

Delegates to General Conference

One of the important responsibilities of the Annual Conference is the quadrennial election of delegates to the General Conference. These delegates, elected by and representing their individual Conference members, help to make all the laws of the Church and to fulfill any other significant tasks designated under the Constitution of the Church. Naturally these delegates are chosen from among the most able leadership and usually represent a good cross section of the thinking of the Annual Conference.

I. DELEGATES FROM THE LOS ANGELES CONFERENCE

During the years of existence of the Los Angeles Conference, 1870-1922, thirteen General Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, were held. To these the Los Angeles Conference elected thirteen clerical and fifteen lay delegates.*

Of the thirteen clerical delegates eleven were elected one time: T. R. Curtis, H. M. DuBose, J. F. G. Finley, J. E. Harrison, William B. Kavanaugh, J. J. N. Kenney, R. A. Latimer, Millard J. Law, Robert F. Parker, E. P. Ryland, C. C. Selecman.

Two were elected two times: Abram Adams, Robert Paine Howell.

Of the fifteen lay delegates all fifteen were elected one time: F. E. Adams, Frank M. Buster, A. H. Davidson, Gideon E. Franklin, J. B. Glover, E. E. Greenlead, Mrs. R. P. Howell, H. A. Hughes, Ulrech Knoch, Isaac N. McGuire, M. L. Montgomery, E. B. Moore, Albert Oglesby, L. D. Palmer, L. M. Wicks.

To the special called General Conference of 1924 to consider unification one clerical and one lay delegate were elected. The clerical

* See the "List of Delegates" found in the first section of each General Conference journal. This applies also to the delegates of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The figures "thirteen" and "fifteen" for the delegates here, and other figures in the subsequent sections, represent different men or women, some of whom were elected more than once. In a total count there have been more clerical delegates than lay delegates in the Methodist Episcopal Church because laymen were not allowed equal representation until 1900. In the Southern Church equal representation was granted in 1866. See Nolan B. Harmon, *The Organization of The Methodist Church* (New York: Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, 1948), pp. 116-121.

delegate was J. E. Harrison. The lay delegate was Mrs. R. P. Howell.*

2. PACIFIC CONFERENCE

In the period 1922-1939, during which the Southern Methodist work in Southern California was under the Pacific Conference, four General Conferences were held. To these the Pacific Conference elected seven clerical and eight lay delegates.

Of the seven clerical delegates five were elected one time: Charles D. Bulla, J. A. B. Fry, John R. Kenney, A. T. O'Rear, W. J. Sims.

One was elected three times: Grover C. Emmons.

One was elected four times: Robert P. Shuler.

Of the eight lay delegates six were elected one time: William Glass, J. B. Rader, C. C. Stephenson, E. M. Sweet, Jr., W. P. Thomas, Miss Lillian Walton.

Two were elected three times: A. H. Moore, Nathan Newby.

To the special called General Conference of 1924 one clerical and one lay delegate were elected. The clerical delegate was J. A. B. Fry. The lay delegate was W. H. Walker.

To the Uniting Conference of 1939 two clerical and two lay delegates were elected. The clerical delegates were J. R. Kenney and J. C. McPheeters. The lay delegates were Nathan Newby and E. M. Sweet, Jr.

3. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE

Between 1876, when the Southern California Conference was organized, and 1936, when the last General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was held, fifteen General Conferences met. To these the Southern California Conference elected forty-five clerical and fifty-nine lay delegates.

Of the forty-five clerical delegates twenty-seven were elected one time: Alvah W. Adkinson, Adam Bland, Phineas F. Bresee, Edwin W. Caswell, Jesse Lee Corley, Wilbur L. Y. Davis, James E. Dunning, Robert W. C. Farnsworth, Lincoln A. Ferris, John G. Hill, Edwin J. Inwood, E. C. Jannush, William A. Knighten, Frank Linder, Robert McIntyre, Willsie Martin, Richard N. Merrill, Leonard Oechsli, John Oliver, Harcourt W. Peck, John L. Pitner, Edwin P. Ryland, Andrew W. Shamel, Alexander P. Shaw, Roy L. Smith, Byron H. Wilson, W. Arter Wright.

* The alternates attended: R. P. Shuler and Mrs. W. J. Sims. Note that this special session was held two years after the Los Angeles Conference had dissolved, yet it received delegates representing this former Conference (in addition to the Pacific Conference). It is not clear today why this was allowed. The General and Pacific Conference Journals are silent. Dr. Shuler today does not remember the details. It may have been that because of the recency of dissolution of the Conference, it was felt that the members were entitled to representation on such a critical matter. The Arizona Conference was not allowed any delegates.

Twelve were elected two times: Walter C. Buckner, George B. Cliff, John B. Green, Elmer E. Helms, Azahel M. Hough, Matthew S. Hughes, Alfred Inwood, Franklin D. Mather, Winfield S. Mathew, A. Ray Moore, G. Bromley Oxnam, Samuel A. Thomson.

