S T Kimbrough, Jr., Pres. of CWS, presents Frank Baker with the

FIRST LIFE MEMBERSHIP IN THE CHARLES WESLEY SOCIETY

Dr. Frank Baker was the recipient of the first Life Membership in The Charles Wesley Society at its Founding Dinner with this citation:

On the twentieth day of October, 1990
Dr. Frank Baker
is honored with
Life Membership
in
The Charles Wesley Society

For lifelong commitment to Wesley studies, to the preservation and interpretation of Charles Wesley's life and work, to a scholarship of excellence, to the encounter of faith and intellect, and to humble service for Christ and the church.
CHARTER OF THE CHARLES WESLEY SOCIETY

Be it known this nineteenth day of October in the year of our Lord 1990, that The Charles Wesley Society is herewith constituted and organized for the purpose of study, preservation, interpretation, and dissemination of Charles Wesley's poetry and prose. While acknowledging a strong Anglican/Methodist heritage, in the spirit of the broad, dynamic, spiritual impact of his hymns and poetry, the Society shall be ecumenical, pluralistic, and inclusive. Its concerns shall be textual, musical, historical, theological, pastoral, and literary.

The Charles Wesley Society, an incorporated non-profit organization in the State of New Jersey, is chartered this day at its Founding Meeting in Princeton, NJ (USA) at the Center of Theological Inquiry and is attested by the undersigned:

Frank Baker
Oliver A. Beckerlegge
John P. Briggs
James Dale
Horton Davies
Roger Deschner
Raymond F. Glover
Charles A. Green
Fred Graham
Elizabeth Hart
Malcolm Hayes
Richard P. Heitzenrater
Terry Heisey
Robert G. Hower
Beryl Ingram-Ward
Roger Ireson
Marion A. Jackson
S T Kimbrough, Jr.
Timothy E. Kimbrough

Robin A. Leaver
Frederick E. Maser
Mary Louise Maser
Rex D. Matthews
Kendall K. McCabe
Thomas Oden
Wilma J. Quantrille
E. Alan Rose
Kenneth E. Rowe
Kenneth D. Shields
Laurence H. Stookey
Joyce Streetman
John R. Tyson
William E. White
Nancy Wicklund
Robert J. Williams
Robert D. Wood
Carlton R. Young
Charles Yrigoyen, Jr.
THE FOUNDING MEETING OF THE CHARLES WESLEY SOCIETY

S T KIMBROUGH, JR.

The Founding Meeting of The Charles Wesley Society convened at the Center of Theological Inquiry in Princeton, NJ from October 19 through 21, 1991, with participants from England, Canada, and the USA. After the approval of a motion constituting the persons present as the organizing body of the Society (henceforth CWS), the meeting was opened with prayer by Dr. Oliver A. Beckerlegge of York, England. After the Singing of "Love divine, all loves excelling," greetings to CWS were brought by Professor Daniel W. Hardy, Director of the Center of Theological Inquiry; Dr. Geddes Hanson, Director of The Center of Continuing Education at Princeton Theological Seminary; Dr. Charles Yrigoyen, Jr., General Secretary of The Commission on Archives and History of The United Methodist Church; and Mr. E. Alan Rose, editor of the Proceedings of The Wesley Historical Society of England.

The Steering Committee, Dr. S T Kimbrough, Jr., Dr. Robin A. Leaver, Mr. E. Alan Rose, and Dr. Kenneth E. Rowe, appointed by The Charles Wesley Colloquium of 1989, then made reports related to the four meetings of the committee held during the academic year. Dr. Rowe presented the Bylaws of CWS which were approved with a few alterations. A motion was approved authorizing acceptance of the registry of CWS as a non-profit organization in the State of New Jersey. Subsequently a motion was approved designating the location of CWS headquarters at the Archives and History Center of The United Methodist Church on the campus of Drew University.

Dr. Leaver presented the following slate of officers for the first quadrennium of CWS: S T Kimbrough, Jr., (President), E. Alan Rose (Vice-President), Kenneth E. Rowe (Secretary/Treasurer). CWS agreed unanimously to waive the stipulation of the Bylaws for nominations due to the necessity of an immediate group of officers and approved by acclamation the slate of officers presented by the Steering Committee.

