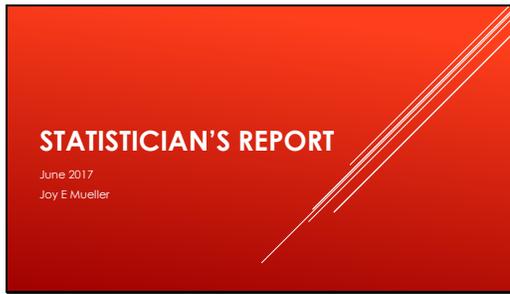
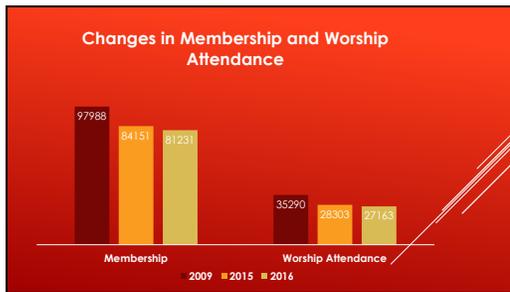


Slide 1



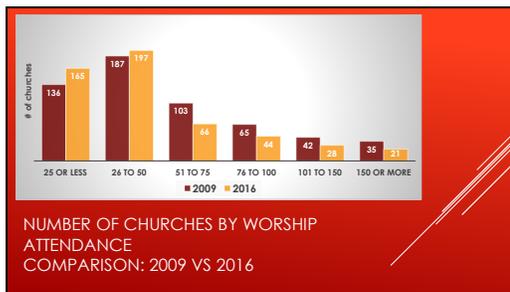
The statistician's report is based on numbers reported by our 596 local churches for the calendar years 2016 and 2015 along with selected stats from 2009, the first year that Vermont churches were combined with the former New England conference statistics, as well as data from the 2010 U.S. census.

Slide 2



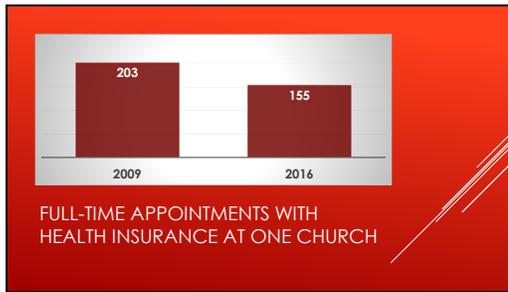
The beginning slides continue a familiar story for our New England conference. From 2015 (the dark yellow) to 2016 (the light yellow), there was an overall 3.5% drop in membership (shown on the left) and a 4% decrease in worship attendance (on the right). These decreases are like those we have seen for a long time. Comparing the numbers to 2009 (in red) helps to see that these small yearly decreases have a significant cumulative effect.

Slide 3



For example, the number of different size churches continues to shift with the number of smaller churches increasing and the number of larger churches decreasing. Here we see that the number of churches with under 50 people in worship is growing while the number of churches with over 50 people in worship is getting smaller. In 2009 (in red) there were 136 churches with worship attendance less than 25, but last year (in yellow) there were 165 churches in this category. At the opposite end, in 2009, there were 35 churches with worship attendance over 150 and now there are 21. Altogether, there are 47 fewer churches. Note that these stats do not include federated and united churches.

Slide 4



This shift in the size of churches impacts the number and time (FTE) of appointments. In 2009, 203 churches had a full-time appointment and in 2016 that number has shrunk to 155. In 7 years, 48 fewer full-time appointments at a single church are supported.

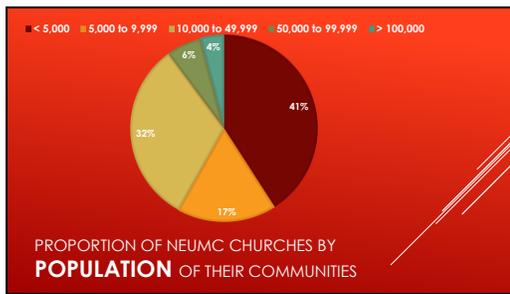
Slide 5

"Where you are is who you are. That is, the physical, geographical and sociological place, which a person occupies, in fact determines their personhood, their politics, and their theology. 'Who you are' simply cannot be divorced from the location you occupy in the world itself."

