MINUTES OF THE 2009 ANNUAL MEETING
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
JULY 1, 2009
LAMBUTH INN
LAKE JUNALUSKA, NORTH CAROLINA

President Patricia Thompson opened the meeting, welcoming those in attendance. She introduced the other Board members who were present: Jim Morris, Vice-President and Chair of the Program Committee; Mary Bakeman, Secretary; Chuck Yrigoyen, Treasurer; Dan Swinson, President-Elect and ex-officio member of the Program Committee; Rob Sledge and Linda Schramm, members of the Program Committee; Bob Williams, General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History, ex-officio board member with vote; Marge Benham, liaison from GCAH and Phil Lawton, Membership Secretary and non-voting member of the Board. Carol Rozell, member of the Program Committee, Jane Donovan, Historian’s Digest editor, and Dan Smith, HSUMC webmaster, were not in attendance.

Several additions were made to the printed agenda. Bill Bakeman moved, and John Mitchell seconded a motion to accept the agenda as amended. The motion passed.

Secretary’s Report

Minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting were distributed, and had been published in Methodist History, January 2009. Mary Bakeman moved, and John Mitchell seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

Treasurer’s Report

Chuck Yrigoyen reported that the books had been audited and found in good shape.

A fully documented treasurer’s report will be in the next issue of Historian’s Digest. He reported that after income and expenses, the Society has a balance of $6,702.10. Because of cash flow concerns, one of our certificates with the United Methodist Development fund was cashed in this past year, leaving us with another which will mature in 2012. After discussion, Barb Essen moved and John Mitchell seconded a motion to accept the treasurer’s report. The motion passed.

Dr. Yrigoyen presented the proposed budget for calendar year 2010. While it showed a declining reserve, some of the proposed changes to be acted on by the membership may reverse that. After discussion, Dr. Yrigoyen moved, and Marge Benham seconded a motion to accept the budget. The motion passed.
Upcoming Annual Meeting Reports

**2010:** Jim Walker of the Western Jurisdiction offered a formal invitation to attend a joint meeting of the Jurisdiction and HSUMC from July 19-22, 2010 in the Puget Sound region. He provided a brief outline of the draft program, including work among the Native Americans in the area, African American women, the holiness movement, and the dedication of a statue to Chloe Clark, the first teacher, and more.

**2011:** Bob Williams reported on plans for this meeting, to be held in conjunction with the quadrennial historical convocation. The dates are July 21-24, 2011, at Oklahoma City, which will be the first time a convocation will be held in the South Central Jurisdiction. The venue will be the Oklahoma City University, with accommodations at a campus dormitory. We will be welcomed by Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference, as well as the Oklahoma Annual Conference. The general topic will be Methodism on the Frontiers, and the General Commission on Archives and History will meet before the Convocation.

**2012:** President Thompson reported that the Society has been invited to the North East Jurisdiction to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The HSUMC will meet in conjunction with the North East Jurisdiction Commission on Archives and History, which normally meets in May. The meeting will be scheduled for some dates following the General Conference meeting planned for that month.

**2013:** The Society is hoping for an invitation back to North Central Jurisdiction, though no formal invitation has been received at this point in time.

Membership Report

Phil Lawton, Membership Secretary, reported that the Society had 263 members when we convened earlier in the week. Memberships, both new and renewal are processed through the General Commission office, resulting in a small lag in reporting. Rev. Lawton reported that three of four renew each year. Meeting hosts are encouraged to include Society membership in registration fee, as a way of building membership.

President Thompson explained joint membership. This allows individuals to join the HSUMC through their local society, which reduces dues for HSUMC by 10%. She will provide samples of materials that can be used if the local treasurer is willing to receive dues for both groups. The Society believes that members recruiting others through word of mouth can be a positive action for both the local and the national groups. Membership dues help maintain the programs of the Society, and we all share a responsibility to recruit. President Thompson reported that she sent letters out last year urging historical society and commission presidents, but none accepted the challenge. She encouraged all to join if not already a member, and to consider the joint membership program too.
Ministry of Memory Award

Bob Williams reported on the process for selection of the recipient for the Ministry of Memory Award. It is intended to augment Distinguished Service Award of the General Commission. It is impossible to recognize everyone, especially at the local, annual conference or jurisdictional levels, when only one person is recognized each year. The Ministry of Memory Award allows more people to be recognized. Given the economic downturn, budget restraints, and the need of the HSUMC to control spending, the Board determined that going forward selection will focus in the jurisdiction where the annual meeting will be held. Milt Loyer is scheduled to receive this award in 2010. Dr. Williams will send out nomination forms in January of 2010 for the 2011 award, with the recipient selected at the 2010 HSUMC Board meeting.

Saddlebag Selection Award

Rob Sledge reported that this marks the fourth year the HSUMC has given this award. It is intended to honor best book published in given calendar year, in general Methodist studies. The recognition is intended to encourage, promote and recommend books that members can read, and add to their personal libraries. The committee making the determination includes Linda Schramm, Lyle Johnston of AZ, Chuck Yrigoyen, and Rob Sledge, and competition among books has been close. The book to be honored this year was published in calendar year 2008, and will be presented at the banquet, with a program slot designated for a presentation by the author. Both the author and publisher receive a plaque.

Dr. Sledge asks the membership to inform him of books published in calendar year 2009 that should be considered for this award. He will approach publishers so each member of committee will be able to read them and come to consensus on the selection. The Society has been successful in getting the author to attend the annual meeting to accept the award, and to make an address about the topic.

