



# explore calling

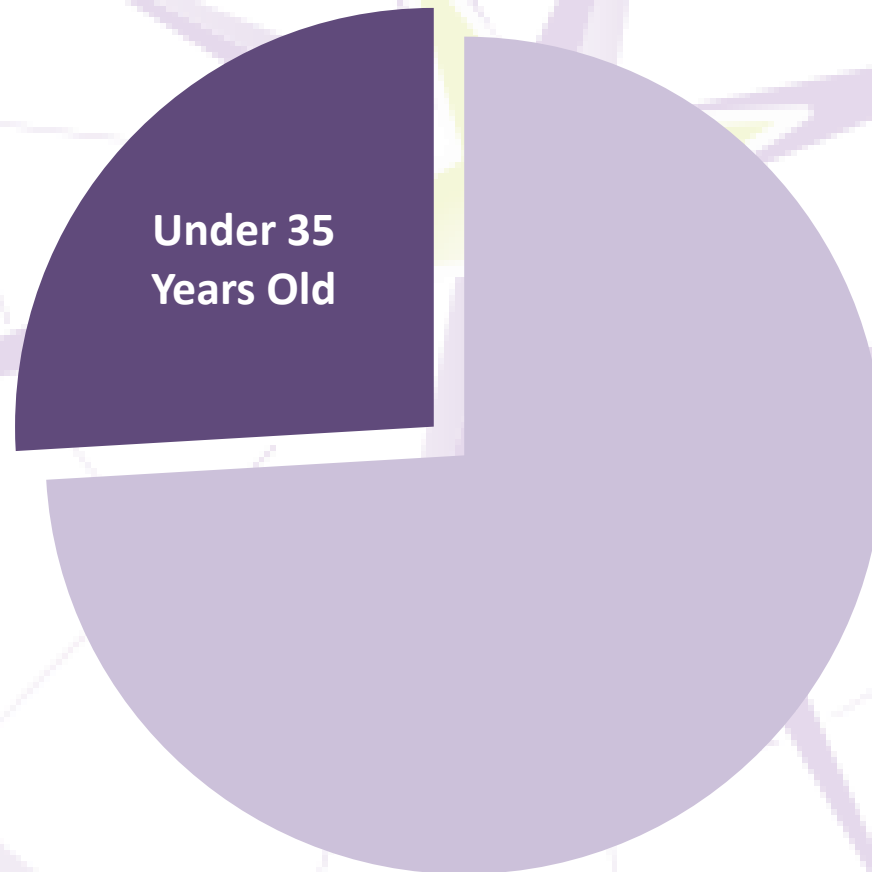
**[www.ExploreCalling.org](http://www.ExploreCalling.org)**

[www.ExploreCalling.org/presentations/aumcpbo](http://www.ExploreCalling.org/presentations/aumcpbo)



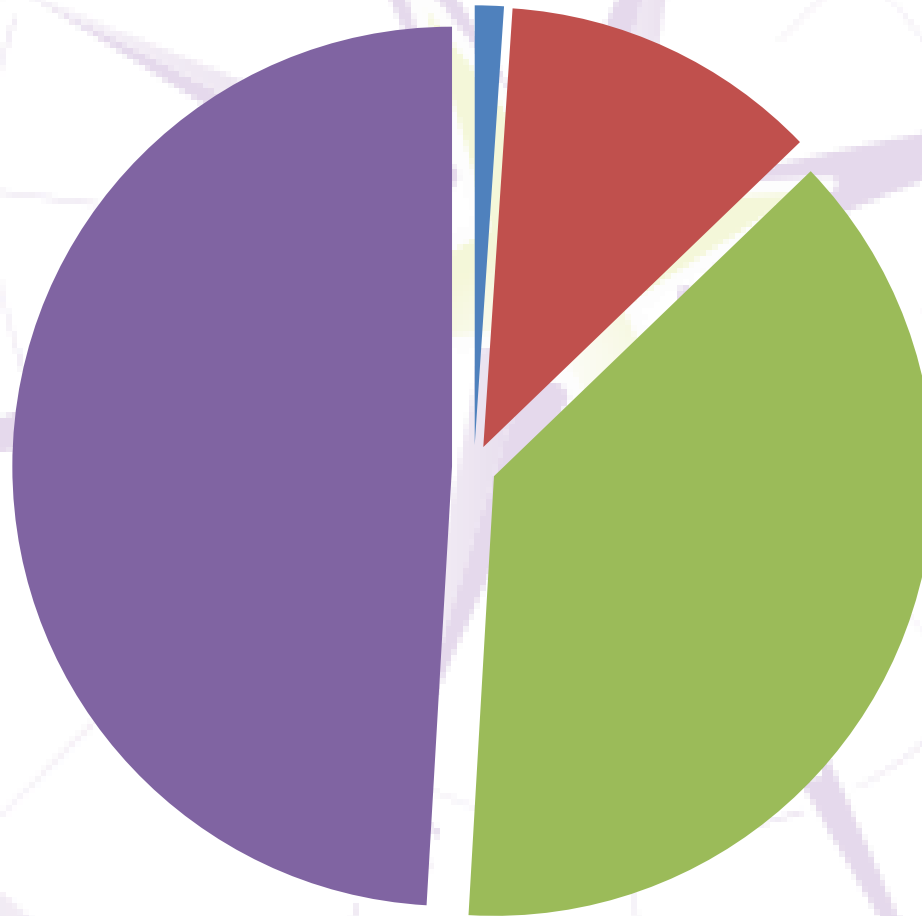
**7436** active candidates  
**1295** candidates are under 30

