

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

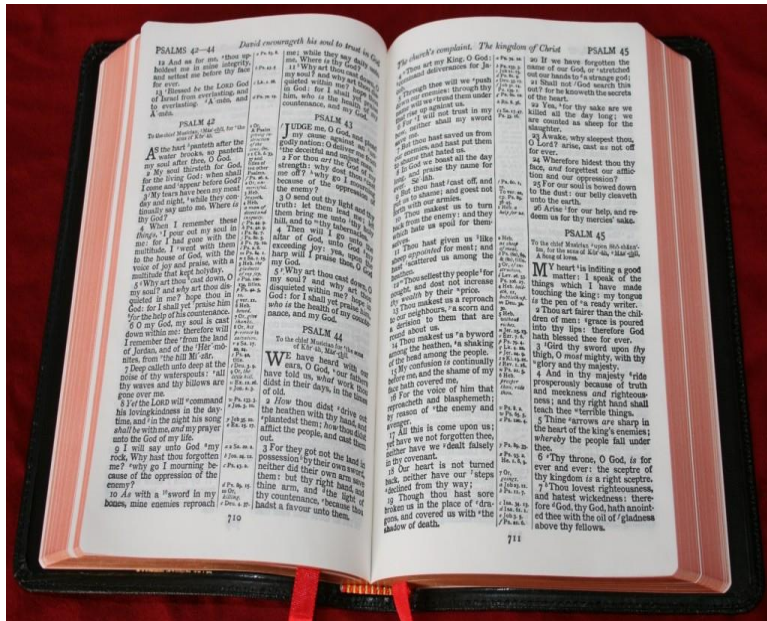


What does the Bible say?

“You are Peter, a rock. This is the rock on which I will put together my church, a church so expansive with energy that not even the gates of hell