

1860 1865 1870 1875 1880 1885 1890 1895 1900 1905 1910 1915 1920 1925 1930 1935 1940

# RACIAL JUSTICE TIME LINE

Important Moments of  
Racial Justice History  
in the United States &  
United Women in Faith



United  
Women  
in Faith

1945 1950 1955 1960 1965 1970 1975 1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010 2015 2020 2024

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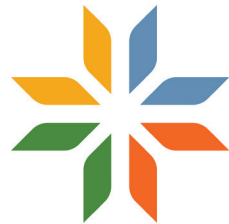
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# RACIAL JUSTICE TIME LINE

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Important Moments of  
Racial Justice History in  
the United States & United  
Women in Faith



United  
Women  
in Faith

## United Women in Faith Racial Justice Time Line

Issues of racial justice impacted the Methodist denomination early on with disagreements over slavery and the authority of the bishops that led to a denominational split in 1844. The southern region of the church withdrew and formed the Methodist Episcopal Church South. In the years following the Civil War, the women's missionary organizations were formed throughout these predecessor denominations. Confronting racial inequities and striving for inclusion expanded the organization's missional identity.

United Women in Faith celebrates the diversity of God's good creation. As a sisterhood of grace, we are called together by a shared mission: faith, hope, and love in action. We believe that we are all God's beloved children, united in one family.

We affirm our ongoing commitment to the principles outlined in the Charter for Racial Justice. We recognize racism as a deep sin and a clear rejection of the teachings of Jesus Christ. We grieve the many ways that racism has harmed our relationships with God, with ourselves, and with each other. We pledge to continue to work for the elimination of racism at all levels: individual, interpersonal, institutional, cultural, and systemic. We pray for God's strength on this journey.

## 1857–1939

The United States ends slavery, but it also moves to entrench racism and white privilege through wars, economic expansion, and immigration policies.

## 1857–1939

Women of the United Methodist tradition reach out across the United States and the world.

## The United States 1857-1873



**1857:** The Supreme Court decision *Dred Scott v. Sandford* denies any possibility of citizenship for African Americans.

**1860-61:** Eleven pro-slavery states secede from the Union and form the Confederacy, triggering the Civil War.

**1862:** The Homestead Act allows 311 million acres of western Native American lands to be sold to European homesteaders, land-grant colleges, and railroad companies.



**1863:** The Emancipation Proclamation frees the slaves.

**1864:** Congress makes it illegal for Native Americans to be taught in their native languages and sends children to boarding schools.



**1865:** Central Pacific Railroad recruits Chinese workers to construct the transcontinental railroad.

Reconstruction: African Americans gain citizenship rights and mobilize for public education and elected offices. White supremacists embark on a campaign of terror.

**1866:** The Ku Klux Klan is founded to maintain white supremacy through intimidation and violence.

# 1857

## Women of the United Methodist Tradition 1857-1873

**1863:** With the Emancipation Proclamation and the fall of Vicksburg in July 1863, the United Brethren Church sent Sarah A. Dickey to Vicksburg to educate emancipated peoples. Over her years in the south she experienced ostracism, harassment, and violence for her collaborative work within the African American community.



**1870:** Isabella Thoburn (right) and Clara Swain begin work among Indian women under the auspices of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society. In 1870 Thoburn founds what would become Isabella Thoburn College.

Thoburn hired Lilavati Singh (left with Miss Thoburn) as the only Indian member of the faculty (1892). After Thoburn's death, Singh was appointed vice principal.



**1873:** The forerunner to Bennett College, a co-educational high school for freed peoples, begins in the church basement of Warnersville Methodist Church. In 1926 the Woman's Home Missionary Society joined with the church's Board of Education to create a college for African American women.

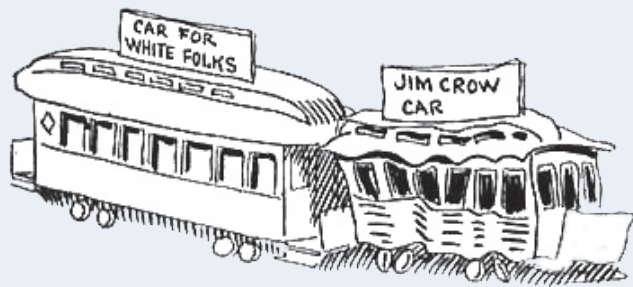


# 1873

## The United States 1874-1899

**1882:** The Chinese Exclusionary Act bars Chinese contract laborers and immigrants from entering the United States for 10 years.

**1883:** In a series of five cases known as the Civil Rights Cases, the U.S. Supreme Court declared the Civil Rights Act of 1875 unconstitutional, opening the way for Jim Crow laws and lynchings.



**1896:** In *Plessy v. Ferguson*, the U.S. Supreme Court establishes the "separate but equal" rule, upholding segregation.

**1898:** The United States annexes Puerto Rico, Guam, the Philippines, Cuba, and Hawaii.

## Women of the United Methodist Tradition 1874-1899

1880

**1880:** Jennie Hartzell urges Methodist women to organize to work among "freed-women of the South." The women organize instead "without distinction of race" as the Woman's Home Missionary Society, on behalf of women and children. Its work expands with a network of homes for immigrant girls, and in the West among Mormon women and Indigenous people.

Dr. Shi Meiyu, also known as Mary Stone, is the first female medical missionary in Central China.

**1885:** Mary Fletcher Scranton of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society finds the first school for girls in Korea, which becomes Ewha Girls' High School. Scranton's work leads to the founding of a second institution, Ewha Womans University.



**1887-1906:** The missionary societies send the first female African American missionaries to Africa: Susan Collins, Martha Drummer, and Anna Hall.

**1888:** The Woman's Home Missionary Society, Methodist Episcopal Church, establishes an immigrant girls' home in New York City.



**1890:** Education for Hispanic children is offered at the Harwood School in Albuquerque, New Mexico; the Frances De Pauw Industrial School in Los Angeles; and later, at the George O. Robinson School in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

**1899:** Kim Seji becomes the first Bible Woman in Korea.

Late 19th and early 20th centuries: The Woman's Home Missionary Society begins creating National Mission Institutions like Gum Moon Women's Residence in San Francisco to serve urban immigrant women seeking work and shelter.

1899

# The United States 1899-1919

# Women of the United Methodist Tradition 1899-1919



**1900:** 14 million immigrants arrive between 1900 and 1920, primarily from Northern Europe. The Chinese Exclusion Act, which was extended 10 more years in 1892, becomes permanent in 1912.

**1903:** 7,000 Korean workers arrive in Hawaii as strikebreakers against Japanese workers.

**1907:** The Gentlemen's Agreement forbids immigration of Japanese and Korean laborers to the United States.

**1909:** The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is created.

**1910:** The Mexican Revolution sends peasants to the U.S. border seeking safety and jobs. The Great Migration: More than one million African Americans migrate from the South to the North.



