

## **Timeline of the Methodist Movement in America**

**-Early 1500's:** Protestantism emerged in Europe as reformation was sought against the Catholic Church. Reformation movements emphasized a return to Scripture as the authority for doctrine and practice.

**-Late 1600's:** Pietism movement emerged in Europe. This movement emphasized the Christian experiences of new birth, sanctification, and the possibility of societal transformation. Small groups, philanthropic work and mission work gains importance.

**-1703:** John Wesley, father of Methodism, is born.

**-1707:** Charles Wesley is born.

**-1736:** John and Charles Wesley, who were priests in the Church of England, volunteered as missionaries to the colony of Georgia.

**-May 24, 1738:** John Wesley has Aldersgate experience.

**1760-1769:** Methodist lay leaders move to America to grow the Methodist movement.

**1773:** First conference of Methodist preachers in the colonies was held in Philadelphia.

**1775-1783:** John Wesley was loyal to the King of England during the American Revolution.

**December 1784:** The Christmas Conference occurs in Baltimore with most American Methodist preachers in attendance. The Methodist Movement became the organized Methodist Episcopal Church at this conference.

**1785:** Methodist Episcopal Church publishes first Book of Discipline.

**1792:** First quadrennial General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

**1792:** The schisms begin with the Republican Methodists who wanted to reduce the authority of Bishops.

**1808:** Methodist Episcopal Church drafts its first Constitution.

**1816:** Richard Allen, an emancipated slave and Methodist preacher who was mistreated because of his race left the church and organized the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

**1821:** The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church leaves the Methodist Episcopal Church over racial issues.

**1830:** The Methodist Protestant Church leaves the Methodist Episcopal Church 5000 preachers and lay people left because the Methodist Episcopal Church would not grant representation to the laity or permit the election of presiding elders (district superintendents).

**1843:** The Wesleyan Methodist Church leaves the Methodist Episcopal Church over the church's weakening prohibition against slave holding.

**1845:** The Methodist Episcopal Church, South forms in the southern states over disagreements with the Methodist Episcopal Church over slaveholding.

**1860:** The Free Methodist Church splits from the Methodist Episcopal Church to oppose worldliness that they felt was present in the MEC.

**1870:** Any African American Members in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South were moved to The Colored Methodist Episcopal Church.

**1895:** Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene splits from the Methodist Episcopal Church

**April 1939:** The Methodist Episcopal Church, Methodist Protestant Church, and Methodist Episcopal Church, South reunited under a new name "The Methodist Church" which boasted 7.7 million members in America

**1945-1968:** The newly reunited Methodist Church focuses on 3 main things

- 1) Making closer ties with other Methodist and Wesleyan bodies
  - a) 1948: Joined the World Council of Churches
  - b) 1950: Joined the National Council of Churches
  - c) 1951: The World Methodist Council is formed
- 2) Dismantling racism and advocating for civil rights
- 3) Ordaining women: The Methodist Church began ordaining women as clergy members in 1956.

**1968:** The United Methodist Church is formed when the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church unite. The United Methodist Church has 11 million members at this time.

**1980:** Marjorie Matthews is elected to the episcopacy as the first female Bishop.