will be able to keep it out.” Matthew 16:18

“So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

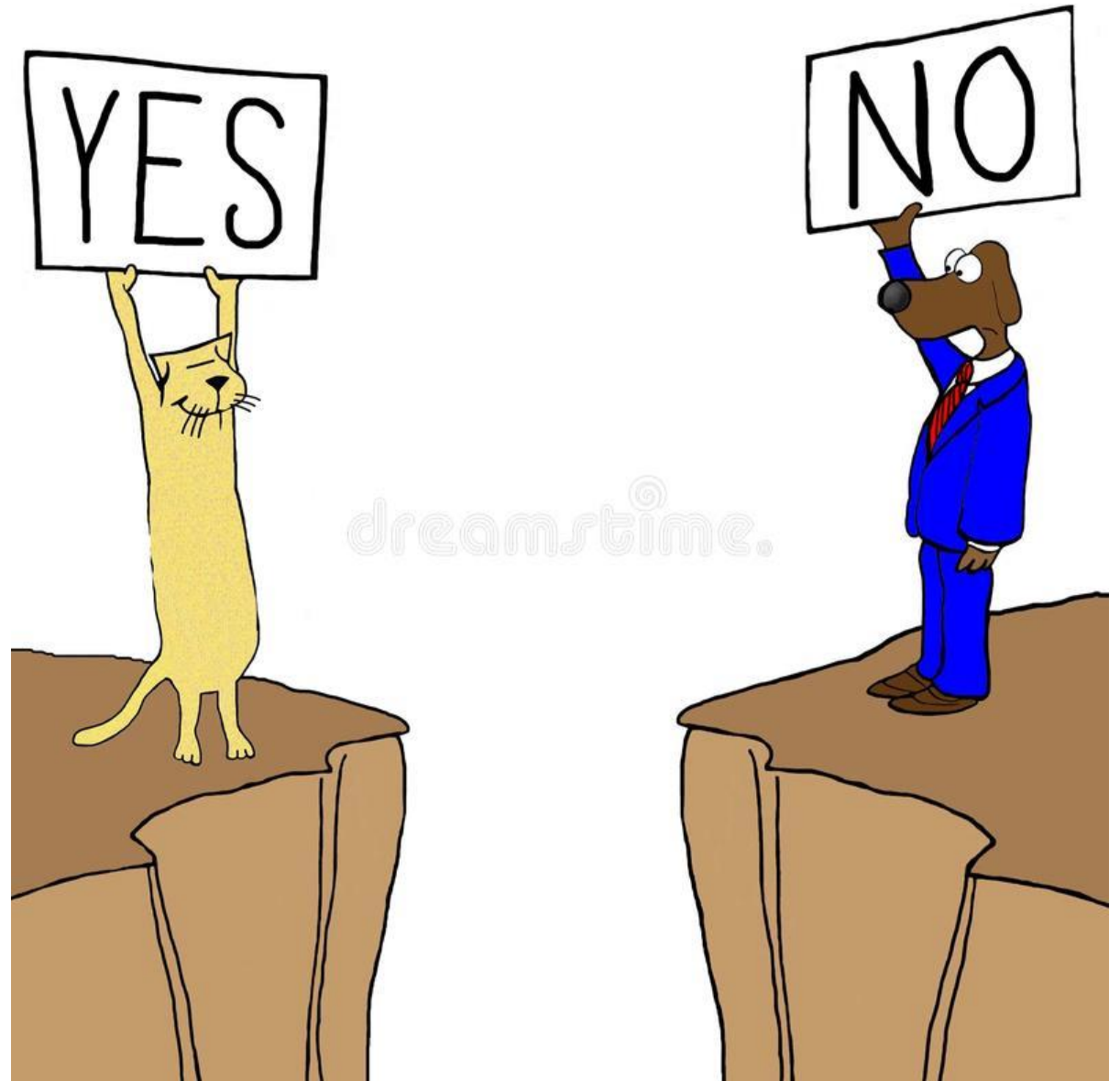
Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds¹ to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.” Acts 2:41-47



