



2024 Jurisdictional Report: Elections for Boards, Agencies and the Episcopacy

Report published on July 29 following jurisdictional conferences, which were held July 8-13, 2024.

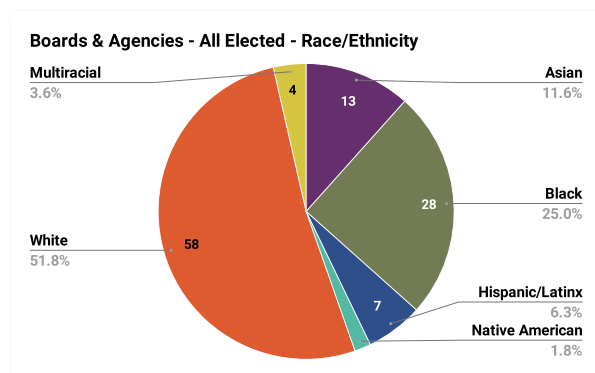
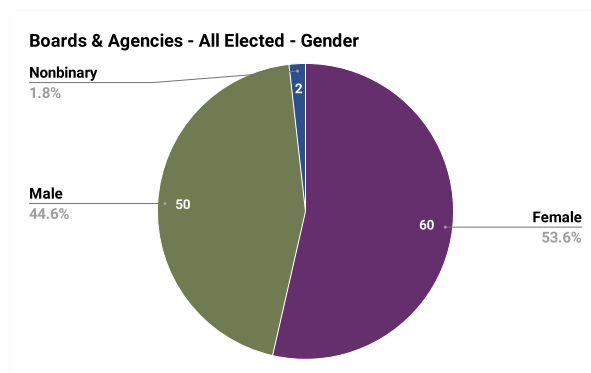
The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women (GCSRW) welcomed the invitation to monitor the five jurisdictional conferences within the United States as an opportunity to fulfill their mandate, as outlined in ¶2102 of the United Methodist Book of Discipline 2016 (BOD). Collecting data allows us to take a snapshot of representation in leadership and challenge the Church for full and equal participation of all God's children.

This report to The United Methodist Church reflects a combination of your work at jurisdictional conferences. The learnings will be shared through graphs representing the collective elections on the boards and agencies that support the General Church. These demographics reflect the recommended nominations set by the Secretary of the General Conference, in accordance with ¶1705 of the BOD. The reports rely heavily on data reported to the monitors. If individuals do not self-report, the monitoring team may assign them a category by default.

Monitoring these demographics is crucial for remaining self-aware and working towards becoming The United Methodist Church we aspire to be.

Part I: Board and Agency Elections

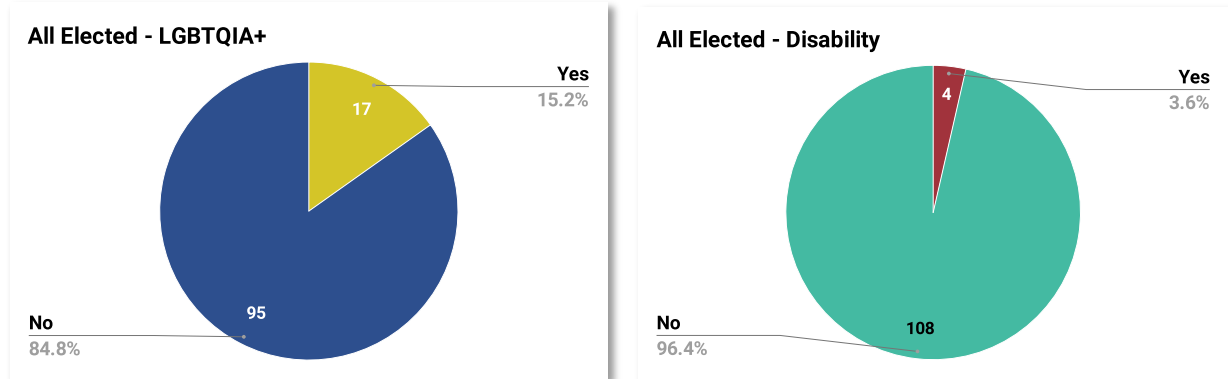
While General Conference establishes agencies, each agency is governed by a board of directors, composed of both lay and clergy members. Some are elected by the General Conference, and others are elected at jurisdictional and central conferences. Bishops, as assigned by the Council of Bishops, also share oversight on these boards.



GCSRW monitored the election of board members at jurisdictional conferences for 10 agencies, the Advisory Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Relationships, and the Connectional Table. Also included in these data are the members of the General Council on Finance & Administration who were elected by the General Conference. The compiled data show that 53.6% of those elected are female,

44.6% are male, and 1.8% are nonbinary. This indicates a strong female representation within these elected positions.

