

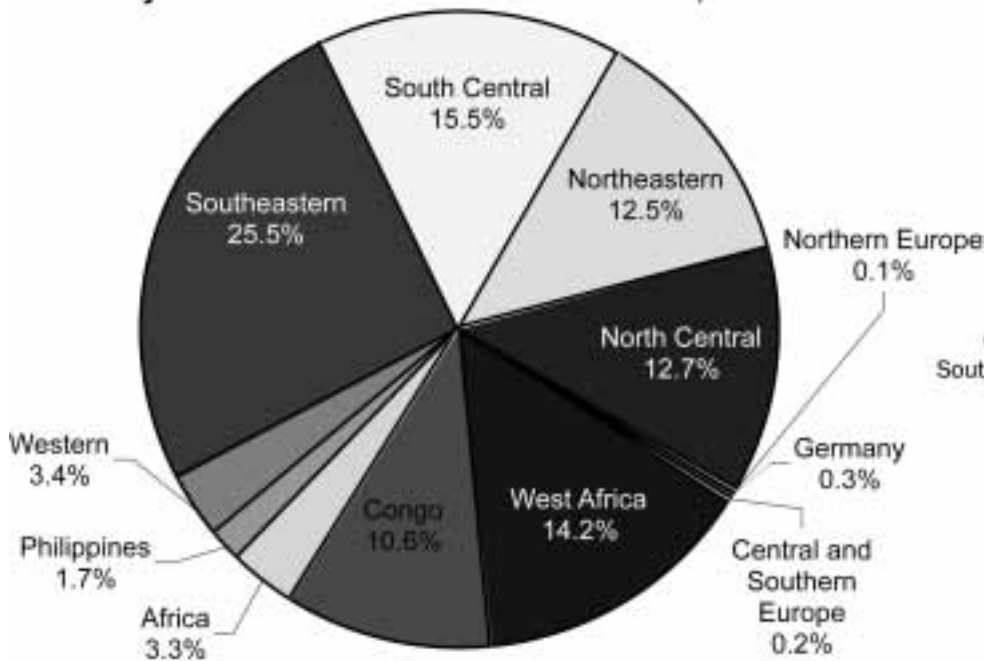
# BY THE NUMBERS

**Note:** Statistics may help us see patterns and relationships and test assumptions. But they are, after all, only numbers! In all statistical analysis a major challenge is assuring that the information collected is timely, complete, and accurate. And in comparing different regions we learn that sometimes despite our best efforts we may measure and report in quite different ways. The following pages provide a snapshot of information available at a point in time.

## Who? What? Where? How Much?

- UM churches in 50 countries
- UM missions in 65 countries
- 47,820 congregations
- 45,176 clergy
- 13.7 million professing and baptized members
  - In 5 Jurisdictional Conferences: 8.9 million members
  - In 7 Central Conferences: 4.8 million members

**Global Professing Membership, by Central or Jurisdictional Conference, 2005**



**Percentage Change in Professing Membership by Central or Jurisdictional Conference, 1995 – 2005**



**Question: How are these numbers collected?** “We have decades of statistics for every local church in the U.S. but only Annual Conference totals for many areas in the Central Conferences. GCFA is undertaking a process to create a single, worldwide standard of data collection to improve our quantitative data in the central conferences, but that will take some time to develop.”

## General Apportioned Funds

Fund	Adjusted 2005-2008 Total Apportionment	Requested 2009-2012 Total Apportionment	% Change
World Service	\$317,598,000	\$333,356,000	4.96%
Ministerial Education	113,130,000	113,130,000	0.00%
Black College	45,128,000	45,128,000	0.00%
Africa University	10,100,000	10,100,000	0.00%
Episcopal	83,518,000	94,400,000	13.03%
General Administration	34,178,000	36,935,000	8.07%
Interdenom Cooperation	8,848,000	8,848,000	0.00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$612,500,000</b>	<b>\$641,897,000</b>	<b>4.80%</b>

**Question: Do central conferences pay apportionments?**

“Currently no annual conference outside the U.S. pays into the apportioned funds. However, that really isn’t the whole story. Central Conferences do contribute money to pay for costs associated with the bishops. They are also engaged in a number of missional and ecumenical activities that are very similar to the types of work funded by the apportioned general funds. In conversations with leaders in the Central

Conferences, we’ve heard their desire to participate in the apportionment covenant. In GCFA’s proposed apportionment formula for the 2009-2012 quadrennium, we have asked General Conference for the authority to negotiate apportionment amounts with the annual conferences in the central conferences. We believe this is a beginning point for ensuring that the funding structures of our denomination reflect the global nature of our church.”

