

Arkansas Methodist

Arkansas United Methodism's Newsweekly

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94th Year, No. 23

Little Rock Conference faces up to issues . . .

*race relations, evangelism,
social, money problems*

a report by the editor

The 122nd annual session of the Little Rock Conference adjourned just before noon Friday, May 30, after a four-day meet which was marked by the recurrence of at least four major themes: the issue of racial inclusiveness in the Conference, the need for a major evangelistic emphasis, concern over current social issues, and the necessity of providing a more adequate financial undergirding of the Conference's program of ministries.

The election of delegates to the 1976 General and Jurisdictional Conferences, a major item before the session, provided the framework in which the Conference confronted the status of the three-year-old merger of the Black churches of the former Southwest Conference and the White churches of the former Little Rock Conference.

In remarks at the opening of the session, Bishop Eugene M. Frank noted the significance of the elections. He stressed that women, "though certainly not a minority," be given equitable representation. He asked at the outset of the balloting and a number of times during it, that the Conference be mindful of the call of the general Commission on Religion and Race that minority group membership be fairly represented in the delegation. He encouraged the election of a delegation which "reflects a truly inclusive fellowship." (See page two for list of elected delegates.)

The issue of racial inclusiveness in the church was reflected in the struggle, by Blacks and Whites alike, for representation by Blacks on the quadrennial conference delegations. It was also reflected in a number of other concerns: in the discussion of the publication of a history of the Southwest Conference; in the question of whether Conference priorities adequately dealt with the

racial inclusiveness issue; in the question of a job analysis for the Area associate director of the Council on Ministries; and in attention to the crisis confronting Black congregations.

In a major action reflecting the predominance of the racial inclusiveness theme, the Conference approved, at the last session, the creation of a "blue ribbon" task force of ministers and lay persons, Black and White, "to develop a strategy for ministering to churches of the former Southwest Conference." Membership of the group is to be determined by the Conference Committee on Nominations by Sept. 1, 1975. It is to report to the next session of the Conference.

Needed: Emphasis On Evangelism

The need for a vigorous evangelistic emphasis was repeatedly expressed in the session. The inclusion on the agenda of two Conference Preachers reflected that concern. On recommendation of the Board of Evangelism the Conference approved the New Life Mission (NLM) as a voluntary program for 1976. One of the Conference Preachers, Dr. George E. Morris of the Board of Discipleship, introduced the concept of the NLM in a major presentation.

Morris said the NLM is "a contemporary strategy of evangelism" designed to "awaken faith in persons and equip the church to be in mission for the world." It is a program of several weeks' duration combining preaching, dialogue, teaching and sharing. It seeks to address what Morris calls "the four major crises in the local church: crises in content, commitment, community and compassion."

Referring to a decline in membership of 417 during 1974, Bishop Frank said

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Lay Delegates

Among lay delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference are (back row, from left): William M. Shepherd, G. James Washington, James H. Rice, all of Little Rock. Front row: Don Riffin of Little Rock; Mrs. Jennings Shaw of Magnolia and Mrs. E. T. Davenport of Little Rock. (For complete listing and identification of delegates, see page two.)



Clergy Delegates

Among clergy delegates to General and Jurisdictional Conference are (back row, from left): Dr. Harold Flowers of Pine Bluff; the Rev. Ralph Hale of Hope. Second row: Dr. John Miles of Arkadelphia, the Rev. Fred Arnold of Little Rock, John Walker of Smackover and James Major of Conway. Front row: Drs. George W. Martin of Arkadelphia, J. Edward Dunlap of Little Rock, Virgil Keeley of Pine Bluff and Negail Riley of New York. (For complete listing and identification of delegates, see page two.)

U. M. communicators to meet in Little Rock

EVANSTON, ILL. (UMC) — A series of three "round tables" to gather opinions from church executives and members, as well as from secular communicators, has been scheduled by the committee conducting a study of United Methodist general periodicals.

The meetings will be held June 25-26 in Little Rock, Ark., July 9-10 in Philadelphia, Pa., and July 16-17 in Los Angeles, Calif. Approximately 24 persons will be invited to each session. (The Little Rock session will be held at First United Methodist Church.)

Edwin H. Maynard, editorial director of United Methodist Communications' Division of Program and Benevolence Interpretation and director of the study, said that opportunity for expression of opinions from persons not invited to these meetings will be provided through some form of questionnaire, and in other ways.

The study of periodicals was authorized by the General Council on Ministries

(GCOM) in March and assigned to United Methodist Communications for implementation. Approval for the study came shortly before it was announced that United Methodists Today, the denomination's general-circulation monthly magazine, and its insert for ministers would be suspended with the June issue because of rising costs and declining circulation.

Dr. Maynard said the study has four objectives — developing a philosophy of communication for the entire church; determining what functions periodicals can "reasonably be expected to perform" at general and annual conference levels; evaluating the performance of present publications in meeting needs of the church's constituency; and developing a variety of options for publication of periodicals to be submitted to the 1976 General Conference by GCOM.

The report to the GCOM is expected in early December.



Before Opening Worship Celebration at North Arkansas Annual Conference

Dr. James T. Laney (third from right), dean of Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, and Conference Preacher, presented the sermon at the Monday evening Celebration of Worship. Other participants in the Holy Communion Service held at First Church, Conway included (left to right), the Revs. Joe Kennedy, Norman Carter, Victor Nixon, Bishop Eugene M. Frank, (Dr. Laney), Mrs. Sharon (John) Spurlin and Dr. Harold Eggenberger, host pastor. The conference convened for its 140th annual session at 3 p.m. at the Hendrix College campus.



Words Of Welcome

Don Schnipper, vice chairperson of Administrative Board, Hot Spring's First Church, extends welcome to delegates. He was joined by Mayor Tom Ellsworth and Dr. George F. Ivey, host church pastor.



Tuesday Evening Worship Leaders

Dr. George H. Outen (second from right) of Nashville, of Board of Discipleship, gave first message as Conference Preacher Tuesday evening. Other worship participants were (from right) the Rev. Orall Joseph, Lockesburg Enlarged Charge and the Rev. T. E. Snow, Hensley, Haven-Caddo Gap. Host pastor Dr. George Ivey is at left.



Retired Bishops Presented

Bishop Frank presents to the Conference retired United Methodist bishops, Bishop Aubrey G. Walton (left) and Bishop William C. Martin, who were greeted with a standing vote of appreciation. Bishop Martin presented the Wednesday morning devotional message and Bishop Walton was the Thursday morning inspirational speaker.

Ordination Service

"Take thou authority to preach the word . . . to administer the Sacraments." The eleven Deacons and three Elders were ordained Thursday evening by Bishop Frank.



Voted Into Full Connection

Admitted into Full Connection and approved for ordination as Elders were (from left) the Revs. G. Coleman Akin, St. Mark, Camden; Dr. Morris L. Smith, Dermott-Wesley-McGehee; Robert E. Woody, Mineral Springs-Wakefield, and Keenan C. Williams, Welcome Church.



Candidates For Deacon's Orders

Approved for Deacon's Orders were (from left, back row): David Swift, Lake Village; Jim Pledger, Little Rock; Joy L. Thornton, West Memphis; Robert Hasley, Dallas; Walter Smith, Nashville. Front row: Charles Murry, Stephens; Charles W. Jackson Jr., Magnolia; Roger Armstrong, Little Rock; G. David Deere, Sparkman; Fred W. Hunter, Leola; J. Wayne Edwards, Mt. Ida.

Little Rock Conference Delegates

to the
General and Jurisdictional
Conferences of 1976

GENERAL CONFERENCE

Clergy Delegates: Dr. George W. Martin, Arkadelphia District Superintendent; Dr. J. Edward Dunlap, Little Rock District Superintendent; Dr. Virgil D. Keeley, Pine Bluff District Superintendent; Dr. Negail R. Riley, St. Albans, N.Y., staff member, Board of Global Ministries.

Lay Delegates: John Blundell, automobile dealer in Ashdown, residence in Texarkana; Don L. Riggan, executive director, Arthritis Foundation, Little Rock; R. P. Meredith, retired executive, Georgia Pacific Co., Crossett; Mrs. Zenobia Waters, faculty member, Philander Smith College, Little Rock.

JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

Clergy Delegates: Dr. John P. Miles, pastor, First U.M. Church, Arkadelphia; the Rev. John F. Walker, pastor, First U.M. Church, Smackover; the Rev. Fred H. Arnold, pastor, Asbury U.M. Church, Little Rock; the Rev. James E. Major, vice president, Hendrix College, Conway.

Lay Delegates: William M. Shep-

herd, retired executive, Arkansas Power and Light Co., Little Rock; Mrs. Jennings Shaw, merchant and retired teacher, Magnolia; Frank Thompson, executive, trucking firm, El Dorado; Mrs. E. T. Davenport, homemaker, chairperson of Conference Committee on Review and Evaluation, Little Rock.

RESERVE DELEGATES TO JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

Clergy Delegates: Dr. Harold Flowers, attorney and pastor, St. James U.M. Church, Pine Bluff; the Rev. Ralph E. Hale, pastor of First U.M. Church, Hope; the Rev. Ed Matthews, pastor of Lakeside U.M. Church, Pine Bluff; Dr. Alvin C. Murray, pastor of First U.M. Church, Little Rock.

Lay Delegates: Mrs. James Nix, homemaker, Conference UMW president, Lonoke; G. James Washington, retired, John Tucker Furniture Co., Little Rock; James Rice, senior Vice President and Trust Officer, First National Bank, Little Rock; Mrs. Austine Williams, chairperson, State Board of Cosmetology, Little Rock.

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Issues faced

(Continued from page one)

"What has happened to us that we just lose members by the hundreds?" Saying that evangelism should be the basic work of the church, he said "It is just inconceivable to me that an Annual Conference has to adopt a 'program of evangelism!'"

Bishop Frank said he wanted to "see this Little Rock Conference turned around this year." He commended the New Life Mission as one of many styles of evangelism and said "I just don't see how this can do anything but build up the church."

Social Issues Addressed — Gambling Hit

The Conference addressed itself to several major social issues, primarily through its adoption of the report of the Board of Church and Society.

Aid in the alleviation of world hunger was named as one of ten priorities adopted by the Conference. It accepted a report calling upon the 82,900 Conference members to set a goal of fasting a minimum of one day a month and providing the money saved to the United Methodist Committee on Overseas Relief (UMCOR) for its fight against hunger.

Sponsorship of "at least ten Vietnamese refugee families" by churches in Conference, called for. Each church requested to send minimum of \$10 for Fort Chaffee refugees.

The report also called for the sponsorship of "at least ten Vietnamese refugee families" by churches in the Conference. Each church was asked to send a minimum of \$10 to aid in relief work with Vietnamese refugees at Fort Chaffee. The money is to be sent directly to Dr. Charles P. McDonald, P.O. Box 3634, Station A, Fort Smith, Ark. 72901.

In the same report the Board stated "With the General Conference we affirm our support of the Equal Rights Amendment and commend it for passage to our legislators."