The Church Grows...



How do we
know what
we believe?



Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Nicene- Constantinople Creed

*We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin
Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.*

*He will come again in glory to judge
the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the
Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and
the Son.*

*With the Father and the Son he is
worshiped and glorified.*

*He has spoken through the
Prophets.*

*We believe in one holy catholic and
apostolic Church.*

*We acknowledge one baptism for
the forgiveness of sins.*

*We look for the resurrection of the
dead,
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.*

Reformation



Let's learn about John Wesley...with a
little humor!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmlzwYTg_J0

Wesley's View of Church

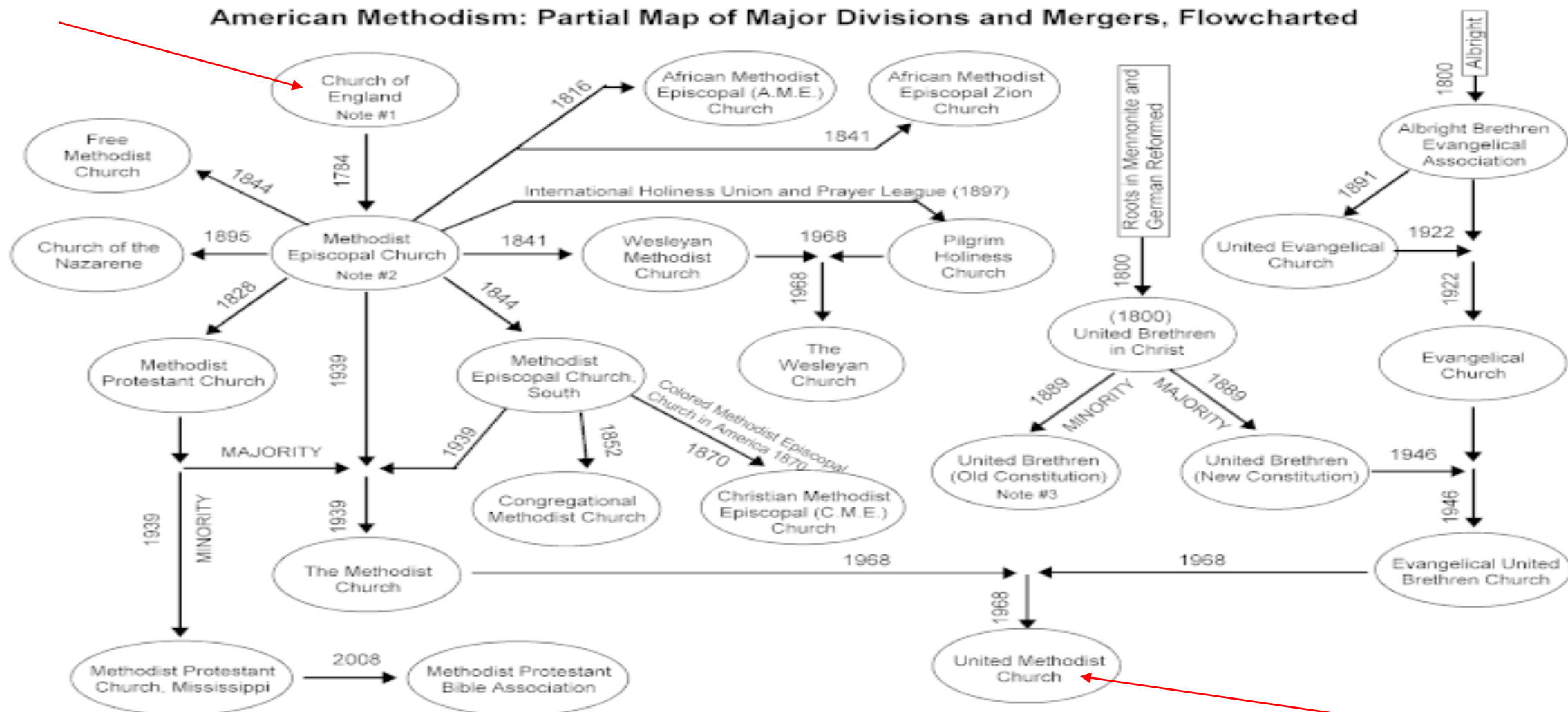
- "a congregation, or body of people, united together in the service of God."
- The Church is "the believers in Christ," "the whole body of Christian believers," "the whole body of true believers, whether on earth or in paradise."
- The catholic or universal Church is, all the persons in the universe whom God hath so called out of the world as to entitle them to the preceding character; as to be "one body," united by "one spirit;" having "one faith, one hope, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in them all."





How did we
get here from
there?

American Methodism: Partial Map of Major Divisions and Mergers, Flowcharted



Notes:

1. John Wesley, while in England, sent both Anglican itinerate preachers and ordained ministers to America. These in turn called the first conference of the MEC at Baltimore, Maryland in December 1784.
2. The Methodist Episcopal Church has many other offshoots which are not shown in this graph.
3. The Church of the United Brethren in Christ, Old Constitution is the minority which withdrew, claiming that the larger group, by adopting a new constitution, had in effect withdrawn from the denomination.

Compiled by Stephen Jenkins, editor
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 September 19, 2012
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Another view of Methodist History

