As the Executive Committee met to plan the work of the Society, we discussed the theme and annual meeting site for 2019. We plan to go to the Fort Worth area April 5 and 6, 2019, and will have a mission related theme. The UMC will be celebrating the bicentennial of Methodist missions based on the 1819 Mission to the Wyandot people of the Great Lakes. There are no plans to celebrate the bicentennial with the vigor and enthusiasm of the centennial. In 1919 the MEC and MECS united in the Centenary Campaign, which was arguably the largest, best coordinated, and impactful fundraising event in Methodist history. In 1919 Methodists decided to celebrate their mission history by doubling down on current mission support.

The designated missions were Africa, Latin America, Asia, War-devastated Europe, Appalachia, Native Americans, and northern industrial workers. Church extension and Historically Black Colleges were also included. Fund raising quotas were assigned to conferences. Special literature was prepared for each of the mission areas specifically for Sunday Schools, youth, children, and adults. An official publication, the Centenary Bulletin, began publication.

Alvin York and Woodrow Wilson added their endorsements. The designated giving period was May 18-25. The organizers offered a banner to the first church in each conference that reported its pledge quota achieved. All over the U. S. congregations stayed up until midnight on Saturday May 17 to report the results at 12:01 a.m. on the 18th. And pledge they did! Marfa pledged $63,750 (the pastor’s salary was $700). First Dallas reported exceeding its quota by 25% at 12:01. The Spanish speaking church in El Paso pledged $7,155 when their quota was $1,315. Kelly Memorial in Longview didn’t report until 2:30 a.m., but that was good enough to win the Texas Conference banner.

We may chuckle at their methods, but let us admire their fervor for the cause of missions.

Mission is a central part of our origin story. The official Texian Mission was relatively short lived. Robert Alexander arrived as the first officially appointed missionary in September 1837, and the Mission was attached to the Mississippi Conference in December 1838. The formal relationship with missions can be dated to the September 1835 Caney Creek Camp Meeting at which some of the participants drafted the appeal for missionaries to come to Texas. At that same site in October 1837 camp meeting participants pledged several hundred dollars for mission support. Please note: in their first month as part of a mission, they raised money for more missions. Three years later, when the Texas Conference was organized on December 25, 1840, they also organized a Missionary Society. Mission efforts have made us what we are. Let’s celebrate that heritage.
Bishop Bledsoe’s address interwove his personal experiences with the larger perspective of historic Methodism and challenged us to recover the best elements of our heritage.

Dr. David Maldonado presented prepared remarks from Bishop Joel Martinez and then went “off script” to inspire us with a message from his own experience.

Dale Patterson brought us up to date with events and projects at the GCAH.

Will Steinsiek presented Kilgore materials to Bridwell Archivist, Tim Binkley.

Bob Monk presented the Walter Vernon Award to contest winner, David Schmersal.

Socorro DeAnda welcomed us to Lydia Patterson Institute.

So did Lydia Patterson.
Adair Margo, who is writing a history of Lydia Patterson Institute, presented some highlights of her research. The anticipated publication date of her history is later this year. Watch this space for ordering information.

AWARDS

The TUMHS presents two awards at each annual meeting. The Walter Vernon Student Essay Contest winner was David Schmersal whose topic was the Rice Controversy.

Soon after its opening SMU was the arena for a battle between modernists and fundamentalists. Professor of Old Testament, John A. Rice, published text which incorporated modern scholarship of the era concerning the origins of the Old Testament. Fundamentalists began a campaign to have Rice fired.

The controversy threatened public support for the fledgling university, and Rice eventually resigned. Bishop Mouzon appointed him to Boston Ave. Methodist in Tulsa where he had a successful pastorate.

Schmersal brought original insights to this topic. The paper will be printed in vol. XV of the Heritage Journal which will be distributed in 2019.

The Kate Warnick Award is presented to the best local church histories published in the preceding year. church membership.

Warnick Award Chair Tim Binkley supplied the following:

The Texas United Historical Society is pleased to announce the selection of two winning entries in the 2018 Kate Warnick Awards competition for local church history publications. Winning the small church category is Casa Linda United Methodist Church of Dallas (North Texas Conference). Their entry, titled 66 Years of History / 66 Años de Historia, is an inspiring story of congregational revitalization and the first completely bilingual church history received in the competition.

