

THE HISTORY OF THE SMC



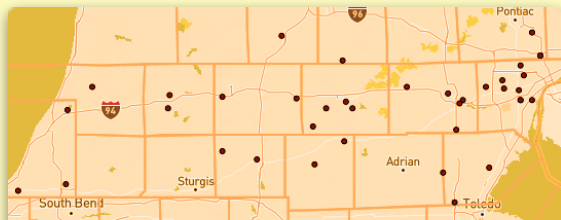
1784 | FRANCIS ASBURY

When Asbury arrived in the American colonies in 1784, there were only a few hundred Methodists in America. When he died, 32 years later, there were 9M.



1864 | E.P. HART

The Illinois mission district sent E.P. Hart to Ida, Michigan which led to the establishment of the Michigan Conference.



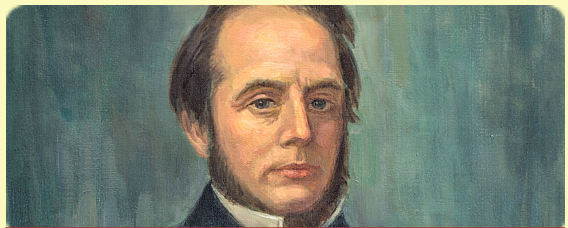
1960 | SMC STAGNANCY

In the later 20th century, fervency waned. From 1960 to 2015, the SMC planted 17 churches of which only a few survived. During this same timeframe, 13 churches were closed resulting in a net loss.



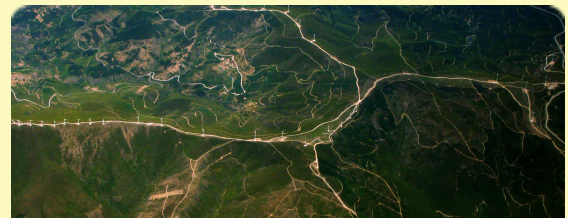
1739 | JOHN WESLEY

God ignited the heart of an Anglican priest and the Methodist movement began. In the half century that followed, over 100k in England identified as Methodists.



1860 | B.T. ROBERTS

A new Methodist branch emerges called Free Methodism. Their missional fervency and social justice convictions led to rapid expansion in the first four decades where 870 new churches were launched by 1899.



1876 | MICHIGAN MULTIPLIES

Rapid expansion led to the Michigan Conference multiplying not only churches, but other Free Methodist Conferences.