In a major action the body voted unanimously to oppose "any further extension of pari-mutuel betting to any community or organization in Arkansas for any purpose, including the Arkansas Livestock Association in Little Rock." The action came in response to the announcement that the Livestock Association has under consideration the extension of legal pari-mutuel betting on quarter horse racing.

The resolution was presented in a report by the Rev. Edward W. Harris, executive director of the Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas, Inc. He said it was the conviction of the executive committee of that organization that "this threat of the extension of pari-mutuel betting in Arkansas ought to be met head-on and immediately to avoid a long fight throughout the coming year."

On Finances

While Conference Treasurer Grafton Thomas reported an increase in funds received to date as compared with last year, reports from a number of agencies expressed the need for more sound financial undergirding in the future.

Dr. John Miles, vice chairperson of the Council on Finance and Administration,

(Continued on page three)

Issues faced (Continued from page two)

reported a "crisis in the percentage items" — those items in local church budgets which are determined by a specific percentage of an amount equal to the pastor's salary (rather than his expense account).

Miles noted that in recent years increases in pastoral support had been achieved by churches raising their ministers' expense accounts rather than by increasing their salary figure. This practice provides no attending increase in Conference funds. "Within two or three years we face a grave and serious crisis," Miles said. The Conference approved a study of ways to make a new formula for support of percentage items.

In a related matter the Rev. Tom Abney, Conference Missionary Secretary noted that the Conference had been deficient in a number of its commitments. "We promised Lydia Patterson Institute \$9,000; we paid them less than \$4,000." He said the same was the case for an Indian mission project (\$9,000 committed, less than \$3,000 paid) and for a project in Nepal (\$8,000 committed, \$5,000 sent). Abney noted as encouraging signs that General Advance giving was up six per cent and that giving to UMCOR had almost doubled.

The tight financial condition of the Conference was reflected in its turn-down of a request for additional funding for Wesley Foundation support.

Robert Langley, representing the Commission on Campus Ministry, submitted a request from that body that the amount apportioned for Wesley Foundations be increased from \$50,000 to \$58,000. He noted that "three studies in recent years have called for an increase in support."

Campus ministers Tom Abney and Robert Van Hook spoke to the request, saying that most of the funds provided go to support buildings and that money was needed to develop programs. The Rev. Harold Davis, speaking as a member of the Council on Finance and Administration, said rather than go back to the CFA with a request for additional funds, he would suggest that voluntary contributions be asked by the various districts.

Other Major Decisions

In another major action the Conference turned down a proposal from the Council on Ministries that there be "an adjourned session (of the Annual Conference) in the fall for the adoption of Conference programs, budgets and other business." The plan was designed to overcome the problem of presenting a program (in the middle of a year) which

does not go into effect until the following January.

The Conference adopted ten priorities as submitted by the Council on Ministries: 1. Administration of the new structure; 2. Evangelism; 3. Leadership training; 4. Continuation of the pension program; 5. Alleviation of world hunger; 6. Stewardship; 7. Lay speaking training and use; 8. Communication to the media (A.V. Library, etc.); 9. Revitalizing Church School and use of curriculum, and 10. Making merger effective through a strategy of ministry to Black United Methodists.

Among other major actions and events the Conference:

- Voted approval for Aldersgate Retirement Center, Inc. (ARC), to "continue conversations with other denominational groups concerning the possible development of an ecumenical retirement center" and granted permission to the ARC board "to enter into any agreements and mergers necessary to bring an ecumenical center into being." The resolution authorized the ARC board "to merge ARC, Inc., into and become a part of an existing organization for the purposes" stated.

- Approved a petition to General Conference, originating in the Board of Ministry, opposing the ordination of homosexuals.

- Held a Service of Commemoration for ministers and wives or widows of ministers who died during the year (See Daily Proceedings for names).

- Ordained 11 ministers to Deacon's Orders and three to Elder's Orders (See Daily Proceedings for names).

- Gave recognition to six ministers who retired, hearing personal messages from those who were present (See Daily Proceedings for names).

- Heard and approved resolutions of appreciation for all who contributed to the session. Special note was made of two resolutions:

ONE: "Our thanks is due to the men and women who have lived and died to make this Conference what it is today. One such person was Bishop Paul E. Martin, who died during this Conference year. We miss Bishop Martin. We honor his ministry. Let us leave this place remembering the love and loyalty of this great Christian leader."

TWO: "The Little Rock Annual Conference wishes to express its appreciation for Alfred A. Knox, for his faithful years of service to all of Arkansas Methodism as editor of the *Arkansas Methodist*."

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Arkansas Methodist

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Manager John S. Workman
Associate Editor Doris Woolard
Editorial Assistant and
Bookkeeper Karen Compton
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The Editor's Pulpit

From the Bottom of the Heart

Hot Springs elections '75 —success and a challenge

No other single issue characterized the 122nd session of the Little Rock Conference as did that relating to the racial inclusiveness of the three-year-old body.

Created in 1972 by the merging of the Black churches of the former Southwest Conference and the White churches of the former Little Rock Conference, the new Little Rock Conference, barely an infant, experienced at the session just closed its first real pains in growth toward racial inclusiveness.

And while there were some pains and hurts expressed, these got more exposure than ever before and were, in our opinion, the "growing" kind of pains, and their exposure to the light and air was a healing experience.

The subject of race relations within the church was reflected in a whole host of issues throughout the four days of the session. But it was the quadrennial conference elections which offered the young Conference its first real occasion for an open testing and evaluation of its racial inclusiveness.

It is our opinion that the Conference passed that test with flying colors. It came through reflecting the kind of resources which are vital if it is to work through, in the future, the knotty issues represented in the achievement of a mature and authentic inclusiveness.

Several things seem responsible for the "remarkable" results of the Hot Springs elections. Honesty is one. The delegates were honest enough to be frank with one another, with the issues, and with their own feelings. There was frankness and forthrightness in differing positions, and that is good.

Another element was "conscious concern" over the issue. That concern was reflected from the beginning in encouragement from Bishop Frank, before the balloting began and as it progressed, that the delegations reflect a racially inclusive church.

That concern was evidenced following the fifth Clergy ballot — after three of the four General Conference delegates had been elected and it appeared that no Black was to be included — when a White minister, next in line in votes and seemingly assured of election, asked that those voting for him switch their support to elect a Black minister.

That spirit was multiplied as others, lay and clergy, expressed similar sentiments.

The end result made "little sense" based on arithmetic alone, for the figures on comparative Black and White membership in the Conference are overwhelming: Total membership: 82,492 (81,080 White, 1,412 Black). Number of churches: 397 (363 White, 34 Black). Number of Effective ministers: 237 (228 White, 9 Black).

The result of the elections was that in a General Conference delegation of eight, two are Black — one minister and one lay person. And that while there are no Black members of the Jurisdictional Conference delegation, the picture is different in the Reserve Delegation to Jurisdictional Conference: three of the eight are Black — one minister, two lay persons.

Grand total of all 24 General and Jurisdictional Conference delegates and reserves: 19 White, five Black.

Conclusions? At the end of an extended exchange between a Black minister and two White ministers, each honestly sharing positions and feelings, Dr. Negail Riley, newly elected Black member of the General Conference clergy delegation, said "I think what I heard in the previous discussion were two things — two things that are indeed very good to be said. One by the Black brother ... who in effect was affirming the fact that the Black United Methodist Church in Arkansas is weak in leadership and in membership ... (Then) I heard the White brothers saying that this Conference, indeed, has made a very clear statement of a commitment to an inclusive church. And this cannot be argued!"

What the Little Rock Conference seemed to be saying, and what its quadrennial elections showed, is that while arithmetic is certainly important, there are other priorities for a young conference struggling with what it means to be an inclusive church.

The Little Rock Conference has made a remarkable showing toward numerical inclusiveness in its quadrennial conference delegations. The challenge now is to move beyond numbers and on toward an inclusiveness which can be achieved only as we are consumed and possessed by things other than an inordinate concern with statistics.

JSW

DAILY PROCEEDINGS

1975

Tuesday Afternoon, May 27, 2 p.m.



Council On Ministries Report

The Rev. John Thompson, Area associate director for the Council on Ministries, gives portion of Council's report.



Church And Society Report

Mr. Homer Winstead, chairperson of Board of Church and Society, gives report of that agency.



Renewing Aldersgate Friendships

The Rev. Margaret Marshall, member of the West Virginia Conference and the first executive director of Aldersgate Camp, and Ray Tribble, present director, visit.

The 122nd session of the Little Rock Annual Conference began with an Opening Celebration prepared by the Commission on Worship, Carr Dee Racop, chairperson. Bishop Eugene M. Frank served as liturgist. First hymn: "And Are We Yet Alive?" Serving as Conference Organist and Choir Director, respectively, for the session were Richard Morris and Lucy Cabe.

Bishop Frank gave meditation based on Mark 12 and 8, saying the purpose of worship is "to help us find out who is God in our lives"; to help us "abdicate from the throne of our lives those things that take the place of God." He said the purpose of discipleship is "to help us abandon all those securities that keep us from total commitment to God's kingdom."

Bishop Frank administered the Sacrament of Holy Communion; assisted by Winslow Brown, J. T. Counts, W. Darrell Bone, Tom Nation.

BUSINESS SESSION: Bishop Frank called Conference to order; led in hymn "Holy Spirit, Faithful Guide." Alf Eason moved agenda be approved as printed. Carried. Secretary of the Conference James Major announced Roll Call being taken in Book Room; moved Bar of the Conference be sanctuary area in front of pillars. Carried. Secretarial staff approved: Therral Wilson, Journal Clerk and O. D. Peters, Staff Assistant.

NOMINATIONS: Secretary of Conference Nominating Committee George Tanner reported. Nominees elected.

WELCOME: Host Pastor George Ivey presented Vice Chairperson of Administrative Board Don Schnipper who gave welcome; introduced Hot Springs Mayor Tom Ellsworth who gave welcome on behalf of city.

Bishop Frank spoke of need to "find ways by which Annual Conference can glorify God" and extend his kingdom. Said "many small stones go into building of a structure; everything we do here is designed to help somebody else be a good disciple." Noted importance of electing delegates to General Conference and emphasized need for minority and female representation. Said General Conference of 1976 "a new opportunity to make systems of church relevant to what God is doing."

ST. PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY: Vice President Dr. Shrum Burton reported; noted that school has highest percentage of graduates in local church ministries of any seminary in American Association of Theological Schools.

COURTESY: Dr. Fred Roebuck, Bishop William C. Martin, Bishop Aubrey G. Walton recognized with standing ovation. Debi Miles presented as soon-to-be commissioned U.S.-2 short-term missionary.

MINISTRY: Report No. One. Chairperson R. O. Beck presented John Ross, John Walker, David Wilson for report. Ross reported ministers found blameless in character. Adopted. Wilson reported proposed new policy on reporting Conference Relations; each District Superintendent to report character of his ministers. Therral Wilson nominated as Trustee of St. Paul School of Theology.

Walker reported for Board's Committee on Counseling and Care; survey being studied for possible future action. Report No. One adopted.

Walker, associate registrar, reported recommendation that Dr. Morris Smith be received into Full Connection from another denomination.

Superintendent Ed Dunlap recommended him. Carried.

