

The United Methodist Women



RACIAL JUSTICE TIME LINE



This Racial Justice Time Line notes important moments of racial justice history in the United States and United Methodist Women.



United Methodist Women Racial Justice Time Line

Human rights for all people is one of the historic principles of United Methodist Women. God is the creator of all people of all races, and we are all God's children. Therefore, opportunities for fellowship and service, personal growth and freedom in every aspect of life are inherent rights of everyone.

United Methodist Women from its beginnings has tried to build a community and social order without racial barriers, as this time line shows. Racial justice is an ongoing focus of United Methodist Women mission as members work to promote racial justice in the United States and around the world.

The United States

1857: *Dred Scott v. Sandford* Supreme Court decision 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: Homestead Act allows 311 million acres of Western Native American lands to be sold to European homesteaders, land grant colleges and railroad companies.

1863: 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 for the transcontinental railroad.

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

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

1857–1945

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

1870: Clara Swain and Isabella Thoburn are sent to India as first English women missionaries by Woman's Foreign Missionary Society.

1873: Bennett College, for African American women, in Greensboro, N.C., is founded in the basement of Warrenton United Methodist Church.

1880: Methodist women mission leaders in the United States organize the Woman's Home Missionary Society to help free black people in the south and later teach for the Mexicans of New Mexico, minister to Mormon women under polygamy and address the injustices experienced by Native Americans.

Dr. Shih Mei-yu is first female medical missionary in Central China.

1885: Mary Fletcher Scranton of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society founds the first school for girls in the history of Korea, which later becomes Ewha High School.

United Methodist Women

1870s: Reconstruction: African Americans gain citizenship rights and mobilize for public education and elected offices. White supremacists embark on a campaign of terror.

1875: First exclusionary act bars Chinese contract laborers and Chinese women immigrants from entry in the United States.

1883: Supreme Court ruling undermines 14th Amendment and opens the way for Jim Crow laws and lynchings.

1896: Supreme Court in *Plessy v. Ferguson* establishes “separate but equal” rule upholding segregation.

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

1900: 14 million immigrants arrive between 1900 and 1920, primarily from northern Europe. The Chinese Exclusion Act is extended from 1902-1912.

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

1890: Education for Hispanic children was offered at Harwood School in Albuquerque, N.M., Frances DePauw School in Los Angeles, Calif., and later George O. Robinson School in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

1899: Kim Seji becomes first Bible Woman in Korea.

Late 19th early 20th century: Woman’s Home Missionary Society began creating national mission institutions like Gum Moon House San Francisco, Calif., to serve urban and immigrant women seeking work and shelter.

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, Tenn., to serve ethnic minorities and disadvantaged neighborhoods.

1901: Anna Hall and Martha Ann Drummer are the first African American women missionaries sent to Africa by the Woman’s Foreign Missionary Society, beginning a 50-year practice of sending African American women only to Africa.

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

1907: 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: Mexican revolution sends peasants to the border seeking safety and jobs.

The Great Migration: More than 1 million African Americans migrate from South to North.

1917: United States enters WWI.

1919: U.S. Department of Justice deportations and roundups of "aliens" from southern Europe and Latin America in Palmer Raids. Thousands are arrested, and many immigrant activists are deported.

United States

1857–1945

Women of the United Methodist tradition

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

1907: The Rev. Lois G. Neal is born. She is first native woman named as a district superintendent in the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference. Ms. 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.

1919: Thelma Stevens, the first head of the Woman's Division's Department of Christian Social Relations, is born. She will use the power of invitation to work for social change and invite people to work and be in fellowship across racial lines. Her invitations change the lives of many of her friends and co-workers.



1920: Women 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, deported.

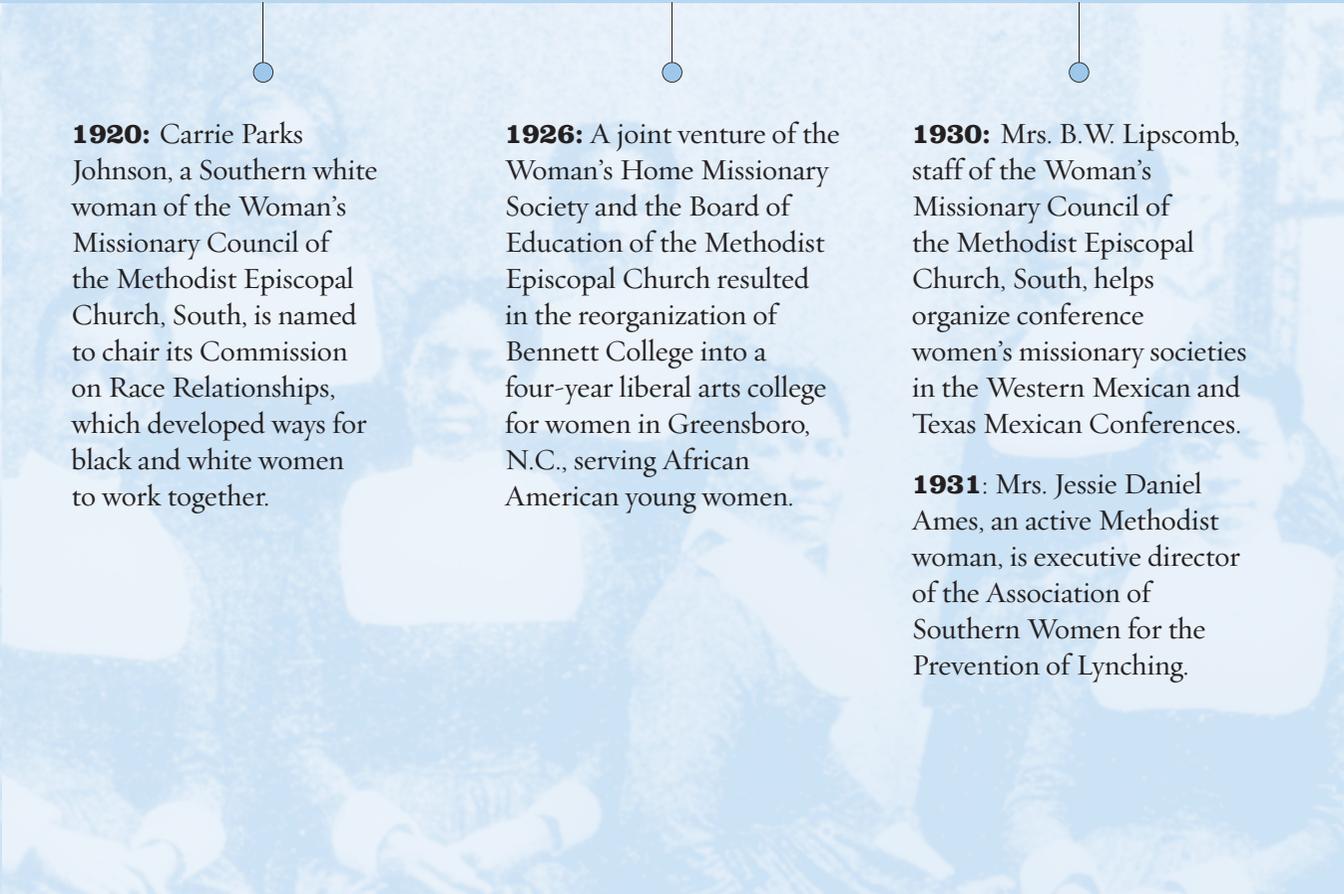
1921: Quota Act favors immigration from Europe.

