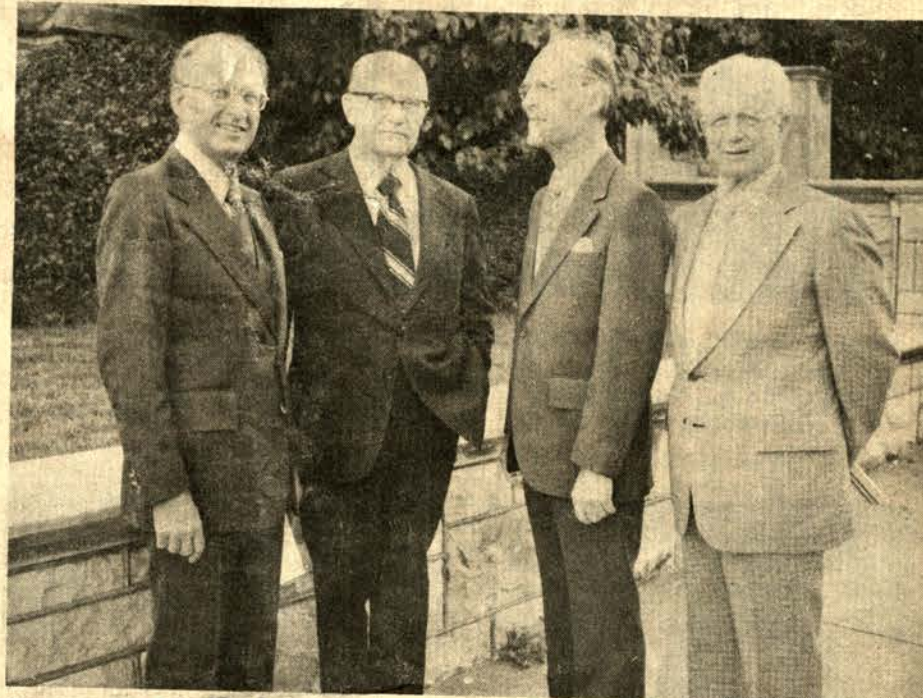


THE OPENING SERVICE of Holy Communion at the Little Rock Annual Conference, now in session at First United Methodist Church, Hot Springs, was attended by more than 550 persons. The service included an "Observance of America's Bicentennial." Bishop Eugene M. Frank brought the sermon. The Conference will be in session through Thursday morning of this week.



WORSHIP LEADERS in the first of three evening worship services of the Little Rock Conference, were Bishop Robert E. Goodrich Jr. (center, left), bishop of the Missouri Area, the Conference preacher; Bishop Eugene M. Frank (center, right), host bishop, and Dr. Alvin C. Murray (left), pastor of First Church, Little Rock, and Dr. Roy I. Bagley, pastor of First Church, El Dorado, liturgists in the service.

Arkansas Methodist

Arkansas United Methodism's Newsweekly

Little Rock, Arkansas, Thursday, June 17, 1976



95th Year, No. 25

Priorities, finances among major items in North Arkansas session

The adoption of 17 program priorities and the acceptance of new General and Annual Conference financial apportionments were among the major items of business before the 141st annual session of the North Arkansas Conference held last week (June 7-10) at Hendrix College, Conway. A host of other matters filled the agenda of the three business days of the Conference.

The 17 new program priorities will form the program emphases in the Annual Conference for the year 1977 and will find expression in district and local church programming. Sixteen priorities were recommended by the Council on Ministries and one was added by action of the Conference.

The priorities are: World Hunger; Innovative Ministries; Ministry to the Aging; Ministry with Ethnic Minorities; United Methodist Theology, Connectionalism, Evangelism; Supportive Fellowship; Personal Growth; Support and Interpretation of Social Principles; Women in the Church; Small Membership Churches and New Church Development; Leadership Development; Ecumenical Activities; Worship; Preaching, and Continuing Education for Pastors and Laity.

New Quadrennial Apportionments

The Conference adopted a record budget of \$1,243,875 in specifically identified causes for the year 1977 and accepted percentage figures and goals on a number of other causes.

Askings for the two largest funds, World Service and Conference Benevolences, totaled \$442,806 (with monies received being distributed equally to each fund). The figure represents an increase of \$77,811 over the asking of the previous year. The funds are the "basic missional dollar" of the General and Annual Conference programs.

Another major apportionment approved was the Missional Priorities Fund, to support the three four-year priorities adopted by the recent General Conference. Of the \$36,545 approved by the North Arkansas Conference, \$18,000 will go for World Hunger, \$18,000 for Ministry to Ethnic Churches, and

\$545 for Evangelism.

The session approved as goals for Conference Advance Specials (causes approved to receive voluntary gifts), Lydia Patterson Institute, \$9,000; Rio Grande Conference, \$6,000; Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, \$6,000; Black Ministries, \$20,000, and Aldersgate, Inc., \$5,000.

Goals adopted for General Advance Specials (on the national and international level) were World Hunger, \$26,580 and Ethnic Minority Concerns, \$31,010.

The amounts approved by an Annual Conference in the first year of a new program quadrennium are generally the figures accepted for each of the four years of the quadrennium, unless otherwise determined by the Conference.

Other Major Actions

Among other matters of major importance, the Conference:

- Gave, in a Conference "first," unanimous endorsement to Dr. Joel A. Cooper, pastor of Central Church, Fayetteville, for the episcopacy. (Four bishops are to be elected at the Jurisdictional Conference, July 13-15, at Lincoln, Nebr.)

- Adopted a resolution "reaffirm(ing) the position of the General Conference in encouraging our local churches to use United Methodist curriculum materials in our Church Schools."

- Terminated, effective this session, the plan of providing Conference-owned cars for district superintendents and Council staff members.

- Approved a resolution initiated by the Christian Civic Foundation asking the Governor and General Assembly to oppose efforts that would exempt overnight recreational facilities in dry counties from laws banning the sale of alcoholic beverages (see separate story).

- Received a report from United Methodist Women citing seven Conference goals for the year.

- Approved a report by the newly-created Council on

Lay Life and Work which noted the broadened concept of ministry with men, women and young people; cited the newly-formed United Methodist Men, and presented ten "aspirations for 1977."

- Adopted a report by the Commission on Religion and Race which called upon the Conference to "restate our mission in the recruitment of black ministers"; recommended that "work be planned explicitly toward changing attitudes for the actual appointment of a black district superintendent"; urged minorities "to actually participate on boards and agencies of the church" to which they have been named; stated the Commission was "still seeking admission to the campus of Hendrix College (for) black professors" and is "asking that minority personnel be appointed (from the North Arkansas Conference) to the board of Philander Smith College."

- Adopted a report by the Board of Church and Society which set as four priorities, "work toward the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment," emphasis on world hunger, ministry to senior citizens, and "interpretation and implementation of General Conference action especially with respect to the Social Creed."

- Heard International Person in Missions, Dr. Myong Gul Son of Korea, now with field staff of Board of Global Ministries, tell of the trials and sacrifices experienced by Christians in his homeland.

- Updated the new Conference structure, adopted last year, with four amendments.

- Heard the Area Treasurer report total collections "greater than any previous 12-month period" and tell of new data processing advances.

- Received Statistician's Report which noted a gain of 511 members during 1975, with present membership of 100,523; contributions of UMW for Local Church and Community Work of \$164,571, \$21,746 more than the previous year; UMCOR world hunger gifts of \$28,241, almost \$25,000 more than previous year.

- Accepted the invitation of First Church, Jonesboro, to hold the 1977 session of the Conference at that church.



MINISTERS WHO RETIRED at the North Arkansas Conference session were (from left) Dr. J. Ralph Clayton of Searcy, the Revs. Cyril H. Wilson, Lorne F. Piercey, Willis A. LeGrand, Omma L. Daniel, Lloyd H. Conyers and Charles E. Reed. (Also retiring was Dr. James S. Upton of the Hendrix College Department of Religion.)



NEWLY ORDAINED ELDERS received into full membership of the North Arkansas Conference. Left to right, the Revs. Keith D. Goza of Kensett-McRae, Bennie R. Harmon of Cotter-Gassville, William C. Cooper of Yellville, Joseph M. Sherman of Weiner-Fisher and Charles M. Cooker Cooper of Batesville, Asbury-Bethesda.



NEWLY ORDAINED DEACONS received as probationary members of North Arkansas Conference. Left to right, the Revs. Gordon R. Donham, Gordon Conwell Seminary; Michael Hughes, Vanderbilt Divinity School; Ronald W. Durham, Asbury Seminary; Lester G. Pettus, Asbury; Robert C. Bell, Vanderbilt; E. Doyle Blanton, Garrett-Evangelical Seminary; Thomas F. Francis, St. Paul School of Theology and Thomas E. Anderson, Methodist Theological School of Ohio. (Also ordained deacons were the Revs. Robert O. Crossman, Perkins School of Theology and Richard L. Ruble, associate minister, Lincoln Parish, in Fayetteville District.)

Three new superintendents named

Sixty-one appointment changes
in North Arkansas Conference

Three new district superintendents were named among the 61 changes in ministerial appointments released by Bishop Frank at the close of the North Arkansas Conference session last Thursday. Two hundred seventy-one ministers were appointed as pastors of local churches, seven as district superintendents, 24 to special appointments and 24 as students. Seven pastoral charges were left To Be Supplied. Six ministers were transferred in from other Annual Conferences and three were transferred out to the Little Rock Conference.

Named as superintendent of the Batesville District was the Rev. Charles E. Ramsay, pastor of First Church, Russellville. He succeeds the Rev. Floyd G. Villines Jr. who becomes pastor of First Church, Blytheville. Dr. D. Mouzon Mann, superintendent of the Hope District in the Little Rock Conference, becomes pastor of Russellville's First Church.

Dr. J. William Watson, pastor of Blytheville's First Church, becomes superintendent of the Forrest City District. He succeeds the Rev. Elmo A. Thomason who transferred to the Little Rock Conference. That Conference's appointments will be announced during the annual session currently in progress in Hot Springs.

