

HOLINESS CONFERENCE NORTH AMERICA

FACTS ABOUT THE HOLINESS CONFERENCE

Holiness means “perfection in love.”

John Wesley taught that . . .

“becoming a Christian” launched a person on a process of growth in Christian love, empowered by God’s grace, but also to be pursued with vigor by the believer;

“pure love” as one progresses to the place where love becomes absent of self-interest; and

“perfection” was not static but dynamic, always improvable.

- 1896 Juji Nakada (26 years) sails to the US to attend Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. While in Chicago, Nakada meets Mr. and Mrs. Ernest A. Kilbourne through Grace Methodist Episcopal Church. Cowman and Kilbourne are telegraphers by trade. This friendship sows the seeds of the Oriental Missionary Society.
- 1898 Nakada returns to Japan by way of England. In London he visits John Wesley’s tomb and leaders of the English Holiness Movement.
- 1899 Nakada is appointed a traveling evangelist in the Methodist Church though his preaching extends beyond Methodist churches. He receives financial and prayer support from Cowman and Kilbourne’s Telegraphers Mission Band in Chicago.
- 1900 Charles Cowman is ordained in January, the first to be ordained in the Pilgrim Holiness Church, a denominational offspring of the Holiness Movement.
- 1901 Charles and Lettie Cowman arrive in Japan and meet Nakada. The Cowmans, Nakada and the Kilbournes are united by the vision of establishing a Bible training center in Tokyo, Japan which will emphasize holiness teaching.
- 1902 Ernest Kilbourne arrives in Japan. In America the growing ministry is known simply as the Cowman-Kilbourne work.
- 1905 With the aid of the Tetsusaburo Sasao, a biblical scholar, Kilbourne becomes Nakada’s “right-hand man” the Oriental Missionary Society” is formed. The concern of the OMS is the evangelization of the whole Orient. Sadaichi Kuzuhara among the early converts in Japan who will become first pastor of the Los Angeles Holiness Church.
- 1917 The OMS Holiness Church in Japan is established.
- 1920 Six Japanese men and women in their early 20’s began prayer meetings at Trinity Mission Church in Hollywood. Sunday afternoons they held street meetings at the corner of East First Street and San Pedro Street in Los Angeles, inviting people to evening services at Trinity.
- 1921 The group leaves Trinity and rents a small house near 36th Street and Denker Avenue (Los Angeles Holiness - Mother Church).

The Sister Churches

- 1924 San Diego Holiness Church was founded
- 1929 San Lorenzo Holiness Church was founded
- 1932 Honolulu Holiness Church was founded
- 1934 Baldwin Park Holiness Church was founded (San Gabriel Church)
- 1936 San Fernando Holiness Church was founded
- 1951 A Greek Orthodox sanctuary at 36th Place and Gramercy Avenue is purchased for the Los Angeles Holiness Church.
- 1952 The Campbell Church (San Jose) was founded; merged with Sunnyvale) later became Santa Clara Church.
- 1955 West Los Angeles Holiness Church was founded.
- 1960 Orange County Holiness Church was founded
- 1974 Pearl City Highlands Church (West Oahu) was founded.
- 1977 Walnut Creek Holiness Church was founded.
- 1991 Japanese Christian Church of La Costa was founded.
- 1995 Vista Christian Church (status changed from mission church - 1994)
- 1999

Conference Church Plants (estimated dates)

- Fremont Asian Christian Church (San Lorenzo-Pastor Joe Roberts)
Thousand Oaks (Mr. Hanyu)
- 1994 South Bay (WLA - Kenji Tsuruta)
- 1994 Gospel Venture International Church (LA - Toshio Maehara)
- 1994 Mililani Hawaii (West Oahu - Rev. Ken Ashitomi)
- 1994 Las Vegas, Nevada (LA - Hideyo Ando)
- 1994 Whittier Church (LA - Rev. Hiroshi Nishikori)
- 1995 Tucson Arizona (San Fernando - Reiko Yoshitani)