- http://s3.amazonaws.com/gcah.org/UMC_History/Timeline/METHCHART.PDF

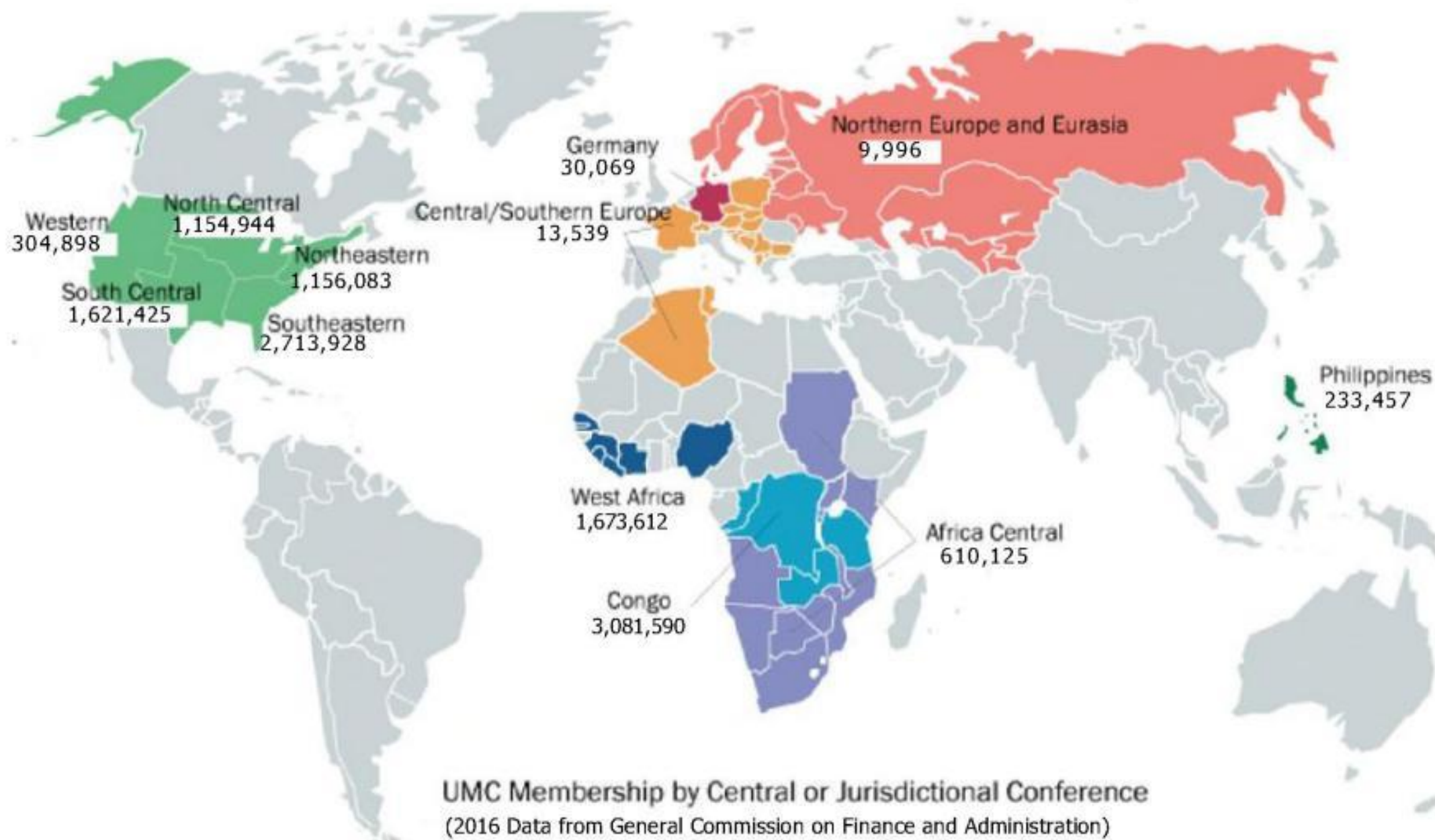


Current Belief

- We believe that the church is the body of Christ, an extension of Christ's life and ministry in the world today.
- We believe that the mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
- We believe that the church is "the communion of saints," a community made up of all past, present, and future disciples of Christ.
- We believe that the church is called to worship God and to support those who participate in its life as they grow in faith.

