### United Methodist African American Timeline 1619-1993

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1619</td>
<td>African Americans brought to Jamestown, Virginia as indentured servants; the first African Americans brought to North American colonies.</td>
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<td>1629</td>
<td>Slavery introduced in the Connecticut Colony.</td>
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<td>1634</td>
<td>Slavery introduced in the Maryland Colony.</td>
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<td>1636</td>
<td>Slavery introduced in the Delaware Colony.</td>
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<td>1711</td>
<td>Jupiter Hammon, first African American poet born; his poems largely reflect Methodist piety.</td>
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<td>1758</td>
<td>First black baptized by John Wesley.</td>
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<td>1766</td>
<td>First American Methodist congregation formed in New York City; Betty, and African American servant, among its members.</td>
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<td>1774</td>
<td>John Wesley published <em>Thoughts Upon Slavery</em>.</td>
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<td>1777</td>
<td>Richard Allen (1760-1831) converted.</td>
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<td>1780</td>
<td>Henry Evans (?-1810), a Virginia freeman and licensed Methodist preacher established a church in Fayetteville, North Carolina.</td>
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<td>1781</td>
<td>Harry Hosier (ca. 1750-1806) licensed to preach in Virginia.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1782</td>
<td>Richard Allen licensed to preach.</td>
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<td>1784</td>
<td>Methodist Episcopal Church (MEC) founded; Richard Allen and Harry Hosier present.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1790</td>
<td>Harry Evans organizes a church in Fayetteville, North Carolina.</td>
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<td>1791</td>
<td>John Wesley’s “last” letter to Wilberforce on abolishing slavery.</td>
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1792  Richard Allen leads African Americans out of St. George’s Church.

1794  Bethel African MEC founded in Philadelphia.

1796  Zoar MEC founded in Philadelphia.  
      Zion MEC organized in New York by James Varick (ca. 1750-1828) and others.

1799  Richard Allen ordained a deacon by Bishop Francis Asbury.

1800  MEC General Conference issues Pastoral Letter on Abolishing Slavery and gives bishops the authority to ordain African Americans as local deacons.

1802  By this date, all northern states had passed measures outlawing slavery or providing for its gradual elimination, except New Jersey which did so in 1804.

1813  Union Church of Africans founded by Peter Spencer in Wilmington, Delaware.

1815  John Stewart begins his work with the Wyandottes with the assistance of Jonathan Pointer.


1817  Richard Allen gives Jarena Lee permission to hold prayer meetings and exhort.

1818  John Stewart licensed to preach by the Urbana, Ohio, Quarterly Conference.

1820  African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (AMEZ) founded.

1822  Daniel Coker organizes a Methodist society among freed slaves while traveling to Liberia.  
      James Varick elected first Bishop of AMEZ Church.
1824 Feeling the abolition of slavery impossible, the MEC turned its attention to regulating the treatment of slaves by its members.

1830 Methodist Protestant Church (MPC) splits off from the MEC with abolition being one of the major reasons.

1844 The Methodist Episcopal Church, South (MECS), splits off from the MEC primarily over the slavery question.

1846 Baltimore Colored Mission organized in the MPC.

1849 Jarena Lee’s *Journal* published.


1856 MEC General Conference gives presiding elders authority to employ African American pastors.

1858 Francis Burns elected missionary bishop.

1861 Civil War begins.

1863 Emancipation Proclamation

1864 MEC General Conference approved ordination; African American elder.

   Founding of the first two African American conferences: Delaware and Washington.

   Frank B. Smith becomes the first African American to be admitted to a MEC annual conference (New England).

1865 Mississippi Mission Conference (MEC) organized.

   13th Amendment enacted abolishing slavery.
1866  MECS votes to establish African American districts, conferences and general conference.
Freedmen’s Aid Society (MEC) founded in Cincinnati.
Shaw University (later Rust College) founded by the Freedmen’s Aid Society.
South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas Mission Conferences (MEC) organized.

1867  Georgia Mission Conference (MEC) organized.

1868  Delaware and Washington Conferences become annual conferences.
Walden Seminary founded by the Freedmen’s Aid Society.

1869  Lexington, Louisiana, Tennessee and Texas Conferences (MEC) organized.
Clark and Claflin Colleges and New Orleans University founded by the Freedmen’s Aid Society.

1870  The Colored (Now Christian) Methodist Episcopal Church founded in Jackson, Tennessee; William Miles and Richard Vanderhorst elected its first two bishops.

