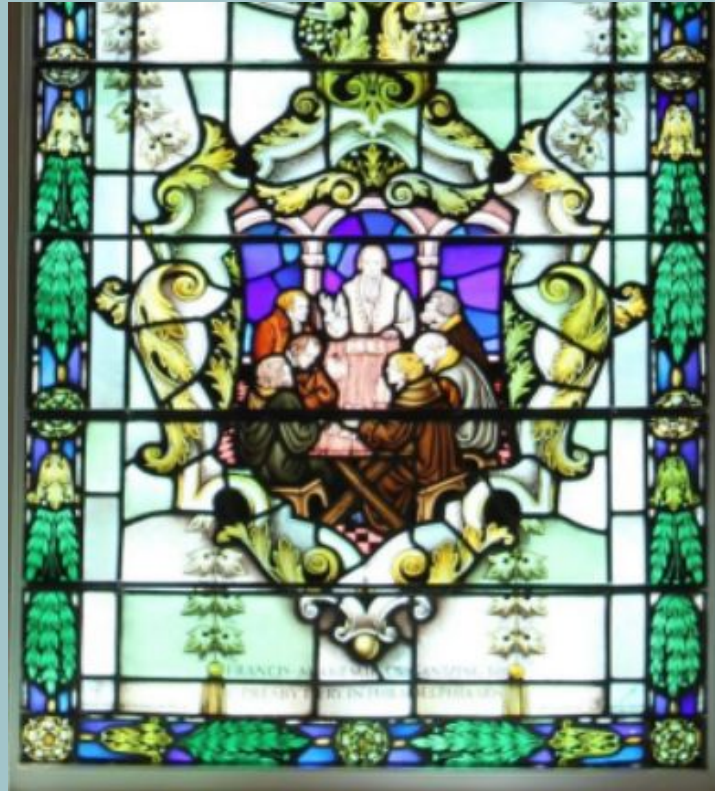


## Lower Medallion: Francis Makemie

The first Presbytery at Philadelphia in 1706. Makemie is the Scotch-Irish Presbyterian minister who preached from NY to SC (1691-1707) and in VA (1698).



# 13 Colonies Religious Groups' Settlement

Earliest Virginia - Puritans (inclination to Presbyterianism)

Church of England (Anglican) after 1624

British Toleration Act of 1689 - allowed for other faiths

Large scale immigration of Presbyterians came in 3 streams:

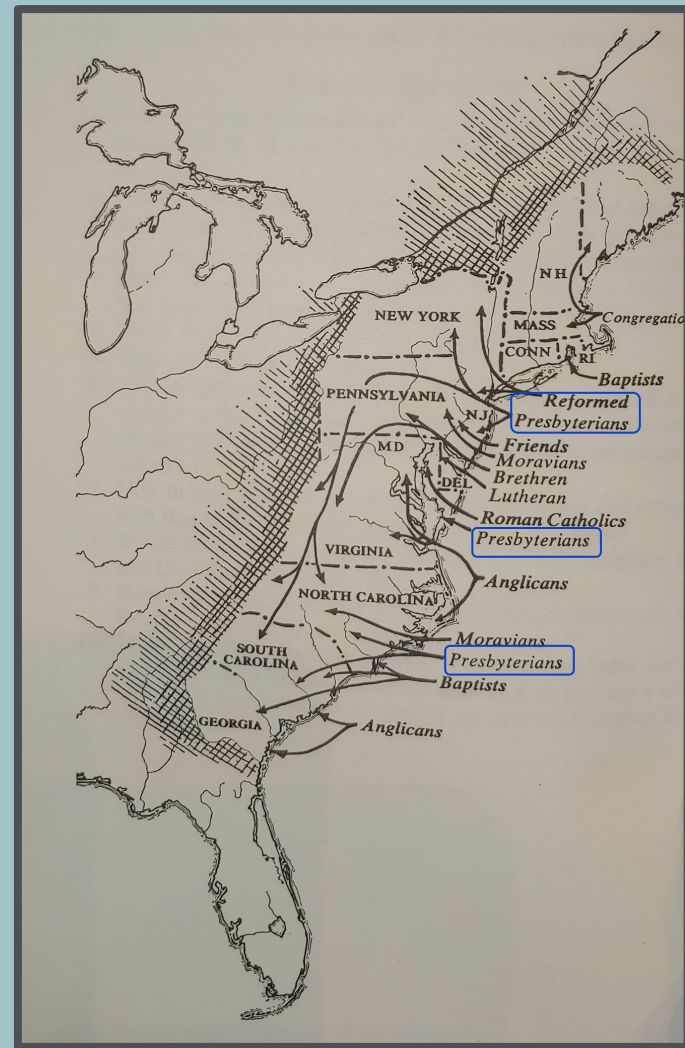
- New York

- South Carolina piedmont

- Pennsylvania (largest) and then to the back-country of Virginia and Carolinas

In 1725 great Scottish-Irish immigration began continuing to the Revolutionary War

Presbyterian Church had become second largest church next to Congregationalists by 1776 - Mainly middle colonies and along frontier

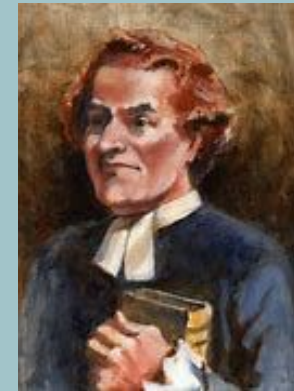




## Reverend Francis Makemie

Born in 1658 in Ramelton, County Donegal, Ireland

Not allowed to go to the University of Ireland in Dublin since he was a Presbyterian of Scottish descent.



## Reverend Francis Makemie

Instead, when he was 18, he enrolled in the University of Glasgow in Scotland.

In 1682, he was ordained as a Missionary. He answered a call to Rehobeth, Maryland later that year.



## Makemie's Arrival

When he was 24, Makemie went to the colonies in 1682 as a Presbyterian Missionary at the request of Col. William Stevens, owner of Rehoboth a plantation on the Pocomoke R.

He preached in the middle Atlantic area (Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina).

In 1684, Makemie established the first Presbyterian congregation on the Eastern Shore in Snow Hill, Maryland followed by one in Rehoboth.

Snow Hill was to be the center of the Presbytery of Snow Hill, which received a charter from Maryland's General Assembly, but was never activated.

The church erected in Snow Hill became the current Makemie Memorial Presbyterian Church.



# Makemie Family Life

In 1687 Makemie settled in Accomack county, Virginia, where he purchased land, engaged in trade, and ministered at nearby Rehoboth

He married Naomi, the daughter of William Anderson, a successful businessman and landowner who helped him become established. Naomi and Francis had two daughters.

Makemie expanded his trade to Barbados and purchased a house there in early 1690 and obtained a licence to preach. His involvement in the West Indies trade was probably facilitated by his father-in-law.

Pocomoke Farm, in Temperanceville, VA is now known as the Makemie Monument Park. It is a historic site in rural Accomack County, on Virginia's Eastern Shore. The site is the location of their original family home and now the family cemetery.



