



God's work. Our hands.

Florida-Bahamas Synod Profile - 2017

*Boldly sharing Christ, passionately making
disciples and faithfully doing justice.*



Our Reach...

- Two time zones
- 864 miles, Pensacola to Key West
- 361 miles, Pensacola to Jacksonville
- 178 congregations
- 54,533 baptized members



Florida Demographics

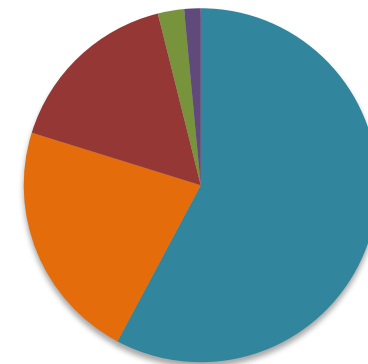
Languages spoken:

- English
- Spanish
- Indo-European (including French, German and Finnish)
- Other (including Creole, Portuguese, Arabic, Tagalog and Vietnamese)

Socio-economic characteristics:

- Growth in early and middle grades
- Highest percentage families “Empty Nesters”
- “Retired” follows as fastest growing segment
- 20% of population (ages 25+) have no high school diploma; 8% have graduate degrees

Ethnicity in Florida



- White
- Latino/Hispanic
- Black/African American
- Asian
- Other

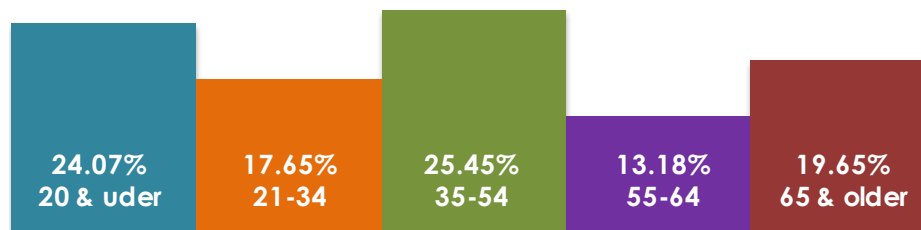
Source: MissionInsite



Population

	Florida	U.S.
Growth 2016 - 2021	5.99%	3.69%
Growth 2010 - 2016	7.97%	4.43%
Growth 2000 - 2010	17.64%	9.71%
2016 Estimated median age	41.89	38.04
2016 Estimated average age	41.76	38.91
2016 Estimated median household income	\$47,912	\$55,551
2016 Estimated average household income	\$67,858	\$77,135

Florida Population Age Distribution



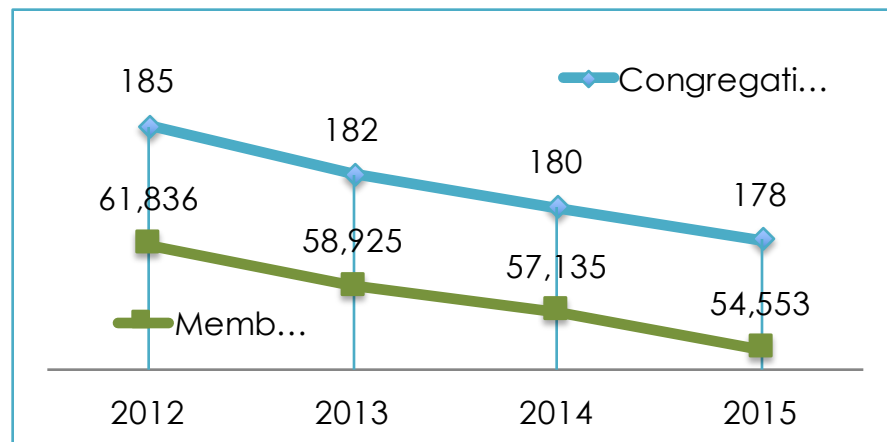
Source: The Nielsen Company



Synod Profile and Trends by the numbers

Florida residents *	18,722,885
Florida-Bahamas Synod baptized members **	54,553
Male	48.8%
Female	51.2%

Sources: * MissionInsite, ** FBS 2015 records



ELCA Research and Evaluation Consolidation of Congregation Report Forms 2012.

