



Introduction

Welcome to United Methodism 101!

Welcome! Whether you are a new or long-time member of The United Methodist Church, or simply an individual interested in learning more about the denomination, we hope you find this course informative and helpful.



The purpose of this course is to take participants on a basic journey through The United Methodist Church.

By participating, you have an opportunity to learn more about The United Methodist Church and how it fits into the modern world. There is so much that can be shared and learned about this denomination that we hope you will use the course as a springboard to delve into each of the areas more deeply. Here are some of the questions we heard that prompted this course:

- What kinds of people make up The United Methodist Church?
- Why the name "Methodist?" And are they really "United?"
- Who speaks on behalf of The United Methodist Church?
- Who gets to decide the official beliefs for The United Methodist Church?
- Can I disagree with the church on an issue like war or abortion?
- Why is The United Methodist Church involved in political issues?
- How do United Methodists view things like communion and baptism?




As you explore and interact with this course, bring *your* questions with you. We'll examine how some of our traditions have brought us where we are today. In these pages, you will find basics about the history, organization, beliefs and current challenges of the church.



The course is organized for busy people like you who want a quick overview. Links to additional resources are provided for further study. Each of the five modules should take 20-30 minutes to complete, and interactive exercises will be presented throughout. The five modules are:

- Introduction and Overview ← **You are currently here**
- History
- Theology and Beliefs
- Organization and Governance
- Present and Future Challenges of the church

The United Methodist Church, through United Methodist Communications, welcomes you to this exploration of the church's rich history and tradition, connectional nature and organizational workings, and the challenges facing all United Methodists.

To proceed, click on the  button below.

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