

A Lewis Center Report on
**Clergy Age Trends in the
United Methodist Church**
2020 Report

Elders • Deacons • Local Pastors

2020 Report
Lewis Center for Church Leadership
Wesley Theological Seminary



Lewis Center
for Church Leadership

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Highlights

Highlights of the 2020 Report

Decline in the Number of Young Elders Continues

Since reaching the record low point for under 35 elders in 2005, there have been these phases:

2006 – 2016 (Growth)

The number of young elders grew gradually but steadily through this period. While the number of male young elders decreased, their number of young female elders provided all the gains.

2016 – 2018 (Modest Decline)

The number of young elders declined modestly. There actually was a net gain of men by 3 with dramatic declines in women (-51).

2018 – 2020 (Major Decline)

Even in the period of growth, there were ups and downs between one year and next. However, what occurred since 2018 is of a different order. Not only was there a decline of 97 young elders, the decline was closer to proportional than in the past. There was a net loss of 68 men and 29 women. Men represented 70 percent while representing 62 percent of the young elder pool with women representing 30 percent of the losses while representing 38 percent of young elders overall.

In 2020, the number of young elders came within two of reaching the previous low of 850 in 2005.

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 Show First Signs of Younger Trend

Since 2000 we have been watching a trend of having fewer elders in the middle age (35-54) group and more elders in the older (55-72) group. Since those in the older group face a mandatory retirement age of 72 with most elders retiring well before that age, it seemed that this expanding pool of older elders could not continue to grow indefinitely. After twenty years of growth, one began to wonder that such a decline might never happen. This year we see a modest turn in this trend with a one percent shift from the older group to the middle age group. It will be interesting to see if the trend continues. Though the change is small, it could mark a shift we have not seen in twenty years in the age makeup trend of United Methodist elders.

Local Pastors Continue to Grow in Proportion to Elders

Elders and local pastors are appointed as pastors of congregations. In 1990, there were over five elders for each local pastor; today there are 1.7 elders for each local pastor. In 2020, there are 12,610 elders and 7,478 local pastors. The result is that since 1990 there are 8,352 fewer elders and 3,627 more local pastors. As elders have declined in numbers by 41 percent since 1990, local pastors have increased in numbers by 90 percent.

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 2020.

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. Matthew Lyons, marketing manager, and Melinda Paczári-Pongor, student worker, contributed to the project. Barbara Boigegrain, general secretary of Wespeth Benefits and Investments, and the staff, particularly Amit Dharna, David Sirkin, and Tanya Lerner, provided essential cooperation and data.

Summary of Findings

Young Clergy Trends

Young Elders

- The number of under-35 elders decreased by 23 to 852, continuing a four-year decline.
- The percentage of young elders increased slightly (6.75 percent compared to 6.65 percent in 2019) since the total pool of active elders continued to decline.
- The Texas Conference reported the highest percentage of young elders at 12.1 percent followed closely by the Dakotas Conference at 11.8 percent.
- The Top Ten Conferences by percentage
 - Texas (also #1 in 2019, 2016, 2015, 2014, and 2012)
 - Dakotas
 - Tennessee
 - North Carolina
 - Susquehanna (new since last report)
 - North Texas
 - Virginia
 - Pacific Northwest (new since last report)
 - North Alabama (new since last report)
 - Kentucky
- This is the most regionally diverse list since these reports began in 2005. Normally the conferences with larger percentages of young clergy are from the Southeastern and South Central Jurisdictions. This year every jurisdiction is represented in the top ten. Dakotas from the North Central Jurisdiction appears again this year. The Susquehanna Conference from the Northeastern Jurisdiction and the Pacific Northwest Conference from the Western Jurisdiction appear in the top ten for the first time.
- The largest total number of young elders (49) is in the Virginia Conference, followed closely by Texas (47) and Western North Carolina (46).

Young Deacons

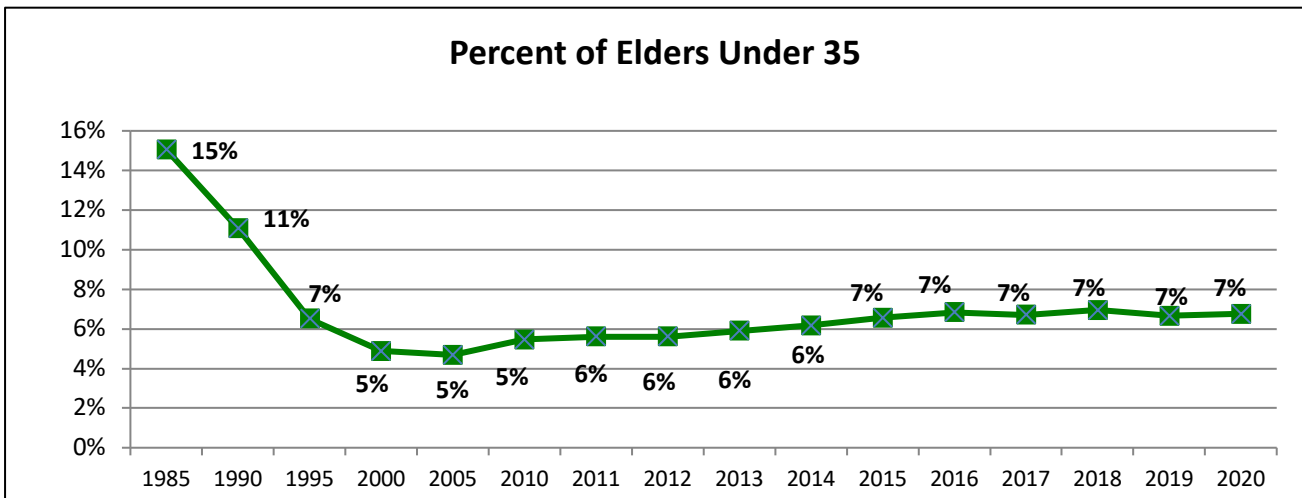
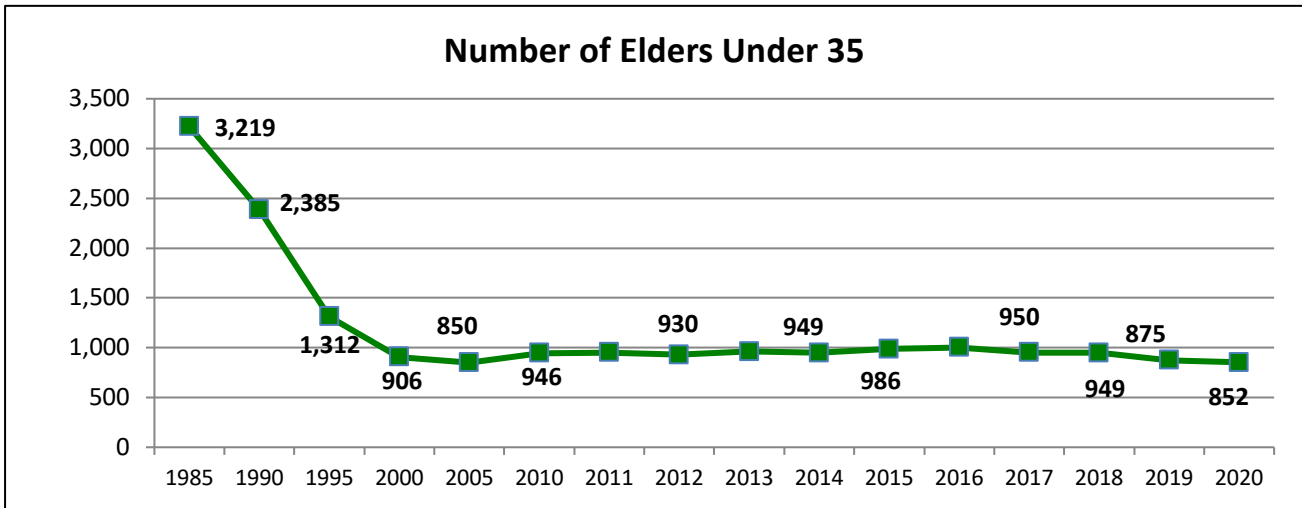
- The number of under-35 deacons declined by 15 in 2020 to 108. The declines of the last two years came after two years of record highs.
- The percentage of young deacons among all active deacons declined to 11 percent from last year's 12.23 percent.
- Despite the percentage decline, the percentage of young deacons remains well above that of elders and local pastors.
- However, there is another shift to note. The higher number of young deacons in recent years has now translated into significant growth in the middle age (35-54) cohort. This middle group grew to 44 percent of the total compared to 41 percent last year. Deacons are the first of the clergy groups to show movement back to proportions from past years (and compared to the population) in which the larger number of clergy are in the broad middle age group.