Winning the large church category is First United Methodist Church of Lubbock (Northwest Texas Conference). Their entry, 25 More Years of Grace-Filled Ministry to the Lubbock Area 1992-2017 was written by Eddie Owens, MA, APR. It is an informative sequel to First Church’s centennial history. The theme of God’s Grace (both received and shared) is carried throughout the work. Both works are short – less than forty pages – but that is OK! It does not require a novel-length tome to win a Kate Warnick Award. All it takes is an earnest effort to gather historical data and convey your church’s story in a way that is meaningful to church members and visitors alike.

If your church is producing a history, don’t forget to enter it in the Kate Warnick Awards competition. The guidelines can be accessed via this link https://goo.gl/G5VnPj or by contacting Tim Binkley at 214-768-1989 / tbinkley@smu.edu. If you need
assistance getting started or bringing your church history to completion, here are two ideas worth exploring. First- contact your Annual Conference Archivist or Historian for advice. They will be pleased to speak with you. Second- come to Bridwell Library and browse some of the more than 400 local United Methodist Church histories that have been part of previous Kate Warnick Awards competitions. The local church history collection at Bridwell Library demonstrates many different ways to organize and publish the stories of faith communities. Wouldn’t it be great to have your church history sitting on those august shelves, a short distance from the portrait of former theological librarian Kate Warnick? Enter the competition, and it will be!

ELECTIONS

The officers of the TUMHS serve for two year terms. 2018 was election year. The president and vice president were reelected.

Stewart Caffey and C. D. and Freda Barrington completed their terms of office as treasurer and secretary with hearty thanks for their service. We all send our appreciation to Stewart, C. D., and Freda.

Our new Secretary is Bonnie Saenz Amaro, Archivist of the Rio Texas Conference. Her contact information is included below in the directory.

Our new Treasurer is Cindy Martin, Archivist for the North West Texas Conference. She comes to the position with a great deal of experience in non-profit organizations.
Historic Church Pictures

Each issue of the Newsletter has the image of a historic Texas Methodist church to identify. Here is the one from the last issue.

Those of you from the North West Texas Conference probably recognized this building as he home of Anson FUMC in Jones County. Perhaps some of our TUMHS members have preached in this church.

The church was organized in 1882 by pioneer circuit rider, Rev. J. C. Strickland. This church building was constructed in 1908 during the pastorate of Rev. W. H. Terry by a local builder, Thomas Vietch. In 1924 a Sunday School annex was added. The bell tower on this Richardson Romanesque building was originally taller, but has been lowered to make it safer from wind damage.

Two years later the county built the buff brick and sandstone courthouse which, after restoration still serves the county. Visit both the next time you’re in Anson.

Anson’s main economic activity is a distribution center for agricultural and petroleum related activities.

When I was in active Texas Studies mode, Anson was one of my favorite trivia questions. The county has the last name and the county seat has the first name of an early Texan—Anson Jones, the last president of the Republic of Texas. There are two other Texas counties that also use the last name for the county name and the first name for the county seat. Can you name them?

Here is the next historic church for you to identify.

YOU MUST READ THIS

Somehow the notice of Rob Sledge’s *The Saddest Day: Gene Leggett and the Origins of the Incompatible Clause* has been left out of this newsletter. It was published in the April 2017 issue of *Methodist History* and is available on line at [http://archives.gcah.org/bitstream/handle/10516/9938/Methodist-History-2017-04-Sledge.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y](http://archives.gcah.org/bitstream/handle/10516/9938/Methodist-History-2017-04-Sledge.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y)

Our friend Rob Sledge combines personal insights and historical research into the telling the background story of one of the most consequential events of recent Methodist history, i.e., the insertion of the “incompatibility phrase” in the *Discipline* at the 1972 General Conference. The incompatibility language entered the *Discipline* as a result of an amendment offered from the floor by a delegate from the Southwest Texas Conference. Rob places that moment in the larger context of sexual controversies that had been roiling the conference for months before the General Conference.
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Membership/Registration Information

We do not send annual membership renewal statements. Our not doing so means that many of us neglect to send our annual dues. If you can’t remember the last time you sent dues, it’s probably time to send them again. Please print this page and send your dues and gifts to

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