

A Lewis Center Report on
**Clergy Age Trends in the
United Methodist Church**
2025 Report

Elders • Deacons • Local Pastors

2025 Report

Lewis Center for Church Leadership
Wesley Theological Seminary



Lewis Center
for Church Leadership

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Highlights of the 2025 Report

Impact of Disaffiliation on Numbers and Ages of United Methodist Clergy

While there were clergy losses in all age groups caused by disaffiliation in each of the years between 2020 and 2024 (along with other factors always affecting losses such as deaths and retirements), the largest decline among elders, deacons, and local pastors came in 2024.

If we look only at declines since 2019, we can make these observations:

- Clergy losses were greatest among local pastors, especially among those under 35.
- The next largest losses came from elders, especially among those under 35.
- Fewer losses came among deacons with their greatest losses among the under 35.
- Among the age cohorts, the least decline came among clergy ages 35 to 54. In fact, deacons showed an increase in middle-age deacons.

However, when the clergy losses since 2019 are compared to the trends between 2010 and 2019, a slightly different picture appears. In those years leading up to 2019, the number of active elders had averaged a three percent decline annually. On the other hand, deacons and local pastors had increased their numbers each year modestly but consistently. Given these patterns going into disaffiliation, some of the elder losses may have happened anyway given factors at play prior to 2019; whereas the disaffiliation and conflict associated with it may have hampered the momentum of increasing numbers of deacons and local pastors prior to disaffiliation.

An important caveat must be noted regarding the higher losses since 2019 among young clergy—elders as well as deacons and local pastors: we do not know to what extent these losses came from the under-35 persons *leaving* the United Methodist Church or a *decline* in new young clergy *entering* as other young clergy are aging out of the under-35 cohort. A combination of the two factors is likely. It would be surprising if the sustained conflict, especially between 2019 and 2023, did not negatively influence younger people from entering such ministry.

Young Elder Decline Slows and Middle-Age Elders Increase Proportionally

The recent decline in the number of young elders (under 35) began in 2017 and followed modest gains after the low point of 2005. That decline continues; however, the scale of the decline increased dramatically beginning in 2019. Since the most recent decline began in 2019, there has been a decline of 62 percent in the number of under-35 elders. The losses have been greater among men than women based on the proportion of each among young elders, though not in the past year. The number of young elders in 2025 is 364, a loss of 34 in the past year. While this year sets a new record for the fewest young elders, this year's numerical decline is the smallest in five years. Young elders continue to constitute about five percent of active elders.

Beginning in 2000, we saw a trend of fewer elders in the middle-age (35-54) group and more in the older (55-72) group. Despite a mandatory retirement age of 72, with most retiring before that age, the pool of older elders continued to grow for 20 years. For five years now, the trend has reversed—with a growing proportion of active elders aged 35-54 each year, reaching 46 percent in 2025, and lower proportions of older clergy more consistent with previous historical patterns.

Young Deacons Hold Steady as Young Local Pastors Decrease

The number and percentage of young deacons remained virtually unchanged in 2025. The percentage of young deacons continues to be higher than that of elders and local pastors.

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 2025.

This report is made possible through partnership with the denominational pension agency, Wespath. The Lewis Center for Church Leadership works with Wespath 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 Wespath. For local pastors, both full-time and part-time local pastors are included. Since Wespath 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, contributed to the project. Andrew Q. Hendren, general secretary of Wespath, and the staff, particularly Eloy Cerenil, provided essential cooperation and data.

Young Clergy Trends

Young Elders

- The number of under-35 elders decreased from 398 to 364, continuing a nine-year decline.
- Gender composition of young elders remained the same: 57 percent men; 43 percent women.
- The percentage of young elders among all active elders declined slightly from 4.68 percent last year to 4.55 percent in 2025.
- The North Carolina Conference had the highest percentage of young elders at 10.6 percent.
- **The Top Ten Conferences by percentage**
 1. North Carolina (#1 for the first time)
 2. Horizon Texas (newly formed conference from which former Central Texas was #1 in 2024 (tie), and former North Texas was #1 in 2023-2021)
 3. Alabama-West Florida
 4. Dakotas
 5. Texas (#1 in 2024 (tie), 2020, 2019, 2016, 2015, 2014, and 2012)
 6. Great Plains
 7. Oklahoma (new to the Top Ten this year; #1 in 2011)
 8. Iowa (new to the Top Ten this year)
 9. Holston (new to the Top Ten this year; #1 in 2005)
 10. Florida
- **The Top Five Conferences by numbers**
 1. Horizon Texas — 30
 2. North Carolina — 25
 3. Western North Carolina — 23
 4. Virginia — 20
 5. Great Plains — 18
- **The More “Balanced” Conferences**

All annual conferences are skewed older due to the small representation of under-35 elders. However, these conferences are less skewed than others when compared to the general population between ages 25 and 72. That make up is among young (25-34=24%) middle-age (35-54, 42%), and older (55-72=34%).