Young Local Pastors

- The number of under-35 local pastors increased to 654 in 2020 from 648 in 2019.
- The percentage of young local pastors among all active local pastors increased slightly to 8.70 percent (8.57 percent in 2019).
- The small shift identified among elders from the older age (55-72) to the middle age (35-54) is also seen among local pastors.

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 1985-2020

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%
2020	12,610	852	7%	4,830	38%	6,928	55%

**Gender Breakdown within
Age Cohorts – Elders**

Year	Gender	Under 35	35-54	55-72
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%
2020	Men	62%	67%	69%
	Women	38%	33%	31%

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
2020	56	53.4	61

*Median – half older, half younger

*Mode – single age most represented

Elders

Mean, Median, and Mode Ages by Conference

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

CONFERENCE	2020 Mean	2020 Median	2020 Mode
ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA	52.6	55	61
ALASKA MISSIONARY	0.0	0	0
ARKANSAS	51.5	52	46
BALTIMORE-WASHINGTON	54.2	57	59
CALIFORNIA-NEVADA	55.3	58	62
CALIFORNIA-PACIFIC	55.5	58	61
CENTRAL TEXAS	50.9	53	60
DAKOTAS	52.1	54	59
DESERT SOUTHWEST	55.3	58	61
EAST OHIO	53.4	57	62
EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA	56.6	59	62
FLORIDA	52.6	56	59
GREAT PLAINS	52.6	55	63
GREATER NEW JERSEY	54.2	57	62
HOLSTON	51.6	53	60
ILLINOIS GREAT RIVERS	53.8	57	64
INDIANA	53.6	57	62
IOWA	53.8	57	60
KENTUCKY	54.0	57	65
LOUISIANA	53.0	56	63
MEMPHIS	55.2	57	66
MICHIGAN	54.4	58	60
MINNESOTA	53.8	56	63
MISSISSIPPI	52.6	55	64
MISSOURI	53.1	56	63
MOUNTAIN SKY	52.8	56	58
NEW ENGLAND	53.0	56	58
NEW MEXICO	55.7	59	63

CONFERENCE	2020 Mean	2020 Median	2020 Mode
NEW YORK	55.7	58	59
NORTH ALABAMA	52.7	55	56
NORTH CAROLINA	52.3	56	62
NORTH GEORGIA	53.1	55	61
NORTH TEXAS	51.7	54	59
NORTHERN ILLINOIS	52.8	54	61
NORTHWEST TEXAS	54.1	55	58
OKLAHOMA	53.8	56	61
OKLAHOMA INDIAN MSNY	59.1	61	67
OREGON IDAHO	54.6	57	62
PACIFIC NORTHWEST	51.6	53	54
PENINSULA-DELAWARE	56.5	59	63
RED BIRD MISSIONARY	0.0	0	0
RIO TEXAS	52.8	55	63
SOUTH CAROLINA	54.9	58	62
SOUTH GEORGIA	53.2	56	57
SUSQUEHANNA	53.3	58	60
TENNESSEE	50.5	57	61
TEXAS	51.1	51	59
UPPER NEW YORK	55.6	54	57
VIRGINIA	51.6	58	61
WEST OHIO	54.2	54	60
WEST VIRGINIA	54.1	56	59
WESTERN N. CAROLINA	52.9	57	60
WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA	54.4	55	63
WISCONSIN	55.0	57	60
All Elders	53.4	56	61

Elders

Presence of Elders under 35 by Annual Conference 2018-2020

CONFERENCE	2020 Elders under 35	2020 Elders under 35	2020 Elders	2019 Elders under 35	2019 Elders under 35	2019 Elders	2018 Elders under 35	2018 Elders under 35	2018 Elders
Alabama-West Florida	16	8.3%	193	14	7.0%	200	18	8.5%	213
Alaska Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Arkansas	16	8.0%	199	18	8.5%	212	24	10.9%	220
Baltimore-Washington	16	4.7%	341	21	6.0%	352	22	6.1%	358
California-Nevada	11	5.2%	212	12	5.8%	207	13	5.9%	219
California-Pacific	10	3.3%	306	11	3.5%	318	7	2.2%	312
Central Texas	16	8.3%	192	15	7.4%	203	18	8.5%	213
Dakotas	12	11.8%	102	11	10.7%	103	12	10.7%	112
Desert Southwest	2	2.1%	94	3	3.1%	98	4	4.0%	101
East Ohio	16	6.8%	236	13	5.2%	248	16	6.2%	260
Eastern Pennsylvania	6	3.0%	200	6	2.8%	218	7	3.2%	218
Florida	25	6.9%	361	27	7.3%	369	31	8.0%	386
Great Plains	23	7.0%	327	26	7.3%	357	32	8.6%	373
Greater New Jersey	16	6.1%	264	17	6.2%	273	16	5.6%	284
Holston	19	6.9%	275	21	7.4%	284	22	7.5%	295
Illinois Great Rivers	16	6.7%	240	16	6.1%	262	18	6.4%	280
Indiana	24	6.4%	377	26	6.6%	395	31	7.4%	421
Iowa	16	6.3%	255	17	6.4%	265	19	6.9%	275
Kentucky	21	8.5%	248	24	9.5%	252	25	10.6%	235
Louisiana	13	8.0%	163	16	9.4%	171	18	10.2%	176
Memphis	5	4.5%	112	8	6.3%	126	8	6.0%	133
Michigan	25	7.8%	320	21	6.5%	322	21	6.0%	352
Minnesota	6	4.0%	149	6	3.7%	162	8	4.7%	169
Mississippi	20	7.1%	282	17	5.7%	297	22	7.2%	304
Missouri	12	4.9%	246	15	5.6%	270	20	7.2%	279
Mountain Sky	Rocky Mountain	13	212	9	5.2%	172	9	5.1%	175
	Yellowstone			3	8.1%	37	2	5.9%	34
New England	12	6.1%	197	9	4.6%	195	8	3.9%	203
New Mexico	0	0.0%	73	1	1.4%	72	2	2.4%	83
New York	5	1.9%	261	8	2.9%	274	7	2.4%	286