Dr. George F. Ivey, pastor of Hot Springs' First Church becomes the new superintendent of the Fort Smith District. He succeeds Dr. Charles P. McDonald who was named pastor of First Church, Searcy. Dr. J. Ralph Clayton, pastor at Searcy, retired at last week's Conference session.

Of the 58 changes in local church pastorates, 12 were in Paragould District, 11 in Jonesboro District, nine in Fort Smith District, eight in Fayetteville District, seven in Batesville District, six in Forrest City District and five in

Conway District. A complete list of the appointments may be found on page four. The Conference named Wednesday, June 16, as moving day.

Eight ministers retired at the session (five in Full Connection in the Conference, three as Associate Members) and 17 were admitted to the Conference (ten as Probationary Members, two as Associate Members and five in Full Connection). (See photos and Daily Proceedings for names of each.)

During the session Bishop Frank announced that Mr. Grafton Thomas, who has served for 14 years as Area treasurer, would retire in early 1977. The bishop expressed gratitude for Mr. Thomas' devoted service and the Conference gave a standing expression of appreciation.

In appreciation of Bishop and Mrs. Frank

(An excerpt from the report
of the Committee on Resolutions)

... Therefore be it Resolved,

That we express our sincere thanks to Bishop Eugene M. Frank for the gracious manner and Christian spirit and patience, and at times the unusual restraint, with which he has presided. Those of us who were privileged to attend General Conference were impressed with his skill, ability and judicious manner as a presiding officer. In our opinion, among all of the presiding Bishops, our bishop presided with the finesse, dispatch and the dignity that made us most proud.

This is the last session of our Annual Conference at which Bishop Frank will preside. During the four years of their residence in Arkansas, Bishop and Mrs. Frank have won their way into our hearts and have radiated a spirit and warmth and love that has endeared them to us all. They have fleshed out in their ministry the New Testament agape—that compassionate involvement in the hurts, needs, concerns and life of the Church here and the Church universal.

For their devoted pastoral guidance and able leadership, we are most grateful. We pray for God's continual presence and guidance to accompany them as they enter a new area of Christian ministry...

—North Arkansas Conference
Committee on Resolutions



NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS of North Arkansas Conference: the Revs. Richard R. Stegall (left) of Elm Springs-Harmon and David D. Scroggin of Van Buren, St. John's Church.

NAC opposes move to make 'dry' counties 'wet'

The North Arkansas Conference gave unanimous approval last week to a resolution calling for the rejection of a proposal to exempt public and private overnight recreational facilities in dry counties from state law prohibiting the sale of alcoholic beverages. The resolution came as part of the report of The Christian Civic Foundation of Arkansas, Inc. The foundation's executive director, the Rev. Edward W. Harris of Little Rock, presented Dr. Robert E. L. Bearden, superintendent of the host district of the Conference and a member of the foundation's Executive Committee and Board of Directors, who introduced the resolution.

The issues arose as the result of a May 17 meeting of the state Economic Development Study Commission, which reports a unanimous recommendation

that state laws be changed so that alcohol can be served at public and private overnight recreational facilities in dry counties. The commission stated that the change would allow such facilities, including state-owned park lodges, to compete for convention and business group meetings during the winter to help offset high overhead costs. The commission's proposal is to be presented to the Governor and General Assembly on Oct. 1.

The resolution adopted by the North Arkansas Conference stated, in part:

"We . . . respectfully request (the Governor, members of the Legislative Council and the State Legislature) to oppose as economically unnecessary and morally indefensible any legislative at-

tempt to exempt public or private recreational facilities in dry counties from compliance with the existing statutes governing alcoholic beverages in the State of Arkansas.

"We further request that all efforts to involve the State of Arkansas in the granting or holding (of) permits for the sale of alcoholic beverages on state-owned or state-leased property be opposed as attempts to promote alcohol, recognized generally as the number one drug problem in America.

"We further recommend that no legislation be considered that would negate or deny the votes recorded by the citizens of dry counties under Initiated Act Number One of 1942, thereby choosing to make 44 counties of Arkansas 'dry.' We further request that alcoholic beverages not be used as 'bait'

in seeking the 'economic development of our state.' We further request that recognition be given to the fact that tourism in Arkansas has grown in dollar volume until it is the third largest industry in Arkansas, reaching this high goal during the 34 years that 44 of our counties have been officially 'dry.'"

The resolution concluded "We therefore respectfully request (all parties addressed above) to reject that portion (of the commission's proposal which calls for the exemption of such facilities from existing state law)."

The matter came before the Conference session on Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Harris, a ministerial member of the Little Rock Conference, presented other matters relating to the foundation's work.

Surprises and priorities: The lesson of Conway, 1976

Comment by the editor

There was a pleasant and encouraging surprise in this year's session of the North Arkansas Conference, held last week in Conway.

Because of the recent General Conference one could have expected the session to be totally consumed with follow-up business matters. And were that to have been the case, no apologies would have been necessary. For one of the major reasons for the annual session is the conduct of business; and preparation for a new four-year program emphasis requires plenty of that.

To be sure, this session had its share of important business matters. But the real significance of Conway, 1976, may not, in our opinion, be found in the official minutes of the Conference. The session's significance, and its surprise, was to be found in something else. And that "something else" was more easily experienced than it is reported.

That something had to do with the worship and fellowship experiences of the four-day event. Seldom in recent memory have we had such dynamic and stirring presentations of the gospel — in preaching, in song (congregational and solo presentations), in choral and instrumental music, and in the spirit which was felt throughout the session.

We do not mean to imply that all was perfect about the session. It wasn't. The agenda was too crowded. Not enough time was allowed for important reports. Some matters received more time and attention than they merited, others less. And what happened to the report from the General Conference delegation? It was promoted as, and expected to be, a highlight of the session. It was on the agenda but was never given, and to our knowledge no explanation was offered. And there surely must have been some personal "disappointments with appointments" — on the part of both ministers and parishioners. And doubtless there were other personal hurts which must always be of concern to the total fellowship.

But the abiding impression about the session is, in our experience, one that should cause us to feel good about the Church. Part of the reason for this is to be found in the pervading awareness, throughout the conference, of our heritage; first, as part of the universal Body of Christ and then as inheritors of the Wesleyan tradition and as benefactors of our own rich history as Methodists in Arkansas.

The preaching during the session, both by the Conference preacher and other speakers, left us with a good feeling about the abiding power of the Word in the world, a renewed awareness of the significance of truth, and a rekindled excitement about the whole Christian venture.

Another circumstance lent a mellow quality to the four days. As the last of the Conference's sessions over which Bishop Frank would preside before his retirement in July, we could not but be moved by the way that circumstance affected us and must have touched him. Without overly speaking of the occasion and its personal dimensions and meanings, both Bishop and Mrs. Frank blessed us with their genuineness of character and gentleness of spirit. Their example elevated the work and hid the worker — a worthy pattern for us to follow.

And how could we say enough about the "Bicentennial Brush Arbor Revival and Testifyin' Meetin' and Youth Rally" held for almost two and one-half hours Tuesday evening? We predict that service will be talked of for years to come by all who were privileged to be a part of it.

The business of this Conference was important and we must quickly take up its claims. But for the moment it is important to ponder the deeper significance of this 1976 session. In its "silent surprises" it was saying something to us: That the remembering of our story, and our continuing to tell it, is the highest of all of our priorities.

What the preachers said

Some sermon highlights

Bishop Frank said it. Many others said it. "The preaching we've had at this Conference session is the best I've heard in some time!" While the inspiration and impact of the preached word cannot be captured in print, and especially in paraphrased and summarized fashion, we submit below some of the thoughts expressed in the worship services during the four-day session last week in Conway. Space permits only the briefest highlights.

SERMONS BY THE CONFERENCE PREACHER

Dr. William K. McElvaney, president of St. Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, gave three sermons as the Conference preacher.

Monday evening, 7:30, "Sacrifice Revisited"

The biblical and theological notion of sacrifice is an integral, heart and soul theme, of the Christian community; the sacrifice of Christ is the foundation of the Christian faith. However, sacrifice has often been interpreted to mean a submissive, servile lifestyle. The Church has often failed to distinguish between servility and servanthood. Sacrifice has too often been interpreted as a kind of "guilt trip." When rightly understood, the biblical notion of sacrifice is the gateway to liberation.

I believe a fresh wind is blowing through the Church. And I believe that the shape of the sail that the Church will give us at this time is sacrifice. The lifestyle to which Christ is calling us is "less is more"; one which says "My real feast in life is fasting on behalf of others; my real fast is feasting on behalf of others."

I wish it were possible for all those entering the political field to take a good stiff course in Isaiah in order to see the heaviness of God's judgment upon the nations!

The Lord is bringing about a souring of the flower of affluence. An affluence whose conscience is not pricked by the conscience of Jesus Christ is obscene. The verification of Christian theology is whether or not it leads us to champion the cause of the poor. We must be concerned not only with lifestyles, but with life-systems.

Sacrifice is the liberating ambition for the people of God.

Tuesday evening, 7:30,

"Good News is Bad News is Good News"

The gospel frequently becomes bad news before it becomes good news. The Gerasene demoniac saw this. He is not just some biblical figure, but a microcosm of the world today.

God gives us the gift of disturbance! We call Jesus the "great physician." Sometimes he is more like a surgeon than a general practitioner. The gospel is like a roto rooter! Even the comfort of the gospel does not have depth unless it has the cross. God loves us enough to disturb the Church; and that is our profoundest hope!

The Church is the only voluntary community in which I expect to get disturbed. I pay my money to get disturbed. If I don't get disturbed, I'm not getting my money's worth!

God gives us the gift of healing. We need to get in touch with the difference between our real self and false self. When I'm in my wrong mind, life is not good enough. When I'm in my right mind, it's a different world. How do we deal with the suffering of the world? Only through the gospel. The reward of caring about another human being is caring about another human being.

