

HISTORICAL CONFERENCES OF METHODISM IN ARKANSAS

During the past 200 years, the Methodist churches of Arkansas have been served by six different Annual Conferences: Arkansas Conference, Little Rock Conference, North Arkansas Conference, Southwest Conference, Ouachita Conference, and White River Conference.



1816 - 1835

From 1815 to 1835 the Arkansas Territory was served by pastors appointed by the Missouri Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

1836 - 1854

The “Arkansas Conference” of the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in Batesville. The Conference also included the upper 2/3’s of Louisiana and the Indian Territory. The Conference then had six districts.



1854 - 1870

Arkansas Methodists were divided into two conferences, the Ouachita or “Wachita” Conference in the south became the second conference authorized by the Methodist Episcopal

Church. It later became the Little Rock Conference.



1870 - 1914

A third conference, named the White River, was organized in the northeast part of Arkansas. The northwest remained the Arkansas Conference.



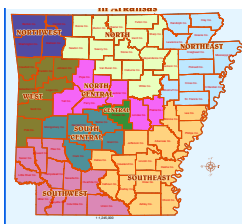
1879 - 1972

In 1879 many of the African American congregations chose to join the conference of the Methodist Episcopal (North) Church within Arkansas, forming the “Little Rock Conference, ME.” In 1929 the name changed to Southwest Conference, and consisted of three districts in Oklahoma and Arkansas. In 1972 the Arkansas churches of the Southwest Conference merged with the North Arkansas and Little Rock Conferences.



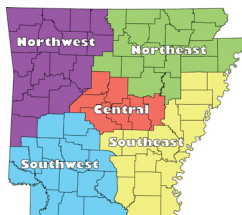
1914 - 2003

The Arkansas and White River Conferences merged to form the North Arkansas Conference.



2003

The Little Rock and North Arkansas Conferences merged to form the Arkansas Conference, and reduced the number of districts from 12 to 9.



2012

The Arkansas Conference reduced the number of districts from 9 to 5.