

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH: WHY WE REMEMBER

Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, you tell us not to be afraid of what the future holds, not to worry about tomorrow, but you know how difficult we find it to heed your words. For we worry about so many things, our families, our friends, our circumstances, some worries big worries, most worries tiny niggles. We come before you this day with these big and tiny worries, and with confidence we know we can lay them all at your feet. We bring our big worries about health and happiness and security for ourselves and for our loved ones. We bring big worries about the world we live in and its future existence as we continue to fail to address so many ecological problems. We bring big worries about the way people in our world are treated as less than human, exploited, tortured, helpless and abused. Father God, we know that you are concerned with every aspect of our lives, so we also bring the little things that concern us, the worries which keep us awake at night, the worries which only you know. Living God, reach out to all those for whom the future brings fears and uncertainties. Assure them that you are with them, even when that future seems dark and circumstances feel like they are spiraling out of control. Remind them that you are able to transform even the bleakest of situations, bring healing and wholeness. Lord we make our prayers in faith, for we know that your Spirit is at work in our world making all things new. Amen

African-Americans are a vital part of the tapestry of The United Methodist Church. They have played important roles in the development of the denomination in the United States since 1758.

On Saturday, August 19, 1967, the all-Black, segregated Central Jurisdiction of the Methodist Episcopal Church elected its 14th and final Episcopal leader, Bishop L. Scott Allen. This election and the ensuing service of consecration were the final acts to be performed by the jurisdiction. At midnight, that Saturday night, the Central Jurisdiction ceased to be, ending the period of open segregation of the races in the Methodist Episcopal Church. A sad chapter in Methodist history was now closed.

With the dissolution of the Central Jurisdiction a serious and nagging question remained for Black Methodists: Will there be a permanent place in the new United Methodist church for Black Methodists? The history of race relations within the Methodist Church has in many ways mirrored the history of race relations in American society. A service of appreciation at the 2004 General Conference celebrated African-American contributions, witness, and presence within the denomination and recognized “those who stayed” in spite of racism.

Today Black Methodists for Church Renewal represents more than 2,400 black United Methodist congregations and approximately 500,000 African-American members in the United States.

BLACK METHODISTS FOR CHURCH RENEWAL (BMCR) is the organized Black caucus of the United Methodist Church. We are one of the United Methodist denomination’s five U.S.-based ethnic caucuses. BMCR represents and is dedicated to more than 2,400 Black United Methodist congregations and approximately 500,000 African American members across the denomination.

BMCR continues to be a necessary force for change and accountability in the United Methodist Church today. This change and accountability spills over and benefit the Church’s global body. The tremendous need for Black leadership at the Episcopal and General Conference levels remains. The Church must be encouraged to maintain a global perspective, especially toward developing, African and Caribbean nations. The local church must be empowered with capable lay and clergy leadership. So much is still to be done. Black Methodists for Church Renewal, our time under God is now!!!

OUR MISSION - To raise up prophetic and spiritual leaders who will be advocates for the unique needs of Black people in The United Methodist Church. OUR VISION - A renewed transformed unified body of Christ on mission in the world. OUR PURPOSE - We, the people called Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Inc., created in the image of God, confess our Faith in a living and just God. We call ourselves and the entire United Methodist Church to

repentance, to rebuild God's Church as a community of faith, to declare the traditions and stories of the Bible and Black culture, to reclaim the black community and to liberate all people from racism and injustice everywhere.

## **BLACK HISTORY MONTH QUIZ WITH ANSWERS**

1. Historian Carter G. Woodson chose February as the month to honor black history because:

- Woodson was born in February.
- Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass were born in Feb.
- February was the shortest month.
- All of the above.

