



Wespath

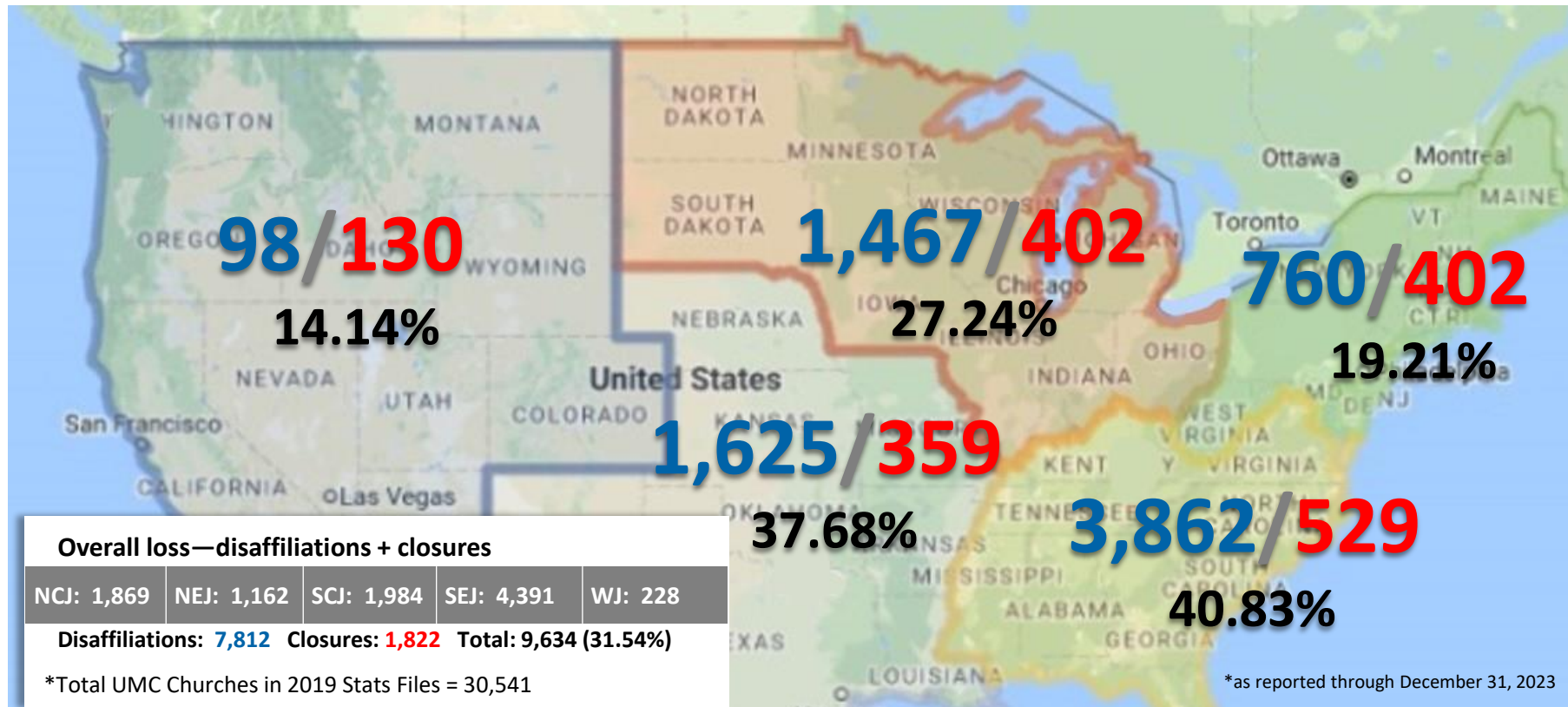
BENEFITS | INVESTMENTS

Disaffiliation Update— All Jurisdictions

Conference Forum | March 2024

Data as of December 31, 2023

Church Disaffiliations/**Closures** Since 2019*



Church Disaffiliations/Closures Since 2019*

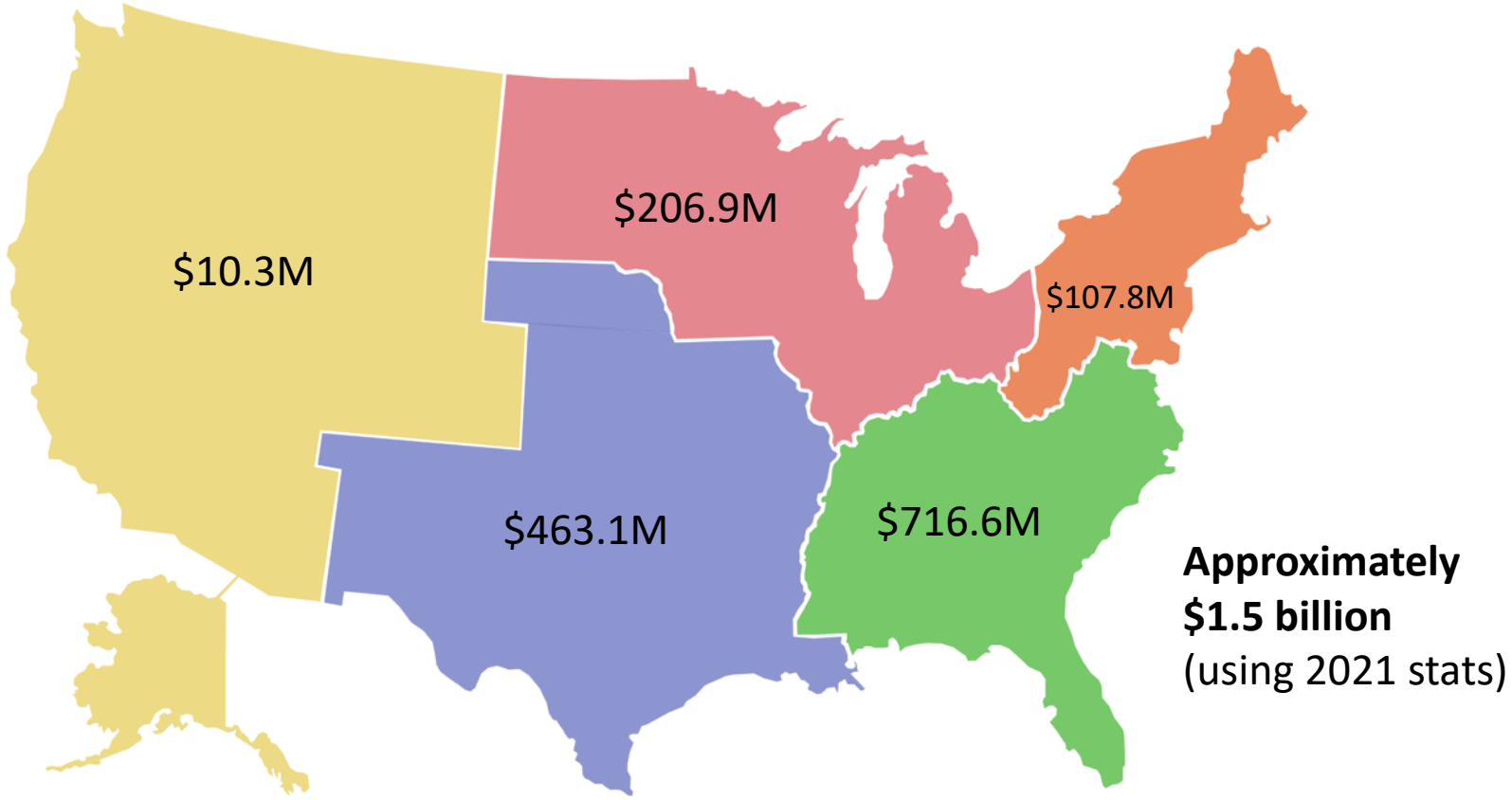
Jurisdiction	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
North Central (NCJ)	97	103	94	359	1,216	1,869
Northeastern (NEJ)	107	103	72	121	759	1,162
South Central (SCJ)	92	93	85	814	900	1,984
Southeastern (SEJ)	165	138	154	944	2,990	4,391
Western (WJ)	35	31	33	32	97	228
Total	496	468	438	2,270	5,962	9,634

