

## United Methodist African American Timeline

### 1619-1993

- 1619** African Americans brought to Jamestown, Virginia as indentured servants; the first African Americans brought to North American colonies.
- 1629** Slavery introduced in the Connecticut Colony.
- 1634** Slavery introduced in the Maryland Colony.
- 1636** Slavery introduced in the Delaware Colony.
- 1711** Jupiter Hammon, first African American poet born; his poems largely reflect Methodist piety.
- 1758** First black baptized by John Wesley.
- 1766** First American Methodist congregation formed in New York City; Betty, and African American servant, among its members.
- 1774** John Wesley published *Thoughts Upon Slavery*.
- 1777** Richard Allen (1760-1831) converted.
- 1780** Henry Evans (?-1810), a Virginia freeman and licensed Methodist preacher established a church in Fayetteville, North Carolina.
- 1781** Harry Hosier (ca. 1750-1806) licensed to preach in Virginia.
- 1782** Richard Allen licensed to preach.
- 1784** Methodist Episcopal Church (MEC) founded; Richard Allen and Harry Hosier present.
- 1786** Richard Allen founds the Free African Society in Philadelphia.
- 1790** Harry Evans organizes a church in Fayetteville, North Carolina.
- 1791** John Wesley's "last" letter to Wilberforce on abolishing slavery.

- 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.
- 1816** African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) founded in Philadelphia, Richard Allen elected bishop.
- 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.
- 1852** African Americans in New York and Philadelphia propose the formation of a mission conference.
- 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.  
13<sup>th</sup> 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.

- 1954** Brown v. the Board of Education case; one of the lawyers arguing the case was Charles S. Scott, a Methodist layman.
- 1956** General Conference adopts Amendment IX which provided the framework for the elimination of the Central Jurisdiction.
- 1960** Central Jurisdiction forms Committee of Five to study ways of eliminating the jurisdiction.  
Tennessee-Kentucky Conference organized.
- 1967** Last session of the Central Jurisdiction held in Nashville.
- 1968** 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.
- 1976** 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.
- 1984** Leontine T. C. Kelly becomes the first African American woman to be elected bishop.
- 1987** United Methodist Church (UMC) begins plans to formally count the number of ethnic minority persons, both clergy and laity.
- 1988** 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.







