

# What We Believe

United Methodism is a branch of the Christian family that is descended from the Christianity of the Church of England in the middle third of the 1700's under the leadership of John Wesley and his prolific hymn writer brother, Charles. As the Methodists began emigrating to the North American colonies, there arose a need to establish Methodism as its own denomination, with its own ministry. The denomination was "born" on Christmas Eve in 1784 in Baltimore as the Methodist Episcopal Church. At the heart of the new denomination was an affirmation of the core theological principles of the Church of England (called the Articles of Religion) along with the General Rules of the Methodist Societies: do no harm, do good, observe the means of grace (Communion, prayer, fasting, bible study, Christian conference).

An excellent resource for understanding Methodism and our unique contribution to the Christian faith is to visit the website [umc.org](http://umc.org). The following are links to helpful articles on Methodist beliefs.

- [Methodist Beliefs](#)
- [Mission and Ministry](#)
- [Church and Society](#)
- [Discipleship](#)
- [Church History](#)
- [Organization and Structure](#)
- [Funding and Giving](#)

You may also enjoy checking out the [United Methodist Handbook](#).