

CELEBRATING THE OPENING OF THE ARCHIVES AND HISTORY CENTER

With this issue of *Methodist History* we invite you to join us in celebrating the opening of the new Archives and History Center of The United Methodist Church in Madison, New Jersey, on the campus of Drew University. This facility, constructed by the University at a cost of \$2.75 million, serves as the home of United Methodism's General Commission on Archives and History. The completion of construction brings to fruition an agreement between the General Commission and Drew University made in 1978 whereby the University agreed to provide an appropriate structure for the work and ministry of the General Commission. Ground was broken in October, 1980, the cornerstone was laid in November, 1981, and the Center was officially opened on Saturday, October 2, 1982.

The Center has been designed as a state-of-the-art structure. It contains four levels with a total of 24,000 square feet. Two levels below ground comprise a 180,000 cubic foot archival vault with climate control and a halon gas fire protection system. The vault area will include several miles of shelving to hold the extensive collection of documents, records and artifacts of the United Methodist heritage. It will serve as the depository for the denomination's national boards and agencies.

Situated on the first floor, ground level, is an archives processing area which includes a deacidification laboratory, a 100 cubic foot Vacu-dyne fumigator, microfilming equipment and ample storage space. Also located on this floor are the administrative offices of the General Commission on Archives and History, including the editorial offices of *Methodist History*, offices of the Drew University Methodist Librarian and staff, a handsome and spacious reading room, and a beautifully appointed rare book and conference room. There is also a large museum area where the historic treasures of the General Commission and the outstanding Wesleyana and Methodistica collections of Drew University will be displayed.

On the second floor above ground is a library with space for 100,000 volumes. Seminar space and lecture hall are also provided on this level. Study carrels and a room for senior scholars' research are located adjacent to the library stacks. The entire building is protected by a sophisticated system to ensure appropriate security.

The Center is located on Drew University's 186-acre campus and is accessible by rail and bus from New York City. Newark International Airport is nearby. The Center is open to the public.

While the library has been opened for service, it will not be fully operational until the late winter of 1983. The archives will not be able to service information requests and research until the spring of 1983.

We give joyful thanks to God for this expression of grace through generous individuals and groups who have made the Archives and History Center a beautiful and functional facility from which our ministry may more adequately be performed.

Charles Yrigoyen, Jr.,
General Secretary,
General Commission on Archives and History