# 35% of NEW candidates are U35\*



Under 35  
Years Old

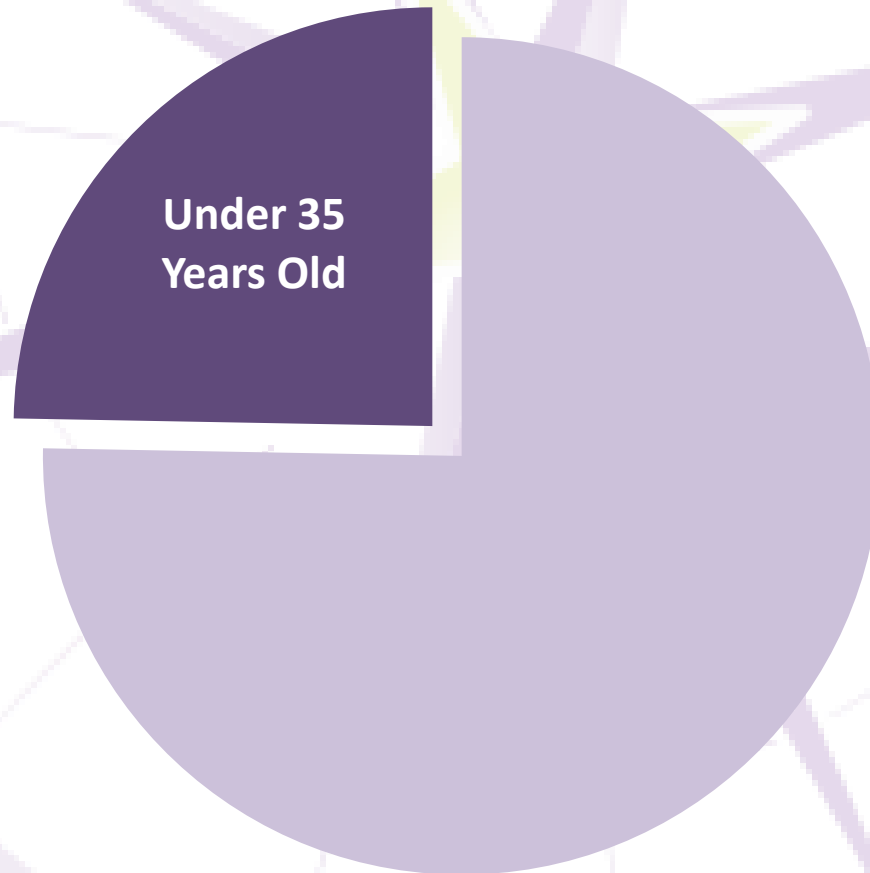
# NEW candidates by track\*



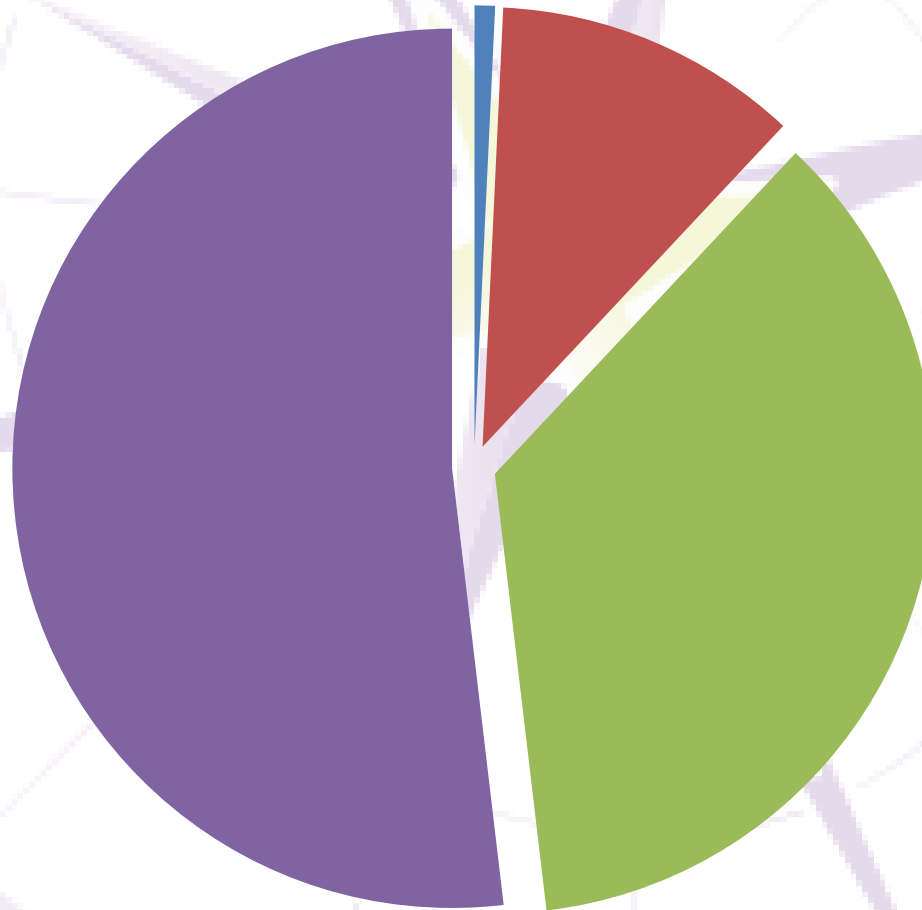
■ Chaplain ■ Deacon ■ Elder ■ Local Pastor