 1. Tier One: North Carolina, Texas, and Dakotas
 2. Tier Two: Horizon Texas, Alabama-West Florida, and Great Plains

Young Deacons

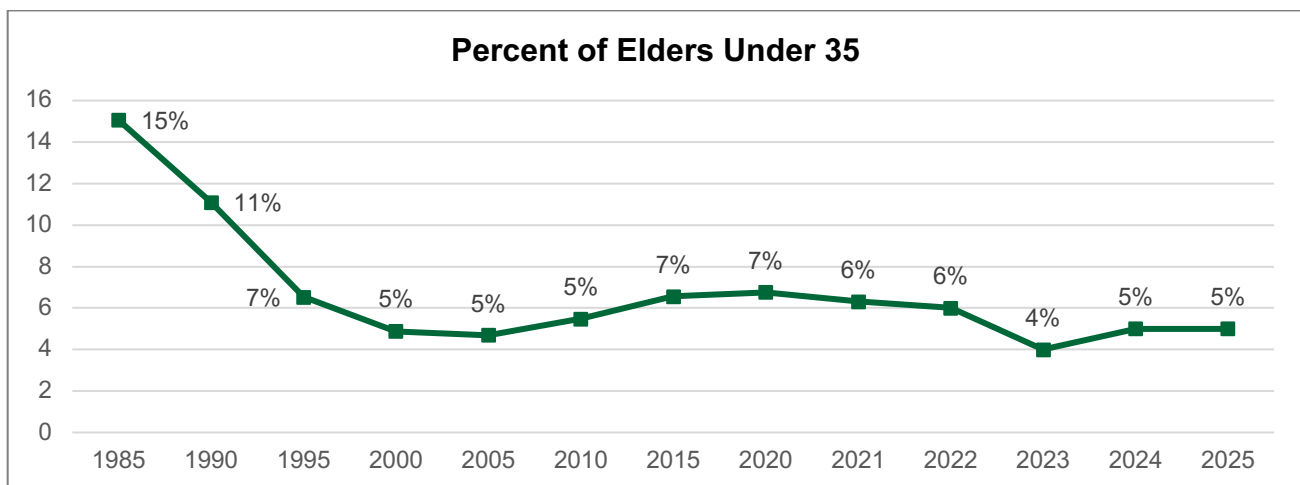
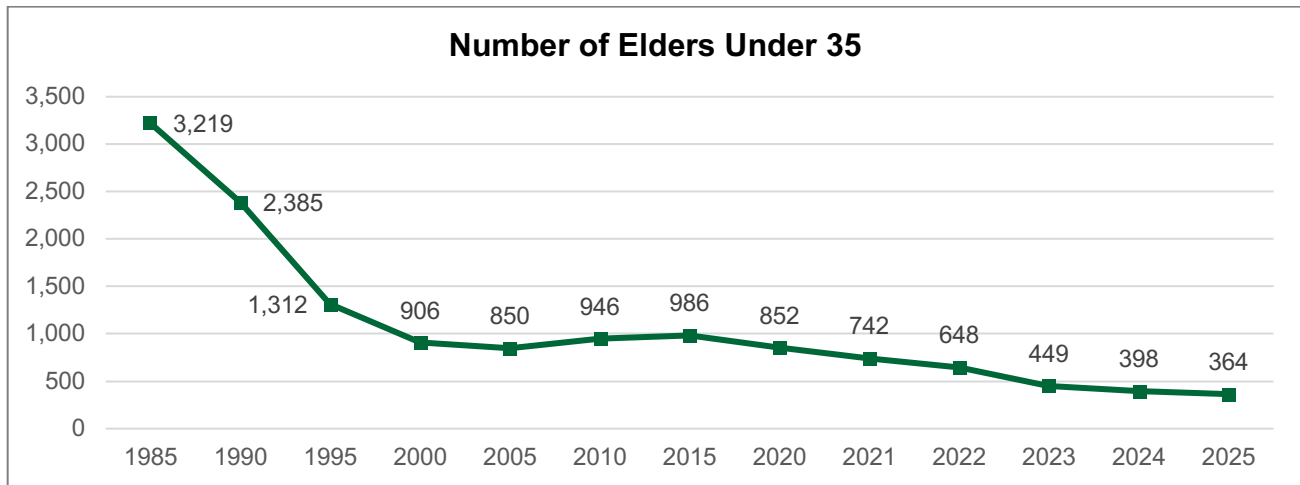
- The number of under-35 deacons decreased by 1 in 2025 to 59.
- The percentage of young deacons among all active deacons increased from 7.2 percent last year to 7.4 percent in 2025.
- The percentage of young deacons remains above that of elders and local pastors.

Young Local Pastors

- The number of under-35 local pastors declined by 52 in the past year to 242 in 2025.
- The percentage of young local pastors among all active local pastors declined from 6.6 percent last year to 5.8 percent in 2025

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

Year	No. of Elders	Elders Under 35	% <35	Elders 35-54	% 35-54	Elders 55-72	% 55-72
1985	21,378	3,219	15%	12,305	58%	5,854	27%
1990	21,507	2,385	11%	12,678	59%	6,444	30%
1995	20,117	1,312	7%	12,843	64%	5,962	30%
2000	18,576	906	5%	12,005	65%	5,665	30%
2005	18,141	850	5%	9,872	54%	7,419	41%
2010	17,293	946	5%	7,698	45%	8,649	50%
2015	15,019	986	7%	5,746	38%	8,287	55%
2020	12,610	852	7%	4,830	38%	6,928	55%
2021	11,771	742	6%	4,652	40%	6,377	54%
2022	11,168	648	6%	4,577	41%	5,321	53%
2023	10,010	449	4%	4,391	44%	5,179	52%
2024	8,505	398	5%	3,813	45%	4,294	50%
2025	7,994	364	5%	3,669	46%	3,961	50%