2. True or False, Black History Month is only celebrated in the United States.

3. The first Black History Month celebration in the U.S. took place when? • 1945 • 1957 • 1970 • 2000

4. This former slave became a famous abolitionist and a Methodist preacher.

- Sojourner Truth
- Harriett Tubman
- Harriett Beecher Stowe
- David Walker

5. Which United Methodist church is named after one of the "founding fathers of Gospel music?"

- Tindley Temple
- Jones Memorial United Methodist Church
- Barratt's Chapel
- Seay-Hubbard United Methodist Church

6. This former school, once a haven from racial prejudice, is now an UMCOR relief center:

- Scarritt Bennet Center, Nashville, Tennessee
- Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas
- Sager-Brown Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana
- The New Room, Bristol, England

7. After the U.S. Civil War, this trailblazing African American woman went to college, owned a business, and became a Methodist missionary.

- Susanna Wesley
- Susan Angeline Collins
- Billie Holiday
- Bishop Sharma Lewis

8. Mother African Zoar United Methodist Church in Philadelphia housed...

- The first well-baby clinic for African Americans
- A stop on the Underground Railroad
- A school
- All of the above

9. Who was the first African American bishop in the UMC? • Roy G. Biv • Roy C. Nichols • Roy Rogers • Roy Brown

10. Who was the only woman besides Coretta Scott King on the platform when MLK gave his "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963? • Jacquelyn Kennedy • Lena Horne • Mahalia Jackson • Dorothy Height

### Quiz Answers:

1. Historian Carter G. Woodson chose February as the month to honor black history because: Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass were born in February. Woodson's initial concept in 1926 was for "Negro History Week" to be held near the birthday of Abraham Lincoln on February 12 and of Frederick Douglass on February 14. Black communities had celebrated those dates together since the late 19th century. Learn more about African American contributions to The United Methodist Church.

2. The correct answer is False. Black History Month, also known as African-American History Month in the U.S., is an annual observance in Canada, Ireland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States. It began as a way to remember important people and events in the history of the African diaspora. It is celebrated each February in the United States and Canada, and in October in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and the Republic of Ireland.

3. The correct answer is 1970. Black educators and members of Black United Students at Kent State University organized the first month-long event. In 1976, President Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month during the U.S. Bicentennial celebration. He urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history".

4. The correct answer is Sojourner Truth. Born a slave named Isabella Bornefree, she changed her name to Sojourner Truth after New York abolished slavery and she cofounded Kingston Methodist Church. In 1843, Truth began to travel and preach and was heavily involved in the abolitionist movement. In her public speeches, she spoke of her religious faith along with her experiences as a slave.

5. The correct answer is Tindley Temple, located in Philadelphia. Charles Albert Tindley was a clergyman of the Methodist Episcopal Church and a founding figure in American Gospel music. Born in Berlin, Maryland in 1851, he died as pastor of a 12,500-member congregation in Philadelphia. He also wrote the words and music to dozens of Gospel hymns, including five published in the current United Methodist Hymnal and others found in the Songs of Zion songbook. Tindley was one of the "Founding Fathers of Gospel Music."

6. The correct answer is Sager-Brown Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana. Started in 1867, Sager Brown provided housing and education for black orphans of the U.S. Civil War. When the program was in financial straits in the early 1900s, Mrs. Addie Sager and Mrs. C. W. Brown purchased the school and gave it to the Woman's Home Mission Society to operate. The school closed in 1978 but became a disaster center in 1992 after Hurricane Andrew devastated the nearby area. Since then, United Methodist volunteers by the thousands have come to the site to pack relief kits for those in need.

7. The correct answer is Susan Angeline Collins. Born in Illinois in 1851, the daughter of an indentured servant, she was the first African American student to attend Upper Iowa University. Collins worked in the home of a Methodist pastor in Iowa and went on to own a laundry business in Huron, Dakota. She later sold the laundry to follow a call to serve in the mission field. In 1887, at the age of 36, she went to Angola and served 13 years with no pay. She established a boarding school in Angola. And her story does not stop there. Watch more.

