



CAROLINA CONFERENCE

1880–1889

1881

The present Valle Crucis Church, originally called the Bethel Church, was organized by Hodges in the home of Larkin Townsend on May 15, 1881, with 11 charter members (including some from Banner Elk in an adjoining county, where a separate church was organized in 1912).

1882

The Bethel members walked as far as 10 miles to help build their church on Dutch Creek in 1882, on land donated by Larkin Townsend. This is believed to be the first church building erected by Adventists in the South.

1889

W. L. Killen and another colporteur sold the book Bible Readings for the Home Circle to several families in Stokes County, N.C. The Toab Young, Will Young, and F. A. Slate families soon became convicted of the Bible truths. The Slate family moved to Kernersville in 1904. A few Sabbath-keepers met faithfully in the homes of the Slates, the H. R. Hahns, or often in rooms above the Slates' print shop. Joe Crews, former speaker of the Amazing Facts radio program, was a grandson of Arch McDowell, one of the first members of the Kernersville Church.

1890–1899

1894

E. W. Webster, from Wisconsin, was sent to Spartanburg, S.C., and soon afterward J. O. Johnston arrived at Greenville from North Carolina. In the spring of 1894, Webster and Johnston held a series of Adventist tent meetings — the first in South Carolina — at Brushy Creek, a rural community near Greenville. The first church was organized in Spartanburg in August 1894. The

Brushy Creek Church, organized a year later, had the first church building in 1897.

1900–1909

1901

The General Conference District #2 became the Southern Union Conference in the spring of 1901. The North and South Carolina missions were combined and organized September 1 as the Carolina Conference, with J. O. Johnston as president. There were three ministers, four licensed ministers, 10 churches, seven companies, and a total membership of 300.

1904

In February 1904 North Carolina was made a conference, and South Carolina, with two churches and 76 members, became a mission under the Southern Union Conference.

1907

South Carolina became a conference in 1907, with R. T. Nash as president, with four churches and 100 members.

1910–1919

1910

Fletcher Academy and Mountain Sanitarium were founded near Hendersonville, N.C.

1914

Mt. Pisgah Academy was founded near Asheville, N.C., as a private academy by E. C. Waller, William Steinman, and C. A. Graves with their families, and was originally called the Pisgah Industrial Institute.

1918

During the time the Southern Union was divided (1909-1932), the Carolinas belonged to



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the Southeastern Union Conference. The two conferences were reunited in 1918 as the Carolina Conference, comprising all of South Carolina and eastern North Carolina. The conference headquarters were established in Charlotte, N.C., and a church was organized there the next year.

1920–1929

1921

The Carolina Conference had seven schools, 10 teachers, and 222 students.

1923

Conference membership was at 625. Tithe was \$17,670.10.

1924

There were 42 churches with a membership of 1,242.

1930–1939

1936

Eight evangelistic efforts were held in tents or halls. The number of new members was 181. The total membership of the Conference was 2,256. The tithe received was \$43,351.78.

1940–1949

1941

The colporteurs delivered \$26,145 worth of books and literature. This was the highest record by any group of colporteurs in the Southern Union.

1942

The Carolina Conference moved to 1936 East 7th Street in Charlotte, N.C.

1950–1959

1952

Ownership of Pisgah Industrial Institute was

transferred to the Carolina Conference, and the school was given the name Mount Pisgah Academy (MPA).

1960–1969

1961

W. R. Winslow Memorial Home in Elizabeth City, N.C., opened in December with 40 beds. W. R. Winslow, a Washington, D.C., businessman, friend of Seventh-day Adventists, and native of Elizabeth City, provided funds for construction and established a trust for its continuous operation. Several years after opening the home, Winslow deeded complete ownership to the Carolina Conference.

1970–1979

1971

Nosoca Pines Ranch, a youth camp and convention center for the Carolina Conference, was purchased in 1971, and the first camp held there in 1974. The 170-acre camp is located on the shores of Lake Wateree in Liberty Hill, S.C.

