SUMMARY HISTORY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE

Legal settlement of southwestern Pennsylvania became possible after the Treaty of Fort Stanwix with the Iroquois Indians in 1768. Between that date and 1775, it is estimated that over fifty thousand settlers came into the region of southwestern Pennsylvania and northwestern Virginia, making this the trans-Appalachian frontier reaching to the Ohio River. It is known that there were Methodists from the Strawbridge region in Maryland among the settlers as early as 1772 and some unofficial religious activity was carried on among them during the 1770's. Organized Methodism came to the region in the Fall of 1783, when Richard Owings, Robert Strawbridge's first Local Preacher, laid out the original Redstone Circuit, largely in the homes of relatives who had emigrated to the West. The first appointment of two Methodist itinerant preachers to the Redstone Circuit was made by Francis Asbury, John Wesley's assistant in America, in the Spring of 1784, before the Christmas Conference that organized American Methodism into The Methodist Episcopal Church.

By the end of its third year the Redstone Circuit was over 300 miles in extent, and reported 756 members. So, in 1787, it was divided into three Circuits, namely: Redstone, Ohio (East of the Ohio River) and Clarksburg. By 1799 five Methodist Circuits covered southwestern Pennsylvania and northwestern Virginia. They were covered by eight circuit-riding Preachers, met in about ninety-six Societies, all of them in homes except for nine small log Chapels, and reported 1,649 members. With the defeat of the Indian confederacy and the opening of the Northwest territory to settlement, after 1795 Methodist were among the emigrants to the new lands where they became seedplotters of new Methodist Societies. By 1804 eight new Circuits in northwestern Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio, and northwestern Virginia had been created by expansion from the original Redstone Circuit region.

When the first Methodist Conference boundaries were established in 1796 the Pittsburgh region fell within the original Baltimore Conference. With the division of the original Western Conference in 1812, into Tennessee and Ohio, northwestern Pennsylvania was placed in the Ohio Conference. The General Conference of 1824 created five new Annual Conferences, one of which was Pittsburgh. When the original Pittsburgh Conference was organized, in 1825, it included western Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio to the Muskingum and Tuscarawas rivers, northwestern Virginia, and the western tip of New York. This territory was carved from the Baltimore and Ohio Conferences, plus small sections of Genessee and Kentucky. The original Pittsburgh Conference had 43 charges, 71 preachers, and 20,355 members.

Tremendous growth marked the early years of the Pittsburgh Conference, and in 1836 the Conference was divided. The northern portion became the Erie Conference with four Districts, 50 appointments, and 16,876 members. The southern portion continued as the Pittsburgh Conference with 5 districts, 58 appointments, and 25,615 members. In 1848 the Western Virginia Conference was organized. In 1876 the East Ohio Conference was created by detaching the Ohio portions of both Pittsburgh and Erie Conferences. At that time Pittsburgh was one of the largest Conferences of the denomination, and this division reduced its membership from 60,444 to 32,000. The division reduced Erie Conference from 40,000 to 28,000.

Agitation for lay representation and more democracy in the Methodist Episcopal Church in the 1820's brought about a division in the denomination in 1828, and resulted in the official organization of The Methodist Protestant Church in 1830. The “reformer” Churches west of the mountains were organized into the Ohio Conference in 1829. In 1833 the eastern portion of the original Ohio Conference became the Pittsburgh Conference of The Methodist Protestant Church with twenty-eight appointments and 7,050 members. This Conference continued until Methodist reunion, Pittsburgh being an important headquarters of the denomination. In 1939 a new Pittsburgh Conference of The Methodist Church was created within the boundaries of the Pittsburgh Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church by uniting the two Pittsburgh Conferences. The Methodist Episcopal Conference had 395 churches and 120,622 members at that time, and The Methodist Protestant Conference brought 63 churches and 13,578 members into the new conference.
The action of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference in 1960 in moving most of the Conference boundaries to State lines was a preliminary step to the merger of the Pittsburgh and Erie Conferences to form the Western Pennsylvania Conference in 1962. The Jamestown District of the Erie Conference went to the Genessee Conference and some of the Genessee Conference appointments south of the New York-Pennsylvania line came to the Western Pennsylvania Conference. The Pittsburgh Conference churches in the panhandle of West Virginia went to the West Virginia Conference. In 1962 the Pittsburgh Conference reported 467 Churches and 164,620 members, while the Erie Conference report showed 377 churches and 81,542 members. After the boundary adjustments were made, the Western Pennsylvania Conference reports for 1963 showed 782 churches organized into 510 pastoral charges with 233,452 members.

