

## Conference execs more likely to be men, clergy

By Craig This

**Women comprise 58% of United Methodist membership and 57% of the total number of employees of U.S. annual conferences, according to the 2006 employment profile conducted by the General Commission on Religion and Race and the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women.**

However, while women—lay and clergy—have the majority of all conference jobs, men outnumber women at the executive level. And across the gender divide, clergy are more likely than laity to hold high-paying conference jobs, whether or not the jobs require theological education.

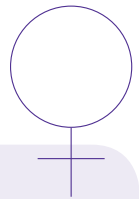
Men—both lay and clergy—hold 69% of the upper-management jobs in United Methodist annual conferences. Clergymen have the highest percentage of executive positions (58%), followed by clergywomen at 22%, laymen at 11% and laywomen at 9%.

Laywomen as a whole make up the largest demographic group among those employed at the annual conference level (883 laywomen compared to 338 laymen). However, 522 (59%) of those positions held by women are administrative/clerical. The largest portion of laymen (31%) is service workers.

Clergymen comprise the second largest total of employed persons at the annual conferences with

465 employees, compared with 196 clergywomen. And 71% of clergymen (331) and 65% of clergywomen (127) are in executive positions.

A previous “By the Numbers” suggested that the general church pigeonholes women in terms of the jobs they hold and the places where



### Laywomen/Clergywomen Employed in Jurisdictions\* 2006

Laywomen	NCJ	NEJ	SCJ	SEJ	WJ	UMC	% of UMC
Executive	10	7	14	18	4	53	9
Professional	7	13	21	1	0	49	28
Managers/ Administrators	23	25	55	28	13	144	45
Technicians	7	0	7	6	2	22	41
Administrative/ Clerical Support	138	136	177	21	50	522	94
Service Workers	22	2	18	28	23	93	46
<b>Laywomen Total</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>883</b>	<b>47</b>

Clergywomen	NCJ	NEJ	SCJ	SEJ	WJ	UMC	% of UMC
Executive	29	30	29	26	13	127	22
Professional	5	5	21	0	0	31	18
Managers/ Administrators	5	1	10	11	3	30	9
Technicians	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Administrative/ Clerical Support	0	0	4	1	2	7	1
Service Workers	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
<b>Clergywomen Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>10</b>

*Annual Conferences that did not return profiles by publication deadline (and therefore were not included) are: Florida, Holston, Illinois Great Rivers, Memphis, Mississippi, Pacific Northwest and Yellowstone.*

*\*Jurisdictions are: NCJ: North Central; NEJ: Northeastern; SCJ: South Central; SEJ: Southeastern; WJ: Western; UMC: United Methodist Church.*

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they work. Similarly, in U.S. annual conferences, laywomen are more likely to be hired as administrative/clerical persons than as executives. And while clergywomen are more likely than their lay sisters to have management jobs, they are not as numerous in those jobs as their clergy brothers.

It can be correctly argued that the overall lack of women in the church leadership limits the ability to place women in executive levels of leadership across the church. Currently, there is about one clergywoman for every five clergymen. If the church is placing these clergywomen in churches, annual conferences, general agencies and schools

of theology, there are only so many of them to go around. The lack of a greater pool of clergywomen affects the church's ability to place them in a denomination with 33,000 churches, 66 annual conferences, 526 districts and 13 schools of theology.

At the same time, the inability of the church to place women in highly visible leadership positions, whether at the annual conference level or in the local church, hurts recruitment. Women, young and old, who are being called into the ministry by God need role models they can emulate and imitate in fulfilling their calling from God. If they do not see women fulfilling their potential in The United Methodist Church, then these women may seek to fulfill God's calling in another denomination or seek careers in the secular arena.

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## Laymen/Clergymen Employed in Jurisdictions\* 2006

Laymen	NCJ	NEJ	SCJ	SEJ	WJ	UMC	% of UMC
Executive	30	8	8	10	7	63	11
Professional	7	18	8	5	0	38	22
Managers/ Administrators	14	11	30	14	13	82	25
Technicians	4	5	5	9	8	30	55
Administrative/ Clerical Support	0	0	12	5	4	21	4
Service Workers	37	32	19	5	11	104	51
<b>Laymen Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>18</b>

Clergymen	NCJ	NEJ	SCJ	SEJ	WJ	UMC	% of UMC
Executive	71	57	98	93	18	331	58
Professional	3	2	48	3	1	57	32
Managers/ Administrators	11	18	7	28	3	67	21
Technicians	1	0	1	0	0	2	4
Administrative/ Clerical Support	3	0	0	0	0	3	1
Service Workers	4	0	0	0	0	5	3
<b>Clergymen Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>25</b>

### CORRECTION:

The July/Aug/Sept 2007 issue of *The Flyer* contained errors in Table 1 of "Women by the Numbers." The GCFA Total Racial Ethnic Women Voting members should be 5 (not 6), Total Voting Members should be 40 (not 53) and Racial Ethnic Women as % of Total Voting Members should be 13% (not 11). The GBCS Total Racial Ethnic Women should be 12 (not 9), Total Voting Members should be 62 (not 59), and Racial Ethnic Women as % of Total Voting Members should be 20% (not 15).