THE STRUGGLE FOR CIVIL RIGHTS
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EDITOR’S NOTE

The essay by Paul Chilcote was presented to the meeting of the World Methodist Historical Society (WMHS) that was held during the World Methodist Conference in Seoul, Korea, in the summer of 2006. The WMHS is a network of individuals around the world who care about the legacy bequeathed to us as the spiritual heirs of the Wesleys and is an affiliated organization with the World Methodist Council. A newsletter is sent out periodically. The Society provides limited financial support if a regional historical conference is organized and it has supported the translation of a biography of Charles Wesley into German; the publication of a book on Wesleyan spirituality in Italian; the publication of a volume in the Wesley Works project; and the Obras de Wesley project. The source of funds are modest dues of $5 a year and a generous annual grant from the Ruck Endowment administered by the General Commission on Archives and History.

I represent the WMHS on the World Methodist Council and its Executive Committee. The Society organizes a historical program at each World Methodist Conference during the time allotted for seminars and affiliated organizations. The next Conference and meeting of the Society will be in Durban, South Africa, August 2-9, 2011. The WMHS was preceded by the International Methodist Historical Society and the International Methodist Historical Union. The Constitution of the WMHS was adopted in 1971 with Fred Maser as its first general secretary.

The essay by Pearl Young was a recipient of the Women in United Methodist History Writing Award. The Commission’s web site, www.gciah.org, contains a listing of all the awards and grants of the General Commission. A new grant is “The World is My Parish United Methodist History Research Grant” whose purpose is to enable the collection of written and oral history and encourage research regarding the development of The United Methodist Church and its antecedents in any of the conferences not in the United States.

I am grateful that the General Commission on Archives and History can provide support for research and writing in history of racial and ethnic groups, women, Methodism outside the United States, and offer a prize for the best papers by seminarians. I am also grateful for all those who research and write so that the church’s memory is enriched and its ministry enhanced.

ROBERT J. WILLIAMS