Christ and the gospel put us in our right mind; give us the gift of healing. People who are in their right mind will pay the price for Christ. All over the world, those who are in their right minds are being asked to leave.

God gives us the gift of disturbance, but only for the gift of healing.

God gives the gift of liberation. This is what happens when we are graced with disturbance and healing.

We need four kinds of evangelism: One, exhortation evangelism: naming the name, telling the story, laying before people all the claims of God's everlasting love. It is verbalizing the gospel. Two, edification evangelism: training and recruiting. Challenge to the clergy: "In the coming year reach out to more persons than ever before or seriously consider leaving the ranks of the ordained clergy."

Three, exemplification evangelism: to live out the gospel in our lifestyles. Four, ethical evangelism: we should not be afraid to stand up and speak out. We will lose some people; but any evangelism that does not take that into account is not biblical.

Wednesday evening, 7:30, Ordination sermon, "Ministry, Measurements and Madness"

By human standards, the gospel is an absurdity. Are you who are about to be ordained deacons and elders sure you want to get mixed up in this?

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North Arkansas Conference appointments for 1976

Bishop Eugene M. Frank announces the following pastoral appointments in the North Arkansas Conference, effective upon adjournment of the June 7-10 session in Conway. Numerals indicate year or years of service; appointments with figure one (1) are this year's pastoral changes.

TRANSFERS IN:

Shelton Kilgore, Elder, from the Little Rock Conference.
D. Mouzon Mann, Elder, from the Little Rock Conference.
George F. Ivey, Elder, from the Little Rock Conference.
Wilson B. Shultz, Elder, from the Oklahoma Conference.
Paul Rains, Deacon, from the Missouri East Conference.
Martin Bierbaum, Retired, from the South California Conference.

TRANSFERS OUT:

Elmo A. Thomason, Elder, to the Little Rock Conference.
Earl B. Hughes, Elder, to the Little Rock Conference.
Shelton Kilgore, Elder, to the Little Rock Conference.

BATESVILLE DISTRICT

Charles E. Ramsay,
District Superintendent (1)

Antioch Circuit John Abshire (LP) (2)
Bald Knob-Russell Kenneth F. Renfro (2)
Batesville:
Asbury-Bethesda C. Marcus Cooper (2)
Central Avenue Wayne C. Jarvis (2)
First Dois M. Kennedy (6)
Beebe Dewey Dark (4)
Bradford Willie L. Walker (2)
Bull Shoals Charles E. Watt (2)
Cabot Allan E. Hilliard (4)
Calico Rock Gordon Donham (PM) (1)
Cave City Gerald Martin (AM) (17)
Cedar Grove-Tumbling Shoals
Clinton-Fairfield Bay Clyde Crozier (RS) (1)
Cotter-Gassville Harold Scott (6)
Dennard-Shirley Bennie R. Harmon (2)
Desha Circuit Frank Shell (RS) (7)
Griffithville Gregg A. Webb (LP) (1)
Heber Springs Gaston Matthews (AM) (5)
Holiday Hills Byron McSpadden (2)
Horseshoe Bend W. M. Womack (2)
Judsonia Pharis J. Holifield (2)
Kensett-McRae Everne Hunter (7)
Marshall-Leslie T. Kelly Jones (1)
Melbourne Parish Joseph W. Bourgeois (PM) (2)
Melbourne Associate
Moorefield-Southside Loyal Verne Mason (LP) (7)
Mountain Home Ralph Vanlandingham (RS) (2)
Mountain View Norman Carter (6)
Newark Jesse A. Bruner (5)
Pangburn Circuit Kern Johnson (AM) (2)
Quitman Elbert Bruner (AM) (3)
Salem-Viola Woodrow Woods (2)
Searcy: Keith D. Goza (1)
First Charles P. McDonald (1)
Grace Lewis Ernest (AM) (6)
Sharp Circuit Forrest Thomas (LP) (6)
Steele-Hopewell Ramsay Woodall (1)

Special Appointments

Chaplain, U.S. Army Robert Howerton
Bridwell Library, SMU Page Thomas
Assistant Professor,
Candler School of Theology E. Brooks Holifield

Student Appointments

St. Paul School of Theology Carroll Jackson
Drew School of Theology Gary Langston

CONWAY DISTRICT

Robert E. L. Bearden,
District Superintendent (3)

Atkins-Pottsville Joe Jerry Nichols (1)
Bellevue Parish Joel League (LP) (3)
Conway:
Ebenezer-Wesley L. T. Thompson (RS) (6)
First Harold O. Eggenberger (4)
Wesley Britt H. Cordell (7)
Wesley Foundation-Salem James M. McKay Jr. (4)
Danville Joe L. Kennedy (3)
Dardanelle Frank R. Clemmons (4)
Dover Parish W. Bert Powell (LP) (4)
Greenbrier Parish Jerry A. Pulliam (3)
Jacksonville:
First David P. Conyers (3)
McArthur Dr.-Bethel Robert English (2)
Mallettown W. T. Watson (RS) (6)
Mayflower TBS
Morrilton, First Raymond L. Franks (2)
Morrilton Parish Frank Hamm (RS) (2)
New Zion-Union Chapel M. D. Nelson (5)
North Little Rock:
Amboy Lowell W. Eaton (1)
Bullock Chapel W. H. Piggee (12)
First Earl B. Carter (5)
Gardner Memorial Charles Casteel (2)
Indian Hills N. Wayne Clark (4)
Lakewood Clint P. Burleson (3)
Associate James C. Southerland (2)

Levy Clyde T. Parsons (2)
McCabe Chapel Herbert M. Scott (5)
Rose City-Beacon Bob Edwards (3)
Sylvan Hills Bob Orr (1)
Washington Avenue J. Hillman Byram (2)
Oakland Harold Wilson (RS) (4)
Ola Parish Joe Gramling (LP) (1)
Oppelo Parish Paul J. Crossman (AM) (4)
Perryville Parish A. L. Chaffin (AM) (5)
Plainview Parish Royce Savage (LP) (6)
Plumerville-Springfield David R. Hanshaw (LP) (2)
Russellville:
First Mouzon Mann (1)
Wesley-London Herschel H. McClurkin Jr. (6)
Wesley Foundation-Bell's Chapel Von D. Mooney (4)
Vilonia TBS
Wye-Bigelow TBS
Center Ridge D. W. Terry (4)

Special Appointments

Director of Council on Ministries Myers B. Curtis
Associate Director, Arvill C. Brannon
Council on Ministries John S. Workman
Editor, Arkansas Methodist
General Secretary, Council on Finance and Administration Ewing T. Wayland
Chaplain, U.S. Navy B. Vernon Dennis
Professor, Hendrix College Francis Christie
Professor, Hendrix College (Emeritus) James S. Upton

Professor, Hendrix College Robert W. Goodloe Jr.
Professor, Hendrix College Ferris Baker
Professor, Philander Smith College Thomas Slinkard
Counselor and Campus Minister, Hendrix Jon Guthrie
Chaplain, The Methodist Hospital, Memphis George E. Stewart
Institutional Chaplain Willis Harl
Institutional Chaplain Bruce Cook
Professor, Wesley Seminary, Washington, D.C. James T. Clemons

Student Appointments

Perkins School of Theology Robert Crossman
Perkins School of Theology Marcia Crossman
Ohio School of Theology Thomas E. Anderson
Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary Doyle M. Blanton
Candler School of Theology James C. Christopher
Duke Divinity School Charles W. Armour
St. Paul School of Theology Steve Newman
Vanderbilt Bobby Bell

FAYETTEVILLE DISTRICT

Harold H. Spence,
District Superintendent (4)

Bentonville Samuel B. Teague (5)
Berryville-Shiloh David Moose (1)
Brightwater Parish Vernon C. Lemon (2)
Decatur-Centerton Harold Brent (2)
Elkins Community N. Lee Cate (5)
Elm Springs-Harmon Richard Stegall (LP) (2)
Eureka Springs Theo Luter (AM) (4)
Fayetteville:
Central Joel A. Cooper (10)
Associate Marvett A. Lawson (2)
St. James Ralph Whiteway (LP) (2)
Sequoyah-Goshen Sam B. Williams (LP) (3)
Trinity Lawrence Dodgen (4)
Wesley Foundation Lewis V. Chesser (10)
Wiggins Pryor R. Cruce (1)
Gentry Parish John Wilcher (1)
Gravette-Sulphur Springs Wilbert Feagan (AM) (1)
Green Forest-Alpena Fern Cook (2)
Harrison:
First John M. McCormack (6)
St. Paul Parish Ronald Clark (2)
Associate Leslie V. Beck (LP) (14)
Associate Clarence Brown (LP) (4)
Huntsville-Presley Chapel James Williams (LP) (1)
Jasper Phil Hatcock (3)
Lincoln Parish Uriah Smith (4)
Associate Richard Ruble (2)
Morrow-Viney Grove TBS
Pea Ridge-Oakley Chapel George Hunt (RS) (3)
Prairie Grove-Farmington James D. Harrison (1)
Rogers, Central Gerald Hammett (2)
Siloam Springs James D. Keith (1)
Springdale:
First Joe Taylor (3)
Associate Maurice Webb (3)
Wesley-Mt. Hebron Paul Rains (1)
Winslow TBS
Yellville Parish Chris Cooper (2)

Student Appointments

Perkins School of Theology Richard Alan Lancaster
Candler School of Theology Mark Lassiter
Candler School of Theology Dennis W. Spence

