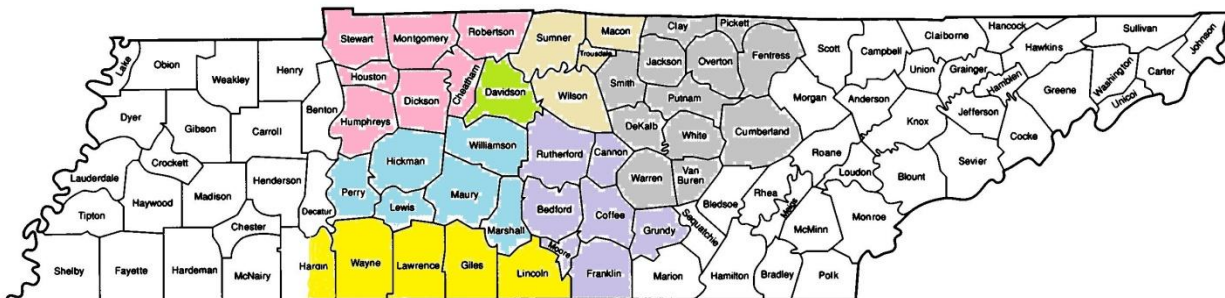


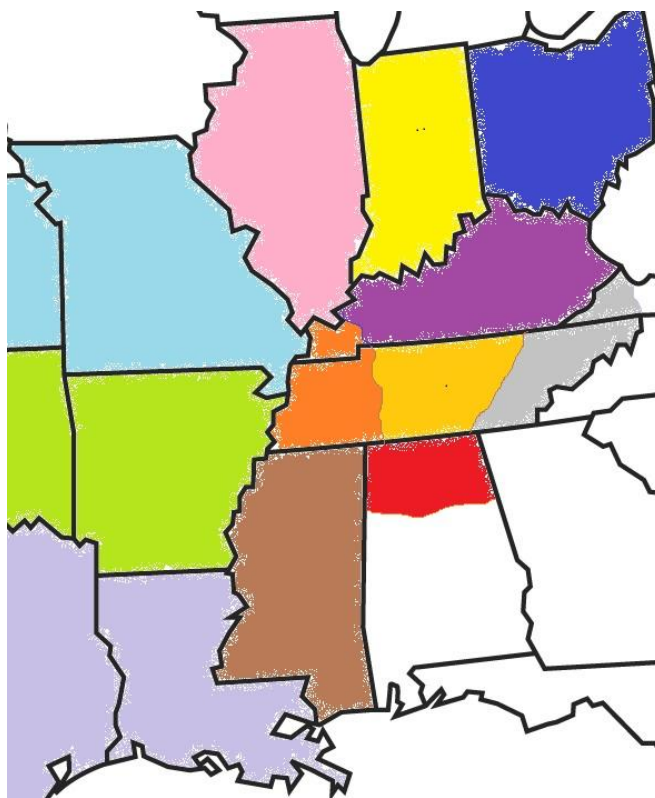
History of the Tennessee Conference (UMC)

Today's Tennessee Conference of The United Methodist Church is the merger of more than fourteen conferences and seven denominations. Geographically comprising 42 mid-state counties, it is bounded on the west by the Tennessee River and on the east by the Cumberland Plateau. In 2014, 119,000 persons were members in more than 600 local churches, with 48,000 persons worshipping God each Sunday.



Historical Growth of the Tennessee Conference

Initially formed as the Western Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1800, the Tennessee Conference consisted of all lands west of Pennsylvania, Virginia, and the Carolinas. The Western Conference was divided in 1812 into the Ohio (the territory north of the Ohio River) and Tennessee (lands south of the Ohio River) Conferences. The rapid growth of Methodism on the frontier, combined with the westward movement of an increasingly mobile nation, led to multiple subdivisions of the Tennessee Conference—Illinois (1816), Indiana (1816), Arkansas (1816), Missouri (1816), Louisiana (1816), Mississippi (1816), Kentucky (1820), Holston (1824), Memphis (1840), and North Alabama (1870).