The meeting was opened for discussion of new business and comments regarding finances, membership, future programs, work, and Sections of CWS ensued. The six Sections of CWS as approved in the Bylaws are: (1) Text, (2) Music and Text, (3) History, (4) Theology, (5) Community of Faith, (6) English Literature.

The only official action taken during the discussion period was approval of annual membership dues at $15 for students and retirees, $25 for regular membership, and $1,000 for life membership.
Dr. Charles Yrigoyen, Jr. presented the Charter of CWS to the president, and all participants present signed the document as founding members of CWS. The opening organizational meeting concluded with the singing of two stanzas of "O for a thousand tongues to sing."

On the afternoon of October 19, the first major presentation, "A Woman Responds to Charles Wesley," was delivered by Dr. Wilma J. Quantrille, minister of the Tenafly United Methodist Church, Tenafly, NJ. She stressed a variety of categories of concern such as inclusiveness, emancipation, and transformation which are vital to contemporary women and which find both provocative and meaningful expression in Charles Wesley's works.

Dr. William Farley Smith was to have spoken on the subject "An Afro-American Response to Charles Wesley," but was delayed and was unable to make the presentation.

The first Section meetings of CWS were held on Friday evening. They were continued on Saturday. There were six informal presentations to the Sections as follows:

(1) Text: "Charles Wesley's Shorthand" by Dr. Oliver A. Beckerlegge
(2) Music and Text: "The History of the Use of Tunes with C. Wesley Texts" by Dr. Roger Deschner
(3) History: "Developing a Method for the Study of C. Wesley Texts" by Dr. Richard P. Heitzenrater and Dr. Robin A. Leaver
(4) Theology: "Developing a Study of the Theology of C. Wesley Hymns" by Dr. Teresa Berger; in her absence due to illness her prepared notes were read by Dr. S T Kimbrough, Jr.
(5) Community of Faith: "C. Wesley and the Contemporary Parish" by The Rev. Ms. Beryl Ingram-Ward
(6) English Literature: "C. Wesley and the Line of Piety" by Dr. James Dale

Each Section also held business meetings on Friday and Saturday in order to elect one member to the Board of Directors of CWS and to discuss future projects and the sections' roles in CWS.

On Friday at 9 p.m. Evening Prayer was held with The Rev. Mr. Timothy E. Kimbrough as the officiant. The liturgy was the evening office of the Wesley Community of London.

On Saturday morning Dr. Frank Baker made a presentation on the subject of "A Poet in Love—The Courtship of Charles Wesley, 1747-1749" in which he discussed both Wesley's poetry and correspondence especially in reference to his wife Sarah Gwynne. Among his emphases was the elucidation of the fusion of human and divine love so eloquently expressed in Wesley's language and poetical art.

The remainder of the Saturday sessions was devoted to the business meetings of the CWS Sections.
On Saturday evening CWS members gathered in Luce Hall at the Center of Theological Inquiry for the Founding Dinner. The grace before dinner was C. Wesley’s “Parent of Good whose Plenteous Grace” sung by all. After dinner letters of greeting from Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith, Bishop of Thetford in England, and The Rev. Mr. Raymond George of England were read by Dr. S T Kimbrough, Jr. He then read a brief tribute to Dr. James I. McCord, late founder of the Center of Theological Inquiry, whose vision of the importance of C. Wesley's life and work was a strong force behind the founding of CWS, especially through his support of the publication of C. Wesley's unpublished poetry.

Dr. Frank Baker was then honored with the presentation of the first Life Membership in CWS for his lifelong commitment to the preservation and interpretation of C. Wesley’s life and work, and for service to Christ and the church.

Thereafter Dr. Richard P. Heitzenrater introduced Dr. Frederick E. Maser who read “An Hitherto Undiscovered Letter of C. Wesley,” namely, Dr. Maser's delightful historically and humorously crafted epistle to CWS from a C. Wesley alias in a twentieth century handscript closely resembling, if not identical with, that of Dr. Maser.