1922: The Cable Act declares any woman U.S. citizen who marries “an alien ineligible to citizenship” will lose her citizenship.

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

1924: Indigenous people granted the right to citizenship.

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

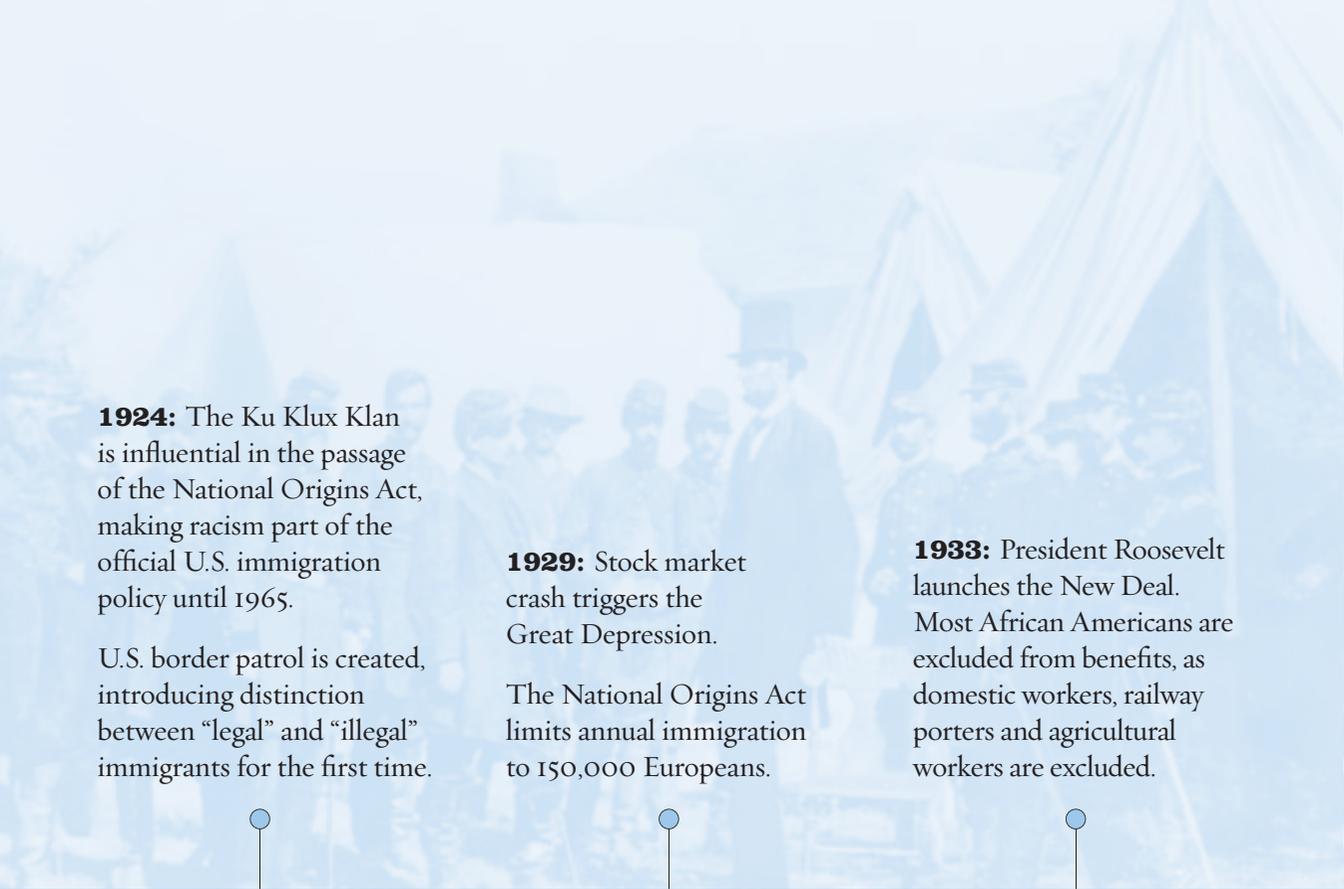


1920: Carrie Parks Johnson, a Southern white woman of the Woman’s Missionary Council of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, is named to chair its Commission on Race Relationships, which developed ways for black and white women to work together.

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

1930: Mrs. B.W. Lipscomb, staff of the Woman’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: Mrs. Jessie Daniel Ames, an active Methodist woman, is executive director of the Association of Southern Women for the Prevention of Lynching.



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.

U.S. border patrol is created, introducing distinction between “legal” and “illegal” immigrants for the first time.

1929: Stock market crash triggers the Great Depression.