Walker presented those recommended for Full Connection according to Paragraph 333: G. Coleman Akin and Keenan C. Williams; and according to Par. 355, 376.3: Robert E. Woody. Bishop Frank examined candidates; they were elected.

PRIVILEGE: Vote to send appropriate messages to E. M. Johnson in death of his daughter and grandson, and to lay and clerical members in ill health: Herb Allman, Tendall Fooks, Leland Clegg, H. O. Richardson, O. E. Holmes, Henry Jinske, Sidney Good, H. O. Bolin. Bishop Frank recognized James Richardson, recently in ill health.

GENERAL CONFERENCE BALLOT NO. ONE: Robert Trieschmann, G. James Washington named replacement tellers. Ballot taken; sealed until Wednesday morning.

RECESS: Arthur Terry gave benediction; recess until 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday Evening, May 27, 7:30

WORSHIP SERVICE: T. E. Snow, leader; Richard Hunter, hymn leader. United Methodist Fellowship Choir of Little Rock gave two anthems. Vanita Dyer led affirmation of faith; Orall Joseph gave prayer. Dr. George H. Outen, Board of Discipleship, Nashville, preached; text Luke 17. Said "God has not abandoned his creation; understanding the kingdom of God as a present fact" should underscore all that the Church does." Said best news Church has is "God is with us."

Wednesday Morning, May 28, 8:30

DEVOTIONAL: Worship Leader Ralph Hemund read Hebrews 7:32. Bishop William C. Martin preached on debt of gratitude owed fore-runners in Arkansas Methodism; though gone, they have right to speak to us today: "Do not cast aside the principles and ideals for which we toiled, prayed, sacrificed"; remember that "some things are eternally true"; and "we count on each of you to take the heritage we have committed to you. Expand it."

BUSINESS SESSION: Bishop Frank called Conference to order; recommended books.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION: Chairman Ray Hozendorf presented Report No. One; John Miles spoke to need for a new formula for percentage items. Gerald Fincher gave report No. Two; Scarritt College authorized to receive gifts from local churches; to be apportioned item in 1977. Robert Langley moved to amend Report No. One, 5, c, to increase Wesley Foundation support from \$50,000 to \$58,000. Seconded. Tom Abney, Robert Van Hook spoke for; Harold Davis against. Defeated. Reports One and Two adopted.

COURTESY: Bishop Frank conveyed appreciation from Helen Wilson to Conference for having paid World Service in full; he asked for special effort to pay all apportionments.

BALLOT REPORT NO. 1: 139 clergy votes cast; 6 defective, 70 needed to elect. No election. Leading: Ed Dunlap 66, Virgil Keeley 59, George Martin 53. 100 lay votes cast; 18 defective, 51 needed to elect. Elected: John Blundell 52. Leading: Don Riggan 35, R. P. Meredith 32, William Shepherd 28. Second ballot taken.

(Continued on page seven)



At The Bishop's Desk

Bishop Eugene M. Frank presiding at his third regular session of the Little Rock Conference since assignment in 1972 to the Arkansas Area.



UMW President Reports

Mrs. Lucille Nix, president of Conference United Methodist Women, reports growth in membership and giving, notes International Women's Year.



Offering Resolution Opposing Gambling

The Rev. Edward W. Harris, executive director of the Arkansas Christian Civic Foundation, Inc., offers resolution opposing pari-mutuel gambling.



Before Service Of Commemoration

Worship participants for the Service of Commemoration were (from left) the Revs. James Major, Varnell Norman, Dr. George W. Martin, who gave the sermon, Dr. John W. Lindsay, Dr. Robert B. Moore Sr., and John T. Dill.



'U.S. Two' And Parents

Miss Debi Miles of Arkadelphia, soon-to-be commissioned as a U.S. Two, giving two years service in mission work in the U.S., is shown with her parents, Dr. and Mrs. John P. Miles. One of 30 in the nation, Debi will receive her training at Memphis State University July 27-Aug. 16.



Chaplains Together

Chaplains at dinner meeting (from left) Rodney Wallace, U.S. Navy, Verlin E. Mikesell, U.S.A.F. (Ret.), Dr. A. Purnell Bailey of Washington, D.C., associate general secretary of Division of Chaplains, Winslow E. Brown, U.S. Army, Jefferson E. David, U.S.A.F. (Ret.), Dr. James W. Workman, Veterans' Administration (Ret.), and Thomas J. Nation, Veterans' Administration. Mikesell was elected chairperson.

NEWS and opinion

summary by Doris Woolard



Pennsylvania's \$32.9 million a year program of aid to parochial and other private schools has been reduced to \$6.5 million by the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision which allowed for textbook aid but rejected a multifaceted auxiliary service program as unconstitutional.

The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling against a Pennsylvania program of "auxiliary services" for private and parochial schools will lead to the overturning of aid programs in Ohio, Iowa and Michigan, according to Mr. Edd Doerr, director of research for Americans United for Separation of Church and State. He said the ruling would also set the stage for a challenge to federal programs that aid non-public schools.

Some 1,200 teachers and counselors in school remedial and counseling programs in the metropolitan Philadelphia area will lose their public school jobs, and hundreds more will be laid off statewide as a result of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling against a state law providing auxiliary services to non-public schools, according to a spokesman for the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference.

Unused and underused church properties have become a problem in the U.S. and throughout the world — Ezra Earl Jones, a research executive of The United Methodist Church told participants at a conference on The Challenge of Underused Church Properties meeting in New York City. The problem varies from denomination to denomination, but lies primarily within the Roman Catholic and Episcopal Churches, he said.

Catholic Relief Services has shipped 4 tons of new clothing from the New York area to Vietnamese refugees at Fort Chaffee, Ark. The garments are valued at \$29,000.

The U.S. Senate has passed by a voice vote a bill that would allow American missionaries and other citizens living and working abroad to register and cast absentee ballots in Presidential and Congressional elections in the last state of residence. The measure introduced by Sen. Charles Mathias of Maryland and five co-sponsors is similar to legislation pending in the House of Representatives. In addition federal and state governments would be prevented under the legislation from imposing income or inheritance taxes on an overseas citizen solely because he exercised his right to register and vote absentee in federal elections.

Some 25 spokesmen for major Protestant denominations in the Boston area have issued a declaration backing a federal court order directing further desegregation of the city's public schools. The statement said, "... the essential issue in the Boston educational crisis is not busing, but the legal and moral right of all children to an education which is integrated and of equal quality ..."

Episcopal Presiding Bishop John M. Allin, a native of Arkansas, received a vote of confidence from the denomination's Executive Council after he challenged its members to either support him "or declare me bankrupt and incorrect." Bishop Allin referred to a recent contempt citation issued him by the ecclesiastical court of the Diocese of Washington for his failure to appear in person to testify at the trial of Father William A. Wendt.

Baptist bodies of North America report a total membership of 29,681,927 — an increase of 82,884 over a year ago, according to statistics released by the Baptist World Alliance headquarters in Washington, D.C. The Southern Baptist Convention, largest Baptist body in the world, increased its membership by 218,496, and several other bodies also reported increases, though four reported declines.

Trustees of North Carolina Wesleyan College at Rocky Mount have voiced confidence that a fund-raising drive will succeed and that a student body of 400 will be reached in the near future. Rocky Mount community has named a committee to raise \$850,000, and \$500,000 has already been pledged. In March, the 19-year-old institution announced that it faced bankruptcy.



—RNS Photo

Atheist Vs. Evangelist

DAYTON, Ohio — America's best-known atheist, Madalyn Murray O'Hair, and one of its most famous evangelists, the Rev. Bob Harrington, warm up backstage before going on a Dayton television show to trade slings and arrows. ... To begin with, Mrs. O'Hair, who succeeded in having prayer banned from the public schools, said she doesn't like to appear on the same program with Mr. Harrington because he relies on cliches and avoids answering serious questions. On the other hand, Mr. Harrington, known as the "Chaplain of Bourbon Street," said he likes appearing with Mrs. O'Hair because "she's the greatest advertisement Christianity ever had."

The number of Americans having a religious affiliation has declined fractionally from the 62.4 per cent reported last year to 61.9 per cent, according to the 1975 Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches. Commenting on the slight decrease Yearbook Editor Constant Jacquet Jr. said, "As the U.S. birthrate decreases, church membership (as well as the general population) gets older and as people die, fewer of the young are taking their places as members of Churches."

Commissioners (delegates) to the 187th Assembly of The United Presbyterian Church, meeting in Cincinnati, overwhelmingly rejected a bid by the Presbyterian Gay Caucus to become "associated" with the law-making body.

Connecticut's House of Representatives has voted, 81 to 54, to require a "silent moment of prayer" each day in public schools of the state. The Senate has already passed a similar bill, which will be returned to the Senate for approval of a House amendment to allow children to leave the classroom, if they wish, during the moment of prayer. A supporter of the measure said, "There's only one Supreme Being, and it isn't the Supreme Court."

Dr. V. Elving Anderson, assistant director of the Dight Institute at the University of Minnesota, commented during a panel discussion that in counseling women and couples on abortions, ministers "should not decide for them," but be open and helpful and stress the Biblical perspectives. The three-man panel on "The Evangelical's Viewpoint On Legal Abortion" concluded that there is no opinion common to all evangelical Christians.

Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin of Cincinnati, the president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, said protests against the plight of Jews in the Soviet Union should be broadened to include all peoples whose human rights are being violated, not only in Russia but also elsewhere.



—RNS Photo

Hosting Refugee Children

DALLAS — L. Taylor Daniel reads to four Vietnamese refugee children who are living in his Dallas home. Mr. Daniel, who recently retired as vice president for development of the Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Board, is host for the Tran Bao family. Mrs. Bao currently is expecting her fifth child in the refugee camp at Fort Chaffee, Ark. The children are, from left: My Quoc, 9, Dat, 8, Ngan, 5, and Thoa, 6.

United Methodism in Arkansas . . .



Searcy Youth Licensed To Preach

Batesville District Superintendent, the Rev. Floyd Villines Jr. presided at a recent Charge Conference called at Grace Church for the purpose of Approving Gregory Alan Webb for License to Preach studies. Shown at right is the Rev. Lewis Ernest, pastor.

†



Lakewood Church Buys Parsonage

The four-bedroom ranch style brick home shown here is the residence for the associate pastor of Lakewood Church and is located at 3612 Sevier Street in North Little Rock.

†



Dual Honors

Mrs. Josie Rickman, 76, was the oldest mother present for Mother's Day worship at Wailers Chapel (Monticello District) and wore a red corsage in honor of her mother, Mrs. Mintie Maxwell, 98, who is a resident of Leisure Lodge in Crossett. Mrs. Rochelle Blankenship (right), received a red corsage as the youngest mother present and received baptismal and membership certificates as the newest member of the church — all on the same day. Shown with honorees is Pastor Bill Stewart.

†



Day Of Celebration At Murfreesboro

Friends and relatives thronged the sanctuary of First Church, Murfreesboro on a recent Sunday morning to honor 28 persons who have been members of that church 50 years or more. Special recognition was given

to Mrs. Hallie Webb Morrison who joined the church in 1901 and to Mrs. Lou Anna Stevens (seated), the oldest member (92 years, 6 months) who transferred to the Murfreesboro Church in 1939.