**1917:** The United States enters World War I.

1900

1919

**1899:** Leaders of the Women's Missionary Council work with Sallie Hill Sawyer of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church to create Bethlehem Center, another National Mission Institution in Nashville, Tennessee, to serve ethnic minorities and disadvantaged neighborhoods.



**1906:** Anna Hall and Martha Ann Drummer are the first African American female missionaries sent to Africa by the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, beginning a 50-year practice of sending African American women to Africa only.

**1907:** Sandy Chalakee, a Native American woman, affirms the importance of preserving traditional language, practicing traditional crafts, and conducting local unit meetings in her traditional language.

The Rev. Lois G. Neal is born. She is the first Native American woman named as a district superintendent in the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference. Neal mentored other Native women on the importance of women answering God's call: "Women [should] accept their call because as women, we have a personal call," she said. "I tell women, 'You have your own calling to fulfill.'"



**1912:** Women of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church begin conversations concerning race relations.

**1914-1930:** The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society works to organize women's groups for Spanish-speaking women in Texas, New Mexico, California, Puerto Rico, and Cuba.

## The United States 1919–1926

## Women of the United Methodist Tradition 1919–1926

1919

**1919:** The U.S. Department of Justice rounds up and deports “aliens” from Southern Europe and Latin America during the Palmer Raids. Thousands are arrested, and many immigrant activists are deported.



**1920:** Women are granted the right to vote in the United States, though not all women have this right.

**1921–1930:** Thousands of Mexican workers, including U.S. citizens, are deported.

**1921:** The Emergency Quota Act favors immigration from Europe.

**1922:** The Cable Act declares any female U.S. citizen who marries an alien will lose her U.S. citizenship.

**1923:** The U.S. Supreme Court rules that while South Asians might be “Caucasian,” they are not white and are ineligible for citizenship.



**1924:** The Indian Citizen Act grants Indigenous people the right to citizenship.

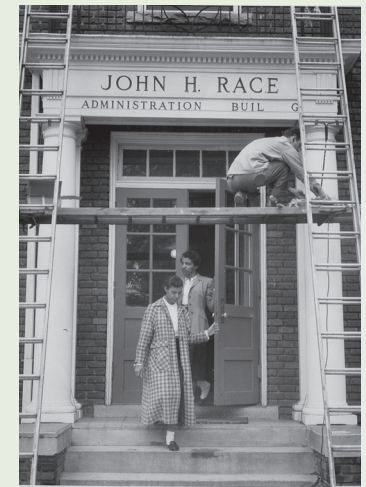
Asian immigration is banned, including for wives and children of Chinese Americans.

1926



**1920:** Carrie Parks Johnson, a Southern white woman of the Women’s Missionary Council of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, is named to chair its Commission on Race Relationships, which develops ways for black and white women to work together.

**1926:** A joint venture of the Woman’s Home Missionary Society and the Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church results in the reorganization of Bennett College into a four-year liberal arts college for women in Greensboro, North Carolina, serving young African American women.



## The United States 1924-1939

## Women of the United Methodist Tradition 1924-1939

1925

**1924:** The Ku Klux Klan is influential in the passage of the National Origins Act, making racism part of the official U.S. immigration policy until 1965.

The U.S. Border Patrol is created, introducing a distinction between "legal" and "illegal" immigrants for the first time.

**1929:** The stock market crash triggers the Great Depression.

The National Origins Act limits annual immigration to 150,000 Europeans.



**1933:** President Franklin D. Roosevelt launches the New Deal. Most African Americans are excluded from benefits, as domestic workers, railway porters, and agricultural workers are excluded.

**1934:** The United States limits immigration from the Philippines, a U.S. colony, and reclassifies Filipinos in the United States as "aliens" in an effort to limit "non-white" immigration.



**1938-1940:** World War II begins. Labor shortages mean a change in immigration policy and a new influx of Mexican and Chinese workers.

1939

**1930:** Mrs. B.W. Lipscomb, staff member of the Women's Missionary Council of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, helps organize conference women's missionary societies in the Western Mexican and Texas Mexican Conferences.



**1931:** Jessie Daniel Ames, an active Methodist woman, is executive director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.

**1933:** The Women's Organization for the former Rio Grande Conference is first organized by Hispanic women in the Southwest. Minerva Garza was one of the early leaders of the organization. She served in a variety of leadership positions from 1944 until 1970 and was dedicated to the conference's preservation for future generations.



**1938-1940:** The Woman's Missionary Society is organized in the Indian Mission of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

**1939:** The Methodist Church's Woman's Society of Christian Service, Wesleyan Service Guild, and the Woman's Division of Christian Service are formed. The merger of three Methodist denominations creates a segregated jurisdiction—the Central Jurisdiction—for African Americans.

## 1940–1962

The Cold War and decolonization change ideas and realities in the United States.

## 1940–1962

Women of the United Methodist tradition expand study and advocacy for racial justice.

## The United States 1940-1947

## Women of the United Methodist Tradition 1940-1947

1940

**1940:** The Alien Registration Act (the Smith Act) requires registration and fingerprinting of immigrants over age 14. This coincides with FBI information-gathering on "enemy aliens"—primarily targeting Japanese Americans and not those of German or Italian descent.



**1942:** President Roosevelt authorizes internment of 110,000 Japanese Americans living in California, including U.S. citizens.

Filipinos are reclassified as U.S. citizens, making it possible for them to register for the military.

**1945:** Germany surrenders. The United States drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japan surrenders.

The United Nations is founded.

**1946:** After World War II, Philippine independence from the United States is granted, rescinding citizenship for Filipinos.



**1947:** Jackie Robinson breaks baseball's color line.

1947

**1940:** Thelma Stevens becomes the Woman's Division head of Christian Social Relations in the newly formed Methodist Church. She was instrumental in the writing the first Charter of Racial Policies (1952), and outspoken about the segregation of the church. For 28 years she guided Methodist women in anti-racist work.



The African American women, now in the segregated Central Jurisdiction, maintain their commitment to a fully integrated organization by welcoming women of all races to attend their events.

**1941:** The Woman's Division of Christian Service adopts a policy of "holding its meetings only in places where all members" can stay "without any form of racial discrimination."

Lillian Warrick becomes the first African American woman elected to the Woman's Division staff.

**1942:** The Woman's Division of the Methodist Church speaks out against the internment of Japanese Americans.

The first National Assembly of Methodist women is moved from St. Louis, Missouri, to Columbus, Ohio, because St. Louis hotels would not accommodate African American women.

**1944:** Élide García de Falcón, a Spanish-speaking woman, begins translating the Program Book into Spanish. She and her daughter, Clothilde F. Nuñez, will continue the translation for 26 years.

**1947:** The National Seminar sparks the Woman's Division to create the Special Committee on Racial Practices. They propose writing a charter and a survey of racial practices in institutions of the Home and Foreign Mission Departments. The Woman's Division endorses a U.S. Senate bill to fund public education for all people regardless of race, creed, or residence.