Structure (method) of church in connection

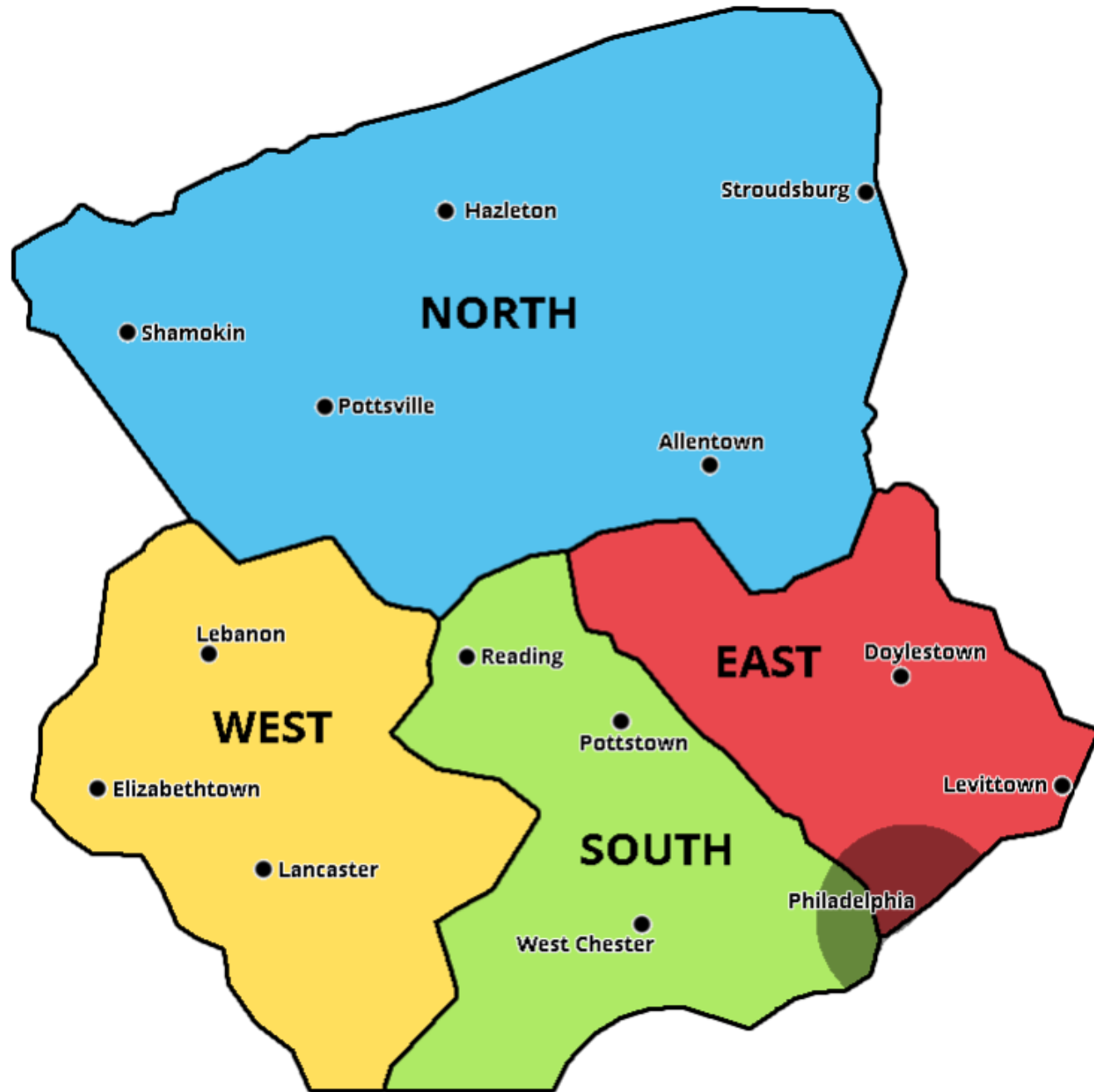
- General Conference
- US and Central Conferences
- Jurisdictional Conference
- Annual Conferences- led by Bishops
- Districts- directed in mission by Superintendents
- Mission Connections
- Local Church
 - Laity
 - Clergy