Fort Chaffee CWS Director Speaks At Hendricks Hills

Mr. Mac Cauffman, director of the Church World Service team at Fort Chaffee converses with Mrs. Charles McDonald and Mrs. P. H. Harding concerning refugee needs at Fort Chaffee during recent churchwide fellowship supper at Hendricks Hills Church in Fort Smith. Mr. Cauffman, guest speaker, stated that the greatest need is for congregations to "launch out in faith" and sponsor Vietnamese refugees. During the evening two bicycles were offered in response to the speaker's mention of bicycles needed for use by couriers at the fort.

†



FIRST CHURCH, LITTLE ROCK RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS FOR FIRST OFFENDER PROJECT

First United Methodist Church, Little Rock, in cooperation with the Little Rock Municipal Court is presently recruiting volunteers and helping in the formation of a training course for a "Volunteers in Probation" program. The project is under the sponsorship of a sub-committee within the church's Work Area on Social Concerns, chaired by Mrs. Carol Rasco.

The purpose of the project is to establish a human, caring relationship with persons placed on probation after conviction of a misdemeanor. Under the guidance of the court's Probation Department the citizen volunteers work weekly on a one-to-one basis with a first-time offender on probation.

Volunteers are needed because each of the local Probation Officers carries a case load of approximately 200 clients and does not have as much time and attention to devote to each individual probationer as is needed.

Before a volunteer is accepted into the program, training sessions totaling 10 hours, must be attended. First Church will be the site of the first group of training sessions slated for June 3, 5, 10, and 12, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Church Parlor. A fifth session is planned in court to observe proceedings. There is no charge, and pre-registration is not necessary. The only requirement placed upon volunteers is the willingness to give of their time and concern in caring and sharing with another person.

†

THE CHAPEL SINGERS of Asbury Church, 1215 Schiller, will present the musical drama, "Celebrate Life," by Buryl Red during the 10:40 a.m. worship service on June 8th. The disciple roles of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John will be portrayed by Joe Ford, Scott Smith, Gordon Davis and Jerry Conatser, with Chris Conatser serving as narrator. Soloists will include Susan Bush, Lee Ann Finch and Timothy Conatser. Mrs. Coy Adams, director of music and Mrs. M. S. Burgess Jr., director of youth activities are in charge of the production.

†



Organist For 46 Years

Pauline Stewart Day was observed at First Church, Clarksville recently to honor Mrs. Everett Stewart who has served as organist of that church since 1929 when she was a student at College of the Ozarks. In addition to letters of commendation from bishops, district superintendents and former pastors, she was the recipient of flowers from the Administrative Board, a plaque of appreciation and a check from the congregation. In the afternoon the choir hosted a reception to honor Mrs. Stewart who began her music ministry when her father, the late Rev. Elmer H. Hook was pastor, and served throughout the tenures of 10 pastors and seven choir directors.

†

Daily Bible Readings

Below is a schedule for the Daily Bible Readings, which the Board of Discipleship invites you to use as a regular guide in your homes.

June 8—Sunday	Deut. 11:18-21
June 9	Mark 2:18-22
June 10	Deut. 11:26-30
June 11	I Cor. 13:1-3
June 12	Joshua 1:5-8
June 13	Ezra 7:26-28
June 14	Luke 6:27-31
June 15—Sunday	Luke 6:32-37

†

LITTLE ROCK ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PROCEEDINGS

(Continued from page four)

COURTESY: Mrs. Eugene Frank presented, expressed her joy in the fellowship of Conference. T. A. Prewett recognized for 63 years service as a lay delegate. Dr. William E. Brown recognized as clergy member 68 years.

ADDRESS: Dr. George Outen spoke on Conference Council on Ministries; build upon strengths of local church.

CHAPLAINS: Dr. A. Purnell Bailey, associate general secretary, Commission on Chaplains, presented Chaplains Winslow Brown, Tom Nation, James W. Workman, Rodney Wallace.

BALLOT REPORT NO. 2: 140 clergy votes cast; 3 defective, 71 needed to elect. Two elected: George W. Martin 96, Ed Dunlap 78. Leading: Virgil Keeley, 61, John Miles 37. 108 lay votes cast; 12 defective, 55 needed to elect. Elected: Don Riggan 61. Leading: William Shepherd 54, R. P. Meredith 47, Mrs. Jennings Shaw 29. Third ballot taken. Recessed after announcements.

Wednesday Morning, May 28, 11:30

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COMMEMORATION: John W. Lindsay, leader. Assisting: James Major, R. B. Moore Sr., Varnell Norman, John T. Dill. Lucy Cabe, choir director; Russ Racop, trumpeter. George W. Martin, preacher. Topic: "Who is That on the Other Side of You?"; Christ walked with those remembered this day and also with us.

Roll of Immortals: Ministers — Clem N. Baker, Stanley T. Baugh, Herman Bonds, Francis A. Buddin, DeWitt Harbeson, Fred R. Harrison, John L. Hoover, W. R. Johnson, Charles E. Lawrence, Charles E. Messer, Patrick H. Myers, William C. Onstead, Claude R. Roy, Kenneth L. Spore.

Wives and widows of ministers: Mrs. S. T.

Baugh, Mrs. A. J. Christie, Mrs. William S. Cazor, Mrs. C. C. Hall, Mrs. James V. Kelley, Mrs. Charles E. Lawrence, Mrs. Alfred Miller, Mrs. M. F. Strong.

Lay persons: Mrs. Roland N. Shelton, Reuben Newton.

Wednesday Afternoon, May 28

MT. SEQUOYAH: N. Lee Cate, superintendent, spoke of Assembly needs, called attention to Bishops' Week and other summer events.

LYDIA PATTERSON: Dr. Noé Gonzales, president, reported new philosophy of program being studied; filmstrip available.

PRESENTATION: Bishop Frank presented \$200 checks from remaining funds of former Southwest Conference to Ed Dunlap for Duncan Church, Virgil Keeley for Hensley Church, Mouzon Mann for Ebenezer Church, Ray Tribble for Aldersgate, Inc.

BALLOT REPORT NO. 3: 117 clergy votes cast; 6 defective, 59 needed to elect. No election. Leading: Virgil Keeley 46, John Miles 33. 89 lay votes cast; 4 defective, 45 needed to elect. Elected: R. P. Meredith. Leading: William Shepherd 44. Fourth ballot taken.

MISSIONS: Chairperson Joe Phillips Jr. presented Bob Van Hook who gave first four reports, including separate resolution to grant Aldersgate Retirement Center, Inc., authority to enter agreements and mergers necessary to bring an ecumenical retirement center into being. Robert Scott spoke against.

Alice Preston called for Board to include priorities relating to former Southwest Conference's heritage. Joe Phillips, George Martin spoke to that call. Harry Bass called for election of a former Southwest Conference member as General Conference delegate.

Mrs. Preston again questioned priorities of Conference. George Tanner stated that Conference addressing priorities related to minority interests.

Tom Abney presented Report No. Five; noted poor record of paying certain commitments; called attention to Arkansas School of Christian Mission. Ed Keith, superintendent, Methodist Children's Home, spoke; expressed gratitude of children. Reports adopted.

BALLOT REPORT NO. 4: 128 clergy votes cast; 3 defective, 65 needed to elect. No election. Leading: Virgil Keeley 54, John Miles 48, Negail Riley 37. John Miles expressed appreciation for support, asked that those voting for him switch support to elect a Black minister. 101 lay votes cast; 2 defective, 51 needed to elect. No election. Leading: W. M. Shepherd 40, Mrs. Jennings Shaw 22.

CHURCH AND SOCIETY: Chairperson Homer Winstead reported. John Miles moved to amend report to include goal of fasting one day a month and sending money saved to UMCOR to aid in relief of world hunger. Each church asked to send minimum of \$10 to aid in refugee relief at Fort Chaffee. Recommended 10 Vietnamese refugee families be sponsored. Ed Harris, director of Christian Civic Foundation, presented resolution in opposition to extension of parimutuel betting. Passed.

COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES: Ed Dunlap presented resolution proposing fall program session of Conference, in addition to spring session. Marshall Steel, Ray Hozendorf, Joe Phillips spoke against. Carr Dee Racop pointed out that original intent was one session of Conference at a later date. Jim Argue, Alf Eason spoke for. Resolution failed.

Director Alf Eason presented calendar and report, moved adoption. Mrs. Alice Preston expressed hurt that no job analysis for area associate COM director had been made. Ed Dunlap said analysis had not been written because North Ark. Conference had not yet named committee for joint study. Ray Hozendorf suggested former analysis be accepted; Eason said this not in accord with present structure. Report adopted.

John Thompson presented Purpose of the Conference; Eason the Priorities; George Martin the Implementation of Program. Entire report adopted.

EVALUATION AND REVIEW: Mrs. E. T. Davenport reported committee seeking to establish a measurement of accountability for COM and boards, agencies. Ray Hozendorf moved former associate area director's job analysis be approved. Passed. John Miles moved North Ark. Conference be asked to elect their committee to make joint study on new analysis. Passed. Bill Elliott presented committee's report. Adopted.

BALLOT REPORT NO. 5: 130 Clergy votes cast; 1 defective, 66 needed to elect. Virgil Keeley elected 72. Leading: Negail Riley 64, John Miles 35. John Miles, John Walker, Ray Hozendorf, Ed Matthews asked their supporters elect a Black. 96 Lay votes cast; 4 defective, 49 needed to elect. No election. Leading: Bill Shepherd 41, Mrs. Hazel L. Dabney noted Mrs. Zenobia Waters is Black, highly qualified. Bishop Frank graciously ruled her out of order. Bill Shepherd asked those voting for him to consider someone else. Sixth ballot taken.

EDUCATION: Chairperson Charles Ashcraft presented reports No. 1, 2, 3. Virgil Bell gave No. 4, nomination of Edwin B. Dodson trustee of

Hendrix, and No. 5, encouraging support of Scarritt through Advance Specials. Reports adopted. Dr. Roy Shilling president of Hendrix, spoke. Dr. Walter Hazzard, president, spoke on behalf of Philander Smith. Bob Bell, representing Perkins School of Theology, spoke, introducing Mackey Yokem who spoke on Intern Program.

BALLOT REPORT NO. 6: 123 Clergy votes cast; 62 needed to elect. Elected: Negail Riley 96. 90 Lay votes cast; 2 defective; 46 needed to elect. Mrs. Zenobia Waters elected 62.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Bishop Frank reported word that Ray Burrow's son-in-law killed in motorcycle accident. Pronounced benediction.

Wednesday Evening, May 28, 7:30

Worship Service: Robert Van Hook, worship leader. Choir: Pulaski Heights Church, Little Rock. Song leader: Richard Hunter. Sermon by Dr. George E. Morris, "What is the Nature of God?" (Luke 2). God not the "emergency rationer, the Holy other, the austere judge, the immortal Santa Claus." He is God of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; in our midst; accepts us; holds forth challenge; gives power for creative change.