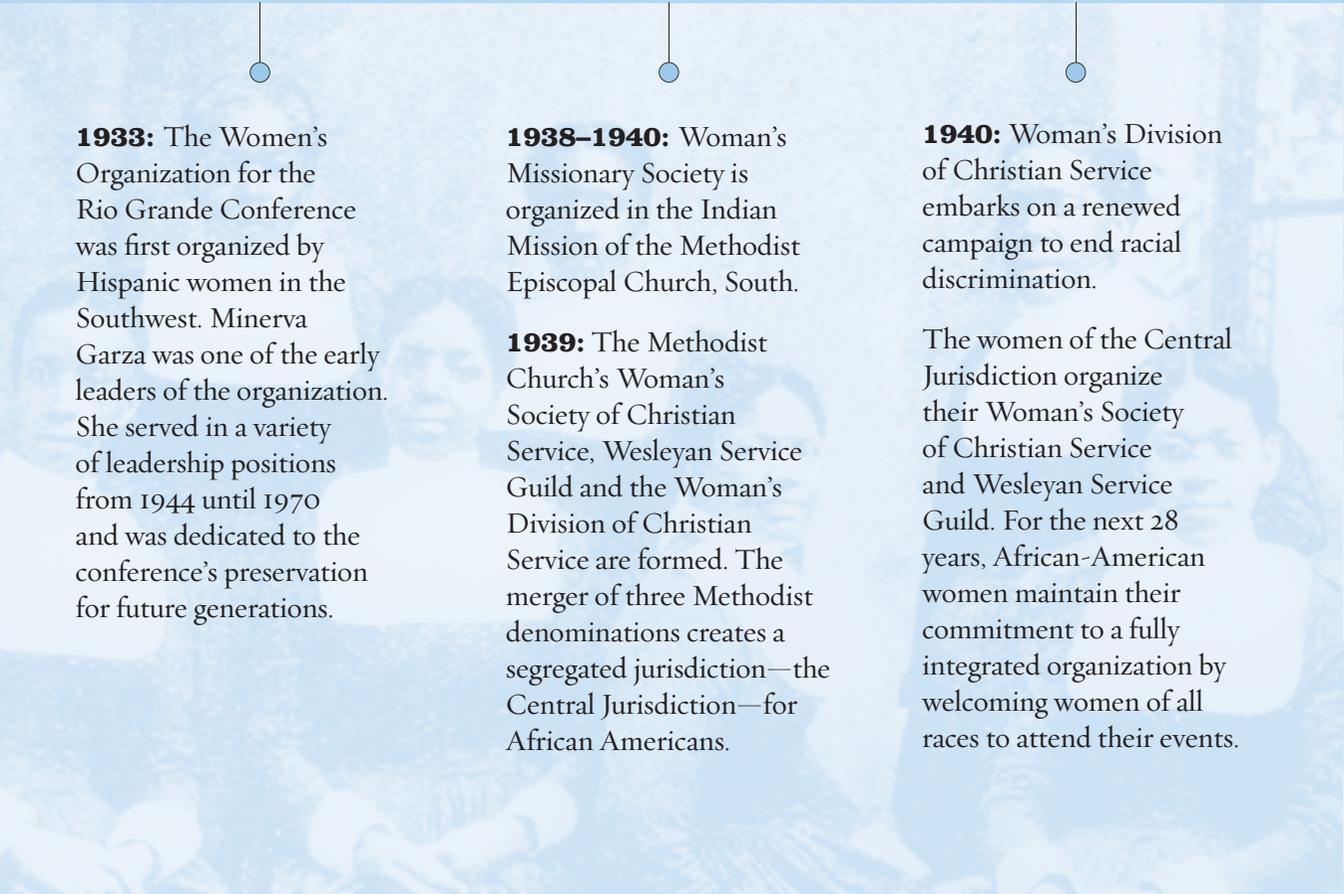
The National Origins Act limits annual immigration to 150,000 Europeans.

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

United States

1857–1945

Women of the United Methodist tradition



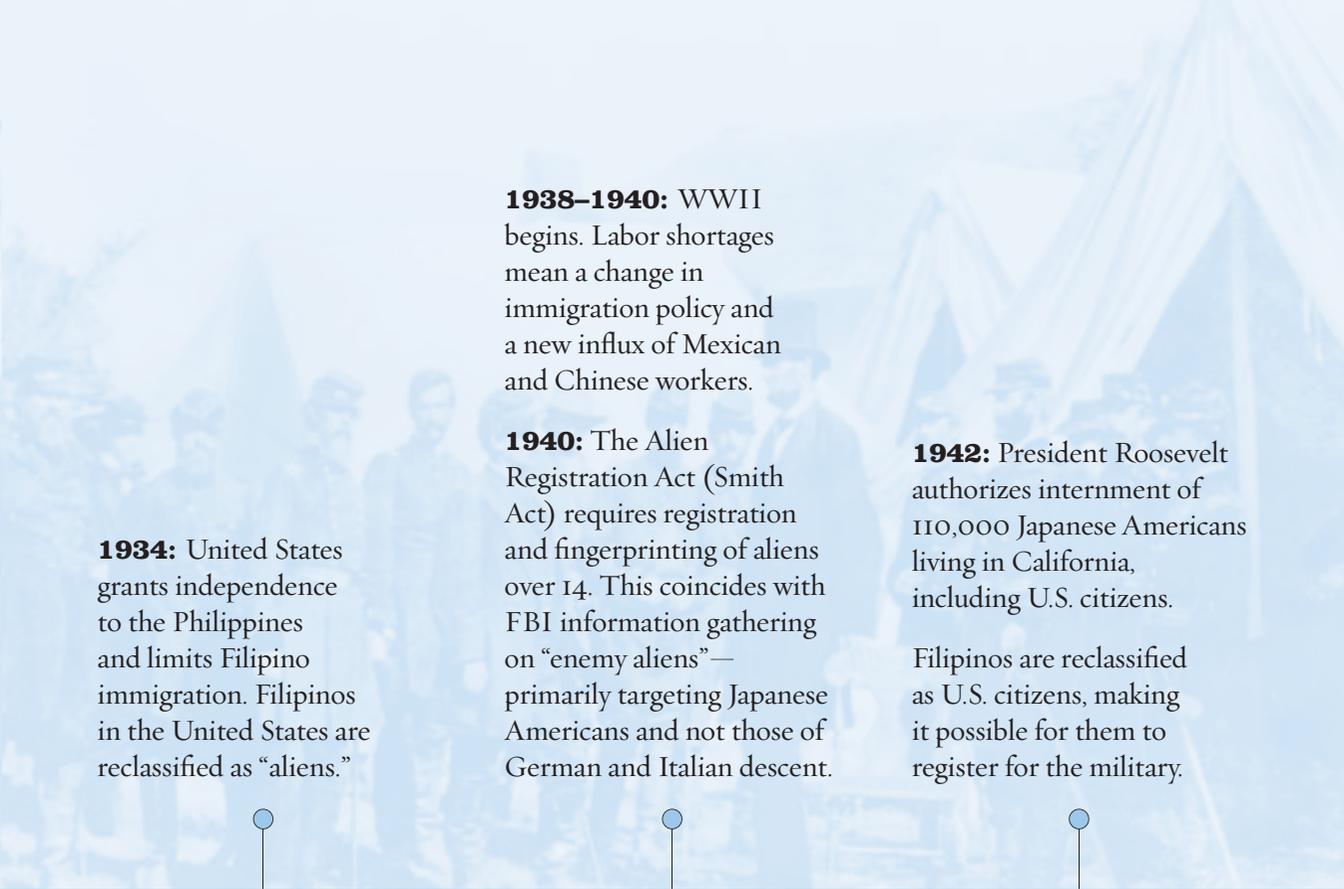
1933: The Women’s Organization for the Rio Grande Conference was first organized by Hispanic women in the Southwest. Minerva Garza was one of the early leaders of the organization. She served in a variety of leadership positions from 1944 until 1970 and was dedicated to the conference’s preservation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

