

PROUD “FIRSTS” WITHIN THE UCC

The United Church of Christ (UCC) has a rich history filled with "firsts" in various areas. Some notable examples include **early stands against slavery, the ordination of the first Black pastor, and the first woman to serve as a pastor in the Christian ministry** according to the United Church of Christ website. The UCC also played a significant role in the civil rights movement and has a long history of advocating for social justice. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#)]

Here's a more detailed look at some of the historical firsts: [[1](#), [1](#), [6](#), [6](#)]

- **Early Anti-Slavery Stand:** The UCC and its predecessor bodies, like the American Missionary Association, were early proponents of anti-slavery, with the first integrated anti-slavery society in the U.S. being organized in 1846, according to the Gunnison Congregational Church website. [[1](#), [1](#), [6](#), [6](#)]
- **Ordination of the First Black Pastor:** In 1785, the first ordained Black pastor was a part of the UCC, demonstrating the denomination's commitment to racial equality according to the United Church of Christ website. [[1](#), [1](#)]
- **Ordination of the First Woman Pastor:** In 1853, Antoinette Brown was ordained, becoming the first woman to be ordained into the Christian ministry since biblical times. [[2](#), [2](#), [3](#), [3](#)]
- **First Openly Gay Person Ordained as Minister:** In 1972, the UCC's Golden State Association ordained the first openly gay person as a minister in a mainline Protestant denomination. [[3](#), [3](#), [7](#), [8](#)]
- **First General Synod Resolution on Same-Sex Marriage:** In 2011, the General Synod affirmed the adoption rights of LGBTQ couples and urged congregations to provide sanctuary for LGBTQ refugees, according to the UCC Open and Affirming Coalition website. [[9](#), [9](#), [10](#)]
- **First Faith-Based Lawsuit Challenging Same-Sex Marriage Bans:** In 2014, the UCC filed a lawsuit against North Carolina for not permitting same-sex marriage, the first faith-based challenge to same-sex marriage bans in the U.S., according to Wikipedia. [[5](#), [5](#)]
- **First Woman Elected as General Minister and President:** Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson became the first woman to lead the denomination as General Minister and President in 2023. [[11](#), [11](#)]

These are just a few of the many historical firsts within the UCC, showcasing its commitment to social justice, inclusion, and progressive ministry. [[1](#), [4](#), [5](#), [6](#), [12](#)]

AI responses may include mistakes.

- [1] <https://www.ucc.org/ucc-firsts/>
- [2] <https://www.ucc.org/antoinette-brown-society/>
- [3] <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hvab8RwUuNI>
- [4] <https://www.ucc.org/who-we-are/about/history/>
- [5] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Church_of_Christ
- [6] <https://gunnisonucc.org/ucc-the-firsts>
- [7] <https://firstuc.org/denominations/>
- [8] <https://firstchurchwilliamstown.org/united-church-of-christ/>
- [9] <https://openandaffirming.org/about/history/>
- [10] <https://www.ucc.org/ucc-firsts/>
- [11] <https://www.ucc.org/karen-georgia-thompson-becomes-first-woman-to-lead-ucc-in-historic-vote/>
- [12] <http://ilucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Firsts-of-the-United-Church-of-Christ1.pdf>
- [-] https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Church_of_Christ