1948

**1948:** President Harry S. Truman ends segregation in the U.S. military.

The policy of apartheid, a legal separation of Africans, Whites, Indians, and "Coloreds" under White minority rule, is imposed in South Africa

The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights is adopted.

**1952:** The McCarran Walter Act eliminates racial barriers to citizenship, tightens quotas for immigrants, and allows deportation of immigrants for "subversive activities," an element of Cold War McCarthyism.

**1953:** A second wave of Korean immigrants enters the United States upon conclusion of the Korean War. Thousands are Korean women married to U.S. GIs.



**1954:** "Operation Wetback" expels more than 2 million Mexicans.

*Brown v. Board of Education* declares segregated schools inherently unequal.

1954

**1948:** The Woman's Division and Central Jurisdiction support legislation for the improvement of living standards for farmworkers and domestic servants who had been excluded from New Deal benefits.

**1949:** Ellen Barnette (right) and Pearl Bellinger are the first African American women to be sent as missionaries to an area other than Africa. They are part of a short-term (three-year) young adult program supported by the Woman's Division. Barnette continues as a longer term missionary in India and Pakistan.

Dorothy Rogers Tilly (right), a Southern white woman and member of the Woman's Society of Christian Service, serves on President Truman's Commission on Civil Rights.

**1950:** Nisei (first-generation Japanese American women) of the Methodist Pacific Japanese Provisional Conference organize a Woman's Society of Christian Service.

**1951:** African American Pauli Murray's book, *State's Laws on Race and Color*, commissioned by the Woman's Division, is published. The book becomes a key source for the U.S. Supreme Court in its deliberations on *Brown v. Board of Education*.

**1952:** The Woman's Division adopts the Charter of Racial Policies for the Woman's Division of Christian Service. All recommendations were directed to the division, its directors, staff, mission personnel, and projects. One major focus was legal segregation.

J. Ernest Wilkins, recording secretary, is the first African American elected as an officer of the Woman's Division.



## The United States 1955-1962

## Women of the United Methodist Tradition 1955-1962



**1955:** Rosa Parks, secretary of the Montgomery, Alabama, chapter of the NAACP, refuses to surrender her seat when ordered by a local bus driver, leading to the Montgomery bus boycott and eventual desegregation of the city's bus system.

**1960:** The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) is founded at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Lunch counter sit-in protests against segregation take place in Greensboro, North Carolina.

**1961:** The Native American population has grown to 800,000. Half are on reservations. Five hundred tribal and urban Native American leaders meet in Chicago to form the National Indian Youth Council.

Freedom Rides across the South begin to challenge noncompliance with federal laws against segregation in interstate travel facilities. More than 1,000 volunteers, black and white, participate.



**1962:** Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta organize the National Farm Workers Association, which becomes the United Farm Workers Union in 1966.

Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga become the first Japanese Americans elected to the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

1955

**1954:** The Woman's Division asks conferences and jurisdictions to ratify the Charter of Racial Policies and to commit to its implementation.

The Woman's Division issues a statement against segregation in public education as an infringement against the 14th Amendment.

**1955:** The Women's Council of the Evangelical United Brethren Church votes to work toward "lessening racial tensions" and aiding in desegregating public schools as decreed by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

**1958:** The first Spanish-language School of Christian Mission is organized by Minerva Nájera Garza in the Rio Grande Conference.

**1960:** On February 2, four students from Woman's Division-supported Bennett College, a school for African American women, join four Black male students from a nearby college in Greensboro, North Carolina, in a sit-in to integrate the local Woolworth's lunch counter. The Woman's Division releases a statement affirming the students and asks Methodist Women across the U.S. to support the students' efforts and advocate for protection of their legal rights.



1962

**1962:** A new Charter for Racial Policies is adopted by the Woman's Division. This is later adopted by the General Conference upon the Woman's Division petition.

## 1963–1975

Civil Rights, the antiwar movement, the War on Poverty, and expanding immigration change the face of the United States.

## 1963–1975

The new organization of United Methodist Women (1972) seeks to increase diversity of membership, leadership and participation.

## The United States 1963-1966

## Women of the United Methodist Tradition 1963-1966



**1963:** NAACP leader Medgar Evers is murdered. One month later, 250,000 people gather in Washington, D.C., in the nation's largest ever protest demonstration to urge support for civil rights legislation.



**1964:** There is a massive effort to register African American voters in Freedom Summer. Black Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party delegates attend the Democratic National Convention to try to claim seats on the all-white Mississippi delegation.

The Civil Rights Act passes and the 24th Amendment abolishes the poll tax.



James Chaney, an African American, and Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman, both white, (shown at left from top to bottom) are working to register black voters in Mississippi and are murdered by the Ku Klux Klan.



President Lyndon B. Johnson initiates the War on Poverty, which helps reveal the racial aspect of poverty in the United States.

1963

**1963:** On September 22, the Church Center for the United Nations is dedicated in New York City. The center, an ecumenical and Methodist lead effort financed by the Woman's Society of Christian Service, provides a place for seminars on national and international issues, NGOs working on peace and international concerns, and those organizing for liberation and independence movements.

The Woman's Division supports ecumenical groups participating in plans for a march on Washington for jobs and equality.

**1964:** To challenge racial segregation, Jurisdiction Schools of Christian Mission would become Regional Schools organized on a cross-jurisdiction basis.

Woman's Division staff join a demonstration calling for the abolition of the segregated Central Jurisdiction at General Conference in Pittsburgh. Peggy Billings, a Southern white woman, is named first Secretary for Racial Justice of the Woman's Division. The Charter for Racial Policies expands the division's racial justice efforts and envisions a churchwide effort to eliminate segregated structures in church and society.



**1965:** Woman's Division, with other units of Board of Missions, Board of Christian Social Concerns, and Methodist Student movement, joins the march for voting rights from Selma to Montgomery, Ala.



1966

**1966:** First consultation with African American women makes recommendations to the Woman's Division regarding leadership roles for African American women in an inclusive church.

## The United States 1965–1970



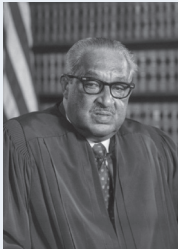
**1965:** The Selma to Montgomery march is dubbed “Bloody Sunday” when police attack and more than 50 are hospitalized.

The Voting Rights Act passes.

The term “affirmative action” is coined to describe new policies for redressing discrimination in education and employment. By 1968, 60 percent of African Americans are registered to vote.

Triggered by the civil rights movement, the Immigration Act eliminates race, creed, and nationality quotas as basis for admission to the United States.

Urban civil unrest occurs in the African American neighborhood of Watts in Los Angeles.



**1967:** Thurgood Marshall is first African American appointed U.S. Supreme Court justice.

Ban on interracial marriages is ruled unconstitutional. Urban rebellions happen in Newark, New Jersey, and Detroit, Michigan.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. expands focus to racial divisions in the North and the war in Vietnam.



