

Historical Firsts

African Americans in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



Dr. Thelma C.D. Adair

First African American female elected as General Assembly moderator in the history of the United Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).



Rev. T. Denise Anderson

First African American co-moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).



Rev. Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon

First African American woman ordained in the United Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).



Rev. John Gloucester

First slave ordained to preach in the Presbyterian denomination.



Rev. Edler Hawkins

First African American male moderator of the United Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).



Elder Katherine Johnson

First African American woman to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom and one of the mathematicians featured in the book and movie "Hidden Figures."



Elder Lucy Craft Laney

Founder and principal of the Haines Institute in Augusta for 50 years (1883–1933).



Rev. Dr. Diane Givens Moffett

First African American president and executive director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.



Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II

First African American Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).



Rev. Dr. William H. Sheppard

A Presbyterian minister and first African American missionary to the Congo.



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Presbyterian Mission