%	41	11	24.4%	45	9	24.3%	37
Texas	4	12.1%	33	5	14.7%	34	6	17.1%	35
Upper New York	0	0.0%	17	0	0.0%	15	1	5.9%	17
Virginia	5	17.9%	28	6	21.4%	28	5	16.7%	30
West Ohio	3	7.3%	41	4	11.8%	34	3	9.7%	31
West Virginia	0	0.0%	10	0	0.0%	12	0	0.0%	12
Western North Carolina	8	12.5%	64	9	14.3%	63	8	12.3%	65
Western Pennsylvania	3	50.0%	6	3	42.9%	7	3	42.9%	7
Wisconsin	1	12.5%	8	0	0.0%	7	0	0.0%	8
Yellowstone	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>12.23%</b>	<b>1006</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>12.41%</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>12.30%</b>	<b>1,008</b>



## Deacons

### Presence of Deacons under 35 by 2019 Percentage 2017-2019

CONFERENCE	2019 Deacons under 35	2019 Deacons under 35	2019 Deacons	2018 Deacons under 35	2018 Deacons under 35	2018 Deacons	2017 Deacons under 35	2017 Deacons under 35	2017 Deacons
Western Pennsylvania	3	50.00%	6	3	42.90%	7	3	42.90%	7
South Georgia	6	40.00%	15	6	40.00%	15	6	40.00%	15
South Carolina	6	30.00%	20	6	30.00%	20	7	33.30%	21
North Carolina	8	28.60%	28	8	29.60%	27	8	33.30%	24
Mississippi	6	26.10%	23	6	28.60%	21	4	20.00%	20
Tennessee	9	22.00%	41	11	24.40%	45	9	24.30%	37
New England	2	20.00%	10	1	16.70%	6	1	20.00%	5
Virginia	5	17.90%	28	6	21.40%	28	5	16.70%	30
East Ohio	3	17.60%	17	3	17.60%	17	2	12.50%	16
Arkansas	2	16.70%	12	1	9.10%	11	2	12.50%	16
North Texas	7	14.60%	48	7	15.60%	45	5	13.20%	38
Dakotas	1	14.30%	7	1	14.30%	7	1	14.30%	7
Missouri	3	14.30%	21	2	10.00%	20	2	9.10%	22
Minnesota	2	13.30%	15	1	6.70%	15	1	6.30%	16
California-Nevada	1	12.50%	8	0	0.00%	9	0	0.00%	10
Oregon-Idaho	1	12.50%	8	0	0.00%	9	0	0.00%	0
Pacific Northwest	1	12.50%	8	0	0.00%	5	0	0.00%	4
Western North Carolina	8	12.50%	64	9	14.30%	63	8	12.30%	65
Wisconsin	1	12.50%	8	0	0.00%	7	0	0.00%	8
Texas	4	12.10%	33	5	14.70%	34	6	17.10%	35
Michigan	3	12.00%	25	2	8.70%	23	3	12.50%	24
North Georgia	8	11.90%	67	8	11.90%	67	12	17.90%	67
Florida	3	11.10%	27	4	12.50%	32	4	12.10%	33
New York	1	11.10%	9	1	16.70%	6	1	12.50%	8
Central Texas	3	10.70%	28	4	14.30%	28	3	10.70%	28
Great Plains	2	10.50%	19	2	9.10%	22	2	8.30%	24
Indiana	2	10.50%	19	2	15.40%	13	2	15.40%	13
Louisiana	2	10.50%	19	2	8.70%	23	1	5.30%	19