Map shows the “spin-off” of other annual conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church from 1812 – 1870.

Bishops

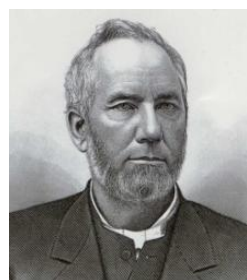
Beginning with William McKendree (1808), 26 Tennessee Conference clergy have become bishops in The United Methodist Church and its predecessor denominations. At least 15 more bishops have been a parent, sibling, or child of Tennessee Conference clergy; many more have lived within the bounds of the Tennessee Conference. Nine bishops are buried in Nashville; three on the Vanderbilt University campus; five at Mt. Olivet; one at Greenwood.



❖ William McKendree
(1757 – 1835)



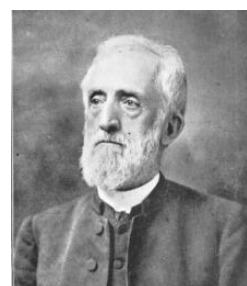
❖ Joshua Soule
(1781 – 1867)



❖ Holland Nimmons McTyeire
(1824 – 1889)



❖ Robert Kennon Hargrove
(1829 – 1905)



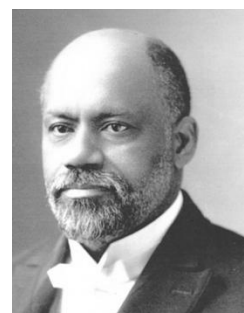
❖ Oscar Penn Fitzgerald
(1829 – 1911)



❖ John James Tigert, III
(1856 – 1906)



❖ Paul Bentley Kern
(1882 – 1953)

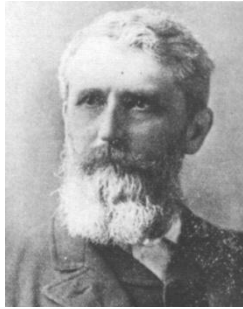


❖ Isaiah Benjamin Scott
(1854 – 1931)

A Missionary Spirit

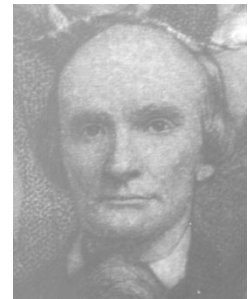
Since the earliest days of the Tennessee Conference, a missionary spirit has brought Tennessee Methodists to remote areas throughout the world, compelling them to lift up the name of Christ and bear testimony to free grace and full salvation.

Tennessee Conference clergy were among the first Methodists to preach Christ crucified and resurrected in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas, as well as in the western and northwestern regions of the U.S.



David Campbell Kelley, missionary to China (1851)

Tennesseans brought Methodism to Brazil and Venezuela, were among the first to enter China and Japan, and formed much of the mission to Native Americans in the South. Tennesseans went to Mexico and Cuba, African nations such as the Congo, and European countries such as Poland. Mexican pastors were brought to Tennessee to receive theological training (and receive their first pastoral appointments) before 1900, as were pastors from Japan and China. The first Native American Methodist clergy were ordained in the



Fountain Elliott Pitts, first Methodist missionary to Brazil (1835)

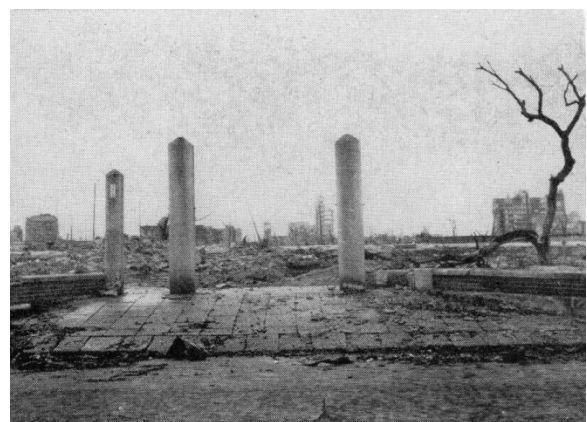
Tennessee Conference.