\* 2012 - 2013

**33% of CERTIFIED candidates are U35\***



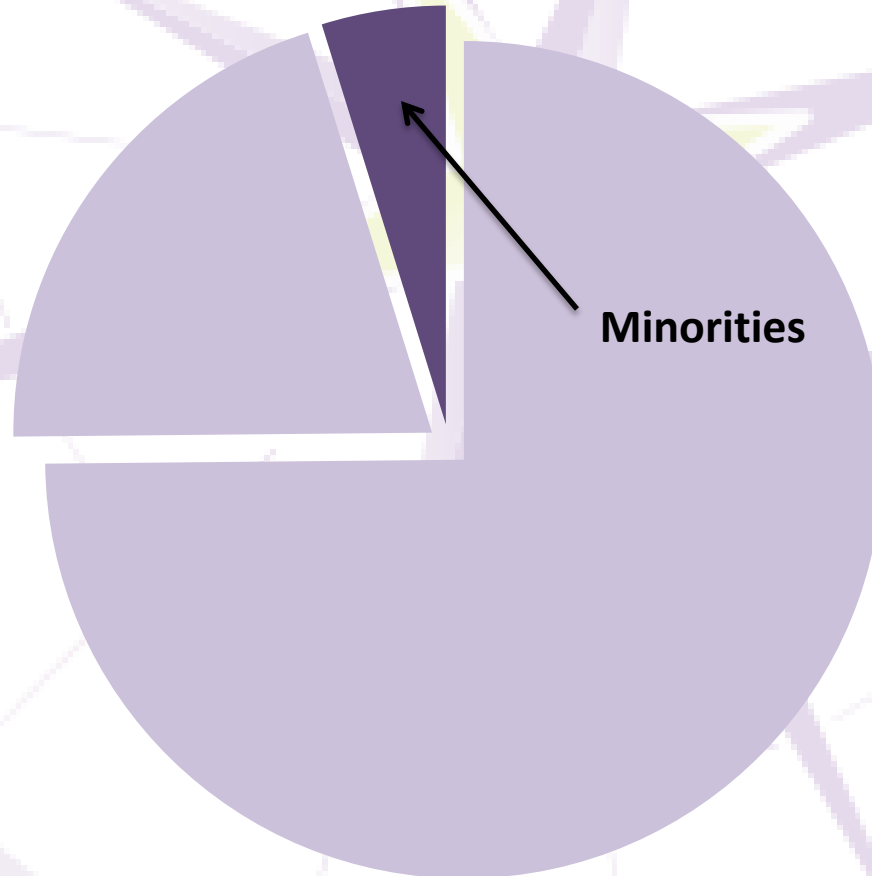
# CURRENT candidates by track\*



■ Chaplain ■ Deacon ■ Elder ■ Local Pastor

\* 2012 - 2013

**17% are young minority candidates\***





**Stats are fun but...**

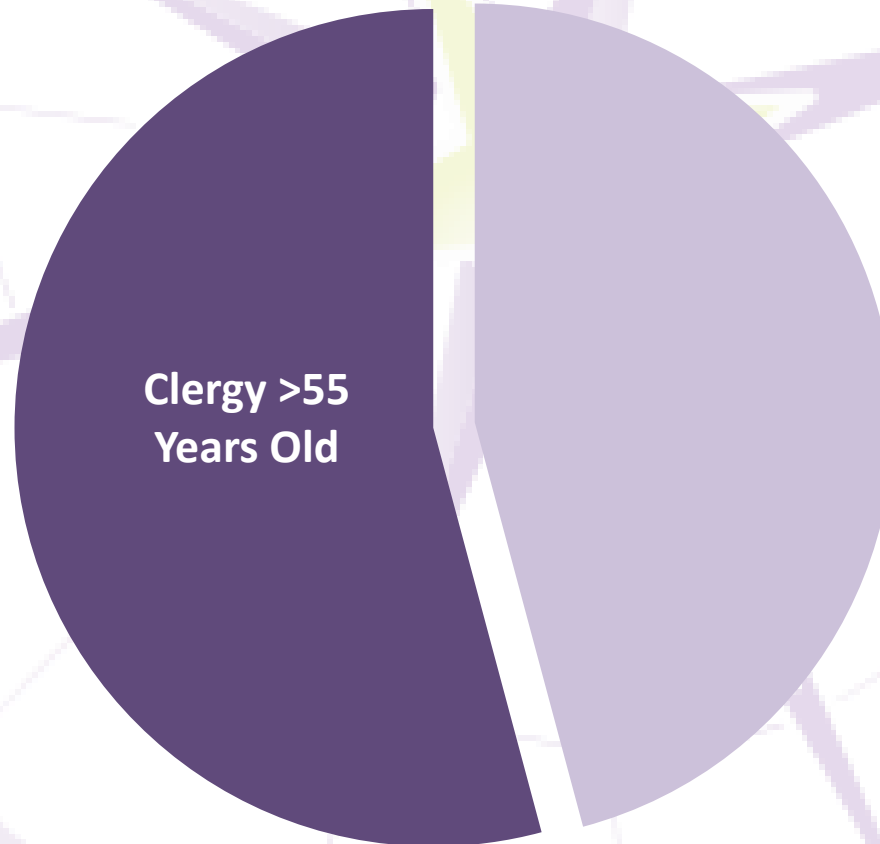
**and**

**What's the point?**

**What am I supposed  
to do about it?**

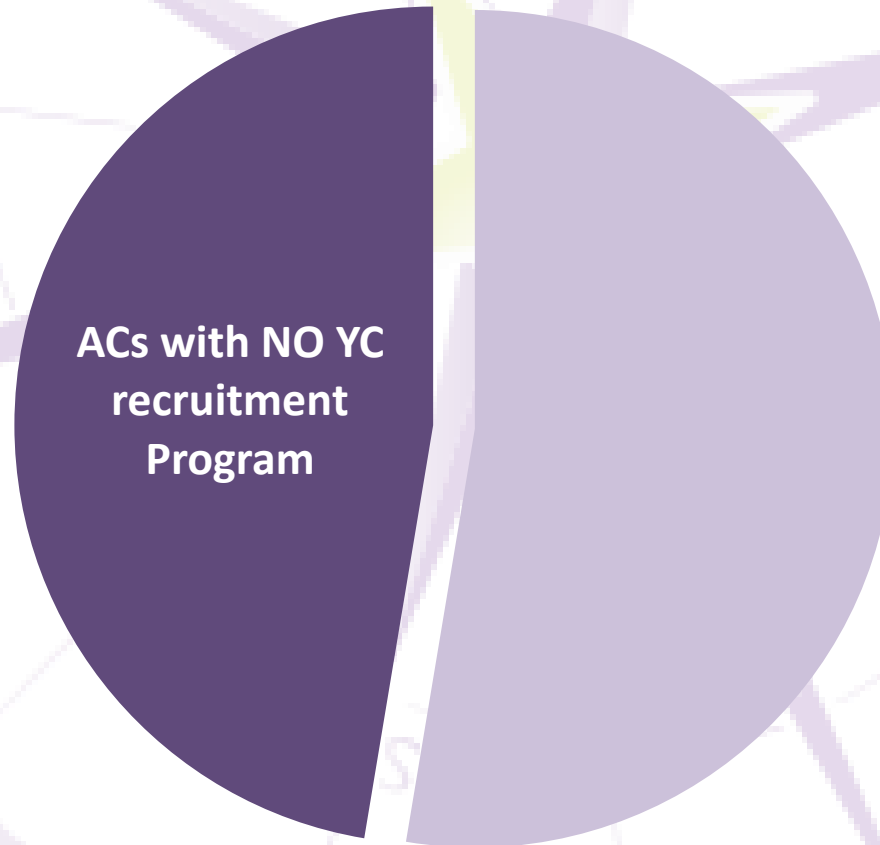