1938–1940: 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: Woman’s Division of Christian Service embarks on a renewed campaign to end racial discrimination.

The women of the Central Jurisdiction organize their Woman’s Society of Christian Service and Wesleyan Service Guild. For the next 28 years, African-American women maintain their commitment to a fully integrated organization by welcoming women of all races to attend their events.



1934: United States grants independence to the Philippines and limits Filipino immigration. Filipinos in the United States are reclassified as “aliens.”

1938–1940: WWII begins. Labor shortages mean a change in immigration policy and a new influx of Mexican and Chinese workers.

1940: The Alien Registration Act (Smith Act) requires registration and fingerprinting of aliens over 14. This coincides with FBI information gathering on “enemy aliens”— primarily targeting Japanese Americans and not those of German and 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.

1941: The Woman’s Division of Christian Service adopts a policy of “holding its meetings only in places where all members of its group can be entertained without any form of racial discrimination.”

Lillian Warrick becomes first African-American woman elected to 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 the Methodist women moved from St. Louis, Mo., to Columbus, Ohio, because St. Louis hotels would not accommodate African-American women.

1944: Elida García Falcón, a Spanish-speaking woman, begins translation of the Program Book into Spanish. (It cost 60 cents!) She and her daughter, Clothilde F. Nunez, continue the translation for 26 years.

The United States

1945: Germany surrenders. United States drops atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japan surrenders.

United Nations founded.

1947: Jackie Robinson breaks baseball color line.

1948: Truman ends segregation in U.S. military.

Policy of apartheid imposed in South Africa, a legal separation of Africans, whites, Indians and “coloreds” under white minority rule.

Adoption of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

1952: 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.

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

1945–1965

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

1947: 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 Senate bill to ensure funds for public education for all people regardless of race, creed or residence.

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.

United Methodist Women



1953: Second wave of Korean immigrants enter 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.

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

1955: Rosa Parks, secretary of the Montgomery, Ala., 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.

1949: Ellen Barrett becomes the first African-American woman to be sent as a missionary to a country other than Africa. She was sent to India.

Dorothy Rogers Tilly, a Southern white woman and member of the Woman’s Society of Christian Service, serves on President Truman’s Commission on Civil Rights and as Southeastern Jurisdiction Secretary of Christian Social Relations.

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 research for the U.S. Supreme Court in its deliberations on *Brown v. Board of Education*.

1952: Woman’s Division adopts a 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.

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



1960: Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) is founded at Shaw University, Raleigh, N.C.

Lunch counter sit-in protests against segregation take place in Greensboro, N.C.

1961: 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.

United States

1945–1965

Women of the United Methodist tradition

1954: The Woman's Division asks conferences and jurisdictions to ratify the Charter of Racial Policies and to commit to its implementation. Woman's Division issues a statement against segregation in public education as an infringement against the 14th Amendment.

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

1958: First Spanish-language School of Christian Mission is organized by Minerva Nanez Garza in the Rio Grande Conference.

1960: February 1, four students from Bennett College, a historically African American Methodist College, were refused service at Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, N.C., leading to further sit-ins and followed by Woman's Division moral and financial support for those in the civil rights struggle.





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

President John F. Kennedy is assassinated.

1964: 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.

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

African American James Chaney, and Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman, both white, working to register black voters in Mississippi, are murdered by the Ku Klux Klan.

President Johnson inaugurates a War on Poverty that helps reveal the racial character of poverty in the United States.

1962: A new Charter for Racial Policies is adopted by the Woman's Division. This was later adopted by General Conference upon Woman's Division petition. To challenge racial segregation, after 1964 Jurisdiction Schools of Christian Mission would become Regional Schools, organized on a cross-jurisdiction basis.

1963: The Woman's Division supports ecumenical groups participating in plans for a march on Washington for jobs and equality.

1964: Woman's Division staff joins a demonstration calling for the abolition of the segregated Central Jurisdiction at General Conference in Pittsburgh, Pa. 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.

The United States

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

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 Civil Rights Movement, Immigration Act eliminates race, creed and nationality quotas as basis for admission to United States.

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

1967: Thurgood Marshall is first African American appointed Supreme Court Justice.

Ban on interracial marriages ruled unconstitutional.

Urban Rebellions in Newark, N.J., and Detroit.