Thursday Morning, May 29, 8:30

DEVOTIONAL: Daniel C. George, worship leader; scripture I Samuel 27:10, Isaiah 35:1-10. Bishop Aubrey G. Walton, preacher, "What Road Today?" "Where are you going; what your destination; by what route do you plan to get there?" Noted "the Christian is unique in that he has Christ to share." To be a Christian evangelist one must have the spirit of Christ.

BUSINESS SESSION: Bishop Frank called session to order; encouraged reading of books by Dr. Paul Tournier. Expressed gratitude to Bishop Martin and Bishop Walton for leading in devotional services. Dale Diffe reported Minutes of Wednesday's sessions in order.

STEWARDSHIP: Allen Bonsall reported; called attention to report pgs. 24-25, Pre-Conference Journal.

ORDER OF THE DAY: Bishop Frank called for mandatory adjournment at 4 p.m. to allow for preparation for ordination service.

BALLOT NO. 1, JURIS. CONF.: Roe Hill appointed replacement Lay Teller. First ballot for Jurisdictional Conference taken.

PRIVILEGE: Harry Bass expressed appreciation for election of two Black delegates to General Conference.

ECUMENICAL CONCERNS: Chairperson Louis L. Averitt reported; said Interdenominational Funds used to help relocate Vietnamese refugees; spoke of work of National Council of Churches, Arkansas Council of Churches. Presented Frances Wood, executive coordinator of ACC who spoke on Council's work. Report adopted.

EVANGELISM: Board Secretary Carl Beard presented report, introduced Alvin Murray, Conference Secretary of Evangelism. Spoke of Workshop on the Holy Spirit; recommended the New Life Mission as an available district program. Chairperson Fred Arnold spoke to report, noting emphasis on lay pastoral care program. Bishop Frank spoke of need to stop trend of declining membership. Report adopted.

WORSHIP: Chairperson Carr Dee Racop presented report, pg. 25. Adopted.

COMMUNICATIONS: Chairperson Tom Nation spoke to report, given by Secretary Larry Williams. Reported on study of Arkansas Methodist directed by Nov. 1 Special Session. Adopted.

BALLOT REPORT NO. 1, JURIS. CONF.: 99 Clergy votes cast; 4 defective. 50 needed to elect. Elected: John Miles 51. Leading: John Walker 30, Ed Matthews 24, Jim Major 24. 55 Lay votes cast; 2 defective. 27 needed to elect. Elected: Bill Shepherd. Leading: Mrs. Jennings Shaw 24, Frank Thompson 18, Mrs. E. T. Davenport 13. Second ballot taken.

RELIGION AND RACE: Chairperson Bill Eason presented report. Orall Joseph asked about commission's plan furthering equal representation in Conference. Said only 1 Black on Commission; Blacks needed greater opportunity to serve. Alvin Murray, Ralph Mann responded, noting only 10 Black ministers compared to 200 White. Mrs. Alice Preston suggested addition of item stating support of mini-conferences to prepare legislation for General Conference. Accepted. Report adopted.

PRIVILEGE: Negail Riley expressed appreciation for Conference's newly awakened concern for united, inclusive Conference; asked Conference to receive a report on crisis in minority churches. Agreed.

BALLOT REPORT NO. 2, JURIS. CONF.: 117 Clergy votes cast; 59 needed to elect. No election. Leading: John Walker 45, Ed Matthews 29, Jim Major 25. 83 Lay votes cast, 42 needed to elect. No election. Leading: Frank Thompson 31, Mrs. E. T. Davenport 28, Mrs. James Nix 20. Third ballot taken.

INSURANCE: Bill Farris, area insurance advisor, spoke; reported 5000 churches, including 70 in Arkansas, have policies with Methodist Group Insurance. Varnell Norman spoke in support.

CAMPUS MINISTRY: Chairperson Thomas



Subject: Higher Education

Representatives of various institutions of higher education addressed the session. Shown (from left) are the Rev. Buddy Ratliff, the Rev. Bob Bell, director of Public Relations at Perkins, and the Rev. Mackey Yokem, each of whom spoke in the interest of the Dallas seminary; Dr. Roy B. Shilling, president of Hendrix College and Dr. Walter R. Hazzard, president of Philander Smith College.

Report From St. Paul Seminary

Dr. Shrum Burton, vice president of St. Paul, reported that school has the highest percentage of graduates serving in local church ministries of any seminary in the American Association of Theological Schools.



In The Interest Of Lydia Patterson Institute

Dr. Noe E. Gonzales, president of Lydia Patterson Institute, El Paso, Tex., addressed the session Wednesday afternoon.



Abney introduced Robert Van Hook who presented report; Abney spoke to it. Thanked for payment on apportionments, highest except for World Service.

LAY MEN: Chairperson Bill Shepherd reported on nominations, constitution, announced 94 men certified as lay speakers. Adopted.

BALLOT REPORT NO. 3, JURIS. CONF.: 81 Lay votes cast; 41 needed to elect. No election.

(Continued on page ten)



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for June 15, 1975



Why The Bible Was Written

by WAYNE S. WHITE

Lesson 3 in the unit, THE BIBLE: DIVINE — HUMAN BOOK

ORIENTATION: If we have been examining the Bible as something objective and outside of each of us, let us now look inside ourselves. Let us in this discussion also look at the inward, spiritual attitude of those who wrote the Bible and whose experience made it possible. Let us appreciate both the gracious goodness of God who spoke, and the sensitive response of the listeners.

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: Jeremiah 26:1-6; Luke 24:44-47; John 20:30,31; I John 1:1-4, 5:13.

PURPOSE OF THE LESSON: To ask why the Bible was written takes for granted a certain unity in the Book. The Bible has a oneness of purpose running through it; namely, the Holy Spirit at work through many centuries and many people.

The sixty-six books of the Bible were selected as precious enough to preserve. They were given the high place among early religious leaders because they were inspired. The inspiring spirit that prompted the initial experience inspired those who selected the scriptures.

It would be fruitful to examine each of these 66 books to inquire why it was written, what conditions surrounded the experience, and more about the author.

The Bible Before Writing

"Beginning with the time of Moses (about 1300 B.C.) there was a period of oral tradition concerning the history of the Hebrews," writes Martin Rist (International Lesson Annual).

These unwritten traditions did much to form the Hebrew nation. They guided its growth, shaped its conduct and lifted ideals before the people. These traditions called the people to full commitment to the one God, Jahweh, or Jehovah, who had chosen them for a national future with a high destiny. This God showed his special interest in leading their forefathers with care and concern.

When Moses gave the Ten Commandments to the Egyptian refugees in the wilderness the Hebrew people were ready for the covenant relationship. They trusted the God who had saved them, raised up leaders for them, and had brought them on the way to nationhood.

All peoples and nations have this sort of popular tradition. It tells them what kind of people they are, it sets their values, and it defines their expectations.

Writing the Oral Tradition

Around the time of David (1000 B.C.) many of these oral traditions were written down. The obvious reason for writing the oral tradition was to preserve it, but other reasons are clear. Sometimes the authority of the

leaders was weakening, so they selected certain traditions that gave support to their purposes. At times the Hebrews got away from God, so the leaders used the tradition to call the people to renewed loyalty.

The divine-human oral tradition became thus the divine-human written word. An example of this is Jeremiah 26. The prophet's words are preceded by "Thus saith the Lord," and the people listen. But the king, the priests and other prophets angrily seek to put him to death. The inspired spokesman ran great risks in proclaiming his truth, but in Jeremiah's case his life was saved, and the words he had spoken became part of the written tradition. All Bible lovers and all devout people can be thankful for their words. These prophets, such as Hosea, Isaiah, Micah and especially Jesus Christ, spoke the Word of God.

The Bible was written to preserve the divine-human heritage of the Hebrew-Christian heritage for the future. The same spirit that had moved the original writers of the sixty-six books also moved those who selected them for posterity. They are spirit-filled books, and offer spiritual nourishment to those who read with readiness and openness. They give bread and drink to those who hunger and thirst; they give light as those in darkness look prayerfully for it; and they give comfort to those in sorrow and pain.

Speaker — Listener

Inspiration is needed for the reader of the word as well as for the original speaker to utter the inspired word. As the prophet felt the inner promptings of the spirit to say, "Thus saith the Lord," so those who preserve the words later written down were also in need of the same prophetic guidance. It is essential to tune in. All are expected to share the prophetic inspiration. As Moses said, "I wish that all the Lord's people were prophets and that the Lord would confer his spirit on them all" (Numbers 11:29 New English Bible).

Methodists are summoned by the 1972 General Conference to study the Holy Spirit. Bishop Mack Stokes prepared the study book, "The Holy Spirit and Christian Experience." It considers the Holy Spirit from the biblical foundations of our belief to the current charismatic movements with the response of the Church to them.

This Sunday School lesson would be enriched by the use of that book, and others, as we appreciate and respond to the spirit-inspired Book.

The Written Word is Working

The Bible was written to bring unity and cooperation to those who find God in and through it. All who read the Bible share a holy heritage. All Bible readers can speak the same language, at least in matters of faith and high values.

The Christian world may not at first sight seem very united, even though most churches

encourage Bible reading. But many things are happening today that encourage oneness among those who worship the Hebrew-Christian God. See the new translations worked out by Roman Catholic and Protestant scholars.

The Bible is working to bring people closer both to God and each other because it appeals to the divine element in human beings. People were created to be at home with holiness. Some part of personality, whether it be a level of the mind, a quality of the imagination or the spiritual tone, built for fellowship with God. "Our hearts," said Augustine, "are restless until we rest in Thee."

So our lives are not real or authentic until that divine built-in quality is used and developed. When Jesus said we must become like little children he emphasized the good start we had. We once had the capacity for reverence and awe. As a child we once trusted the kindness of the universe.

If our hard, competitive and driven world has dulled and calloused the spirit, we need only start anew, and now. We are made in His image; that is, something of our true selves is akin to the creative universe of love, the Father whose likeness is Jesus. We are children of this "totality of reality," at home in our universe.

Written Words Are Symbols

As a symbol a word carries only the meaning which the reader or hearer gives to it. So the words of the Bible have their blessing and power because of the meaning and response brought by the reader. The Book is not a mere charm, or rabbit's foot, or fetish. When it is read with reverence and understanding it conveys spiritual help and guidance.

My parents loved and respected the Bible. They would never put another book on top of it. But they also used it devotedly and studied it day by day. On the front counter of my father's business there was an open Bible. He would read it as he snatched a minute here and there.

If our hearts hunger for the good news we will not be superstitious about it, but enjoy and devour it.

"If with all your hearts, ye truly seek me, ye shall surely ever find me, saith the Lord."

QUESTIONS

1. Who wants to be a prophet? or what do you call the person who speaks out for what he believes to be the will of God?
2. What things in our world today deserve Jeremiah's warning?
3. Select for careful study some representative message of the Bible, and with the Holy Spirit apply it to the hurts and wounds of our world today. For instance, what is Micah's "love mercy and walk humbly" saying about our conscientious objectors and amnesty? or the reputation of our nation as the arms merchant of the world, selling weapons and atomic materials abroad?
4. What passage in the Bible did the Holy Spirit help you understand and appropriate?