FORREST CITY DISTRICT

J. William Watson,
District Superintendent (1)

Augusta Joe VanCleve (3)
Bay Village-Farm Hill Graham Sellers (RS) (2)
Brinkley Gail Anderson (1)
Cherry Valley-Vanndale Max Whitfield (2)
Clarendon Gerald Rainwater (2)
Colt Circuit Berlon Davis (AM) (10)
Cotton Plant Neal Kerney (LP) (1)
Crawfordsville Van Hooker (4)
Earle Andrew M. Hall Jr. (2)
Elaine-Melwood Carl Strayhorn (AM) (3)
Ellis Chapel-Central Billy Powell (LP) (1)
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First Merle Allison Johnson (2)
Forrest Hills Jim West (3)
Helena James M. Meadors Jr. (3)
Holly Grove Wilson Shultz (1)
Hughes Raymond Hawkins (2)
Marianna:
First William L. Douglas (3)
Marianna Parish Edward Davis (3)
Associates Lorne Piercey, C. B. Banks, Everette Scruggs, Sylvester Harris (LP), James Perkins (LP)
Marion Denzel Stokes (2)
Marvell John Jump (1)
McCrory Victor Green (2)
McCrory Circuit Mike Hollowell (LP) (2)
Parkin Roy Moyers (4)
West Helena Brady Cook (4)
West Memphis:
First Ben G. Hines (5)
Rosewood James A. Barton (1)
Wheatley Cleve Yarbrough (2)
Widener Circuit Alfred Eckles (LP) (3)
Wynne William M. Wilder (6)
Shiloh Ext. Gerald Rainwater (2)
Tupelo Hershel J. Couchman (6)

Special Appointments

Chaplain, U.S. Army James Robnolt

Student Appointments

Asbury Seminary Glenn Pettus
Perkins School of Theology Dana A. Thomason
Vanderbilt Michael Hughes

FORT SMITH DISTRICT

George F. Ivey,
District Superintendent (1)

Alma-Bethel Roger Glover (PM) (1)
Altus J. C. Wright (RS) (3)
Barling Felix Holland (RS) (2)
Booneville-Washburn Joe Linam (2)
Charleston-Branch Thomas Barnett (2)
Clarksville W. Leonard Byers (3)
Fort Smith:
Cavanaugh-Arkoma Thurston Masters (2)
First Paul M. Bumpers (4)
Associate Aaron Barling (3)
Goddard Memorial Archie Boyd (6)
Hendricks Hills Jerry Canada (4)
Associate Dorothy Collier (1)
Mallalieu-Mt. Olive Robert E. Felder (3)
Massard-New Hope-City Heights
Newberry Chapel Carol Lascaro (3)
Associate Nick Lascaro (3)
Midland Heights Sherman Waters (1)
St. Paul-Bonanza William Hightower (3)
Wesley James E. Wingo (2)
Wyatt Memorial James O. Linam (2)
Franklin County Parish:
Alix-Denning-Gar Creek-Grenades TBS
Chapel
Greenwood-Milltown J. M. Rogers (7)
Hartford Charge Paul Dubar (LP) (2)
Hartman Charge TBS
Lamar-Mt. Olive C. L. Martin (RS) (1)
Lavaca-Vesta-Central Leroy Craig (LP) (2)
Magazine Charge R. L. Hanks (LP) (1)
Mansfield-Huntington Joe A. Hutto (1)
Mountain View-Newberry Chapel J. T. Byrd (RS) (7)
Mulberry Kibler J. D. Lawrence (1)
Ozark-Cecil James P. Anderson (7)
Paris-Cole's Chapel Vernon Paysinger (3)
Prairie View Charge Boyd Allen (1)
Scott County Parish Warren Blanchard (LP) (2)
Van Buren:
First Arvest Lawson (6)
St. John's David D. Scroggin (AM) (5)
Waldron Charles Nance (AM) (1)

Special Appointments

Professor, East Tennessee State University Robert Paul Sessions

Student Appointments

Asbury Theological Seminary Donna Corbitt
Duke Divinity School Phillip Sims
Perkins School of Theology Jacob Cline
St. Paul School of Theology Thomas F. Francis
Union Seminary - NYC Ronald P. McDonald

JONESBORO DISTRICT

J. Ralph Hillis,
District Superintendent (5)

Bay-Lunsford Jack Skelton (5)
Blytheville:
First Floyd G. Villines (1)
Lake Street-Promised Land Charles P. Reed (AM) (5)
Bono Charge Russell M. Bailey (LP) (3)
Dell-Luxora Raymond Dorman (6)
Harrisburg-Pleasant Valley J. Anthony Holifield (1)
Hickory Ridge-Tilton Murphy Spurlock (1)
Joiner-Turrell Jim Brooks (2)
Jonesboro:
First Worth W. Gibson (8)
Fisher Street-Pleasant Grove George Cleary (2)
Huntington Avenue Victor Nixon (2)
Nettleton-Brookland J. B. Harris (1)
St. Paul-Mt. Carmel W. P. Fiser (1)
Lake City-Lake View David P. Orr (LP) (2)
Leachville-Caraway Dubois Pettit (1)
Lepanto-Garden Point Leon Gilliam (AM) (2)
Manila-Community Gaither McKelvey (2)
Marked Tree John Chapman (1)
Monette-Black Oak David Bentley (LP) (2)
Osceola Waymon Hollis (1)
Trumann P. G. (Bill) Williams (2)
Tyronza-Centerville Otha Strayhorn (AM) (2)
Union Grove Charge James T. Randle (1)
Associate Mitchell Sanford (RS) (1)
Weiner-Fisher Joe M. Sherman (2)
Wesley Foundation James T. Randle (6)
Wilson-Keiser Maurice Lanier (1)
Yarbro-Christ Eugene Hall (RS) (7)

Special Appointments

Chaplain, Air Force Paul Dean Davis

Student Appointments

Asbury Seminary Steve Brizzi
Asbury Seminary Ronald W. Durham

PARAGOULD DISTRICT

Ben F. Jordan,
District Superintendent (4)

Beech Grove George Srum (LP) (3)
Black Rock Daniel Roark (LP) (1)
Boydsville Chester Penney (AM) (12)
Cherokee Village Roy E. Poyner (6)
Corning Muriel H. Peters (1)
Hardy B. W. Stallcup (2)
Hoxie David Driver (1)
Imboden Bill Kirkland (LP) (1)
Mammoth Spring Rhonda Kay Crow (1)
Marmaduke L. L. Bounds (5)
Maynard Parish Darrell R. Kersey (LP) (1)
Associate Maurice Kemp (AM) (5)
Associate E. C. Hance (RS) (4)
Newport:
Emory Chapel TBS
First Jim Beal (3)
Umsted Memorial Orvil Stahl (AM) (4)
Oil Trough Cyril Wilson (RS) (1)
Paragould:
Christ Harry Price (RS) (2)
First William P. Connell (2)
Griffin Memorial J. Leon Wilson (2)
Pruett's Chapel Harry Price (RS) (1)
Associate J. Harmon Holt (RS) (2)
Shiloh Ray Edwards (1)
Piggott Ellsworth Watson (4)
Pocahontas Thomas E. Weir (2)
Rector Wendell Dorman (2)
Rector Circuit Charles Southard (LP) (1)
Associate Marvin Thompson (RS) (1)
St. Francis Wayne Gould (LP) (3)
Sedgwick Carlos Summers (LP) (2)
Stanford J. T. Holland (AM) (1)
Swifton Mike Orr (LP) (2)
Tuckerman Joe Wilkerson (4)
Walnut Ridge William C. Haltom (4)

Student Appointments

Asbury Theological Seminary Rex G. Darling
Perkins School of Theology Barbara Dillingham Wulfekuhler
Perkins School of Theology Kurt W. Wulfekuhler
Perkins School of Theology Roger B. Hook

Daily Bible Readings

June 20—Sunday Gen. 18:22-33
June 21 I Sam. 1:9-18
June 22 I Kings 3:3-14
June 23 II Kings 19:14-20
June 24 Mark 1:29-29
June 25 Luke 11:1-13
June 26 Luke 18:1-8
June 27—Sunday Gen. 26:17-25

Daily Proceedings of 1976 North Arkansas Conference Session

(Not official minutes)

First Day, Monday, June 7, 1976

OPENING WORSHIP: Celebration of Worship with Sacrament of Holy Communion, First Church, Conway, 7:30 p.m. Sermon, "Sacrifice Renegotiated," by Dr. William K. McElvaney, conference preacher.

Second Day, Tuesday, June 8 — Morning Session
Staples Auditorium, Hendrix College

DEVOTIONAL, 8:30: Liturgist, Vicki Van Poucke; speaker, Bob Cheyne; organist, Elise Shoemaker; head usher, Jon Guthrie. Message: "The Church's One Foundation."

BUSINESS SESSION: The 141st session, North Arkansas Annual Conference, called to order at 9:17 a.m. by Bishop Eugene M. Frank. Hymn, "The Church's One Foundation." Prayer by Bishop Frank, who then declared the Conference to be in session.

AGENDA: Myers B. Curtis moved adoption of agenda as printed in special edition of *Arkansas Methodist*. Done.

STAFF: Conference Secretary Dewey Dark nominated as assistants: Andrew Hall, Marvest Lawson, Charles Watt. Elected.

BAR: Myers B. Curtis moved that bar of the Conference be mid-way to main floor. Done.

ROLL: Roll call procedure announced by Secretary Dark.

WELCOME: Roy B. Shilling Jr., Hendrix College president, gave welcome to campus. Stated that Conference always welcome, though college not in competition with local churches for hosting privilege. Harold O. Eggensperger, pastor of First Church, gave greetings on behalf of three Conway churches, Salem, Wesley and First Church.

NEW HISTORY: Bill Wilder spoke on new history of Methodism in Arkansas, authored by Walter N. Vernon, now available. A joint effort with Little Rock Conference. Presented Dr. Vernon, who spoke briefly, expressing gratitude for opportunity to author book.

ENDORSEMENT: Lay Leader Bob Cheyne recommended Conference endorse Joel A. Cooper for election to episcopacy at Jurisdictional Conference. Unanimous approval; standing ovation.

PRIVILEGE: Bishop Frank introduced Phil Hathcock, Jasper pastor, who presented Donald F. Ebright, former executive of Meals for Millions and former missionary and first president of Alaska Methodist University, now a resident of Jasper, who spoke briefly on world hunger. Is available as a resource person to local churches.

COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES, #1: Director Myers B. Curtis presided as 14 program priorities presented: World Hunger, Nadine Hardin; Innovative Ministries, Joe Wilkerson; Ministry to the Aging, Bill Wilder; Ministry with Ethnic Minorities, Euba Winton; U.M. Theology, Connectionalism, Evangelism, W. E. Arnold; Supportive Fellowship, Myers Curtis; Personal Growth, Keith Goza; Support and Interpret Social Principles, Tom Barnett; Women in the Church, Mary Ellen Jenson; Small Membership Churches and New Church Development, Jerry Nichols; Leadership Development, Charles Casteel; Ecumenical Activities, Ron Clark; Worship, Dick Haltom; Preaching, Sam Teague.

ADDITION: Joe Kennedy moved that Continuing Education for Pastors and Lay Persons be added to priorities. Adopted.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Jim Beal announced meeting following evening worship for interested ministers and spouses to consider Burial Covenant program.

MINISTRY, #1: Jim Beal, presiding, presented Max Whitfield who introduced candidates for Associate Membership: David D. Scroggin, Richard R. Stegall. Elected. Waymon Hollis presented candidates for Probationary Membership and Deacon's Orders: Thomas E. Anderson, Robert C. Bell, Edward D. Blanton, Robert O. Crossman, Gordon R. Donham, Ronald W. Durham, Thomas F. Francis, Michael Hughes, Lester Glenn Pettus, Richard Lee Ruble (in absentia).

Hollis presented those to be continued as Probationary Members, students and graduates of approved schools of theology. Wayne Clark presented candidates for full membership and elder's orders: Charles M. Cooper, William C. Cooper, Keith D. Goza, Bennie R. Harmon, Joseph M. Sherman. Elected. Paul Raines was presented as Probationary Member transferred in from Missouri East Conference.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION: Joel A. Cooper urged members to study Council on Finance and Administration's report; presented amounts recommended for Conference Benevolences (\$221,304) and World Service (\$221,304) representing a 21 percent increase over 1976. Missional Priorities Fund: \$18,000 for World Hunger; \$18,000 for Ethnic Minority churches; \$545 for Evangelism; total: \$36,545. Action on proposals to come later. Report adopted.

PUBLISHING HOUSE: Sam Albright, Methodist Publishing House representative, presented check in amount of \$4,259.55 to Retired

Ministers' Fund as this Conference's share in MPH profits.

RECESS.

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COMMEMORATION: Liturgist, David Conyers; Worship Leader, Pharis Holifield; Lay Reader, Emily Cockrill; soloist, Jennifer Woodville; Preacher, Arvest Lawson. Sermon: "The Communion of Saints." Those memorialized: Ministers — Dan R. Robinson, James R. Chandler, Lon Brewer, Porter Weaver, Ben C. Few, Glen F. Sanford, Oliver Logan, Gilbert F. Hyde. Wives — Mamie B. Davie, wife of Hilliard A. Davie, Edah Jane Williams, wife of Walter J. Williams. Widows — Elizabeth Wilford, wife of Boone L. Wilford; Della Dickerson, wife of T. L. Dickerson; Lucy C. Faust, wife of W. J. Faust.

Tuesday, June 8 — Afternoon Session

OPENING: Elise Shoemaker of Conway led in singing of hymn, "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

FELLOWSHIP OF METHODIST MUSICIANS: Elise Shoemaker announced formation of FMM group; urged participation of interested persons.

STRUCTURE: Pat Freemyer and Jerry Pulliam presented proposed changes in Committee on Structure report, pg. 70, Pre-Conference Report (PCR). Jarvis moved editorial changes; Waymon Hollis offered substitute motion; passed. Proposal #1 adopted as amended. Lengthy discussion followed on proposals 2 and 3 laid on table. Proposals 4, 5, 6 passed. Proposal 7 passed after amended. Proposal 8 passed after amended. Proposals 9 and 10 approved. Proposal 11 passed after amended.

METHODIST HOSPITAL: Assistant Administrator James Brown brought greetings from Methodist Hospital, Memphis; reported on recent accomplishments — completion of Methodist South, progress in School of Nursing, activities of Methodist Hospital Foundation. Presented other staff members, Chaplain George Stewart, Steven Mourning, David Flynn.

PHILANDER SMITH COLLEGE: President Walter B. Hazzard expressed appreciation of 12 colleges in Black College Fund for support given by Conference; presented Certificate of Recognition. Gave six-point progress report on activities at Philander Smith.

NOMINATIONS: Earl Carter presented nominations (to be contained in Journal). Nominations from floor for Committee on Nominations: Class of 1977 (one to be elected): Waymon Hollis and Max Whitfield; Class of 1980 (lay members — two to be elected): Nell Barling, Emily Cockrill, Kathleen Sharp. Class of 1980 (clergy — two to be elected): Wendell Dorman, Victor Green, Carol Lascaro.

COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES, #2: Church and Society — Tom Barnett reporting. Spoke to report, PCR page 14, concerning Christian justice. Emphasized that Christian social concern is a part of evangelism. Report adopted.

STATUS AND ROLE OF WOMEN: Carol Lascaro presented report, pg. 67, PCR. Spoke to report. Adopted.

ADJOURNMENT.

Tuesday, June 8 — Evening Worship

Staples Auditorium, 7:30

WORSHIP: Bicentennial Worship and Youth Night Service. Worship Leader, James W. Workman; Preacher, William K. McElvaney. Participants: the seven district superintendents and Ira A. Brumley, I. L. Claud and Diana Gaither. Choir director, Monty Bell; Organist, Elise Shoemaker. Choir composed of ministers and lay persons. Ushers, members of Conference Youth Council. A "brush arbor" meeting with congregational singing and testimonies. Many participants dressed in early American attire.

Wednesday, June 9 — Morning Session

WORSHIP: Liturgist, Ethan Dodgen; Speaker, Francis Christie; Organist, Elise Shoemaker; Head Usher, Jon Guthrie. Sermon, "Telling the Story."

OPENING: Bishop Frank opened morning session at 9:10 with prayer.

LAY LIFE AND WORK: Conference Lay Leader Bob Cheyne spoke to report, pg. 54-56, PCR. Noted that new structure had broadened scope of council's work. Lifted up Lay Speaking Schools, Jim Lane as coordinator, with goal of one in each district; Laity Sunday, Oct. 10, and Laity Weekend later in year.

LAY WORKER: Arvill Brannon presented persons to be consecrated as Directors of Music: Jane Steinegger, Michael Lee Gray, Kenneth Richard Davis, Deborah Ernest Webb, Sheila G. Combs and Albert Keith Berthoeux. Director of Education: Sheila G. Combs. Certification approved. Bishop Frank led in Service of Consecration.

MINISTRY #2: Pryor Cruce presented those to be granted superannuated status. Full connection: John Ralph Clayton, Lloyd Hilton Conyers, Omma L. Daniel, James S. Upton, Cyril Hutton Wilson. Associate Members: Willis A. LeGrand, Lorne Fleming Piercey, Charles E. Reed. Status

(Continued on page seven)

From Our Readers

Readers respond on tobacco question

MINISTERS HAVE 'LARGE RESPONSIBILITY'

To the Editor:

Yesterday when we opened the latest copy of the *Methodist* we were so delighted with your article "Holy Smoke?" on page three. You certainly came to the point and said things that needed to be said NOW . . .

If the minister of a church is not living in such a way that young people can safely follow his example in all ways then he is in the wrong position. Yes, it puts a large responsibility on the minister but he is in a very responsible position. He is speaking for Christ to people, by his words and by his life.

If the church, led by the minister cannot take a stand against the evils of this day, who is going to? Is it any wonder that the Methodist church has lost members? Today we hear much about the dangers of smoking, to the smoker and to the one who must breathe the second-hand smoke. All Christians owe it to themselves and their neighbors to protect these bodies of ours — the temples of the Holy Spirit . . .

We are both Methodists of many years experience and want our Church to be the best influence in our community. We appreciate the *Methodist* which we have read for many years.

This letter is to you and we prefer that if you should publish it you do not print our names.

(Signed by two correspondents)

WANTS MORE DISCUSSION ON ISSUES

To the Editor:

The editorial entitled "Holy Smoke?" (issue of June 3), together with some other material on the Methodist stand on alcoholic beverages has made for recent interesting reading.

It might be worth pointing out that scripture records that Jesus apparently both made and used wine. No reference is made to the habit of smoking by anyone.

Any substance, seemingly, can be abused including ordinary human food. Light use of wine or other alcoholic beverage not only has the scriptural example, but not much evidence (is given that) harm is done when abuse isn't occurring. The same can't be said for tobacco, however. It has specific harmful physiological effects which occur with use of each single cigarette smoked. These won't be detailed here.

I would like to see more discussion of these two issues, as I'm not sure about either the rationality for scriptural position Methodists espouse.

Constance Morgan
7622 Standish Rd.
Little Rock, Ark. 72204

†

AGREES

To the Editor:

I appreciate very much your editorial "Holy Smoke?" in the June 3 issue.

I compliment you not only for the position you take — with which I agree — but also for the simple fact that you addressed the subject in the first place!

Charles Raspberry
District Lay Leader
Jonesboro District
208 Pekin St.
Jonesboro, Ark. 72401

†

SCRIPTURES CITED

To the Editor:

I want to thank you "from the bottom of my heart" for your article about the use of tobacco by preachers. Of course, preachers are only people, too, but people do expect them to set an example.

Tobacco is a habit-forming drug which becomes a person's master, and Christ said, "No man can serve two masters." No one, preacher or layman, can be a truly dedicated Christian and at the same time a slave to tobacco. Two Scripture verses that verify this are I Cor. 3:17 and I Cor. 6:12.

E. M. McIlroy
Rt. 1, Box 205
Ravendon Springs, Ark.

†

"It's a
special moment.
Something
significant
has been done."



Author John Workman traveled with and helped unload Heifer Project International's first shipment of purebred Holstein heifers to Tanzania, East Africa.

The cattle will be used to help the African nation establish its own dairy industry.

Workman felt the exhilarating, humbling sense of joy and accomplishment that is only right when something is done by people for people.