Total UMC Churches in 2019 Stats Files = 30,541

Excludes 196 Mergers that have occurred during time period

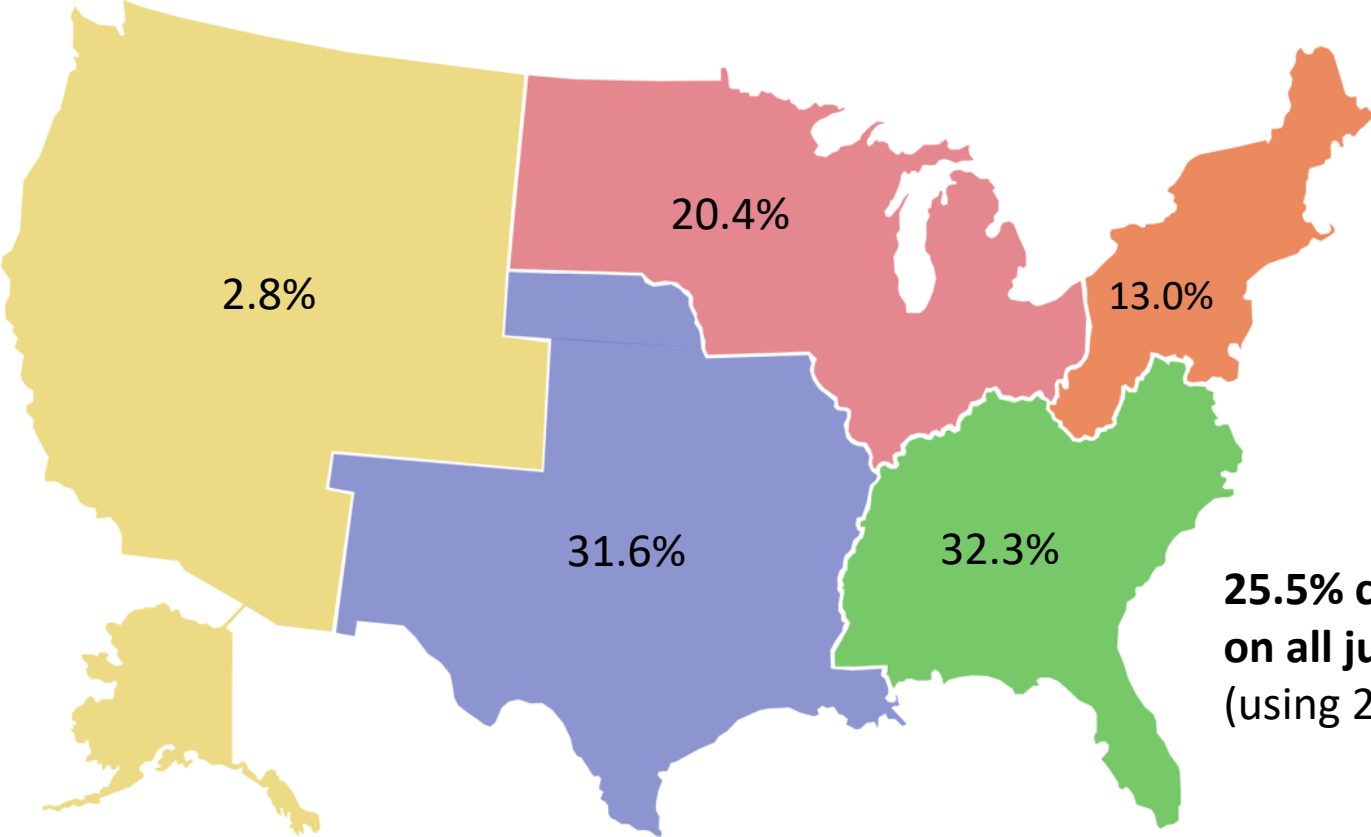
*As of December 31, 2023

Total Expenditures from Local Churches That Closed or Disaffiliated



Jurisdiction: ● North Central ● Northeastern ● South Central ● Southeastern ● Western

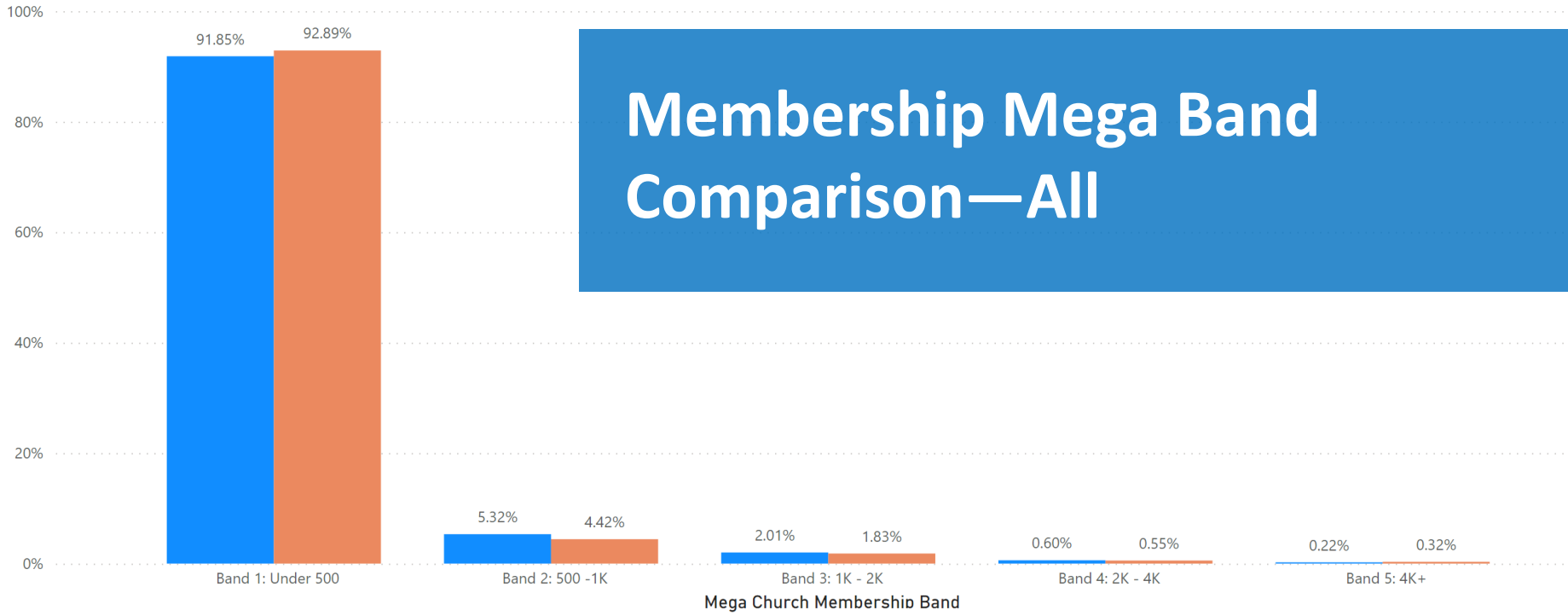
Percentage of Total Expenditures from Local Churches That Closed or Disaffiliated



**25.5% combined
on all jurisdictions
(using 2021 stats)**

Jurisdiction: ● North Central ● Northeastern ● South Central ● Southeastern ● Western

● % of UMC Churches ● % of Disaffiliating Churches



Membership Mega Band Comparison—All

204.61

Average UMC Church Membership

197.04

Average Church Membership (Disaffiliating/Pending)

8,065

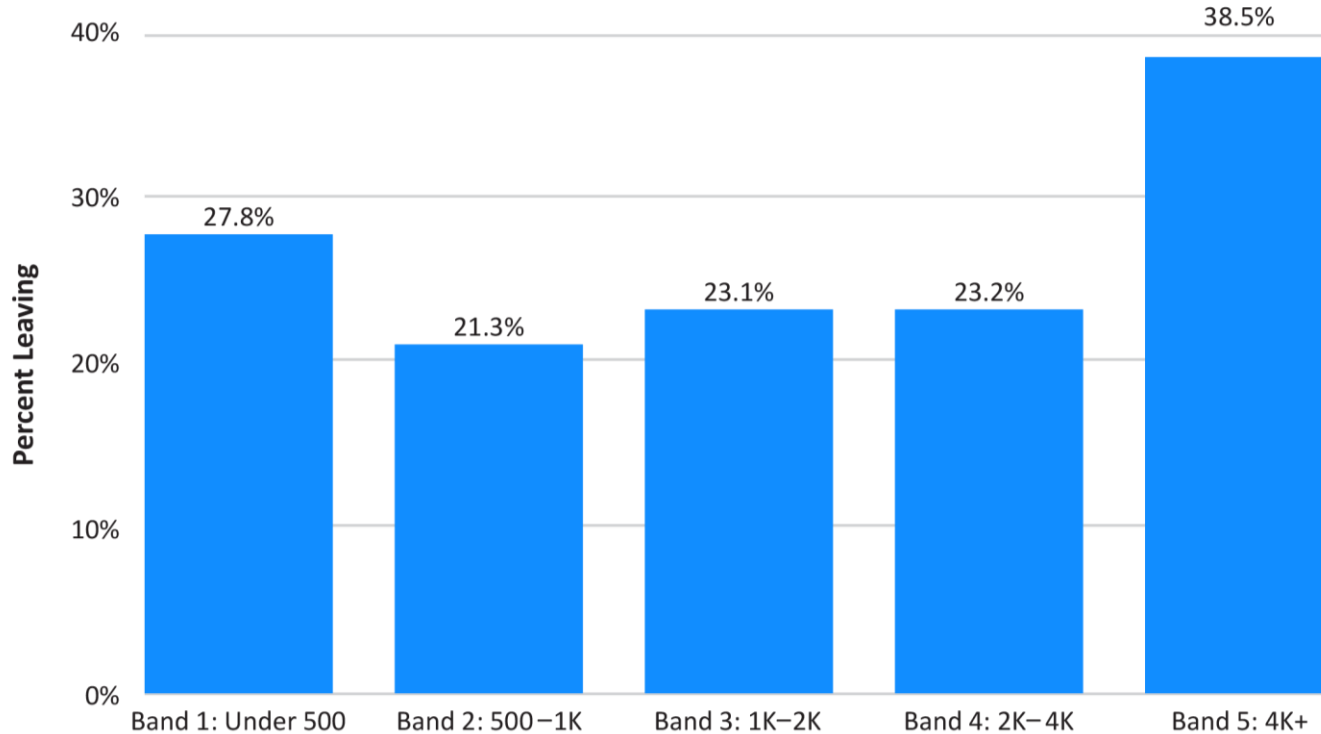
Total Departing Churches

7451

Total Church Disaffiliations/Pending Disaffiliations

Disaffiliation by Size—All

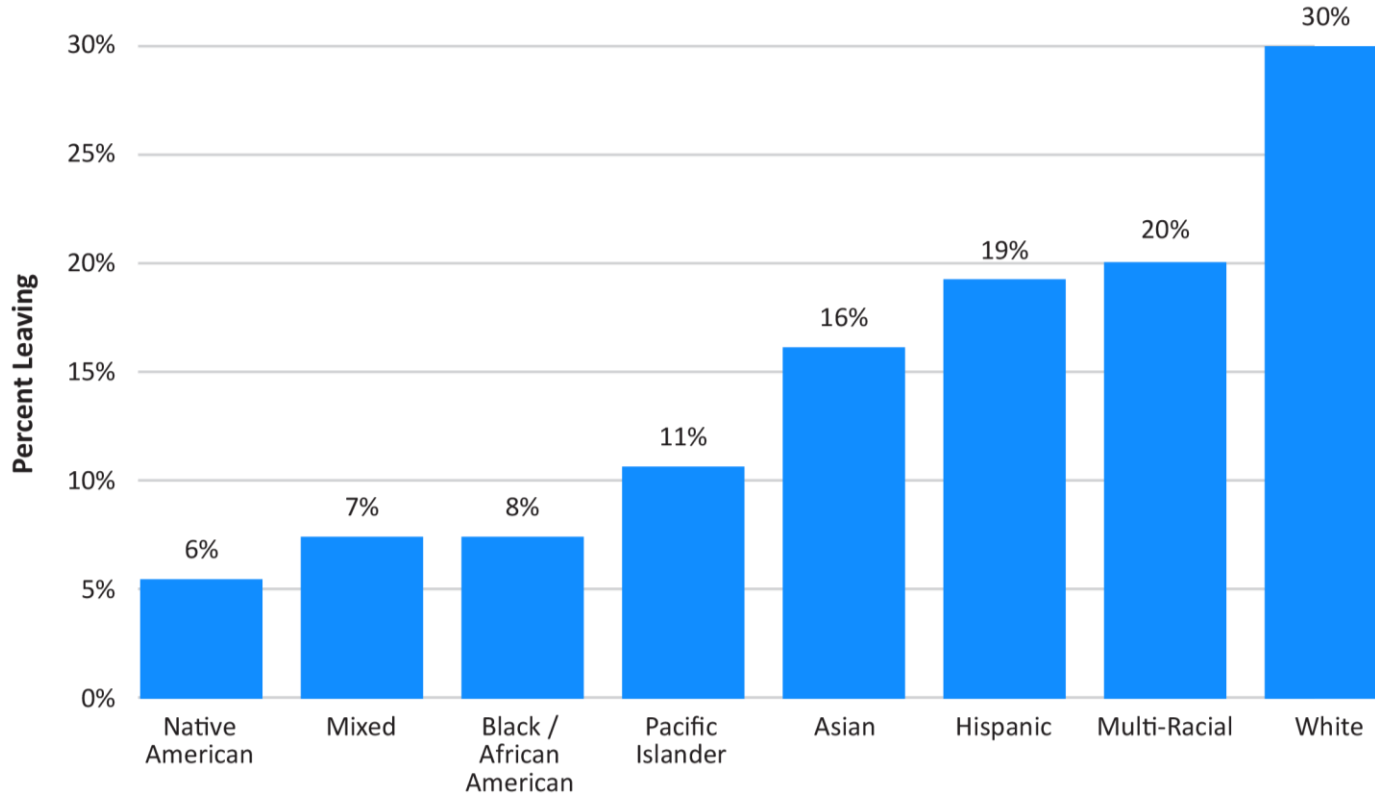
Percent of Disaffiliations by Church Size



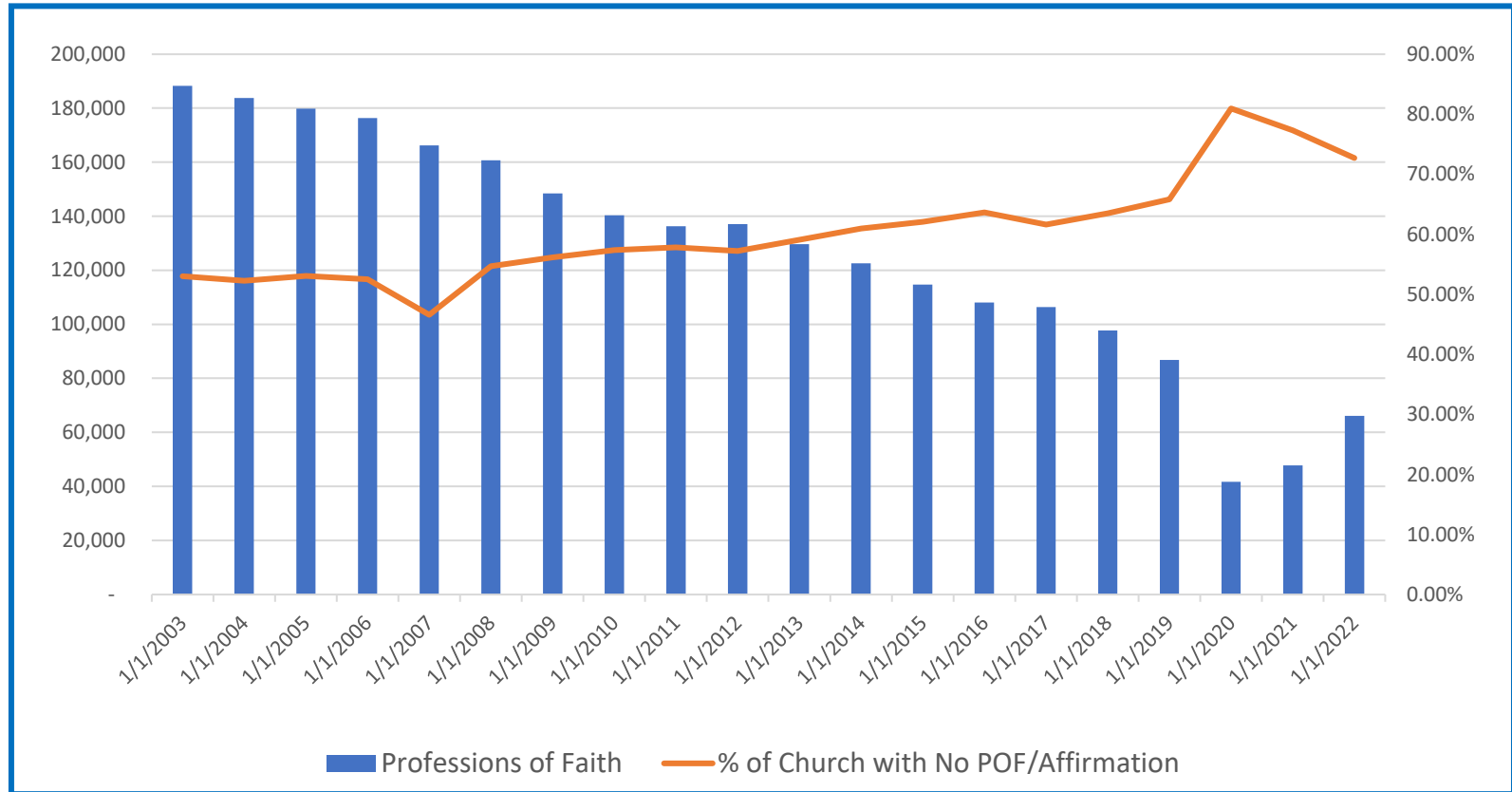
Disaffiliation by Ethnicity

Percent Leaving by Primary Ethnicity

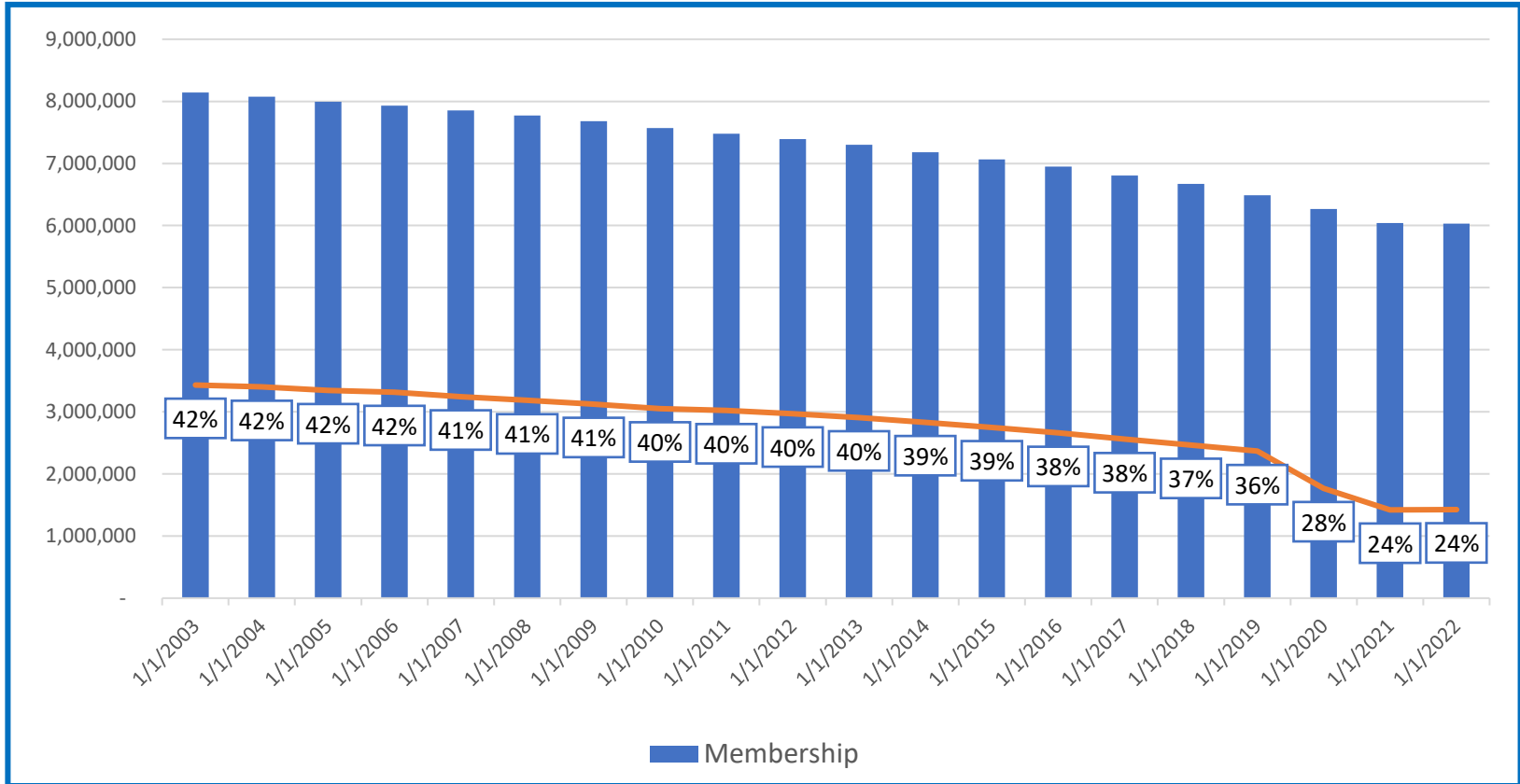
Note: A church's primary ethnicity was determined by which ethnicity represented over 50% of their total members. If no