

Timeline of United Methodist History

- 1703 John Wesley is born (June 17).
- 1707 Charles Wesley is born (December 18).
- 1725 John Wesley is ordained as a deacon in the Church of England.
- 1729 Charles Wesley forms the "Holy Club" at Oxford University.
- 1735 John and Charles Wesley embark for Georgia (October 14).
- 1738 John Wesley's Aldersgate experience, "*My heart felt strangely warmed.*"
- 1742 John Wesley organizes the Methodist society in Bristol, England into classes and issues quarterly tickets to members.
- 1745 Francis Asbury is born (August 20 or 21).
- 1747 Thomas Coke is born (September 28).
- 1769 Thomas Boardman and Joseph Pilmore arrive in America, the first two preachers appointed by Wesley for the colonies.
- 1771 Francis Asbury and Richard Wright sail for America.
- 1880 Wesley publishes *A Collection of Hymns for the Use of the People called Methodists*.
- 1784 Wesley ordains Richard Whatcoat and Thomas Vasey as preachers for America and commissions Thomas Coke to ordain others.
Methodist Episcopal Church is organized at the "Christmas Conference," Baltimore, Maryland. Francis Asbury is ordained by Coke. Asbury and Coke are named superintendents of the new church.
- 1786 Jonn Dickins prepares the first *Discipline* of the Methodist Episcopal Church.
- 1788 Charles Wesley dies (March 29).
- 1790 The first successful American Sunday school is established in Philadelphia and the MEC officially recognizes the Sunday School as an institution of the church.
- 1791 John Wesley dies (March 2).
The MEC holds its first General Conference with elected delegates.
- 1814 Thomas Coke dies (May 2) and is buried in the Indian Ocean.
- 1816 African Methodist Episcopal Church is formed.
Francis Asbury dies (March 31).
- 1819 Missionary and Bible Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church is founded.
- 1826 The *Christian Advocate* (Methodist Episcopal newspaper) begins Publication.
- 1830 The Methodist Protestant Church is organized.
- 1839 Union Institute (MEC) is founded in Randolph County, North Carolina. It is the forerunner of Duke University, Durham.
- 1844 The Methodist Episcopal Church is divided, north and south, by the Plan of Separation. The issue of slavery also divides the Presbyterian and Baptist denominations.
The Indian Mission conference is formed and placed under the jurisdiction of southern Methodism.

- 1845 The Methodist Episcopal Church, South is formally organized in Louisville, Kentucky.
- 1858 The Methodist Protestant Church divides over the issue of slavery.
- 1860 The Free Methodist church breaks away from the MEC.
- 1861 The Civil War begins.
- 1866 The MEC forms the Freedmen's Aid society to establish schools for former slaves in the South.
Helenor M. Davison is ordained a deacon making her the first ordained woman in the Methodist tradition.
- 1869 The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the MEC is formed.
- 1870 The Colored Methodist Episcopal Church is organized out of the MECS. (The name is changed in 1956 to Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.)
- 1871 The North Carolina Colored Mission Conference (MP) is organized.
- 1877 The Methodist Protestant Church, divided in 1858 over the issue of slavery, formally reunites.
The United Brethren General Conference votes to allow lay persons to be members of annual conferences.
The first Methodist church building for Hispanic Americans is built in Key West, Florida.
- 1883 Women of the Evangelical Association organize the Women's Missionary Society.
- 1893 The woman's Home Missionary Society of the Methodist Protestant Church is organized.
- 1894 The United Evangelical Church breaks away from the Evangelical Association.
- 1904 Women are given laity rights and admitted to the MEC General Conference as delegates.
The title "presiding elder" is replaced by "district superintendent" in the MEC.
- 1910 The woman's Societies of the MECS are joined under one Woman's Missionary Council and made part of the general missionary organization of the church.
The MEC introduces graded Sunday school lessons.
- 1914 World War I begins
- 1917 The U.S. enters the war.
- 1918 Armistice is signed November 11, ending the war.
- 1922 The United Evangelical Church and the Evangelical Association reunite to form The Evangelical Church.
- 1923 The first *Cokesbury Hymnal* is published.
- 1935 *The Upper Room*, a devotional magazine, begins publication.
- 1939 War begins in Europe.
The Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church reunite to form The Methodist Church.
- 1940 The U.S. enters World War II.

- 1946 The Evangelical United Brethren Church (EUB) is formed from the merger of The Evangelical Church and the United Brethren in Christ.
- 1968 The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren merge to form The United Methodist Church.
- 1971 Women's organizations in The United Methodist Church merge to form United Methodist Women.
- 1989 *The United Methodist Hymnal* is published.
- 1992 The UMC *Book of Worship* is published.