-John Vincent

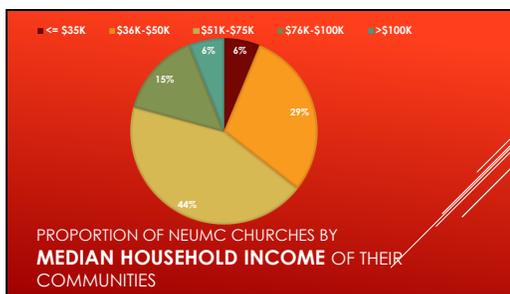
In preparing this report, I began thinking about the conversations we are having with each other at this annual conference and how the statistics can help us see our context as United Methodist here in New England. Dr. John Vincent is an author and developer of the Journey Programme, a radical discipleship course. Vincent led several urban ministry workshops for New England Conference churches. He has said, *"Where you are is who you are. That is, the physical, geographical and sociological place, which a person occupies, in fact determines their personhood, their politics, and their theology. 'Who you are' simply cannot be divorced from the location you occupy in the world itself."* It can be argued this is true of congregations as well as individuals. We all have a common bond in that we come from United Methodist churches in New England. But, our 596 churches are in communities large and small, rural, urban and suburban, rich and poor. Some are in racially diverse communities but the majority are in small, middle income, white communities. The remaining slides provide information about United Methodists in New England and the communities where they worship and help us explore how these facts impact how we in the New England Conference view ourselves, church, and the world.

Slide 6



This slide shows the population size of the communities where there is a United Methodist church in our conference. For example, 41% (red slice) of our churches are in communities where less than 5,000 people live. Another 17% (gold slice) are in towns with between 5,000 and 10,000 people. So, 58% are in communities less than 10,000 people. At the other end, only 10% (green and blue slices) of our churches are in cities of more than 50,000 - the population often used to define urban living. Of these, only 24 churches are in cities with populations greater than 100,000 such as Providence, RI; Manchester, NH; and Cambridge, Lowell, Springfield, Worcester and Boston, MA. How does the imbalance of many churches in smaller communities and fewer in larger, urban communities impact how we in the New England Conference view ourselves, church, and the world?

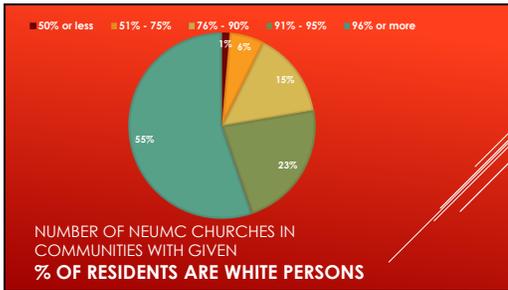
Slide 7



Here we examine the median household income (from the 2010 census) for our churches' towns and cities. The median is the middle number - so if you ordered all the household incomes in a community from lowest to highest, the median would be the number that falls in the middle. 6% (red slice) of our churches are in the lowest income communities with a median less than 35K for a household. And, 6% (blue slice) are in the highest income communities where half the incomes are higher than 100K. The large, light green section of 44% of churches are in communities with middle incomes between 51K and 75K. For reference, the median household incomes by state for the general population range from 49K in Maine to 70K in Connecticut and all fall in or near that large piece of our pie. Note that this does not mean the median income of the people attending the United Methodist church is the same as the median income for the community in which it is located. There may be high income people attending a church in a

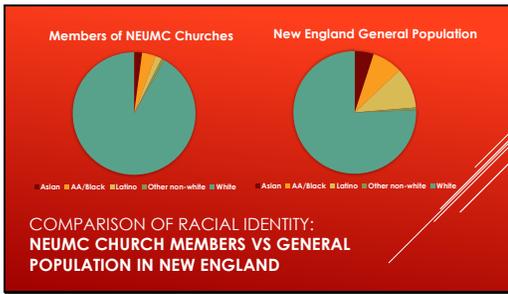
low-income city or vice versa. How might these income statistics impact how we in the New England Conference view ourselves, church, and the world?