### General Conference 2008 Breakdown of Delegates

Jurisdictional Conferences	
North Central	138
Northeastern	126
South Central	148
Southeastern	252
Western	40
Subtotal	704
<b>Central Conferences</b>	
Africa	34
Congo	86
West Africa	74
Central and Southern Europe	14
Germany	6
Northern Europe	22
Philippines	42
Subtotal	278
<b>Concordat Churches</b>	
Latin America & Caribbean	2
Great Britain	4
Mexico	2
Puerto Rico	2
Subtotal	10
<b>Total Delegates</b>	<b>992</b>

**Question: How is the number of delegates from each jurisdiction or central conference determined?** The formula comes from the *Discipline*. (See [www.circuitrider.com](http://www.circuitrider.com) for details.) Since the formula in the *Discipline* would produce more delegates than the *Discipline* allows (1,000), the numbers are adjusted downward proportionally.

### General Conference Summary of Delegate Breakdown, 1996-2008

	2008	2004	2000	1996
Western Jurisdictions	704	800	830	834
Central Conferences	278	188	152	126
Concordat Churches	10	10	10	10
<b>Total Delegates</b>	<b>992</b>	<b>998</b>	<b>992</b>	<b>970</b>

	2008	2004	2000	1996
Cent. Conf. % of Delegates	28.02%	18.84%	15.32%	12.99%

*The information included on pp. 38-39 is selected and adapted from information available at [www.gcfa.org](http://www.gcfa.org). Comments in response to our questions are provided by Scott Brewer, General Council on Finance and Administration.*

## General Conference Delegates

### ¶ 502. Composition

1. The voting membership of the General Conference shall consist of:
  - a) An equal number of clergy and lay delegates elected by the annual conferences as provided in the *Discipline*. The missionary conferences and provisional annual conferences shall be considered as annual conferences for the purposes of this paragraph.
  - b) Delegates from The Methodist Church in Great Britain and other autonomous Methodist churches with which concordat agreements have been established providing for mutual election and seating of delegates in each other's highest legislative conferences (¶¶ 13.2, 13.3; 574).
2. The number of delegates to which an annual conference is entitled shall be computed on a two-factor basis: the number of clergy members of the annual conference, and the number of members of local churches in the annual conference.

The term clergy members as used in this paragraph shall refer to both active and retired members of the annual conference (¶ 602.1).

3. The secretary of the General Conference shall calculate the number of delegates to be elected by each annual conference, based on the factors specified above, as follows:

- a) One clergy delegate for the first 375 clergy members of the annual conference and one clergy delegate for each additional 375 clergy members or major fraction thereof, and
- b) One clergy delegate for the first 26,000 members of local churches of the annual conference and one clergy delegate for each additional 26,000 local church members or major fraction thereof, and
- c) A number of lay delegates equal to the total number of clergy delegates authorized as above.
- d) Every annual conference shall be entitled to at least one clergy and one lay delegate.
- e) This formula is designated to comply with the Constitution, Division Two, Section II, Article I (¶ 13), which defines the minimum and maximum number of delegates to a General Conference. Should the computations provided in the paragraph result in a figure below the prescribed minimum or above the prescribed maximum for delegates, the secretary of the General Conference shall be authorized to remedy the situation by adjusting up or down the numbers of clergy members and members of local churches of the annual conference necessary to entitle an annual conference to elect delegates, any such adjustment to be proportionally the same for the two factors.

*The United Methodist Book of Discipline 2004*