Additionally, the largest racial group elected to boards and agencies continues to be White. Of those elected, 11.6% are Asian, 25% Black, 6.3% Hispanic/Latinx, 3.6% multiracial, 1.8% Native American, and 51.8% White.



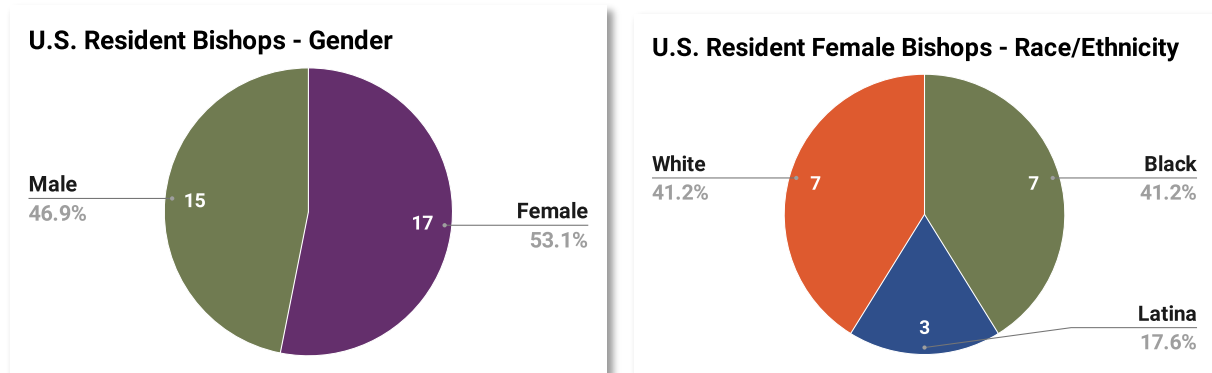
With the recent removal of harmful language in the Book of Discipline, the denomination has, for the first time, openly recognized many lay and clergy LGBTQIA+ persons who have served faithfully. Current data indicate that 15.2% of compiled board members have identified as LGBTQIA+ persons, while 84.8% have not.

Furthermore, 3.6% of board members have indicated they are a person living with a disability, while 96.4% of persons have not.

It is important to note that agencies and boards have opportunities to elect at-large members at their respective organizational meetings, which could potentially change the overall demographic representation while further diversifying individual boards.

Part II: Episcopal Elections

This year, the Western Jurisdiction held episcopal elections, resulting in the election of two women, Bishop Kristin Stoneking and Bishop Sandy Olewine, who will begin their terms on September 1, 2024. For the first time in the denomination's history, there are more resident female bishops in the United States than male bishops.



With the new Episcopal assignments, 53.1% of the resident bishops in the U.S. are female, while 46.9% are male. Across The United Methodist Church worldwide, 33.3% of the resident bishops are female and 66.7% are male.

Additionally, in the U.S., 41.2% of resident female bishops are Black, 17.6% are Latina, and 41.2% are White.

Insights and Opportunities

Overall, the current state of gender, queer and racial diversity among elected board members shows a significant female presence and a varied but predominantly White racial composition. The opportunity to elect at-large board members presents a pivotal moment for the Church to appoint leaders to key positions, ensuring the Church's relevance as it shapes the future of its ministry and mission through the work of its agencies. We encourage you to elect at-large members who will give voice to those who have been marginalized and voiceless.

The data also highlight an equitable shift towards female leadership within the U.S. context of The United Methodist Church, alongside a more diverse racial and ethnic composition among female bishops. However, it also underscores the need for increased gender equality at the global level within the Church's leadership.

In conclusion, monitoring elections and demographic representation within The United Methodist Church is essential for transparency, inclusivity, and progress. We are committed to building a beloved community that embodies a grace-filled way of living, aiming for perfection, as John Wesley described: a heart filled with love for God and neighbor. This process ensures accountability and encourages the election of diverse leaders who embody the Church's values and aspirations. As the Church moves forward, the ongoing monitoring of elections and demographic trends will remain vital in guiding efforts towards a more equitable and inclusive future for The United Methodist Church.



About the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

The General Commission on the Status and Role of Women advocates for full participation of women in the total life of The United Methodist Church. GCSRW helps the Church recognize every person – clergy and lay, women and men, adults and children – as full and equal parts of God's human family. We believe that a fully engaged and empowered membership is vital to The United Methodist Church's mission "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." Learn more at GCSRW.org. Contact: info@gcsr.org