

THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL (AME) CHURCH IN CANADA

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ORIGINS OF THE AME CHURCH

In November 1787, the colored people belonging to the Methodist Society in Philadelphia, convened together, in order to take into consideration the evils under which they labored, arising from the unkind testament of their white brethren, who considered them a nuisance in the house of worship, and even pulled them off their knees while in the act of prayer, and ordered them to the back seats.

- Richard Allen, Daniel Coker, and James Champion, *The Doctrine and Discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church*, first edition, 1817





AME CHURCH MOTTO

***“God Our
Father, Christ
Our
Redeemer, the
Holy Spirit
Our
Comforter,
Humankind
Our Family”***

AME CHURCH HISTORICAL PREAMBLE

The African Methodist Episcopal Church, whose founders affirmed their humanity in the face of slavery and racism, stands in defense of disadvantaged and oppressed peoples in the 21st century. From the origins in the Free African Society through the involvement of the AME clergy and lay in the Civil War of the 1860s and the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s, the AMEC has preached salvation from sin and deliverance from bondage. The mission expanded to others within the African Diasporas in the Americas, Africa, the Caribbean and Europe. Whether in schools, seminaries, hospitals or social-service centers, the AME Church has lived the gospel outside its sanctuaries. This mandate still informs its ministry, vision and mission in the church's third century of existence.





AME CHURCH MISSION

The Mission of the AME Church is to minister to the social, spiritual and physical development of all people.



FREE AFRICAN SOCIETY

Established in 1787
under the leadership
of Richard Allen and
Absalom Jones, this
organization fostered
identity, leadership,
and unity among Blacks
and became the fore-
runner of the first
African ~ American
churches in this city.

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION 1991

AME CHURCH VISION

At every level of the Connection and in every local church, the AME Church shall engage in carrying out the spirit of the original Free African Society, out of which the AME Church evolved: that is, to seek out and save the lost and to serve the needy. It is also the duty of the Church to continue to encourage all members to become involved in all aspects of church training.

AME CHURCH PURPOSE

The ultimate purposes are

- 1) to make available God's biblical principles,
- 2) to spread Christ's liberating gospel and
- 3) to provide continuing programs that will enhance the entire social development of all people.

AME CHURCH OBJECTIVES

In order to meet the needs at every level of the Connection and in every local church, the AME Church shall implement strategies to train all members in 1) Christian discipleship, 2) Christian leadership, 3) current teaching methods and materials, 4) the history and significance of the AME Church, 5) God's biblical principles and 6) social development, all of which should be applied to daily living.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH
(APOSTLES' CREED)
AS WRITTEN IN THE AME CHURCH
DISCIPLINE

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and 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, dead, and buried. The third day he arose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church Universal, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

ARTICLES OF RELIGION AS WRITTEN IN THE AME CHURCH *DISCIPLINE*

- 1. OF FAITH IN THE HOLY TRINITY
- 2. OF THE WORD OR SON OF GOD, WHO WAS MADE VERY MAN
- 3. OF THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST
- 4. OF THE HOLY GHOST
- 5. THE SUFFICIENCY OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES FOR SALVATION
- 6. OF THE OLD TESTAMENT
- 7. OF ORIGINAL OR BIRTH SIN
- 8. OF FREE WILL
- 9. OF THE JUSTIFICATION OF MAN
- 10. OF GOOD WORKS
- 11. OF WORKS OF SUPEREROGATION
- 12. OF SIN AFTER JUSTIFICATION
- 13. OF THE CHURCH

ARTICLES OF RELIGION AS WRITTEN IN THE AME CHURCH *DISCIPLINE*

- 14. OF PURGATORY
- 15. OF SPEAKING IN THE CONGREGATION IN SUCH A TONGUE AS THE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND
- 16. OF THE SACRAMENTS
- 17. OF BAPTISM
- 18. OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
- 19. OF BOTH KINDS
- 20. OF THE ONE OBLATION OF CHRIST, FINISHED UPON THE CROSS
- 21. OF THE MARRIAGE OF MINISTERS
- 22. OF THE RITES AND CEREMONIES OF CHURCHES
- 23. OF THE RULERS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
- 24. OF CHRISTIAN MEN'S GOODS
- 25. OF A CHRISTIAN MAN'S OATH

AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL (AME)

- African – founded by people of African descent – and unequivocally committed to the dignity and posterity of people of African descent
- Methodist – following a Methodist/Wesleyan liturgical framework and polity
- Episcopal – governance led by elected and consecrated bishops

CONFERENCE STRUCTURE OF THE AME CHURCH

- General Conference
- Annual Conference
- Presiding Elder District Conference
- Quarterly Conference
- Church Conference



Rt. Rev. Morris Brown.

THE HISTORY OF THE AME CHURCH IN CANADA

- 1830 – Public AME contemplations of Canada as a place of freedom
- 1831 – AME congregations exist in Canada
- 1840 – The first session of the Canadian Annual Conference is held, the first AME jurisdiction outside of the United States
- 1850 – The Fugitive Slave Act (US) → Bishop Payne visits Dawn Settlement in Dresden; Josiah Henson pastored the AME Church there at one point.
- 1856 – Establishment of the British Methodist Episcopal Church (via the General Conference, following a 1954 *Discipline* amendment)
- 1857 – Dred Scott Decision (no freedom or citizenship to those enslaved in the U.S. through “free state” residency)
- 1864 – 3000 BME members, 60 clergy, and 42 congregations

THE HISTORY OF THE AME CHURCH IN CANADA

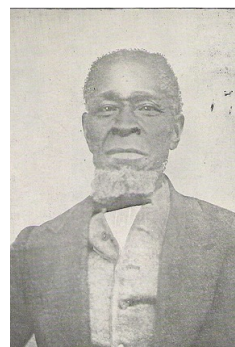
“we have learned by long experience that the British government is the tried friend of the coloured race.”

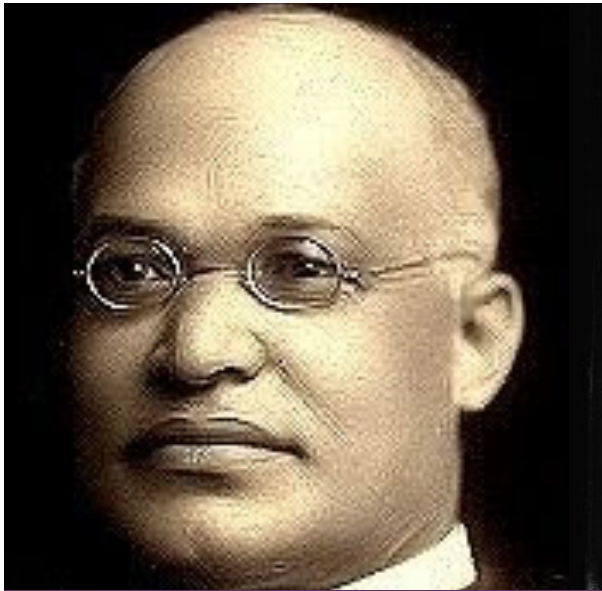
- Canada Annual Conference Resolution, 1853



THE HISTORY OF THE AME CHURCH IN CANADA

- * 1875 – Bishop Nazrey dies and Bishop Wayman (AME) presides over BME General Conference
- * 1880 – Bishop Disney makes an appeal for an AME–BME reunion process
- * 1884 – There is a “co-operation” . . . to “be known as the Reunion of the AME and BME Churches in America.”
- * 1898 - BMEC had 27 preaching points and 25 preachers, the AMEC had 130 churches in Canada.