Dr. Robin A. Leaver introduced the speaker for the Founding Dinner, Dr. Raymond F. Glover, editor of Hymnal 1982 of The Episcopal Church. His address was entitled, “The Wesley Mantle of Charles Wesley o’er Bland Tucker Cast.” It was a stimulating analysis of the life and work of F. Bland Tucker, the distinguished twentieth century Episcopal clergyman, hymn writer, and follower in the steps of C. Wesley. While citing many eloquent poetical and hymnic lines from Tucker and illustrating parallels, contrasts, and likenesses to Wesley, Dr. Glover’s address was also a call for more bearers of Wesley’s mantle with a contemporary lyrical consciousness.

On Sunday morning, October 20, CWS was led in worship by Ms. Elisabeth Hart as the officiant and Dr. Laurence H. Stookey delivered the homily.

There followed the final plenary session of CWS at which time members from each Section were elected to the Board of Directors for a four year term: Mr. Thomas A. Albin (Dubuque Theological Seminary), Dr. Oliver A. Beckerlegge (York, England), Dr. James Dale (McMaster University, Canada), Dr. Richard P. Heitzenrater (Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University), The Rev. Ms. Beryl Ingram-Ward (St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, Tacoma, WA), Dr. Robin A. Leaver (Westminster Choir College), Dr. John R. Tyson (Houghton College).

Each Section of CWS made a report of its initial discussions and the reports are summarized below.
1) Text
   (a) Dr. Frank Baker will prepare an annotated summary of extant
       C. Wesley letters which will be made available to CWS members.
   (b) It was moved and approved that a reprint of The Hymns for the
       Nativity of our Lord of C. Wesley be published by CWS. Dr. Baker
       will supply copies of all editions; and notes from same and a brief in-
       troduction will be prepared by Dr. Oliver A. Beckerlegge.
   (c) It was recommended that CWS explore the possibilities of a reprint
       series.
   (d) The Section urged CWS to consider the importance of a new edi-
       tion of C. Wesley’s Journal.
   (e) It was moved and approved that the elected Board of Directors
       function at present as an Editorial Board, to explore and approve
       publication projects.
2) Music and Text
   (a) It was moved and approved that the Music and Text Section ex-
       plore a project involving the C. Wesley texts in the United Methodist
       Hymnal (UMH) and Hymns and Psalms (HP) as a possible project in-
       volving all Sections of CWS, and that Robin A. Leaver compile said
       texts for distribution to CWS. It is proposed that such a project result
       in a publication with the following features:
          i. the texts as received in UMH and HP with additional editorial
             work where necessary:
          ii. literary and theological commentary;
          iii. a structure to be determined by the Community of Faith
               Section;
          iv. a minimum of two tunes for each text;
          v. commentary on texts (with consideration of originals) and
             tunes.
   (b) It was suggested that CWS consider a facsimile reproduction of
       one or more of the earliest Methodist tune books.
3) History
   (a) It was suggested that CWS consider a new annotated edition of
       C. Wesley’s Journal, with introduction, which would include all ex-
       tant shorthand sections.
   (b) CWS is encouraged to consider both the scholarly and pastoral
       implications and dimensions of its work with the C. Wesley texts.
4) Theology
   (a) It was suggested that CWS consider a selection of hymn texts for
       theological reflection;
   (b) that a theological commentary on C. Wesley hymns in current
       hymnals be prepared;
(c) that an exegetical concordance of C. Wesley hymns be considered, perhaps in relationship to the lectionary;

(d) that a collection of essays on the theology of C. Wesley's hymns be considered. Two important aspects of such a discussion would be: i) theological method and the hymns, and ii) theological emphases of the hymns.

(d) Dr. Teresa Berger's book, *Theologie in Hymnen*, was mentioned with the hope that it may soon be translated by CWS member, The Rev. Mr. Timothy E. Kimbrough.

5) *Community of Faith*

(a) In order to implement the pastoral task of CWS, the Section urged the gathering of all extant resources which encompass the area of pastoral care.

(b) It was suggested that a seasonal devotional booklet of C. Wesley texts be prepared;

(c) that a theological wordbook of terms with appended hymn texts be prepared. The Rev. Ms. Beryl Ingram-Ward will begin working on this project.

(d) It was suggested that C. Wesley text contributions to a worship book be prepared. Dr. Kendall McCabe is working on such a project.

(e) It was reported that Ms. Elisabeth Hart has begun a project with a selection of C. Wesley texts through the year.

6) *English Literature*

(a) The role of the Section in supporting and amplifying the work of the other Sections was emphasized.