Gender Breakdown within Age Cohorts — Elders

Year	Gender	Under 35	35-54	55-72
2022	Men	61%	66%	68%
	Women	39%	34%	32%
2023	Men	59%	65%	66%
	Women	41%	35%	34%
2024	Men	57%	61%	63%
	Women	43%	39%	37%
2025	Men	57%	60%	62%
	Women	43%	40%	38%

Median and Average Ages — Elders

Year	Median* Age	Average Age
1985	48	47
1990	47	48
1995	48	48
2000	50	50
2005	52	52
2010	55	53
2015	56	53
2020	56	53
2021	56	54
2022	56	53
2023	56	54
2024	55	54
2025	55	53

*Median — half older, half younger

Average and Median Ages by Conference

Median — half older, half younger

CONFERENCE	2025 Average	2025 Median
Alabama-West Florida	51	52
Alaska Missionary	-	-
Arkansas	52	53
Baltimore-Washington	54	56
California-Nevada	57	58
California-Pacific	56	57
Central Appalachian	45	45
Dakotas	51	51
Desert Southwest	53	54
East Ohio	53	55
Eastern Pennsylvania	56	58
Florida	52	53
Great Plains	51	52
Greater New Jersey	54	55
Holston	53	54
Horizon Texas	52	52
Illinois Great Rivers	55	58
Indiana	54	56
Iowa	53	54
Kentucky	51	53
Louisiana	53	55
Michigan	54	55
Minnesota	54	56
Mississippi	54	56
Missouri	53	53
Mountain Sky	53	54
New England	54	56

CONFERENCE	2025 Average	2025 Median
New Mexico	55	56
New York	57	59
North Alabama	51	52
North Carolina	50	50
North Georgia	53	55
Northern Illinois	54	56
Oklahoma	53	54
Oklahoma Indian Msny	61	62
Oregon Idaho	53	53
Pacific Northwest	52	52
Peninsula-Delaware	57	61
Rio Texas	54	55
South Carolina	55	57
South Georgia	56	57
Susquehanna	55	57
Tennessee-Western Ky	53	55
Texas	51	50
Upper New York	56	57
Virginia	52	52
West Ohio	55	57
West Virginia	55	57
Western North Carolina	53	55
Western Pennsylvania	55	56
Wisconsin	54	55
All Elders	55	53

**Presence of Elders under 35
by Annual Conference
2023-2025**

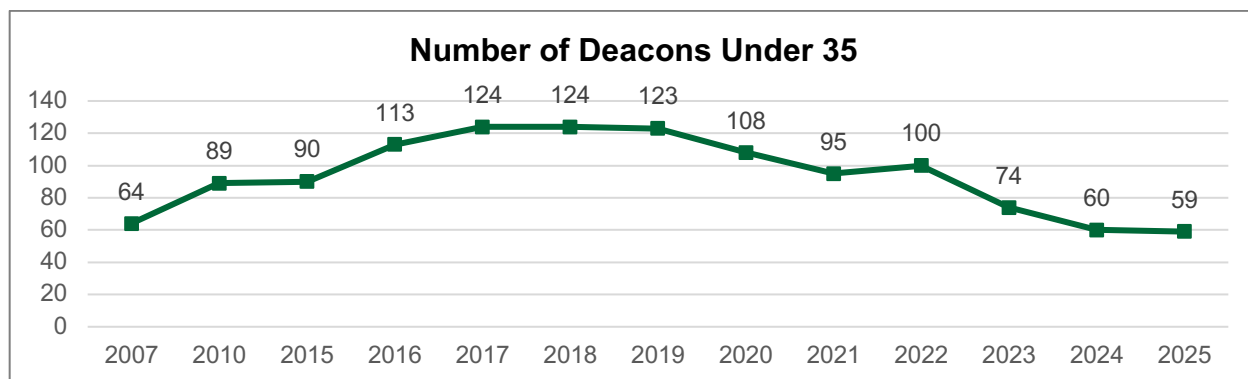
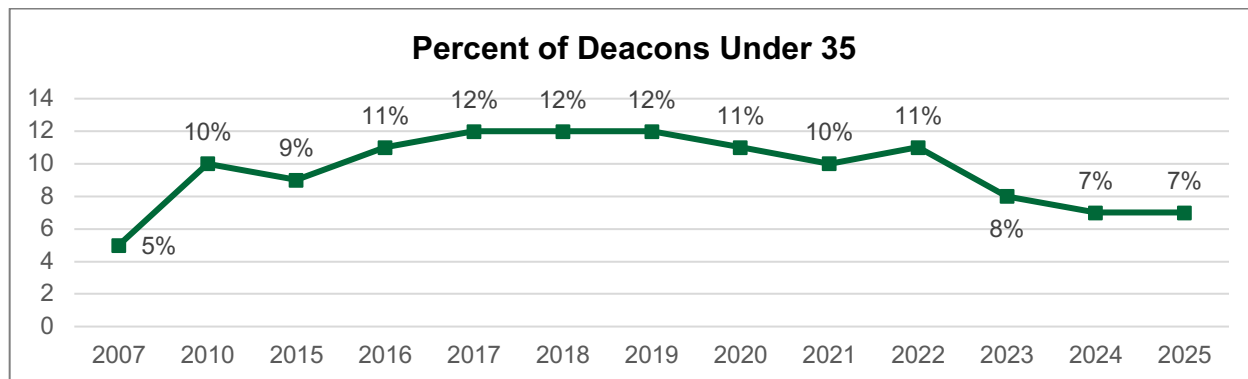
CONFERENCE	2025 Elders under 35	2025 Elders under 35	2025 Elders	2024 Elders under 35	2024 Elders under 35	2024 Elder s	2023 Elders under 35	2023 Elders under 35	2023 Elder s
Alabama-West Florida	8	9.0%	89	6	6.5%	93	11	6.9%	160
Alaska Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Arkansas	5	4.2%	118	5	4.0%	125	6	3.9%	152
Baltimore-Washington	9	3.4%	266	11	3.9%	284	13	4.2%	306
California-Nevada	3	1.9%	160	4	2.2%	180	5	2.6%	194
California-Pacific	3	1.3%	234	4	1.6%	252	3	1.1%	269
Central Appalachian	0	0.0%	2	0	0.0%	2	0	0.0%	0
Dakotas	6	8.0%	75	5	6.5%	77	6	7.0%	86
Desert Southwest	2	3.2%	63	2	3.0%	67	2	2.8%	72
East Ohio	5	3.8%	132	7	4.8%	145	9	4.7%	191
Eastern Pennsylvania	4	3.1%	130	4	2.9%	139	3	1.9%	157
Florida	16	6.1%	262	19	7.1%	268	18	5.5%	330
Great Plains	18	6.9%	261	20	7.5%	266	16	5.8%	278
Greater New Jersey	9	4.5%	201	9	4.3%	211	6	2.7%	219
Holston	12	6.2%	194	10	4.9%	204	12	5.0%	242
Horizon Texas	30	9.4%	320						
Illinois Great Rivers	7	5.0%	140	7	4.3%	162	11	5.5%	200
Indiana	7	3.2%	221	6	2.6%	231	7	2.7%	258
Iowa	9	6.3%	144	10	6.4%	157	10	5.2%	192
Kentucky	3	3.1%	96	5	5.0%	100	9	5.5%	164
Louisiana	4	5.1%	78	6	7.0%	86	8	7.5%	107
Michigan	5	2.4%	211	6	2.8%	215	11	4.2%	260
Minnesota	3	3.1%	98	3	2.9%	105	3	2.5%	119
Mississippi	1	0.7%	139	2	1.2%	172	6	2.4%	245
Missouri	5	2.9%	174	6	3.2%	187	4	1.9%	206
Mountain Sky	7	4.2%	168	8	4.6%	174	10	5.5%	183
New England	5	3.4%	146	6	4.0%	150	5	3.2%	157
New Mexico	1	2.6%	38	1	2.6%	38	0	0.0%	55
New York	3	1.6%	190	5	2.5%	199	4	1.9%	214