Two were elected three times: George F. Bovard, Charles E. Locke.

Three were elected four times: Merle N. Smith, Frank G. H. Stevens, George A. Warmer.

One was elected five times: Francis M. Larkin.

Of the fifty-nine lay delegates forty-eight were elected one time: Lydia E. Alexander, Mrs. Belle T. Anderson, Wray Andrew, Grover C. Bagby, Sr., Belle E. Bodkin, William M. Bowen, Cyrus H. Bradley, Henry W. Brodbeck, J. Frank Burke, John R. Cain, Charles E. Carver, Mrs. Margaret L. Coates, Louis A. Copeland, Clarence L. Crowell, Perry M. Green, George L. Hazzard, Elias Hedrick, A. L. Hickson, Richard W. Hilmer, Daniel W. Huffman, Claude C. Jenkins, William H. Johnson, Mrs. Hattie V. King, Benjamin C. Lockwood, Joseph E. McComas, W. W. Mather, Mrs. Mary Martin Northrup, Mrs. Z. L. Parmelee, Watson Parrish, James W. Patterson, Melvin Pettit, Elbert M. Pyle, William T. Randall, Charles F. Reiche, Mrs. Martha A. R. Reynolds, Egerton Shore, Mrs. Dudley Snudden, Mrs. Kate W. Spowls, Arthur Bush Stevens, William R. Stewart, Edwin J. Swayne, Charles L. Thomas, Stephen Townsend, John T. Turner, Frank T. Turner, Frank S. Wallace, G. Wiley Wells, A. M. Wilkinson, Joseph A. Williams.

Nine were elected two times: Winfield S. Allen, Frank H. Ballinger, George E. Hume, Mrs. S. F. Johnson, Harold V. Mather, Hugh E. Smith, Frank Paul Taggart, Mrs. Charles F. Van de Water, Rufus B. von KleinSmid.

Two were elected three times: Alexander M. Drew, Albert J. Wallace.

To the Uniting Conference in 1939 five clerical and five lay delegates were elected. The clerical delegates were Walter C. Buckner, J. L. Corley, Roy L. Smith, Frank G. H. Stevens, George A. Warmer. The lay delegates were Wray Andrew, J. Wesley Hole, S. W. McCulloch, James H. McGiffin, Mrs. Jerome Seymour.

4. ARIZONA CONFERENCE

During the years of existence of the Arizona Conference four General Conferences were held. To these the Arizona Conference elected three clerical and four lay delegates.

Of the three clerical delegates two were elected one time: Walter L. Barr, H. M. Bruce.

One was elected two times: W. J. Sims.

Of the four lay delegates all were elected one time: L. J. Cox, L. R. McDonald, John H. Evans, B. F. McGough.

To the Uniting Conference in 1939 one clerical and one lay delegate were elected. The clerical delegate was William H. Coleman. The lay delegate was John H. Evans.

5. THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA-ARIZONA CONFERENCE

Since unification in 1939 six General Conferences have been held. To these the Southern California-Arizona Conference elected twenty-five clerical and twenty-eight lay delegates.

Of the twenty-five clerical delegates thirteen were elected one time: Gordon C. Chapman, Albert E. Day, James E. Dunning, G. C. Emmons, Gerald B. Harvey, Will M. Hildebrand, Stanley S. McKee, Willsie Martin, Edward P. O'Rear, Everett W. Palmer, Edwin E. Reeves, Frank G. H. Stevens, L. L. White.

Eight were elected two times: Harold C. Case, Charles S. Kendall, James L. Lyons, Glenn R. Phillips, Roy L. Smith, Donald H. Tippett, Fred B. Trotter, Frank S. Williams.

Three were elected three times: K. Morgan Edwards, Ray W. Ragsdale, George A. Warmer.

One was elected five times: Russell E. Clay.

Of the twenty-eight lay delegates twenty were elected one time: Wray Andrew, Mrs. Wray Andrew, Mrs. Fred Boerner, Mrs. E. R. Colegrove, Ernest Cadman Colwell, Harold Divelbess, Mrs. E. A. Ingham, Mrs. Neal D. Ireland, Mrs. Mattis S. Nelson, Nathan Newby, Hubert Orton, Mrs. R. E. Page, Mrs. Earle K. Scott, James O. Sesson, Mrs. Jerome Seymour, Mrs. H. J. Stroud, Alvin H. Tolle, Mrs. Charles A. Trowbridge, Lester Wahrenbrock, Mrs. Arthur Young.

Four were elected two times: James McGiffin, Verne Orr, Sr., George V. Steed, Mrs. Byron Wilson.

Two were elected three times: Donald A. Odell, Alpheus B. P. Wood.

One was elected four times: Joe M. Young.

One was elected six times: J. Wesley Hole.