Slide 8



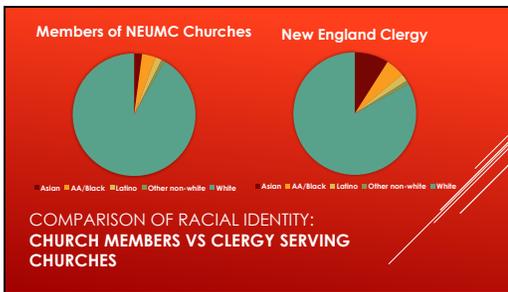
This slide shows the diversity of race in communities that host UM churches in New England. Only 1% (red slice) of our churches are in cities where the population has less white people than people who are a color other than white – these cities are Lawrence, Brockton, and Chelsea, MA and Providence, RI. Another 6% (gold slice) of churches are in communities where the population is between 51 and 75% white, and another 15% (yellow) of churches are in communities where the population is between 76 and 90% white. A large majority of New England UM churches, 78% (green and blue slices), are in communities with a white population of greater than 90%. Given this is who we are, what are some things we can do to better understand the impact of race has on how we in the New England Conference view ourselves, church, and the world?

Slide 9



Here is a comparison of the racial identity of people who are members of one of our churches with the general population in New England. The general population is more diverse than our church members. For example, 5% (red slice) of the general population identifies as Asian whereas in our conference, 2% of our members are Asian. Similarly, 4% (gold slice) of our members identify as African American/Black compared to 8% of the general population. The largest difference is in the Latino community who make up 11% (yellow) of the general population compared to 2% of our members. Conversely, the white population is greater with 92% (blue slice) of our membership compared to 76% in the New England general population.

Slide 10



The clergy currently serving our churches in New England are more racially diverse than our membership, but still less diverse than the overall population. The 9% of Asian clergy is a higher percentage than Asians in the general population, 5%. But, we have lower proportions of African American/Black and Latino clergy and higher proportions of white clergy.

Slide 11

Number of NEUMC church members who are:	2009	2016	Change
African American/Black	2795	2896	+101
Asian	1661	1677	+16
Latino	745	1352	+607
Other non-white	535	593	+58
White	78745	72925	-5820

CHANGES IN REPORTED RACIAL/ETHNIC MEMBERSHIP IN NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE

While our conference diversity does not match the area where we are located, this chart shows that our conference is becoming increasingly diverse. Comparing the number of reported members for different races in 2009 with those reported in 2016, the population of African Americans, Asians, and Latinos are all increasing while the white population is decreasing. Slowly, we are looking more like the general population.

Slide 12

	# Churches	Total Membership	Change in Worship Attendance: 2009 to 2016
African American/Black	7	1134	-9%
Asian	10	1084	-13%
Latino	6	1014	+84%
Multi-racial	9	1323	-17%
White	564	76901	-25%

RACIAL IDENTITY OF CHURCHES IN NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE

Finally, I highlight churches that are primarily Asian, African American/Black, Latino, and multi-ethnic. In New England, we have 7 African American/Black churches with a total of 1134 members. There are 10 Asian churches with a total membership of 1084. There are 6 Latino churches with a membership of 1014. In addition to these churches, there are 9 congregations that report members of multiple races where white persons make up less than 60% of the membership. 1323 people are members of these churches. The 564 remaining churches have predominantly white congregations. Another sign that our conference is becoming more diverse is the change in worship attendance shown here. Collectively, the predominantly white congregations have much higher percentage decrease than the African American/Black churches, the Asian churches and the multi-ethnic churches. And, the Latino churches are growing!

Slide 13

"You cannot deny who you are as a result of all the preconceptions and preoccupations that presently determine your attitudes. Nor yet should you try to deny who you are. But you can do something. You can decide whether you are going to put yourself in a situation where all these tendencies and elements within your makeup are going to be confirmed, protected and exaggerated – or whether you are going to put yourself in a situation where these tendencies and elements are going to be questioned, exposed and curtailed." – John Vincent