**Presence of Elders under 35
by Annual Conference
2023-2025, continued**

CONFERENCE	2025 Elders under 35	2025 Elders under 35	2025 Elders	2024 Elders under 35	2024 Elders under 35	2024 Elders	2023 Elders under 35	2023 Elders under 35	2023 Elders
North Alabama	7	5.8%	121	9	6.80%	132	8	5.1%	158
North Carolina	25	10.6%	236	22	9.00%	245	20	7.8%	256
North Georgia	15	5.5%	273	14	4.90%	288	15	4.1%	368
Northern Illinois	5	2.5%	203	6	2.80%	217	6	2.6%	230
Oklahoma	9	6.8%	132	9	6.30%	143	11	5.7%	192
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.0%	8	0	0.00%	9	0	0.0%	11
Oregon-Idaho	2	3.5%	57	3	4.90%	61	3	4.7%	64
Pacific Northwest	7	6.0%	117	8	6.70%	119	10	7.8%	128
Peninsula-Delaware	2	3.3%	60	3	4.50%	66	4	4.5%	89
Rio Texas	4	3.3%	121	4	3.10%	130	5	2.8%	178
South Carolina	11	4.8%	228	14	5.40%	260	20	6.7%	297
South Georgia	1	1.6%	62	1	1.10%	90	4	2.8%	143
Susquehanna	3	2.7%	112	3	2.50%	121	6	3.8%	160
Tenn-Western KY	8	4.6%	174	11	5.70%	194	11	5.0%	218
Texas	14	7.2%	194	20	9.80%	204	20	8.8%	227
Upper New York	1	0.7%	134	2	1.40%	146	2	1.2%	170
Virginia	20	5.1%	392	24	5.90%	404	28	6.4%	436
West Ohio	4	1.6%	252	5	1.90%	262	9	2.8%	326
West Virginia	5	4.7%	106	2	1.80%	110	2	1.6%	129
Western North Carolina	23	5.7%	406	21	5.20%	403	21	4.4%	481
Western Pennsylvania	4	3.2%	126	6	4.30%	139	12	5.5%	220
Wisconsin	4	3.1%	130	4	3.00%	133	6	4.1%	147
Total	364	4.55%	7,994	398	4.68%	8,505	449	4.54%	10,010

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 Wespath.



Trends for Deacons

Year	No. of Deacons	Deacons Under 35	% <35	Deacons 35-54	% 35-54	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%
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%
2021	945	95	10%	431	46%	419	44%
2022	935	100	11%	433	46%	402	43%
2023	906	74	8%	451	50%	381	42%
2024	830	60	7%	441	53%	329	40%
2025	795	59	7%	432	54%	304	38%

Median and Average Ages — Deacons

Year	Median* Age	Average Age
2006	53	52
2007	52	51
2008	53	51
2009	53	51
2010	54	52
2015	54	52
2020	53	51
2021	52	51
2022	52	51
2023	52	51
2024	51	51
2025	50	50

*Median — half older, half younger.