(b) The need for a functional anthology of C. Wesley verse was stressed. Such an anthology from a literary point of view would emphasize:

i. the hymn as a literary genre,

ii. how musical settings influenced C. Wesley's poetry,

iii. C. Wesley's use of literary conventions of the eighteenth century,

iv. C. Wesley and metaphysical wit,

v. literary judgments of C. Wesley's work,

vi. reader/singer response,

vii. the use of biblical language,

viii. death hymns and graveyard poetry of the eighteenth century.

Concluding discussions of the plenary session addressed the following issues:

(a) the importance of CWS having a description of each member's computer facilities;
(b) communication to CWS by members regarding specific projects in C. Wesley studies on which they are working;
(c) the need of a CWS Newsletter;
(d) the importance of an annual bibliography of publications related to C. Wesley;
(e) the need to communicate with societies and organizations with related interests;
(f) the importance of communicating with CWS officers regarding funding possibilities from individuals, organizations, or foundations, etc.

The Founding Meeting of CWS concluded with the singing of the first stanza of C. Wesley's hymn, "And can it be that I should gain."

BYLAWS OF THE CHARLES WESLEY SOCIETY

ARTICLE I - NAME
The name of this Society shall be The Charles Wesley Society.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE
The purpose of this Society shall be to promote interest in the study, preservation, interpretation, and dissemination of the works of Charles Wesley (1707-1788). It will work cooperatively with the General Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP
Section 1. The membership of the Society shall include all who choose to support its purposes and pay the annual membership fee.
Section 2. The membership year shall be the calendar year. Membership privileges will end April 1st of the following year for those who have not renewed.
Section 3. The Society may make provisions for special categories of membership, such as student, senior, life, and honorary.
Section 4. Membership benefits shall include regular publications of the Society, such as an annual bibliography of C. Wesley, related publications or newsletter, attendance at Society meetings, participation in projects approved by the Society designed to study, preserve, interpret, and disseminate Charles Wesley's works.

ARTICLE IV - SECTIONS
The Society will be organized into sections representing particular interests and needs. Each member may select one Section in which to participate.
Section 1. **Text.** For those with primary interest in C. Wesley texts: poetry, journal, letters, sermons, essays.

Section 2. **Music and Text.** For those interested in the relationship of musical settings to the C. Wesley poetical texts: historical context and development of tunes, composition of new musical settings, and texts and music in liturgy and worship.

Section 3. **History.** For those primarily interested in the historical relationship of the C. Wesley corpus, in particular eighteenth century history and biography, as well as the history of English literature.

Section 4. **Theology.** For those with primary interest in theology in hymns, as doxology, as celebration, the core of theological ideas reflected in Wesley's hymns and poetry, and liturgy as theology.

Section 5. **The Community of Faith.** For those with interests in spiritual formation, pastoral and parish concerns, faith and practice, ethnic and minority concerns, ministry of laity and clergy, liturgy, and preaching.

Section 6. **English Literature.** For those with an interest in English literary history, Wesley's place in the eighteenth century literary world, his literary style, his secular and religious verse as poetry, and his ongoing literary importance.

Other sections may be added as deemed necessary by the Board of Directors. Each section may select its own leadership and develop its own program. Each Section will select a representative to the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE V - MEETINGS**

Section 1. The Society shall meet annually.

Section 2. Notice of all meetings shall be given at least six months in advance.

Section 3. A quorum shall consist of the members present at a duly-called meeting.

**ARTICLE VI - BOARD OF DIRECTIONS**

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall include the elected officers and Section representatives.

Section 2. The Board will meet at least annually and at the call of the President or three other Board members.

Section 3. The Board has general supervision of the affairs of the Society and shall act on all matters for the Society, subject to previous actions of the membership and these bylaws. It will report its actions at meetings of the Society and be subject to direction from the membership.
Section 4. Among other duties, the Board will:

A. establish close ties with the General Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church, the World Methodist Historical Society, The Historical Society of the United Methodist Church, The Wesley Historical Society, The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music, Worship, and Other Arts, the Association of Anglican Musicians, the Anglican Historical Society, the Canadian Methodist Historical Society, and other appropriate denominational, ecumenical, and historical agencies/societies;

B. develop programs and projects that will promote the purposes of the Society;

C. select no more than one person each year as an honorary life member for outstanding contributions to Charles Wesley studies.

