

WOMEN BY THE NUMBERS

Snapshot: Who is at the decision-making table?

By Craig This

Introduction

A total of 602 U.S. delegates were elected to the 2012 General Conference of The United Methodist Church. As legislated by 2008 *The Book of Discipline*, half of the delegates are laity and half are clergy. Furthermore, the number of delegates representing each jurisdiction and each annual conference is proportional to the jurisdiction and annual conference's membership (See Table 1 and Table 2). The Southeastern Jurisdiction has the most delegates with 220 and the Western Jurisdiction the least with 32.

Highlights

- » 44% of the U.S. delegates are female
- » 149 laywomen (50% of laity) and 117 clergywomen (39% of clergy) delegates
- » 58 of the 59 annual conferences delegations have at least one female delegate
- » 22% of the U.S. delegates are people of color
- » 45 clergymen of color (15% of clergy); 29 clergywomen of color (1% of clergy)
- » 34 laymen of color (1% of laity); and 27 laywomen (1% of laity) delegates
- » 14 annual conference delegations do not include any people of color

Gender

Forty-four percent or 266 of the delegates are women and 56% (or 336) are men. One jurisdiction, Western, has more female delegates than male (see Table 2). When aggregated by gender and status (lay or clergy), the largest percentage of U.S. delegates are clergymen at 31% and smallest percentage is clergywomen at 19% (see Table 3). The laity is almost evenly divided between men (152) and women (149).

Table 1: Delegate Status by Annual Conference and Jurisdiction

Annual Conference	Clergy	Laity	Total
North Central Jurisdiction			
Dakotas	1	1	2
Detroit	4	4	8
East Ohio	7	7	14
Illinois Great Rivers	6	6	12
Indiana	9	9	18
Iowa	7	7	14
Minnesota	3	3	6
Northern Illinois	4	4	8
West Michigan	3	3	6
West Ohio	9	9	18
Wisconsin	3	3	6
Total	56	56	112
South Central Jurisdiction			
Arkansas	6	6	12
Central Texas	6	6	12
Kansas East	2	2	4
Kansas West	2	2	4
Louisiana	5	5	10
Missouri	7	7	14
Nebraska	2	2	4
New Mexico	1	1	2
North Texas	6	6	12
Northwest Texas	2	2	4
Oklahoma	9	9	18
Oklahoma Indian Missionary	1	1	2
Rio Grande	1	1	2
Southwest Texas	4	4	8
Texas	10	10	20
Total	64	64	128
Northeastern Jurisdiction			
Baltimore-Washington	7	7	14
Eastern Pennsylvania	5	5	10
Greater New Jersey	5	5	10
New England	5	5	10
New York	5	5	10
Peninsula-Delaware	2	2	4
Susquehanna	7	7	14
Upper New York	8	8	16
West Virginia	5	5	10
Western Pennsylvania	6	6	12
Total	55	55	110
Alabama-West Florida			
Florida	11	11	22
Holston	7	7	14
Kentucky	6	6	12
Memphis	2	2	4
Mississippi	7	7	14
North Alabama	6	6	12
North Carolina	9	9	18
North Georgia	13	13	26
Red Bird Missionary	1	1	2
South Carolina	9	9	18
South Georgia	5	5	10
Tennessee	4	4	8
Virginia	13	13	26
Western No Carolina	11	11	22
Total	110	110	220

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Table 2: Delegate Gender by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Female		Male		UMC Total
North Central	51	46%	61	54%	112
Northeastern	54	49%	56	51%	110
South Central	49	38%	79	62%	128
Southeastern	92	42%	128	58%	220
Western	20	63%	12	38%	32
UMC Total	266	44%	336	56%	602

Table 3: Delegate Status and Gender by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Clergy					Laity					UMC Total
	Female		Male		Total	Female		Male		Total	
	#	%	#	%	Total	#	%	#	%	Total	
North Central	22	20%	34	30%	56	29	26%	27	24%	56	112
Northeastern	24	22%	31	28%	55	30	27%	25	23%	55	110
South Central	21	16%	43	34%	64	28	22%	36	28%	64	128
Southeastern	42	19%	68	31%	110	50	23%	60	27%	110	220
Western	8	25%	8	25%	16	12	38%	4	13%	16	32
UMC Total	117	19%	184	31%	301	149	25%	152	25%	301	602

Table 5: Delegates' Race/Ethnicity by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	African American/Black	Asian	Hispanic	Multi-Racial	Native American	Pacific Islander	White	Total	R/E Total	R/E %
North Central	13	5					94	112	18	16%
Northeastern	29	5	1	1			74	110	36	33%
South Central	16	1	6	1	4		100	128	28	22%
Southeastern	35	2	3		2		178	220	42	19%
Western	4	6				1	21	32	11	34%
UMC Total	97	19	10	2	6	1	467	602	135	22%

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Thirty-two of the 59 annual conference delegations (54%) have a percentage of their female representation equal to or greater than 44%, which is the overall percentage of U.S. female delegates (see Table 4). All but one annual conference delegation has some representation of women with the lowest percentage being 25%.

