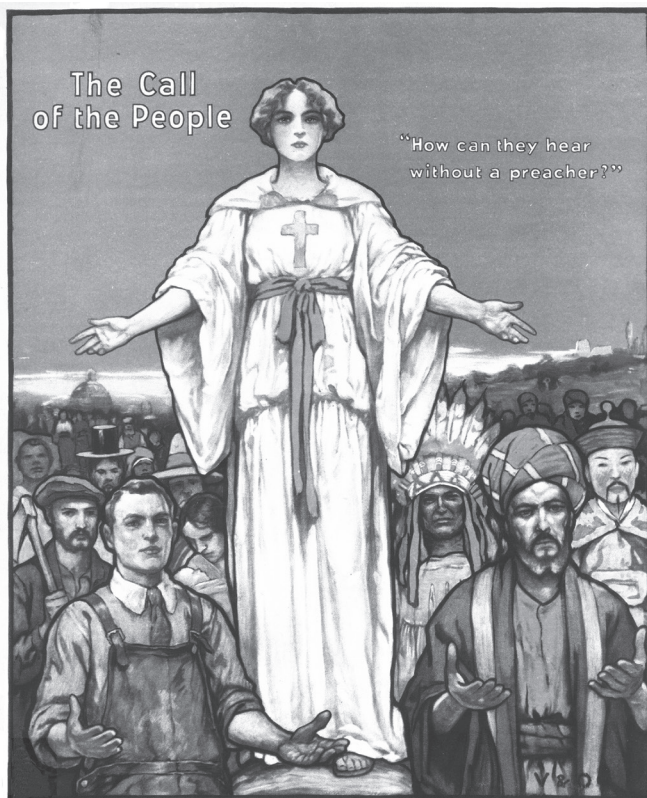


METHODIST HISTORY

January 2016

Volume LIV
Number 2



Centenary Celebration
of American Methodist
Missions

SOUVENIR

Columbus, Ohio, June
twenty to July thirteen
Nineteen nineteen

CENTENARY CELEBRATION SOUVENIR COVER (1919)



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Cover: This image was the cover of a souvenir booklet for the 1919 Centenary Celebration, nicknamed the "Methodist World's Fair." See article contextualizing Islam during this period by Christopher Anderson (102). From The Call of the People (Columbus: Stoneman Press, 1919).

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Alfred T. Day III, Editor

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DARRYL STEPHENS is Director of United Methodist Studies at Lancaster Theological Seminary and a clergy member of the Texas Annual Conference. He holds a Ph.D. from Emory University. His book, *Methodist Morals: Social Principles, Marriage, and Sexual Sin in the Public Church*, is forthcoming from the University of Tennessee Press in May of 2016.

EDITOR'S NOTE

This issue of *Methodist History* greets readers with a collection of essays as current as this New Year:

- challenges and opportunities as the United Methodist Church lives into its global nature as seen through the lens of *The Book of Discipline's* Social Principles;
- the Church's attempt to come to terms with Islam; and
- in the midst of an American presidential election cycle, lessons from a time Methodists were in the thick of national politics.

On the verge of the 2016 General Conference and as a global *Book of Discipline* moves closer to reality, Darryl Stephens' essay looks at denomination's Social Principles, comparing and contrasting six contemporaneous statements in four different languages, demonstrating the variety of stances on issues of social ethics extant across the institution. The work deals with the question of unity implied by the denomination's Social Principles, while considering global differences in procedure, polity, practice, and cultural setting.

Christopher Anderson's essay explores ways in which nineteenth and twentieth-century American Methodists framed the faith of Islam. His work investigates denominational publications and missionary expositions that both shaped perceptions and staged ways in which Methodist missionaries prepared for the task of converting Muslims to Christianity.

Douglas Montagna's essay views the Republican Party and the Methodist Episcopal Church as having so much in common during the American Civil War era that there was effectively a coalition in support of the political party's nativist, temperance, anti-slavery, and Union war effort positions and platform.

I am grateful to new Editorial Board member Jane Donovan for taking on the role of Book Review Editor. Her efforts both led to the timely and important reviews appearing in this issue, a steady stream of new reviews for subsequent issues, and a "New and Noteworthy" section mentioning incoming books and other items of interest to *Methodist History* readers. Our thanks go out to Kevin Newburgh for his previous stewardship of this task.

In other Editorial Board transitions, we extend thanks to Stephen Yale for his years of service to this journal and welcome to Christopher Anderson, Methodist Librarian and Drew University's Head of Special Collections at the United Methodist Archives and History Center in Madison, New Jersey.

Another very fine issue of *Methodist History* is in your hands. Good reading, everyone.

Alfred T. Day III