

LUTHERAN MEMOIR



Payne photo from Wikimedia

Daniel A. Payne

- African Methodist Episcopal Church Bishop
- A Founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church
- Educator, college administrator and author.
- 1st African American College President in the United States
- Graduate of Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary

BORN: February 24, 1811 – DIED: November 2, 1893

Daniel Alexander Payne was born as a free person of color in Charleston, South Carolina. He was of African, European and Native American ancestry. He stated that he descended from the Goings family, a well known free colored/Native American family.

As a major contributor in the formation of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME), Payne stressed education, preparation of ministers and introduced more order in the church. Payne served for more than four decades as bishop of the AME Church (1852–1893). In 1856 he was a leader in the founding of Wilberforce College in Ohio, the first college to be owned and operated by African Americans in the United States.

Reverend Payne took training at Gettysburg Seminary in the mid-1830s and in 1837 received ordination from the Franckean Lutheran Synod of New York but he had no intention to become Lutheran. Still, it is worth noting that Gettysburg Seminary and the Franckean Lutherans sponsored Payne's influential career. He was one of the preeminent African Methodist Episcopal churchmen of his generation.

Upon leaving the seminary in 1837, he served a

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Presbyterian Church in Troy, New York.

The Franckean were the first Lutheran body to publically oppose slavery in 1837, 24 years before the beginning of the Civil War. Other Lutheran bodies thought slavery was politics in which they shouldn't get involved or take a public stand.

Pastor Payne transferred to the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1841 where he eventually became the bishop and later president of Wilberforce College in Ohio. He was the first African American to lead an institution of higher learning in the United States. Wilberforce University now has a seminary named in honor of Pastor Payne. Gettysburg Seminary has a Pennsylvania State Historical marker honoring him.

November 2nd is designated as a day of remembrance by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for Pastor Payne. Lutherans should be proud that our ancestors had a part in advancing the ministry of Saint Daniel Payne. Payne AME Church in Waterloo, Iowa, is named in honor of Rev. Payne, as are many other AME Churches around the country.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- When the Franckean Lutherans publicly opposed slavery, other Lutheran groups refused, saying the issue was political. Explain why you feel political considerations concerning slavery outweigh or do not outweigh moral, humanitarian and Christian considerations?
- How do you think Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) like Wilberforce met the needs of their students in the first 120 years compared to current times? Are race based elementary, secondary and higher educational institutions needed to provide a high quality education for racially minoritized people?

Sources:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Daniel_Payne&oldid=1167201189
- *The Cresset 2008 Vol. LXXI, p. 16-20*



Payne Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Church, located at 1044 Mobile St. in Waterloo, Iowa, is named in honor of Reverend Payne. The church is over 112 years old. Photo courtesy of Reginald Green



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