# 54% of clergy are over 55 years old



Clergy >55  
Years Old

# 49% of ACs have NO YC recruitment\*



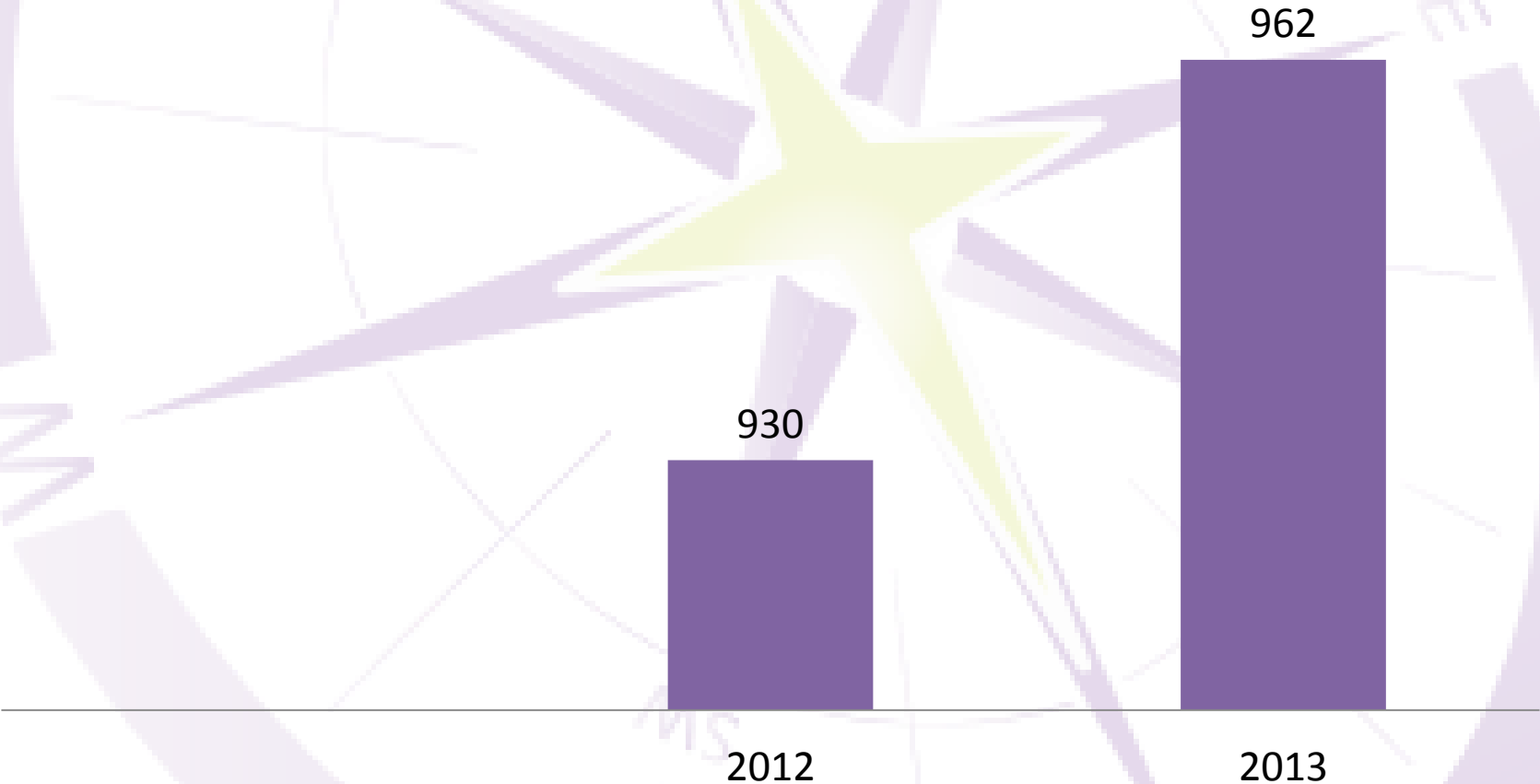
ACs with NO YC  
recruitment  
Program

# ACs with the most Young Clergy

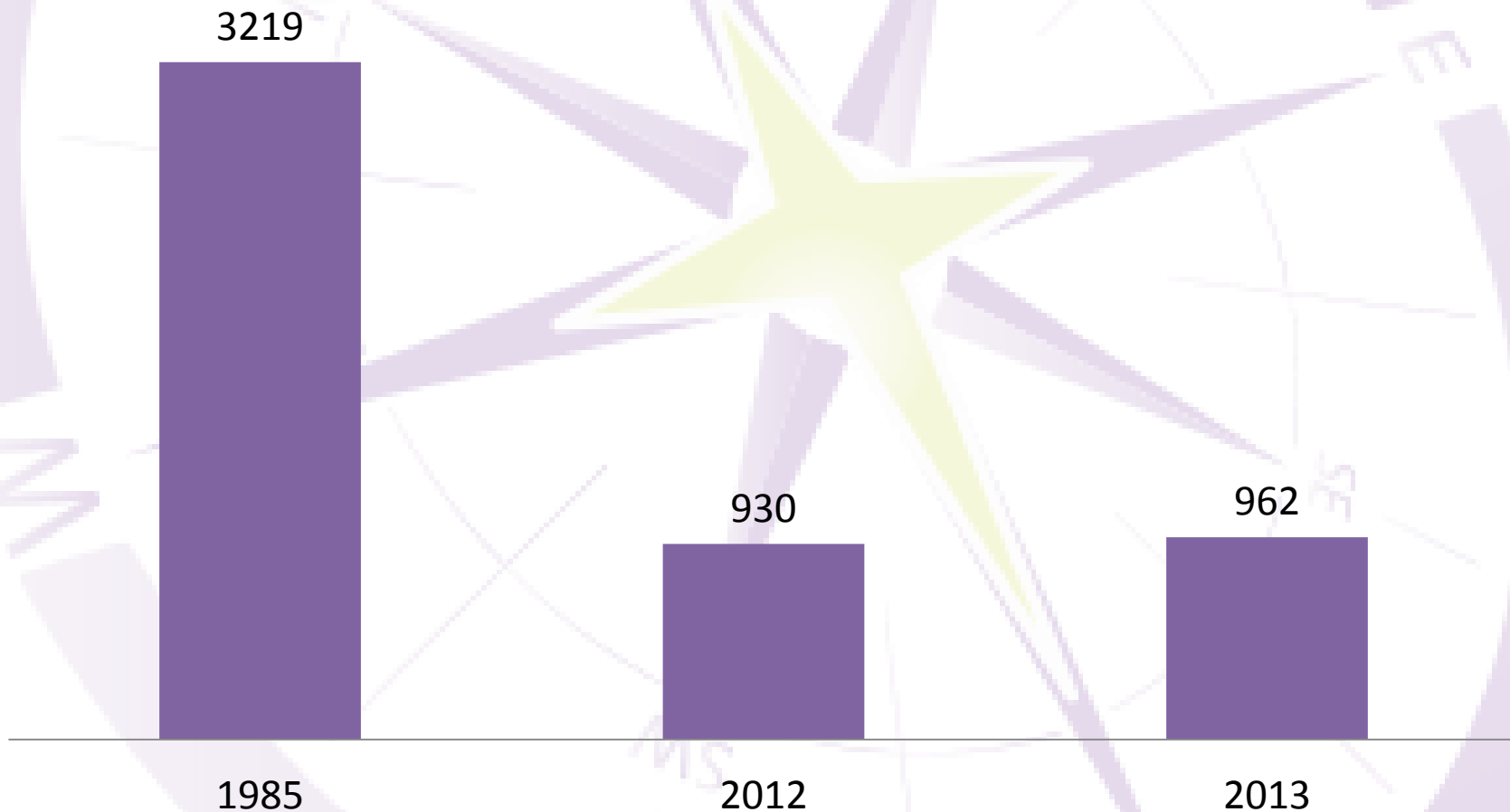
In order of percentage\*

1. **Kansas East**
2. North Alabama
3. Mississippi
4. Kansas West
5. Tennessee
6. Holston
7. Texas
8. Virginia
9. Alabama-West Florida
10. Oklahoma
11. Central Texas

