Marking the Moments: Wilshire's Journey toward Racial Justice



Foundations & First Steps 1950–1970

Land Acknowledgment

Years before Wilshire
Baptist Church was founded,
this land sat within the
ancestral territory of the
Jumano, Tawakoni, Wichita,
and Kickapoo peoples.

Laying Foundations:Pastor and Property

Huber Drumwright called as
Wilshire's first pastor.
Wilshire purchased a threeacre plot on Abrams Rd.
from the Caruth family.
The Caruth family were likely
the largest slaveholders in
Dallas.

Bruce McIver Becomes Pastor

Wilshire called its next pastor, Bruce McIver.
Under Pastor Bruce McIver's leadership,
Wilshire grew in size,
influence, and openness.



1952

1958

1951

Wilshire's Beginnings

Wilshire's formative years began on June 14, 1951, with a meeting held at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Winston E. Carswell.

1955

Wilshire's Second Pastor

Ralph Langley's tenure (1955–1958) reflected the prevailing "separate but equal" mindset of the time, despite spiritual unity.



This timeline was created by Wilshire's In Deed and Truth (IDAT) Cohort as part of our church's ongoing journey toward racial justice and reconciliation. By tracing Wilshire's history, we hope to reflect on who we've been and imagine together where God may be calling us next.

We invite you to engage, reflect, remember, and contribute.

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Growth & Internal Shifts 1971–2000

Martin Luther King Jr. Assassinated

Across the country and at Wilshire, conversations about justice and race intensify.

1968

Sponsoring the Pham Family

Wilshire votes to sponsor a Vietnamese refugee family, committing to their financial, educational, and spiritual support. This led to the creation of the Missionary in Residence program.

Women in Leadership

Nearly 450 members voted, with 67% affirming the decision to ordain women as ministers, in conflict with Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) policies.

1975

(1991)

1972

The First Black Members Join

Wilshire welcomed
Ethyl and Billy McGown
the first Black
members of Wilshire.

1989

George Mason Becomes Senior Pastor

His leadership marks the beginning of Wilshire's progressive theological journey.

2000

Formal Break With the SBC

Wilshire officially severed ties with the SBC and moves its affiliation to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF).



Add Your Voice to the Story

Have you experienced a moment in Wilshire's journey toward racial justice that isn't shown here? Maybe you remember a conversation, a sermon, a ministry, or a person who made an impact.

Use a sticky note to add your memory, story, or reflection directly to the timeline. No moment is too small — your perspective helps complete the picture.

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Public Advocacy & Reconciliation 2001-Present

Partnership for Justice

Wilshire and
Friendship-West
partnered under the
New Baptist Covenant
to oppose predatory
lending and promote
racial equity.

Anti-Racism Focus Missions & Advocacy

Following the murder of George Floyd, Wilshire reaffirms its commitment to racial justice through study, prayer, dialogue, missions, and activism.

IDAT Cohort

Wilshire is selected to participate in "In Deed and Truth," a national initiative to reflect on its racial history and commit to reconciliation.

2013

2020

2025

2016

Welcoming & Affirming Vote

Wilshire accepts the Inclusion and Diversity Study Group's recommendation and becomes a "welcoming and affirming" congregation, fully including LGBTQ+ members in all aspects of church life.

2023

Timothy Peoples Becomes Senior Pastor

Dr. Timothy Peoples returns as senior pastor, marking a historic chapter. He brings a deep commitment to justice, spiritual leadership, and community-building.

(Future)

Where do you hope we go from here?



What's Next? Help Shape the Future

Where do you hope we go from here?

What actions, dreams, or changes would you like to see in our church's future?

Use a sticky note to share your vision or hope for what comes next. Place it at the end of the timeline — your voice matters.