Gender Breakdown within Age Cohorts — Deacons

Year	Gender	Under 35	35-54	55-72
2022	Men	30%	30%	22%
	Women	70%	70%	78%
2023	Men	28%	28%	24%
	Women	72%	72%	76%
2024	Men	32%	28%	20%
	Women	68%	72%	80%
2025	Men	31%	28%	22%
	Women	69%	72%	78%

Presence of Deacons under 35 by Annual Conference 2023-2025

CONFERENCE	2025 Deacons under 35	2025 Deacons under 35	2025 Deacons	2024 Deacons under 35	2024 Deacons under 35	2024 Deacons	2023 Deacons under 35	2023 Deacons under 35	2023 Deacons
Alabama-West Florida	3	14.3%	21	4	14.8%	27	3	9.1%	33
Alaska Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Arkansas	1	9.1%	11	1	8.3%	12	1	10.0%	10
Baltimore-Washington	0	0.0%	17	0	0.0%	20	1	5.0%	20
California-Nevada	1	9.1%	11	1	8.3%	12	0	0.0%	8
California-Pacific	0	0.0%	8	0	0.0%	9	2	18.2%	11
Central Appalachian	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0
Dakotas	0	0.0%	5	0	0.0%	4	0	0.0%	3
Desert Southwest	0	0.0%	3	0	0.0%	4	0	0.0%	5
East Ohio	0	0.0%	12	2	14.3%	14	2	14.3%	14
Eastern Pennsylvania	0	0.0%	15	0	0.0%	15	0	0.0%	19
Florida	5	16.1%	31	4	14.8%	27	2	9.1%	22
Great Plains	5	25.0%	20	5	23.8%	21	5	25.0%	20
Greater New Jersey	0	0.0%	9	0	0.0%	9	0	0.0%	9
Holston	1	9.1%	11	1	8.3%	12	1	7.7%	13
Horizon Texas	6	9.5%	63						
Illinois Great Rivers	0	0.0%	13	0	0.0%	15	1	6.3%	16
Indiana	0	0.0%	18	0	0.0%	17	0	0.0%	17
Iowa	0	0.0%	3	0	0.0%	4	0	0.0%	5
Kentucky	0	0.0%	12	0	0.0%	12	0	0.0%	13
Louisiana	1	9.1%	11	1	9.1%	11	2	11.8%	17
Michigan	1	4.8%	21	1	4.3%	23	1	3.6%	28
Minnesota	0	0.0%	10	1	9.1%	11	2	16.7%	12
Mississippi	1	9.1%	11	1	9.1%	11	2	14.3%	14
Missouri	2	7.7%	26	3	12.0%	25	3	11.5%	26
Mountain Sky	0	0.0%	14	0	0.0%	13	0	0.0%	13
New England	1	10.0%	10	1	11.1%	9	1	9.1%	11
New Mexico	0	0.0%	2	0	0.0%	3	0	0.0%	5
New York	1	16.7%	6	2	28.6%	7	1	16.7%	6

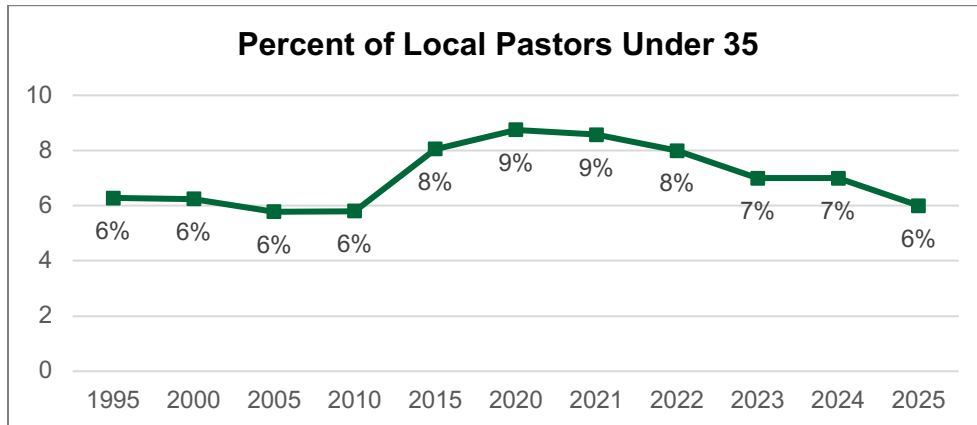
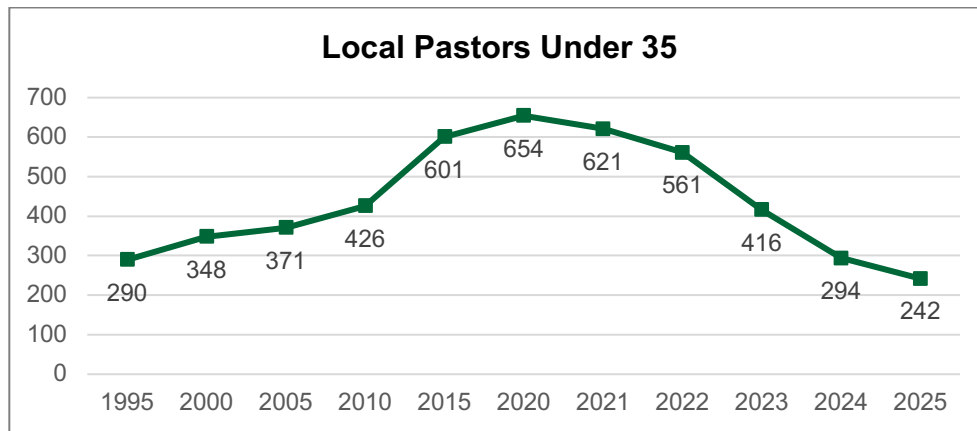
Deacons