# Clergy Under 35 Years Old Elders

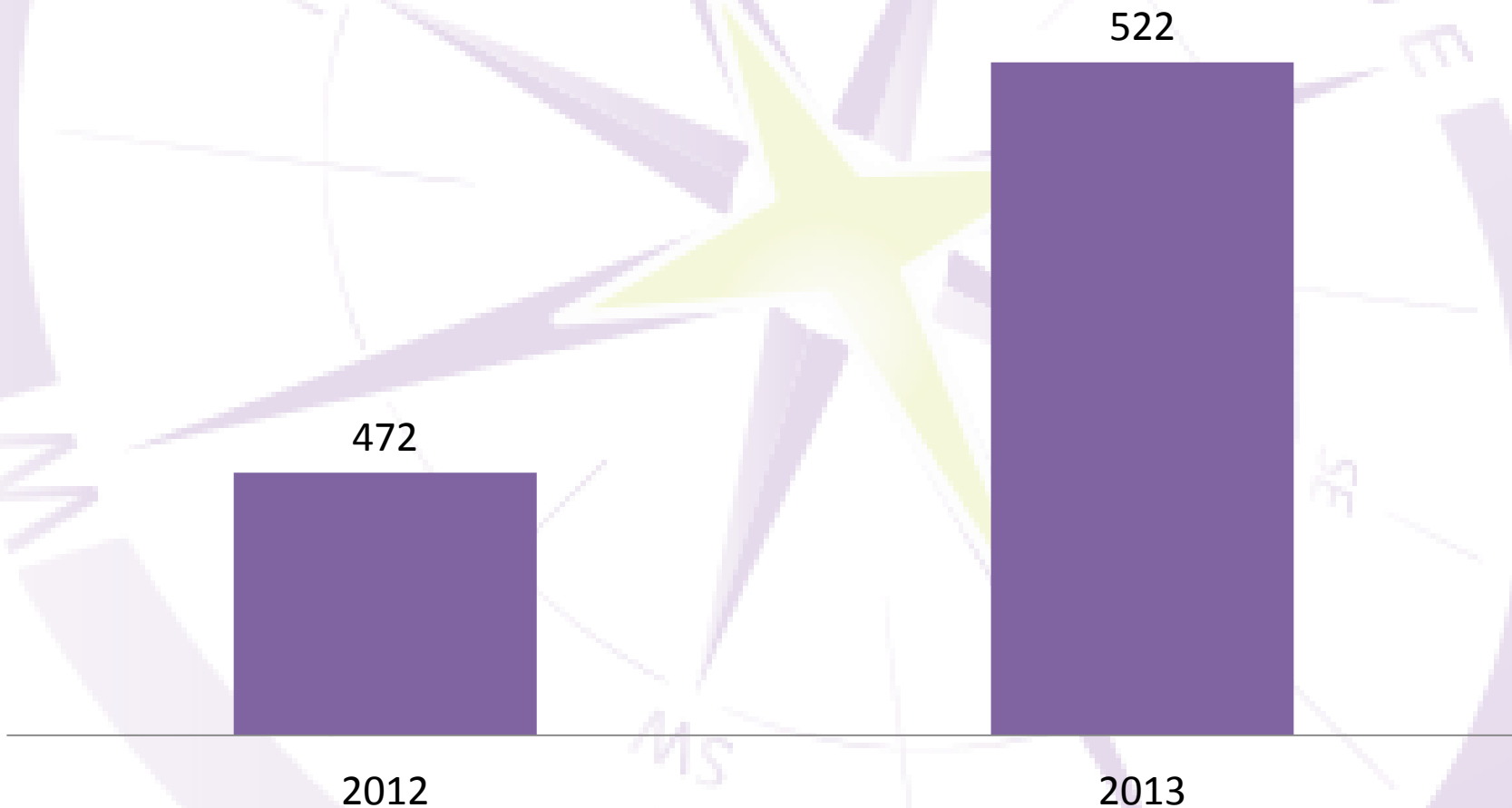


# Clergy Under 35 Years Old Elders



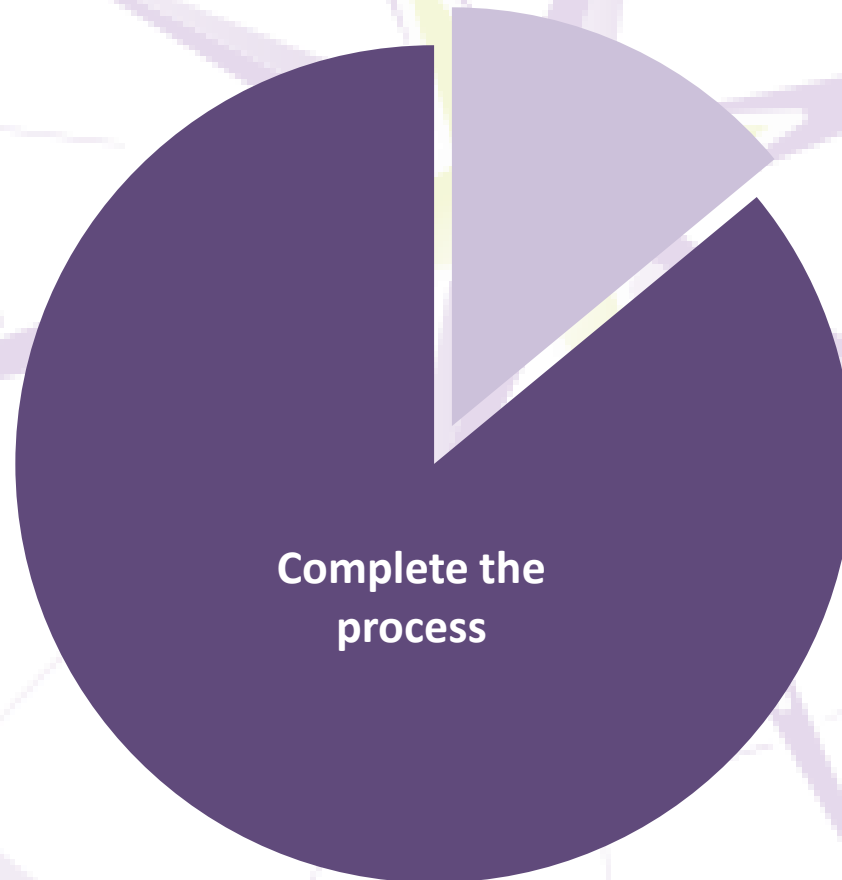
# Clergy Under 35 Years Old

## Local Pastors



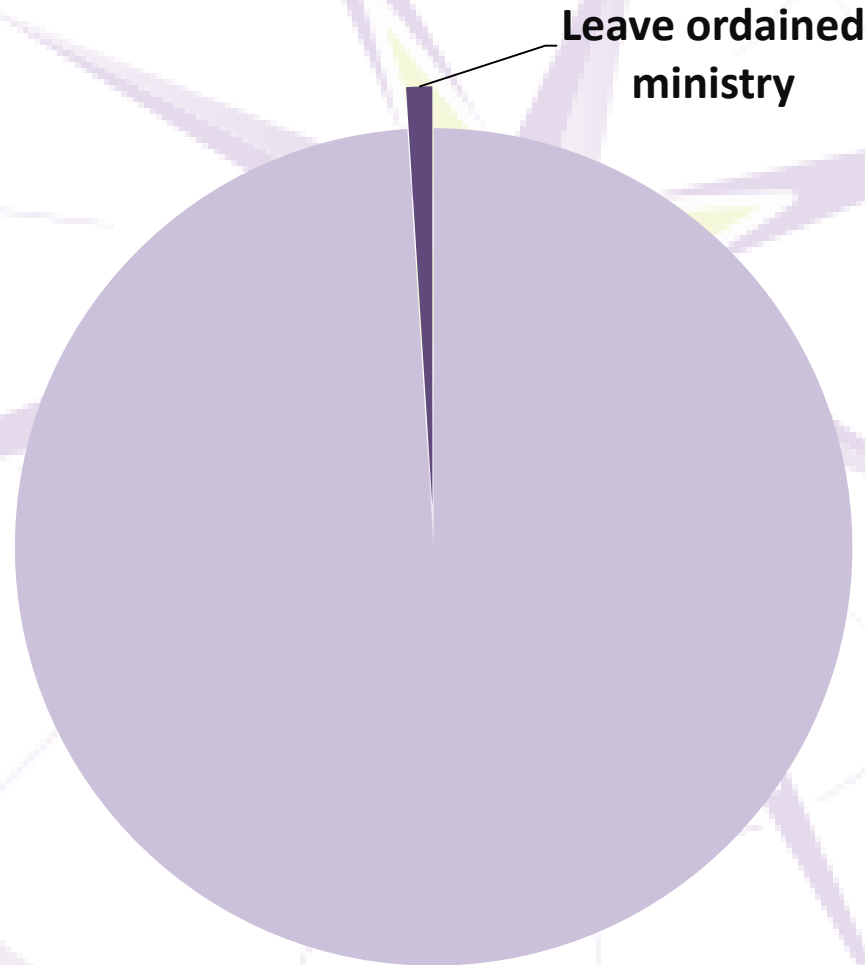
# Clergy Attrition

86% complete the ordination process



# Clergy Attrition

1% leave ordained ministry in the first 5 years







**Stats are fun but...**

**and**

**What's the point?**

**What am I supposed  
to do about it?**



**Turn to the person beside you...**

**You're not a bad person.**

**The kingdom of God will survive.**

**Do you need a hug?**

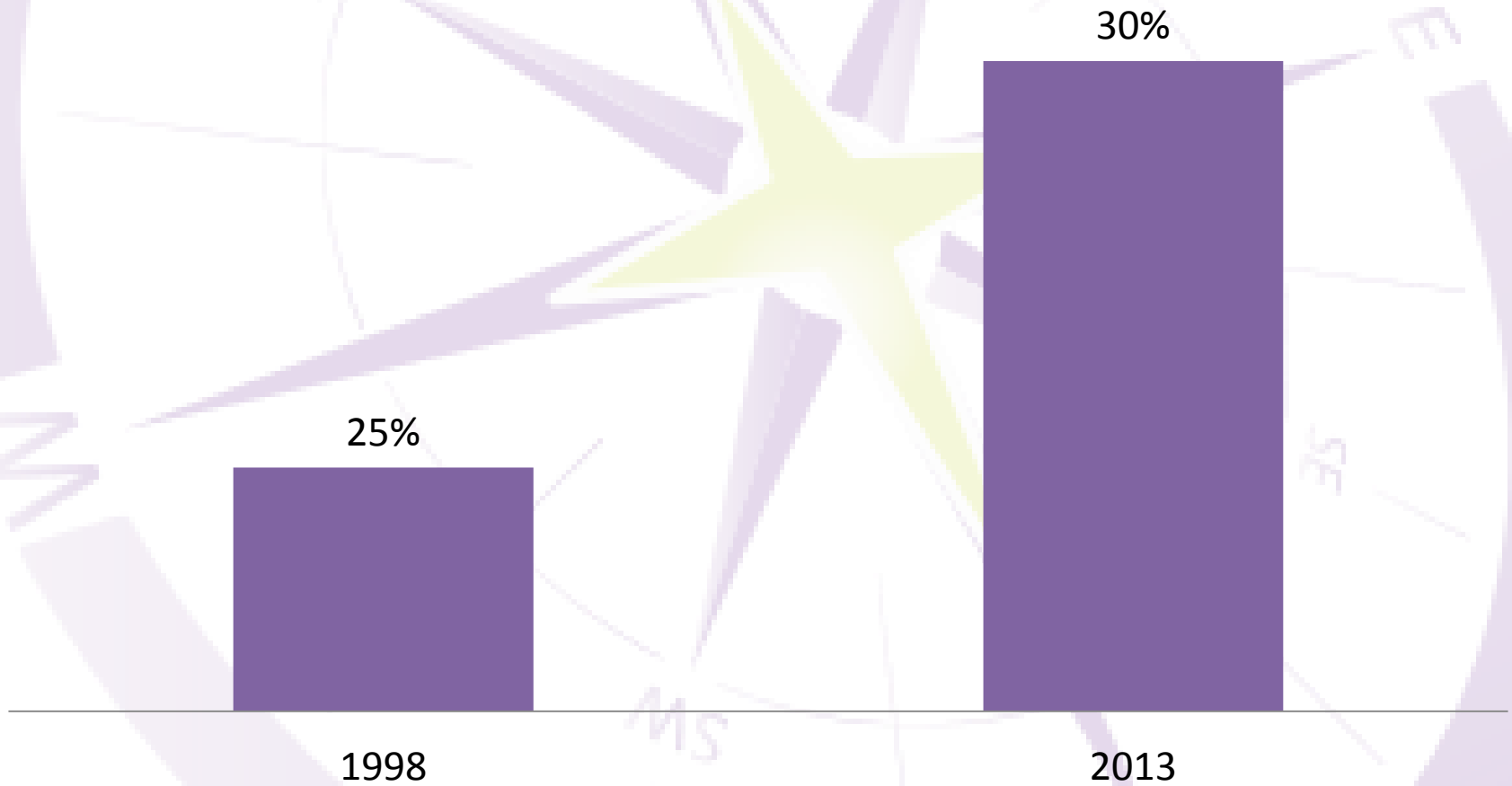


**United Methodists**

**are not in this alone**

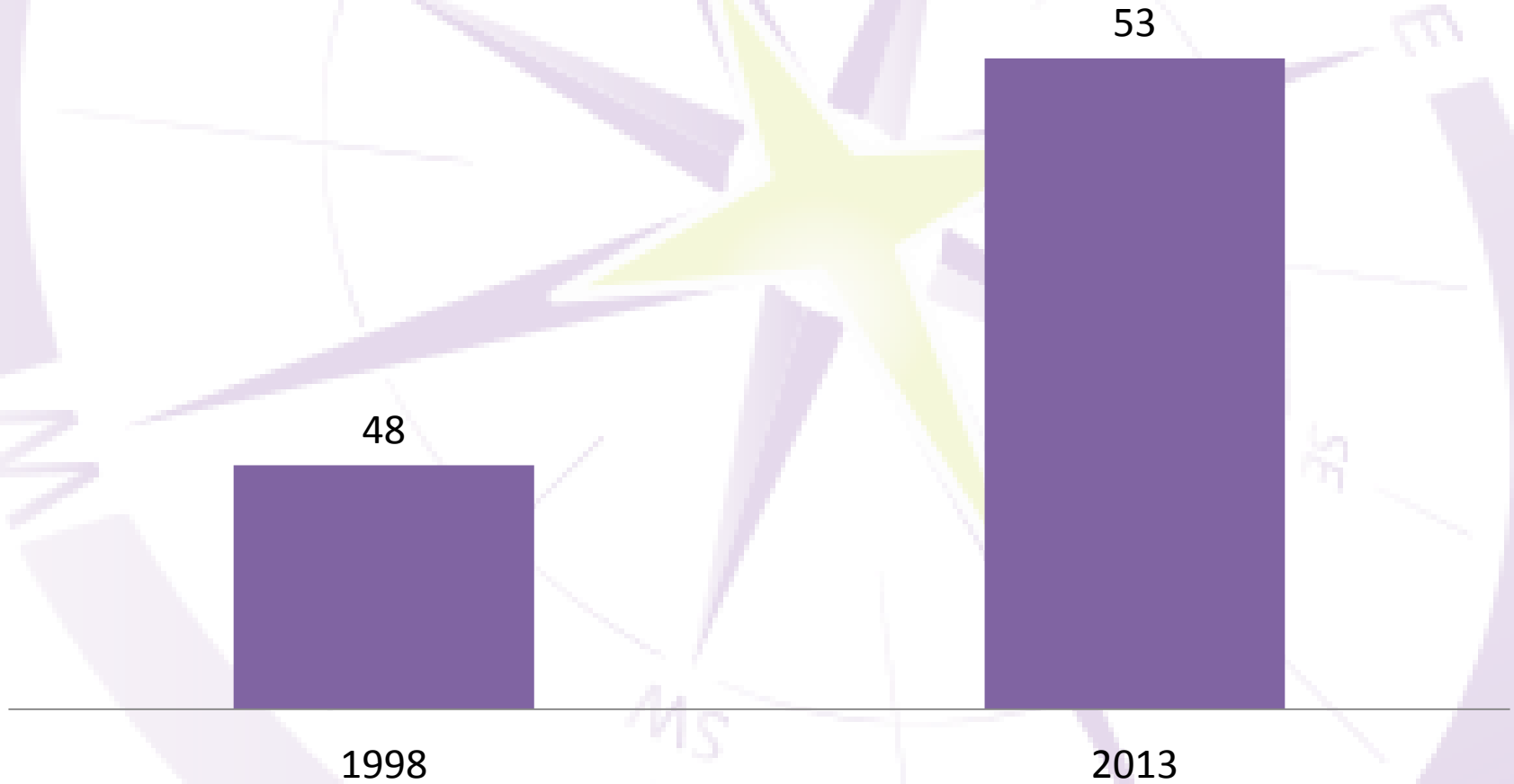
# Sociologist Looks at the Church

## Church attenders older than 60



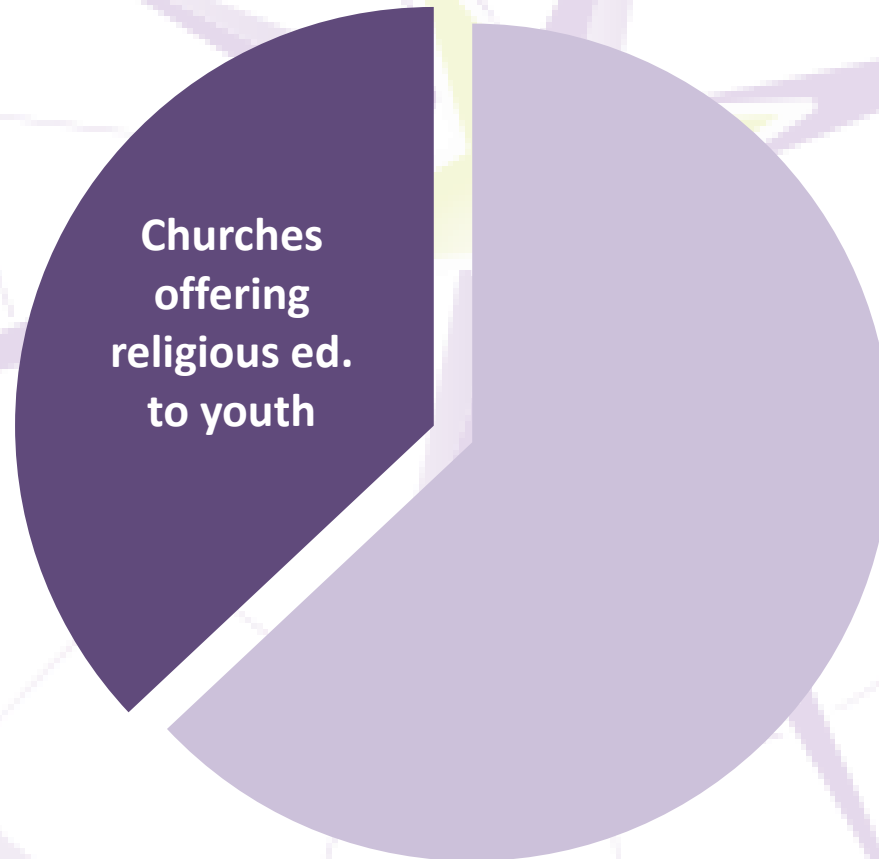
# Sociologist Looks at the Church

## Average Clergy age



# Sociologist Looks at the Church

## 37% of Churches offer religious ed. to youth





**Stats are fun but...**

**and**

**What's the point?**

**What am I supposed  
to do about it?**

# Theological Framework

1 Peter 2:9

But you are a **chosen** race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people who are God's own possession. You have become this people so that you may speak of the wonderful acts of the one who **called you** out of darkness into his amazing light.



