

When was The United Methodist Church created?

WE CELEBRATE OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY BEING UNITED!

Here at the UMC of Eagle Valley, we were around long before this union as a Methodist church in Eagle from the late 1800's.

But something special happened 50 years ago...

From www.umc.org

The United Methodist Church was created on April 23, 1968, when The Evangelical United Brethren Church and The Methodist Church joined to form a new denomination.

Uniting the two churches had been in the making for more than 10 years. Two years before the union, the General Conferences of each church separately approved the Plan of Union.

On April 23, Bishop Reuben H. Mueller, representing The Evangelical United Brethren Church, and Bishop Lloyd C. Wicke of The Methodist Church joined hands at the constituting General Conference in Dallas, Texas. In unison, the two bishops, 1,300 delegates and 10,000 visitors recited these words:

"Lord of the Church, we are united in Thee, in Thy Church and now in The United Methodist Church. Amen."

To make the union happen, each denomination made compromises. The racially segregated Central Jurisdiction of The Methodist Church was eliminated, women clergy were assured the right to be ordained and have full clergy rights, and the Methodist practice of life tenure for bishops was adopted.

The Uniting Conference also approved the development of an official insignia for the new church and [the cross and flame](#) was adopted later that year.

Late in the conference, delegates realized that the work of actual uniting could not be completed in 1968. A special session of General Conference was approved for 1970. It met in St. Louis.

Thus these two churches, each with distinguished histories and influential ministries in various parts of the world, came together to become the largest Protestant denomination at that time.