

What is next for Taylors Methodist Church?



Our Challenge Today



• 2023 – Taylors' Big Year

- February 19 – Charge Conference – met with congregation
- March 12 – Congregation votes to disaffiliate
- March 19 – completed title search on our 5 parcels of property
- April 1 – notified District Superintendent of our intent to disaffiliate
- May 21 – our request to disaffiliate approved at special called session
- July 17 - paid \$52,000 to be released from our “trust clause”
- July 19 – received title to all of our properties
- August 23 – adopted new name of “Taylors Methodist Church”
- October 1 – Charter Sunday
- November 1 – our new corporation was chartered with the State of Georgia
- December 6 – received new EIN number

**We are now legally
an independent church**

Advantages to Being Independent

- No conference asking's
- We own our property
- We can determine our theology
- We can manage our own business

Vulnerabilities to being independent

Loss of connectional support

Must find our own pastor

No pastoral support

No supporting guidance or literature

No national representation or protection

No cohesiveness with other churches

Methodist Denominations

United Methodist Church

Church of the Nazarene

Free Methodist Church

Wesleyan Church

Global Methodist Church

Size of other denominations

United Methodist 5.7 M members, 30,000 churches, Est 1968
2023 Reduced churches to < 25,000; Members to 3.4 M

Nazarene 2.6 M members, 30,600 churches

Free Methodist 63,000 members - Est 1860

Wesleyan 516,000 members - Est 1843

Global Methodist 5.7 M members 4,000+ churches - Est 2022

Some Limitations/Disqualifiers

UMC – Doctrine (that is why we left), has trust clause

Nazarene – No TV, shorts, movies, music (except religious)
swimming, makeup

Free – Very small USA membership, has trust clause

Wesleyan – Very small USA membership

Global – new startup awaiting first general conference,

Free Methodist Church

The **Free Methodist Church (FMC)** is a [Methodist Christian denomination](#) within the [holiness movement](#), based in the [United States](#). It is [evangelical](#) in nature and is [Wesleyan–Arminian](#) in theology.

The Free Methodist Church has members in over 100 countries, with 62,516 members in the United States and 1,547,820 members worldwide.

Cons: Not a large membership on USA. Limited support?

Free Methodist Church (cont.)

- **The Free Methodist Church released a 21st Century Articulation of their Historic Freedoms to include the following:**
 1. Freedom of all races to worship together in unity.
 2. Freedom for the poor to be treated with dignity in the church and with justice in the world.
 3. Freedom for women and men to be treated respectfully and use their gifts equally in the church, in the home, and in the world.
 4. Freedom for laity to be fairly represented in the governing bodies of the church.
 5. Freedom from spiritual, political, social or conceptual alliances that compromise or subvert the exclusive allegiance we profess to Jesus Christ.
 6. Freedom to engage in worship that is moved and inspired by the Holy Spirit.
 7. Freedom from sin's power through full surrender to God.[[]

Church of the Nazarene

The **Church of the Nazarene** is a Christian denomination that emerged in North America from the 19th-century Wesleyan-Holiness movement within Methodism. It is headquartered in Lenexa, Kansas. With its members commonly referred to as **Nazarenes**, it is the largest denomination in the world aligned with the Wesleyan-Holiness movement and is a member of the World Methodist Council.

Con: Aligned with the World Methodist Council

The Church of the Nazarene (cont.)

The Church of the Nazarene stands in the [Arminian](#) tradition of [free grace](#) for all and human freedom to choose to partake of that saving grace.

The Nazarene Church distinguishes itself from many other Protestant churches because of its belief that God's [Holy Spirit](#) empowers Christians to be constantly obedient to God—similar to the belief of other churches in the Wesleyan-Holiness movement.

The Nazarene Church does not believe that a Christian is helpless to sin every day. Rather, it teaches that sin should be the rare exception in the life of a sanctified Christian. Also, there exists the belief in entire sanctification, the idea that a person can have a relationship of entire devotion to God in which they are no longer under the influence of [original sin](#). This means that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, people can be changed so as to be able to live a holy life for the glory of God.

The concept of [entire sanctification](#) (also called Christian perfection and Baptism with the Holy Ghost) stems from [John Wesley](#)'s teaching. This is interpreted on a variety of different levels; as with any denomination, certain believers interpret the theology more rigidly and others less so.

The Church of the Nazarene (cont.)

WE BELIEVE in one God—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

WE BELIEVE that the Old and New Testament Scriptures, given by plenary inspiration, contain all truth necessary to faith and Christian living

WE BELIEVE that human beings are born with a fallen nature, and are, therefore, inclined to evil, and that continually.