1975

MPA Corporation developed a beautiful retirement community composed of Pisgah Manor, a 118-bed skilled and intermediate care nursing facility, and Pisgah Estates, 72 modern condominiums designed for independent living, to provide employment for Mount Pisgah Academy students and retirement living for former church employees 55 and older.

1980–1989

1985

Plans were realized for 150 evangelistic campaigns to be held throughout the Conference.



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1990–1999

1992

Using the book *The Great Controversy*, the Conference conducted radio campaigns in major cities of the Carolinas. More than 10,000 listeners responded to the free book offer, and church members hand-delivered most of the 10,000 copies to individual homes. Evangelistic meetings followed in several cities. The combined efforts of this program resulted in a record-breaking year for soul winning.

1995

The Carolina Conference headquarters moved to their current facility at 2701 East WT Harris Blvd., Charlotte, N.C.

2000–2009

2001

A Centennial Celebration was held during Lake Junaluska Camp Meeting in North Carolina. Conference membership topped 15,000.

2003

Evangelist E. Lonnie Melashenko held a month-long series called “The Voice of Prophecy Speaks” in Columbia, S.C., that was uplinked to North America and the Caribbean.

2007

Pisgah Manor, Inc., and Carolina Living, Inc., were merged in-to Carolina Adventist Retirement Systems, Inc.

2010–2019

2014

Ron Halverson Sr. of *It Is Written*, in joint effort with the South Atlantic Conference, held city-wide meetings in Charlotte, N.C. Attendance was as high as 1,800, and 112 people were baptized

between both conferences.

2016

Doug Batchelor of *Amazing Facts* held a seven-day series in Charlotte, N.C., as a follow-up on his book about the benefits of Sabbath rest, *How to Keep the Sabbath Day Holy*.

2018

Pisgah Valley Retirement Community facilities were sold by Carolina Adventist Retirement System, Inc. to Liberty Healthcare Corporation, and an endowment was created to assist students of Mount Pisgah Academy.

2019

Shawn Boonstra, of the *Voice of Prophecy*, held a Revelation evangelistic series in Raleigh, N.C., resulting in about 60 baptisms.

2020–CURRENT

2020

The Carolina Conference oversees 132 churches and 34 companies in North and South Carolina, including Hispanic, Cambodian, Haitian, Karen, Korean, and African congregations. The Conference has 18 elementary schools; one K-9, one K-10 and one K-12 school; two academies; one Adventist hospital; and numerous community centers within its territory. Membership in the Conference is more than 24,000, and there are around 180 ministry workers employed as pastors, teachers, office staff, and administration.



CAROLINA CONFERENCE

PRESIDENTS OF CAROLINA CONFERENCE

CAROLINA CONFERENCE

J. O. Johnston, 1901-1904

NORTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

T. H. Jeys, 1904-1909

G. W. Wells, 1909-1910

G. M. Brown, 1910-1913

Stewart Kime, 1913-1914

J. H. Behrens, 1914-1915

J. B. Locken, 1915-1917

H. Evers, 1917-1918

W. H. Branson (acting president), 1918

J. W. MacNeil, 1918

SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

R. T. Nash, 1907-1909

T. H. Jeys, 1909-1911

W. H. Branson, 1911-1912

C. V. Achenbach, 1912-1914

J. L. Shuler, 1914-1917

N. Allen, 1917

E. W. Wolfe, 1917-1918

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J. W. MacNeil, 1918-1920

L. T. Crisler, 1920-1921

R.I. Keate, 1921-1926

C. L. Butterfield, 1926-1932

E. T. Wilson, 1932-1933

S. Booth, 1933-1934

J. L. Shuler, 1934-1937

H. E. Lysinger, 1937-1943

R. S. Blackburn (acting president), 1943

F. O. Sanders, 1943-1948

C. H. Lauda, 1948-1956

G. R. Nash, 1956-1958

H. V. Reed, 1958-1963

Willard B. Johnson, 1963-1968

E. S. Reile, 1968-1977

Malcolm Gordon, 1977-1985

Robert Folkenberg, 1985-1990

Kenneth Coonley, 1990-2004

Jim Davidson 2004-2011

Leslie Louis 2012-