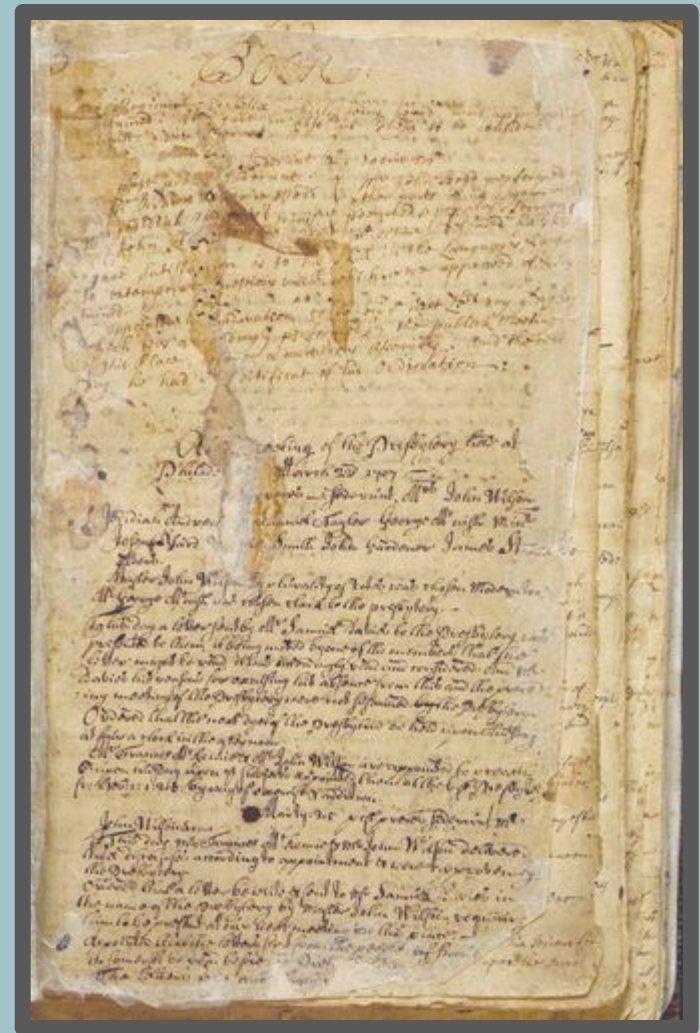
## Makemie Presbyterian Church Formation

In 1689, Makemie visited England and persuaded the Presbytery there to support missionary work in the colonies.

In 1706 Makemie formed the seven missionaries working in scattered churches of the Middle Colonies into the first presbytery in America, with power to license its own preachers.

They met in Philadelphia and they ordained a new minister, John Boyd. For the first time American Presbyterianism was independent of external control.

In 1717, the first Synod was established in Philadelphia with four presbyteries with churches all in the Middle Colonies.



# Makemie on Trial

In January 1707, Makemie was arrested by Lord Cornbury (aka Edward Hyde), the governor of New York, for preaching without a license.

Anglicanism was the official religion, but Makemie had a license to preach as a dissenter in Virginia and Maryland.

After spending 6 weeks in jail, Makemie was acquitted in June 1707 based on the English Toleration Act of 1689.

The case resulted in the immediate recall of Lord Cornbury. Though found innocent, he was ordered to pay both the cost of the defense and the cost of his prosecution.

As a result of that unfairness, the New York legislature passed legislation which is considered a landmark case in favor of religious freedom in America.





The foreword of the sermon preached in New York included the following scripture:

**Matthew 5:11 (AKJV)**

Blessed are ye, when *men* shall revile you, and persecute *you*, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

**Acts 5:29 (AKJV)**

Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

The sermon scripture was Psalm 50:23:

**Psalm 50:23 (AKJV)**

Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth *his* conversation *aright* will I shew the salvation of God.

**Psalm 50:23 (NLT)**

But giving thanks is a sacrifice that truly honors me. If you keep to my path, I will reveal to you the salvation of God.”

**A Good Conversation.**

A  
**SERMON**

Preached at the City  
OF  
**New-York,**

January 19<sup>th</sup> 1706, 7.

By **Francis Makemie,**  
Minister of the Gospel of CHRIST.

Math. 5. 11. *Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my Names sake.*

Acts 5. 29. *Then Peter, and the other Apostles answered, and said, We ought to obey God, rather then men.*

*Preces et lachrymæ sunt arma Ecclesiæ.*

BOSTON in N. E.  
Printed by B. Green, for Benj. Eliot.  
Sold at his Shop. 1707.

## Other works by Makemie include:

"Truth in a True Light" in 1699 which defended Presbyterianism against charges that it had deviated too far from the Westminster Confession of 1646

"A Plain and Friendly Persuasive to the Inhabitants of Virginia and Maryland for Promoting Towns and Cohabitation" in 1705. This work points out the advantages of forming towns for commerce, education, and worship.

At the bicentennial of American Presbyterianism in 1906, a monument in his honor was erected on his Virginia farm where he is buried. There is also a plaque near the location of his home in Onancock Virginia.