ethnicity represented more than 50% of the church, it was classified as "Mixed." The ethnicity "Multi-Racial" refers to church members who are of more than one ethnicity.



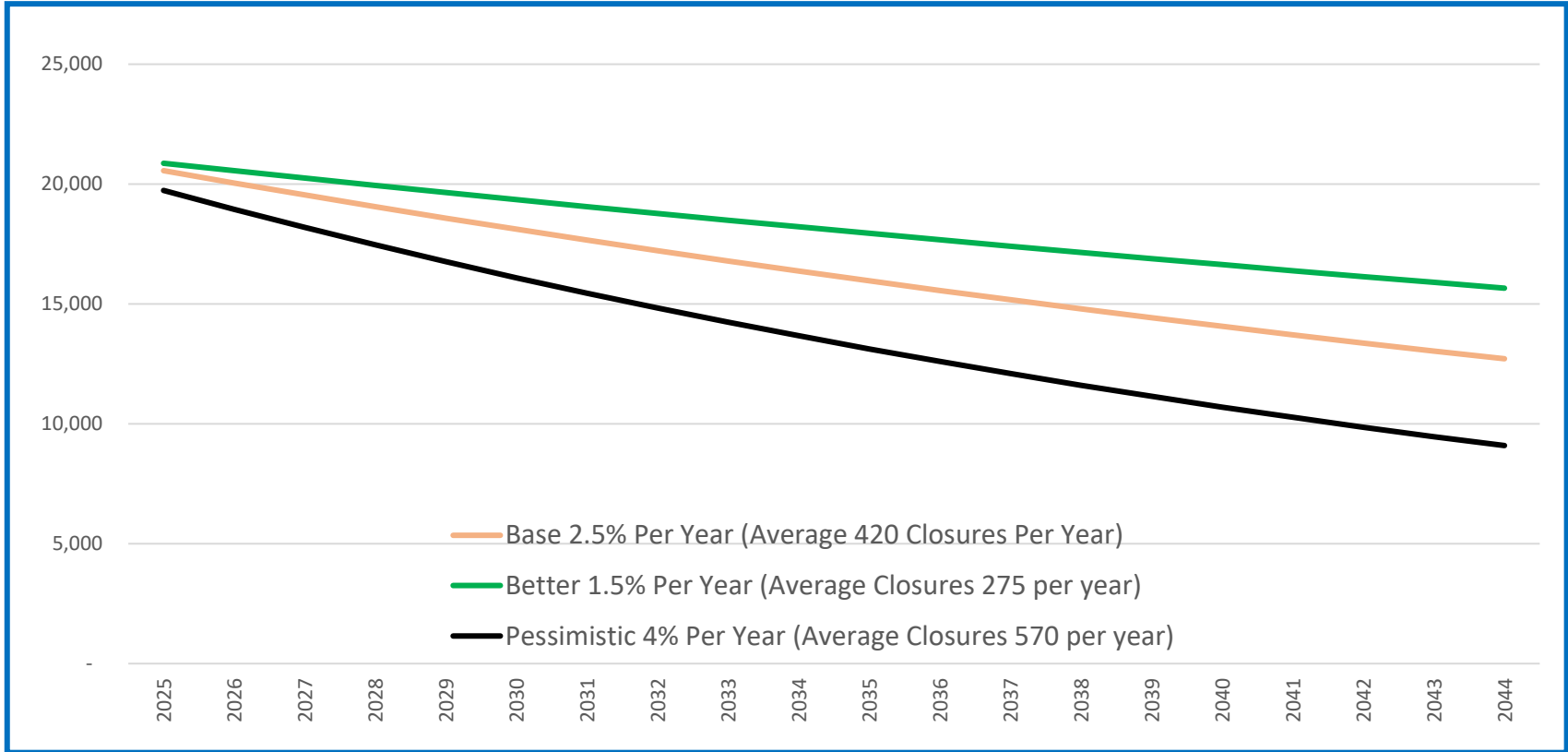
New Members of Faith vs. Church with No New Members of Faith