**Presence of Elders under 35
by Annual Conference
2018-2020, continued**

CONFERENCE	2020 Elders under 35	2020 Elders under 35	2020 Elders	2019 Elders under 35	2019 Elders under 35	2019 Elders	2018 Elders under 35	2018 Elders under 35	2018 Elders
North Alabama	22	8.8%	250	19	7.5%	255	29	10.6%	274
North Carolina	38	10.3%	368	37	9.7%	380	38	10.1%	375
North Georgia	30	6.8%	443	32	7.0%	460	34	7.2%	470
North Texas	23	9.8%	234	24	10.0%	239	25	10.1%	247
Northern Illinois	20	7.8%	258	19	7.2%	264	14	5.1%	275
Northwest Texas	3	4.0%	75	2	2.6%	76	3	3.5%	85
Oklahoma	16	6.2%	259	22	7.9%	280	25	8.8%	283
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.0%	13	0	0.0%	11	0	0.0%	16
Oregon-Idaho	3	3.8%	79	3	3.9%	77	2	2.5%	81
Pacific Northwest	13	9.0%	145	12	7.6%	158	11	7.5%	147
Peninsula-Delaware	4	3.5%	113	4	3.3%	122	5	3.8%	130
Red Bird Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Rio Texas	9	4.5%	201	10	4.6%	217	11	4.7%	235
South Carolina	21	5.7%	370	25	6.6%	377	29	7.5%	388
South Georgia	8	4.2%	192	5	2.5%	198	9	4.3%	211
Susquehanna	21	10.1%	208	18	8.0%	226	11	4.7%	236
Tennessee	17	10.4%	163	17	9.9%	172	16	8.9%	180
Texas	47	12.1%	389	45	11.0%	410	41	9.5%	432
Upper New York	11	4.9%	226	9	3.8%	237	11	4.3%	255
Virginia	49	9.6%	513	49	9.0%	546	56	9.8%	573
West Ohio	26	5.7%	455	27	5.7%	476	27	5.3%	506
West Virginia	9	5.3%	170	11	6.3%	174	8	4.4%	181
Western North Carolina	46	7.9%	584	50	8.3%	603	54	8.6%	628
Western Pennsylvania	16	5.9%	273	18	6.3%	284	19	6.6%	288
Wisconsin	8	4.2%	192	6	3.1%	196	11	5.4%	204
Total	852	6.75%	12,610	875	6.65%	13,155	949	6.94%	13,669

Elders

Presence of Elders under 35 by 2020 Percentage 2018-2020

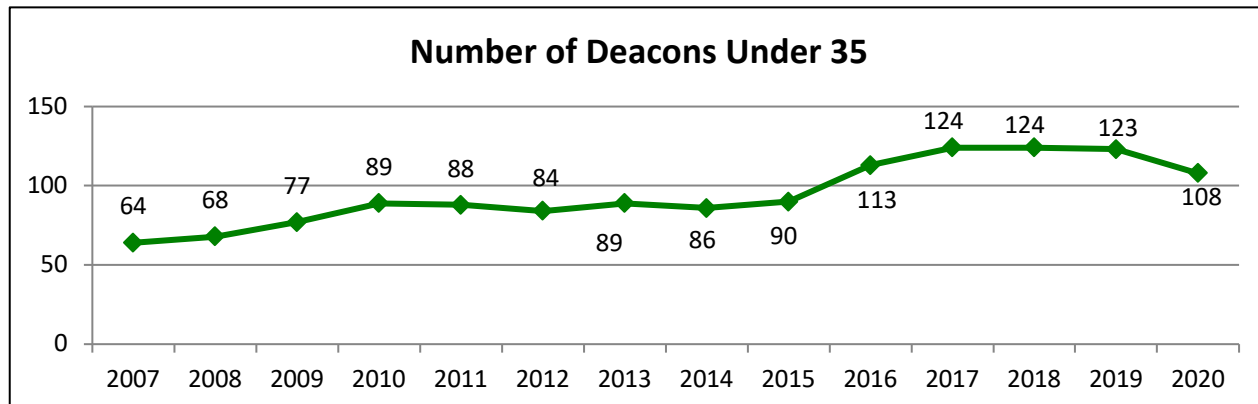
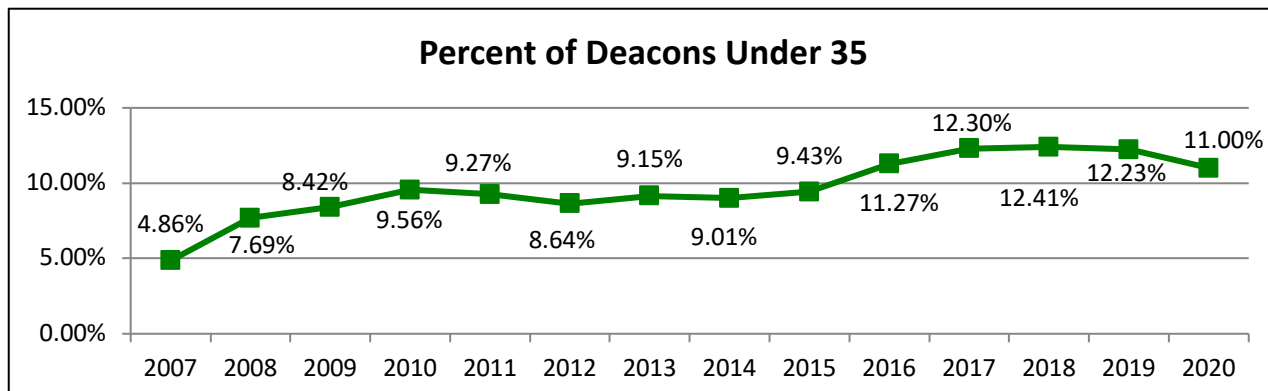
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Greater New Jersey	16	6.1%	264	17	6.2%	273	16	5.6%	284	
New England	12	6.1%	197	9	4.6%	195	8	3.9%	203	
Mountain Sky	Rocky Mountain	13	6.1%	212	9	5.2%	172	9	5.1%	9
	Yellowstone				3	8.1%	37	2	5.9%	3

Presence of Elders under 35
by 2020 Percentage
2018-2020, continued

CONFERENCE	2020 Elders under 35	2020 Elders under 35	2020 Elders	2019 Elders under 35	2019 Elders under 35	2019 Elders	2018 Elders under 35	2018 Elders under 35	2018 Elders
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Oregon-Idaho	3	3.8%	79	3	3.9%	77	2	2.5%	81
Peninsula-Delaware	4	3.5%	113	4	3.3%	122	5	3.8%	130
California-Pacific	10	3.3%	306	11	3.5%	318	7	2.2%	312
Eastern Pennsylvania	6	3.0%	200	6	2.8%	218	7	3.2%	218
Desert Southwest	2	2.1%	94	3	3.1%	98	4	4.0%	101
New York	5	1.9%	261	8	2.9%	274	7	2.4%	286
Alaska Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
New Mexico	0	0.0%	73	1	1.4%	72	2	2.4%	83
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.0%	13	0	0.0%	11	0	0.0%	16
Red Bird Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Total	852	6.75	12,610	875	6.65%	13,155	949	6.94%	13,669

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 Wespath Benefits.