# Theological Framework

## Ephesians 4:1-16

...live as people worthy of the **call you received from God**. ... You are one body and one spirit, just as God also **called you** in one hope. ... His purpose was to **equip God's people** for the work of serving and building up the body of Christ until we all reach the unity of faith and knowledge of God's Son. ... The whole body grows from him, as it is **joined and held together** by all the supporting ligaments. The body makes itself grow in that it builds itself up with love as **each one does their part**.

# Theological Framework

## Mary (Luke 1:26-38)

When the angel said, “Rejoice, favored one! The Lord is with you!” Mary was confused and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid, Mary. God is honoring you.” ... Then Mary said, “I am the Lord’s servant. Let it be with me just as you have said.”

An unprepared youth/young adult called unexpectedly into a life of service to God.

# Theological Framework

## Samuel (1 Sam 3:1-10)

The Lord called to Samuel. Samuel said, “I’m here.” He hurried to Eli and said, “I’m here. You called me?” Eli replied. “I didn’t call you. Go Lie down.” So he did. Then Eli realized that it was the Lord who was calling the boy. So Eli said to Samuel, “Go and lie down. If he calls you, say, ‘Speak, Lord. Your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down. Then the Lord called just as before, “Samuel, Samuel!” Samuel said, “Speak. Your servant is listening.”

A young adult whose call was affirmed during an internship with an effective mentor.

# Theological Framework

## Timothy (1 Tim 4:6-16)

*[from Paul to Timothy]*

If you point these things out to believers, you'll be a good servant of Christ. ... Train yourself for a holy life. ... Command these things. Teach them. Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young. Instead, be an example for believers. ... Pay attention to public reading, preaching, and teaching. Don't neglect your spiritual gifts. ... If you do this, you will save your self and those who hear you.

A youth/young adult lay person who has been guided into the clergy, affirmed and mentored well.

# Theological Framework

## Pop Quiz

### Who is called into ministry?

- a) Only you
- b) Only Bob
- c) Everyone but “that guy”
- d) Everyone

### What are faithful responses to God’s call?

- a) Only that
- b) “What do you mean, ‘You’ll probably be broke?’”