Tennessee clergy worked among the Cherokee and Creek in Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama prior to their resettlement in Oklahoma. Their dedication was so complete that some were chained hand and foot and marched alongside church members on the Trail of Tears. For decades, Tennessee clergy continued to leave Tennessee to work in the Indian Missionary Conference. Contrary to some reports, Tennessee clergy never abandoned their Native American ministries.



John Berry McFerrin, missionary to Native Americans

Unfortunately, not every work has survived. When the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima in August 1945, it destroyed the Hiroshima Girls School. The school had been supported by Tennessee Methodists since its creation by Walter R. Lambuth, missionary to the Japanese (who died in Japan in 1921), and staffed by mid-state Methodists from its beginning.

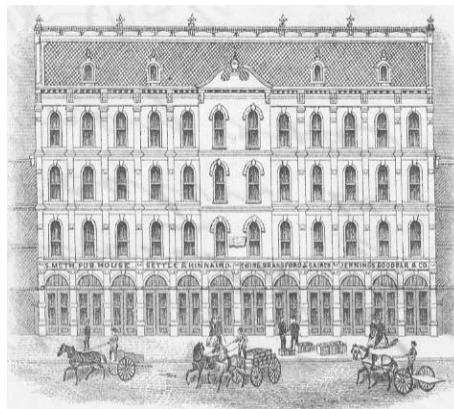


When the Hiroshima Girls School, founded in 1887, was destroyed on August 6, 1945, 350 girls died.

A Progressive Spirit

Tennessee Conference clergy were instrumental in

- forming the episcopal cabinet that helps bishops set annual appointments,
- organizing the MEC, South (1846), as well as the Colored Methodist Episcopal (now Christian Methodist Episcopal) Church (1870),
- bringing the Publishing House to Nashville in 1854,
- increasing (eventually eliminating all restraints on) the number of years clergy may be appointed to a local church,
- advocating for the involvement of laity in Annual Conference,
- creating the schools that became Vanderbilt University, UT-Chattanooga, the University of North Alabama, Martin College, and many others.



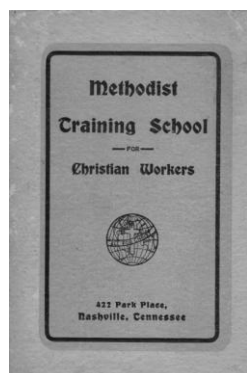
Southern Methodist Publishing House

Fannie Battle

Fannie Battle, whose work among children began in the 1890s (offering the first children's daycare in middle Tennessee), was a dedicated Methodist laywoman who worked closely with the Missionary Training School and leading Methodist businessmen. Lists of persons connected to Fannie Battle's work read like a "Who's Who" among Nashville Methodists in the early 1900s.



Missionary Training School



A Missionary Training School (a precursor to Scarritt-Bennett) was established in Nashville in 1906 at 422 Park Place (present day 6th Ave) across the street from the state capitol to train clergy, deaconesses, and laity to engage in inner city ministries and work among rural churches.



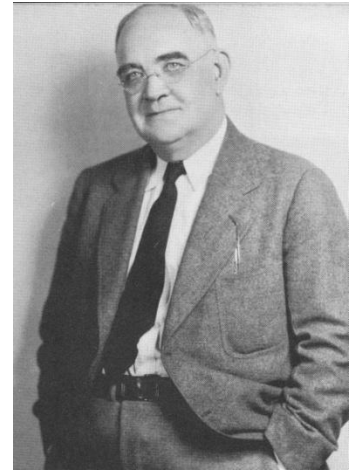
Southern Progressivism

In the late 19th-early 20th centuries, Tennessee clergy (and local Women's Missionary circles) were at the forefront of addressing social ills (illiteracy, lack of health care, malnutrition, alcoholism, prison reform, child labor, unemployment), vigorously promoted anti-lynching laws, and pushed for racial equality. The Commission on Interracial Cooperation, as well as the Southern Sociological Congress and the Bethlehem Centers, were direct outgrowths of this work.