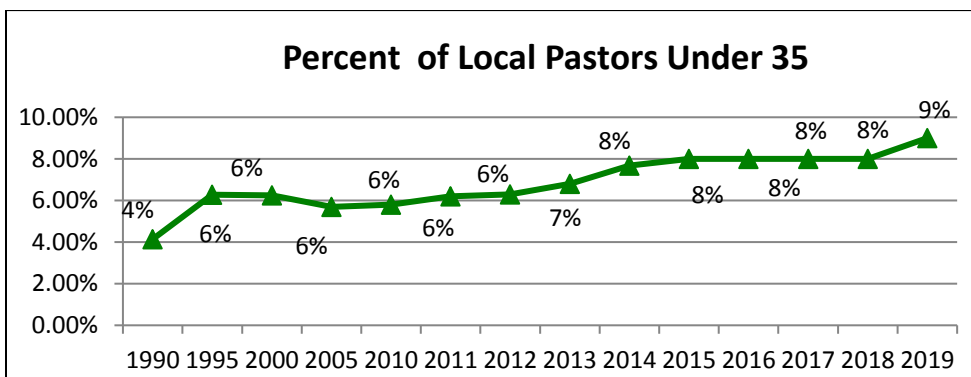
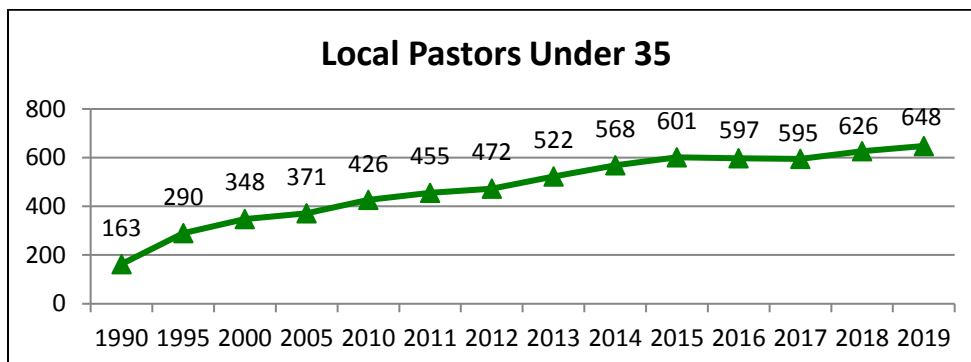
## Deacons

### Presence of Deacons under 35 by 2019 Percentage 2017-2019, continued

CONFERENCE	2019 Deacons under 35	2019 Deacons under 35	2019 Deacons	2018 Deacons under 35	2018 Deacons under 35	2018 Deacons	2017 Deacons under 35	2017 Deacons under 35	2017 Deacons
Rio Texas	2	10.50%	19	2	11.10%	18	3	13.00%	23
Northern Illinois	3	10.00%	30	4	12.10%	33	2	6.70%	30
Kentucky	2	9.10%	22	1	5.60%	18	2	9.10%	22
Alabama-West Florida	3	8.80%	34	2	5.60%	36	3	7.90%	38
Illinois Great Rivers	1	7.70%	13	1	7.10%	14	2	14.30%	14
West Ohio	3	7.30%	41	4	11.80%	34	3	9.70%	31
Holston	1	7.10%	14	2	16.70%	12	3	25.00%	12
North Alabama	1	7.10%	14	2	12.50%	16	2	11.80%	17
California-Pacific	1	5.30%	19	2	10.50%	19	0	0.00%	15
Eastern Pennsylvania	1	5.00%	20	2	10.50%	19	2	11.10%	18
Baltimore-Washington	1	4.80%	21	0	0.00%	22	0	0.00%	23
Oklahoma	1	4.20%	24	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0
Alaska Missionary	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0
Desert Southwest	0	0.00%	7	0	0.00%	7	0	0.00%	7
Greater New Jersey	0	0.00%	12	0	0.00%	13	0	0.00%	14
Iowa	0	0.00%	8	0	0.00%	12	0	0.00%	12
Memphis	0	0.00%	9	0	0.00%	11	0	0.00%	10
New Mexico	0	0.00%	7	0	0.00%	6	0	0.00%	5
Northwest Texas	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	25	1	3.80%	26
Peninsula-Delaware	0	0.00%	4	1	25.00%	4	1	25.00%	4
Red Bird Missionary	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0
Rocky Mountain	0	0.00%	24	0	0.00%	24	1	3.20%	31
Susquehanna	0	0.00%	4	0	0.00%	4	0	0.00%	4
Upper New York	0	0.00%	17	0	0.00%	15	1	5.90%	17
West Virginia	0	0.00%	10	0	0.00%	12	0	0.00%	12
Yellowstone	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.00%	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>12.41%</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>12.41%</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>12.30%</b>	<b>1,008</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 1985-2019**

