



HISTORICAL TIMELINE

Of the Free Methodist Church In Canada

As we journey forward, it is vital to remember and honour the historical past of our movement. Our roots ground us in a legacy of faith, resilience, and a commitment to justice and holiness that have shaped our identity and mission. Reflecting on the sacrifices, prayers, and vision of those who came before us inspires us to carry the torch of transformation into the future. By remembering our shared history, we gain clarity and purpose, ensuring that our steps align with the values and principles that have defined the Free Methodist movement. This timeline begins with the founder of Methodism, John Wesley.

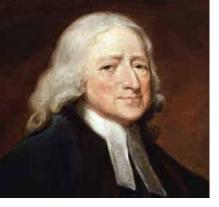
EARLY LIFE OF JOHN WESLEY

1703

1707

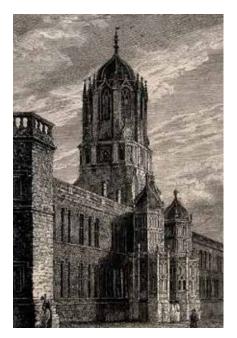
Epworth, England.

1700



01

John Wesley



Christ Church, Oxford

1720

1728

Wesley begins his studies at Christ Church, Oxford.

Wesley is ordained as priest in the Church of England.



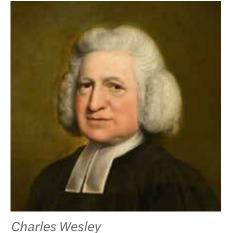
THE METHODIST

Wesley assumes leadership of the Oxford Holy Club, in which members are first called "Methodists."

MOVEMENT

John Wesley is born on June 28 in Wesley's brother Charles is born.

Charles Wesley becomes the beloved hymn-writer of the Methodist revival. His hymns endure to this day in many branches of the Christian church.



1735

Wesley volunteers as missionary to the American colony of Georgia, returning to England in 1738 in spiritual turmoil.

1739

Wesley begins open-air preaching to evangelize people neglected by the Church of England, a practice which becomes a hallmark of the Methodist revival.

1744

The first Methodist Conference is held in London, England.

1750s-1760s

Methodist immigrants come to North America, and begin organizing Class Meetings.



A Methodist open-air meeting



1760

1750

The Foundery, meeting place of the first Methodist Conference in June 1744

1740

— 1742

1738

Formation of Class Meetings, cornerstone of Methodist revival and growth.

Wesley experiences a profound

"Aldersgate Experience."

GROWTH OF METHODISM

spiritual awakening on May 24 at a

meeting in Aldersgate Street, London, in which his heart was "strangely warmed." This becomes known as his

A Plain Account of Christian Perfection is first published, the doctrine that Wesley believed was "the Grand Depositum of Methodism, that for which [Methodists] were chiefly raised up."

1771

Francis Asbury is sent by Wesley as itinerant missionary to America. Asbury would become the beloved circuit-riding leader and catalyst for growth of the Methodist movement in America until his death in 1816.



The Ordination of Bishop Asbury, 1784

1784

Wesley ordains Thomas Coke as Superintendent and Francis Asbury as Co-Superintendent for the work in America, leading to the formation of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States.

METHODISM IN AMERICA



1791

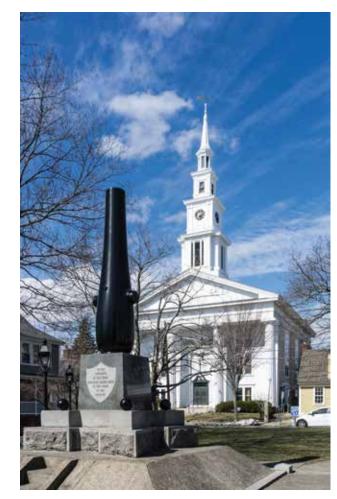
John Wesley passes away on March 2, his last words being, "Best of all, God is with us."



"Death Of the Rev. John Wesley" John Sartain., CC BY 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons



1830



Warren United Methodist Church (built in 1844) and Civil War Memorial, Rhode Island

Kenneth C. Zirkel, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia Commons

1840

1844

The Methodist Episcopal Church splits into Northern and Southern branches over issues including slavery and governance.

FORMATION OF THE FREE METHODIST CHURCH

Dissatisfaction with perceived moral laxity and lack of social justice, including issues of slavery and pew rental practices, grows within the Methodist Episcopal Church.