Trends for Deacons 2005-2020

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	1,006	123	12%	415	41%	468	47%
2020	983	108	11%	429	44%	446	45%

**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
2020	53	50.9	64

*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
2017	Men	23%	32%	24%
	Women	77%	68%	76%
2018	Men	20%	32%	24%
	Women	80%	68%	76%
2019	Men	20%	33%	24%
	Women	80%	67%	76%
2020	Men	26%	32%	23%
	Women	74%	68%	77%

Deacons

Presence of Deacons under 35 by Annual Conference 2018-2020

CONFERENCE	2020 Deacons under 35	2020 Deacons under 35	2020 Deacons	2019 Deacons under 35	2019 Deacons under 35	2019 Deacons	2018 Deacons under 35	2018 Deacons under 35	2018 Deacons
Alabama-West Florida	3	8.6%	35	3	8.8%	34	2	5.6%	36
Alaska Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Arkansas	2	20.0%	10	2	16.7%	12	1	9.1%	11
Baltimore-Washington	0	0.0%	20	1	4.8%	21	0	0.0%	22
California-Nevada	0	0.0%	7	1	12.5%	8	0	0.0%	9
California-Pacific	2	12.5%	16	1	5.3%	19	2	10.5%	19
Central Texas	2	7.4%	27	3	10.7%	28	4	14.3%	28
Dakotas	0	0.0%	7	1	14.3%	7	1	14.3%	7
Desert Southwest	0	0.0%	6	0	0.0%	7	0	0.0%	7
East Ohio	1	6.7%	15	3	17.6%	17	3	17.6%	17
Eastern Pennsylvania	0	0.0%	19	1	5.0%	20	2	10.5%	19
Florida	1	3.7%	27	3	11.1%	27	4	12.5%	32
Great Plains	2	12.5%	16	2	10.5%	19	2	9.1%	22
Greater New Jersey	0	0.0%	12	0	0.0%	12	0	0.0%	13
Holston	1	7.7%	13	1	7.1%	14	2	16.7%	12
Illinois Great Rivers	3	21.4%	14	1	7.7%	13	1	7.1%	14
Indiana	0	0.0%	20	2	10.5%	19	2	15.4%	13
Iowa	0	0.0%	8	0	0.0%	8	0	0.0%	12
Kentucky	0	0.0%	22	2	9.1%	22	1	5.6%	18
Louisiana	2	10.0%	20	2	10.5%	19	2	8.7%	23
Memphis	0	0.0%	7	0	0.0%	9	0	0.0%	11
Michigan	1	3.8%	26	3	12.0%	25	2	8.7%	23
Minnesota	1	8.3%	12	2	13.3%	15	1	6.7%	15
Mississippi	6	30.0%	20	6	26.1%	23	6	28.6%	21
Missouri	3	13.0%	23	3	14.3%	21	2	10.0%	20
Mountain Sky	Rocky Mountain	0	20	0	0.0%	24	0	0.0%	24
	Yellowstone			0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
New England	2	18.2%	11	2	20.0%	10	1	16.7%	6
New Mexico	0	0.0%	7	0	0.0%	7	0	0.0%	6
New York	1	12.5%	8	1	11.1%	9	1	16.7%	6

Deacons

Presence of Deacons under 35 by Annual Conference 2018-2020, continued

CONFERENCE	2020 Deacons under 35	2020 Deacons under 35	2020 Deacons	2019 Deacons under 35	2019 Deacons under 35	2019 Deacons	2018 Deacons under 35	2018 Deacons under 35	2018 Deacons
North Alabama	0	0.0%	15	1	7.1%	14	2	12.5%	16
North Carolina	6	25.0%	24	8	28.6%	28	8	29.6%	27
North Georgia	8	11.8%	68	8	11.9%	67	8	11.9%	67
North Texas	9	18.0%	50	7	14.6%	48	7	15.6%	45
Northern Illinois	4	16.0%	25	3	10.0%	30	4	12.1%	33
Northwest Texas	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Oklahoma	0	0.0%	23	1	4.2%	24	0	0.0%	25
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Oregon-Idaho	0	0.0%	7	1	12.5%	8	0	0.0%	9
Pacific Northwest	1	12.5%	8	1	12.5%	8	0	0.0%	5
Peninsula-Delaware	0	0.0%	4	0	0.0%	4	1	25.0%	4
Red Bird Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Rio Texas	2	11.8%	17	2	10.5%	19	2	11.1%	18
South Carolina	6	28.6%	21	6	30.0%	20	6	30.0%	20
South Georgia	4	26.7%	15	6	40.0%	15	6	40.0%	15
Susquehanna	0	0.0%	3	0	0.0%	4	0	0.0%	4
Tennessee	9	20.5%	44	9	22.0%	41	11	24.4%	45
Texas	5	15.6%	32	4	12.1%	33	5	14.7%	34
Upper New York	0	0.0%	16	0	0.0%	17	0	0.0%	15
Virginia	7	22.6%	31	5	17.9%	28	6	21.4%	28
West Ohio	4	10.0%	40	3	7.3%	41	4	11.8%	34
West Virginia	0	0.0%	10	0	0.0%	10	0	0.0%	12
Western North Carolina	5	7.7%	65	8	12.5%	64	9	14.3%	63
Western Pennsylvania	4	50.0%	8	3	50.0%	6	3	42.9%	7
Wisconsin	1	11.1%	9	1	12.5%	8	0	0.0%	7
Total	108	11.0%	983	123	12.23%	1,006	124	12.41%	999

Deacons

Presence of Deacons under 35 by 2020 Percentage 2018-2020

CONFERENCE	2020 Deacons under 35	2020 Deacons under 35	2020 Deacons	2019 Deacons under 35	2019 Deacons under 35	2019 Deacons	2018 Deacons under 35	2018 Deacons under 35	2018 Deacons
Western Pennsylvania	4	50.0%	8	3	50.0%	6	3	42.9%	7
Mississippi	6	30.0%	20	6	26.1%	23	6	28.6%	21
South Carolina	6	28.6%	21	6	30.0%	20	6	30.0%	20
South Georgia	4	26.7%	15	6	40.0%	15	6	40.0%	15
North Carolina	6	25.0%	24	8	28.6%	28	8	29.6%	27
Virginia	7	22.6%	31	5	17.9%	28	6	21.4%	28
Illinois Great Rivers	3	21.4%	14	1	7.7%	13	1	7.1%	14
Tennessee	9	20.5%	44	9	22.0%	41	11	24.4%	45
Arkansas	2	20.0%	10	2	16.7%	12	1	9.1%	11
New England	2	18.2%	11	2	20.0%	10	1	16.7%	6
North Texas	9	18.0%	50	7	14.6%	48	7	15.6%	45
Northern Illinois	4	16.0%	25	3	10.0%	30	4	12.1%	33
Texas	5	15.6%	32	4	12.1%	33	5	14.7%	34
Missouri	3	13.0%	23	3	14.3%	21	2	10.0%	20
California-Pacific	2	12.5%	16	1	5.3%	19	2	10.5%	19
Great Plains	2	12.5%	16	2	10.5%	19	2	9.1%	22
New York	1	12.5%	8	1	11.1%	9	1	16.7%	6
Pacific Northwest	1	12.5%	8	1	12.5%	8	0	0.0%	5
North Georgia	8	11.8%	68	8	11.9%	67	8	11.9%	67
Rio Texas	2	11.8%	17	2	10.5%	19	2	11.1%	18
Wisconsin	1	11.1%	9	1	12.5%	8	0	0.0%	7
Louisiana	2	10.0%	20	2	10.5%	19	2	8.7%	23
West Ohio	4	10.0%	40	3	7.3%	41	4	11.8%	34
Alabama-West Florida	3	8.6%	35	3	8.8%	34	2	5.6%	36
Minnesota	1	8.3%	12	2	13.3%	15	1	6.7%	15
Holston	1	7.7%	13	1	7.1%	14	2	16.7%	12
Western North Carolina	5	7.7%	65	8	12.5%	64	9	14.3%	63
Central Texas	2	7.4%	27	3	10.7%	28	4	14.3%	28