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%
2019	7,563	648	9%	2,535	33%	4,380	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
2019	57	54.3	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
2015	Men	78%	70%	66%
	Women	22%	30%	34%
2016	Men	77%	70%	66%
	Women	23%	30%	34%
2018	Men	76%	71%	65%
	Women	24%	29%	35%
2019	Men	76%	70%	64%
	Women	24%	30%	36%

## Local Pastors under 35 by Jurisdictions

Jurisdiction	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
North Central	70	56	49	57	62	70	75	87	98	114	112	114	117	130
Northeastern	42	44	53	91	79	70	72	85	81	108	119	125	134	133
South Central	91	93	90	99	99	98	96	99	116	113	115	122	113	113
Southeastern	143	164	158	130	171	201	203	221	246	245	227	210	231	244
Western	17	19	17	20	15	16	26	30	27	21	24	24	31	28
Total	363	376	367	397	426	455	472	522	568	601	597	595	626	648

## Local Pastors

### Presence of Local Pastors under 35 by Annual Conference 2017-2019

CONFERENCE NAME	2019 Local Pastors under 35	2019 Local Pastors under 35	2019 Local Pastors	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
Alabama-West Florida	17	10.2%	166	12	8.2%	147	11	7.3%	150
Alaska Missionary	1	12.5%	8	0	0.0%	7	0	0.0%	5
Arkansas	4	4.0%	101	3	2.7%	111	6	4.9%	122
Baltimore-Washington	9	7.8%	115	14	11.9%	118	13	11.9%	109
California-Nevada	3	5.4%	56	5	10.0%	50	3	6.8%	44
California-Pacific	4	5.3%	76	7	8.0%	87	9	9.9%	91
Central Texas	8	12.7%	63	7	13.0%	54	9	16.1%	56
Dakotas	12	16.0%	75	10	14.9%	67	8	14.0%	57
Desert Southwest	6	20.7%	29	2	6.9%	29	1	3.0%	33
East Ohio	25	10.5%	237	24	10.2%	235	18	7.8%	232
Eastern Pennsylvania	0	0.0%	82	3	3.0%	100	5	5.1%	98
Florida	14	7.3%	192	13	7.3%	179	10	5.8%	171
Great Plains	13	5.4%	239	17	7.0%	244	19	7.5%	252
Greater New Jersey	18	11.3%	159	15	10.0%	150	16	10.7%	149
Holston	7	6.3%	112	6	5.3%	113	5	4.2%	119
Illinois Great Rivers	13	7.1%	183	15	8.3%	181	18	10.0%	180
Indiana	20	9.4%	212	16	7.5%	212	13	6.5%	201
Iowa	5	3.1%	160	7	4.4%	160	6	3.8%	158
Kentucky	27	10.8%	250	23	10.0%	231	27	11.5%	235
Louisiana	5	4.1%	123	6	5.0%	121	8	6.5%	123
Memphis	2	2.2%	89	3	3.1%	96	4	4.2%	95
Michigan	9	4.8%	186	13	6.7%	193	14	7.4%	189
Minnesota	12	14.5%	83	7	10.4%	67	6	9.0%	67
Mississippi	14	5.4%	260	14	5.4%	261	8	3.2%	248
Missouri	16	7.1%	226	13	5.5%	237	18	7.5%	241
New England	13	9.7%	134	11	8.3%	133	9	7.1%	126
New Mexico	0	0.0%	15	0	0.0%	18	1	5.0%	20
New York	9	15.0%	60	2	4.0%	50	1	1.8%	57

