

2008 Conference Profile  
California-Nevada Conference  
The United Methodist Church

A. Geographical location and description

- a. California counties of Alameda, Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, Contra Costa, Del Norte, El Dorado, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Kern (except for that portion extending from the easterly side of the base of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and that portion extending from the southerly base of the Tehachapi Mountains described as Antelope Valley), Kings, Lake, Lassen, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Mono, Monterey, Napa, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Benito, San Francisco, San Joaquin, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Trinity, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo and Yuba, and the town of New Cuyama in Santa Barbara County. Nevada counties of Carson, Churchill, Douglas, Elko, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lyon, Mineral, Pershing, Storey, Washoe and White Pine.
- b. The conference spans the northernmost boundaries of the states of California and Nevada, which include seashores, mountains, valleys, deserts, large suburban and urban areas, and vast agricultural lands and communities.

B. Demographics

- a. Clergy members – active elders 2007: 344
- b. Clergy members – active deacons 2007: 16
- c. Clergy members – probationers 2007: 37
- d. Clergy members – licensed local pastors 2007: 59
- e. Clergy members – retired 2007: 292
- f. Lay members 2007: 83,031

**Our appointed work force is about the same as thirty years ago.**

**In 1975 membership was about 106,000. We have experienced a steady decline to the current level .**

- g. Deaconesses 2007: 6
- g. Average Attendance 2007: 39,214

**In 1975 worship attendance was slightly above 40,000. It reached a high of about 47,000 in 1998, and since has declined to the current level.**

- h. Churches 2007: 360

**Over the past 30 years we have averaged a loss of 1 church per year.**

C. Conference Vision Statement

**Passion In Jesus Christ – Compassion for All  
Diverse Cultures-Diverse Geography-One in Christ**

*By extending Christ's Invitation to a joyous life* our vision challenges us to live as visible and contagious examples in our communities. We *celebrate our diversity and unity in Christ* by welcoming a future where every congregation names and embraces our identity, bearing fruits of respect, love, and mutual ministry. Holding up *compassion with the Heart of Christ* calls us to service through outreach ministries – face to face, hand to hand, with the poor, the least, the outcast and the hungry. Out of *passion for the Mind of Christ* our movement is towards a future where every Faith Community is in fact a Spiritual Transformation Center.

D. Financial Status

- a. Clergy minimum cash compensation 2007: \$31,150 plus housing
- b. Clergy average compensation 2007: \$54,211
- c. Apportionment Collections
  - i. 2007: 70.0%; 2006: 71.2%; 2005: 71.5%; 2004: 72.5%; 2003: 72.8%  
**Adjusted for inflation apportionment collections are at the same level as in 1981.**
- d. # of churches paying 100% in 2007: 143 (40%)

E. Conference Issues

- a. Revitalization of existing congregations and planting of new ones.
- b. Fiscal crisis evidenced by a growing gap between conference receivables (particularly apportionment collections) and the rising cost of clergy benefits.
- c. The tension between our social reality regarding the presence and participation of GLBT persons and the limitations of ministry imposed by the current Book of Discipline.
- d. A new conference wide effort in congregational and clergy assessment and accountability seeking a more effective lay and clergy witness.
- e. A pressing need for active recruitment, training and mentorship of young lay and clergy leaders.
- f. Challenged to achieve greater relevance of the local church to diverse ministry settings including rural, urban, and multi-cultural (with a special need for greater effectiveness among Hispanic populations).
- g. Key social concerns include the economy, immigration and documentation, greening, health care, public education, and the current housing crisis.

- F. Conference Episcopal Leader Expectations
- a. Is a Spiritual Leader
  - b. Track record of ability to shape a vision and inspire commitment to it.
  - c. Committed to lay and clergy leadership development.
  - d. Supports emergent and new church development.
  - e. Actively engaged in providing strong fiscal management.
  - f. Has passion for and proven results in the revitalization of existing congregations.
  - g. Will lead the development of ministries to diverse communities.
  - h. Will respect our theological diversity while providing bold leadership from a progressive perspective.
  - i. Will seek personal involvement with the leaders and congregations of this Annual Conference.
  - j. Demonstrated competency in effective communication patterns.
  - k. Experienced in crisis management and crisis intervention.
  - l. Proven skill and sensitivity in personnel management
  - m. Is a risk taker
  - n. Theologically and biblically keen

G. On scale of 1 to 5 (1=mastered; 2=doing much of the time; 3=mixed results; 4=needs work; 5=no work begun) what is your conference level of accomplishment in fulfilling the 9 elements of the Jurisdictional Vision Statement.

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| a. A multicultural, inclusive church         | 2.25 |
| b. Churches engaged in life of the community | 2.5  |
| c. Confident, effective leadership           | 3    |
| d. Congregations forming disciples           | 3.5  |
| e. Diverse ministry settings                 | 2.25 |
| f. Congregations living as global citizens   | 3.25 |
| g. A church that thinks and acts regionally  | 3.5  |
| h. Fully accessible churches                 | 3    |
| i. Ministry enabled by technology            | 3    |