

*Celebrating*



**YEARS**

*transforming*

**THE WORLD**

*1968-2018*

**In 1968...**

**April 23, 1968**



**April 23, 1968**



**April 23, 1968**

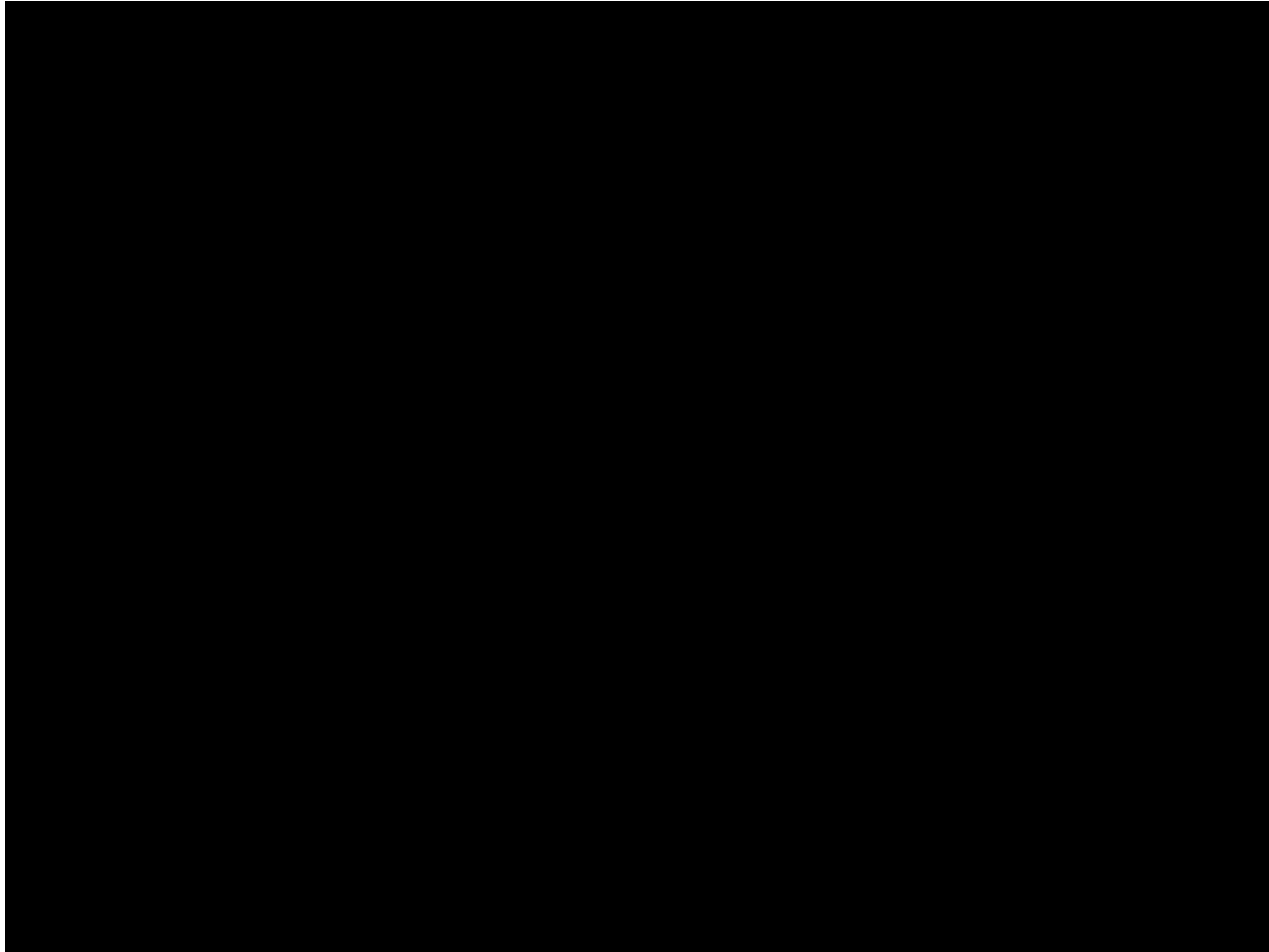
**Lord of the Church, we are united in  
Thee, in thy Church and now in the  
United Methodist Church.**