## Local Pastors

### Presence of Local Pastors under 35 by Annual Conference 2017-2019, continued

CONFERENCE NAME	2019 Local Pastors under 35	2019 Local Pastors under 35	2019 Local Pastors	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
North Alabama	25	11.1%	226	26	11.4%	228	19	7.9%	239
North Carolina	34	13.0%	261	34	12.5%	272	36	13.2%	273
North Georgia	23	8.2%	282	22	8.2%	268	26	9.4%	276
North Texas	10	9.6%	104	12	11.7%	103	9	8.3%	109
Northern Illinois	7	10.8%	65	5	7.9%	63	4	7.0%	57
Northwest Texas	7	9.2%	76	4	5.7%	70	4	5.6%	71
Oklahoma	11	9.4%	117	12	9.2%	130	13	9.5%	137
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.0%	6	0	0.0%	8	0	0.0%	15
Oregon-Idaho	4	14.8%	27	3	12.5%	24	0	0.0%	19
Pacific Northwest	5	15.2%	33	6	13.3%	45	7	14.6%	48
Peninsula-Delaware	9	8.0%	113	6	5.4%	112	4	3.5%	113
Red Bird Missionary	2	28.6%	7	1	16.7%	6	1	14.3%	7
Rio Texas	10	7.1%	141	7	4.8%	145	8	5.5%	146
Rocky Mountain	4	7.4%	54	7	13.0%	54	1	2.1%	48
South Carolina	15	6.0%	248	13	5.5%	238	11	4.6%	237
South Georgia	9	7.1%	126	10	7.7%	130	11	8.4%	131
Susquehanna	35	17.6%	199	43	20.1%	214	37	18.1%	204
Tennessee	13	7.0%	186	12	6.5%	185	8	4.3%	185
Texas	29	18.6%	156	32	20.6%	155	27	16.7%	162
Upper New York	18	8.1%	222	17	7.7%	222	17	7.7%	222
Virginia	28	8.7%	321	24	7.7%	311	19	6.5%	292
West Ohio	22	9.7%	226	14	7.5%	187	19	10.6%	179
West Virginia	11	6.2%	177	11	5.7%	193	8	4.1%	196
Western North Carolina	14	7.0%	200	18	8.5%	211	14	6.5%	214
Western Pennsylvania	11	6.1%	180	12	6.3%	189	15	8.3%	180
Wisconsin	5	4.9%	102	6	5.7%	105	8	7.9%	101
Yellowstone	1	5.9%	17	1	5.3%	19	3	13.0%	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>8.57%</b>	<b>7,563</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>8.30%</b>	<b>7,538</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>7.92%</b>	<b>7,512</b>

## Local Pastors

### Presence of Local Pastors under 35 by 2019 Percentage 2017-2019

CONFERENCE NAME	2019 Local Pastors under 35	2019 Local Pastors under 35	2019 Local Pastors	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
Red Bird Missionary	2	28.6%	7	1	16.7%	6	1	14.3%	7
Desert Southwest	6	20.7%	29	2	6.9%	29	1	3.0%	33
Texas	29	18.6%	156	32	20.6%	155	27	16.7%	162
Susquehanna	35	17.6%	199	43	20.1%	214	37	18.1%	204
Dakotas	12	16.0%	75	10	14.9%	67	8	14.0%	57
Pacific Northwest	5	15.2%	33	6	13.3%	45	7	14.6%	48
New York	9	15.0%	60	2	4.0%	50	1	1.8%	57
Oregon-Idaho	4	14.8%	27	3	12.5%	24	0	0.0%	19
Minnesota	12	14.5%	83	7	10.4%	67	6	9.0%	67
North Carolina	34	13.0%	261	34	12.5%	272	36	13.2%	273
Central Texas	8	12.7%	63	7	13.0%	54	9	16.1%	56
Alaska Missionary	1	12.5%	8	0	0.0%	7	0	0.0%	5
Greater New Jersey	18	11.3%	159	15	10.0%	150	16	10.7%	149
North Alabama	25	11.1%	226	26	11.4%	228	19	7.9%	239
Kentucky	27	10.8%	250	23	10.0%	231	27	11.5%	235
Northern Illinois	7	10.8%	65	5	7.9%	63	4	7.0%	57
East Ohio	25	10.5%	237	24	10.2%	235	18	7.8%	232
Alabama-West Florida	17	10.2%	166	12	8.2%	147	11	7.3%	150
West Ohio	22	9.7%	226	14	7.5%	187	19	10.6%	179
New England	13	9.7%	134	11	8.3%	133	9	7.1%	126
North Texas	10	9.6%	104	12	11.7%	103	9	8.3%	109
Indiana	20	9.4%	212	16	7.5%	212	13	6.5%	201
Oklahoma	11	9.4%	117	12	9.2%	130	13	9.5%	137
Northwest Texas	7	9.2%	76	4	5.7%	70	4	5.6%	71
Virginia	28	8.7%	321	24	7.7%	311	19	6.5%	292
North Georgia	23	8.2%	282	22	8.2%	268	26	9.4%	276
Upper New York	18	8.1%	222	17	7.7%	222	17	7.7%	222
Peninsula-Delaware	9	8.0%	113	6	5.4%	112	4	3.5%	113