ARTICLE VII - OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the Society will be elected for a quadrennium and will serve until their successors are elected. They shall function as officers of the Board of Directors. No person may serve more than one quadrennium in the same office, except by action of the Society.

Section 2. The officers will include a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer. They will assume the normal duties associated with these offices.

Section 3. A nominating committee of at least five persons, selected by the Board of Directors, shall present a slate of nominees at the last meeting of each quadrennium. Other persons may be nominated from the floor. The election shall be conducted at the will of the body.

Section 4. Vacancies may be filled by the Board of Directors between meetings, and by election at the next Society meeting.

ARTICLE VIII - HEADQUARTERS

The headquarters of the Society shall be in the Archives and History Center of The United Methodist Church located on the campus of Drew University in Madison, NJ.

ARTICLE IX - FINANCES

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall submit a balanced budget to the Society each year.
Section 2. The Society shall be self-supporting through membership fees and other sources, except for the space and services provided by the General Commission on Archives and History.

ARTICLE X - PUBLICATIONS

Section 1. The Society may issue its own periodical publication.
Section 2. The Society may cooperate with the General Commission on Archives and History in publication projects.
Section 3. The Society will develop both computer and publication projects for the dissemination of the C. Wesley texts and their interpretation.

ARTICLE XI - PROHIBITION AGAINST SHARING IN CORPORATE EARNINGS

No trustee, officer, or employer of or member of a committee of or person connected with the corporation, or any other private individual, shall receive at any time, any of the net earnings or pecuniary profit from the operations of the corporation, provided that this shall not prevent the payment of any such reasonable compensation for services rendered to or for the corporation in effecting any of its purposes as shall be fixed by the Board of Directors; and no such person or persons shall be entitled to share in the distribution of any of the corporate assets upon the dissolution of the corporation. Upon the dissolution or winding up of the affairs of the corporation, after all debts have been satisfied, the assets then remaining in the hands of the Board of Directors shall be distributed in such amounts as the Board of Directors may determine or as may be determined by a court of competent jurisdiction upon application of the Board of Directors, exclusively to charitable, religious, scientific, literary, or educational organizations which would then qualify under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and its Regulations as they now exist or as they may be amended.

ARTICLE XII - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Society in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and the policies and procedures adopted by the Society or Board.

ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

These bylaws may be amended at any meeting of the Society provided that written notice of proposed amendments is given to all members at least three months in advance.
Methodist History

OCCASIONAL PUBLICATIONS OF
THE CHARLES WESLEY SOCIETY

1) "Awake Thou that Sleepest," facsimile reprint of the second edition (1742) of Charles Wesley's sermon, preached on April 4, 1742. This reprint was issued as a commemorative edition for the Founding Meeting of The Charles Wesley Society. A few copies are available from the Society office at a price of $6 which includes postage and handling.

2) Hymns for the Nativity of our Lord by Charles Wesley (London: Strahan, 1744), pp. 24 and the edition from the year of C. Wesley's death (London: New Chapel, 1788), pp. 23. Both editions, which have eighteen hymns, will be published together along with an introduction and notes by Dr. Frank Baker. The volume may be ordered from the Society office. The price is not yet available.

Address of the Society:
The Charles Wesley Society
Archives and History Center
Drew University
36 Madison Avenue
Madison, NJ 07940

ANNOUNCING PUBLICATION OF THE PAPERS OF THE
CHARLES WESLEY COLLOQUIUM 1989

Charles Wesley, Poet and Theologian (Nashville: Kingswood/Abingdon, 1991, price to be announced). This volume includes the lectures of the first Charles Wesley Colloquium held in 1989 plus additional chapters. The volume is divided into three sections: (1) Charles Wesley's Literature, (2) Charles Wesley's Theology, (3) Charles Wesley and the Church. Contributors are: Thomas R. Albin, Frank Baker, Oliver A. Beckerlegge, Teresa Berger, Horton Davies, Richard P. Heitzenrater, Timothy E. Kimbrough, S T Kimbrough, Jr., Thomas A. Langford, Robin A. Leaver, Kenneth D. Shields, and Laurence Hull Stookey.