Membership vs. In-Person Average Attendance



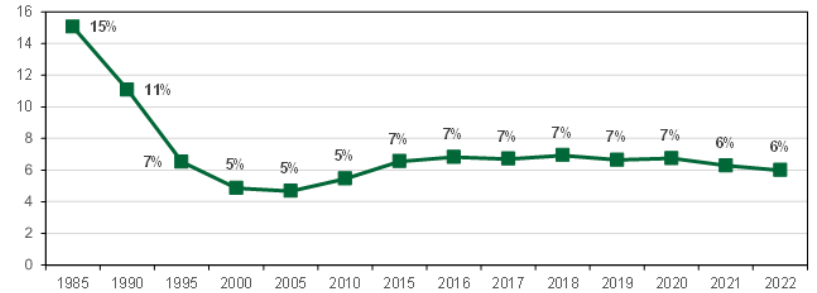
Total UMC Churches at Various Closure Rates Per Year



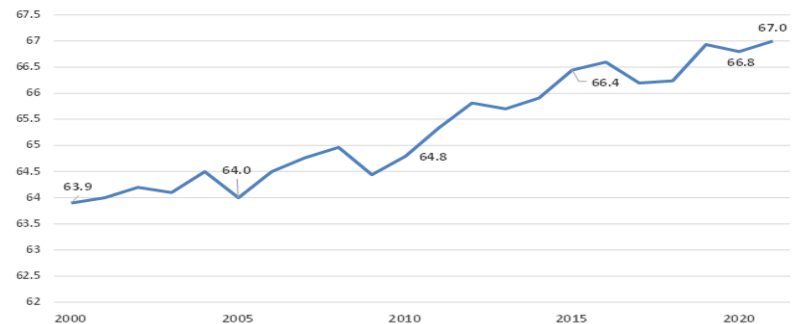
Other Trends in U.S. United Methodism

- More part-time appointments
- Low % of young clergy
- Growing percentage of women clergy
- Rising clergy retirement age
- Emerging forms of ministry (i.e. Fresh Expressions)

Percent of Elders Under 35



Average Retirement Age for All United Methodist Clergy



Clergy Movement

- Total Clergy Count From Departing Churches in our Data – **4,310**
- Account Conversions
 - 2022—approximately 150
 - 2023—approximately 1,000
- More data to come as we reconcile data file



Plan Sustainability in a Shrinking U.S. Church

U.S. Membership Per Retired Clergy

1982	1,011 members per retiree
2007	461 members per retiree
2017	314 members per retiree
2021	236 members per retiree

Compass balances **affordability** with **adequacy**

- Sufficient income throughout retirement
- Predictable, affordable costs for annual conference and local churches



What's Next?

- General Conference
- Jurisdictional Conference
 - Changes to episcopal areas or number of bishops
- Mergers/shared services
- Ongoing conversations
 - Use of reserves
 - Ministries to focus on
 - Staff changes



Caring For Those That Serve



Hope



New Opportunities



Care



Participants



Staff





Wespath

BENEFITS | INVESTMENTS