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

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

1965–1975

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

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

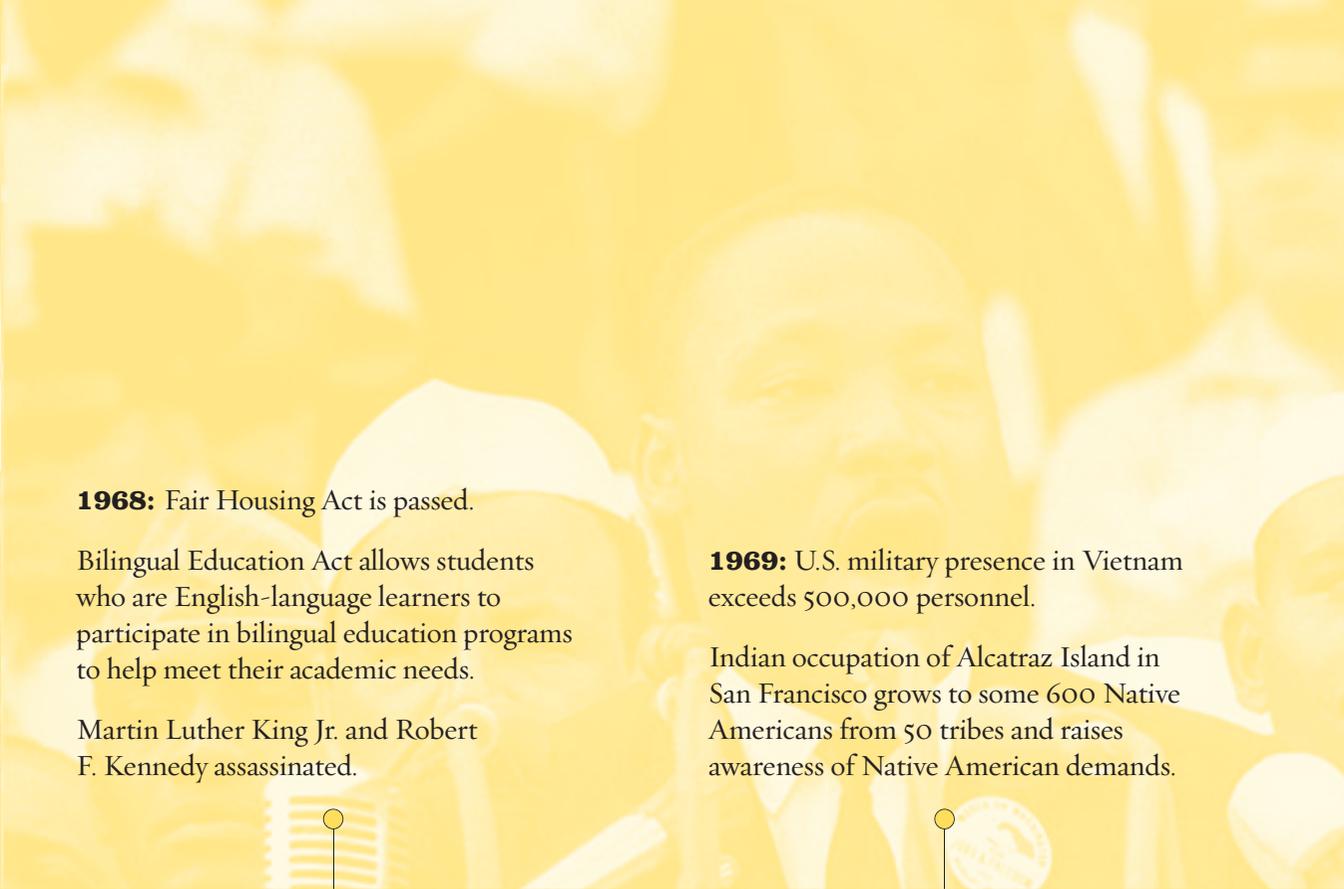
1966: First consultation with African-American women makes recommendations to Woman’s Division regarding leadership roles for African-American women in an inclusive church.

1968: Theresa Hoover becomes the first African American Deputy General Secretary of the Woman’s Division, the highest position held by African-American woman in the church at that time. She served through 1990.

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

1969: 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.

United Methodist Women



1968: Fair Housing Act is passed.

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 assassinated.

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: Woman's Division is part of ecumenical support network in the stand-off between American Indian Movement and U.S. officials at Wounded Knee, S.D., supplying observers, medical personnel and equipment, food and supplies.

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.

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

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 now 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.

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. Led by Cuban-American staff Consuelo de Urquiza, the event informed the division of the experiences of Hispanic/Latina women. Seminars are approved for Native-American, African-American, Asian-American and Hispanic women. Native-American women hold the first mission education event in Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference.



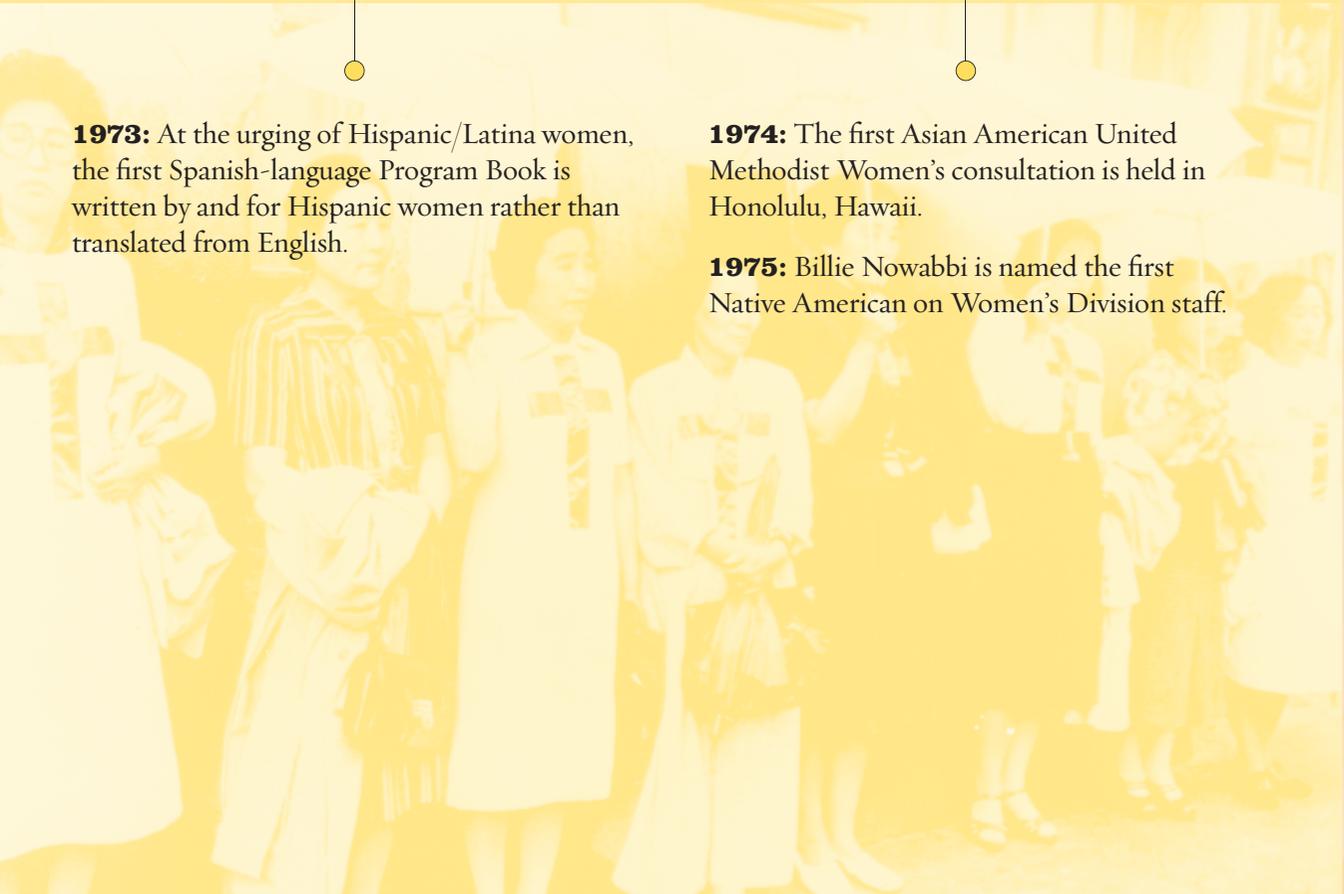
1970: Wounded Knee: Some 300 Lakota Sioux occupy the town of Wounded Knee on Pine Ridge Reservation to demand Native American rights. Many are members of the American Indian Movement. Two hundred FBI agents, federal marshals and Bureau of Indian Affairs police surround the town, armed with machine guns 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: 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.