**1968:** The Fair Housing Act is passed. The Bilingual Education Act allows students who are English language learners to participate in bilingual education programs to help meet their academic needs.

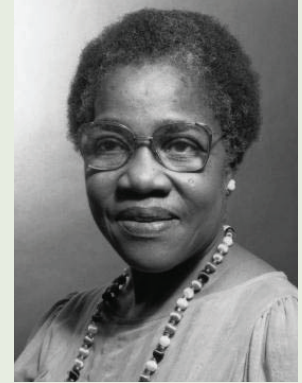
Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy are assassinated.

1966

1970

## Women of the United Methodist Tradition 1965–1970

**1968:** Theresa Hoover becomes the first African American Deputy General Secretary of the Woman’s Division, the highest position held by an African American woman in the church at that time. She served through 1990. She was a mentor to many young women, promoted the leadership of laywomen and engineered a secure future for the women’s organization of the denomination during a period of tumultuous change.



General Conference brings together the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church, creating The United Methodist Church.

**1969:** The Woman’s Division supports the “Poor People’s Campaign” in partnership with the National Welfare Rights Organization (NWRO), exposing the links between poverty and race.

**1970:** The Woman’s Division is part of ecumenical support network in the standoff between the American Indian Movement and U.S. officials at Wounded Knee, South Dakota, supplying observers, medical personnel and equipment, food, and supplies.

The Woman’s Division condemns the bombing of Cambodia and escalation of the Vietnam War as not only a peace issue, but as a racial and economic justice issue.

The Woman’s Division establishes a Hispanic Advisory Group. This later becomes the Hispanic Consultative Group.



# The United States 1970-1975

# United Methodist Women 1970-1975

**1969:** U.S. military presence in Vietnam exceeds 500,000 personnel.

Indian occupation of Alcatraz Island in San Francisco grows to some 600 Native Americans from 50 tribes and raises awareness of Native American demands.



**1970:** Some 300 Lakota/Sioux occupy the town of Wounded Knee on Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota, to demand Native American rights. Many are members of the American Indian Movement. Two hundred FBI agents, federal marshals, and Bureau of Indian Affairs police surround the town, armed with machine guns and grenades. Native Americans are fired on by ground and helicopter and two die. After 71 days, the siege ends in a negotiated settlement.

**1974:** The Supreme Court decision in *Milden v. Bradley* rules that schools may not be desegregated across school districts. This allows for legal segregation of students of color in inner-city districts from white students in white suburban districts.

**1975:** As the Vietnam War ends, more than 130,000 refugees (including Hmong peoples) enter the United States from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos.



1970

1975

**1972:** The women's organizations in The United Methodist Church combine to form one inclusive organization with the name United Methodist Women, which is administered by the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries (formerly Woman's Division of the Board of Missions). This new organization is increasing diversity of membership, leadership and vision.

A nomination and election process is initiated specifying that 13 women are elected by and to the national board of directors to insure inclusiveness. This stipulation continues with proportional adjustments according to total board membership.

The first Spanish-language Seminar on International Affairs sponsored by the Women's Division is held at the Church Center for the United Nations in New York City.

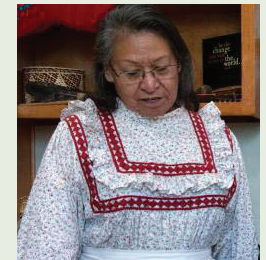
**1973:** The Women's Division adopts long-range planning for the elimination of racism in the "total ministry of the Women's Division."

At the urging of Hispanic/Latina women, the first Spanish language Program Book is written by and for Hispanic women rather than translated from English.

A series of ethnic-racial seminars are carried out through the 1970s with Native American, Asian American, Hispanic American, and African American women.

**1974:** The first Asian American United Methodist Women's consultation is held in Honolulu.

**1975:** Billie Nowabbi (right) is named the first Native American on Women's Division's staff.



## 1975–1999

Racial and ethnic economic inequalities grow, fueled by globalization's free market strategies.

## 1975–1999

Charter for Racial Justice Policies continues and strengthens the racial justice witness of United Methodist Women.

# The United States 1975-1980

# Women of the United Methodist Tradition 1975-1980

**1977:** Civil rights victories open the way for an African American middle class, but unemployment, poor housing, and poverty intensify for poor urban African Americans.



**1978:** The U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *California v. Bakke* weakens use of affirmative action in admissions for professional schools.

**1980:** The Refugee Act passes, wherein a system is developed to handle refugees fleeing persecution as a class separate from other immigrants.

**1980-1989:** U.S. military interventions in El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Grenada, Lebanon, Libya, Iran, and Panama contribute to new streams of immigration to the United States.

## 1975

**1975:** The Native American Women's Caucus is born at a Native American United Methodist Women consultation in Kansas City, Missouri. Women's Division directors support Native American allegations against federal officials and tribal law enforcement officials on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Women's Division directors support boycotts by United Farmworkers of California and the Farm Labor Organizing Committee of Ohio.

**1976:** Mai Gray is the first African American woman elected president of the Women's Division.



**1977:** A Hispanic United Methodist Women meeting is held in Puerto Rico.

**1977 and 1979:** Committed to the Principles of the Charter for Racial Justice Policies, the Women's Division develops strategies to work toward the elimination of institutional racism across the organization: consultations with African American members, training for committees on nominations to strengthen inclusion of racial ethnic leaders, participation in the founding of the National Anti-Klan Network, and resolutions against unjust banking practices such as redlining and denial of services to the poor and communities of color.

**1978:** The third Charter for Racial Justice is adopted. Mai Gray introduces the charter at the United Methodist Women Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky. Thousands of women march in silence to the site where the Methodist Episcopal Church separated over slavery more than 100 years earlier.

**1980:** The Charter for Racial Justice Policies is adopted by General Conference.

Women's Division directors support reparations for Japanese Americans interned during World War II.

## 1980

## The United States 1981-1990

## Women of the United Methodist Tradition 1981-1990

**1982:** Vincent Chin, a Chinese American draftsman, is clubbed to death in Detroit by two white men angry about the loss of auto jobs to Japan.

More than 250 churches provide sanctuary to Salvadoran and Guatemalan refugees fleeing war in their countries.

**1984:** The Bhopal tragedy occurs when a pesticide plant in Bhopal, India, owned by Union Carbide, leaked methyl isocyanate gas and other chemicals, killing more than 8,000 people in just the first few days, mainly from cardiac and respiratory arrest. Over 20,000 people over 20 also lost their lives and hundreds of thousands of mostly poor people were left with lifelong health impacts. It is considered one of the world's largest industrial disasters.

**1986:** The Immigration Reform and Control Act legalizes three million undocumented workers but also initiates sanctions making it illegal for employers to hire undocumented workers, which creates a two-tiered workforce.



**1988:** The U.S. Senate supports redress of Japanese Americans forcibly detained during World War II.

**1989:** Berlin Wall falls.

**1990:** The Immigration Act increases quotas for immigrants. People can no longer be denied admittance to the United States on the basis of their beliefs, statements, or associations.