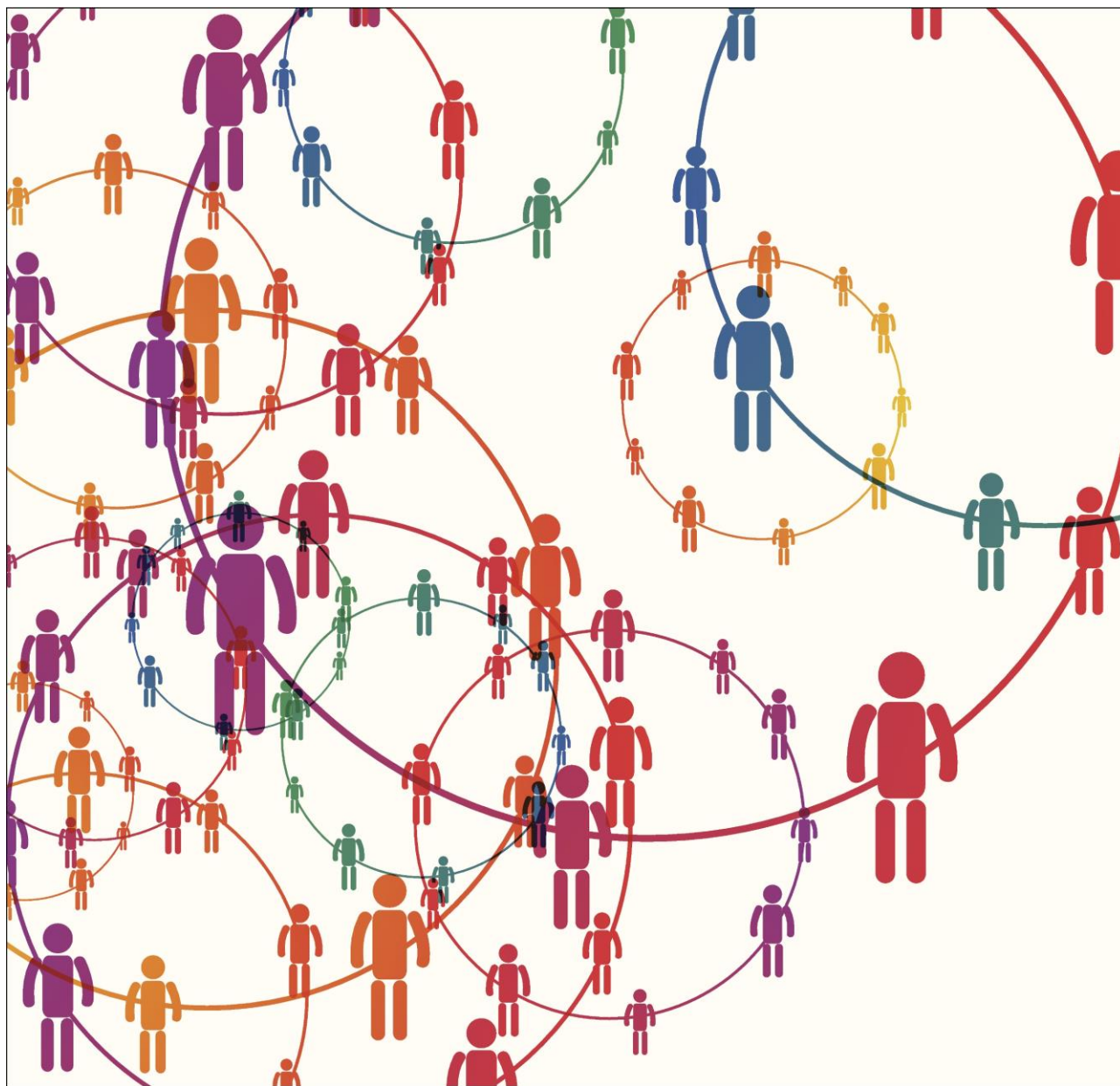
United Methodist Jurisdictions and Annual Conferences in the United States of America







CONNECTION,
CONNECTION,
CONNECTION



I AM THE CHURCH

Refrain:

I am the church! You are the
church!

We are the church together!

All who follow Jesus,
all around the world!

Yes, we're the church together!

1. The church is not a building;
the church is not a steeple;
the church is not a resting place;
the church is a people.