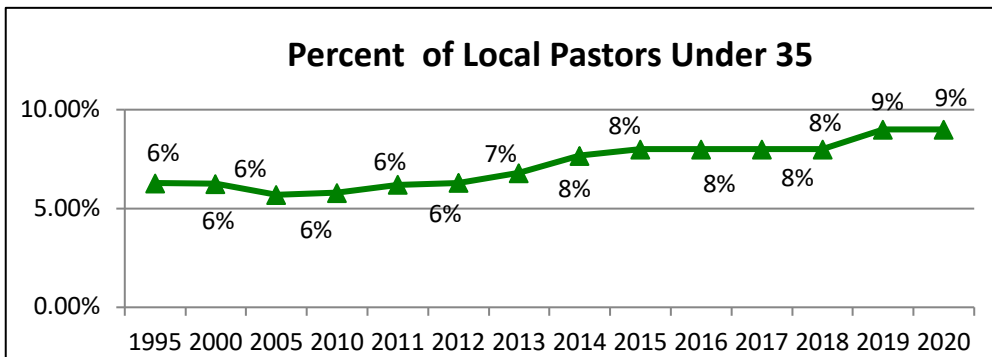
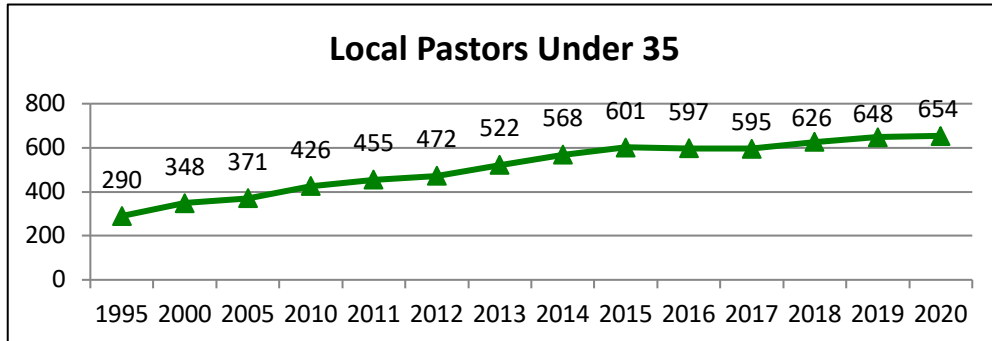
Deacons

Presence of Deacons under 35 by 2020 Percentage 2018-2020, continued

CONFERENCE	2020 Deacons under 35	2020 Deacons under 35	2020 Deacons	2019 Deacons under 35	2019 Deacons under 35	2019 Deacons	2018 Deacons under 35	2018 Deacons under 35	2018 Deacons
East Ohio	1	6.7%	15	3	17.6%	17	3	17.6%	17
Michigan	1	3.8%	26	3	12.0%	25	2	8.7%	23
Florida	1	3.7%	27	3	11.1%	27	4	12.5%	32
Alaska Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Baltimore-Washington	0	0.0%	20	1	4.8%	21	0	0.0%	22
California-Nevada	0	0.0%	7	1	12.5%	8	0	0.0%	9
Dakotas	0	0.0%	7	1	14.3%	7	1	14.3%	7
Desert Southwest	0	0.0%	6	0	0.0%	7	0	0.0%	7
Eastern Pennsylvania	0	0.0%	19	1	5.0%	20	2	10.5%	19
Greater New Jersey	0	0.0%	12	0	0.0%	12	0	0.0%	13
Indiana	0	0.0%	20	2	10.5%	19	2	15.4%	13
Iowa	0	0.0%	8	0	0.0%	8	0	0.0%	12
Kentucky	0	0.0%	22	2	9.1%	22	1	5.6%	18
Memphis	0	0.0%	7	0	0.0%	9	0	0.0%	11
Mountain Sky	Rocky Mountain	0	20	0	0.0%	24	0	0.0%	24
	Yellowstone			0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
New Mexico	0	0.0%	7	0	0.0%	7	0	0.0%	6
North Alabama	0	0.0%	15	1	7.1%	14	2	12.5%	16
Northwest Texas	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Oklahoma	0	0.0%	23	1	4.2%	24	0	0.0%	25
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Oregon-Idaho	0	0.0%	7	1	12.5%	8	0	0.0%	9
Peninsula-Delaware	0	0.0%	4	0	0.0%	4	1	25.0%	4
Red Bird Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Susquehanna	0	0.0%	3	0	0.0%	4	0	0.0%	4
Upper New York	0	0.0%	16	0	0.0%	17	0	0.0%	15
West Virginia	0	0.0%	10	0	0.0%	10	0	0.0%	12
Total	108	11.0%	983	123	12.23%	1,006	124	12.41%	999

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 1985-2020

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%
2020	7,478	654	9%	2,546	34%	4,278	57%

**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
2020	57	54.2	63

* 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
2017	Men	78%	71%	65%
	Women	22%	29%	35%
2018	Men	76%	71%	65%
	Women	24%	29%	35%
2019	Men	76%	70%	64%
	Women	24%	30%	36%
2020	Men	76%	70%	64%
	Women	24%	30%	36%

Local Pastors

Presence of Local Pastors under 35 by Annual Conference 2018-2020

CONFERENCE NAME	2020 Local Pastors under 35	2020 Local Pastors under 35	2020 Local Pastors	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	
Alabama-West Florida	21	12.5%	168	17	10.2%	166	12	8.2%	147	
Alaska Missionary	1	10.0%	10	1	12.5%	8	0	0.0%	7	
Arkansas	5	5.5%	91	4	4.0%	101	3	2.7%	111	
Baltimore-Washington	10	8.8%	114	9	7.8%	115	14	11.9%	118	
California-Nevada	0	0.0%	52	3	5.4%	56	5	10.0%	50	
California-Pacific	6	7.3%	82	4	5.3%	76	7	8.0%	87	
Central Texas	8	12.7%	63	8	12.7%	63	7	13.0%	54	
Dakotas	10	13.3%	75	12	16.0%	75	10	14.9%	67	
Desert Southwest	5	15.2%	33	6	20.7%	29	2	6.9%	29	
East Ohio	21	9.7%	217	25	10.5%	237	24	10.2%	235	
Eastern Pennsylvania	10	9.2%	109	0	0.0%	82	3	3.0%	100	
Florida	11	5.9%	187	14	7.3%	192	13	7.3%	179	
Great Plains	21	8.6%	244	13	5.4%	239	17	7.0%	244	
Greater New Jersey	19	12.2%	156	18	11.3%	159	15	10.0%	150	
Holston	6	4.8%	126	7	6.3%	112	6	5.3%	113	
Illinois Great Rivers	14	7.3%	192	13	7.1%	183	15	8.3%	181	
Indiana	18	8.9%	202	20	9.4%	212	16	7.5%	212	
Iowa	6	3.9%	154	5	3.1%	160	7	4.4%	160	
Kentucky	23	9.8%	234	27	10.8%	250	23	10.0%	231	
Louisiana	6	5.0%	121	5	4.1%	123	6	5.0%	121	
Memphis	2	2.5%	80	2	2.2%	89	3	3.1%	96	
Michigan	11	6.1%	179	9	4.8%	186	13	6.7%	193	
Minnesota	10	11.9%	84	12	14.5%	83	7	10.4%	67	
Mississippi	15	6.1%	246	14	5.4%	260	14	5.4%	261	
Missouri	19	8.1%	235	16	7.1%	226	13	5.5%	237	
Mountain Sky	Rocky Mountain	3	4.5%	66	4	7.4%	54	7	13.0%	54
	Yellowstone				1	5.9%	17	1	5.3%	19
New England	13	10.0%	130	13	9.7%	134	11	8.3%	133	
New Mexico	0	0.0%	16	0	0.0%	15	0	0.0%	18	
New York	9	13.8%	65	9	15.0%	60	2	4.0%	50	