"One more small nail to hold the universe together has been firmly, securely driven home. It feels good."

We sent 140 heifers. We promised 1000. Won't you help?

HPI is a church-supported organization that uses donated animals and funds to establish livestock programs in developing countries. A gift of \$300 will purchase, process and deliver to the port of embarkation one heifer for the Tanzanian program.

Contributions are tax-deductible.

Call or write Dr. Thurl Metzger, Director of International Programs

HEIFER PROJECT INTERNATIONAL

P. O. Box 808 • Little Rock, Arkansas 72203 • 501/376-6836

The Church and Civil Authorities

By DR. WILLIAM C. GENTRY

Professor, Henderson State University
Arkadelphia, Arkansas

Scriptures: I Kings 22:1-28; Acts 5:21b-29;
Romans 13:1-10; Revelation 13:11-18.

Differing Outlooks in the Bible

What ought to be the relationship between the people of God and the secular political authorities? The New Testament does not speak with one voice to this question. Jesus' famous comment, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:21) is regarded as notoriously open to different interpretations. Paul's support of a "divine right" theory (Romans 13:1-10) has been condemned as providing disastrous advice for persons living under corrupt and oppressive governments.

Peter's reply to the Sanhedrin that "We must obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29) has been taken by religious rebels to support civil disobedience and even revolution. The writer of Revelation compares the governing authority, in this case a Roman emperor engaged in persecuting Christians, to a vicious super-human beast (Revelation 13:11-18).

To which voice shall we attend? Shall we follow Paul and maintain that God requires us to give unfailing loyalty and obedience to the civil authorities because they, whoever they are and whatever they command, hold office by God's institution? Shall we listen to Peter and the writer of Revelation and insist that our primary loyalty is not to any power in this world?

The early church had no one answer to our question. It did not because the relationship between church and state changed dramatically during the first four centuries of the church's life.

The Early Church and the Roman Empire

Paul's relationship to the Roman authorities was relatively good up to the end of his life. He took pride in the fact that, as a native of Tarsus, he was a Roman citizen. He was protected by Roman magistrates from violence on several occasions. And he must have appreciated the fact that the combination of the *pax Romana* (the peace of Rome) and the Roman road system allowed him to travel relatively unhindered from place to place in the Empire.

But Paul's experience with the political authorities was not shared by later Christians. "Christianity was at first regarded by the Roman authorities as a branch of Judaism, which stood under legal protection" (Williston Walker, *A History of the Christian Church*, New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1959, 43). The initial difficulties which the followers of Jesus experienced was with the Jews themselves. Later, however, the populations of Roman cities and provinces became hostile toward Christians at least in part because of their suspicious ritual practices. Christians were accused of practicing cannibalism in their services; they spoke of "eating the body and drinking the blood" of their God.

Christians also soon became unpopular with the political authorities because of their widespread refusal to serve in the Roman army and to render obeisance to the Emperor. The first serious official persecution took place under the Emperor Nero in A.D. 64. Several succeeding Emperors took a milder stance toward the

Christian sect, however. They viewed it as criminal, but they did not systematically hunt down Christians nor did they support mob persecutions. The Emperors gave Christians who were caught a chance to be acquitted if they were willing to sacrifice to the Roman gods. Many Christians chose martyrdom rather than to do so. Polycarp of Smyrna is a heroic example. When arrested by Roman soldiers and put on trial in A.D. 156, Polycarp

"... was threatened with death by wild beasts or by burning. But he was told that all he need say was 'Away with the atheists,' and he would be set free. Instead, he turned toward the heathen crowd. Of them he said, 'Away with the atheists.' ... Polycarp remained adamant, and he was ordered bound to a stake and burned." ("The Martyrdom of Polycarp" in *A History of Christianity*, ed. by Ray C. Petry, Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1962, 44-45; quoted in *Adult Leader*, 39)

The great Stoic Emperor, Marcus Aurelius (A.D. 161-180), gave new force to outlawing Christianity and the persecution which he renewed continued into the reign of Commodus (A.D. 180-192), who was however more interested in pursuing his own pleasures than the interests of the Empire.

The hostile attitude of the Roman government prompted some Christian thinkers, called the Apologists, to begin to provide a public defense of the new religion. The most noteworthy of the Apologists was named Justin, and was called "the Martyr" because of the heroic way he faced his death under the Roman prefect Rusticus about A.D. 165 (Walker, 46). Justin's *Apology*, written about A.D. 153, argues that Christians should be convicted, if at all, only of particular crimes, not for the mere fact of calling themselves Christians. Furthermore, he claims, Christians are atheists (a common charge) only in the sense that they think the popular Roman deities are demons. And Christians are anarchists only in the eyes of those who do not understand the otherworldly kingdom which they seek.

The Apologists did not convince the Roman authorities to halt the persecutions, however. The troubles of the declining empire continued to mount during the second and third centuries: the huge bureaucracy became more and more inefficient; and the barbarians continued to exert great pressure on the borders of the Empire. The Roman populace, distressed by the barbarian incursions and torn by internal dissent, increasingly blamed the subversive Christians and demanded a renewal of vigorous persecution.

Christians still refused to serve in the Roman legions and to hold public office. Under the Emperor Decius (A.D. 249-251), therefore, a new edict of universal persecution was issued in A.D. 250 (two years after the celebration of the thousand year anniversary of the founding of Rome). Many Christians were martyred. Many more, under torture or the threat of torture, "confessed" their allegiance to the Emperor. (Numbers of these "lapsed" Christians would seek readmission to the church after the persecutions were ended. The question of their readmission would stir a great controversy in the church.)

The systematic persecutions continued under the Emperor Gallus (A.D. 251-253) and Valerian (A.D. 253-260). But they abated somewhat under Valerian's incompetent son, Gallienus (A.D. 260-268), and a period of relative peace ensued until the greatest outbreak of persecutions under Diocletian.

In A.D. 284 Diocletian, a very able ruler, assumed the throne. He found the highly organized, hierarchical church to be a formidable obstacle to his efforts to gain

full control over the splintering Empire. He moved slowly at first trying to rid the army and the imperial court of Christians. Beginning in A.D. 303, however, he issued three severe decrees of persecution. In them he ordered the destruction of churches, the confiscation of sacred books, the imprisonment of clergy, and the torture and execution of all Christians who refused to make sacrifice to the Emperor. The severity of the persecutions varied, depending upon the enthusiasm of the magistrates who had to carry them out.

The Empire was badly split after Diocletian's reign. And in A.D. 311 Constantine and Licinius, sharing control of much of the western part of the Empire, issued an edict of toleration which permitted Christians to worship so long as they did nothing else contrary to law.

Before a battle against Maxentius, who controlled much of the eastern part of the Empire, at the Mulvian bridge over the Tiber in A.D. 312, Constantine claimed to have seen the first two letters of the name of Christ in a dream. He won the battle. He may have been converted to Christianity, but the question was unsettled.

In any case, Constantine and Licinius issued the "Edict of Milan" in A.D. 313 making Christianity a fully legal religion and restoring all church property. And by A.D. 392, under the Emperor Theodosius, Christianity had become the official religion of the Empire and heathenism was persecuted as severely as Christianity had been earlier. A new phase of church-state relations had been entered, a phase which would continue in most of the Western world until the present.

The Christian and Political Authority

Neither Paul's answer alone nor Peter's answer alone will suffice as a sure guide for Christians today. Jesus' "Render to Caesar and render to God" may be the best answer we have. While admittedly ambiguous, it is a statement of genius. It can be taken to indicate that while we owe overriding loyalty to God (Peter), civil authority is due respect and obedience so long as it is exercised in accord with principles of human justice (Paul).

From this it is clear, however, that when the secular leadership of a state, as for example in Hitler's Germany, commands goals and conduct antithetical to the norms of love and justice, Christians have not only a right but an obligation to oppose that leadership. "Authority" traditionally and rightly means "power plus right." When political leadership forsakes moral right, although retaining power, it gives up its authority. That is, it gives up its moral claim to be followed.

Furthermore, Christians should always be suspicious of the efforts by the state to use religious sentiments, slogans, and postures to buttress support for its policies. Sometimes these are genuine, but frequently they are Machiavellian.

Finally, Christians have an obligation, based on the command to "love one another," to work to achieve a high level of political justice in the state. The state should not be viewed merely, as Paul seems to view it, as an instrument to maintain "law and order." Law and order are necessary, but their maintenance is a preliminary function of the government. The state's ultimate goal, consistent with the highest principles of Christian ethics, is to provide the positive means for securing the natural well-being of all the citizens.

†

NEWS and opinion

summary by Doris Woolard

Church bells across the nation will ring for two minutes at 1 p.m. (CST) on Sunday, July 4 to commemorate the Declaration of Independence 200 years ago. The American Bible Society has published a 5 x 5 1/2-inch photographic likeness of the Liberty Bell for distribution by churches, synagogues and other organizations as a Bicentennial memento. Scriptural words printed above the bell are from Leviticus 25:10: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all

the inhabitants thereof." Television and radio stations across the country will ring bells at the designated hour.

Two United Methodist missionaries, the Rev. and Mrs. Kare Eriksson who served in Rhodesia for 25 years, have been refused re-entry into the country after completing a furlough. Dr. Juel Nordby, of the Board of Global Ministries, said the refusal was unusual because the Erickssons held permanent residence papers.

Dr. Paul M. Stevens, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, has urged the National Association of Broadcasters to reconsider its recommendations that television stations not sell advertising time for religion-related messages. The

media official suggested that the NAB television code review board change the wording of the voluntary broadcaster code in a way that would "encourage stations to assess professionally-produced church and religious spots" on the same basis used "to consider spot advertisements for other products."

A resolution warning against excessive government interference with church retirement programs will be presented to the Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee, according to Religious News Service. The release said church pension boards are concerned about the Internal Revenue Code as amended by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) of 1972. Under new provisions, church-related agencies would not be allowed to partici-

pate in a "church plan" for pensions after 1982. Other denominations are likewise taking steps to petition the government for corrective measures.

