

MINUTES OF THE 2007 ANNUAL MEETING
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
22 JULY 2007
NATIONAL 4-H CENTER
WASHINGTON, D.C.

President Patricia Thompson opened the meeting with a welcome and prayer. She noted that this is the 17th Annual Meeting, though the Society is in its 18th year, and that this was the first year in some time that no by-law changes were on the agenda.

The agenda for the morning included a short business meeting, then brief presentations by Mary K. Ricks on the Underground Railroad and the Methodist churches in Washington, D.C., and John Tyson, winner of the Saddlebag Selection Award for the best book of 2006.

She then introduced the Board members who were present: *Officers:* Mary Bakeman (Secretary), Jim Morris (Vice-President and GCAH Representative), Michael Peterlin (Treasurer) could not attend; *Program committee:* Rob Sledge, Dan Swinson, Linda Schramm, Carol Roszell (absent). *Historian's Digest Editor:* Jane Donovan. Bob Williams, General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History also serves on the Board. Pat thanked the members for the good work done.

There were no announcements from the floor.

The Secretary's minutes were presented and John Mitchell seconded the presentation. After no discussion, they were accepted as received.

Pat presented the Treasurer's report. Michael Peterlin, Treasurer, has been experiencing health problems, and has not attended a meeting since his election. Last year language was added to bylaws requiring an annual audit of the books. Chuck Yrigoyen had volunteered to perform this audit, but could not complete it because needed information was not forwarded to him. There has been no audit since Gary Ferrell passed records to Charles Chase.

The brief report provided by Michael included:

Investments – to sustain life members	\$17,544.90 as of 31 Dec 2006
	\$17,878.52 as of 30 June 2007

Financial Statement, 15 July 2006 – 18 July 2007

Beginning balance – to be determined by audit	
Receipts	\$8,416.58
Payments	\$7,537.56
Bank Balance 30 June 2007	\$8,283.12

President Thompson stated that the Board determined that the report was inadequate, and asked for a report of the Board actions.

Secretary Bakeman reviewed the actions of the Board, and stated that they needed ratification from the membership. These actions included:

1. Based on the elected Treasurer's failure to take care of the Society's finances as required by the Board and his new health concerns, the Board declared the Treasurer's position vacant as of 31 August 2007;
2. Communication of the action and our appreciation for his willingness to serve in this difficult time will be prepared by President Thompson. Linda Schramm has offered to deliver the letter and to collect the Society's materials and books in Michael Peterlin's possession.
3. A committee of Jim Morris, Dan Swinson and Linda Schramm will perform an audit.
4. Chuck Yrigoyen has agreed to fill the unexpired term as Treasurer through the remainder of the quadrennium.

By consensus, the actions were ratified in the one motion, as presented. Thelma Boeder seconded. President Thompson asked for questions and comments. There being none, the motion passed unanimously.

Secretary Bakeman then proceeded to the next action requiring ratification. The By-Laws call for a proposed budget to come before the Annual Meeting. Because of the unknown status of the treasury, the Board is unable to offer a budget for discussion. (Our budget over the past several years has been about \$8000.) Following the audit, a budget will be prepared by the Board and published in the *Historian's Digest*, hopefully in the October 2007 issue. Comment will be invited at that time, and any needed changes will be made. The motion was seconded by John Mitchell. There was no discussion, and the action was ratified unanimously.

Secretary Bakeman relayed the membership report. We are down 62 members from last year, though joint membership remains level. Membership Secretary Bill Bakeman has resigned, and Phil Lawton will take over this responsibility. President Thompson commented that we need to increase membership, and asks that current members renew and recruit other members as well.

The report on our web site, currently managed by Phil Lawton, indicates that we have up to 12,000 visitors per month. A majority of the visits are to the genealogy pages, including the two with extracts from the *New York Christian Advocate*. Jane Donovan has hired a student to work with Dale Patterson at GCAH on redesigning our site to be more consistent with the new GCAH website that is nearing completion through UMComm. Our site will remain on the GCAH server. We are looking for someone to manage the site, beginning after the redesign is complete. All are encouraged to help find someone for this important job.

Jane Donovan assumed the job of editor of *Historian's Digest* last year

and has produced three fabulous issues. The Board commended her on her work, and appointed her for another year.

The Saddlebag Selection Book Award will be discussed when the author is introduced.

The Ministry of Memory award program will go on the schedule of announcing the award in 2007 for 2008. The award will be presented to Dick Seiber, of the Pacific NW Conference at our meeting in the Dakotas. Nominations will be sought for the next year during the winter, with letters sent by Bob Williams sometime in the winter. Jurisdictional Commissions and Societies, Annual Conference Commissions and Societies, and regional societies will all be contacted.

Jim Morris reported on upcoming Society meetings. The creation of the program committee due to the By-Laws changes last year was intended to strengthen programmatic connection between us and the host groups of the annual meetings. Jim heads the committee, and will be meeting soon with the each of the host groups for the next two meetings.

The next meeting will be held in Mitchell, South Dakota, on July 7-10 in concert with the North Central Jurisdiction's Commission on Archives and History. Charles Finney passed out packets, with tourist information and a schedule of the activities. George McGovern will be one of the featured speakers. Charles suggested that attendees fly into Sioux Falls, and the group will provide shuttle service. It's only 70 miles, and under an hour travel time (less than many of us spent getting here from the airport!).

The 2009 meeting will be held June 29-July 2 at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, and will feature the 20th anniversary of the Society. More details will follow. *NOTE: These dates are different from those presented at the meeting, which were tentative.*

The report from the GCAH meeting was brief. Jim reminded us that substantial changes will occur in GCAH membership, due to the ending of a quadrennium. That Commission is overjoyed with our new General Secretary, Bob Williams. Jim anticipates a period of excitement and growth over the next quadrennium. Jim also commended President Thompson on her service to the Society.

The meeting was adjourned.

Jane Donovan introduced Mary Kay Ricks, who spoke on her book *Escape on the Pearl* about the Underground Railroad in Washington, D.C.

Rob Sledge introduced John Tyson, the winner of the 2007 Saddlebag Selection, who then spoke about his book.

Respectfully submitted,

MARY BAKEMAN
Secretary

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