

# Five Faith Communities that made the UCC

## “A United and Uniting Church”

The United Church of Christ (UCC) was formed in 1957 from a union of two denominations, which themselves were products of earlier mergers. More recently, the UCC has formally recognized a fifth tradition.

The five traditions that make up the UCC are:

1. **Congregationalism:** Brought to America by the Pilgrims and Puritans in the 1600s, this tradition emphasizes the autonomy of local churches.
2. **The Christian Church:** Formed in the late 1700s and early 1800s, this movement was a reaction to the perceived rigidities of Methodist, Presbyterian, and Baptist churches at the time.
3. **The German Evangelical Synod of North America:** An association of German Evangelical pastors founded in Missouri in 1841.
4. **The German Reformed Church:** Founded by German and Swiss immigrants in Pennsylvania starting in 1725.
5. **The Afro-Christian Convention:** This "fifth stream" of the UCC's historical legacy was formally recognized by the denomination's Historical Council in 2022.

The 1957 merger combined the **Congregational Christian Churches** (formed in 1931 from the union of Congregational and Christian churches) and the **Evangelical and Reformed Church** (formed in 1934 from the union of the German Evangelical Synod and the German Reformed Church).