- c) “Let me get back to you.”
- d) Anything that honors God

### When is God’s call spoken? When is God’s call heard?

- a) Only during prayer
- b) Only during GOOD sermons
- c) After we’ve experienced enough
- d) Anytime

### Where do we hear God’s call?

- a) Only at UMYF
- b) Only at seminary
- c) Only at Annual Conference
- d) Any place God chooses to move

### Why is God calling us at all?

- a) God felt the need to delegate
- b) God wants to force introverts to work in small groups
- c) The work of the Body and the effectiveness of the Kingdom requires all members to function



**Stats are fun but...**

**Everyone is called  
Everyone is in ministry  
Everyone has a vocation**

# exploration



November 15-17. Denver, CO

Listen. Discern. Respond.

gather  journey

2013





# explore calling

[www.ExploreCalling.org/yci](http://www.ExploreCalling.org/yci)





# explore calling

[www.ExploreCalling.org/yci/grant](http://www.ExploreCalling.org/yci/grant)

Grants encouraging cultural and systemic change in our denominational work with students discerning a vocation in ordained leadership



# explore calling

**[www.ExploreCalling.org](http://www.ExploreCalling.org)**

[www.ExploreCalling.org/presentations/aumcpbo](http://www.ExploreCalling.org/presentations/aumcpbo)