The U.S.-Mexico border is militarized; INS and private citizens commit increasing acts of violence against migrants crossing the border and migrant workers in the United States.

1981

**1980s:** A 20-year effort to end apartheid in South Africa begins in the mid-1960s and culminates in the 1980s, through vast ecumenical participation and engagement by public figures. In the 1970s the Women's Division joined in coalition with the anti-apartheid groups and continues its own broad educational and advocacy effort throughout the organization. By 1985, 3,000 people have been arrested at demonstrations including United Methodist bishops, members, and Women's Division staff and directors.

**1982:** The Women's Division recommits to eliminating institutional racism throughout the "total ministry of the Women's Division."

Throughout the 1980s United Methodist Women holds a series of ethnic consultations with Black, Latina, Native American, and Asian women to address language needs, and to help the organization move toward becoming a multicultural organization.

Translation of United Methodist Women's resources begins with the hiring of Argentinian American Nilda Ferrari on the General Board of Global Ministries' staff.

**1986:** The Women's Division withdraws investments in 14 companies doing business in South Africa.

The Women's Division supports the publication of *When Hate Groups Come to Town*, published by the Center for Democratic Renewal.

**1987:** Women's Division directors approve a resolution against the Ku Klux Klan and other hate groups in the United States.

**1988** The Women's Division votes to join the Shell Oil boycott and urges the denomination to join the effort. General Conference endorses the boycott the same year.

Caesar Chavez, leader of the United Farm Workers, visits the Women's Division headquarters to encourage continuing support by United Methodist Women for farmworkers.

1990

# The United States 1990-1995

# Women of the United Methodist Tradition 1990-1995

## 1990

**1991:** African American Rodney King is beaten and arrested by Los Angeles police officers.

South Africa repeals apartheid laws.

**1992:** Congress passes the North American Free Trade Agreement with Mexico and Canada, intensifying the flow of U.S. agribusiness to Mexico, leading to dislocation of Mexican rural peasants and urban workers and migration to the United States in search of jobs.

A jury acquits four police officers in the beating of Rodney King, leading to major urban rebellions, including the targeting of Korean businesses in California and other states.

Boatloads of U.S.-bound Haitian refugees are stopped, detained and deported by the U.S. government.

**1993:** U.S.-Mexico blockade strategy forces migrants to cross through the desert; 3,000 people die over the next 10 years.

**1994:** California's Proposition 187 passes, prohibiting public education, welfare, and health services to undocumented immigrants. Federal courts rule it unconstitutional.

**1995:** The Oklahoma City bombing by U.S. white supremacists kills more than 150 people.

Although most of the nation's crack users are white, 88 percent of those convicted and imprisoned under harsh new laws are African American.

## 1995

**1990:** The first South Asian United Methodist Women unit forms in Nashville, Tennessee. Women's Division directors issue a resolution on anti-Arab backlash in light of the Gulf Crisis, calling on "elected officials and other opinion makers to refrain from appeals to bigoted or racist attitudes and stereotypes."

**1991:** Women's Division directors approve a resolution challenging police brutality in the aftermath of the Rodney King beating in Los Angeles, asking United Methodist Women members to call for state task forces across the country to investigate police brutality.

**1992:** Korean American Heasun Kim joins the Women's Division as a consultant to work with Korean American United Methodist Women.

Carolyn Johnson (right) is the second African American woman to serve as national president.



**1993:** Inaugural National Korean American Training is held at the Scarritt Bennett Center in Nashville, Tennessee, involving 50 women.

**1994:** The Women's Division recommits to its policy and practice to monitor its own institutional racism.

Hispanic/Latina women celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Program Book in Spanish.

The first Korean United Methodist Women Program Book, *The Life and Faith of Women*, is published.





**1996:** “Welfare reform” establishes time limits for public assistance for the poor with a disproportionately negative effect on women of color.

African American church burnings sweep the South and the nation.

“Welfare reform” proposals, an anti-terrorism bill, and the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act make undocumented immigrants ineligible for virtually all federal and state benefits and increase the jailing of nonviolent, noncriminal immigrants. Congress votes to double border patrol to 10,000 agents.

**1999:** The U.S. Supreme Court strikes down Chicago’s anti-loitering law, which had disproportionately targeted African American and Latino youth not engaged in criminal activity and resulted in the arrest of 45,000 innocent people.

1995

**1995:** Women’s Division resolution “Global Racism: A Violation of Human Rights” is adopted by General Conference.

The first Korean language classes are offered at a School of Christian Mission and the first Korean women’s United Nations seminar is offered.

**1996:** Women’s Division directors’ resolution supports Affirmative Action.

United Methodist Women mobilizes against church burnings that target African American churches. The Women’s Division board resolution, “Arson on Black Churches,” is adopted. The inaugural training of Korean American conference language coordinators is held at the Upper Atlantic Regional School.

General Conference adopts the Women’s Division resolution supporting reparations for African Americans.

**1997:** The first Korean American Consultative Group is created to advise the Women’s Division on all programs and resources related to Korean American United Methodist Women members. The first United Methodist Women Resource Writer’s Workshop is held to train Korean women and gives birth to the book *Life of Dreams, Life of Love*, personal stories of Korean immigrant women’s survival.

**1997–2005:** United Methodist Women members participate in a project to monitor hate crimes across the United States. The Women’s Division supports the creation of the National Coalition for Burned Churches to rebuild churches and to protect the right of congregations to worship.

The Women’s Division publishes its first Korean newsletter.

1999

**1999:** Women’s Division adopts the resolution, “Hate Crimes in the United States.”

## 2000–present

The 9/11 attacks, COVID-19 pandemic, increasing political polarization, and world events alter the racial dynamics of the United States.

## 2000–present

United Women in Faith members face new challenges of diversity within the movement and complexity of racial justice issues in society.

## The United States 2000–2002

## Women of the United Methodist Tradition 2000–2002

# 2000

**2001:** September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon kill 3,025 people.

U.S. Administration declares a “war on terror,” setting the stage for national security-based immigration policy. More than 1,200 Arab, Muslim, and South Asian men are detained in secret.

The United States wages war in Afghanistan.

The USA PATRIOT Act gives the government greater powers to detain suspected terrorists, eavesdrop on communications, and counter money laundering. Presidential directive is issued to try suspected terrorists in military tribunals rather than courts.

**2002:** The Department of Homeland Security, which takes over responsibility for all immigration enforcement and emergency relief, among other vast responsibilities, is created.

**2002–2003:** The United States conducts special registration, where boys and men in the United States from 25 Muslim-majority countries must register and be fingerprinted in search of terrorists. Some 13,000 men are placed in deportation proceedings for minor immigration infractions.

# 2002

**1999–2000:** The Women’s Division holds jurisdictional training events for Hispanic United Methodist Women members.

**2000:** Women’s Division funding to National Ministries Initiative continues to support immigrants, refugees, and migrants.