THE EVANGELICAL UNITED BRETHREN SUMMARY

The Evangelical United Brethren Church was the result of two evangelical movements that arose among the German-speaking people of Eastern Pennsylvania and Maryland during the last third of the eighteenth century. The United Brethren in Christ arose under the leadership of Philip William Otterbein, a former German Reformed Pastor, and Martin Boehm, a Mennonite. The Evangelical Association arose under the leadership of Jacob Albright, a farmer and Methodist Local Preacher, who had undergone a profound spiritual experience. The theology of Evangelism, free grace, and experimental salvation, was emphasized by both movements. As a result they were closely akin to Methodism and eventually adopted the connectional system of Classes, Circuits, and Conferences.

Germans who had been touched by these movements were among the early settlers in Western Pennsylvania, and considerable numbers emigrated to Ohio when it became open to settlement. As early as 1799 Christian Newcomer, later a United Brethren Bishop, was preaching and organizing Classes and Circuits in Somerset, Westmoreland, Fayette, and Washington Counties. The first General Conference of the United Brethren convened on June 6, 1815 at Bonnet's Schoolhouse near Mt. Pleasant in Westmoreland County where delegates from the Pennsylvania and Ohio segments of the movement assembled and devised their first Discipline. The United Brethren preaching places in western Pennsylvania were under the supervision of the Original Conference. When the Muskingum Conference was organized in 1818, Westmoreland and Washington County circuits were added to this Ohio Conference. When the Original (Hagerstown) Conference was divided in 1829 the western Pennsylvania Circuits were placed in the Harrisburg Conference which soon adopted the name Pennsylvania Conference. In 1833 the Pennsylvania Counties in the Muskingum Conference were transferred to the Pennsylvania Conference. Then, in 1838, the Allegheny Conference was created covering the work in western Pennsylvania. It reported six circuits at its first Conference in 1839.

Jacob Albright and John Walters established the first Evangelical Association witness in western Pennsylvania near Johnstown and Hyndman in 1805 and 1806. This work expanded and was administered under the original Conference of “Albright's people” until 1827, when the division of the original Conference placed them in the Western Conference with the Ohio Circuits of this movement. In 1839 the West Pennsylvania Conference was formed. It supervised the Evangelical Association work in the region until the formation of the Pittsburgh Conference in 1852. By action of the 1875 General Conference the Erie Conference of the Evangelical Association was created to accommodate those congregations that desired to hold services completely in the German language. German speaking parishes in western Pennsylvania became a part of this Conference which continued until 1923. The denomination suffered a split when a group broke away in 1891 and organized the United Evangelical Church. Its Pittsburgh Conference was organized in 1894. Happily many of the leaders of the split in the 1890's worked to heal the breach and in 1922 the two bodies merged to form the Evangelical Church. By 1923 all the Evangelical Churches in western Pennsylvania were reunited into the Pittsburgh Conference.

The union of the two denominations, the Church of the United Brethren in Christ and the Evangelical Church, to form the Evangelical United Brethren Church was consummated in a uniting Conference held in the First (United Brethren) Church in Johnstown, Pennsylvania on November 16, 1946. Then, in 1951, the Allegheny Conference with a history of 113 years, was merged with the Pittsburgh
Conference with a history of 99 years, to form the Western Pennsylvania Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

Previous to what is now known as Erie Conference, there was an old Erie Conference of the United Brethren Church which came into being in 1853 and existed for eight years. Its territory included northwestern Ohio, upper half of Mercer County, all of Erie, Warren and Crawford Counties in Pennsylvania, and all of New York. This Conference was divided in 1861 with the eastern portion continuing the name. The first session of the new Erie Conference was held at South Harbor Creek, Erie County, Pennsylvania, in 1862. The merger in 1946 with the Evangelical Church added several churches of that communion.

CREATION OF THE WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The merger of the two denominations, The Methodist Church and The Evangelical United Brethren Church to form The United Methodist Church was accomplished by a uniting General Conference held at Dallas, Texas in 1968. Both Western Pennsylvania Conferences were placed in the Pittsburgh Area. The Conference sessions of 1969, meeting separately but both under the presidency of Bishop Roy C. Nichols, each adopted a common Plan of Union. This union was consummated in a Uniting Session held in Johnstown Pennsylvania on October 11, 1969 creating The Western Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church with the effective date of Union, January 1, 1970.

The first session of the new Conference was held at Grove City, Pennsylvania, June 17-21, 1970. On June 16, 1971, the churches of the Erie Conference, Evangelical United Brethren situated in the western Pennsylvania, merged with the Western Pennsylvania Conference under a Plan of Union adopted in 1970. Thus, The United Methodist Church formed in Dallas, Texas in 1968 has consummated in this area with the creation of a geographic and spiritual unity known as The Western Pennsylvania Conference of The United Methodist Church.

