

Introduction

We have posted on the GCFA web site spreadsheets documenting annual conference clergy membership by gender, annual conference clergy membership by racial/ethnic identity, and annual conference lay membership by racial/ethnic identity.

The clergy membership numbers are as reported by the annual conferences on Question 64 (b) of the **2004** Business of the Annual Conference (BAC) report unless otherwise noted. These totals may vary (sometimes significantly) from those reported in the Clergy Membership Recapitulation Tables of the *General Minutes*. The *General Minutes* numbers have been verified against clergy membership rolls. No attempt has been made to reconcile the BAC and *General Minutes* totals.

Lay membership numbers are as reported by the Annual Conferences to the General Council on Finance and Administration for the year ending **December 31, 2003**. The majority of conferences have reported these numbers on their final and audited year end statistical reports. In the few instances that racial/ethnic membership figures have not been submitted, we have used numbers provided on preliminary statistical reports filed with the Department of Statistics in April of each year.

Just a few findings from the reports:

Clergy Membership by Gender:

The New England conference has the highest percentage of female clergy members with 30.49% of all categories of clergy as female. The top 5 conferences by percentage of female clergy are:

Conference Name	Male	Female	Total	%Female
New England	506	279	785	35.54%
Oklahoma Indian Missionary	47	24	71	33.80%
Baltimore-Washington	699	317	1016	31.20%
Greater New Jersey	676	299	975	30.67%
Troy	225	97	322	30.12%

New England conference also has the largest percentage of female full elders with 29.69%. The top 5 conferences by percentage of female elders are:

Conference Name	Male FEs	Female FEs	Tot FEs	%Female FEs
New England	450	190	640	29.69%
Baltimore-Washington	584	205	789	25.98%
Greater New Jersey	531	175	706	24.79%
Troy	177	58	235	24.68%
Northern Illinois	469	151	620	24.35%

The Order of Deacons is primarily comprised of women. Of the 60 conferences with deacons in full connection, all but the two conferences with one full deacon member who is male report that women comprise at least 50% of membership in the order. In 34 of those conferences, women comprise over 75% of FD membership.

Ranking of jurisdictions by percent of full elders and probationary members who are women is:

Jurisdiction	%Female FEs	Jurisdiction	%Female PMs
Western	21.27%	Northeastern	52.94%
Northeastern	19.41%	Western	50.72%
North Central	17.06%	North Central	49.80%
South Central	12.76%	South Central	48.83%
Southeastern	11.30%	Southeastern	36.06%

Clergy Membership by Racial/Ethnic Distribution:

Other than Rio Grande and Oklahoma Indian Missionary whose clergy membership is largely made up of Hispanic (98.1%) and Native American (95.77%) respectively, the 10 conferences with the highest percentage of clergy identified as racial/ethnic are:

Conference Name	Asian	African Am/Black	Hispanic	Native American	Pacific Islander	Percent of Clergy
*California-Pacific	196	46	41	3	36	34.7%
Baltimore-Washington	27	227	7	0	0	26.20%
Peninsula-Delaware	9	92	4	1	0	25.60%
New York	82	107	35	1	0	24.35%
California-Nevada	100	30	25	1	16	23.50%
Northern Illinois	67	61	22	1	7	22.44%
Mississippi	3	245	2	2	0	21.84%
South Carolina	5	211	2	1	0	20.13%
Greater New Jersey	78	76	31	0	0	18.97%
Louisiana	2	109	4	1	1	18.84%

*2003 data

20 conferences reported that over 10% of clergy members are of racial/ethnic heritage.

The ranking of jurisdictions by percent of clergy membership who self identify as persons of racial/ethnic heritage are:

Jurisdiction	Total Clergy	Asian	African Am Black	Hispanic	Native American	Pacific Islander	% of Ethnic Clergy
Western	3,619	367	102	101	10	65	17.82%
Northeastern	9,143	289	667	114	13	3	11.88%
South Central	8,406	62	475	201	91	8	9.96%
Southeastern	14,452	94	1,107	114	43	17	9.51%
North Central	10,186	212	316	72	40	10	6.38%

Lay Membership, 2003:

Regarding these figures, it must be noted that not all local churches report this item. Therefore, the figures and calculations used to determine the percent of racial/ethnic membership for an annual conference reference *reported* racial/ethnic membership, not total membership as reported by the conferences on line 9 of the Local Church Report to the Annual Conference, Table I. 95.98% of lay membership has been broken out by racial/ethnic categories.

16 annual conferences report racial/ethnic lay membership of over 10%. They are:

Conference	Asian	African Am/Black	Hispanic	Native Am	Pacific Islander	White	Percent Racial/Ethnic Lay Members
Rio Grande	0	0	14,927	0	0	0	100%
Oklahoma Indian Missionary	5	15	17	5,996	2	197	96.84%

California-Pacific	11,514	6,412	2,057	201	2,682	41,726	35.40%
New York	6,273	23,799	3,185	72	1,101	94,031	27.15%
Baltimore-Washington	6,273	39,898	435	198	191	145,039	24.47%
California-Nevada	9,343	4,775	1,859	345	2,520	60,843	23.65%
South Carolina	732	48,358	135	44	41	192,747	20.37%
Mississippi	178	35,777	63	230	38	154,012	19.07%
Texas	1,212	41,415	3,862	149	252	242,991	16.18%
Greater New Jersey	6,738	7,336	1,300	124	699	87,357	15.64%
Peninsula-Delaware	413	12,891	174	214	120	80,462	14.65%
North Georgia	2,088	43,648	1,251	58	68	286,545	14.12%
Louisiana	360	16,820	213	247	33	109,173	13.93%
Northern Illinois	3,419	9,035	1,418	47	210	99,965	12.38%
Detroit	1,456	8,298	267	330	93	89,382	10.46%
Alaska Missionary	106	33	18	113	147	3,627	10.31%

The average percent of racial/ethnic membership in the jurisdictional conferences is 7.77%.
43 conferences of 63 report less than that figure.

The jurisdiction percentages are:

Jurisdiction	Asian	African Am/Black	Hispanic	Native Am	Pacific Islander	White	Percent Racial/Ethnic Lay Members
Western	25,598	13,385	5,782	1,258	6,423	303,816	14.72%
Northeastern	24,793	97,783	7,050	1,124	2,338	1,254,748	9.59%
South Central	7,503	93,326	34,487	12,451	1,336	1,620,733	8.42%
Southeastern	10,450	191,865	9,849	12,340	1,490	2,642,275	7.88%
North Central	9,531	31,182	3,560	1,537	823	1,384,774	3.26%

In the jurisdictional conferences, on average, there is one full elder member to every 246.4 lay members.
The number of conferences that meet or have fewer than 246.4 lay members per full elder in each racial/ethnic category are:

Asian: 46
African American/Black: 35
Hispanic: 35
Native American: 24
Pacific Islander: 14

The averages for racial/ethnic category ratios of full elders to lay members in the jurisdictional conferences by racial/ethnic category are:

Asian: 96
African American/Black:
272
Hispanic: 177
Native American: 268
Pacific Islander: 270

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