1858

August 23, 1860 •

The Free Methodist Church is officially formed in Pekin, New York. Founded by B.T. Roberts and others who were dissatisfied with the Methodist Episcopal Church's abandonment of its foundational principles, the mission of this new denomination was "To maintain the Biblical standard of Christianity, and to preach the gospel to the poor." The Free Methodist Church quickly expands beyond New York, spreading throughout the United States and establishing missions around the world.

Discontent grows among many Canadian Methodists over general spiritual and moral decline in their churches, which they felt was connected to the loss of emphasis on traditional Methodist teaching on personal holiness and revival practices.

1874-1884 -

1876

The Free Methodist Church sends Rev. Charles Sage as missionary to the newly created Canada Mission District.

1870

1860

1850

April 12, 1861 -April 9, 1865

Benjamin Titus Roberts

American Civil War, fought between the Union (Northern states) and the Confederacy (Southern states) primarily over the issues of slavery and states' rights.

FREE METHODIST BEGINNINGS IN CANADA

Robert Loveless, a Canadian Methodist lay preacher is given a copy of B.T. Roberts' *Earnest Christian* magazine. Excited by what he reads about a new "Free Methodist" movement, he invites B. T. Roberts to speak in Toronto.

1873

1878

Sage is joined by Daniel Marstin, and their work for the next several years involved meeting with Canadian Methodists who were troubled by the move away from John Wesley's fundamental teachings. These discontented Methodists formed new Free Methodists congregations throughout Southwestern Ontario.



FREE METHODISM IN CANADA COMES OF AGE

1880

1890

1900

1880

B.T. Roberts holds a meeting in Galt, ON to organize the Canadian Annual Conference.

1883

Reverend Albert Simms replaces Sage, becoming the first Canadian Chairman of the Canada Conference. Other early conference appointments include both men and women.

1895 -

Growth in the Canada Conference results in a division into the Canada East and Canada Great Lakes Conferences.

ME	TING
ort it trait a ben Burty a to a min and han BURSIES	HODIST Church, and I line and and frag EWETT Bal.
	Samilae Centre, Mich., and SICK, of Coopersville, Mich.,
YOU AND MEAPEC	TULLY NOTED TO ATTEND. BY A SEA ITTENDE BEARS
	Shake Escalatic (ACApp) Tarwar Datar Jama Apar Jan Jin Manda Satarati Maanda Tanaha Jin Aphaniat Okarii

Advertisment for an 1891 Camp Meeting in Ontario

Robb Free Methodist Historical Centre

1898

The first Free Methodist society in Canada to be located west of Ontario is formed at Westview, Northwest Territories (in what is now the province of Saskatchewan.)

1906 -

West Canada Conference (consisting of Free Methodists in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta) is formed.

Canadian Free Methodists initiate an	
"All-Canada Convention" to meet in Sarnia, ON to establish more autonomy from the American parent church. The Canadian Executive Board is formed to coordinate efforts of the three Canadian Conferences and provide a unified voice in dealing with American headquarters, while maintaining strong ties with the broader Free Methodist Church.	
1920 1920	
 1924 Lorne Park College opens as a ministerial training school in Port Credit, Ontario. 1927 The Free Methodist Church in Canada is incorporated by Federal Act. 1930 	hing. a) d e



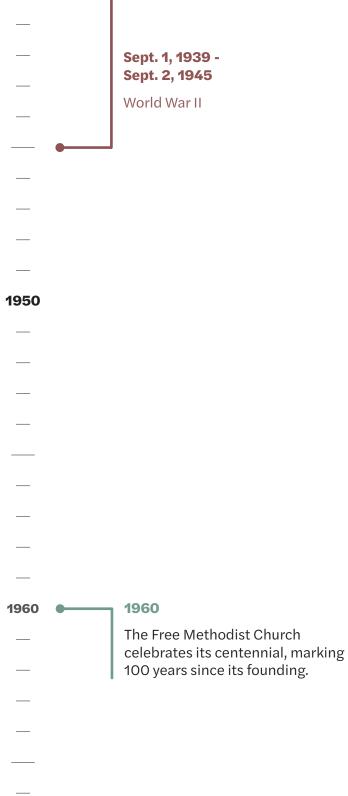
West Ontario Conference, Sarnia 1927 Robb Free Methodist Historical Centre

Canadian minister and evangelist Rev. Charles Fairbairn is elected to the Board of Bishops of The Free Methodist Church, serving in USA and Canada.

1939

1940

Moose Jaw Bible College opens as ministerial training school for Western Canada.



1959

The Holiness Movement Church, a small denomination with a number of churches in Eastern Ontario and Western Canada, with mission work in Egypt and Hong Kong, merges with The Free Methodist Church in Canada.

