

Statisticians Report for 2010  
2011 Annual Conference

Bishop Leeland, Lay and Clergy members and guest thank you for the opportunity to provide the report of the work of the local churches as reported in Local Church Report to the Alabama West Florida Conference in 2010.

We began the year with professing membership of 148, 803.

We received 2,575 professing members, a decline of 9% over 2009.

We corrected last years report by adding 296 members which represents a 86% decrease from 2009, the first year in which these corrections could be made, so that decrease is a good thing.

We continued to win in the transferred in and out categories from other United Methodist members and members from other denominations.

However, we removed by charge conference action almost as many members as we received by profession of faith in 2010. 2,469 verses 2,575.

Members withdrawing during 2010 totaled 893 a 65% increase over 2009.

We removed 916 members by correcting our last year report which was a 28% increase over 2009. Hopefully we will move forward in the direction of correcting our membership records and we will see a decrease in this category in the future.

There was an 11% decrease in reported deaths in membership from 2009.

1,605 in 2010 verses 1,775 in 2009. This statistic is somewhat unexpected giving the aging population in the United Methodist Church.

We ended 2010 with professing membership of 146,752 a 1% decrease over 2009.

Average attendance at weekly worship services declined from 69,342 in 2009 to 66,415 in 2010, a decline of 4%.

We have learned the one of the measures of vital churches is number of small groups centered on Christian formation. While there was an 8% decrease in weekly attendance in Sunday church school and a 1% decrease in Vacation Bible School attendance, every other category of Christian formation groups showed increases, the greatest increase was 21% in the number of children in all Christian formation groups and other small group ministries.

There was a 5% increase reported in the number of on going classes for learning for all ages other than Sunday church school.

Increases were reported in all of the mission team categories with the exception of a small decrease in the number of UMVIM teams.

The number of community ministries for daycare and or education increased by 49% and an increase of 25% in the number of persons served.

Similarly, the number of community ministries for outreach, justice and mercy increased by 31% and the number of persons served increased from 136,577 in 2009 to 230,543 in 2010. This represents a 69% increase.

Turning to benevolence giving churches reported \$1,011,518 United Methodist causes which was not given through the conference office, a 135% increase. Giving to non United Methodist cause totaled 6,682,481 a 5% decrease over 2009.

Pastor's salaries reported less than 1% decrease in 2010. However church staff salaries increased by 1%.

Program expenses decreased by 9% while operating expenses increased by 4%.

Principle and interest payments increased by 39% from 14,000,000 in 2009 to 19,500,000 in 2010.

Last year I gave you same statistics about church size and expense ratios. Not much has changed in 2010. It is again evident that church with declining membership and worship attendance spend more per capita in almost every category of expense than church with increasing membership and attendance.