

**MINUTES OF THE 2006 ANNUAL MEETING  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
21 SEPTEMBER 2006  
COMFORT INN RIVERFRONT  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA**

President Patricia Thompson opened the meeting with a welcome and prayer. She then introduced the Board members who were present: Mary Bakeman (Secretary), Jim Morris (Vice-President and GCAH Representative), Dan Swinson, Carol Roszell, Linda Schramm, Bob Williams (General Secretary of GCAH). Michael Peterlin (Treasurer) was unable to attend.

President Thompson then introduced Milton Loyer, chair of local planning committee for announcements. Mainly housekeeping in nature, he provided information on meeting rooms, transportation requirements, and airport transfers.

President Thompson then reviewed the agenda for the meeting:

- Accept minutes of last meeting.
- Brief Treasurer's report.
- Review proposed by-law changes.
- Report on the work of Board.
- Ideas for programming for upcoming years.
- Saddlebag Selection, after which the program will begin.

Program: Rev. Christopher Shoemaker, a report on his research of Helenor Alter Davisson, the first woman to be ordained as a deacon in Indiana Conference in 1866. Following that, Carol Roszell will lead a discussion on Archives, and Dr. Robert Bray, the recipient of the Saddlebag Selection, will speak about his book.

Copies of the minutes from the last meeting were distributed. They were printed in the January, 2006, issue of *Methodist History*. Bill Bakeman moved that they be approved as published, with Chuck Yrigoyan seconding. Motion carried.

Treasurer's budget for next year was presented: It includes travel of Board members to Annual meeting, *Methodist History*, *Historian's Digest*, fees, travel insurance, printing and postage. Total \$12,800.

Lyman Ellis asked for the anticipated income. President Thompson indicated that it was \$12-15,000, from memberships and investments (United Methodist Development Fund). The Society has that in its checking account currently. Jim Morris moved approval of the budget, with Nell Thrift seconding. The motion passed.

President Thompson reviewed the proposed changes in the By-laws of

the Society, which were published in a previous issue of *Historian's Digest*. In brief, they do away with formal sections, which had been intended to focus on programming that would meet the needs of members. The Board feels there is a need to focus more broadly on program. The proposed changes would phase out the current sections immediately. The four vacancies thus created on the Board would be filled by the selection of four Board members at large, who would also serve with the Vice-President as a Program Committee. This part of the change would result in the current Section IV (Sections) replacement with a new Section IV (Program Interest Areas). The second proposed change is to Section VII, and deals with the terms of the representatives for the program interest areas.

Questions from the floor included: When will it take effect? (Immediately)

Rob Sledge moved a proposed change to page 3, Article VII, section 2. He moved the insertion of the words, "the officers (4) and ex-officio members (3) of the" Board so that the proposed by-law would read as follows: Article VII, Section 2. Two years following the election of the officers, the officers (4) and the ex-officio members (3) of the Board will select four members-at-large, for a four-year term, to serve as a Program Committee. The Board shall seek suggestions for Program Committee members from the Society membership and shall consider both the demographic balance of the Board as well as the ability of the members to represent the program areas of the Society. Program Committee members may be re-elected for one additional four year term." The motion was seconded by Jim Pyatt. The amendment passed.

The vote on By-laws, as presented and amended, was passed unanimously.

President Thompson introduced Bob Williams, the new General Secretary of GCAH. He expressed his pleasure at attending this meeting of the Historical Society. The General Commission finished its annual meeting, just before this meeting began. All agencies of the general church have been asked to do a self-evaluation by the Connectional Table. The process would include the creation of a review team of people who are not members of the Commissions, who were then charged with surveying those with whom they are in ministry. Bill Bakeman will collect and take them plus those from the General Commission to Thelma Boeder.

Jim Morris, Vice President and Program Chair, reported on the upcoming annual meetings.

2007 – Convocation meeting at National 4-H Center in Washington, D.C., July 20-22 Registration fee: probably about \$60. Plenary speakers are not totally set, but the theme will be "Celebrating Charles Wesley Tercentenary." Bob Williams is working with the Charles Wesley Society to plan the program. Lyman Ellis asked when registration material would be available – about 1 January.

2008 – Mitchell, S.D., July 8-10

2009 – Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, September 24-27. The HSUMC was born in 1989 at Lake Junaluska, and the Society will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. More details will be available at a later date.

No meetings have been scheduled beyond 2009. Generally we ask Jurisdictional or Annual Conference Commissions to invite the HSUMC to come and participate. It's time to go west again. Members were encouraged to consider hosting a meeting. There is no set time of year. Past meetings have been held from April through October.

The floor was opened to the group for program ideas of interest to members – opportunity for input.

- Lila Hill – influence on the development of the church in the areas visited.
- Milt Loyer – missionary conferences
- Bob Harris – a panel from some of the other Wesleyan bodies, AME, Salvation Army, Free Methodist, Primitive Methodist, etc.

Rob Sledge introduced the First Saddlebag Selection award. The idea is to honor a book in the area of Methodist history, theology, etc., which is disciplined, well-structured, yet readable. The plaque for the selection for the award for books published during 2005 will be presented to Dr. Robert Bray and the University of Illinois Press. The Committee for this year included Dr. Chuck Yrigoyen, Rev. Lyle Johnston, Linda Schramm, and Rob Sledge. The quality of entries was very high. The Society wants to recognize historical scholarship, and to encourage people to purchase it. Rob introduced Dr. Bray, and mentioned especially the grace and beauty of the writing, and asked Dr. Bray to accept the award with the gratitude of Society for a job well done.

Dr. Bray commented that he felt very honored to receive the award. The Methodist Church was born with the United States, and they have grown up together. The 1844 split over slavery and the reunification after the Civil War difficult for both. In his view, all that pain was worth it, and allows us to recognize that social, political and economic trauma can result in good. The United Methodist Church has a stronger sense of institutional memory than any other organization. Its strong archives at Drew and various Annual Conferences made his inquiry easier. He expressed his thanks for continuing to do that, as it is very important to have institutions in a free republic understand themselves and each other. He expressed thanks for the award. Jim Morris reminded the group that he is seeking additional topics for future convocations/annual meetings.

The annual meeting was adjourned, and following a break, Chris Shoemaker presented his paper.

MARY BAKEMAN  
*Secretary*

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