

Which U.S. conferences employ the most racial-ethnic women?

By Elaine Moy*

The chart below lists the U.S. United Methodist annual conferences in which 10% or more of their employees are racial-ethnic clergywomen and laywomen. There are 63 annual conferences in the United States. Below are also the U.S. annual conferences with the lowest percentage of racial-ethnic clergywomen or laywomen employees.

Top annual conferences by % of racial-ethnic clergywomen employed		Top annual conferences by % of racial-ethnic laywomen employed	
Conference	%	Conference	%
Oklahoma Indian Missionary	44 %	Western Pennsylvania	64%
Kansas West	40 %	Wisconsin	43%
Wisconsin	18 %	Mississippi	41%
Mississippi	17 %	Southwest Texas	24%
Tennessee	13 %	Baltimore-Washington	20%
		California-Pacific	19%
		Desert Southwest	17%
		Alabama West Florida	15%
		South Carolina	14%
		North Alabama	14%

Lowest % of racial-ethnic clergywomen employed		Lowest % of racial-ethnic laywomen employed	
Conference	%	Conference	%
Pacific Northwest	6%	Illinois Great Rivers	4%
North Central New York	5%	Desert Southwest	4%
Western North Carolina	5%	Penninsula-Delaware	4%
Virginia	5%	South Carolina	4%
Illinois Great Rivers	4%	Louisiana	3%
Oregon-Idaho	4%	Florida	2%
West Ohio	3%	West Virginia	2%
Iowa	2%	North Texas	2%
West Michigan	2%	California-Pacific	1%
Texas	1%	Iowa	1%

Some questions to consider:

- ◆ Do the percentages of racial-ethnic women employees (and the membership of UM congregations) in these annual conferences exceed, equal or fall short of the regions' total racial-ethnic population? (The national population is nearly 40% people of color.)
- ◆ What might this imply with regard to our denomination's efforts to make Christian disciples and be in mission with all people in all places, and to represent the communities in which we minister?
- ◆ Which racial-ethnic communities do the women employees represent?
- ◆ What positions do the racial-ethnic women hold?
- ◆ Which racial-ethnic women communities are missing from the discussions?

NOTE: Percentages are based on reports from annual conferences. Annual conferences NOT reporting include East Ohio, Indiana, Northern Illinois, Susquehanna, New York, Greater New Jersey, Rio Grande, Holston, and Rocky Mountain.

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