North Arkansas' General Conference Delegation Draws 'Front Row' Seats

EVANSTON, Ill. (UMC) — Delegates from a dozen states and four foreign countries will have front row seats when the 1976 United Methodist General Conference opens April 27 in the Portland, Ore., Memorial Coliseum.

Drawing front row locations in a random selection were delegations from Norway, New Hampshire, Yellowstone, Mid-Philippines, North Dakota, North India, Denmark, Western New York, Southern New England, North Arkansas, Bengal, Maine, North Texas and Tennessee annual conferences. Joining them on the front row will be non-voting representatives from the Alaska, Red Bird and Oklahoma Indian missionary conferences.

Not so fortunate in the drawing and ending up on the rear row of delegates will be representatives of the Detroit, Central Illinois, Southwest Texas, Lucknow, Northwest Philippines, Southwest Germany and Minnesota conferences.

†

Elective study questioned New youth curriculum planned by 1980

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMC) — The narrow approval of a proposed undated elective study unit for youth entitled, "Looking at Alternate Lifestyles from a Christian Perspective," has prompted the editor of United Methodist Church School Publications to stop production of a similar unit for adults scheduled for release this September.

The Program Curriculum Committee of The United Methodist Church by a one vote margin rejected an amendment which would have sent the youth study unit description back to the Youth Section with instructions to "clearly affirm the new life in Christ as delineated in the New Testament as the lifestyle of Christians." The first vote was an 11-11 vote tie. The amendment was rejected by a secret ballot vote of 13 to 12.

Mail Vote To Determine Outcome Involving Adult Study Unit

When the motion to adopt the original description was approved by only a

three vote margin (13 to 10), Dr. Ewart G. Watts said he was personally unwilling to take the responsibility for the adult study unit which had been approved previously by the committee and is now being printed. His motion that the adult unit be approved by a two-thirds mail vote was approved by the committee. If the mail vote is approved within the next few days it is possible that the September release date of the material will not be delayed.

The adult unit entitled "Life Choice: A Christian Perspective on Alternate Life Styles" was first introduced in the Program Curriculum Committee on May, 1974. A study of the subject was proposed to the Adult Section originally by the church's Commission on the Status and Role of Women.

The Curriculum Committee approves descriptions of units in the curriculum plans of the denomination. The editors develop resources to implement those descriptions.

Proposed Youth Study Draws Criticism

Severe criticism of the proposed youth study came from Dr. Charles R. Britt, Auburn, Ala., who made the motion of referral which was defeated. Dr. Britt said the proposed study outline included the danger of advocacy for non-Christian styles of life as viable alternatives. Dr. Watts and other members argued that both the adult and youth study units focused on the examination of alternative lifestyles "from a Christian perspective" but Dr. Britt was critical of language which might imply that some options such as homosexuality and "open marriage" are viable alternatives for the Christian.

Purposes of the unit included in the description are:

- 1) — To provide users a study of a group of particular alternative lifestyles as they are understood by those who have chosen them or those who are forced into them by life circumstances.
- 2) — To help users understand the motivations of such persons.
- 3) — To examine the circumstances (personal, societal, and cultural) that have contributed to the emergence of new lifestyles.
- 4) — To help users evaluate from the perspective of Christian faith the various lifestyles identified in the unit.
- 5) — To provide opportunity for prayerful reflection upon one's own lifestyle and its adequacy for self-fulfillment and Christian discipleship.
- 6) — To help users to understand and affirm the individual's right to choose his or her own lifestyle."

Election procedure for bishops How one jurisdiction does it

CHICAGO, Ill. (UMC) — A systematic process for interviewing persons who are likely to receive votes for election to the United Methodist episcopacy in a nine-state region will be recommended to the 1976 North Central Jurisdictional Conference.

Meeting here May 21, a jurisdictional study committee said it would ask the conference to provide agenda time during the session so that delegates might have an opportunity to meet with persons either nominated for the episcopacy by annual conferences, if such a system is adopted by the 1976 General

Conference, or who receive at least ten votes on the first ballot.

At present, there is no formal procedure for meeting with prospective bishops, but annual conference delegations often arrange impromptu interviews in hallways or other hastily-chosen spots.

The committee here, headed by the Rev. Leroy Hodapp of Bloomington, Ind., also affirmed the nominations system which has been tentatively approved by a church-wide study commission for submission to the 1976 General Conference. This proposal would give annual conferences the right to propose one or more nominees for election.

At present, there is no nominations system and the first ballot taken at the five jurisdictional conferences usually serves, in effect, as a nominating ballot.

The next North Central Jurisdictional Conference will be held in July of 1976 in Sioux Falls, S. D., and is expected to elect at least two bishops. States in the jurisdiction are North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Indiana.

†

"In fact, the correspondence indicates the committee had agreed to consider a number of requests at our meeting here this month." Dr. Herbert emphasized that he and his committee are open to continuing conversations with Good News or any other group of United Methodists concerned about confirmation resources.

The confirmation committee made a decision to replace "Discipleship" not so much for theological reasons as practical concerns, Dr. Herbert said. "Most of the criticism of the book has been that its 26 chapters are too long and that the story form in which it is written is awkward."

Bishop Melvin E. Wheatley Jr., Denver, Colo., is chairman of the Program Curriculum Committee.

†

Scarritt ends year in sound financial condition

Scarritt College for Christian Workers in Nashville, Tennessee has ended its 1974-1975 academic year with a balanced budget and the largest graduating class in recent years.

The school's \$1,400,000 budget has been met before the end of the fiscal year on May 31. A significant part of this support has come from the general church and the increased support of individual congregations.

Dr. J. Richard Palmer, President of Scarritt, states, "At a time of economic uncertainty, I believe it is most significant that Scarritt has received such support. I think it indicates that the general Church, local congregations, alumni and many supportive individuals believe that the professional work of the laity for which Scarritt is equipping persons is vital to the future of the denomination."

Scarritt graduated one of its largest classes in May. Seventy-nine persons have gone to work in Christian education, church and community work, social service work, missions work, and graduate study in service areas.

In a recent survey it was discovered that among seminaries and graduate schools half of the lay people preparing for careers in Christian Education in The United Methodist Church are at Scarritt.



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*We apologize for the pun, but we must brag about the "product."

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Voting In Ballot Number One

Casting votes in the first ballot for General Conference delegates are (from left) the Rev. W. H. Bass, Wesley Church, Little Rock; the Rev. William Robinson, St. Paul Church, Maumelle; Dr. Negail Riley, staff member, Board of Global Ministries, New York, and the Rev. R. B. Brown, Gould Parish.



Youth Representatives

Conference Youth Council President Bud Reeves of Sheridan (at pulpit) presents youth delegates. The Council had two official delegates from each District.



Choir In Rehearsal

Mrs. Lucy Cabe (directing) leads choir rehearsal before the Service of Commemoration Wednesday morning. The choir, which sang in several services, was composed of ministers and lay persons from across the Conference.



UMF Choir Sings

The United Methodist Fellowship Choir of Little Rock sang two anthems Tuesday evening. Churches represented: Duncan, St. Paul-Maumelle, White Memorial and Wesley. Director Edgar Thompson of Wesley Church (facing choir) is from Wesley Church. Some members of the choir were injured in a bus accident enroute to Hot Springs. Thirteen were hospitalized briefly with one remaining overnight for examination.

PROCEEDINGS

(Continued from page seven)

Leading: Frank Thompson 39, Mrs. E. T. Davenport 31, Mrs. James Nix 24. 95 Clergy votes cast; 48 needed to elect. Elected: John Walker 50. Leading: Ed Matthews 32, Fred Arnold 30. Fourth ballot taken.

ADDRESS: Dr. George Morris spoke on New Life Mission, contemporary strategy of evangelism designed to "awaken faith in persons, equip church to be in mission."

BALLOT REPORT NO. 4, JURIS. CONF.: 116 Clergy votes cast; 7 defective, 59 needed to elect. No election. Leading: Fred Arnold 45, Ed Matthews 39, Jim Major 32. 87 Lay votes cast; 44 needed to elect. Elected: Fred Thompson 52, Mrs. E. T. Davenport 44. Marshall Steel moved next ballot be taken, sealed, delivered to secretary to be counted after lunch. Passed.

Ray Hozendorf moved the election of four reserve ministerial delegates. Ed Dunlap offered amendment that a final ballot be taken following the completion of the delegation and that top four be reserve delegates. Amendment accepted; motion passed. R. P. Meredith made identical motion concerning Lay reserve. Passed. Fifth ballot taken, sealed.

COURTESY: Robert Trieschmann presented wives, widows of ministers, asked ministers to stand with their wives. Benediction by W. D. Lester; recessed.

Thursday Afternoon, May 29, 2:00

BUSINESS SESSION: Bishop Frank asked Bishop W. C. Martin to give invocation.

PENSIONS: Vice President E. B. Matkin presented report. Noted less than \$250,000 needed to complete Special Gifts Fund drive; will be totally funded if pledges realized. Encouraged prompt payment. Changed amount (\$1200) retired minister can allow on housing to \$2400. Report adopted.

YOUTH MINISTRIES: Coordinator Fred Haustein presented Bud Reeves, president; reported on youth work. Introduced youth delegates: Rene Racop, Karen Nix of L.R. Dist.; Lee Ann Ashcraft, Lisa Laird of Arkadel. Dist.; Jana Bell, Rex Hays of Hope Dist.; Ken Pearson, Steve Coburn of Monticello Dist.; Amy Staten, Dee Womble of Camden Dist. Bud Reeves represents P.B. Dist. Report adopted.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN: Conf. President Mrs. James Nix reported; noted International Women's Year. UMW membership and giving increasing. Goal for mission giving \$101,500; missed by only \$450. Total sent to Women's Division: \$109,000. Aldersgate a special ministry; Christian Personhood Weekend at Ferncliff attended by 60.

BALLOT REPORT NO. 5, JURIS. CONF.: 108 Clergy votes cast; 4 defective. 55 needed to elect. No election. Leading: Fred Arnold 48, Jim Major 43, Ed Matthews 42. Sixth ballot taken. 61 Lay votes cast for reserve delegates. Elected: Mrs. James Nix, James Washington, James Rice, Mrs. Austine Williams.

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY: Chairperson Fred R. Smith reported, introducing Dr. Walter Vernon, author of upcoming history of Arkansas Methodism, who spoke. Read selections on appointments, salaries of past era. Quoted Carl Sandburg: "If a society perishes, it will be because it forgot from whence it came." Bob Scott reported that State History Commission will make free microfilm of church records history.

W. D. Lester asked Conference to assist in completion of a history of former Southwest Conference; moved to grant privilege of soliciting funds from Black churches to cover printing cost. Palmer Garner seconded.

Ray Hozendorf offered substitute, referring matter to Commission on Archives and History of L.R., North Ark., and Okla. Confs., and referred back to the Conf. Roy Bagley spoke in favor; Harry Bass against. Negail Riley offered amendment, setting Aug. 1 as deadline. Passed. Amended substitute passed. John Hays moved the matter be referred to the Commission for recommendation to be made Friday morning. Passed. Report adopted.