United States

1965–1975

United Methodist Women



1973: 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.

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

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

The United States

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

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

1980: 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 intervention in El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Grenada, Lebanon, Libya, Iran and Panama contribute to new streams of immigration to the United States.

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

1975–2000

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

1975: The Native American Women's Caucus is born at a Native American United Methodist Women consultation in Kansas City, Mo. 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 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.

1978: The third Charter for Racial Justice addressing institutional racism in church and society and is adopted by Women's Division directors. Mai Gray introduces the charter at United Methodist Women Assembly in Louisville, Ky., and thousands of women march in silent vigil outside the site where the Methodist Episcopal Church had separated over slavery more than 100 years earlier.

1982: Vincent Chin, a Chinese-American draftsman, is clubbed to death in Detroit by two white men in anger against loss of auto jobs to Japan.

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

1986: 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-tier workforce.

The National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights is founded after religious groups support a national consultation on the issue.

1988: U.S. Senate supports redress of Japanese Americans forcibly detained during WWII.

1989: Fall of the Berlin Wall.

United States

1975–2000

United Methodist Women

1979: The Women's Division helps to found the National Anti-Klan network, now the Center for Democratic Renewal. Women's Division directors adopt a resolution against the practice of "redlining," a banking process to deny credit and bank access to poor communities, particularly communities of color.

1980: The Charter for Racial Justice Policies is adopted by General Conference as policy of the whole church, upon Women's Division petition.

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

1980s: United Methodist Women sponsor a series of Ethnic Seminars to provide a space for black, Latina, Native-American and Asian women to reflect on their experiences and to help the organization as a whole explore the deeper meaning of becoming a multicultural organization.

1984: Women's Division officers and cabinet in consultation with women of color discuss language needs and priorities and lay the groundwork for outreach to Spanish and Korean speaking members.

1985: Hispanic women's consultation in The United Methodist Church is held.

Argentinian American Nilda Ferrari joins the General Board of Global Ministries' staff. Her job includes translation of United Methodist Women resources into Spanish.

1990: 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.

Militarization of the U.S.-Mexico border and increased INS and private citizen violence against migrants crossing the border and against migrant workers in the United States.

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

South Africa repeals Apartheid Laws.

1992: Congress passes 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 policeman in the beating of Rodney King, leading to major urban rebellions, including targeting Korean businesses in California and other states.

1986: Women's Division withdraws investments in 14 companies doing business in South Africa to add pressure to end apartheid.

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 Ku Klux Klan and other hate groups in the United States.

1990: First South Asian United Methodist Women unit forms in Nashville, Tenn. Women's Division directors issue a resolution on Anti-Arab backlash to 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 is second African-American woman to serve as national president.

1993: First annual National Korean American Training held at Scarritt-Bennett Center, in Nashville, Tenn., involving 50 women.

1992 (cont.): 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: 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.

United States

1975–2000

United Methodist Women

1994: Women's Division directors assign monitoring of institutional racism to its Policy Committee.

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.