The Rev. Paul Gehris, spokesman for the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, told members of the state legislature that his agency "opposes the legalization of slot machines in the Commonwealth, along with other games of chance." Mr. Gehris told a Senate committee: "We reaffirm our unalterable opposition to all forms of organized gambling, legal or illegal, for whatever purpose by whomsoever conducted."

Dr. David Randolph, senior minister of Christ United Methodist Church in New York City, will be the summer speaker on the National Radio Pulpit.

North Arkansas Conference Proceedings

(Continued from page five)

granted. Each spoke to Conference.

RECESS: Bishop Frank announced brief recess, then called Conference back into session.

MINISTRY #2: Report continued. Jim Beal introduced Leonard Byers who spoke to PCR report, presenting amendments (to be printed in Journal). Announced that Glenn Galtre, director of Office of Pastoral Care, had resigned to accept position in West Indies. Replacement being sought. Beal spoke to policy change in which first and second year college students no longer eligible for Conference loan. Report adopted.

Officers of Board of Ministry presented: Jon Guthrie, chairman; Sherman Waters, vice chairman; Leonard Byers, Conference Relations; Bob Edwards, Continuing Education; Max Whitfield, registrar and loan officer; Phil Hathcock, assistant registrar for Seminary Students; Vernon Paysinger, assistant registrar for Lay Pastors. Ministers transferring in and out of Conference were recognized. Beal moved that all legislation of General Conference affecting ministers be enacted Jan. 1, 1977 with exception of that concerning local pastors, which will be effective at close of this session of Annual Conference. Adopted.

Waymon Hollis presented Robert Owen Crossman for election as Probationary Member and ordination as Deacon (1976). So ordered. Max Whitfield presented Journal questions 20, 21, 27, 36, and 39 (concerning Annual Conference relationships). Bishop Frank announced that 39 D would be considered at 1 p.m. in Executive Session in Mills Center. Questions 41 and 44 (Supernumerary and Disability) were reviewed. Report adopted, exclusive of 39 D.

TELLERS: Andrew M. Hall Jr., assistant secretary, named tellers: Gene Brand, Jim Linam, Bryan Speed, Harry Hurt, Roy Poynor, Jim West.

PENSIONS: Tom Weir introduced Joe Linam to give PCR report. Adopted.

ARKANSAS METHODIST: Editor John S. Workman presented Board of Managers Chairman Ed Matthews of Little Rock Conference. Conference granted him permission to speak. He introduced Vice Chairman Jim Lane who gave report, spoken to by Matthews. Adopted with amendment (see Journal).

HENDRIX COLLEGE: President Roy B. Shilling Jr. reviewed college's heritage, current position of strength, concerns for future. Spoke of need for continuing support by church and individuals.

MALLALIEU CHURCH AND CENTER: Robert Felder spoke of ministry of the church and Community Center in Fort Smith, noting three programs, Human Development Center, Community Development Center and Vietnamese Hope Center. Plan to open a fourth, Day Care Center. Encouraged Conference to be more involved in support of these ministries.

GLOBAL MINISTRIES: Nadine Hardin presented Dr. Myong Gul Son of Korea and New York, an International Person in Mission of Board of Global Ministries, who spoke of issues confronting Christians in Korea and of their sacrificial witness.

BALLOT: One clergy member (Class of '77) elected: Waymon Hollis. No election declared on other two positions.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Bishop Frank called attention to Cokesbury Book Store display in Hulen Hall.

ADJOURNMENT.

Wednesday Afternoon Session

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Convened at 1 p.m. to complete report of the Board of Ministry. (The complete report will be published in the Journal.)

REGULAR SESSION CONVENED.

LYDIA PATTERSON INSTITUTE: Dr. Noe Gonzales, president, spoke of school's program and needs. Expressed disappointment that \$9000 goal had not been reached and that amount lowered for 1977. School presently serving 648 students.

MT. SEQUOYAH: Superintendent N. Lee Cate spoke on improved facilities; encouraged continued support and use.

CHILDREN'S HOME: Superintendent J. Edwin Keith brought greeting, introduced Trustees Chairman Homer H. Fulbright, who gave report. Are 257 children in Home facilities presently.

COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES #3: Sam Teague presented Bill Wilder for Board of Discipleship report. Gerald Rainwater and W. E. Buddy Arnold spoke to report. Arnold lifted up evangelism priorities.

SCARRITT COLLEGE: Assistant to the President Robert Gentry spoke of Scarritt's growth; largest graduating class this year. Requested continued support of \$10 per church.

WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY: Dr. James Clemons, member of this Conference, professor of New Testament at Wesley, spoke of significance of seminary located in nation's capitol. Spoke of summer school program. Encouraged visitors to campus.

PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY: Robert Bell of Perkins staff spoke of increased enrollment, more than one-third since beginning of quadrennium, and outstanding support given by

this Conference to Ministerial Education Fund. **ST. PAUL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY:** Dr. William K. McElvaney reported that St. Paul had largest year in the seminary's history. Noted that this Conference paid 97 percent of Ministerial Education Fund, highest of any Conference. Spoke of needs of entire connection; all institutions, agencies, should have support of United Methodists.

MEMPHIS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY: Dr. W. T. Ingram, president, noted that though institution is Cumberland Presbyterian, has more United Methodists. Are 20 denominations represented in student body.

ENLISTMENT: Jim McKay presented report; spoke of intern program and talent bank for ethnic minority group.

EDUCATION: Charles Casteel challenged Conference to more serious acceptance of responsibility for Christian education. Presented Sharon Spurlin who introduced resolution: "We reaffirm the position of the recent General Conference in encouraging our local churches to use United Methodist curriculum materials in our Church Schools. These materials are in conformity with Methodist doctrine and the Social Principles of our church and are essential in the program of evangelism and the program of Christian nurture." Adopted.

WORSHIP: Dick Haltom presented Ann Jackson who emphasized need for workshops on Christian worship. Report approved.

BALLOT RECONSIDERED: Wayne Jarvis moved that on previous ballot for election to nominating committee, the two persons with greatest number of votes be elected (one by majority, one by plurality). So ordered. Elected: lay members (Class of '80) — Nell Barling, Emily Cockrill; Clergy members (Class of '80) — Wendell Dorman, Carol Lascaro.

CAMPS AND CONFERENCES: Wayne Clark presented PCR report. Adopted.

CHRISTIAN CIVIC FOUNDATION: Edward W. Harris reported on work of CCF and spoke of new educational assistant, Ronnie Sparks. Called upon R. E. L. Bearden, Conway District superintendent, to present on behalf of the Foundation a resolution requesting the Governor, the Legislative Council and the General Assembly to "oppose as economically unnecessary and morally indefensible any legislative attempts to exempt public or private recreational facilities in dry counties from compliance with the existing statutes governing alcoholic beverages in the State of Arkansas..." (See story elsewhere in this issue.) Adopted.

UNITED METHODIST MEN: Bob Cheyne, lay leader, spoke of first meeting of Conference UMM in August at Mt. Sequoyah; said wanted to have the same kind of pride in the men's group which women have in theirs.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN: Spoke to report in PCR, pg. 71; noted that women pay almost one-half of entire budget of Global Ministries. Listed seven goals for year: Inclusiveness, ecumenism, increased involvement of women on boards and agencies, etc., promote spiritual retreats and study courses and recommended program materials, increased giving, build new UMW groups and activate others and increased sharing of expenses of delegates to various meetings. Spoke of School of Christian Mission and Annual Meeting. Report adopted.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION #2: Joel Cooper introduced Report #2, previously distributed. Wayne Jarvis presented proposed askings from Section I. Ben Jordan moved that Lydia Patterson Institute be given \$9000 instead of \$7000 goal. After discussion, in which reduction of the amount was explained, the \$9000 goal was accepted. Section I adopted.

ADJOURNMENT.

Wednesday Evening

WORSHIP: Service of Ordination, 7:30, First United Methodist Church. Ministers of celebration included Bishop Eugene M. Frank; Dr. William K. McElvaney, preacher; Jim Beal, liturgist; Ann Jackson and Gene Brand, lay readers; representatives of the Board of Ministry, the district superintendents and one sponsoring elder for each to be ordained elder. Chancel and Handbell Choirs from Central Church, Rogers, director, Tim Cox. Organist, Elise Shoemaker. Sermon: "Ministry, Measurements and Madness." Ordination banner designed by Mary Wilson, constructed by Marguerite Pulliam of Huntington Avenue Church, Jonesboro. Ordinands and families were greeted in fellowship hall following service.

Thursday, June 10 — Morning Session

MORNING WORSHIP: Liturgist, Tom Barnett; speaker, Saville Henry, director of Christian Education, Lakewood Church, North Little Rock; organist, Elise Shoemaker; head usher, Jon Guthrie. Message, "The Concealed Christian."

OPENING: Hymn led by Elise Shoemaker, prayer by Bishop Frank.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION: Report #2 continued. Joel Cooper presented Wayne Jarvis who gave report on Section 2, the budget. Following Section B, request made by Mary Ellen Jesson that in future the CFA make their determinations of available funds early enough for boards to give adequate consideration to programs prior to Conference session. Accepted.

Item D, par. "c," changed to read, "The directors, when travelling at the request of a board, agency or district, shall have room and meal

expense borne by the board, agency or district." Like statement added to par. "d," pertaining to district superintendents' travel.

Discussion followed on proposal "e," to terminate use of Conference-owned cars for district superintendents and COM staff. Waymon Hollis moved substitute motion to continue plan but require more accurate logging of expense. Substitute motion failed. Method of disposing of cars discussed. Frank Clemmons moved that CFA and district superintendents work out details. Carried.

Andrew Hall moved that moving expense of returning seminarians be handled as for any other pastoral change. Carried. Section 2 adopted as amended. Section 3 and 4 adopted. Resolution offered to authorize appointment of members to joint committee, with Little Rock Conference, to draw up job analysis on Area Treasurer's office and secure person for this office for time from retirement date of Grafton Thomas (early 1977) until 1977 Conference sessions. Approved.