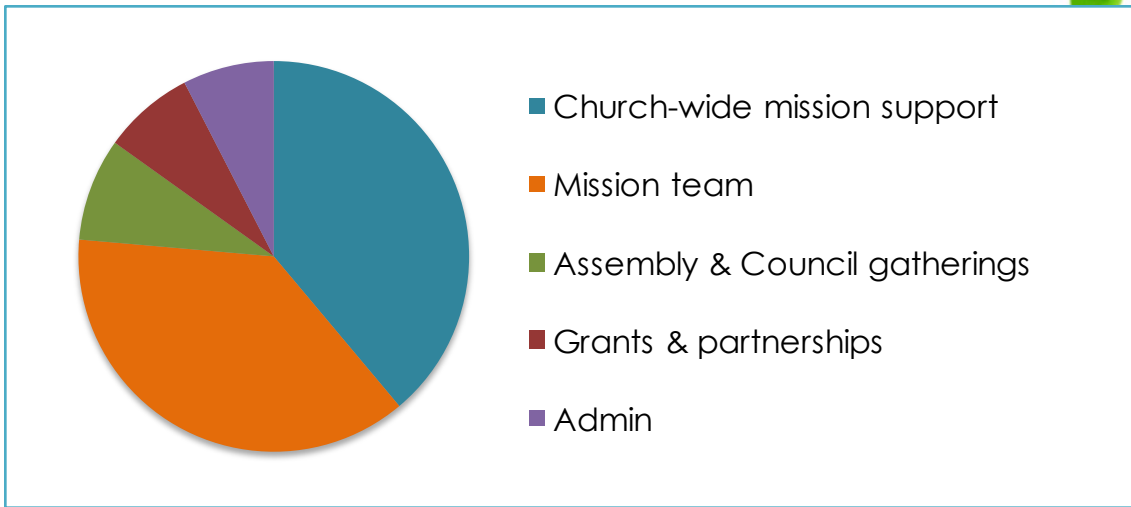
ELCA churches in FL	#	Avg wkly attendance
Small	38	1-50
Pastoral	81	51-150
Program	44	151-350
Corporate	10	351-599
Mega	2	600+
Mission	1	***
SAWC	8	
Avg. worshippers		25,944
Rostered Clergy		189
Retired Clergy		227
Rostered Deacons		19
Synod Parish Deacons		155

*** Not yet incorporated



Synod Budget For Fiscal 2016

Annual Budget \$2,672,137
Mission team 10 Full time
1 Part time
1 Shared





The Role of a Synod Bishop

The Synod Bishop is a servant of the Risen Christ. The traditional (historical and theological) role of the Office of Bishop (episcopate) is:

To **exercise oversight**:

- Preach, teach and administer the sacraments
- Interpret the mission and theology of the synod and the whole church, as chief theologian of the synod
- Attest to Letters of Call within the synod and installs rostered leaders
- Appoint and supervise Synod Authorized Lay Ministries (i.e. Synod Parish Deacons)
- Coordinate synod resources and ministries of the synod
- Speak for the ELCA and synod publicly on all issues
- Manage controversies and enforce policies of the ELCA within the synod

To serve as a **symbol of unity**:

- Provide pastoral care to Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ministers of Word and Service, and to congregations
- Serve as chief ecumenical officer of the synod, engaging leaders of other churches and ecumenical partners (i.e. National and Florida Councils of Churches, Latin American and Caribbean consultations)
- Demonstrate accountability to ELCA churchwide, synod, and congregations. Synod bishop is the only office in the ELCA which is accountable to all three expressions of the ELCA.
- Foster awareness of the Conference of Bishops within the synod
- Interact with interfaith leaders
- Advocate the ministry of the whole church





Reflections on the Future of the Synod

Since our 1988 beginning, the ELCA has been one body organized in three expressions that enable and support us to grow together in faith and to put that faith into action. Under our ELCA constitution, we are one body in three expressions: churchwide, synod, and congregations. Each expression has its particular role in God's work. Just as congregations vary in their missional context, so do synods.

As we seek a new bishop for this synod, your feedback is important. Below is a link to a 5-question survey that will help us in our prayer and discernment. The results from this survey will be analyzed, summarized and integrated into the final profile that will be available for pastors discerning their openness to the call to be bishop. A report from the survey will also be available to all in the synod, for our own prayer and reflection.

[Click here to share your 'Reflections on the Future of the Synod'](#)

The survey will open on June 16. Please prayerfully complete the survey by July 4.

Come, Holy Spirit, come!