BALLOT REPORT NO. 6, JURIS. CONF.: 117 Clergy votes cast; 2 defective. 59 needed to elect. Elected: Fred Arnold 69. Leading: Jim Major 57, Ed Matthews 42.

MINISTRY: Chairperson R. O. Beck presented Registrar Gladwin Connell who gave Report No. 2, presenting candidates for election to Probationary Membership and Deacon's Orders: Roger E. Armstrong, David G. Deere, Robert C. Hasley, Fred W. Hunter, Charles W. Jackson, Charles F. Murray, James E. Pledger, Walter L. Smith, David Swift, Joy L. Thornton, according to Par. 327; J. Wayne Edwards according to Pars. 324, 326. Bishop Frank examined the candidates. Elected.

Elected to Elder's Orders according to Par. 314.1: G. Coleman Akin, Keenan C. Williams, Robert Woody. Report adopted. John Ross, chairperson, reported for Comm. on Conf. Relations. Adopted. Jim Beal spoke on Pastor's

School, Sept. 8-11; on London study opportunity, Aug. 4-19.

Mouzon Mann moved that speakers be limited to allow time. Ed Dunlap moved to table until tomorrow. Motion to table passed.

RETIREMENTS: Recognition of pastors retiring: Harold S. Botteron, Rufus F. Sorrells, J. Frank Hamm, Curtis E. Monroe, O. W. Hoover, Hursel Richert. Each spoke a personal word of reflection, appreciation. Conference stood in gratitude.

BALLOT REPORT NO. 7, JURIS. CONF.: 108 Clergy votes cast. Elected: James E. Major 64. Conference recessed.

Thursday Evening, May 29, 7:30

SERVICE OF ORDINATION: Bishop Frank, worship leader. Assisted by lay persons Susan O'Malley, Sharon Calhoun, Trebie Shaw, Harold Davis, James Lindersmith, Bud Reeves. Assisting ministers: F. Gladwin Connell, R. O. Beck, James E. Major and the District Superintendents. Marshals: Dorothy Claiborne, J. Frank Hamm, Robin McConathy, Negail Riley.

Offertory solo by Susan Goodrum; anthem by host church choir augmented by choir members of area churches. Sermon by Dr. George Morris, "Send Out Thy Light" (II Tim. 2:1-3). What it means to be ordained to preach? Means: 1. The ordinance has confidence in God, in the preached word, in act of preaching itself; 2. Ordinand realizes what is said is more important than how it is said; 3. Ordinand aware that effective dispensing of Gospel means dependence on Holy Spirit.

Candidates for ordination as Deacons presented (as listed above); report of Board of Ministry, Thursday p.m.). Candidates for ordination as Elders presented (as listed, same report). Bishop Frank examined the candidates and ordained each. Following singing of hymn "Jesus! Thy Name High Over All," Bishop Frank pronounced benediction.

Friday Morning, May 30, 8:30

DEVOTIONAL: Worship leader, J. Edward Dunlap; preacher, Bishop Frank. Sermon, "The Authority of Our Voluntary Covenant." Listed 5 principles learned from Dan Brummett, one-time editor of *Christian Advocate*: 1. Be true to own personality, talent; 2. If you dare to envy another, you show own inferiority; 3. Let God invite you, take the responsibility for where and what you preach; 4. Never say "They never gave me a chance"; 5. Never let your conscience grow easy — if you achieve peace of mind, be sure you've found it in Gethsemane.

BUSINESS SESSION: Bishop Frank called session to order; mentioned books by Dr. Sam Shoemaker, reprinted.

MINUTES: Dale Diffie reported for Committee on Journal that minutes read and approved.

REPORT: Mouzon Mann withdrew motion to limit time of speakers.

LAY WORKER: Alf Eason reported. Leonard Davis Bobo consecrated by Bishop Frank as Director of Music. He and Mrs. Bobo presented to Conference.

BALLOT: Ballot for Jurisdictional Reserve Clergy delegates taken. First 4 who receive largest number of votes become delegates.

MOVING DAY: Everett Vinson presented Cabinet's recommendation that moving day be Wednesday, June 4. Adopted.

ARKANSAS METHODIST: Editor John Workman reported for Board of Managers, announcing that circulation under new plan adopted at Nov. 1, 1974 Special Session had increased from 17,500 in Dec., 1974 to 30,500 current, an increase of over 84 per cent. Expenditures increased 7 per cent. Announced subscription rate for 1976 \$5. Expressed appreciation for support given new

plan; spoke of anticipated cost increases. Alvin Murray asked about new provision on every member plan. Editor requested to secure answer.

Robert Van Hook asked expression of appreciation for former editor Alfred Knox. Conference instructed such a resolution and appropriate statement be sent to Mrs. Knox. Report adopted.

CAMP TANAKO: Chairperson Ralph Hale gave Report No. 1; R. O. Beck spoke to it. Buddy Ratliff, summer director, presented. Report adopted. Hale gave Report No. 2. Accepted.

NEXT SESSION: Howard Williams moved Conference accept invitation George Ivey "is going to make" for Conference to return to Hot Springs First Church for 1976 session. Passed. Host pastor George Ivey welcomed return of Conference.

JOURNAL: James Major moved that committee of five be appointed by Bishop Frank, to include one District Superintendent, to study Journal and make recommendations to Annual Conference on how to reduce size, cost of printing. Conf. Secretary may act as resource person if requested. Passed.

TRUSTEES: Chairperson O. W. Hoover, Robert L. Riffin reported. Howard Williams moved Conference commend Board for fine, thorough work. Motion and report adopted with special appreciation to Chairperson Hoover.

BALLOT REPORT NO. 8, JURIS. CONF.: 77 Clergy votes cast to elect four reserve clergy delegates to Jurisdictional Conference. Elected: Harold Flowers 31, Ralph Hale 29, Ed Matthews 25. Three-way tie for fourth position: Gladwin Connell, Ray Hozendorf, Alvin Murray 20 votes each. Marshall Steel moved they draw straws to decide fourth delegate. Motion passed; Alvin Murray selected.

INSURANCE: Tom Abney reported. Adopted. Arthur Terry moved that appreciation be expressed to Mrs. Ernestine Martin, insurance clerk. Adopted.

EQUITABLE SALARIES: Lewis Bell reported. John Miles offered amendment taking \$6000 from Stabilization Fund and giving each minister on minimum salary \$150 this year. Amendment adopted. Report adopted.

STATISTICIAN: Cagle Fair reported total membership of 82,492, loss of 417 compared to last year. Church school membership down 283, average attendance down 227. Sunday morning worship attendance increased. United Methodist Women membership up 484, amount paid for local and community work \$155,659, up \$66,846. "Need to emphasize the caring for sheep as well as getting them into fold." Report adopted.

TREASURER: Grafton Thomas reported general advance in funds; gain of \$300,000 over last year. Income from investments good. Met World Service in full. Audit made. Report adopted.

PETITIONS: Ed Dunlap, chairperson of Committee on Petitions to the General Conference, reported two petitions received: 1. From the Board of Ministry: "The Little Rock Annual Conference is opposed to the ordination of homosexuals." Petition approved; 2. From the Indiana Conference, a petition that would mean that Jurisdiction Committee on Episcopacy elected at close of Jurisdictional Conference function through next Quadrennium. Marshall Steel moved that petition be referred to the General Conference delegation with power to act.

MINUTES: James Major moved that Committee on Minutes be given authority to read and approve Minutes of morning session. Passed. Arthur Terry moved that Bishop Frank and James Major be authorized to complete any

(Continued on page eleven)



At The Festival

The Arts and Crafts Festival was a popular attraction at the Conference. Visiting with coordinator Mrs. John Tucker (second from left) and Mrs. Blanche Clem, hostess (third from left) are Mrs. Clyde Minton (left) and Mrs. Plurie Ingram, both of Hot Springs.



Mrs. Eugene Frank Presented

Mrs. Eugene M. Frank is presented to Conference by Courtesy Committee Chairperson Rev. Bob Trieschmann. She expressed appreciation for what Conference fellowship had meant to her.

St. Luke All Choirs Concert Presented

The four choirs of St. Luke United Methodist Church, Little Rock, completed the 1974-'75 Choir Season with an annual All Choir Concert on a recent Sunday evening. Dr. Ned R. De Journett, Director of Music at the church and a member of the music faculty at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, directs the Chancel Choir. Mrs. De Journett directed the Carol, Evangel and The Joyful Noise Choirs. Following the concert an awards program was held in fellowship hall. (All of the choirs with the exception of the Carol singers appeared on Channel 11 recently.)

†



Aldersgate Gifts

(Continued from last week)

DOCTORS' DAY HONOR GIFTS DIRECTED TO MEDICAL CAMP

Dr. John Fred Lee
by Mr. John Fred Lee
Dr. Orval E. Riggs
by Mrs. Inez Riggs
Dr. Glen F. Baker
by Mrs. Glen Baker
Dr. Robert Watson
by Mrs. Pauline Watson
Dr. J. H. Growdon
by Mrs. J. H. Growdon
Dr. Wm. S. Orr, Jr.
by Mrs. Wm. S. Orr, Jr.
Dr. Rex Easter
by Mrs. Rex Easter
Dr. J. W. Downs
by Mrs. J. W. Downs
Dr. Allen R. Rozzell
by Mrs. Allen R. Rozzell
Dr. Fred T. Caldwell
by Mrs. Betty Caldwell
Dr. Gordon Oates
by Mrs. Gordon Oates
Dr. Joseph A. Norton
by Mrs. Joseph A. Norton
Dr. William G. Cooper
by Mrs. W. G. Cooper
Dr. Kelsy Caplinger
by Mrs. Kelsy Caplinger

OTHER DONATIONS DESIGNATED AS MEDICAL CAMP, CAMPSHIPS, GENERAL BUDGET, AND COUNTRY FAIR

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Independence County Medical Society
Boehringer Ingelheim LTD
Mr. & Mrs. Kelsy Caplinger, Jr.
Washington County Medical Society
Pulaski County Medical Society
E. R. Squibb & Sons, Inc.
Auxiliary, Arkansas Medical Society
Dr. Howard Schwander
Alcon Eye Research Foundation
The Children's Clinic, Hot Springs
Bock Pharmacal Company
Pulaski Co. Medical Society Auxiliary
Ray and Betty Tribble
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace D. Church
Wesley United Methodist Women, Pine Bluff
Gladys Richie
Crusade Class, St. Paul UMC, Little Rock
Mrs. Hazel C. Jordan
Mr. & Mrs. B. C. Adams
Mr. & Mrs. Lowell D. Hunter
Bass Printing & Publishing Company
Guy R. Farris, M.D.
Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Jewell
Blakeney Bible Class, First UMC, L.R.
Mr. & Mrs. T. D. Hampton
Mrs. Eunice Masters
Mr. & Mrs. Buck Lumsden
Ladies Bible Class of Primrose UMC