WE BELIEVE that the finally impenitent are hopelessly and eternally lost.

WE BELIEVE that the atonement through Jesus Christ is for the whole human race; and that whosoever repents and believes on the Lord Jesus Christ is justified and regenerated and saved from the dominion of sin.

WE BELIEVE that believers are to be sanctified wholly, subsequent to regeneration, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit bears witness to the new birth, and also to the entire sanctification of believers.

WE BELIEVE that our Lord will return, the dead will be raised, and the final judgment will take place.

The Church of the Nazarene (cont).

- Worship styles vary widely, and are contextual to the local, customs and demographics of the congregations. The Church has a congregational structure so each individual church can create its own schedule, and does not follow a united liturgy.
- In the past, Nazarene Churches had services on Sunday morning, Sunday and Wednesday evenings, each lasting for about an hour to an hour and half. The typical Sunday Morning service included music with hymns with a band and choir or by a 'praise and worship' band, an offering, time for testimony, sermon, and a response (typically an altar call).
- Service order is viewed to be less structured and rigid, and ultimately the Holy Spirit should lead worship.
- Sunday and Wednesday evening services in many Nazarene churches have changed from worship services to discipleship training, and many growing churches have utilized weekly small group meetings.
- Services are often focused toward a time of prayer and commitment at the end of the sermon, with people finding spiritual help as they gather for corporate praying.

• Wesleyan Methodist

- The **Wesleyan Church**, also known as the **Wesleyan Methodist Church** and **Wesleyan Holiness Church** depending on the region, is a [Methodist Christian denomination](#) in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, South Africa, Namibia, [Sierra Leone](#), [Liberia](#), Indonesia, and Australia. The church is aligned with the [Wesleyan-Holiness movement](#) and has roots in the teachings of [John Wesley](#). It adheres to [Wesleyan-Arminian doctrine](#) and is a member of the [World Methodist Council](#).
- Near the end of 2014, the Wesleyan Church had grown to an average of 516,203 adherents weekly in around 5,800 churches worldwide, and was active in almost 100 nations. In 2017, there were 140,954 members in 1,607 congregations in North America, and an average worship attendance of 239,842.¹

Wesleyan Methodist (cont.)

- Wesleyan Methodist Church beliefs include:
 - Belief in the Trinity
 - Biblical authority
 - Salvation through the atoning death of Jesus Christ
 - Good works as the fruit of faith and regeneration
 - The second coming of Christ
 - Bodily resurrection of the dead
 - The final judgment
 - Being holy in character and conduct
 - Being filled with the Lord's Spirit
- Cons: Small USA Congregation. Limited support?

Wesleyan Methodist (cont.)

- **Faith in the Holy Trinity** — There is one true God, united in three persons: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- **The Father** — the Father created all things, and that all humans are created in the image of God. God, in love, seeks out and receives penitent sinners.
- **The Son of God** — Jesus Christ is the Son of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, fully God and fully man. He died on the cross and was buried as a sacrifice both for original sin and all human transgression and to reconcile us to God. He was raised bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, and intercedes at the Father's right hand, until he returns to judge all humanity.
- **The Holy Spirit** — The Holy Spirit administers grace to all and is the agent in conviction for sin, in regeneration, in sanctification, and in glorification.
- **The sufficiency and full authority of the Holy Scriptures for salvation** — The Old and New Testaments are the inspired and infallible Word of God, inerrant in their original manuscripts, superior to any human authority and sufficient for all things necessary to salvation. The Bible has been transmitted to the present without corruption of any essential doctrine.
- **God's Purpose for Humanity** — Methodist Denominations The divine law is summarized in the commands to love God with all one's heart and to love one's neighbor as oneself. All persons,

Wesleyan Methodist (cont.)

- Marriage and the Family — People are made in the image of God. Marriage is designed by God as a metaphor for His relationship with His covenant people. Therefore, human sexuality ought only to be expressed in heterosexual monogamy. Marriage has the highest priority among social organizations, and was divinely designed for reproduction. Extramarital and same-sex relationships are immoral and sinful.
- Personal Choice — Humans were created with the ability to choose between right and wrong. But, since the fall, humans cannot choose right on their own, because of original sin. Humans are inclined toward sin and cannot, on their own, call on God or exercise faith. But God, through Christ, provides to each person prevenient grace, allowing each to choose salvation.
- Sin: Original, Willful, and Involuntary — All of creation suffers the consequences of Adam and Eve's disobedience and groans for redemption. Each person is born with a bent toward sinning, which manifests itself in outward acts of unrighteousness. Failures in judgment and involuntary flaws are not to be equated with willful sin but still require the atonement of Christ for forgiveness. Willful sin is when a free moral agent volitionally chooses to transgress a known law of God. Such sin will result in a loss of fellowship with God, self-absorption, an inability to live righteously, and, ultimately, eternal separation from God. The atonement of Christ is the only remedy for sin, whether original, willful or involuntary.
- The Atonement — Christ's crucifixion allows redemption for the whole world. It is the only foundation of salvation from sin. The atonement covers those who mentally cannot choose salvation, but individuals who are mentally accountable must accept the gift of salvation of their own free will.