8. The correct answer is all of the above. Mother Zoar UMC served African Americans in Philadelphia as a stop on the Underground Railroad; the first well-baby clinic for African Americans; a school; and a source of credit for home loans

9. The correct answer is Roy Nichols was the first African American bishop in The United Methodist Church. He was elected a bishop at the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference in July 1968 and assigned to the Pittsburgh Area where he served for 12 years. He then served the New York Area until his retirement in 1984. As clergy, Nichols served in

Berkeley at one of the first integrated churches and he hosted a radio show called "The Christian Answer." In 1964 he became the pastor of the 4,600-member Salem United Methodist Church in Harlem and helped build a community center. Nichols was chair of the development committee at Africa University after his retirement. He died on Oct. 9, 2002.

10. The correct answer is Dorothy Height was the only woman, besides Coretta Scott King, on the platform with Rev. Martin Luther King when he gave his "Dream" speech in 1963. She was also on the platform when the first African American president of the U.S., Barack Obama, was sworn in 45 years later. As president of the National Council of Negro Women, Height helped organize voter registration in the South, voter education in the North and scholarship programs for student civil rights workers. Known as the "Godmother of the Civil Rights Movement" Height's advocacy helped pass the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Talking to Our Heavenly Father - *If we have faith, our prayers will be answered.*

### **You're Not Alone, Let Us Pray With You & For You**

- Bro. Martin Martinelli, healing and restoration after Ischemic stroke due to bacteremia; 659 South 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. West Bend. WI 53095
- The Family of Roger Kist on his passing; our deepest and heartfelt condolences to his family during this time of bereavement.
- Ms. Mary Rogge on the passing of her sister, Ms. Joan E. Milde; 4436 Magna Vista Dr. Jackson, WI 53037
- Mr. Ted Meilahn, restoration of strength and courage as he lives into his "new normal"; 1085 Fondu du Lac Ave., Box 23, Kewaskum, WI 53040
- Ms. Vivien Loomis, healing and strength after surgery; 1119 Schmidt Road, #1, West Bend, WI 53090
- Ms. Julia Stettler, strength and ability to meet the challenges and changes that will occur during the next few months; 107 Cedar Ridge Dr. #N313, West Bend, WI 53095
- 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue UMC's Laity, Laity Leadership, Pastor & Bro. Martin – Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.
- The welfare and security of the United States of America and democracy itself.
- Bro. Bob Krell, recovering from surgery; 804 Lenora Drive, West Bend, WI 53090
- Mr. Roger Sacia, prayers for healing; Mrs. Nobi Sacia words of encouragement and prayers for healing; 502 Crocus Court, West Bend, WI 53095
- Ms. Nancy Whitson, healing and strength after hospitalization; 922 Hickory Street, West Bend, WI 53095
- Ms. Sandy Abuya, strength and continued healing; 328 East Washington Street, #1, Slinger, WI 53086
- Mr. William (Bill) Hornung, in inpatient rehabilitation; Mrs. Ginger Hornung, strength and courage; W193 N16339 Lea Fon Circle, Jackson, WI 53037
- Ms. Betty Felt, the passing of her sister, 2130 Continental Dr. #211, West Bend, WI 53095.

Prayer: "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." – Jeremiah 29:11

Ever living and ever-loving God, we praise you for your loving presence with us. Come, Holy Spirit, take and transform our societies that broken people find healing; that lonely people find love; that bitter people find peace; that fearful people find hope. Come, Holy Spirit, take our world's leaders and governments and bring renewal that communication can be open; that relationships between hostile people and hostile nations will evaporate; that a hunger for justice addresses the hunger for food felt by so many. Come, Holy Spirit, fill your church that our worship will be ever more pleasing to you; that prayers will change our minds instead of trying to get you to change yours; that our lives will make a real difference to real people in the real world.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill our lives with your presence— so that more and more every day, all that we do and say and hope will be an act of worship to you and an expression of love to others, to the glory of your name. Amen.

**With fervent hope, your humble Pastor-servant leader, Pastor Clarissa & Bro. Martin**