Mr. & Mrs. H. G. Frost, Jr.
Dr. Bryant Swindoll
Streepy Fox Sunday School Class, Pulaski Heights UMC
United Methodist Women, Beebe
Mr. & Mrs. Doyle McCoy
Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Dixon
Dr. & Mrs. William A. Taylor
Pride Valley UMC United Methodist Women
Mr. & Mrs. E. C. Gates
Mae Jenkins Sunday School Class, Winfield UMC
Douglas E. Davis
The J. C. Harder Family
Miss Helen Dolezal
Rev. M. L. Gunnin
Mr. & Mrs. Cleo C. Tucker
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Crick
Mrs. Dorothy C. Morey
Mr. & Mrs. Ethan W. Dodgen
Marcie C. Buhler
Dr. & Mrs. Robert B. Walz
Bethany Class - Asbury UMC, L.R.
Ada May Smith
Dallis and Dorris Smith
Gleaners Sunday School Class, St. Paul UMC, L.R.
Mrs. Herbert M. Stephens
The Luncheon Bible Study Group, First Methodist, Little Rock
Builders Class Lakewood UMC, N.L.R.
Mr. & Mrs. Harley W. Fulton
Dorcas Class
Mrs. Marion Wasson
Miss Rema Hutchinson
Mrs. John H. Delamore
Mr. & Mrs. R. B. Newcome
Mrs. G. H. Holmes
Edward and Mabel Harris
Rev. John H. Oliver
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth C. Johnson
Susannah Wesley Sunday School Class, Asbury UMC, Little Rock
George L. Rector & Company
Rev. & Mrs. Floyd G. Villines, Jr.
Harmony Grove United Methodist Women, Camden

Ola United Methodist Women
United Methodist Women, Danville UMC
Mr. & Mrs. C. E. Olvey, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Clark Smith
Mr. & Mrs. L. A. Ratley
Rev. Alf A. Eason
United Methodist Women, Glenwood
C. Lewis Hyatt, M.D.
Mr. & Mrs. Sam W. Smith
Mrs. Paul Teeter
Mrs. H. G. Elliott, Jr.
Scott Lovett
United Methodist Women, First UMC, Van Buren
Mrs. Clyde Whitley
Thelma H. Vollman
United Methodist Women, Stephens, Ark.
Rev. Doyle T. Rowe
Susannah Wesley Bible Class, Asbury UMC, L.R.
Cherokee Valley United Methodist Church
Mrs. Verna V. Trotter
Mr. & Mrs. Atley G. Davis
Mrs. Evelyn Parchman
CMD Produce Co., Inc.
Mrs. K. H. Powell
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene D. Erwin
John Lindsay Sunday School Class, Malvern

R. W. Leech, Sunflower Food Store, Monticello
The Orthopaedic Clinic
Mr. & Mrs. A. G. Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. R. J. Gwyn
Mrs. James M. Ramsey
Mrs. T. W. Roland
United Methodist Women, Pocahontas
Mr. & Mrs. Sykes Harris, Sr.
Mrs. Bruce Holden, Sr.
Jack Holt, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. C. Hill
Walter & Margaret Beasley
Esther M. Yeoman
Mrs. Roy Hudspeth
Mr. & Mrs. J. L. Thompson
Hazen United Methodist Women
Wesleyan Sunday School Class, Malvern
Jim Tucker
Mr. & Mrs. Everett K. Wakefield
Mrs. J. E. Cordell
Bob Millett Bible Class, Lakewood UMC
Mineral Springs - Wakefield UMC Women
Mr. & Mrs. D. D. Pittman
King's Daughters Class, First United Methodist, North Little Rock
Wesley Couples Class, Central UMC, Fayetteville
Forum Sunday School Class, First Methodist, Camden
Frances Bowers
Mr. & Mrs. Richard F. Evans
United Methodist Women, First United Methodist Church, Warren
Seekers Sunday School Class, First Methodist, Warren
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Milliken
Women's Bible Class First Methodist, N.L.R.
(To be continued)

PROCEEDINGS

(Continued from page ten)

Disciplinary questions.

NEW TASK FORCE: George Martin moved the Conference establish a "blue-ribbon" task force of ministers, laymen, Black and White, to develop strategy for ministering to churches of former Southwest Conference. Task force to be named by Nominating Committee by Sept. 1, 1975, after receiving suggestions from persons who wish to offer suggestions for membership; and report at next session of Annual Conference.

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY: Chairperson Fred Smith read names of Joint Committee on new history; committee on finance and distribution; and requested authorization for committees to proceed. Privilege: Bob Trieschmann recommended the new volume **Henderson: The Methodist Years**, by Dr. John Hall.

Smith reported the commission could not bring further recommendation on ways to help promote publication of history of former Southwest Conference until have more complete information; are in complete sympathy with project; need to know number of pages, other information. To report next year on methods of financing the project. Jim Major suggested offer of Wesley Church to provide \$1000 to continue work on manuscript be encouraged; would give time to complete plans for funding.

SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS: Bishop Frank read the list of Special Appointments. Robert Trieschmann said his appointment to Wesley Foundation had been omitted from list published

by **Arkansas Methodist** and from the list read by Bishop Frank. Bishop Frank corrected list.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Ray Hozendorf moved adjournment of the Conference following report of Committee on Resolutions. Passed.

RESOLUTIONS: Charles Settle, chairperson, gave report, including special word of appreciation to Alfred Knox as editor of **Arkansas Methodist** and for Bishop Paul E. Martin as former resident bishop of Arkansas Area. Report adopted.

CLOSING REMARKS: Bishop Frank expressed appreciation for privilege of serving in the Conference, for kind treatment accorded the chair during session, for the spirit of the ministers, for work of District Superintendents. Spoke of his concept of "shared authority" in work of Cabinet.

Made remarks about Commission to Study the Episcopacy and District Superintendency. Task force will recommend a "termed episcopacy" in 1976; reason a growing lack of trust in the authority given to bishops. Gave history of that movement; dates back to when General Superintendents became diocesan superintendents; when they became responsible for conferences adjacent to their residence rather than being "general" superintendents. Efforts with "shared authority" concept are attempt to reestablish trust.

"We're all going to some place to serve. I hope you like the place to which you're going and that you can go with joy. If you cannot, I hope you will accept it as a challenge to come to grips with your own spirit and come to grips with what God may ask you to do. But we are all going to some place to serve. And may God bless us all as we go to our appointments."

ADJOURNMENT: Bishop Frank pronounced the benediction.

Thursday, June 5, 1975

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Wynne Board Institutes Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Administrative Board of First Church, Wynne, in cooperation with the church's Memorial Fund Committee, set up a scholarship in the amount of \$500 for a senior "who shows good character, academic achievement and potential in the area of service to others." Miss Janice Hamrick, shown here, was chosen to receive the award. Miss Hamrick, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Hamrick, is active in UMY and has served as a co-teacher in the Nursery of the Church School. She plans to pursue a curriculum that will equip her to work with exceptional children.

†



A Trip For Hampton UMY After All!

Mr. James Rawls (left), adult sponsor of the UMY at Hampton, and Joel Garland, treasurer, accept check for \$100 from Mr. G. E. Barnes of North Hollywood, Calif. The monetary gift was Mr. Barnes' response to an article which appeared in the Eagle Democrat of Warren, Ark., which told of the \$100 contribution of the Hampton UMY to the Warren disaster relief fund following the destructive Good Friday tornado which struck that city. What really impressed the Californian (a former Warren resident) was the fact that the youthful contributors had sacrificed a planned trip in order to assist disaster victims.

HAMPTON UMY and sponsors, shown here, rounded up a truck load of clothing and linens which were delivered to Warren by Pastor Gerald Myers along with their \$100 sacrificial gift. Mr. Barnes' generous gift means their planned trip is "on again."

†



Arts And Crafts At Lakeside

Entries in the recent Arts and Crafts Festival at Lakeside Church, Pine Bluff, featured oil paintings, custom framing, hand quilting, decoupage, photography and a 1927 washing machine — restored to perfect running condition — in addition to numerous other items. TOP PHOTO: Mrs. George Pickler, publicity chairperson and Mrs. Richard Reed with gowns depicting another era — researched, designed and hand-made by Bill Young, a Lakeside member. LOWER PHOTO: Mrs. Hazel Dabney, Rubye Lee Jackson and Diane Ayers were among the 325 visitors attending the festival.

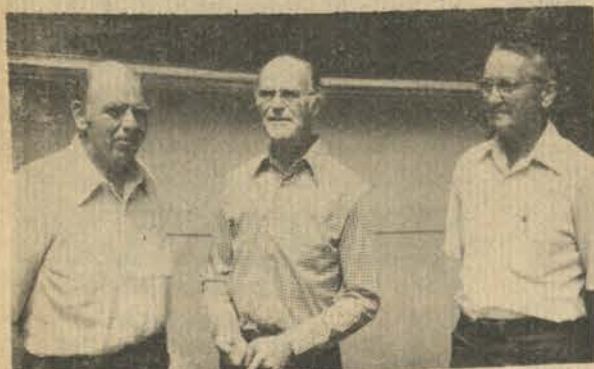
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Four Generations In Rosebud Church

Mrs. Pernie Evans, (fourth from left in front row), affectionately known as "Grannie," shown with her son, Talma Ray Evans and wife, Jean (to her left in back row) and their two children, Dwight and Kelly (in front of them); with Grannie's grandson Leon Wilkinson and wife, Kay and their children, Kim and Loren (at Grannie's right). "Grannie" is the wife of the late Ed Evans, who for many years was also an active member of the congregation.

†



Wayland Springs Camp Visited

The Rev. Cyril Wilson (right), pastor at Imboden, recently gave Bishop Eugene M. Frank (center) and Dr. Ralph Hillis, Jonesboro District superintendent a guided tour of Wayland Springs Youth Camp. The camp has recently undergone major improvements and projected plans call for additional ones.

Poetry Panorama

by Barbara Mulkey

"I thank Thee for a daily task to do; for books that are my ships with golden wings. For mighty gifts let others offer praise — Lord, I am thanking Thee for little things." (Anonymous)

Thanks for Little Things

I've tried to thank Thee, Lord, for all
Thy blessings as they came . . .
For health . . . for friends . . . for sunny skies;
And I have praised Thy name.
For pittance I've gleaned from toil
At close of troubled day . . .
But fearful, lest from sleepy lips,
No prayer came up to say
I've loved the little things Thou'st sent,
I voice a multitude
Of thanks tonight — forgive me such
Belated gratitude!

—by Ercil F. Brown
North Little Rock, Arkansas

†

Blessings

I count as a blessing of greatest worth
The joyous sounds of God's wonderful earth.
In winter wind and in summer the breeze,
As it teases and coaxes the sigh of the trees.
The notes of the organ, the chords of the lyre;
From the chapel window the lilt of a choir.
In the early morn the song of a lark,
But I treasure most the song in my heart.

—by Imogene Lewis Harding
Harrison, Arkansas



Petit Jean Outing

Eighth and ninth graders of the Mabelvale Church School prepare to journey by bus to Petit Jean State Park for a fun-filled day, accompanied by Mr. Herb Pekar, sponsor and teacher.

†



Bible Commentaries For Seniors

Graduating seniors of Grace Church, Searcy, studiously examine copies of Haley's Commentary on the Bible, presented to each by Mrs. W. J. Robertson, president of United Methodist Women, during recent reception honoring the grads.