The Baltimore–Washington Conference organizes the first Russian-speaking United Methodist Women unit.

Bible Women’s Pilot Training Project takes place in Malaysia, with eight different language groups in attendance.

Along with ecumenical partners, the Women’s Division celebrates the United Nations Security Council adoption of Resolution 1325, which focuses on women’s perspectives and needs during war, peace negotiations, and post-conflict reconstruction.

**2001:** The Women’s Division sends a delegation of staff and directors to Durban, South Africa, for the United Nations World Conference Against Racism.

Puerto Rican Magda Morales becomes the Women’s Division’s first full-time Hispanic coordinator for Hispanic Consultative Group and Spanish-language conference coordinator.

The Korean Methodist Church’s Women’s Society for Christian Service partners with Korean American United Methodist Women in an Asian Women’s Training in Korea.

**2002:** Following passage of the USA PATRIOT Act, the Women’s Division calls on United Methodist Women members to create “civil liberties safe zones” in their communities. The Women’s Division holds a consultation for Asian American and Pacific Islander women, including Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Hmong, Japanese, Laotian, Native Hawaiian, Samoan, South Asian, Tongan, and Vietnamese women. Hispanic/Latina United Methodist Women National Training offers leadership development for a new generation of Hispanic/Latina women.

2003

**2003:** U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq begins.

The U.S. Supreme Court upholds the University of Michigan Law School's policy ruling that race can be one of many factors considered by colleges during the admissions process.

**2003:** Women's Division board adopts resolution "Global Racism and Xenophobia: Impact on Women, Children and Youth," affirming principles contained in the U.N. World Conference Against Racism declaration. Exodus spiritual growth study looks at how African American Methodists have dealt with racism in the Methodist family.

**2004:** Arizona passes Proposition 200, which states Arizonans must present proof of U.S. citizenship to receive basic public services and register to vote. Some see the voter registration components as a modern-day poll tax that keeps many low-income people and communities of color from voting.

**2004:** General Conference adopts the Women's Division resolution on environmental racism.

Kyung Za Yim becomes the first Korean-born and first Asian American president of the Women's Division. An Asian American, an African American, a Latina, a Native American, and a White woman lead the division on its executive committee.



**2005:** Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on the Gulf Coast spotlight race and class divisions in U.S. society.

United Methodist Women mobilizes the Enhancing Democracy Campaign prior to presidential elections to challenge state efforts to disenfranchise African American, Latino, Asian American, and Native American voters.

**2005:** The Minuteman Project, a vigilante group with a presence in 20 states, forms to stop undocumented immigrant crossings at the Arizona-Mexico border with some 500 volunteers. They begin to photograph undocumented day laborers and turn them in to immigration authorities.

**2005:** Women's Division resolution "Repairers of the Breach" addresses racism and class issues in the context of Hurricane Katrina.

The Korean Methodist Church's Women's Society for Christian Service partners with Korean American United Methodist Women in an Asian women's training in Korea.

2005

2006



**2006:** Representative Jim Sensenbrenner proposes bill to criminalize immigrants in the United States.



**2006–2007:** Millions participated in protests in response to proposed legislation known as H.R. 4437, which would raise penalties for illegal immigration and classify illegal aliens and anyone who helped them enter or remain in the United States as felons. Protesters not only sought a rejection of this bill, but also a comprehensive reform of the country's immigration laws.

**2008:** Barack Obama is elected the first African American president of the United States.



2008

**2006:** Women's Division organizes Racial Justice Consultation, bringing together White, African American, Latina, Asian, and Native American women to recommend priorities for future work on racial justice.

Korean American United Methodist Women partners with women of the Korean Methodist Church to host a Bible Woman program in China.

United Methodist Women members write letters challenging legislation that would criminalize undocumented immigrants and all those who help them.

United Methodist Women begins the Immigrant/Civil Rights Initiative.

Women's Division establishes the Office of Language Ministries to expand outreach beyond Spanish- and Korean-speaking women to include women who speak Hmong, Creole, Tagalog, Tongan, Fijian, Portuguese, and Russian.

**2007:** United Methodist Women sends a delegation of 25 to the National Network of Immigrant and Refugee Rights national conference in Houston and participates in a border tour organized by the Black Alliance for Just Immigration.

At National Seminar in Nashville, United Methodist Women members act for racial justice in public witness with the homeless.

## 2008

**2010:** Rising racism, vitriol and threats of violence surround the debate for health care legislation.

Arizona passes SB1070, criminalizing undocumented migrants in the state.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (commonly referred to as the ACA and colloquially as "Obamacare") is signed into law by President Obama. The ACA proposes to extend health care coverage to roughly half of the 50 million uninsured individuals, many poor and people of color, across the nation by 2016.

**2010–2011:** A pastor burns the Koran in Gainesville, Florida, in an expression of anti-Islamic sentiment.

**2011:** The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial opens in Washington, D.C.

The U.S. Senate apologizes for the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.

A record number of individuals, two million migrants, are deported from the United States between 2008–2012.

**2008:** United Methodist Women joins the Race and Grace Ministry, an ecumenical initiative to confront the negative use of race, gender and religion by candidates, media and the public during the 2008 presidential election campaign. On December 13, 100 United Methodist Women members and United Methodists from across the New York Conference hold a vigil at an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention facility, calling for an immediate end to raids, detention, and deportations.

Inelda González becomes the first Hispanic national president.

**2009:** United Methodist Women members join an ecumenical group in Postville, Iowa, site of a massive 2008 ICE raid, to respond to needs.

**2010:** Women's Division directors issue a letter inviting United Methodist Women members to "Speak Out for Compassion and Against Hate." The call for action comes at a time of deep economic crisis and global shifts that perpetuate violence.

United Methodist Women members march and pray at Assembly 2010 with thousands from St. Louis, Missouri, on behalf of immigrant, civil, and human rights. They also write and send postcards to the Secretary of Homeland Security calling for family unity and an end to racial profiling.

**2011:** United Methodist Women members in New York City join an interfaith vigil organized by New York Neighbors for American Values to counter anti-Islam mobilization at Ground Zero in New York City on September 10, 2011.

## 2011



2011

**2011:** Trayvon Martin, a 17-year-old African American, is shot and killed by George Zimmerman, a neighborhood watch volunteer in Florida. The case highlights how racial profiling disproportionately targets African American men because of inherent unconscious biases that persistently endanger their lives.

**2012:** The U.S. Supreme Court upholds the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate as an exercise of Congress's power to tax.

The U.S. government's use of drone warfare increases around the world, including in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Yemen, crossing into a new frontier where killing is seemingly risk-free, remote, and detached from human cues. Thousands are killed and many more suffer injury and destruction of their homes, communities, and livelihoods as a result of drone warfare.

The United States reelects Barack Obama, the nation's first African American president, to a second term.

2012



**2011:** Voices: A Transformative Leadership Event, the first ever training event exclusively for language coordinators and conference presidents, is held in Nashville.