People of Color

One in five U.S. delegates or 135 (22%) is a person of color (see Table 5). The largest percentage of people of color is African Americans/Black with 97 delegates (or 71%) of the people of color representation. In

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Table 4: Delegates' Gender by Annual Conference (Ranked)

Annual Conference	Female	Male	Total	Female %
Dakotas	2		2	100%
Desert Southwest	2		2	100%
Oregon-Idaho	2		2	100%
West Michigan	5	1	6	83%
Kansas West	3	1	4	75%
Memphis	3	1	4	75%
Pacific Northwest	3	1	4	75%
Rocky Mountain	4	2	6	67%
California-Pacific	5	3	8	63%
Eastern Pennsylvania	6	4	10	60%
Greater New Jersey	6	4	10	60%
Western No Carolina	13	9	22	59%
Western Pennsylvania	7	5	12	58%
Detroit	4	4	8	50%
Iowa	7	7	14	50%
Minnesota	3	3	6	50%
Northern Illinois	4	4	8	50%
Wisconsin	3	3	6	50%
Baltimore-Washington	7	7	14	50%
New England	5	5	10	50%
Susquehanna	7	7	14	50%
Arkansas	6	6	12	50%
Louisiana	5	5	10	50%
Nebraska	2	2	4	50%
New Mexico	1	1	2	50%
Oklahoma Indian Missionary	1	1	2	50%
Rio Grande	1	1	2	50%
Red Bird Missionary	1	1	2	50%
Alaska Missionary	1	1	2	50%
Yellowstone	1	1	2	50%
Virginia	12	14	26	46%
Florida	10	12	22	45%
Upper New York	7	9	16	44%
East Ohio	6	8	14	43%
Holston	6	8	14	43%
Mississippi	6	8	14	43%
Illinois Great Rivers	5	7	12	42%
Central Texas	5	7	12	42%
Kentucky	5	7	12	42%
New York	4	6	10	40%
West Virginia	4	6	10	40%
Indiana	7	11	18	39%
Oklahoma	7	11	18	39%
North Carolina	7	11	18	39%
South Carolina	7	11	18	39%
Tennessee	3	5	8	38%
Missouri	5	9	14	36%
North Georgia	9	17	26	35%
North Texas	4	8	12	33%
Alabama-West Florida	4	8	12	33%
California-Nevada	2	4	6	33%
Texas	6	14	20	30%
South Georgia	3	7	10	30%
West Ohio	5	13	18	28%
Peninsula-Delaware	1	3	4	25%
Kansas East	1	3	4	25%
Southwest Texas	2	6	8	25%
North Alabama	3	9	12	25%
Northwest Texas		4	4	0%

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two jurisdictions—Northeastern and Western— a third of their delegation are people of color. However, 14 (or 22%) of the annual conference delegations report 0% people of color (see Table 6). While it might be argued that the delegations without people of color are too small for diversity, there are other annual conferences as small or smaller that achieved diversity.

Women of color have a greater percentage of the overall female representation than the men of color have of the overall male representation (see Table 7). However, in terms of numbers, the men of color (79) outnumber the women of color (56).

To put things in perspective, there are 257 white males to the 135 males of color, which is almost a 2 to 1 ratio. Further, there are 13 legislative committees, if the jurisdictional delegates were divided evenly among the committees, on each committee there would be 4 women of color, 6 men of color and 35 white persons. The strength of the 3 to 1 ratio of whites to people of color in the overall U.S. delegation is clearly viewed here, demonstrating the diminished representation of people of color in the committees.

Conclusion

The General Conference of The United Methodist Church represents the “highest level of decision making in the church.” Over the two-week period that it meets in 2012, it will approve

Table 6: Delegates’ Race/Ethnicity by Annual Conference (Ranked)

