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EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION

The first Historical Convocation of The United Methodist Church was held at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, June 30 through July 3, 1989. The Theme for the event was “Celebrating Our Heritage—Caring For Our History.”

The gathering brought together about 350 persons interested in the history of United Methodism. Under the direction of outstanding historians, theologians, artists and workshop leaders those attending were encouraged to remember our roots and to preserve the church’s story for those who come after us.

We are pleased to present in this issue of Methodist History a number of the plenary addresses presented at the Convocation.

We especially dedicate this issue to the life and work of Albert C. Outler, whose death on September 1, 1989 we all mourn.

Professor Outler was an outstanding historian, theologian and ecumenist whose intellectual legacy will be valued by generations yet unborn. His last public address was given at the Convocation.

Outler was born November 17, 1908 in Thomasville, Georgia. He was educated at Wofford College (A.B.), Emory University (B.D.) and Yale University (Ph.D.). He was a pastor, professor (Duke University, Yale University, and Southern University), author and ecumenical leader. He will be especially remembered for his work in renewing interest in the life and thought of John Wesley. His volume, John Wesley, in the Library of Protestant Thought (Oxford University Press) and his labor in editing the four volumes of sermons in The Works of John Wesley (Abingdon Press) are particularly noteworthy.

Albert Outler was a person committed to Christ and to his church who praised his Maker while he lived and does now in his new life.

Charles Yrigoyen, Jr.,
Editor