Presence of Deacons under 35 by Annual Conference 2023-2025, continued

CONFERENCE	2025 Deacons under 35	2025 Deacons under 35	2025 Deacons	2024 Deacons under 35	2024 Deacons under 35	2024 Deacons	2023 Deacons under 35	2023 Deacons under 35	2023 Deacons
North Alabama	0	0.0%	10	0	0.00%	11	2	16.7%	12
North Carolina	3	13.0%	23	3	12.00%	25	4	15.4%	26
North Georgia	2	4.1%	49	1	1.90%	52	2	3.3%	60
Northern Illinois	0	0.0%	23	0	0.00%	23	0	0.0%	23
Oklahoma	0	0.0%	8	0	0.00%	9	1	7.7%	13
OK Indian Missionary	0	0.0%	0	0	0.00%	0	0	0.0%	0
Oregon-Idaho	0	0.0%	7	0	0.00%	8	0	0.0%	8
Pacific Northwest	2	20.0%	10	0	0.00%	8	0	0.0%	8
Peninsula-Delaware	0	0.0%	1	0	0.00%	3	0	0.0%	3
Rio Texas	1	5.3%	19	1	5.60%	18	1	5.3%	19
South Carolina	1	4.8%	21	1	4.50%	22	2	8.7%	23
South Georgia	0	0.0%	7	0	0.00%	9	0	0.0%	12
Susquehanna	0	0.0%	1	0	0.00%	2	0	0.0%	1
Tenn-Western KY	3	7.0%	43	2	4.40%	45	5	10.2%	49
Texas	0	0.0%	25	0	0.00%	23	0	0.0%	28
Upper New York	1	8.3%	12	1	7.10%	14	2	11.8%	17
Virginia	4	12.9%	31	4	12.90%	31	4	12.1%	33
West Ohio	2	6.7%	30	1	3.70%	27	1	3.6%	28
West Virginia	0	0.0%	5	0	0.00%	7	0	0.0%	8
Western North Carolina	8	14.0%	57	8	13.30%	60	9	12.3%	73
Western Pennsylvania	2	25.0%	8	3	37.50%	8	3	33.3%	9
Wisconsin	1	9.1%	11	1	9.10%	11	1	8.3%	12
Total	59	7.4%	795	60	7.2%	830	74	8.2%	906

Local Pastors

Local pastor numbers include both full-time and part-time local pastors. Associate members are also included in these numbers.



Trends for Local Pastors

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%
2015	7,464	601	8%	2,579	35%	4,284	57%
2020	7,478	654	9%	2,546	34%	4,278	57%
2021	7,246	621	8.6%	2,440	33.7%	4,185	57.8%
2022	6,923	561	8%	2,352	34%	4,010	58%
2023	6,107	416	7%	2,155	35%	3,536	58%
2024	4,483	294	7%	1,616	36%	2,573	57%
2025	4,148	242	6%	1,516	36%	2,390	58%

Median and Average Ages — Local Pastors

Year	Median Age	Average Age
1985	51	50
1990	51	50
1995	51	50
2000	52	51
2005	53	52
2010	55	54
2015	57	54
2020	57	54
2021	57	54
2022	57	55
2023	58	55
2024	58	55
2025	58	55

* Median — half older, half younger

Gender Breakdown within Age Cohorts — Local Pastors

Year	Gender	Under 35	35-54	55-72
2022	Men	73%	70%	62%
	Women	27%	30%	38%
2023	Men	71%	67%	60%
	Women	29%	33%	40%
2024	Men	67%	63%	57%
	Women	33%	37%	43%
2025	Men	64%	62%	56%
	Women	36%	38%	44%