# **The UNITED Methodist Church at 50: A Quick Refresher**

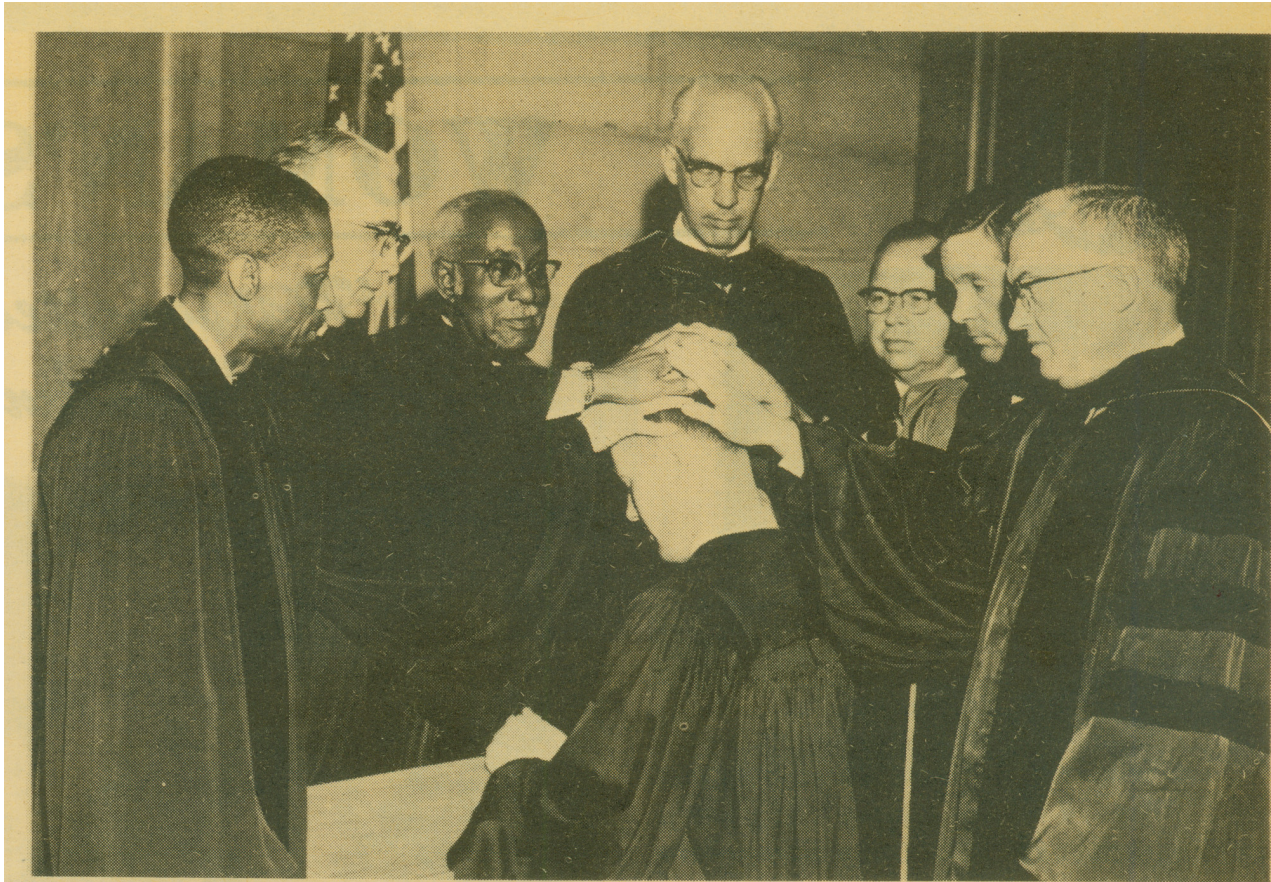
- The Methodist Episcopal Church
- Evangelical Association/Church
- The Church of the United Brethren
- The Evangelical United Brethren
- African American Methodists
- Summary

# What happened at the Uniting Conference in 1968?





# A Dream of and vision of UNION in divided, dividing times....



*NEGRO AND WHITE METHODIST bishops ordain a minister in what are believed to be the first such integrated service ever held in The Methodist Church. In the ordination Gary D. Harms of Great Bend, Kan., is one of the 15 Negro and white candidates ordained by Bishop Eugene Slater (second from left) of the Central Kansas Conference and Bishop Matthew Clair (third from left) of the Central West Conference of Negro congregations.*



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THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



## Cultural Cross Currents:

- The Current of Liberation
- The Current of Inclusion
- The Current of Autonomy/Self-Determination
- The Current of Participation/Hand—on Involvement
- The Current of Globalization
- The Current of Global Migration, Refugee Crisis, and Human Trafficking
- The Current of a Political Conservatism/Neo-Nationalism

# Markers for the UMC: Then and Now

- Frontiersman for tomorrow, dynamically adaptive to the new world as our foremothers/fathers were in theirs.
- Truly Catholic
- Truly Evangelical
- Truly Reforming

# I'm with Albert Outler

- United to be Uniting
- Repentant to be Redemptive
- Cruciform in order to manifest God's triumphant agony for humankind



# Closing Prayer:

Spirit of the living God, visit us as on the day of Pentecost.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With rushing wind that sweeps away all barriers,  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With tongues of fire to set our hearts aflame,  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With speech that unites the Babel of our tongues,  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With love that overleaps the boundaries of race and nation,  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

With power from above to make our weakness strong,  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

That we may be a Church united to be Uniting,  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

That we may be a Church repentant to be redemptive,  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

That we may be a Church cruciform  
in order to make plain God's triumphant agony  
for everyone, everywhere.  
**Come, Holy Spirit.**

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**



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