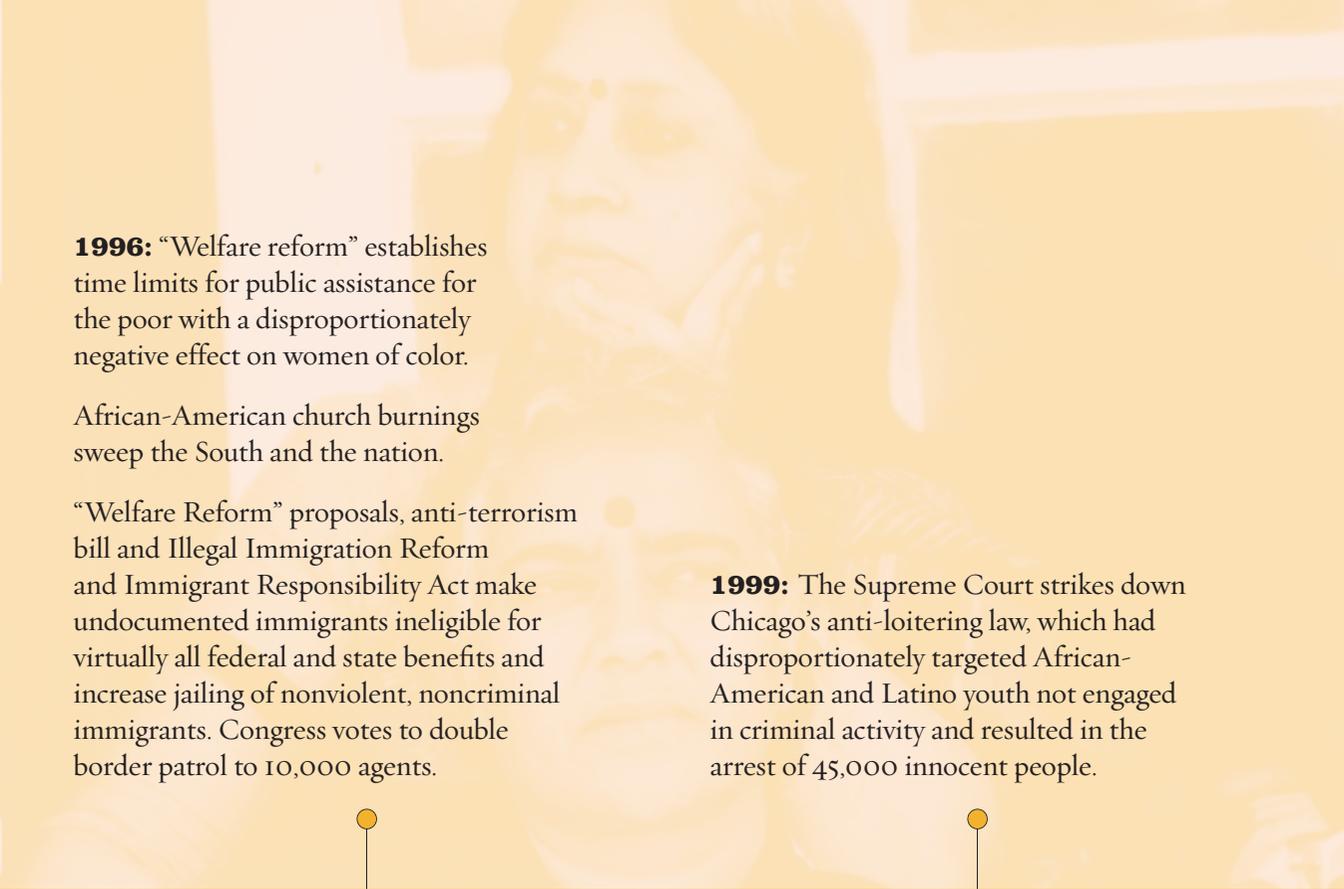
1995: Women's Division resolution "Global Racism: A Violation of Human Rights" is adopted by General Conference.

First Korean language classes are offered at a School of Christian Mission and first Korean women United Nations seminar offered.

1996: Women's Division directors' resolution supports Affirmative Action.

United Methodist Women mobilizes against church burnings that target African-American churches. Women's Division board resolution "Arson on Black Churches" is adopted. The first annual training of Korean American conference language coordinators is held at the Upper Atlantic Regional School.

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

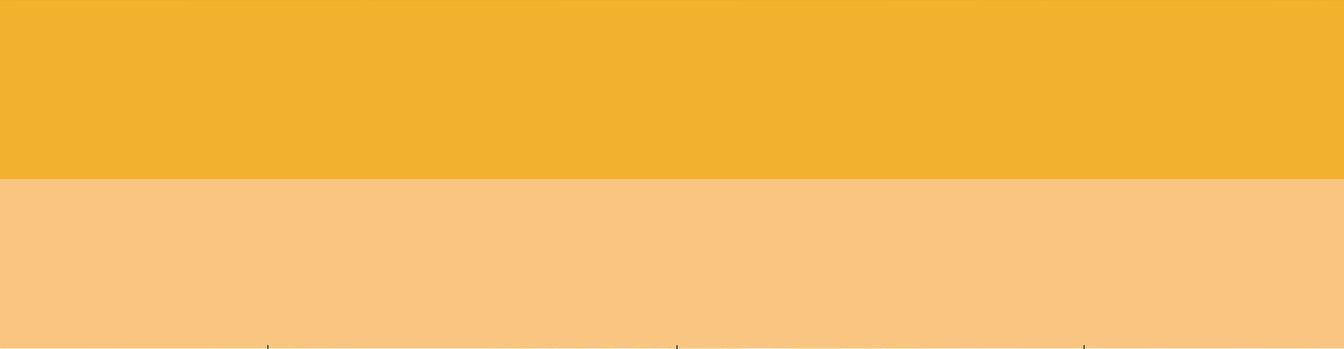


1996: “Welfare reform” establishes time limits for public assistance for the poor with a disproportionately negative effect on women of color.

African-American church burnings sweep the South and the nation.

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

1999: The 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.



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

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

The United States

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

U.S. Administration declares “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.

United States wages war in Afghanistan.

USA PATRIOT Act gives 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: Creation of Department of Homeland Security, which takes over responsibility for all immigration enforcement and emergency relief among other vast responsibilities.

9/11 attacks and world events alter the racial dynamics of the United States.

2000–present

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

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.

Haitian-Creole language coordinator is established by the Florida Conference.

Bible Women’s Pilot Training Project takes place in Sabah, Malaysia, in November, with 50 women representing eight different language groups in attendance.

2001: Women’s Division sends delegation of staff and directors to Durban, South Africa, to the United Nations World Conference Against Racism. Puerto Rican Magda Morales becomes Women’s Division first full-time Hispanic Coordinator for Hispanic Consultative Group and Spanish language conference coordinator.

United Methodist Women



2002–2003: 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 for “terrorists.” Some 13,000 men are placed in deportation proceedings for minor immigration infractions.

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

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

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/Pacific Island women, including Cambodian, Chinese, Filipino, Hmong, Japanese, Laotian, Native Hawaiian, Samoan, South Asian, Tongan and Vietnamese. Hispanic/Latina United Methodist Women National Training offers leadership development for a new generation of Hispanic/Latina women.

2003: Women’s Division board adopts resolution “Global Racism and Xenophobia: Impact on Women, Children and Youth,” affirming principles contained in 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: General Conference adopts Women’s Division resolution on environmental racism.

2004: 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.

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



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.

2005: The Minuteman Project, a vigilante group with 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.

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

United States

2000–present

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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.

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.

2006: United Methodist Women members write letters challenging legislation that would criminalize undocumented immigrants and all those who help them.

United Methodist Women begins 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.



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

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

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

2010: Arizona passes SB1070, criminalizing undocumented migrants in the state.

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

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

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 Dec. 13, 2008, 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.