Local Pastors

Presence of Local Pastors under 35 by Annual Conference 2023-2025

CONFERENCE	2025 Local Pastors under 35	2025 Local Pastors under 35	2025 Local Pastors	2024 Local Pastors under 35	2024 Local Pastors under 35	2024 Local Pastors	2023 Local Pastors under 35	2023 Local Pastors under 35	2023 Local Pastors
Alabama-West Florida	8	11.4%	70	8	11.0%	73	13	11.0%	118
Alaska Missionary	3	42.9%	7	0	0.0%	4	1	20.0%	5
Arkansas	8	14.5%	55	6	10.5%	57	4	6.0%	67
Baltimore-Washington	0	0.0%	101	1	1.1%	94	2	1.9%	104
California-Nevada	0	0.0%	42	0	0.0%	46	2	4.2%	48
California-Pacific	3	4.8%	62	5	7.8%	64	7	9.6%	73
Central Appalachian	0	0.0%	3	0	0.0%	2	0	0.0%	4
Dakotas	4	9.8%	41	6	11.8%	51	7	9.6%	73
Desert Southwest	2	7.4%	27	1	3.6%	28	2	7.4%	27
East Ohio	6	7.2%	83	4	4.7%	86	6	3.6%	166
Eastern Pennsylvania	5	5.1%	98	6	5.7%	106	7	6.4%	109
Florida	3	3.2%	95	6	6.0%	100	11	6.5%	168
Great Plains	7	5.0%	139	7	5.0%	141	15	8.0%	187
Greater New Jersey	10	7.5%	133	10	7.3%	137	16	10.1%	158
Holston	1	2.2%	45	4	6.3%	63	5	4.9%	102
Horizon Texas	8	7.3%	109						
Illinois Great Rivers	7	5.4%	129	8	5.5%	145	10	5.8%	172
Indiana	6	5.4%	111	7	5.9%	118	11	7.3%	151
Iowa	3	3.0%	99	5	6.1%	82	3	2.5%	118
Kentucky	6	7.2%	82	9	9.5%	95	20	11.7%	171
Louisiana	1	1.8%	55	1	1.7%	59	4	4.6%	87
Michigan	8	6.9%	116	7	5.4%	130	5	3.0%	166
Minnesota	1	1.3%	76	6	7.2%	83	7	8.2%	85
Mississippi	3	2.6%	116	5	3.9%	129	8	4.1%	196
Missouri	8	5.8%	139	6	4.1%	148	11	5.8%	191
Mountain Sky	4	7.0%	57	4	7.1%	56	2	3.3%	60
New England	3	3.2%	93	2	2.2%	92	4	3.9%	102
New Mexico	1	7.1%	14	1	5.9%	17	2	10.5%	19
New York	2	4.8%	42	1	2.4%	41	3	5.8%	52

Local Pastors

Presence of Local Pastors under 35 by Annual Conference 2023-2025, continued

CONFERENCE	2025 Local Pastors under 35	2025 Local Pastors under 35	2025 Local Pastors	2024 Local Pastors under 35	2024 Local Pastors under 35	2024 Local Pastors	2023 Local Pastors under 35	2023 Local Pastors under 35	2023 Local Pastors
North Alabama	6	8.0%	75	10	12.0%	83	15	11.3%	133
North Carolina	10	9.9%	101	22	19.6%	112	29	20.4%	142
North Georgia	16	12.3%	130	17	12.1%	141	17	7.5%	226
Northern Illinois	4	6.8%	59	3	6.3%	48	2	3.9%	51
Oklahoma	5	7.1%	70	7	9.6%	73	10	10.1%	99
OK Indian Missionary	1	10.0%	10	1	12.5%	8	1	10.0%	10
Oregon-Idaho	3	14.3%	21	6	30.0%	20	6	25.0%	24
Pacific Northwest	1	5.9%	17	1	5.6%	18	2	8.0%	25
Peninsula-Delaware	7	11.1%	63	5	7.2%	69	6	5.8%	104
Rio Texas	2	2.4%	85	8	8.5%	94	8	6.5%	124
South Carolina	7	4.4%	159	6	2.8%	214	7	2.9%	245
South Georgia	0	0.0%	26	3	6.3%	48	7	6.7%	104
Susquehanna	2	1.7%	117	6	4.5%	134	11	6.0%	183
Tenn-Western KY	5	4.4%	114	5	4.2%	119	5	2.7%	186
Texas	5	9.3%	54	8	14.3%	56	10	14.3%	70
Upper New York	5	4.5%	111	5	3.5%	143	7	3.8%	186
Virginia	11	5.8%	189	11	5.7%	194	19	7.3%	262
West Ohio	12	9.2%	130	9	6.7%	135	16	6.9%	231
West Virginia	6	5.8%	103	9	6.7%	134	8	5.2%	155
Western North Carolina	8	6.5%	124	15	11.7%	128	18	10.5%	171
Western Pennsylvania	2	3.0%	67	1	1.3%	80	5	3.0%	164
Wisconsin	3	3.6%	83	3	3.6%	83	3	3.2%	93
Total	242	5.8%	4148	294	6.6%	4,483	416	6.8%	6,107

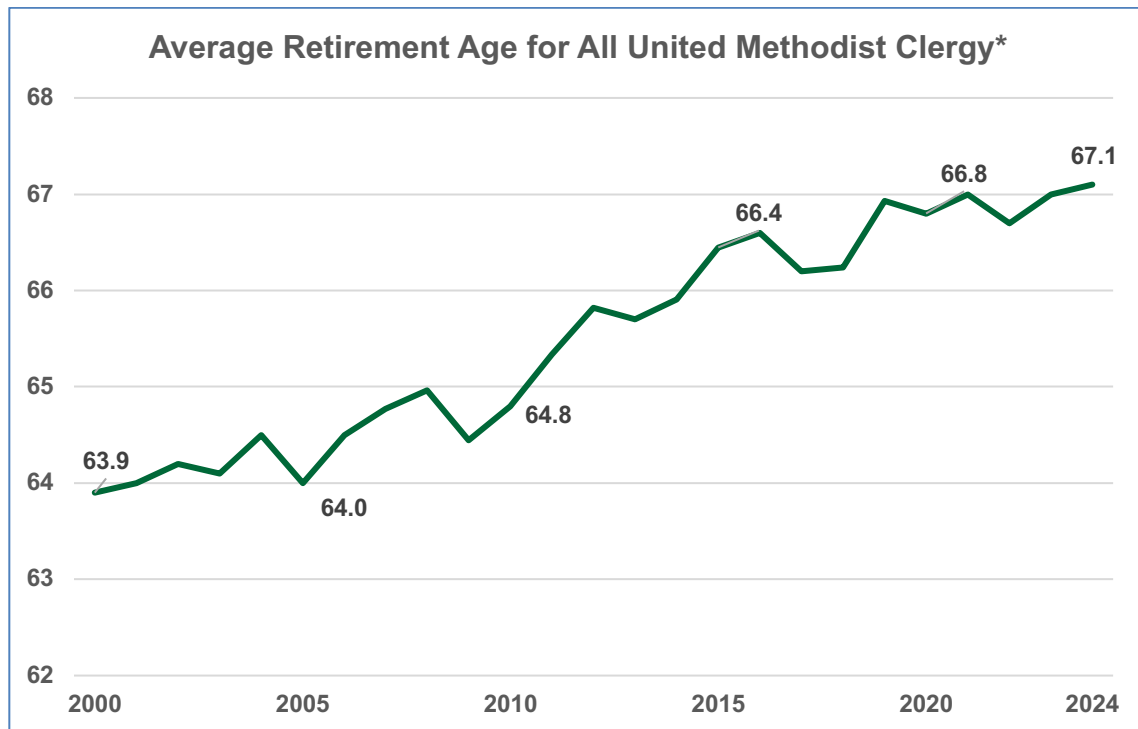
Annual Conference Clergy by Age Group: Numeric — 2025

