

BOOKS BRIEFLY NOTED

As reviews become available, further comment may be forthcoming but these books are important additions to Methodist historiography.

J. Gordon Melton, *A Will to Choose: The Origins of African American Methodism*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2007. 317 pp.

This is a thoroughly researched account of all of the historic Methodist denominations in the African American experience from the beginnings in America until the mid-nineteenth century. It is an indispensable resource about the individuals, churches, and movements that shaped the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, and the African Union Methodist Protestant Church and the antecedents to The United Methodist Church.

Morris L. Davis, *The Methodist Unification: Christianity and the Politics of Race in the Jim Crow Era*. New York: New York UP, 2008. 197 pp. \$45.00.

Utilizing the General Conference Collection of the General Commission on Archives and History, and the "Proceedings of the Joint Commission on Unification," Morris Davis gives us a richly textured and insightful picture of the racial attitudes expressed around the effort to unite the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. It is an important addition to the literature on the place of African Americans in these churches that ultimately became The United Methodist Church. The opinions and attitudes expressed by those on the Joint Commission will be unsettling to the contemporary reader but necessary reading to understand more fully racial issues in the life of the church.

Joel B. Green and William H. Willimon, eds. *The Wesley Study Bible*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2009.

This edition of the New Revised Standard Version is accompanied by exegetical notes, and side bar comments called "Wesleyan Core Terms," and "Life Application Topics" which place Bible study and commentary firmly within the Wesleyan tradition. *The Wesley Study Bible's* many contributors are scholars of the Wesleys and effective pastors. It is a valuable addition to the choices available as study Bibles and will shape those who use it in the heritage of the Wesleys.

Recently Released



The Methodist Episcopal Church of Christ Our Savior, St. Petersburg, Russia

A PICTORIAL PANORAMA OF EARLY RUSSIAN METHODISM 1889-1931

BY
S T KIMBROUGH, JR.

Bishop Hans Växby, Bishop of the Eurasia Area of The United Methodist Church wrote about this work: “Dr. S T Kimbrough, Jr., has created a unique document. He is the scholar *par excellence* of early Russian Methodism.”

Richard Heizenrater writes that, “The pictures in this book are as enlightening as the narrative, both of which flesh out the picture of Methodism in Russia during three generations at the turn of the twentieth century.”

Published by the General Commission on Archives and History, this collection of photos with accompanying narrative may be purchased by sending a check or money order for \$7.50 (which includes postage and handling), made payable to “GCAH,” to General Commission on Archives and History, PO Box 127, Madison, NJ 07940.