1871  North Carolina Colored Mission Conference (MPC) organized.

1872  Cookman Institute founded by the Freedmen’s Aid Society in Jacksonville, Florida.

1873  Bennett and Wiley Colleges founded by the Freedmen’s Aid Society.
Florida Conference (MEC) organized.

1874  Women’s Parent Mite Missionary Society (AME) formed.
West Texas Conference (MEC) organized; creates a Mexican Border District.
1876  Central Alabama and Savannah Conferences (MEC) organized.  
MEC General Conference voted to divide annual conferences along racial lines.  
Samuel Huston College founded by the West Texas Conference (MEC) as the Andrew’s Normal School.  
Medical Department of Central Tennessee College established.  
1878  Little Rock Conference (MEC) organized.  
Colorado Texas Colored Mission Conference (MPC) organized.  
1879  Alabama Mississippi Conference (MPC) organized.  
1880  East Tennessee Conference (MEC) organized.  
1881  Amanda Berry Smith becomes a missionary to Liberia.  
Morristown Seminary founded.  
1882  Paine College founded as a joint venture of the MECS and CME Churches.  
1883  Walden Seminary becomes Philander Smith College.  
Gammon Theological Seminary chartered; originally founded in 1875 as the theological department of Clark College.  
1884  Licensing of women approved by AME General Conference.  
Spring Creek Colored Mission Conference (MPC, Tennessee) organized.  
1886  Central Missouri Conference (MEC) organized.  
1888  Sarah Gorham becomes the first woman AME foreign missionary.  
Charleston Colored Mission Conference (MPC) organized.  
1891  Upper Mississippi Conference (MEC) organized.  
1892  Arkansas Mississippi Conference (MPC) organized.  
1896  Dallas Colored Mission Conference (MPC) organized.
1897 Atlanta Conference (MEC) organized.
1898 Woman’s Home and Foreign Missionary Societies (AME) founded.
1900 Mobile Conference (MEC) organized.
Medical Department of Central Tennessee College becomes Meharry Medical College.
1901 AME founded Colored Deaconess Homes in Roanoke, Virginia.
Baltimore-Washington Conference (MPC) organized.
Woman’s Home Missionary Society (MECS) begins work at Paine College.
1902 Okaneb Conference (MEC) organized.
1903 Lincoln Conference (MEC) superseding the Okaneb Conference.
1904 Mary McLeod Bethune founded Daytona Normal and Industrial School for Negro Girls.
1905 South Florida Mission (MEC) organized.
1906 Martha Drummer, and African American deaconess of the New England Deaconess Training School, is sent to Angola by the Woman’s Foreign Missionary Society (MEC).
Anna Hall, another African American deaconess, becomes a missionary to Liberia.
1908 Mrs. M. C. B. Mason named supervisor of the Bureau of Colored deaconess (MEC).
1915 Shaw University becomes Rust College.
1920 Robert E. Jones becomes the first African American bishop elected to serve in the United States (MEC).
1921 South Florida Mississippi Conference (MEC) organized, superseding the South Florida Mission.
1923  Daytona Normal and Industrial School merges with Cookman Institute to form Bethune-Cookman Institute.

1924  South Carolina Colored Mission Conference (MPC) organized, superseding the Charleston Colored Mission Conference.

1928  Matthew W. Clair, Sr., becomes the second African American bishop to serve in the United States.

1929  Southwest Conference (MEC) organized through a merger of the Little Rock Conferences and part of the Lincoln Conferences.  
      Central West Conference (MEC) organized through a merger of the Central Missouri and part of the Lincoln Conferences.

1930  Dillard University founded through a merger of Straight and New Orleans Universities.

1931  The Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching is founded, led by Jessie Daniel Ames, member of the MECS.

1939  The Methodist Church is formed through a merger of the MEC, MECS and MPC Churches.  
      Central Jurisdiction founded.  
      World War II begins.

1940  First meeting of the Central Jurisdiction. W. A. C. Hughes and Lorenzo King elected the first two bishops.  
      Women’s Society of Christian Service, Central Jurisdiction, organized.

1941  United States enter World War II.

1952  Huston-Tillotson College founded through the merger of Tillotson and Samuel Huston Colleges.
Brown v. the Board of Education case; one of the lawyers arguing the case was Charles S. Scott, a Methodist layman.

General Conference adopts Amendment IX which provided the framework for the elimination of the Central Jurisdiction.

Central Jurisdiction forms Committee of Five to study ways of eliminating the jurisdiction.

Tennessee-Kentucky Conference organized.

Last session of the Central Jurisdiction held in Nashville.

Evangelical United Brethren Church (EUB) and Methodist Church (U.S.) merge.

Central Jurisdiction eliminated.

Roy C. Nichols becomes the first African American to be elected bishop by a regional jurisdiction conference.

General Commission on Religion and Race (GCRR) formed.

Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) formed.

National Division of the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) funds the Ethnic Ministry Local Church Program (EMLC).

Mai Gray becomes the first African American president of the Women’s Division of the GBGM.

Leontine T. C. Kelly becomes the first African American woman to be elected bishop.

United Methodist Church (UMC) begins plans to formally count the number of ethnic minority persons, both clergy and laity.

First church wide gathering of Black UMC clergywomen takes place in Freeport, Bahamas.

EMLC Program launches a mission program to develop and strengthen ethnic churches.
1990  First annual “Black School of Sacred Music” convenes in Waveland, Mississippi.

1991  General Commission on Archives and History (GCAH) published four books on the racial/ethnic presence in United Methodism.

1992  Alfred L. Norris, African American, elected bishop at General Conference.

Reverend Joseph E. Lowry, United Methodist civil rights leader, retires.

National Mission Workshop meets in Los Angeles to call for an expanded role for racial/ethnic congregations.

BMCR urge support for Hispanic, Asian and Native American churches and communities.

BMCR twenty-fifth anniversary.

GCRR twenty-fifth anniversary.

1993  Compton Project, campus ministry to Blacks and Hispanics at Compton College, California, begins.