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	11	7	21	8	45	36	89	8	19	43	70
Alaska Missionary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	3	7
Arkansas	1	5	5	11	5	63	50	118	8	16	31	55
Baltimore-Washington	0	10	7	17	9	115	142	266	0	33	68	101
California-Nevada	1	6	4	11	3	57	100	160	0	24	18	42
California-Pacific	0	5	3	8	3	94	137	234	3	23	36	62
Central Appalachian	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	3	3
Dakotas	0	4	1	5	6	42	27	75	4	20	17	41
Desert Southwest	0	0	3	3	2	32	29	63	2	6	19	27
East Ohio	0	5	7	12	5	60	67	132	6	35	42	83
Eastern Pennsylvania	0	6	9	15	4	48	78	130	5	35	58	98
Florida	5	17	9	31	16	132	114	262	3	35	57	95
Great Plains	5	8	7	20	18	134	109	261	7	56	76	139
Greater New Jersey	0	4	5	9	9	90	102	201	10	57	66	133
Holston	1	3	7	11	12	94	88	194	1	18	26	45
Horizon Texas	6	38	19	63	30	149	141	320	8	52	49	109
Illinois Great Rivers	0	7	6	13	7	54	79	140	7	43	79	129
Indiana	0	15	3	18	7	95	119	221	6	50	55	111
Iowa	0	1	2	3	9	66	69	144	3	43	53	99
Kentucky	0	5	7	12	3	50	43	96	6	38	39	83
Louisiana	1	6	4	11	4	34	40	78	1	25	29	55
Michigan	1	12	8	21	5	101	105	211	8	46	62	116
Minnesota	0	7	3	10	3	43	52	98	1	32	43	76
Mississippi	1	6	4	11	1	61	77	139	3	35	78	116
Missouri	2	17	7	26	5	99	70	174	8	56	75	139
Mountain Sky	0	4	10	14	7	79	82	168	4	22	31	57
New England	1	6	3	10	5	63	78	146	3	26	64	93
New Mexico	0	1	1	2	1	17	20	38	1	5	8	14
New York	1	3	2	6	3	65	122	190	2	16	24	42

Annual Conference Clergy by Age Group: Numeric — 2025

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	7	3	10	7	63	51	121	6	31	38	75
North Carolina	3	13	7	23	25	120	91	236	10	30	61	101
North Georgia	2	25	22	49	15	128	130	273	16	36	78	130
Northern Illinois	0	16	7	23	5	88	110	203	4	26	29	59
Oklahoma	0	5	3	8	9	62	61	132	5	29	36	70
OK Indian Mission	0	0	0	0	0	2	6	8	1	4	5	10
Oregon-Idaho	0	3	4	7	2	31	24	57	3	10	8	21
Pacific Northwest	2	6	2	10	7	63	47	117	1	6	10	17
Peninsula-Delaware	0	1	0	1	2	19	39	60	7	20	36	63
Rio Texas	1	13	5	19	4	59	58	121	2	40	43	85
South Carolina	1	10	10	21	11	87	130	228	7	35	117	159
South Georgia	0	4	3	7	1	25	36	62	0	6	20	26
Susquehanna	0	0	1	1	3	46	63	112	2	47	68	117
Tenn.-Western KY	3	27	13	43	8	79	87	174	5	44	65	114
Texas	0	16	9	25	14	103	77	194	5	26	23	54
Upper New York	1	2	9	12	1	53	80	134	5	32	74	111
Virginia	4	14	13	31	20	212	160	392	11	58	120	189
West Ohio	2	18	10	30	4	105	143	252	12	47	71	130
West Virginia	0	0	5	5	5	40	61	106	6	35	62	103
Western North Carolina	8	30	19	57	23	185	198	406	8	34	82	124
Western Pennsylvania	2	5	1	8	4	53	69	126	2	20	45	67
Wisconsin	1	5	5	11	4	62	64	130	3	33	47	83
Total	59	432	304	795	289	2,856	3,109	6,254	242	1,516	2,390	4,148

Retirement Age Trends



*includes Jurisdictional and Central Conferences

Average Retirement Ages

	2024	2005
Elders	66	64
Deacons	67	64
Full-Time Local Pastors**	68	65
Part-Time Local Pastors	70	67

**includes Associate Members

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