Bequest to the HSUMC

Jim Morris reported that he recently received word of a bequest to the Society that will provide at some point in the future. The bequest was made by John Witmer of Iowa, who determined to remember the work of historians through his will with a bequest of $2,000 for on-going general expenses. Rev. Morris expressed appreciation for someone for whom historians were a source of joy—and encouraged each of us to do something similar ourselves.

Report from the General Commission

Dr. Williams reported that it is a privilege to serve as General Secretary, and outlined the composition of the Commission. Those who had served
or are currently serving on the General Commission identified themselves. He then briefly outlined the work the Commission is doing, including a major effort to partner with the African American Methodist Heritage Center. Funding for the center is coming from the reserves of GCAH and GCFA. Efforts are focused on the acquisition of materials and memories of the Central Jurisdiction.

The chairpersons of conference commissions on archives and history are invited to attend the annual meeting of the General Commission this September. In an effort to have geographical fairness GCAH will pay travel costs for all. The 2008 General Conference established four areas of focus: leadership, new places for people, global health, and the poor. The Commission decided to use these four areas as Heritage Sunday topics for this quadrennium. GCAH provides materials to support telling stories in those areas, to substantiate, support, and enrich Methodist history.

Among the other activities: archival work in digital age, working with global conferences such as Mozambique, helping to fund a history book in the Republic of Congo and at Wesleyan University in the Philippines, and bringing 34 conference archivists (an unsung lot) to Drew last summer. Two books were recently published: a pictorial record of early Methodism in Russia (available for a small cost from GCAH) and another book entitled A Love Affair with India. That book is available through the United Methodist Reporter.

More support is going to British Heritage sites as those sites are ours, too. The British Methodist Conference is trying to coordinate publication about sites. The Heritage Landmark site program, featuring those with denominational wide significance, will be seeking applications in time for the summer 2010, in anticipation deciding potential new sites in 2011. Dr. Williams also reported that the GCAH current finances are good, though it did draw on reserves last year.

Methodist History magazine is one of two publications currently included in membership in the HSUMC. Dr. Williams reported that the basics of that magazine will remain unchanged, still published quarterly, still available by subscription. However, due to increasing mailing costs for those outside US, it is also going online, starting with the October 2009 issue, as a PDF for no cost. The Commission hopes to publish back issues online, too. This could affect the dues structure for the HSUMC, and Rob Sledge presented a recommendation made by the committee named at the Board meeting earlier in the week.

The recommendation reduces cost for institutions slightly. Beginning January 1, 2010, new and renewing members will be offered a choice of receiving Methodist History online or in print. Those selecting online only will receive a reduction in their annual dues. Those selecting to continue to receive the printed version will continue to pay the current dues.

Dr. Sledge moved, and as a committee report, was automatically seconded.

During discussion, Jim Morris suggested a friendly amendment to re-
move the two-year option. This option provides a little more income to the Society and would make the transaction a little easier to track. He feels that this option makes the dues structure too complicated for organization of our size. Rev. Lawton reported that membership retention was slightly better with annual memberships than with biennial memberships.

Rev. Morris moved, and Thelma Crowder seconded the amendment. The motion passed, followed by voting on the main motion as amended providing no multi-year membership. This motion passed.

**Plea for Editor and Webmaster**

President Thompson reported that both Jane Donovan, editor of the Historian’s Digest (HD) and Dan Smith, HSUMC webmaster, have resigned from their posts. Though she had reported this in the last HD, no one has yet stepped forward. She asked for volunteers to talk with either her or incoming president Dan Swinson before the end of the annual meeting.

**New Business**

Bob Williams introduced Andy Keck, part of the staff at the library at Duke Divinity School. Keck reported that the Google book project has not hit any seminary libraries or collections of denominational materials though Internet Archives— archives.org—has been trying to collect similar scanning project. The Duke Library has begun discussions with librarians at other seminaries to begin a project, to include conference journals, grand database to index clergy and lay names in journals; local church histories/larger geography; standard reference works; General Conference journals and Christian Advocates; etc. They currently estimate there may be 100,000 volumes, at 300 pages each, to scan. They hope to get grants as financial support, with the goal of creating a portal to American Methodism, mapping churches, indexes, interactive.

Keck asked for help with:
- selecting material to be scanned
- copyright—obtaining permission for items published past 1923
- special knowledge—which churches belong to what time
- proper forms for archivists to use—Andy is working with lawyer to work this out. Risk management.

It was clarified that any document from a church meeting is a public document, and not covered by copyright.

**Adjournment**

President recognized the officers who will take over after this meeting: Dan Swinson, new President, Jim Morris, continuing Vice President Barb Essen, new Secretary, and Chuck Yrigoyen will continue as Treasurer. She also reported that Chris Shoemaker has agreed to assume the slot on the Program Committee left vacant by Dr. Swinson’s election as President.

She then recognized Mary Bakeman for her service as Secretary, filling
in while serving as Chair of the Genealogy Section and after her election as Secretary. President Thompson then adjourned the meeting.

MARY BAKEMAN
Secretary

Presentations made at the meeting:

“Methodism in the World Today,” Dr. George Freeman
“‘Till Charity Weeps’: 1844 Revisited,” Dr. Robert Sledge
“History of the Lake Junaluska Assembly,” Bill Lowry
“The History of the SEJ Heritage Center,” Gerry Reiff
“Harry Denman,” Dr. Joe Hale
“‘And Are We Yet Alive’: Celebrating the Twentieth Anniversary of The Historical Society of The United Methodist Church,” Dr. Charles Yrigoyen, Jr.

The gathering also included a visit to the World Methodist Museum and Susanna Wesley Garden, a boat ride on Lake Junaluska, workshops on digital archiving and serving the local church history community, and histories of the Gulfside Assembly, the Hinton Rural Life Center, and the Intentional Growth Center were also on the program.