Local Pastors

Presence of Local Pastors under 35 by Annual Conference 2018-2020, continued

CONFERENCE NAME	2020 Local Pastors under 35	2020 Local Pastors under 35	2020 Local Pastors	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
North Alabama	21	9.8%	215	25	11.1%	226	26	11.4%	228
North Carolina	36	14.2%	253	34	13.0%	261	34	12.5%	272
North Georgia	26	9.7%	268	23	8.2%	282	22	8.2%	268
North Texas	9	9.5%	95	10	9.6%	104	12	11.7%	103
Northern Illinois	7	11.1%	63	7	10.8%	65	5	7.9%	63
Northwest Texas	8	10.7%	75	7	9.2%	76	4	5.7%	70
Oklahoma	13	10.9%	119	11	9.4%	117	12	9.2%	130
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.0%	7	0	0.0%	6	0	0.0%	8
Oregon-Idaho	3	10.7%	28	4	14.8%	27	3	12.5%	24
Pacific Northwest	5	16.1%	31	5	15.2%	33	6	13.3%	45
Peninsula-Delaware	12	10.6%	113	9	8.0%	113	6	5.4%	112
Red Bird Missionary	2	28.6%	7	2	28.6%	7	1	16.7%	6
Rio Texas	12	8.6%	139	10	7.1%	141	7	4.8%	145
South Carolina	14	5.6%	249	15	6.0%	248	13	5.5%	238
South Georgia	9	7.0%	129	9	7.1%	126	10	7.7%	130
Susquehanna	32	16.0%	200	35	17.6%	199	43	20.1%	214
Tennessee	8	4.4%	182	13	7.0%	186	12	6.5%	185
Texas	23	14.6%	158	29	18.6%	156	32	20.6%	155
Upper New York	9	4.4%	203	18	8.1%	222	17	7.7%	222
Virginia	26	8.6%	304	28	8.7%	321	24	7.7%	311
West Ohio	29	11.0%	263	22	9.7%	226	14	7.5%	187
West Virginia	10	6.0%	168	11	6.2%	177	11	5.7%	193
Western North Carolina	22	10.3%	213	14	7.0%	200	18	8.5%	211
Western Pennsylvania	8	4.8%	166	11	6.1%	180	12	6.3%	189
Wisconsin	7	7.1%	99	5	4.9%	102	6	5.7%	105
Total	654	8.70%	7,478	648	8.57%	7,563	626	8.30%	7,538

Local Pastors

Presence of Local Pastors under 35 by 2020 Percentage 2018-2020

CONFERENCE NAME	2020 Local Pastors under 35	2020 Local Pastors under 35	2020 Local Pastors	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
Red Bird Missionary	2	28.6%	7	2	28.6%	7	1	16.7%	6
Pacific Northwest	5	16.1%	31	5	15.2%	33	6	13.3%	45
Susquehanna	32	16.0%	200	35	17.6%	199	43	20.1%	214
Desert Southwest	5	15.2%	33	6	20.7%	29	2	6.9%	29
Texas	23	14.6%	158	29	18.6%	156	32	20.6%	155
North Carolina	36	14.2%	253	34	13.0%	261	34	12.5%	272
New York	9	13.8%	65	9	15.0%	60	2	4.0%	50
Dakotas	10	13.3%	75	12	16.0%	75	10	14.9%	67
Central Texas	8	12.7%	63	8	12.7%	63	7	13.0%	54
Alabama-West Florida	21	12.5%	168	17	10.2%	166	12	8.2%	147
Greater New Jersey	19	12.2%	156	18	11.3%	159	15	10.0%	150
Minnesota	10	11.9%	84	12	14.5%	83	7	10.4%	67
Northern Illinois	7	11.1%	63	7	10.8%	65	5	7.9%	63
West Ohio	29	11.0%	263	22	9.7%	226	14	7.5%	187
Oklahoma	13	10.9%	119	11	9.4%	117	12	9.2%	130
Northwest Texas	8	10.7%	75	7	9.2%	76	4	5.7%	70
Oregon-Idaho	3	10.7%	28	4	14.8%	27	3	12.5%	24
Peninsula-Delaware	12	10.6%	113	9	8.0%	113	6	5.4%	112
Western North Carolina	22	10.3%	213	14	7.0%	200	18	8.5%	211
Alaska Missionary	1	10.0%	10	1	12.5%	8	0	0.0%	7
New England	13	10.0%	130	13	9.7%	134	11	8.3%	133
Kentucky	23	9.8%	234	27	10.8%	250	23	10.0%	231
North Alabama	21	9.8%	215	25	11.1%	226	26	11.4%	228
East Ohio	21	9.7%	217	25	10.5%	237	24	10.2%	235

Local Pastors

Presence of Local Pastors under 35 by 2020 Percentage 2018-2020, continued

CONFERENCE NAME	2020 Local Pastors under 35	2020 Local Pastors under 35	2020 Local Pastors	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	
North Georgia	26	9.7%	268	23	8.2%	282	22	8.2%	268	
North Texas	9	9.5%	95	10	9.6%	104	12	11.7%	103	
Eastern Pennsylvania	10	9.2%	109	0	0.0%	82	3	3.0%	100	
Indiana	18	8.9%	202	20	9.4%	212	16	7.5%	212	
Baltimore-Washington	10	8.8%	114	9	7.8%	115	14	11.9%	118	
Great Plains	21	8.6%	244	13	5.4%	239	17	7.0%	244	
Rio Texas	12	8.6%	139	10	7.1%	141	7	4.8%	145	
Virginia	26	8.6%	304	28	8.7%	321	24	7.7%	311	
Missouri	19	8.1%	235	16	7.1%	226	13	5.5%	237	
California-Pacific	6	7.3%	82	4	5.3%	76	7	8.0%	87	
Illinois Great Rivers	14	7.3%	192	13	7.1%	183	15	8.3%	181	
Wisconsin	7	7.1%	99	5	4.9%	102	6	5.7%	105	
South Georgia	9	7.0%	129	9	7.1%	126	10	7.7%	130	
Michigan	11	6.1%	179	9	4.8%	186	13	6.7%	193	
Mississippi	15	6.1%	246	14	5.4%	260	14	5.4%	261	
West Virginia	10	6.0%	168	11	6.2%	177	11	5.7%	193	
Florida	11	5.9%	187	14	7.3%	192	13	7.3%	179	
South Carolina	14	5.6%	249	15	6.0%	248	13	5.5%	238	
Arkansas	5	5.5%	91	4	4.0%	101	3	2.7%	111	
Louisiana	6	5.0%	121	5	4.1%	123	6	5.0%	121	
Holston	6	4.8%	126	7	6.3%	112	6	5.3%	113	
Western Pennsylvania	8	4.8%	166	11	6.1%	180	12	6.3%	189	
Mountain Sky	Rocky Mountain	3	4.5%	66	4	7.4%	54	7	13.0%	54
	Yellowstone				1	5.9%	17	1	5.3%	19
Tennessee	8	4.4%	182	13	7.0%	186	12	6.5%	185	
Upper New York	9	4.4%	203	18	8.1%	222	17	7.7%	222	
Iowa	6	3.9%	154	5	3.1%	160	7	4.4%	160	
Memphis	2	2.5%	80	2	2.2%	89	3	3.1%	96	
California-Nevada	0	0.0%	52	3	5.4%	56	5	10.0%	50	
New Mexico	0	0.0%	16	0	0.0%	15	0	0.0%	18	
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.0%	7	0	0.0%	6	0	0.0%	8	
Total	654	8.70%	7,478	648	8.57%	7,563	626	8.30%	7,538	