## Local Pastors

### Presence of Local Pastors under 35 by 2019 Percentage 2017-2019, continued

CONFERENCE NAME	2019 Local Pastors under 35	2019 Local Pastors under 35	2019 Local Pastors	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
Baltimore-Washington	9	7.8%	115	14	11.9%	118	13	11.9%	109
Rocky Mountain	4	7.4%	54	7	13.0%	54	1	2.1%	48
Florida	14	7.3%	192	13	7.3%	179	10	5.8%	171
South Georgia	9	7.1%	126	10	7.7%	130	11	8.4%	131
Illinois Great Rivers	13	7.1%	183	15	8.3%	181	18	10.0%	180
Rio Texas	10	7.1%	141	7	4.8%	145	8	5.5%	146
Missouri	16	7.1%	226	13	5.5%	237	18	7.5%	241
Western North Carolina	14	7.0%	200	18	8.5%	211	14	6.5%	214
Tennessee	13	7.0%	186	12	6.5%	185	8	4.3%	185
Holston	7	6.3%	112	6	5.3%	113	5	4.2%	119
West Virginia	11	6.2%	177	11	5.7%	193	8	4.1%	196
Western Pennsylvania	11	6.1%	180	12	6.3%	189	15	8.3%	180
South Carolina	15	6.0%	248	13	5.5%	238	11	4.6%	237
Yellowstone	1	5.9%	17	1	5.3%	19	3	13.0%	23
Great Plains	13	5.4%	239	17	7.0%	244	19	7.5%	252
Mississippi	14	5.4%	260	14	5.4%	261	8	3.2%	248
California-Nevada	3	5.4%	56	5	10.0%	50	3	6.8%	44
California-Pacific	4	5.3%	76	7	8.0%	87	9	9.9%	91
Wisconsin	5	4.9%	102	6	5.7%	105	8	7.9%	101
Michigan	9	4.8%	186	13	6.7%	193	14	7.4%	189
Louisiana	5	4.1%	123	6	5.0%	121	8	6.5%	123
Arkansas	4	4.0%	101	3	2.7%	111	6	4.9%	122
Iowa	5	3.1%	160	7	4.4%	160	6	3.8%	158
Memphis	2	2.2%	89	3	3.1%	96	4	4.2%	95
Eastern Pennsylvania	0	0.0%	82	3	3.0%	100	5	5.1%	98
New Mexico	0	0.0%	15	0	0.0%	18	1	5.0%	20
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.0%	6	0	0.0%	8	0	0.0%	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>8.57%</b>	<b>7,563</b>	<b>626</b>	<b>8.30%</b>	<b>7,538</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>7.92%</b>	<b>7,512</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	3	14	17	34	14	82	104	200	17	60	89	166
Alaska Missionary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	3	8
Arkansas	2	1	9	12	18	97	97	212	4	33	64	101
Baltimore-Washington	1	8	12	21	21	127	204	352	9	28	78	115
California-Nevada	1	2	5	8	12	64	131	207	3	20	33	56
California-Pacific	1	6	12	19	11	116	191	318	4	26	46	76
Central Texas	3	16	9	28	15	85	103	203	8	27	28	63
Dakotas	1	2	4	7	11	39	53	103	12	38	25	75
Desert Southwest	3	14	17	34	3	41	54	98	6	6	17	29
East Ohio	3	6	8	17	13	89	146	248	25	73	139	237
Eastern Pennsylvania	1	8	11	20	6	58	154	218	0	28	54	82
Florida	3	13	11	27	27	143	199	369	14	71	107	192
Great Plains	2	4	13	19	26	134	197	357	13	89	137	239
Greater New Jersey	0	3	9	12	17	87	169	273	18	66	75	159
Holston	1	6	7	14	21	130	133	284	7	33	72	112
Illinois Great Rivers	1	6	6	13	16	86	160	262	13	51	119	183
Indiana	2	10	7	19	26	132	237	395	20	68	124	212
Iowa	0	3	5	8	17	86	162	265	5	56	99	160
Kentucky	2	4	16	22	24	88	140	252	27	101	122	250
Louisiana	2	6	11	19	16	64	91	171	5	36	82	123
Memphis	0	5	4	9	8	45	73	126	2	29	58	89
Michigan	3	12	10	25	21	100	201	322	9	62	115	186
Minnesota	2	6	7	15	6	66	90	162	12	26	45	83
Mississippi	6	10	7	23	17	129	151	297	14	105	141	260
Missouri	3	12	6	21	15	105	150	270	16	81	129	226
New England	2	4	4	10	9	77	109	195	13	43	78	134
New Mexico	0	5	2	7	1	23	48	72	0	4	11	15
New York	1	3	5	9	8	89	177	274	17	60	89	166