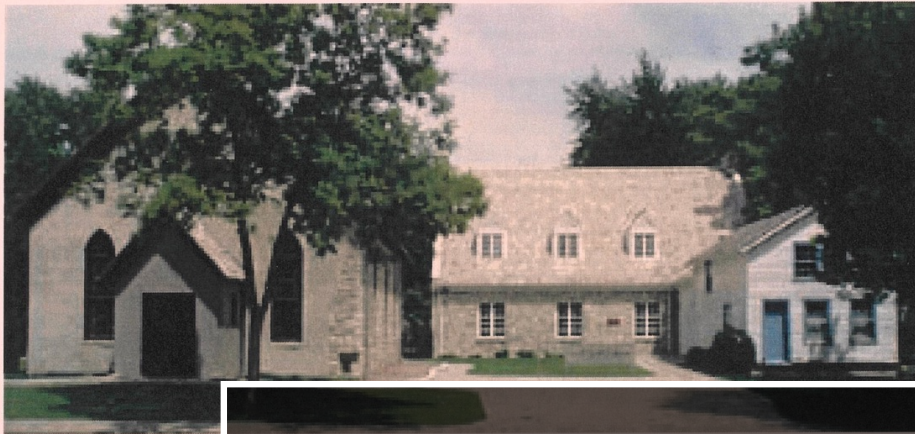
THE HISTORY OF THE AME CHURCH IN CANADA

- * Canadian born (Colborne, 1852), Charles S. Smith, established the Sunday School Union in 1882, bought a building in Nashville, TN in 1888, and was elected to the AME bishopric in 1900 – the 28th elected and consecrated.
- * Canadian born (Oakville, 1857), J. Albert Johnson elected to the AME bishopric in 1908 – the 34th elected and consecrated.
- * Richard H. Tobitt (Antigua, 1873) was a Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) AME clergy member who emigrated to Canada, the United States, and Bermuda (where he fought for free public education)

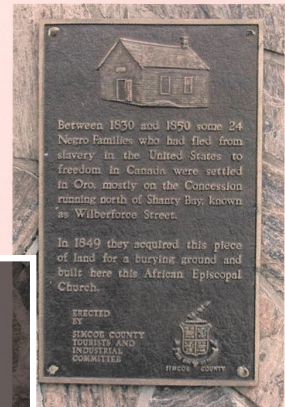
THE HISTORY OF THE AME CHURCH IN CANADA

“We are not ashamed to shout
when the Great Spirit comes into
our hearts.”

- John Hall, Ojibwe who joined the Michigan Annual Conference in 1887,
formerly an interpreter in Canada for the Wesleyan Methodist Church

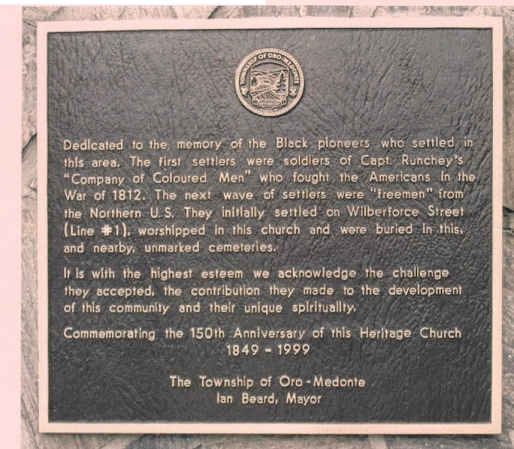


Oro Church



THE HISTORY OF THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN CANADA

Oro Church



THE AME CHURCH IN CANADA TODAY

- Grant AME Church (Toronto, Ontario)
- Robinson AME Church (Montreal, Quebec)
- Central Grove AME Church (Harrow, Ontario)
- Campbell AME Church (Chatham, Ontario)
- Tanner-Price AME Church (Windsor, Ontario)
- Agape AME Mission (Ottawa, Canada)
- The Word Incorporated AME Church (Toronto, Ontario)**
- Emmanuel Temple AME Church (Pickering, Ontario)*
- Highland AME Church (Amherst, Nova Scotia)*

* Inactive

1829/1833

Grant Church



1839 / 1922

Robinson Church



Tanner Church



Price Memorial Church



1888 (MERCER) 1964 (MCDOUGALL) / 1963-
2002 (MERGED TO TANNER SITE)

TANNER-PRICE

1888

Campbell Church



1888

Central Grove Church



Highland Church



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