

## STATISTICAL REPORT

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The 2020 statistics for the Desert Southwest Annual Conference were significantly skewed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many measures declined, some by quite a bit. A few measures (such as online worship participation) improved dramatically. Overall, though, the pandemic made analysis of 2020 statistics a difficult and largely futile exercise. So, with little interpretation, following are descriptions of some traditional statistical metrics. (Note that this report is prepared as of March 2021. Minor adjustments may subsequently occur in some figures as a few more churches' statistical tables trickle in.)

### Churches

One church (Youngtown UMC) was closed in 2020, and two fellowships (Orontes and Maranatha UMF) ceased operating as United Methodist worshipping congregations. So, so we had 116 churches and 10 fellowships in the Conference as of December 31, 2020.

The composition of churches and fellowships in the Conference at December 31, 2020 was as follows:

	<u>Conference</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>West</u>
Churches increased in size	14	4	2	6	2
Churches decreased in size	86	16	21	23	26
Churches unchanged in size	26	8	6	7	5
	<u>126</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>33</u>

The median size of churches/fellowships in the Conference at December 31, 2020 was 115 (down from 116 at December 31, 2019). The average church/fellowship size was 195 (down from 203 at December 31, 2019).

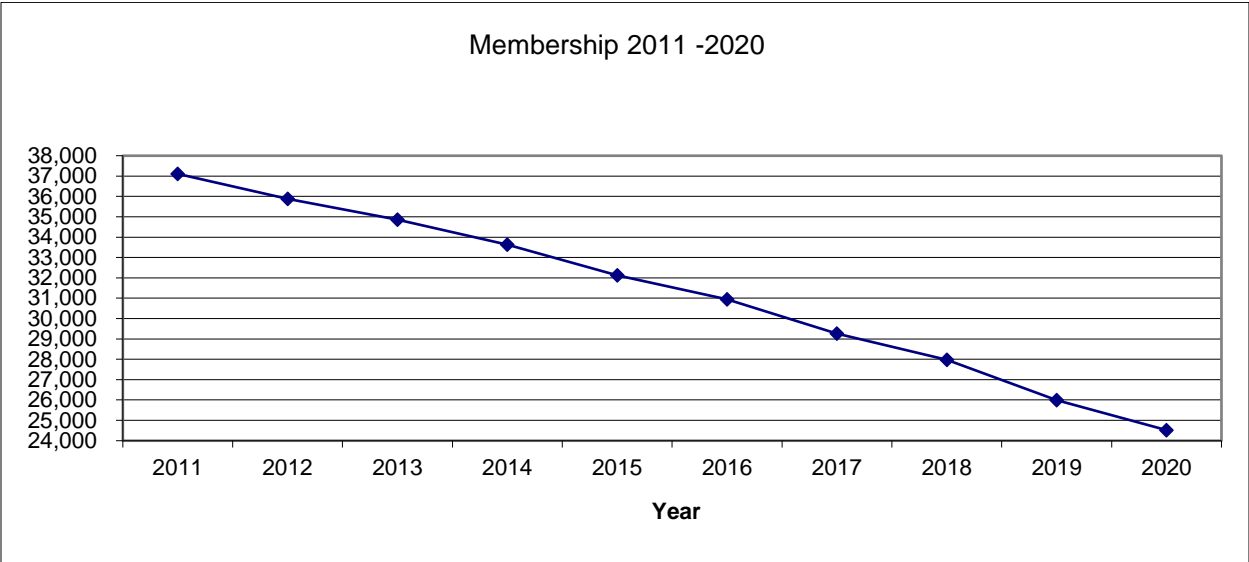
### Membership

The number of members in the Conference decreased 5.7% from 25,990 at December 31, 2019 to 24,519 at December 31, 2020 as follows:

Added:	Profession of faith	268	
	Affirmation	98	
	Corrections	123	
	Transfers	<u>260</u>	749
Removed:	Charge Conference action	674	
	Withdrawn	287	
	Corrections	161	
	Transfers	340	
	Death	<u>758</u>	(2,220)
Net Change			<u>(1,471)</u>

Demographically, 2.8% of members at December 31, 2020 were Asian, 3.0% were African American, 3.7% were Hispanic, 0.5% were Native American, 1.6% were Pacific Islander, 85.5% were White, and 2.9% were Multi Racial. Females represented 61.2% of members at December 31, 2019, while males made up 38.8% of members.

In the past decade, our total number of members has declined steadily as demonstrated in the following graph.