## 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	1	9	4	14	19	110	126	255	26	68	134	228
North Carolina	8	10	10	28	37	135	208	380	34	100	138	272
North Georgia	8	30	29	67	32	179	249	460	22	86	160	268
North Texas	7	21	20	48	24	88	127	239	12	38	53	103
Northern Illinois	3	13	14	30	19	112	133	264	5	22	36	63
Northwest Texas	0	0	0	0	2	35	39	76	4	23	43	70
Oklahoma	1	10	13	24	22	111	147	280	12	46	72	130
OK Indian Mission	0	0	0	0	0	3	11	14	0	2	6	8
Oregon-Idaho	1	5	2	8	3	23	51	77	3	9	12	24
Pacific Northwest	1	3	4	8	12	70	76	158	6	20	19	45
Peninsula-Delaware	0	2	2	4	4	37	81	122	6	25	81	112
Red Bird Mission	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	6
Rio Texas	2	9	8	19	10	95	112	217	7	59	79	145
Rocky Mountain	0	7	17	24	9	72	91	172	7	15	32	54
South Carolina	6	8	6	20	25	133	219	377	13	64	161	238
South Georgia	6	6	3	15	5	84	109	198	10	55	65	130
Susquehanna	0	1	3	4	18	67	141	226	43	64	107	214
Tennessee	9	15	17	41	17	72	83	172	12	70	103	185
Texas	4	17	12	33	45	163	202	410	32	43	80	155
Upper New York	0	2	15	17	9	77	151	237	17	64	141	222
Virginia	5	10	13	28	49	216	281	546	24	96	191	311
West Ohio	3	21	17	41	27	177	272	476	14	77	96	187
West Virginia	0	3	7	10	11	62	101	174	11	53	129	193
West. North Carolina	8	31	25	64	50	233	320	603	18	69	124	211
West. Pennsylvania	3	2	1	6	18	96	170	284	12	58	119	189
Wisconsin	1	4	3	8	6	68	122	196	6	39	60	105
Yellowstone	0	0	0	0	3	11	23	37	1	2	16	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>1,006</b>	<b>875</b>	<b>4,911</b>	<b>7,369</b>	<b>13,155</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>2,535</b>	<b>4,380</b>	<b>7,563</b>

