

Summerton had its beginnings in late 1874 as an outreach of PC at Manning. They met in the Methodist Church before moving into a converted carriage house on Wildwood Plantation in 1875. They were formally organized as an independent congregation on June 20, 1883, and in 1884 constructed a church somewhere on Main Street, though I haven't been able to determine the exact location. They moved into the current sanctuary in 1906, and the old sanctuary was purchased by St. Mark's AME Church and moved to their site; however, it burned down in 1914 after being struck by lightning.

In terms of Black membership at Summerton, it's important to remember that after the Civil War, the northern PCUSA began establishing independent congregations for Black Presbyterians in the South, and by 1875 the southern PCUS had begun doing the same thing. However, at the time of Summerton's organization, the only Black Presbyterian congregations were Melina and Friendship on what is now SC 527, which would have been quite a commute in those days. In 1885, Mt. Carmel Presbyterian was organized in Manning, which would have been the closed Black Presbyterian congregation to Summerton. All that to say that there could have been Black members at Summerton at some point or another. Over the years, different pastors have had different views; Henry Rankin, (1931-1957), was fairly progressive on race relations, while W.C. "Smitty" Smith (1969-1972) was affiliated with conservative Presbyterian groups who opposed integration, and ended up joining the PCA in 1974 (taking Rock Presbyterian Church in Greenwood with him).

The John Bulow Archives at Columbia Seminary might be a good place to look for more information. The former archivist, Brian Hecker, had a special interest in documenting slave histories in Presbyterian congregations, though he has since left. In the meantime, here is a list of pastors:

James A. McDowell (1874-1885), Henry Brown Shaw Garriss (Jun 1885-1886), William Hay Workman (1887-1890), Alexander Montgomery Sale (Feb-Apr 1891†), Daniel Asa Blackburn (licentiate, 1892), Joseph Crockard (1894-1896), John Crooks Bailey, Jr. (1896-1900), William Salter Porter, Sr. (Summer 1902-Dec 1910), William Sterrett Trimble (Dec 1911-Jun 1920), James T. Waite (c. 1923), Charles Stewart Evans (Jul 1924-Feb 1927), William H. Trainum (Jan 1928-Aug 1929†), Paul Dickson Patrick (Interim, 1929-1930), Henry Rankin (Apr 1931-Aug 1957†), Lucius Beddinger DuBose (student, Jan-May 1958, licentiate, May-Jul 1958, pastor, Jul 1958-Jan 1961), George Dewey Harper, Jr. (Aug 1962-Mar 1968), William Charles "Smitty" Smith, Jr. (Jun 1969-Mar 1972), William Sherrill "Bill" Troutman (Jul 1973-Dec 1978), Donald McChesney "Don" Bolls (Jun 1979-Fall 1983), Isaac Moultrie "Ike" Bagnal (Interim, Spring-Summer 1984), Barry Lee Jenkins (Jul 1984-1987), James Clyde Plexico, Jr. (Interim, 1987-1988), Jerry Hammet, Jr. (1988-Jun 2001), Jodie Foster (Oct 2001-Jun 2002), Garland Hart (Jun 2002-Dec 2015), Josie Holler (Interim, Feb 2016-Dec 2018), Vikki Brogdon (Jan 2019-present)