



\*Resource: courtesy of Pastor Jonathan Tait  
Church History Timeline

BC (Before Christ) or BCE (Before Common Era)

c. circa

A.D. Anno Domini (“in the year of the Lord”)

CE Common Era

BC or BCE

c. 0 – Birth of Jesus Christ

c. 36 A.D. or C.E. – Death of Jesus Christ

42 – St. Peter reaches Rome (establishment of the “Early Church”)

48 – 95 – New Testament is written

1054 – Split between Eastern (Orthodox) and Western (Roman) churches

1517 – Rev. Dr. Martin Luther posts his 95 thesis on a church door in Wittenberg, Germany, protesting certain practices of the (Roman) Church

1536 – John Calvin (born in France) begins organizing a reformation in Geneva this will come to be known as the Reformation

1549 – Thomas Cranmer completes *The Book of Common Prayer*, the official service book of the Church of England (Anglican Church, as it is known in Canada)

1550 – Beginning of Congregationalist Church (Congregationalist style of church government as opposed to Presbyterian or Episcopal style of church government)

1556 – *Genevan Book of Order* completed by John Calvin in Geneva

1560 – Beginning of the Church of Scotland – John Knox completes *Book of Discipline* (Book regulating Ecclesiastical – or Church – Order) some of which is not officially agreed upon by the Church of Scotland

1562 – General Assembly of Church of Scotland accepts *Book of Common Order* (which is Calvin’s *Genevan Book of Order* of 1556)

1564 – A new and enlarged edition of *The Book of Common Order* is completed; it is the service book for the Church of Scotland – its chief author is John Knox, who was greatly influenced by John Calvin

1578 – *Second Book of Discipline* written by Andrew Melville is considerably more well received by the Church of Scotland than was Knox’s first edition

Early 1600s – Settlers reach Canada

1609 – John Smythe begins what came to be known as the Baptist Church



1638 – Church of Scotland is established on a Presbyterian basis (use of Presbyterian model of church government; for example the office of Bishop is abolished)

1753 – St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Lunenburg Nova Scotia is founded, it is the oldest Presbyterian congregation in Canada

1797 – John Wesley begins what comes to be known as Methodism

1816 – Christian Reformed Church in Holland is founded (disestablished in 1848)

1833 – What would eventually come to be known as St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Whitby is started by the Rev. Robert Thornton

1867 – The Commonwealth of Canada is formed

1875 – The Presbyterian Church in Canada is formed

– founding of *The World Alliance of Reformed and Presbyterian Churches*

Late 1800s, early 1900s – Pentecostalism and churches so called begin to appear in England and the USA

1922 – 1938 – 1964 – Editions of *The Book of Common Order* of the Presbyterian Church in Canada are published; in 1991 a new edition is published which is renamed *The Book of Common Worship*

1925 – The United Church of Canada is formed; it includes all Congregationalist churches in Canada, all Methodist churches in Canada and approximately 66% of churches of the Presbyterian Church in Canada; the remaining 34% of Presbyterian churches that do not join The United Church of Canada remain The Presbyterian Church in Canada

1970 – *The World Alliance of Reformed Churches* (WARC) is founded; The Presbyterian Church in Canada is a member; in 2010 WARC and The Reformed Ecumenical Council merge to form The World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC)