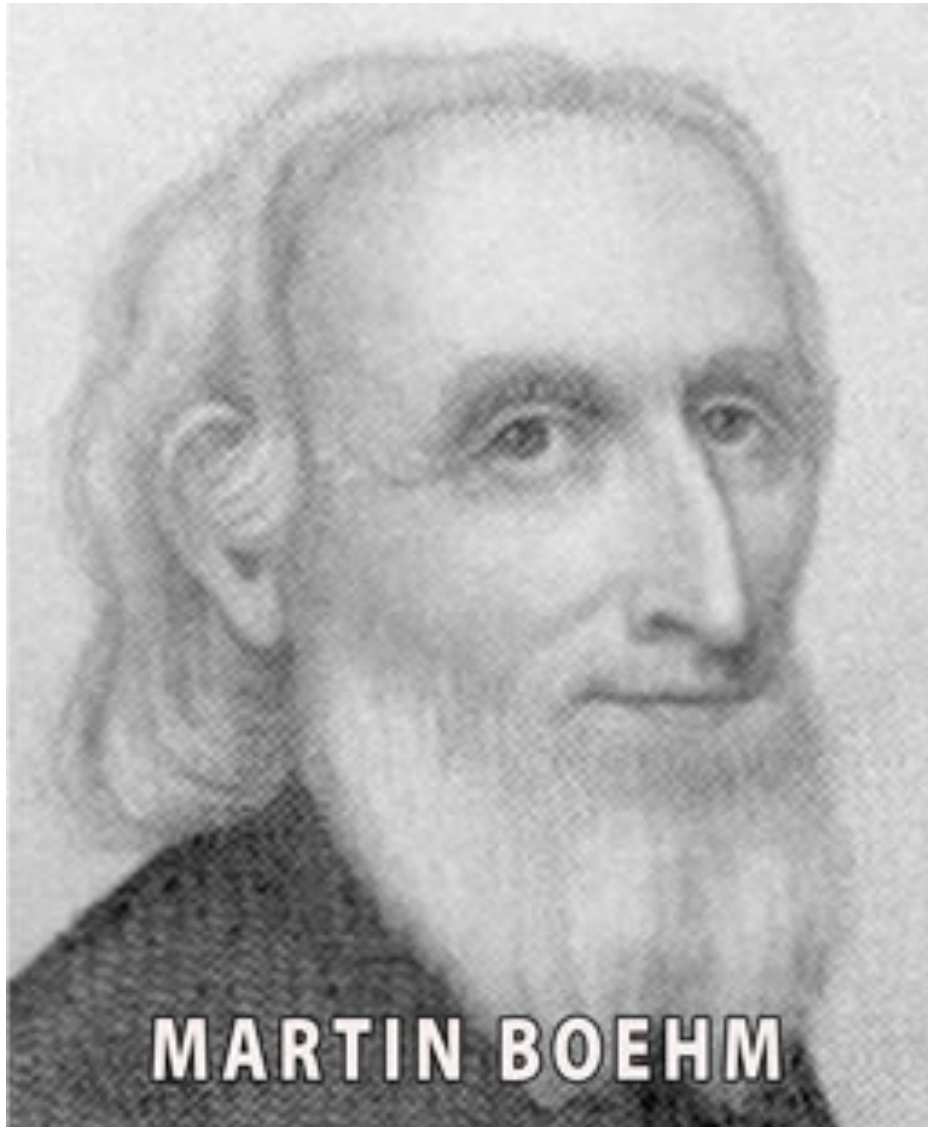




**United
Brethren**
ALL FOR CHRIST

- 1767
- Lancaster, PA
- “great meeting”
 - Philip Otterbein/Martin Boehm
 - “We are brothers!”
 - 1800
 - Church of the United Brethren in Christ



MARTIN BOEHM



WILLIAM OTTERBEIN



The Inn at New Lane, located on main road at Lancaster, Pa., where the first American born deacons were organized in 1714.
"The Church of the United Brethren in Christ".

- 1889 • CHANGE... Allow “secret society” members to become church members.
- controversy involved both doctrine and method of change
 - Bishop Milton Wright
 - 60 years = two “U.B.” groups

- smaller (more conservative) group is still known as United Brethren
- larger (more liberal) group is now part of the United Methodist Church

GOVERNANCE

- Top Down > National Conferences (2 years)
General Conference (4 years)
- Bottom Up > Local churches have great autonomy in organization, worship, pastor, etc. However, each local church must sign a covenant (annually) to endorse the U. B. Confession of Faith and Core Values.

DENOMINATIONS?

- **RELIGIONS**... Hinduism, Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Shintoism, etc.
- **CHRISTIANITY** (subgroups)... Eastern Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Protestant
- **PROTESTANT CHRISTIANITY** (subgroups)... Mennonite, Baptist, U.B., Lutheran, etc.)

Christian Protestant denominations have formed and folded for many reasons. Historically it has usually been a combination of **theology** and **culture** (language, geography, affinity, etc).

MEMBERSHIP?

Every true Christian is a “member” of the body of Christ (1 Cor. 12). But for purposes of **identity** and **accountability**, we choose to formalize/verbalize our commitment to one local church. This is not a negative statement about other churches. It is a positive statement about this church. This is analogous to marriage.

AUTHORITY

One of the distinctives of Protestant Christianity is the principle of “sola scriptura.” This is true for the U.B. church. We believe the ultimate authority to which we must submit is not church traditions or patriarch or papacy. It is the Bible, our Scripture, our Lord’s Word.

“... You have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness.”

(11 Timothy 3:16)

When men tell you to consult mediums and spiritists who whisper and mutter, should not a people enquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light.” *(Isaiah 8:19-20)*

CONVICTIONS

Because the Bible is not explicit/absolute regarding every issue or decision...

- We must pray for guidance and consider the principles of Scripture.
- We must seek harmony, avoid offense, and accept accountability.

Denominations provide **standards** to help this process to be real and meaningful.

EXPECTATIONS for U.B. members

IDENTIFY with Christ

a) Visible identity

b) Worship of God

c) Service to God

d) Separation from the world... avoiding
and refraining from that which is
unholy/ungodly/immoral/wicked

TESTIMONY for Christ

a) love for everyone

b) witness to non-Christians

c) unity with Christians

CITIZENSHIP

- a) We believe in respect and obedience to the government, but always with the stipulation that God's authority and kingdom usurps any earthly government.
- b) Government has God's sanction, but not necessarily God's Spirit. Therefore, we believe that disputes between Christians should first be taken before spiritual brothers/sister rather than government.

(Mt. 18:15-18, 1 Cor. 6:1-8)