THE MOUNTAIN WHITES OF THE SOUTH.

G. H. DETWILER, D.D.,
PASTOR WEST END METHODIST CHURCH, NASHVILLE, TENN.

The people known as the Mountain Whites of the South inhabit that portion of the Appalachian range which extends south of Mason and Dixon's line. The area covered is approximately 50,000 square miles and the population is about 1,500,000. As a class they represent a special type of our citizenship, one well worth careful study and high appreciation. But they are not freaks as the many current and grossly exaggerated descriptions have represented them



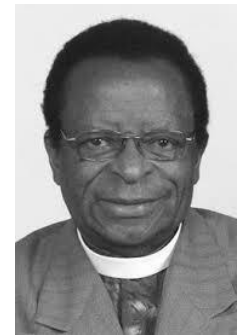
William Winton Alexander (1937), former pastor at Belmont Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was the first director of the Commission on Interracial Cooperation.



One of more than 40 addresses given by clergy, professors, and political leaders at 1912 Southern Sociological Congress in Nashville.

Tennessee Methodists have been nationally recognized leaders in the YMCA, senators and congressmen, governors, mayors, educators, lawyers, newspapermen, and university professors. A Tennessee Methodist was the diplomatic liaison in Moscow when the Tsarist government fell (1918). Many have served as members of Presidential Commissions.

Tennessee Methodists have endowed university lectures, written more than 2,500 books, and penned untold thousands of articles and book reviews. They have run camps, such as Beer-sheba Springs and Cedar Crest; and had roads, churches, schools, and even cities named after them. They have labored at jobs no one remembers and they have been the consul general of Liberia and the prime minister of Zimbabwe Rhodesia. What united these people and their fields of service is the very thing that unites us today: The desire to "spread scriptural holiness" as we bear witness to the God we adore and intend to worship.



Bishop Abel T. Muzorewa, Prime Minister of Rhodesia

Noteworthy Tennessee Methodists

Politics



- ❖ Governor Aaron Venable Brown
(1795 – 1859)
Son of clergy; U.S. Congressman;
Postmaster General



- ❖ Governor Frank Goad Clement
(1920 – 1969)
Taught Sunday School
at McKendree Methodist Church



Honorable Mention

James Knox Polk – 11th President of the U.S.; baptized shortly before his death in Nashville by Rev. John B. McFerrin

William Robert “Sawney” Webb – U.S. senator; principal of Webb School at Bellbuckle

Military



- ❖ Gen. James Edward Rains
(1833 – 1862)
Son of clergy; lawyer;
newspaper editor in Nashville



- ❖ Gen. Frank Maxwell Andrews
(1884 – 1943)
Son of clergy; Commanding General
of the U.S. Army in Europe in WWII



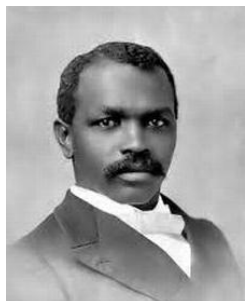
Honorable Mention

Gen. Robert Hopkins Hatton – son of clergy; lawyer and U.S. Congressman; wife was TN state librarian; daughter married Methodist missionary to Japan

Admiral Frank Benton Kelso, II – Sunday school teacher at Fayetteville First UMC; 24th Chief of Naval Operations for U.S. Navy (1990-1994)

Noteworthy Tennessee Methodists

Education



- ❖ John Wesley Edward Bowen
(1855 – 1933)

Educated at Central College, 2nd African-American to receive doctorate; taught at Gammon



- ❖ John James Tigert, IV
(1882 – 1965)

Son, grandson of bishops; Rhodes Scholar; U.S. Commissioner of Education; President of Florida



Honorable Mention

Rev. John Braden – MEC clergy, president of Central College, in which Meharry was established as the medical department in 1876

Rev. Collins D. Elliott – clergy; name synonymous with the Nashville Female Academy; daughter published a schoolbook history of Nashville

Entertainment



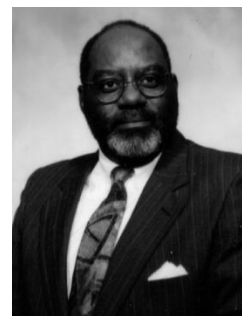
- ❖ Louis Marshall “Grandpa” Jones
(1913 – 1998)

Member at Luton’s UMC in Goodlettsville; member of Country Music Hall of Fame



- ❖ Moses Dillard
(1946 – 1993)

Guitar virtuoso, record producer; associate at Edgehill UMC



Honorable Mention

Sarah “Minnie Pearl” Cannon – member at Brentwood UMC; performer at Grand Ole Opry; cast member of Hee Haw

Francis Craig – son of clergy; director of dance band; wrote “Near You”; brother helped start National Life and Casualty, as well as Grand Ole Opry

Uncle Dave Macon – renowned banjo player; founder of the Fruit Jar Drinkers

Noteworthy Tennessee Methodists

Religion



- ❖ Bishop Costen Jordan Harrell
(1885 – 1971)
Pastor at West End for 11 years; authored
at least 24 books, hymn in BOH (351)



- ❖ Bishop Thomas Coke Carter
(1851 – 1916)
United Brethren of Christ bishop (1905);
missionary to China; editor of *Methodist Advocate*



Honorable Mention

Rev. John Adam Granade – early 19th century clergyman, hymnwriter; his *Pilgrim Songster* influenced the hymnody of the camp meetings

Rev. James E. McCulloch – Superintendent of Missionary Training School; director of Southern Sociological Congress; author; faculty member at Vanderbilt

Sadie Tillman – missionary to China; Pres. of Women’s Society of Christian Service

Literature



- ❖ John Crowe Ransom
(1888 – 1974)
Son, grandson of clergy; Rhodes Scholar; editor
of *Kenyon Review*; founder of *Agrarian Fugitives*



- ❖ Will Allen Dromgoole
(1860 – 1934)
Author; poet; newspaper journalist;
one of the most prolific writers in Tennessee history



Honorable Mention

Natalie Sleeth – wife of clergy; prolific composer; author of “Hymn of Promise” and the choral anthem, “Joy in the Morning”

William T. Hale – poet; journalist; editor of *Memphis Commercial Appeal*

Noteworthy Tennessee Methodists

Business



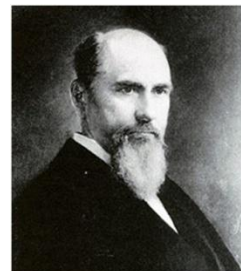
- ❖ Cornelius Abernathy Craig
(1868 – 1957)

President of National Life and Casualty;
son created WSM radio and Grand Ole Opry



- ❖ Edmund William Cole
(1827 – 1899)

Railroad baron; banker; Vanderbilt trustee;
endowed lecture series at Vanderbilt Divinity School



Honorable Mention

Cal Turner, Jr. – president and chairman of Dollar General

Edward Bushrod Stahlman – railway executive; publisher of *Nashville Banner*

John Bostick Ransom & Arthur Bowman Ransom – Nashville lumbermen

Medicine



- ❖ Thomas Osmond Summers, Jr.
(1849 – 1899)

Son of clergy; nationally renowned expert
on Yellow Fever; author of pocket anatomy guide



- ❖ Dorothy Lavinia Brown
(1919 – 2004)

First African-American surgeon in southeastern U.S.;
first African-American female in Tenn. State Legislature



Honorable Mention

Thomas Lafayette Maddin – son of clergy; surgeon; professor at Vanderbilt

David Satcher – President of Meharry Medical College (1982-1993); 16th Surgeon
General of the United States (1998-2002)

Robert D. Collins – pathologist; author; established Division of Hematopathology at
Vanderbilt Medical School