Annual Conference Clergy by Age Group – Numeric – 2020

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	15	17	35	16	79	98	193	21	64	83	168
Alaska Missionary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6	3	10
Arkansas	2	1	7	10	16	95	88	199	5	32	54	91
Baltimore-Washington	0	10	10	20	16	132	193	341	10	25	79	114
California-Nevada	0	2	5	7	11	71	130	212	0	23	29	52
California-Pacific	2	4	10	16	10	113	183	306	6	29	47	82
Central Texas	2	13	12	27	16	85	91	192	8	26	29	63
Dakotas	0	3	4	7	12	40	50	102	10	39	26	75
Desert Southwest	0	1	5	6	2	37	55	94	5	7	21	33
East Ohio	1	7	7	15	16	83	137	236	21	66	130	217
Eastern Pennsylvania	0	9	10	19	6	55	139	200	10	33	66	109
Florida	1	14	12	27	25	146	190	361	11	78	98	187
Great Plains	2	4	10	16	23	136	168	327	21	83	140	244
Greater New Jersey	0	3	9	12	16	90	158	264	19	64	73	156
Holston	1	6	6	13	19	130	126	275	6	40	80	126
Illinois Great Rivers	3	6	5	14	16	81	143	240	14	58	120	192
Indiana	0	13	7	20	24	129	224	377	18	69	115	202
Iowa	0	4	4	8	16	85	154	255	6	47	101	154
Kentucky	0	7	15	22	21	89	138	248	23	96	115	234
Louisiana	2	7	11	20	13	63	87	163	6	30	85	121
Memphis	0	2	5	7	5	43	64	112	2	24	54	80
Michigan	1	15	10	26	25	102	193	320	11	58	110	179
Minnesota	1	5	6	12	6	59	84	149	10	27	47	84
Mississippi	6	8	6	20	20	120	142	282	15	101	130	246
Missouri	3	12	8	23	12	100	134	246	19	88	128	235
Mountain Sky	0	8	12	20	13	87	112	212	3	22	41	66
New England	2	4	5	11	12	82	103	197	13	40	77	130
New Mexico	0	4	3	7	0	25	48	73	0	5	11	16
New York	1	2	5	8	5	92	164	261	9	20	36	65

Annual Conference Clergy by Age Group – Numeric – 2020 (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	0	11	4	15	22	97	131	250	21	61	133	215
North Carolina	6	10	8	24	38	133	197	368	36	83	134	253
North Georgia	8	32	28	68	30	181	232	443	26	92	150	268
North Texas	9	19	22	50	23	96	115	234	9	38	48	95
Northern Illinois	4	11	10	25	20	110	128	258	7	18	38	63
Northwest Texas	0	0	0	0	3	32	40	75	8	26	41	75
Oklahoma	0	10	13	23	16	98	145	259	13	40	66	119
OK Indian Mission	0	0	0	0	0	3	10	13	0	3	4	7
Oregon-Idaho	0	4	3	7	3	28	48	79	3	13	12	28
Pacific Northwest	1	3	4	8	13	69	63	145	5	11	15	31
Peninsula-Delaware	0	3	1	4	4	32	77	113	12	23	78	113
Red Bird Mission	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	4	7
Rio Texas	2	9	6	17	9	90	102	201	12	51	76	139
South Carolina	6	5	10	21	21	128	221	370	14	72	163	249
South Georgia	4	9	2	15	8	80	104	192	9	48	72	129
Susquehanna	0	1	2	3	21	65	122	208	32	66	102	200
Tennessee	9	18	17	44	17	76	70	163	8	74	100	182
Texas	5	17	10	32	47	159	183	389	23	56	79	158
Upper New York	0	2	14	16	11	75	140	226	9	59	135	203
Virginia	7	10	14	31	49	211	253	513	26	106	172	304
West Ohio	4	21	15	40	26	174	255	455	29	103	131	263
West Virginia	0	2	8	10	9	58	103	170	10	46	112	168
West. North Carolina	5	36	24	65	46	225	313	584	22	63	128	213
West. Pennsylvania	4	2	2	8	16	95	162	273	8	51	107	166
Wisconsin	1	5	3	9	8	66	118	192	7	42	50	99
Total	108	429	446	983	852	4830	6928	12610	654	2546	4278	7478

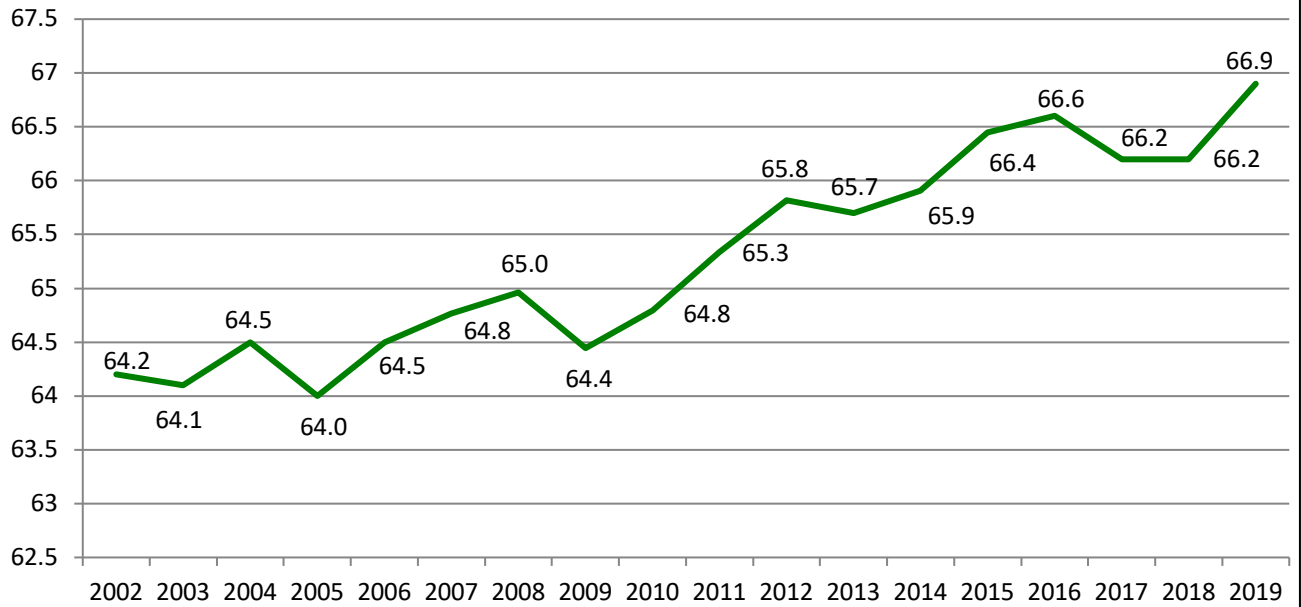
Annual Conference Clergy by Age Group – Percentage – 2020