National Seminar participants in Birmingham, Alabama, remember civil rights history.

United Methodist Women participates in the United Nations' 10-year review of the World Conference Against Racism and hosts a forum on race and migration.

**2012:** United Methodist Women sends two petitions to General Conference related to racial justice: "Speaking Out for Compassion and Against Hate" and "Criminalization of Communities of Color in the United States."

## 2012

**2013:** Key provisions of the 1965 Voting Rights Act are struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court, which erroneously notes in its majority decision that “the conditions that originally justified these measures no longer characterize voting in the covered jurisdictions.”



George Zimmerman is acquitted of Trayvon Martin’s 2012 murder. The acquittal ignites protests around the country that call for reforms to a criminal justice system that still suffers from gross and persistent racial bias.

#BlackLivesMatter Movement launches by mobilizing millions of protesters after the killing of Trayvon Martin thanks to the leadership of Alicia Garza, Opal Tometi, and Patrisse Cullors.



**2012:** To counter hate speech in anti-Muslim ads supporting Israel in a “war between civilized man and the savage,” United Methodist Women places signs in subway stations throughout New York City and Washington, D.C., that state, “Hate speech is not civilized. Support peace in word and deed.”

United Methodist Women continues to build on its long-standing practice that integrates racial justice education and advocacy as a core leadership development emphasis.

United Methodist Women expands racial justice monitoring within the organization intersecting it with just economic, environmental, health, and accessibility criteria.

A Native American Consultation is held to identify, explore, and strategize ways to strengthen leadership, mission, and ministry with Indigenous women in The United Methodist Church.

## 2013

**2013:** United Methodist Women co-convenes the 6th annual People’s Global Action on Migration, Development and Human Rights, which brings together hundreds of grassroots leaders and organizers from around the world.

2013



**2013:** Directors of United Methodist Women embark on a multi-year effort to operationalize the Acts of Repentance with Native Americans throughout United Methodist Women and the entire Methodist church.

The United Methodist Women's Church Center for the United Nations across from the UN in New York City celebrates its 50th anniversary. The Center continues to serve as a home for NGOs and interfaith organizations working on peace and justice issues.

**2013–2016:** United Methodist Women becomes an independent organization within The United Methodist Church, reduces its board size, and adds a representative program advisory group. New board officers reflect the ever-growing geographical, language and ethnic/cultural diversity of the organization. They include Yvette Richards, president; Tupou S. Kelemen, vice president; Becky Thompson, secretary; Judith Pierre-Okerson, chair of the committee on governance; and Nichea VerVeer Guy, chair of the committee on finance.



2014

**2014:** Eric Garner, an African American man, is killed by a New York City police officer on Staten Island. The officer keeps Garner in a chokehold for 15 seconds ignoring Garner's frequent pleas, "I can't breathe." Although Garner's death is deemed a homicide by the city coroner, the officer is not indicted. The non-indictment of the officer leads to weeks of near daily protests around the nation and in New York City to demand justice for Garner and, more broadly, police accountability.

Michael Brown, an 18-year-old African American man, is shot fatally by police in Ferguson, Missouri. The shooting and the non-indictment of the officer cause months of protest and uprisings in Ferguson and around the nation. Thousands of protesters take to the streets to expose police brutality and a broken and biased criminal justice system.

# 2014

**2014:** The United States reopens family detention centers in Texas and Pennsylvania. The detention facilities hold mainly refugee women and children seeking to escape violence and extreme poverty in Central America.



**2014:** United Methodist Women responds to the increasing killing of unarmed black people by law enforcement and vigilantes with critical public statements that also address the broad crisis of mass incarceration as a racial justice concern for the church and wider world. Dialogues are held among staff and with leaders and members about ways to confront the current and ongoing legacy of racism.

United Methodist Women/National Mission Institutions respond to an increase in the flow of refugees coming across the United States' southern border by opening hospitality centers and advocating for policy changes by the U.S. government. Many of the refugees are women and children fleeing war, violence, and economic deprivation in Central America, circumstances created largely by U.S. trade and foreign policy in the region.

The United Methodist Women general secretary, the assistant general secretary for Christian Social Action, a deaconess, United Methodist Women members, and scores of allies participate in public witness and are arrested to express a moral imperative to stop the government policy that is deporting 1,100 people each day and tearing families apart.



# 2015

2014



**2014:** At Assembly 2014, public action highlights the racial and economic disparities in West Louisville, Kentucky. United Methodist Women’s “Be Just. Be Green.” initiative launches at Assembly. It outlines 13 Steps to Sustainability that provide practical, theologically sound tools for members to use to address the intersectional realities of gender, racial, economic, and climate injustice.

United Methodist Women hosts the International Day of Peace Symposium with powerful speakers, artists, and representatives from the United Nations and other organizations focused on how meeting the core human needs of food, water, and health is affected by gender, climate insecurity, and violent conflict.

**2015:** United Methodist Women joins organizations from across the nation in the Campaign to End Family Detention, the U.S. government’s use of detention for migrant families, including pregnant women and children, many of whom are refugees fleeing war and poverty in Central America.

United Methodist Women Baltimore–Washington Conference organizes a weekend-long racial justice seminar in Blackstone, Virginia, for the northeast jurisdiction, which includes nine conferences.

United Methodist Women commemorates the 15th anniversary of the unanimous adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, which focuses on women’s perspectives, needs, and concerns during war, peace negotiations, and post-conflict reconstruction.

2015



**2015:** Following the death of African American Freddie Gray while in police custody, thousands take to the streets to protest police abuse in Baltimore. The protests are part of a growing movement for black lives that focuses not only on ending police brutality, but addressing the underlying causes of systemic racism.

President Obama vetoes the Keystone XL oil pipeline. The pipeline’s construction would have made it easier to move heavily pollutive petroleum from Canadian oil sands. The process of extracting the oil-sands petroleum produces about 17% more planet-warming carbon pollution than conventional oil.

**2015:** While gathered in an evening Bible study, nine members of the Mother Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, were killed by a 21-year-old, self-proclaimed white supremacist. The victims, who became known as the “Emanuel 9,” and were eulogized by President Barak Obama, ranged in age from the church’s pastor and state senator 41-year-old Clementa C. Pickney to an 87-year-old choir member.

# 2016

**2016:** Residents of Genesee County, Michigan, are poisoned by water contaminated with lead and other toxins released into the Flint River. Black children suffer from lead poisoning at a rate three times that of white children.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe mounts a months-long encampment to protest the approved construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline, which would threaten the region's water source and the tribe's sacred burial grounds. The encampment faced severe and ongoing threats and brutality from law enforcement.

Donald J. Trump wins the U.S. presidential election after running a campaign in which he employed racist rhetoric, calling Mexicans rapists and proposing a ban on all Muslims entering the United States.

The number of hate groups in the United States rises for a second year according to the Southern Poverty Law Center. The most dramatic growth is the near-tripling of the number of anti-Muslim hate groups—from 34 in 2015 to 101 in 2016.