Area Treasurer and Mrs. Grafton Thomas presented to Conference. Bishop Frank praised his outstanding service of 14 years. Conference gave standing expression of appreciation.

Motion that CFA be authorized to provide additional monies for funding of Office of Stewardship (Area Treasurer's Office). Approved. Motion that \$400 be authorized for moving and storage expense of property of Earl Hughes whose transfer to Little Rock Conference incurs added expense for storage and housing. Approved. Motion by Orville Shultz to recommend to local churches to pay meals and lodging of elected lay members of Annual Conference. Carried. Discussion followed on expenses of district's at-large members; no decision reached.

ANNOUNCEMENT: Charles McDonald announced that word just received of death of the Rev. Elmus Brown of Fort Smith, retired member of the Conference. Moved that Conference send expression of sympathy to Mrs. Brown. So ordered. Motion by Martin Bierbaum to place time limit on speakers. No second. Helen Wilson, missionary to Bolivia, brought greetings to the Conference.

COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES #4: Global Ministries report. Nadine Hardin presented Freddie Nixon who gave vocal solo introducing report. Nadine Hardin presented corrected budget, stating changes would be noted in various sections.

Missions. Joe Wilkerson asked that \$2000 extension funds for Egypt Church (Paragould District) be transferred to Rock Spring Church, same District. Approved.

Health and Welfare Ministries. Nell Barling announced that goal of \$50,000 for Retirement Village in Fort Smith had been reached. Emphasized leadership training in health and welfare ministries. Lifted up Golden Cross Sunday. Harold Spence and J. William Watson nominated as trustees ('79) of Methodist Hospital, Memphis. Elected. Nominations presented by Methodist Children's home: Mrs. W. D. Williams, trustee at large ('79); Archie Boyd, Larry Redmond, Henry Rainwater, Harold Spence, Earl Carter.

Jim Beal noted Standing Rule 23, that no person to serve as elected trustee of more than one agency at a time. The right of an annual conference to restrict nominations of trustees of Methodist Children's Home brought into question. Homer Fulbright, chairman of Children's Home board, stated that constitution of Home gave trustees the right to nominate. Bishop Frank ruled that Annual Conference rules take precedence over actions of any of its agencies. Harold Spence and Earl Carter declined nominations to Children's home board since Spence is trustee of Methodist Hospital, Carter of Hendrix College.

Town and Country. Jerry Pulliam called attention to seminar at Mt. Sequoyah, Oct. 25-28, other projects of committee.

Ecumenical and Interreligious Concerns. Ron Clark submitted nominations of 26 persons to Arkansas Council of Churches. Elected.

Nadine Hardin summarized report. Freddie Nixon concluded report with vocal solo.

Thursday, June 10 — Afternoon Session

OPENING: Bishop Frank called session to order.

JOURNALS: Chairman T. G. Bratton filed District Conference Journals report.

EQUITABLE SALARIES: Frank Clemmons presented report, noting changes. Adopted with amendments.

RELIGION AND RACE: Euba Winton expressed need to become inclusive church with open fellowship, saying that by time current generation of children are grown, there should no longer be need for this commission; church should be working in human relations only.

GROUP INSURANCE: Gail Anderson presented Willie Walker who gave report. Two new coverages included. Adopted. Imogene Knox, insurance secretary, presented to Conference.

MEMOIRS: Roy Moyers emphasized need for permanent record, including pictures, of deceased members. Moved that names of deceased members of former Methodist Protestant Church be included on Roll in Heaven. Adopted.

PRIVILEGE: Jim Beal reported on plan being instituted to give immediate notice to ministers of death of fellow pastors.

STRUCTURE: Pat Freemyer presented Pro-

posals 2 and 3, placed on table earlier. Proposal 2 adopted. Bennie Harmon moved that Committee on Nominations be listed as major board. Ruled out of order as an opposing action was previously taken by Conference. Proposal 3 approved. Additional proposal made by Structure Committee that officers be elected by the Committee on Nominations and that bishop be an ex-officio member. Carried by count vote, 71-49.

MOTION: Jim Beal moved on behalf of Board of Ordained Ministry that John W. Lee be eligible to have moving expense paid this year. Approved.

TRUSTEES: Muriel Peters reported; gave statement on Conference property.

STATISTICIAN: Allan Hilliard absent; to undergo surgery next week. Myers Curtis gave highlights, noting membership increase of 511 over previous year; presently at 100,523. Noted gains in financial contributions.

TREASURER: Grafton Thomas reported that collections were highest ever. Reported World Service paid in full and highlighted other items. Reported \$18,329 returned on investments. Advance Special gifts amounted to \$80,352. Reported on new data processing equipment by which all reports were remitted to central treasury.

PRIVILEGE: Ben Jordan reported Bill Connell could not attend Conference due to death of father-in-law.

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY: Tom English reported 600 volumes of new history distributed.

POLICY AND REVIEW: Charles Ramsay stated committee had not functioned but was ready to assume its duties.

NEXT SESSION: Worth Gibson invited Conference to Jonesboro First Church. Accepted.

QUESTION 18: Character of district superintendents and pastors approved.

RESOLUTIONS: Earl Carter read resolution expressed appreciation to Bishop Frank, Conference hosts, all participants and guests who contributed to success of session.

PRIVILEGE: Jerry Canada moved that CFA make study of paying expenses to annual conference session of district's at-large members. Approved.

MOVING DAY: Wednesday, June 16.

ADJOURNMENT: Bishop Frank adjourned the session with prayer at 3:30 p.m.

†

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Thursday, June 17, 1976

A mini-glimpse of North Arkansas Annual Conference...



CONFERENCE LAY LEADER Bob Cheyne (left) of Bentonville gave the message at opening worship on Tuesday morning. Miss Vicki Van Poucke (center), president of the Conference Youth Council, served as liturgist. The Rev. Bill Williams (right) of Hendrix College Admissions staff, served as chairman of arrangements for morning services.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Dr. Ira A. Brumley, Dr. James W. Workman and Dr. Fred G. Roeback visit together before the Tuesday evening Bicentennial Worship and Youth Night Service, which featured a "brush arbor" meeting with congregational singing and testimonies.



DR. DONALD F. EBRIGHT, former executive of Meals for Millions, a former missionary and first president of Alaska Methodist University, now a resident of Jasper, spoke briefly to the conference on world hunger. Dr. Ebright is available as a resource person on the subject.



DR. MYONG GUL SON of Korea and New York, an International Person in Mission, with the Board of Global Ministries, was presented by Nadine Hardin (right). He spoke of issues confronting Christians in Korea and of their sacrificial witness.



CHAPLAINS and some of the wives in attendance at this year's session.



PRESENTING special music and assisting with congregational singing at the Bicentennial Worship Service was this volunteer choir composed of ministers and laypersons. Directing the group was Choir Director Monty Bell of Searcy. Elise Shoemaker, organist at First Church, Conway, served as accompanist.



THE CONGREGATION at opening night worship celebration numbered approximately 550 persons. Dr. William K. McElvaney gave the sermon which was followed by the Sacrament of Holy Communion.



REPRESENTATIVES of Methodist Hospital in Memphis and Nell Barling of Fort Smith, a member of the conference Health and Welfare Ministries agency. Assistant Administrator James Brown (second from right) reported on completion of Methodist South, the School of Nursing program and activities of Methodist Hospital Foundation.



PRESENTATIONS were made on the work which each of the above directs. Left to right, the Rev. Edwin Keith, Arkansas Methodist Children's home; the Rev. Lee Cate, United Methodist Assembly at Mt. Sequoyah, Fayetteville, and the Rev. Edward W. Harris, Christian Civic Foundation.



DR. NOE Gonzales (left), president of Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso, Tex. spoke of the school's program and needs. At right is Scarritt College's Assistant to the President, Robert Gentry, who reported that the institution had its largest graduating class this year.



OTHER INSTITUTIONS of higher learning were represented by, left to right, Dr. James Clemons, professor of New Testament, Wesley Theological Seminary (Washington, D.C.); Robert Bell, Perkins School of Theology staff member, and Dr. William K. McElvaney, president of St. Paul School of Theology, Kansas City.



PRESIDING over the Council on Lay Life and Work Dinner on Monday evening was Conference Lay Leader Bob Cheyne. This was the first event on the Conference's calendar.



DR. BEN OLIPHINT (right) of First Church, Dallas, was the featured speaker for the Tuesday evening Program Dinner sponsored by the Program Boards and Agencies of the Conference. Introducing Dr. Oliphint was Dr. Myers B. Curtis (left), director of the Conference Council on Ministries.



BISHOP Eugene M. Frank and new officers of the Fellowship of Retired Servants. They are, left to right, Mrs. Grace Kaetzell, Vice Chairman, the Rev. J. J. Clark, Chairman, and Dr. Ethan Dodgen, Secretary.



MRS. HAROLD WOMACK, president of the conference organization of United Methodist Women, presents report. She noted that women pay almost one-half of entire budget of United Methodism's Board of Global Ministries.

Church Of The Year Awards



SMALL TOWN Church award went to Brookland Church, Jonesboro District. From right are the Rev. J. Anthony Holifield, pastor, Mrs. Glenda Neff, Mrs. Letha Neff, Dr. J. Ralph Hillis, district superintendent.



SMALL TOWN PARSONAGE Award went to Dell Church, Jonesboro District. From right, the Rev. J. J. Nichols, Town and Country Committee chairman, the Rev. Raymond Dorman, pastor, Mrs. Dorman, Mr. O. E. Hunnicutt, parsonage committee chairman, Dr. J. Ralph Hillis, district superintendent.



OPEN COUNTRY Church award went to Jasper Church, Fayetteville District. Shown with members of the congregation are (front row, from right), Town and Country Committee chairman Rev. J. J. Nichols, Mr. Gunnar C. Skoog (holding plaque) and the Rev. Phil Hathcock, pastor.