Dating of the Annual Conference. Since the uniting legislation permits a merged Conference to consider its date of origin as the oldest date of any of the merging bodies, this Conference may well consider its historical heritage by dating back to the organization of The Pittsburgh Conference in 1825.

Our Heritage

Antecedents
1825 Organization of the Pittsburgh Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church
1833 Organization (Division) of the Pittsburgh Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church
1836 Organization of the Erie Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church
1839 Organization of the Allegheny Conference of the United Brethren in Christ
1845 Organization (Division) of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South
1852 Organization of the Pittsburgh Conference of the Evangelical Association
1854 Organization of the Erie Conference of the United Brethren in Christ
1862 Reorganization of the Erie Conference of the United Brethren in Christ
1876 Organization of the Erie Conference of the Evangelical Association
1894 Organization (Division) of the Pittsburgh Conference of the United Evangelical Church
1923 Reunion of the Pittsburgh Conference of the Evangelical Association
1923 Merging of the Erie & Pittsburgh Evangelical Conferences
1939 Union of The Methodist Episcopal and Methodist Episcopal, South and Methodist Protestant
1946 Union of The Evangelical and United Brethren Denominations
1951 Merging of the Allegheny & Pittsburgh Evangelical United Brethren Conferences
1962 Merging of the Erie & Pittsburgh Methodist Conferences

The United Methodist Church
1968 Union of The Evangelical United Brethren Church and The Methodist Church
IX Historical

1969  Merging of the Western PA EUB & Methodist Conferences effective January 1, 1970
1971  Merging of the former Erie EUB & the new Western PA Conferences effective June 16, 1971

Western PA Conference

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Western PA Conference Members Of General Boards & Jurisdictional Agencies

ALL CAPITAL LETTERS = LAITY

Delegates Elected to the 2008 General & Jurisdictional Conferences


Laity: LAURA ZILHAVER, NYLE HERSHERGER, LUella KRIEGER, MATTHEW JOHNSON, JOE EMIGH, RICHARD HOFFMAN, PATRICIA (PAT) A. MORRIS, TRACY MERRICK, TINA WHITEHEAD, DIANE MILLER, JAMES DONNER, HEATHER AUL, DONNA BURKHART, MIKE BILL, SHARON GREGORY, PEGGY WARD, First Alternates: TED GROSS, REBEKAH SWINEFORD, FAITH GEER, JOSH CASCONE

Nominations & Elections for General Agency Membership Discipline ¶ 705.1

DONNA BURKHART – General Board of Church and Society
Eric Park – General Board of Discipleship
TRACY MERRICK – General Com on Christian Unity & Interreligious Concerns
Joan Reasinger – General Board of Higher Education and Ministry
Robert Higginbotham – United Methodist Publishing House Board
Gregory Cox – General Commission on UM Communications
PATRICIA MORRIS – General Commission on Finance and Administration
Sharon Schwab – The Study of Ministry Commission
Bob Zilhaver – Division of Ministry with Young People
Larry Homitsky – General Commission on Archives & History
William Meekins – General Board of Global Ministries
TARA PARK – Hymnal Revision Committee Pool of Consultants
Patsy Ciampa – The World-Wide Nature of the Church Commission

Nominations & Elections for Northeastern Jurisdictional Committees

John Ciampa – Vision Table
MATT JOHNSON – Vision Table
Pat Harbison – Leadership Table
DIANE MILLER – Partnering Ministry Table
Arnie Rhodes – Rules Committee
SHARON GREGORY – Program & Arrangements
Joan Reasinger – Program & Arrangements
Joel Garrett – Episcopacy
PATRICIA MORRIS – Episcopacy
HEATHER AUL – Council on Finance & Administration
Alyce Weaver Dunn – Boundaries
Paul Taylor – Multi-Ethnic Center
Chuck Fowler – Korean Mission
Jack Piper – Jurisdictional Commission on Archives & History
### CHRONOLOGICAL ROLL OF CLERGY MEMBERS

The date at the head of the list indicates the year in which the people named were admitted on trial or credentials transferred into The United Methodist Church. The letter to the left of the name indicates the Conference in which membership was held prior to the merger or union: E -- Erie; G -- Genessee; P -- Pittsburgh; W -- Washington; (E) -- Evangelical United Brethren; (B) -- Baltimore; (C) -- Central Penna.; WV -- West Virginia. Other symbols to the left of the name: R indicates the retired relationship; * indicates on Probation; ** indicates Retired Probationary Members; H indicates Honorable Location; X indicates Withdrew, Transferred or Removed by Conference action; D indicates permanent Deacon; A indicates Associate Member; I indicates Transferring Into Conference.