Annual Conference	African American/Black	Asian	Hispanic	Multi-Racial	Native American	Pacific Islander	White	Total	R/E Total	R/E %
Oklahoma Indian Missionary					2			2	2	100%
Rio Grande			2					2	2	100%
New York	5	1	1				3	10	7	70%
California-Nevada	2	2					2	6	4	67%
California-Pacific	1	3				1	3	8	5	63%
Baltimore-Washington	6	1					7	14	7	50%
Greater New Jersey	3	2					5	10	5	50%
Peninsula-Delaware	2						2	4	2	50%
Eastern Pennsylvania	4						6	10	4	40%
New England	3	1					6	10	4	40%
Northern Illinois	2	1					5	8	3	38%
Southwest Texas	1		2				5	8	3	38%
Louisiana	2		1				7	10	3	30%
Texas	5	1					14	20	6	30%
Mississippi	4						10	14	4	29%
South Carolina	5						13	18	5	28%
Florida	4		2				16	22	6	27%
Western No Carolina	4	1			1		16	22	6	27%
North Georgia	6		1				19	26	7	27%
Upper New York	4						12	16	4	25%
Kansas East	1						3	4	1	25%
Kansas West					1		3	4	1	25%
Tennessee	2						6	8	2	25%
Pacific Northwest		1					3	4	1	25%
North Carolina	3				1		14	18	4	22%
East Ohio	2	1					11	14	3	21%
Missouri	2			1			11	14	3	21%
Virginia	4	1					21	26	5	19%
Illinois Great Rivers	2						10	12	2	17%
Indiana	3						15	18	3	17%
West Michigan	1						5	6	1	17%
West Ohio	2	1					15	18	3	17%
Central Texas	1				1		10	12	2	17%
Oklahoma	2	1					15	18	3	17%
Rocky Mountain	1						5	6	1	17%
Iowa		2					12	14	2	14%
Susquehanna	1			1			12	14	2	14%
Detroit	1						7	8	1	13%
South Georgia	1						9	10	1	10%
Western Pennsylvania	1						11	12	1	8%
Arkansas	1						11	12	1	8%
North Texas	1						11	12	1	8%
North Alabama	1						11	12	1	8%
Holston	1						13	14	1	7%
Dakotas							2	2	0	0%
Minnesota							6	6	0	0%
Wisconsin							6	6	0	0%
West Virginia							10	10	0	0%
Nebraska							4	4	0	0%
New Mexico							2	2	0	0%
Northwest Texas							4	4	0	0%
Alabama-West Florida							12	12	0	0%
Kentucky							12	12	0	0%
Memphis							4	4	0	0%
Red Bird Missionary							2	2	0	0%
Alaska Missionary							2	2	0	0%
Desert Southwest							2	2	0	0%
Oregon-Idaho							2	2	0	0%
Yellowstone							2	2	0	0%

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not only a budget but more importantly the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church for the next four years. This summary provides but a snapshot of who is at the table to make those decisions. The question though is whom do these decision-makers represent? And what mission and ministry will they approve? Do they represent the demographic membership of The United Methodist Church that exists today or do they represent the church that God is calling all Christians to be? Will it be a mission and ministry of the status quo or a mission and ministry of “making disciples for Jesus Christ?”

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Table 7: Gender and Status by Race/Ethnicity and Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction Race/Ethnicity	Female										Male						UMC Total	R/E Totals			
	Clergy		Laity		Total	R/E Clergy		R/E Laity		Clergy		Laity		Total	R/E Clergy			R/E Laity		R/E Clergy	R/E Laity
	#	%	#	%	#	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	#	%		#	%		
North Central Jurisdiction																					
African American/Black	2	15%	5	38%	7					5	38%	1	8%	6						13	
Asian	3	60%		0%	3					2	40%		0%	2						5	
White	17	18%	24	26%	41					27	29%	26	28%	53						94	
Total	22	20%	29	26%	51	5	23%	5	23%	34	30%	27	24%	61	7	21%	1	3%		112	
Northeastern Jurisdiction																					
African American/Black	6	21%	6	21%	12					7	24%	10	34%	17						29	
Asian	2	40%	1	20%	3					2	40%		0%	2						5	
Hispanic		0%		0%							0%	1	100%	1						1	
Multi-Racial		0%		0%							0%	1	100%	1						1	
White	16	22%	23	31%	39					22	30%	13	18%	35						74	
Total	24	22%	30	27%	54	8	33%	7	29%	31	28%	25	23%	56	9	29%	12	39%		110	
South Central Jurisdiction																					
African American/Black	4	25%	1	6%	5					8	50%	3	19%	11						16	
Asian		0%		0%							0%	1	100%	1						1	
Hispanic		0%	1	17%	1					3	50%	2	33%	5						6	
Multi-Racial		0%		0%						1	100%		0%	1						1	
Native American		0%	3	75%	3					1	25%		0%	1						4	
White	17	17%	23	23%	40					30	30%	30	30%	60						100	
Total	21	16%	28	22%	49	4	19%	5	24%	43	34%	36	28%	79	13	30%	6	14%		128	
Southeastern Jurisdiction																					
African American/Black	9	26%	6	17%	15					10	29%	10	29%	20						35	
Asian	1	50%		0%	1					1	50%		0%	1						2	
Hispanic	1	33%		0%	1					1	33%	1	33%	2						3	
Native American		0%	1	50%	1						0%	1	50%	1						2	
White	31	17%	43	24%	74					56	31%	48	27%	104						178	
Total	42	19%	50	23%	92	11	26%	7	17%	68	31%	60	27%	128	12	18%	12	18%		220	
Western Jurisdiction																					
African American/Black		0%		0%						2	50%	2	50%	4						4	
Asian	1	17%	2	33%	3					2	33%	1	17%	3						6	
Pacific Islander		0%	1	100%	1						0%		0%							1	
White	7	33%	9	43%	16					4	19%	1	5%	5						21	
Total	8	25%	12	38%	20	1	13%	3	38%	8	25%	4	13%	12	4	50%	3	38%		32	
UMC Total	117	19%	149	25%	266	29	25%	27	23%	184	31%	152	25%	336	45	24%	34	18%		602	