

HISTORIAN'S DIGEST



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April 2009

Registration Now Available for UMHS Annual Meeting

A registration form for the 20th anniversary annual meeting of the United Methodist Historical Society can be found in this issue of *Historian's Digest*. The meeting will be held from Monday, June 29 through midday Thursday, July 2, at the Lambuth Inn, Lake Junaluska NC. The registration deadline is June 1, 2009.

The UMHS is meeting in conjunction with the Southeastern Jurisdictional Historical Society annual meeting. Speakers will include Dr. George Freeman, General Secretary of the World Methodist Council; Dr. Robert Sledge, the UMHS's first president; Dr. Robert Williams, General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History; and Dr. Charles Yrigoyen, Jr., GCAH General Secretary Emeritus.

The registration fee of \$40 per person (or \$60 per couple) does NOT include housing and meals at Lake Junaluska. You must make your own housing and meal arrangements with Lake Junaluska by calling 1-800-222-4930 ext 454. A reservation deposit of \$35 per person will be required.

Housing at the Lambuth Inn is \$99 per night for a single room and \$55.00 per person per night for a double room. Lower rates are available for triples and quads. The meal package for persons staying at the Lambuth is \$28 per day (\$74 total for 8 meals from Monday dinner through Thursday lunch).

Please note: the anniversary banquet on Wednesday evening is NOT included in this meal package. Reservations for the banquet should be made on the registration form enclosed. The cost is \$22 per person.

In addition to the Lambuth Inn, housing is also available at the Terrace Inn, apartments, campground, and rental cottages. Those are also available through the 800 number listed above. Meal tickets for persons staying in those accommodations may be purchased at the hotel's front desk.

For those persons who are flying into Asheville NC, round-trip transportation between the Asheville airport and Lake Junaluska is available.

For more information, please contact Art Swarthout at P. O. Box 268, Lake Junaluska NC 28745 or by phone at 828-452-2689.

A Message from the General Secretary

Heritage Sunday will be May 24, 2009. It is now designated as Aldersgate Day or the Sunday preceding Aldersgate Day instead of the Sunday nearest April 23, which was the date of the merger of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and The Methodist Church. When the General Commission sought this change at the 2004 General Conference, it did not understand this to diminish commitment to EUB history but to tie an emphasis on heritage to an event involving a spiritual experience and not organizational change. The themes chosen by the General Commission for this quadrennium allow us to highlight work in all of United Methodism's antecedent denominations.

The themes for this quadrennium are chosen to be congruent with the Four Areas of Focus affirmed by General Conference. These are:

- Developing principled Christian leaders for the church and the world
- Creating new places for new people by starting new congregations and renewing existing ones
- Engaging in ministry with the poor
- Stamping our killer diseases by improving health globally.

The theme for 2009 is "Developing Leaders: Our Heritage." The Rev. Fred Day, pastor of St. George's Church in Philadelphia, and Dr. Paula Gilbert, Duke University, are working with me to develop worship resources to assist persons in planning the worship on May 24. We are planning on getting these on the GCAH web site in January. I would be grateful if everyone reading this would reflect on this theme. If you have suggestions for resources to go on the web site, please send me a message. My email address is rwilliams@gcah.org.

For these themes, I am keen to show that they are "legitimate children of the Methodist and EUB past." By that, I mean, these areas of ministry and program have a rich heritage in our traditions. I would welcome your

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Historical Society of the UMC

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Editorial correspondence should be directed to Jane Donovan. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is June 1, 2009.

Letter from the President

Dear Members of the HSUMC:

This will be the last letter that I will write to you as the President of the HSUMC as my second four-year term will come to an end at the annual meeting in Lake Junaluska in June. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those persons who have served on the Board of Directors over the past eight years for all of your dedication and hard work which has helped to mold this Society during its first twenty years. At the end of our annual meeting we will welcome our newly our newly Executive Committee at that time: Dan Swinson from the North Central Jurisdiction, who has been serving on the HSUMC Program Committee for a number of years, previously representing the Education and Research Section, will be your new President. Jim Morris, also from the North Central Jurisdiction, will return for a second term as Vice-President. We welcome for the first time, Barbara Essen, from the Western Jurisdiction, who will take over the Secretary's position from Mary Bakeman, who has also served on the Board for eight years – first, representing the Genealogy Section and then for the past four years as secretary. Chuck Yrigoyen will be returning as Treasurer.