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2010 Western Pennsylvania Conference

R  R.D. Markle  J.E. Ciampa  D.R. Stains
R  W.D. Morgan  R  D.E. Drake  R  T.M. Storms
X  G.K. Tullock, Jr.  R  G.S. Dran  A.A. Twigg
R  J.E. Duvall  A.B. Twigg

1969
R  J.S. Berman  R  H.G. Gates, III  D.D. Ziegler
R  J.H. Creeks  R  J.R. Hackenberry
R (E) F.W. Doverspike  R  A.K. Harris  1974
(E) D.A. Eversdyke  R  R.R. Beal, Jr.
(E) F.B. Gariathy  R (E) F.W. Doverspike
R  J.L. Gray  R  J.D. Hollis  X  D.S. Chapman
J.W. Hamilton  R  J.D. Hollis  X  D.S. Chapman
R  W.H. Hiles  R  R.G. Landis  R  T.G. Cole
W.E. Hufford, Jr.  R  P.R. Milliken  R  E.B. Heard
R  C.R. Lewis  R  R.K. Moffat  R  H.S. Hess
H  G.W. Michel  R  R.G. Naugle  R  K.K. Higgins
D.L. Morford  H  C.G. Prince  R  R.D. Hines
R  D.L. Morse  R  C.A. Renshaw  J.V. King
R  D.T. Rainey  J.M. Scott  D.K. Larsen
R  R.G. Schmidt  C.L. Shaffer  H  W.J. Marshall
J.A. Schrader  R  R.F. Siple, Jr.  D. L. Parker
R.A. Sells  J.K. Smith  L.A. Pomeroy
R  P.B. Shultzabarger  J.V. Spahr, Sr.  A. L. Ricketts
R  J.L. Fish, Jr.  R  T.M. Holman  R  J.E. Miller
R  T.R. Snyder  X  J.E. Williams  R  D. L. Russell
R  D.A. Stinson  R  L.W. Wilson  O.R. Warmn
R (E) D.J. Thompson  R  R.A. Wilson  R  W.M. Willey
R  R.S. Wachtler  R  J.R. Wagner  1972
X  J.R. Wagner

1970
R  F.D. Bishop  R  C.R. Adcock  1975
R  J.L. Fish, Jr.  R  M.C. Burton
X  B.S. Bishop  R  J.R. Friggle  L.A. Chambers
R  R.M. Daugherty  R  B.T. Fulton  J.P. Cook
X  L.F. Dinsel  J.C. Gulac  X  J.R. Hall
R  R.A. Eddinger  R  W.B. Hehman  X  M.B. Hardy
M.H. Edner  R.W.Higginton  R.W. Higginbotham  D.M. Henley
H.R. Edwards  H  T.M. Holman  R. J. Hipwell
J.E. Elder  F.H. Leasure  S.R. Hutchins
C.R. Fowler  J.A. Miller  R  I.D. Johnson
D.A. Holste  R  J.E. Miller  X  R.H. Love
X  S.D. Leffler  R  J.E. Myers  R  G.D. McAfoose
R  D.U. Livermore  R  H.C. Prince  S.A.SteffeyMorrow
J.D. Miller  R  H. L. Ridley  J.D. Patterson
R  R.L. Patton  R  L.D. Startzell  K. L. Rieder
R  R.L. Peters  R  J. Uhrin, Jr.  S. L. Schwab
R  G.M. Sayre, Jr.  H  T.H. Wardle
X  R.A. Snair  1973
R  J.M. Weisz
R  R.A. Snair  1976
R  G.E. Tutwiler  R  D.B. Bean  1976
R  R.A. Wanless  R  R.C. Bennett  D.W. Bunnell
R  E.F. Watterson  R  S. D. Bennett  D.W. Bunnell
X  J.A. Wilcher  R  T.M. Farabaugh  L.E. Carlson
J.P. Fogg, Jr.  X  J.T. Davidson, Jr.
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R  C.W. Henry  B.K. Davis, Jr.
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2010 Western Pennsylvania Conference