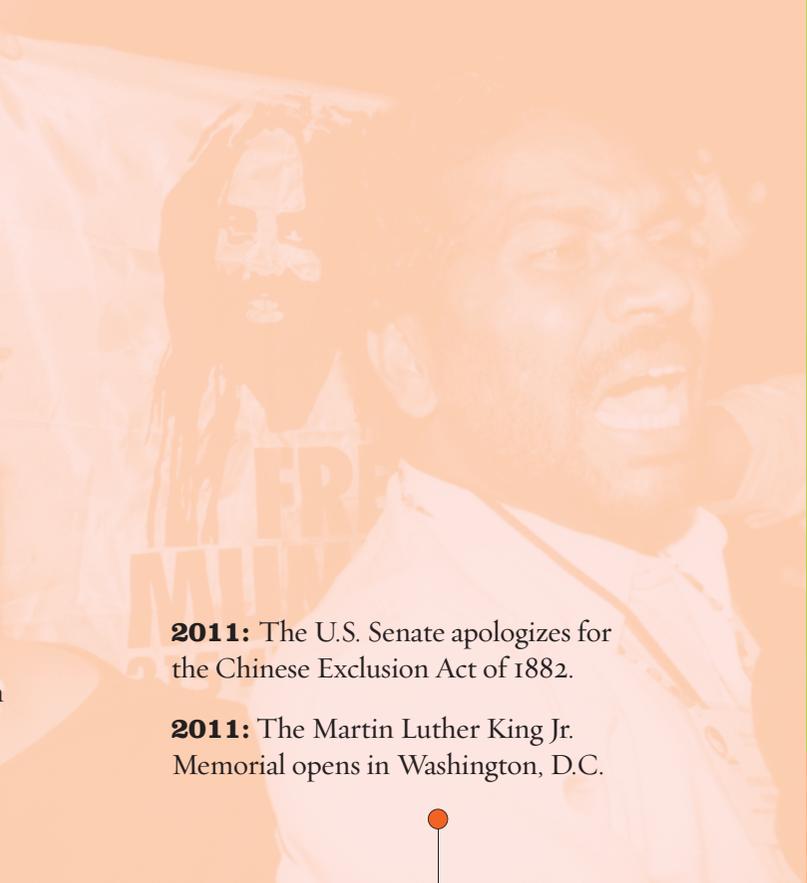
2008: Inelda González becomes first Hispanic national president.

2009: United Methodist women members in Iowa 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.



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



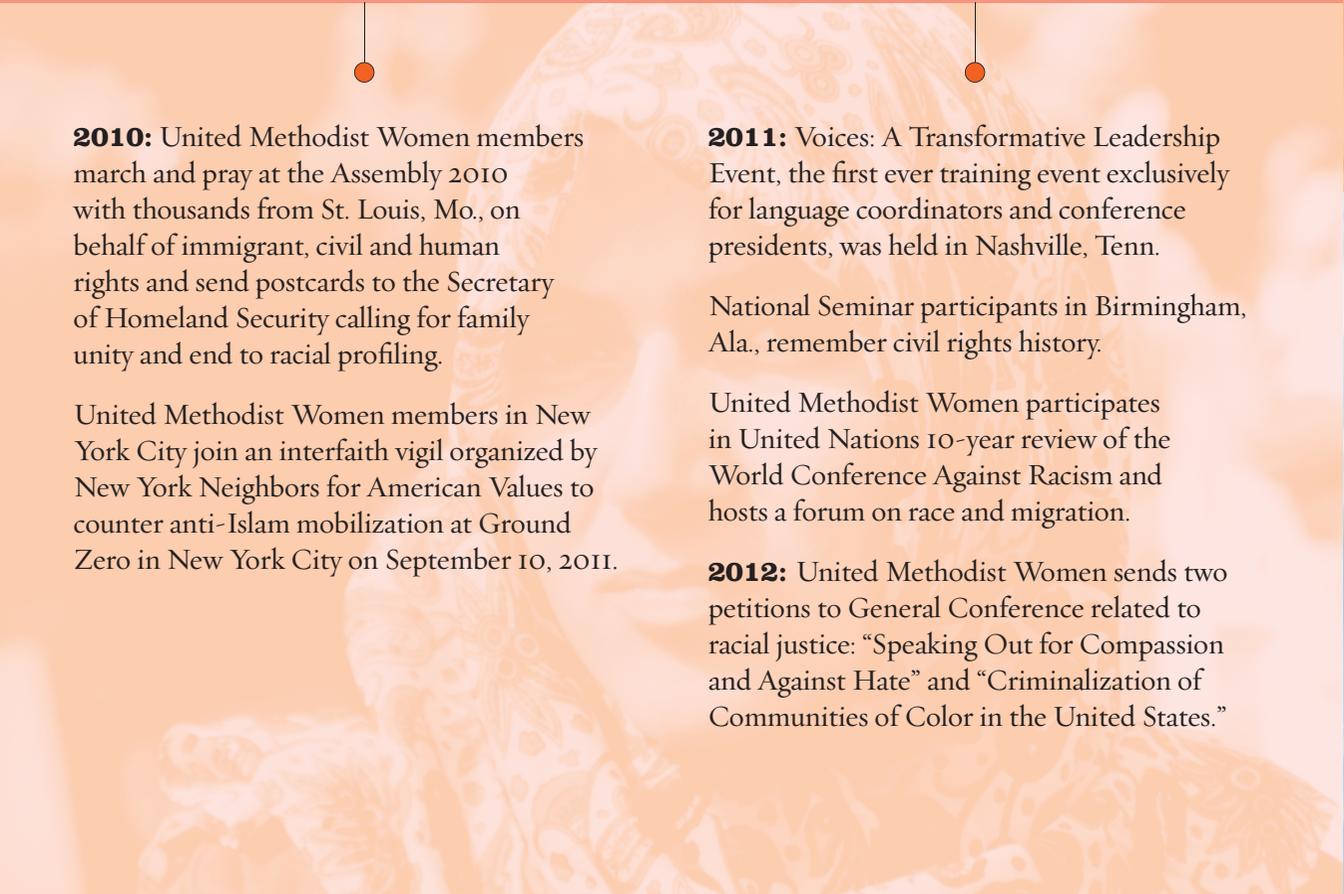
2011: The U.S. Senate apologizes for the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.

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

United States

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United Methodist Women



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

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

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

United Methodist Women participates in 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.”





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