

## EDITOR'S NOTE

By the grace of God and the action of the General Commission on Archives and History, I have been granted the privilege and the responsibility of being the fifth editor of *Methodist History*. As I do the detailed planning on an issue for the first time, I want to pay tribute to those who have served before me. Especially do I want to honor my immediate predecessor, Charles Yrigoyen, Jr., who served as editor longer than anyone else. He insured that articles would be ready and that preparation for this issue would be quite advanced by the time I assumed responsibility. Dr. Yrigoyen served as General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History and as editor of *Methodist History* with great distinction for 24 years.

Volume 1, Number 1 was published October 1962. Since that time the editors have been: Elmer T. Clark from October 1962 through July 1963; Albea Godbold from October 1963 through October 1968; John H. Ness, Jr. from January 1969 through January 1982; and Charles Yrigoyen from April 1982 through January 2006. At its inception the journal was published by the Association of Methodist Historical Societies but following action by the General Conference of 1968 creating the General Commission, it has been published by the Commission.

Elmer Clark wrote an introductory page making clear the purpose of the journal, a purpose that still shapes editorial policy. He wrote:

*Methodist History* is a continuation, under a different name and with largely different materials, of *World Parish*, which since 1948 has been published jointly by The Association of Methodist Historical Societies and The World Methodist Council...This publication will be devoted entirely to Methodist history in the United States and other lands. No religious body is richer in history and it will be explored and presented in these pages. It is hoped that the periodical will be placed in public and church libraries, doctors' offices and other places where it can be read and will advance the cause of Methodist history.

I am grateful that I can give voice to the importance of memory and identity for making disciples of Jesus Christ. The words of Psalm 16:6 ring true for me, "The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage." At the same time, I look forward to what lies ahead, for the Psalmist also reminds us, "I keep the Lord always before me." (Psalm 16:8a)

**ROBERT J. WILLIAMS**