**2017:** President Trump signs two Executive Orders (13769 and 13780) banning entry of people from seven Muslim-majority nations. The orders also seek to begin the dismantling of the entire U.S. refugee program. Simultaneous



protests occur at airports across the country. Federal judges halt these "Muslim bans" on the grounds that they are unconstitutional.

White supremacists and neo-Nazis rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, in a bid to mobilize and unite white nationalists. Counter-protestors gather to oppose the white supremacists. One counter-protestor is killed and many are injured.



**2016:** In November 2016, United Methodist Women CEO and General Secretary Harriett Jane Olson (left) visits the North Dakota Standing Rock reservation in solidarity with the "water protectors" resisting the building of the Dakota Access Pipeline. This witness coincides with United Methodist Women focused leadership development efforts for advocacy and action to stop repression and displacement, and to support local resistant efforts such as those against the Dakota Access Pipeline and the Flint Michigan water crisis.

Racial Justice Charter Support (RJCS) Team convenes for the first time.

**2017:** United Methodist Women partners with ecumenical and interfaith partners to challenge the targeting of Muslims.

United Methodist Women issues statement and calls for action to support Dreamers as Trump attempts to end DACA protections for many undocumented youth and young adults.

# 2017

2018

**2018:** A new “zero tolerance policy” results in thousands of children separated from their families at the U.S.–Mexico border. Protests criss-cross the country with a demand for an end to the cruelty of migrant family separation.

Eleven people are killed and six wounded at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh after a white supremacist/neo-Nazi terrorist attacked the congregation gathered for Sabbath services.

**2018:** United Methodist Women return to Columbus, Ohio, for Assembly with the theme “The Power of BOLD.” Members rally at the Ohio Statehouse demanding a living wage for all.



**2019:** 23 people are killed and many injured at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, in an anti-Latinx mass shooting.

Atatiana Jefferson, an African American woman in Texas, is killed by a police officer while playing video games with her nephew, shot to death through the window of her own home.

**2019:** United Methodist Women members write and deliver “Faith to Ford” letters as part of a campaign to ensure Just Energy 4 All, addressing issues of climate justice and environmental racism. United Methodist Women also issue a statement in support of the student climate strike.

Central Texas Conference United Methodist Women mobilize with #SayHerName, mourn Atatiana Jefferson and call for justice at a vigil on #WhatsNext.



**2020:** A global pandemic of the novel coronavirus shuts down much of the world, affecting millions, and disproportionately affecting people of color in the United States. The Navajo Nation experiences a wave of COVID-19 deaths.

President Trump further inflames anti-Asian American racism and violence through his insistence on referring to the novel coronavirus as the “Chinese virus.”

Police and vigilante lynchings of black people continue to shake the country: Ahmaud Arbery is killed while jogging; Breonna Taylor is killed while sleeping in her own home; and George Floyd is killed when a Minneapolis police officer presses his knee into Floyd’s neck for 9 minutes. Black Lives Matter protests and uprisings demand justice and systemic change. Protests are widespread and persist across the country, even in the midst of the ongoing pandemic.

Kamala Harris, first woman and Black and South-Asian person elected vice-president of the United States of America.

2020

**2020:** United Methodist Women members contact their legislators to support the Ending PUSHOUT Act introduced by Rep. Ayanna Pressley as part of an ongoing commitment to interrupt the school-to-prison pipeline.

United Methodist Women issue statements condemning the extrajudicial killings, calling for a recommitment to antiracism and affirming that black lives matter.

United Methodist Women’s Board of Directors issues an organizational position for General Conference centered on gender equity, mutuality in mission, antiracism, LGBTQ+ inclusion, and regionalization.



# The United States 2021-2024

# Women of the United Methodist Tradition 2021-2024

## 2021

**2021:** A mob of white nationalists storm the U.S. Capitol in an attempt to interrupt the peaceful transfer of power to the incoming president. This behavior is encouraged by a host of political leaders, including the outgoing president.

A racist murder spree targets Asian American women in the Atlanta, Georgia area in a sexualized hate crime that expresses the ongoing impacts of gendered anti-AAPI hate and violence, killing eight.

**2022:** A white supremacist targets African Americans at a Buffalo, New York grocery store, killing 10 and wounding three others. The Supreme Court overturns *Roe v Wade*, ending national protections for women's reproductive autonomy.

**2023:** The Supreme Court overturns affirmative action protections, undermining college and university efforts to strengthen racial diversity and equity in higher education. The Supreme Court upholds the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), a key protection for Native American and Alaska Native children and families.

More than 1,200 Israelis and other nationals are killed with more than 200 others taken hostage on October 7th. More than 33,000\* Palestinians are killed in the subsequent war. The majority of Palestinians in Gaza are internally displaced. Gender-based harms are rampant. The United States government provides support for Israel's war. South Africa brings charges of genocide to international court. Instances of threatening behaviors towards Palestinian Americans and Jewish Americans increase within the United States.

**2024:** Immigrants are scapegoated in the run-up to a national election. Candidate Trump describes undocumented immigrants as "not people."

\*Number at time of publication.

## 2024

**2021:** United Methodist Women joins the Coordinating Committee for the Dignity in Schools Campaign, a coalition focused on ending the school-to-prison pipeline.

**2022:** United Methodist Women changes its name to United Women in Faith and launches an Impact JOIN option primarily focused on racial and climate justice.

**2022-2023:** United Women in Faith provides substantial grants to Girls Embracing Mothers and the Seventh Generation Fund for Indigenous Peoples, a material expression of its commitment to justice efforts that center Black and Native American women and girls.

**2023:** Sally Vonner, United Women in Faith leader and long-time racial justice advocate, is elected as its first African American General Secretary and CEO, leading with an ambitious and hope-filled plan for growth.

United Women in Faith speaks out in defense of human rights in Gaza and condemns the devastating impact of the war on women and children and calls for a ceasefire, the release of all hostages, an end to the blockade on Gaza, humanitarian access, an arms embargo, and a peace process inclusive of women, women's organizations, and gender perspectives.

**2024:** After decades of struggle, General Conference overwhelmingly votes to eliminate the ban on LGBTQ+ clergy and same-sex marriages.

UWFAith's commitment to climate and racial justice leads the organization to start a pathway toward decarbonizing its investments and advocating for fossil fuel divestment at General Conference.

General Conference also votes to support the resolution on The Girl Child, which acknowledges the unique challenges and hardships faced by female children worldwide and the church's duty to work on their behalf.



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*Central American refugees in the U.S.* Silvia Penado (left) and Mirna Vasquez, refugees from El Salvador, sit in the airport in San Antonio, Texas, on December 2, 2015. With Vasquez is her daughter Catarin.

**Page 34, Right Column:**

1. Photo: Paul Jeffery  
*Support for Central American refugees in the U.S.* Volunteers assemble backpacks and bags of personal items for women and children who've been released from immigration detention facilities in Texas.

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United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities.



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