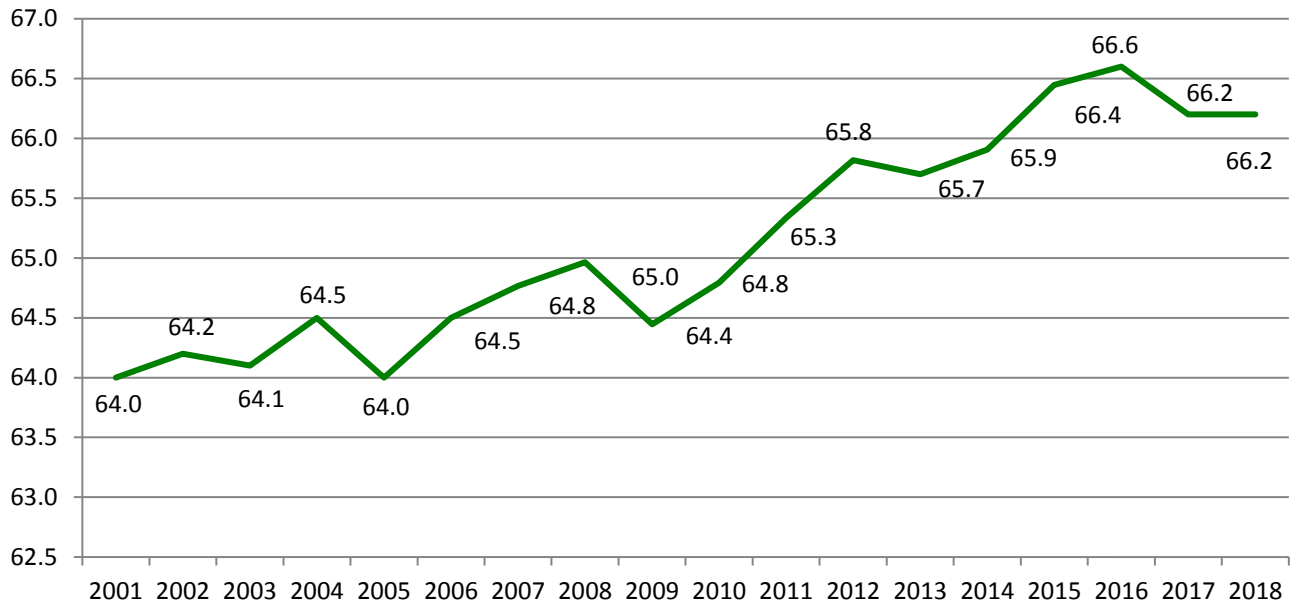
## Annual Conference Clergy by Age Group – Percentage

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	8.8%	41.2%	50.0%	7.0%	41.0%	52.0%	10.2%	36.1%	53.6%
Alaska Missionary	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%	50.0%	37.5%
Arkansas	16.7%	8.3%	75.0%	8.5%	45.8%	45.8%	4.0%	32.7%	63.4%
Baltimore-Washington	4.8%	38.1%	57.1%	6.0%	36.1%	58.0%	7.8%	24.3%	67.8%
California-Nevada	12.5%	25.0%	62.5%	5.8%	30.9%	63.3%	5.4%	35.7%	58.9%
California-Pacific	5.3%	31.6%	63.2%	3.5%	36.5%	60.1%	5.3%	34.2%	60.5%
Central Texas	10.7%	57.1%	32.1%	7.4%	41.9%	50.7%	12.7%	42.9%	44.4%
Dakotas	14.3%	28.6%	57.1%	10.7%	37.9%	51.5%	16.0%	50.7%	33.3%
Desert Southwest	0.0%	14.3%	85.7%	3.1%	41.8%	55.1%	20.7%	20.7%	58.6%
East Ohio	17.6%	35.3%	47.1%	5.2%	35.9%	58.9%	10.5%	30.8%	58.6%
Eastern Pennsylvania	5.0%	40.0%	55.0%	2.8%	26.6%	70.6%	0.0%	34.1%	65.9%
Florida	11.1%	48.1%	40.7%	7.3%	38.8%	53.9%	7.3%	37.0%	55.7%
Great Plains	10.5%	21.1%	68.4%	7.3%	37.5%	55.2%	5.4%	37.2%	57.3%
Greater New Jersey	0.0%	25.0%	75.0%	6.2%	31.9%	61.9%	11.3%	41.5%	47.2%
Holston	7.1%	42.9%	50.0%	7.4%	45.8%	46.8%	6.3%	29.5%	64.3%
Illinois Great Rivers	7.7%	46.2%	46.2%	6.1%	32.8%	61.1%	7.1%	27.9%	65.0%
Indiana	10.5%	52.6%	36.8%	6.6%	33.4%	60.0%	9.4%	32.1%	58.5%
Iowa	0.0%	37.5%	62.5%	6.4%	32.5%	61.1%	3.1%	35.0%	61.9%
Kentucky	9.1%	18.2%	72.7%	9.5%	34.9%	55.6%	10.8%	40.4%	48.8%
Louisiana	10.5%	31.6%	57.9%	9.4%	37.4%	53.2%	4.1%	29.3%	66.7%
Memphis	0.0%	55.6%	44.4%	6.3%	35.7%	57.9%	2.2%	32.6%	65.2%
Michigan	12.0%	48.0%	40.0%	6.5%	31.1%	62.4%	4.8%	33.3%	61.8%
Minnesota	13.3%	40.0%	46.7%	3.7%	40.7%	55.6%	14.5%	31.3%	54.2%
Mississippi	26.1%	43.5%	30.4%	5.7%	43.4%	50.8%	5.4%	40.4%	54.2%
Missouri	14.3%	57.1%	28.6%	5.6%	38.9%	55.6%	7.1%	35.8%	57.1%
New England	20.0%	40.0%	40.0%	4.6%	39.5%	55.9%	9.7%	32.1%	58.2%
New Mexico	0.0%	71.4%	28.6%	1.4%	31.9%	66.7%	0.0%	26.7%	73.3%
New York	11.1%	33.3%	55.6%	2.9%	32.5%	64.6%	15.0%	31.7%	53.3%