R K.B. Cutshall R.C. Saunders R W.C. Cravotta
R.O. Feagin J.I. Toma K.G. Gardner
J.E. Flower, Jr. J.A. Zimmerman L.A. Guiney
B.A. Gascoine R R.P. Kerr
G.L. Grau 1988 P.S. Harbison
R W.G. Griffith A.J. Bell D.M. Heagy
R.P. Howe K.L. Bossart R H.G. Orsborn
X J.D. Inghram P.T. Cleary R C.J. Touvell
R J.J. Kosarek W.R. Cleary
S.V. McKenzie R R.M. Getschman 1992
H.F. McKnight D.L. Greenawalt G.B. Atkinson
B.J. Moore B.W. Griffith, Jr. X J.E. Kimball Casto
R J.E. Moore X D.W. Harclerode B.A. Cooper
M.M. Orphe F.E. Hodges R J.F. Dallape
J.H. Phipps D.D. Janz R **J.F. Fleischman
W.D. Sedei R.E. Jones R **M.K. Fleischman
T.L. Shaughnessy R.D. Klingler X T.M. Greeener
J.P. Lenox C.A.H. Groeger
1986 R A.T. Moffat, Jr. X J.R. Guerre
P.S. Adams X J.A. Moon M.P. Mollick
D.E. Burns X *R.A. Mostoller E.S. Park
X G.W. Courson W.L. Parker K.J. Rea
D.D. Ealy R.W. Shuluga X E.W. Rogersky
J.M. Hurst R D.C. Slade
X H.C. Kim 1989 S.J. Snyder
J.H. Langley R.W. Bain R **P.M. Thomas
R *C.E. Lynn R.P. Cotten B.A. Turish
L.M. McCauley K.S. Custer R B.L. Weyant
J.L. McQueen R M.G. Emmett R D.S. Williams
B.S. Peterman P.S. Gardner H.J. Yang
H R.C. Schafer R.W. Gearhart
J.N. Snyder A.V. Gerber 1993
J.D. Sterling J.E. Gerber D.E. Bailey
T.Q. Strandburg X *D. Kinney C.A. Ciampa
R E.T. Thomas N.A. Leftwich X *P.R. Dunham
J.R. Wilson P.M. Nelson P.E. Ellis
R J.C. Winger M.A. Peary S.J. Gruver
R E.A. Schoeneck F.A. Hall
1987 X *D.W. Skledar R.K. Harry
D.L. Ackley-Killian R S.S. Soltis D.R. Henderson
T.J. Barnicot R S.K. MarshMcClain
A.W. Dunn 1990 S.K. MarshMcClain
K.A. Dunn A.L. Black W.D. Meyer
X E.M. Gamboa S.L. Bonner R.S. Platt
T.L. Guiste M.A. DeBaise R.W. Raptosh
T.A. Johnson M.E. Hecht E.P. Saxman
B.L. Lauster R T.D. Hindman X A.L. Shultz
W.R. LaVelle, Jr. R.D. Hixon
X D.A. Lee X J.E. McFarland 1994
D.C. Livermore B.K. Northey R A.D. Baldwin
T.J. Michalko W.M. Pieringer R S.L. Becker
R A G.H. Miller R.D. Sweet D.A. Bell, Sr.
W.S. Morse R E P.E. Toothman R L. Bergstrom
R G.A. Nagel R G.J. Weaver, Jr. I J.P. Colatch
R L.G. Rowe X J.R. Douglass
G.W. Runtas 1991 A G.L. Foster
2002
J.R. Bell
S.L. Goodwin
R.B. Green
B.M. Gross
R.J. Helsel
R.B. Jordan
I.K. Lee
D.O. Hornsby
J.R. Peterman
J.N. Pond
J.T. St. Clair
L.F. Swestyn
J.P. Walker
J.G. Young
T. Trudgen
J.C. Bobin
T.P. Bonomo
L.L. Dinger
K.A. Gray

2003
W.C. Adkins
M.R. Blair
D.R. Brauer
S.S. Chung
P.C. Comini-Miller
M.J. Foreman
C.M. Forsythe
M.A. Griffith
K.A. Haines
C. Zirlott
D.O. Hornsby
C.D. White
M.E. Heckert
K.L. Prescott
C.M. Pelc

2004
K.B. Greway
S.D. Hamley
T.L. Henderson
A.P. Hornyak
H.S. Joe
A.J. Lewis
D.L. Landers
A. T. McFarland
S.R. McPherson
K.M. Schanely
J.E. Schweinberg

Multi-Cultural & Ethnic Churches

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<th>PB: Albright Community</th>
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<td>GB: Calvary: McKeesport</td>
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Location Of Records Of Closed Churches

Records in this list are published only for the last five years. For preceding roll, please see earlier Journals or Record of Closed Churches published by The Western PA Conference Commission on Archives & History 1994.

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<td>Coolspring</td>
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