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	8.6%	42.9%	48.6%	8.3%	40.9%	50.8%	12.5%	38.1%	49.4%
Alaska Missionary	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	10.0%	60.0%	30.0%
Arkansas	20.0%	10.0%	70.0%	8.0%	47.7%	44.2%	5.5%	35.2%	59.3%
Baltimore-Washington	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	4.7%	38.7%	56.6%	8.8%	21.9%	69.3%
California-Nevada	0.0%	28.6%	71.4%	5.2%	33.5%	61.3%	0.0%	44.2%	55.8%
California-Pacific	12.5%	25.0%	62.5%	3.3%	36.9%	59.8%	7.3%	35.4%	57.3%
Central Texas	7.4%	48.1%	44.4%	8.3%	44.3%	47.4%	12.7%	41.3%	46.0%
Dakotas	0.0%	42.9%	57.1%	11.8%	39.2%	49.0%	13.3%	52.0%	34.7%
Desert Southwest	0.0%	16.7%	83.3%	2.1%	39.4%	58.5%	15.2%	21.2%	63.6%
East Ohio	6.7%	46.7%	46.7%	6.8%	35.2%	58.1%	9.7%	30.4%	59.9%
Eastern Pennsylvania	0.0%	47.4%	52.6%	3.0%	27.5%	69.5%	9.2%	30.3%	60.6%
Florida	3.7%	51.9%	44.4%	6.9%	40.4%	52.6%	5.9%	41.7%	52.4%
Great Plains	12.5%	25.0%	62.5%	7.0%	41.6%	51.4%	8.6%	34.0%	57.4%
Greater New Jersey	0.0%	25.0%	75.0%	6.1%	34.1%	59.8%	12.2%	41.0%	46.8%
Holston	7.7%	46.2%	46.2%	6.9%	47.3%	45.8%	4.8%	31.7%	63.5%
Illinois Great Rivers	21.4%	42.9%	35.7%	6.7%	33.8%	59.6%	7.3%	30.2%	62.5%
Indiana	0.0%	65.0%	35.0%	6.4%	34.2%	59.4%	8.9%	34.2%	56.9%
Iowa	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%	6.3%	33.3%	60.4%	3.9%	30.5%	65.6%
Kentucky	0.0%	31.8%	68.2%	8.5%	35.9%	55.6%	9.8%	41.0%	49.1%
Louisiana	10.0%	35.0%	55.0%	8.0%	38.7%	53.4%	5.0%	24.8%	70.2%
Memphis	0.0%	28.6%	71.4%	4.5%	38.4%	57.1%	2.5%	30.0%	67.5%
Michigan	3.8%	57.7%	38.5%	7.8%	31.9%	60.3%	6.1%	32.4%	61.5%
Minnesota	8.3%	41.7%	50.0%	4.0%	39.6%	56.4%	11.9%	32.1%	56.0%
Mississippi	30.0%	40.0%	30.0%	7.1%	42.6%	50.4%	6.1%	41.1%	52.8%
Missouri	13.0%	52.2%	34.8%	4.9%	40.7%	54.5%	8.1%	37.4%	54.5%
Mountain Sky	0.0%	40.0%	60.0%	6.1%	41.0%	52.8%	4.5%	33.3%	62.1%
New England	18.2%	36.4%	45.5%	6.1%	41.6%	52.3%	10.0%	30.8%	59.2%
New Mexico	0.0%	57.1%	42.9%	0.0%	34.2%	65.8%	0.0%	31.3%	68.8%
New York	12.5%	25.0%	62.5%	1.9%	35.2%	62.8%	13.8%	30.8%	55.4%

Annual Conference Clergy by Age Group – Percentage – 2020 (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	0.0%	73.3%	26.7%	8.8%	38.8%	52.4%	9.8%	28.4%	61.9%
North Carolina	25.0%	41.7%	33.3%	10.3%	36.1%	53.5%	14.2%	32.8%	53.0%
North Georgia	11.8%	47.1%	41.2%	6.8%	40.9%	52.4%	9.7%	34.3%	56.0%
North Texas	18.0%	38.0%	44.0%	9.8%	41.0%	49.1%	9.5%	40.0%	50.5%
Northern Illinois	16.0%	44.0%	40.0%	7.8%	42.6%	49.6%	11.1%	28.6%	60.3%
Northwest Texas	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.0%	42.7%	53.3%	10.7%	34.7%	54.7%
Oklahoma	0.0%	43.5%	56.5%	6.2%	37.8%	56.0%	10.9%	33.6%	55.5%
OK Indian Mission	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	23.1%	76.9%	0.0%	42.9%	57.1%
Oregon-Idaho	0.0%	57.1%	42.9%	3.8%	35.4%	60.8%	10.7%	46.4%	42.9%
Pacific Northwest	12.5%	37.5%	50.0%	9.0%	47.6%	43.4%	16.1%	35.5%	48.4%
Peninsula-Delaware	0.0%	75.0%	25.0%	3.5%	28.3%	68.1%	10.6%	20.4%	69.0%
Red Bird Mission	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	28.6%	14.3%	57.1%
Rio Texas	11.8%	52.9%	35.3%	4.5%	44.8%	50.7%	8.6%	36.7%	54.7%
South Carolina	28.6%	23.8%	47.6%	5.7%	34.6%	59.7%	5.6%	28.9%	65.5%
South Georgia	26.7%	60.0%	13.3%	4.2%	41.7%	54.2%	7.0%	37.2%	55.8%
Susquehanna	0.0%	33.3%	66.7%	10.1%	31.3%	58.7%	16.0%	33.0%	51.0%
Tennessee	20.5%	40.9%	38.6%	10.4%	46.6%	42.9%	4.4%	40.7%	54.9%
Texas	15.6%	53.1%	31.3%	12.1%	40.9%	47.0%	14.6%	35.4%	50.0%
Upper New York	0.0%	12.5%	87.5%	4.9%	33.2%	61.9%	4.4%	29.1%	66.5%
Virginia	22.6%	32.3%	45.2%	9.6%	41.1%	49.3%	8.6%	34.9%	56.6%
West Ohio	10.0%	52.5%	37.5%	5.7%	38.2%	56.0%	11.0%	39.2%	49.8%
West Virginia	0.0%	20.0%	80.0%	5.3%	34.1%	60.6%	6.0%	27.4%	66.7%
West. North Carolina	7.7%	55.4%	36.9%	7.9%	38.5%	53.6%	10.3%	29.6%	60.1%
West. Pennsylvania	50.0%	25.0%	25.0%	5.9%	34.8%	59.3%	4.8%	30.7%	64.5%
Wisconsin	11.1%	55.6%	33.3%	4.2%	34.4%	61.5%	7.1%	42.4%	50.5%

Average Annual Retirement Age for All United Methodist Clergy



Average Retirement Ages

	2005	2019
Elders	64	66
Deacons	64	65
Full-Time Local Pastors	65	67
Part-Time Local Pastors	67	70

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 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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