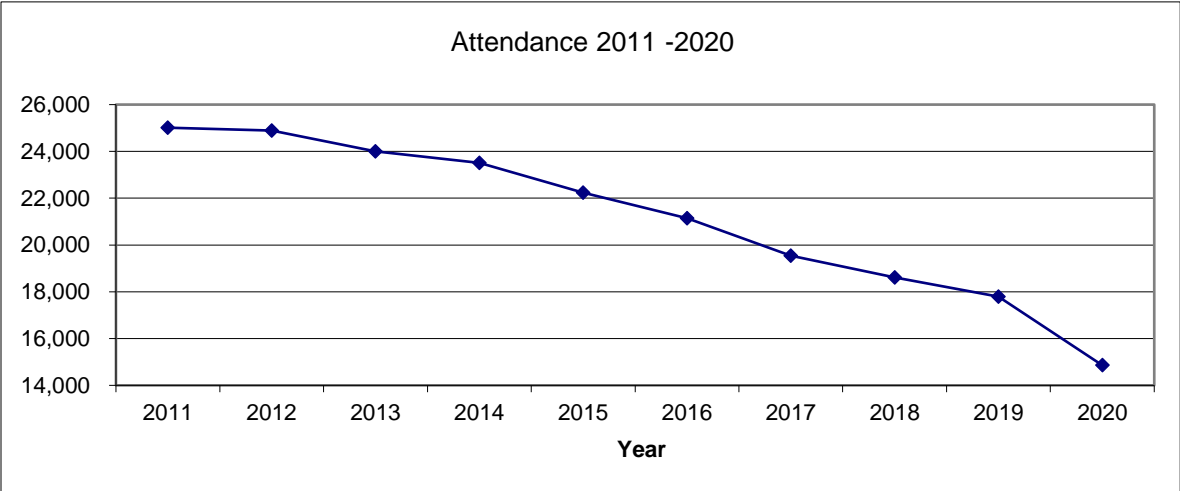
Attendance

On an average Sunday there were 14,859 United Methodists in church at worship in 2020, down 16.5% from 2019. 2020 attendance was dramatically impacted by COVID-19 and represents averages for only the brief time periods when in-person worship was permitted. Average attendance in 2020 represented 60.6% of membership, down from 68.5% in 2019. On the positive side, COVID-19 caused online worship to dramatically increase to 28,577 persons in 2020 from just 3,127 persons in 2019.

The composition of churches/fellowships in the Conference at December 31, 2020 was as follows:

	<u>Conference</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>West</u>
Churches with greater attendance	29	3	9	9	8
Churches with lower attendance	72	19	18	19	16
Churches with same attendance	25	6	2	8	9
	<u>126</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>33</u>

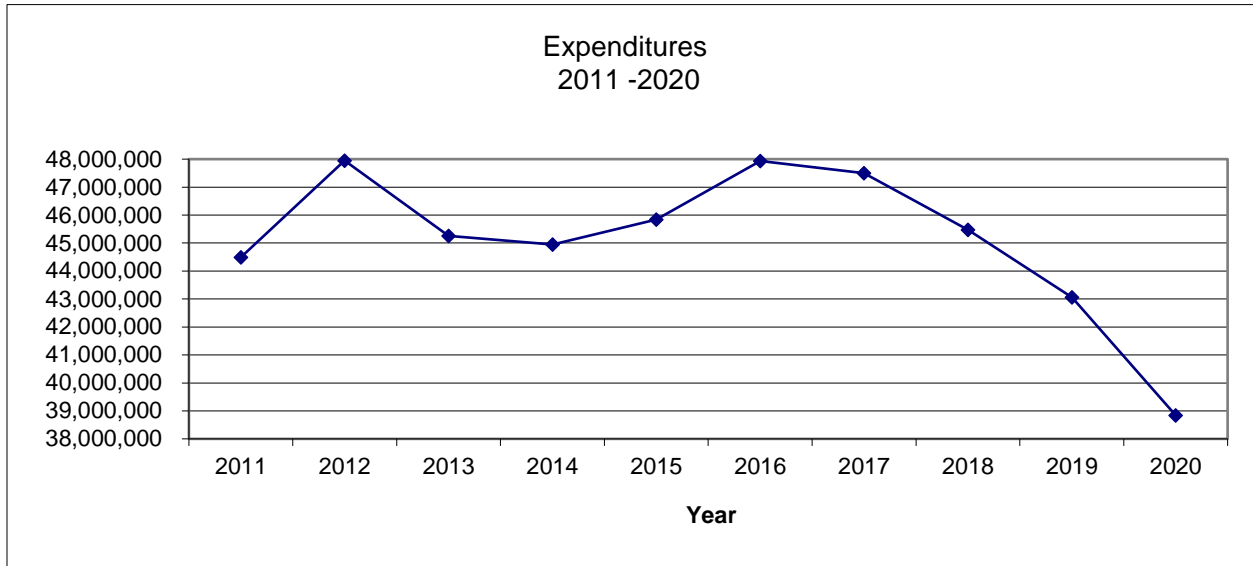
Our conference’s attendance has declined steadily for the past 10 years as demonstrated in the following graph.



Expenditures

Total local church expenditures decreased 9.8% from \$43.1 million in 2020 to \$38.8 million in 2019. Total local church expenditures were broken down as follows: 51% staff (clergy/lay compensation and

benefits), 20% operating expenses, 16% apportionments and other benevolences, 6% capital expenditures, 4% debt service, and 3% program. Total local church expenditures trends for the past ten years are demonstrated in the following graph.



### Summary

The Conference in 2020 continued the trends of declines in churches (1.6%), membership (5.7%), attendance (16.5%), and expenditures (9.8%), although many of these metrics were undoubtedly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.