It has been a great privilege to serve as the President of the Society for the past eight years. Two of the things that I have enjoyed the most and found the most valuable are traveling to various parts of our country for our annual gatherings, meeting other United Methodists who are as interested in our history as I am and learning about the face of United Methodism in places other than my own region. The friendships which have been forged over the past twenty years will always be a valuable part of my journey. Further, all of us probably know a great deal about United Methodism in general and how it grew and developed in the places where we have lived. But I have found, anyway, that it is only in learning about United Methodism across the connection that I have come to have a true appreciation for the people called "Methodist" in this country and how we have shaped the history of the United States.

We were also privileged in 2004 to have held an annual meeting in Kingston, Canada, in conjunction with the Canadian Methodist Historical Society, recognizing the many connections that we in the United States have in common with Canadian Methodists. As more and more emphasis is put on global United Methodism, it is my hope that the Society may, in the years ahead, also become global in nature, maybe even meeting from time to time in one of the Conferences outside of the United States.

As you already are aware, this year we will be celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the organization of the HSUMC in 1989 back at Lake Junaluska where we began, and the folks in the Southeastern Jurisdiction have planned an excellent program for us. Registration forms can be found elsewhere in this newsletter, and I strongly urge as many of you as possible to join us at the end of June at the Lake for this historic celebration. I look forward to seeing many old friends and making some new ones, as well.

Grace and peace to all of you in the days ahead.

Pat Thompson

News and Notes:

- Jane Donovan is hoping to step down as editor of *Historian's Digest*. Any interested candidates for the position should contact Pat Thompson at pajt8817@aol.com
- Western Jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History Annual Meeting will be April 23-26, 2009 in Homer, Alaska. For more information or to register, contact Mike Cline at drmscline@yahoo.com or by phone at 907-235-8460.

REGISTRATION - SEJ HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2009 ANNUAL MEETING
Hosting The Historical Society of The United Methodist Church

Name(s) _____
(Please print name(s) as you wish them to appear on your name tag and registrant list)

Mailing Address _____

(Confirmation and additional information will be sent to this address after June 1st)

Please give us your telephone number(s) and email address below if you wish us to use them:

PLEASE CHECK ALL APPROPRIATE ITEMS BELOW AND FIGURE YOUR COST:

_____ I (We) have made arrangements for housing and meals at Lake Junaluska.
(Please do not send this registration until you have made these arrangements)

_____ I (We) are registering for the annual meeting \$ _____
(Program fee is \$40.00 for an individual or \$60.00 for a couple)
(Leaders identified on advance program do not pay this fee)

_____ I (We) will attend the Anniversary Banquet Wednesday evening. \$ _____
(Tickets are \$22.00 per person including tax and gratuity.)

_____ I (We) want a copy of the 2009 PROCEEDINGS mailed to us. (\$7.00) \$ _____
The annual Proceedings include papers and reports shared at this meeting.

TOTAL COST *(Please enclose your check made to: SEJ Historical Society)* \$ _____

_____ I (We) want to take the Lake boat trip Monday afternoon at 3:00.

_____ I (We) plan to fly to the meeting. Please send information about transportation to Lake Junaluska from the Asheville airport and return.

_____ I (We) plan to drive to Lake Junaluska and need travel information.

_____ I (We) have the following questions or concerns (such as accessibility, diet, etc.)

Please mail this form and your check **BEFORE JUNE 1st** to the Registrar:
Art Swarthout, P.O. Box 268, lake Junaluska, NC 28745.
After June 1st, call the Registrar to determine available space.

A Message from the General Secretary

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thoughts on these questions. How have leaders been developed across our history? How have leaders been recognized? What leadership qualities have been honored? And from that history, what do we need to learn about developing leaders today? We can remember Wesley developing leaders in the class meetings, and those becoming exhorters, and then preachers. He expanded leadership to laity and to women. In the 19th century, leaders were educated in schools and colleges and Sunday Schools were developed. Your input is most welcomed and possibly you have written or intend to write on this. Let us participate with the whole church in supporting this important work.

– **Dr. Robert Williams**

*General Secretary, General Commission
on Archives and History*

Prayer for Sunday Evening (excerpt):

“O my God, I am in thy hand; and may I rejoice above all things in being so. Do with me what seemeth good in thy sight; only let me know thee with all my mind, soul, and strength. I magnify thee for granting me to be born in thy Church, and of religious parents; for washing me in thy baptism, and instructing me in the doctrine of truth and holiness; for sustaining me by thy gracious providence, and guiding me by thy blessed Spirit; and for so often feeding my soul with thy most precious body and blood, those pledges of love, and sure conveyances of strength and comfort.”

-- John Wesley, A Collection of Forms of Prayer, 1733

**Have you visited the
HSUMC web site?**

[www.historicalsocietyunited
methodistchurch.org](http://www.historicalsocietyunitedmethodistchurch.org)

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