## 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	7.1%	64.3%	28.6%	7.5%	43.1%	49.4%	11.1%	29.2%	59.7%
North Carolina	28.6%	35.7%	35.7%	9.7%	35.5%	54.7%	13.0%	34.5%	52.5%
North Georgia	11.9%	44.8%	43.3%	7.0%	38.9%	54.1%	8.2%	34.8%	57.1%
North Texas	14.6%	43.8%	41.7%	10.0%	36.8%	53.1%	9.6%	37.5%	52.9%
Northern Illinois	10.0%	43.3%	46.7%	7.2%	42.4%	50.4%	10.8%	30.8%	58.5%
Northwest Texas	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.6%	46.1%	51.3%	9.2%	31.6%	59.2%
Oklahoma	4.2%	41.7%	54.2%	7.9%	39.6%	52.5%	9.4%	30.8%	59.8%
OK Indian Mission	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	21.4%	78.6%	0.0%	16.7%	83.3%
Oregon-Idaho	12.5%	62.5%	25.0%	3.9%	29.9%	66.2%	14.8%	33.3%	51.9%
Pacific Northwest	12.5%	37.5%	50.0%	7.6%	44.3%	48.1%	15.2%	39.4%	45.5%
Peninsula-Delaware	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	3.3%	30.3%	66.4%	8.0%	22.1%	69.9%
Red Bird Mission	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	28.6%	14.3%	57.1%
Rio Texas	10.5%	47.4%	42.1%	4.6%	43.8%	51.6%	7.1%	38.3%	54.6%
Rocky Mountain	0.0%	29.2%	70.8%	5.2%	41.9%	52.9%	7.4%	31.5%	61.1%
South Carolina	30.0%	40.0%	30.0%	6.6%	35.3%	58.1%	6.0%	29.4%	64.5%
South Georgia	40.0%	40.0%	20.0%	2.5%	42.4%	55.1%	7.1%	39.7%	53.2%
Susquehanna	0.0%	25.0%	75.0%	8.0%	29.6%	62.4%	17.6%	31.7%	50.8%
Tennessee	22.0%	36.6%	41.5%	9.9%	41.9%	48.3%	7.0%	38.7%	54.3%
Texas	12.1%	51.5%	36.4%	11.0%	39.8%	49.3%	18.6%	31.4%	50.0%
Upper New York	0.0%	11.8%	88.2%	3.8%	32.5%	63.7%	8.1%	27.5%	64.4%
Virginia	17.9%	35.7%	46.4%	9.0%	39.6%	51.5%	8.7%	31.5%	59.8%
West Ohio	7.3%	51.2%	41.5%	5.7%	37.2%	57.1%	9.7%	40.7%	49.6%
West Virginia	0.0%	30.0%	70.0%	6.3%	35.6%	58.0%	6.2%	25.4%	68.4%
West. North Carolina	12.5%	48.4%	39.1%	8.3%	38.6%	53.1%	7.0%	31.0%	62.0%
West. Pennsylvania	50.0%	33.3%	16.7%	6.3%	33.8%	59.9%	6.1%	27.8%	66.1%
Wisconsin	12.5%	50.0%	37.5%	3.1%	34.7%	62.2%	4.9%	38.2%	56.9%
Yellowstone	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.1%	29.7%	62.2%	5.9%	11.8%	82.4%

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



### Average Retirement Ages

	2005	2018
<b>Elders</b>	64	66
<b>Deacons</b>	64	66
<b>Full-Time Local Pastors</b>	65	68
<b>Part-Time Local Pastors</b>	67	69

## Lewis Center for Church Leadership

### 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 eight, 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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