Wesleyan Methodist (cont.)

- **Repentance and Faith**

- Affirms that salvation is [by grace alone](#) but must be [accepted by the believer](#). Denies the Reformed view of [unconditional election](#).
- Affirms that [repentance](#) precedes saving [faith](#).
- Affirms that faith is the [only condition](#) for salvation. Directly negates any need for [good works](#) to attain salvation. Does not negate [good works](#) as evidence of salvation.
- Affirms that saving faith publicly acknowledges Christ as Lord.
- Affirms that the saved will identify with the church.

- **Justification, Regeneration, and Adoption** — Asserts that when one [repents](#) and has saving [faith](#) in Christ, in that same moment that person is:

- [Justified](#): Granted full pardon for all sin, guilt, and penalty of sins.
- [Regenerated](#): Reborn spiritual life in Christ with a distinct capacity for love and obedience to God.
- [Adopted](#): Given full rights, privileges, and responsibilities of a child of God.

- **Good Works** — Reaffirms that humankind is [justified by faith](#) and affirms that [good works](#) are evidence of salvation.

- **Sin After Regeneration** — Affirms it is possible for a believer to sin after [regeneration](#) in salvation and that there is grace and forgiveness for repentant believers.

Global Methodist Church

- The Global Methodist Church is a Christian denomination that was founded in 2022. The foundation of the church is the person and work of Jesus Christ, who is considered the Savior and Lord.
- The church exists to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly. The church's beliefs are rooted in Scripture and shaped by the great teaching of the Church universal.
- The Transitional Book of Doctrines and Discipline of the Global Methodist Church provides the essential structure for the church from its official launch on May 1, 2022 until its convening General Conference twelve to eighteen months later.
- The book is intended to serve as a resource for all who wish to join in a "methodical," practical, and warm-hearted pursuit of loving God and serving others as Jesus' disciples in the world¹

Global Methodist Church (cont.)

- Our Mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly.
- In our worship, we desire to surrender to and be fully devoted to one God—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We are passionate about what is important to God.
- Jesus calls those who follow Him to love God wholeheartedly and love their neighbors as themselves. Our desire is to demonstrate to the world the extravagant love of God in the person of Jesus Christ.
- We have been entrusted with a lifesaving and transforming message that we must share with others. Our witness is bold, compelling and fearless. Our mission advances when individuals become disciples of Jesus Christ and join God's mission to make more disciples.

Global Methodist Church (cont.)

- Our Vision is to join God in a journey of bringing new life, reconciliation, and the presence of Christ to all people, and to helping each person reflect the character of Christ.
- Through our ministries, we desire to share the whole counsel of God with all peoples and to advance the presence and fulfillment of the Kingdom of God in every part of the world and at all levels of societies and cultures.
- The Global Methodist Church is committed to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the inspiration and authority of the Scriptures, and the work of the Holy Spirit in conveying God's truth and grace to all people.

Global Methodist – Beliefs

- Abortion – Believe in the sacredness of all life.
- Sexuality – Is a gift from God to be fulfilled in a monogamous, loving, marriage between a man and a woman.
- Homosexuality – No explicit reference.
- Marriage – Is a gift from God fulfilled in a monogamous marriage between a man and a woman.

• Global Methodist Church Administration

- **Wesleyan Standards – Must follow, teach, and preach.**
- **Holy Scripture – Primary authority for faith, morals, and service.**
- **Mission – To make disciples of Jesus Christ.**
- **Membership categories – Baptized and professing members.**
- **Baptism – infants, ,children, confirmation. No rebaptism.**
- **Certified Laity – One category of called certified lay ministers.**
- **Ordination – first Deacon, then Elder. Specified educational requirements for ordination.**

Where to now?

- Pray for God's guidance in our future decisions.
- Discuss the possibilities among our congregation.
- Research the various denominational possibilities.
- Respect each other as we discern our future path.
- Decide whether to stay independent or join a denomination.
- Have a called meeting and vote on our future!

Taylors Methodist Church Brunswick, GA