

OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE
NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE
THE METHODIST CHURCH

One Hundred and Fifty-Second Session

LEWIS O. HARTMAN, *President*

G. ALBERT HIGGINS, *Secretary*



HELD IN CENTRE METHODIST CHURCH
MALDEN, MASSACHUSETTS

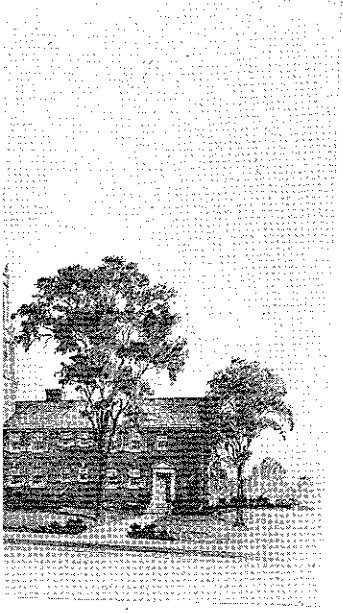
MAY 26-30, 1948

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became the pastor of the Warren Federated Church for eight years. Later, he was pastor in Southbridge, Westboro and Hyde Park. Then he moved to his home in East Brookfield, where he served a year before retiring in 1947.

His outstanding characteristic was his capacity for friendship and his love for people. He thought of his brethren in the Ministry as "the grandest brotherhood in the world."

Funeral services were held in the Charlton City Methodist Church, August 30, 1947, where he had been pastor for a year before retiring. Rev. Francis D. Taylor was in charge, assisted by Rev. George E. Heath.

REV. JOHN L. CAIRNS



J. L. CAIRNS

New England Methodism lost one of its staunch leaders in the death of Rev. John L. Cairns. He was born in Gilmanton, New Hampshire, April 19, 1879. His education was received in the public schools of New Hampshire, College of Liberal Arts, Boston University, and Boston University School of Theology. He became a member of the New Hampshire Conference in 1906. He transferred to the New England Conference in 1913. He was pastor at Gardner; St. Paul's Church, Lowell; Wesley Church, Salem; Glendale Church, Everett; St. Paul's Church, Lynn; and First Church, Melrose. For six years, from 1937 until 1942, he was superintendent of the Worcester District. He retired in 1947, and very soon afterward became a patient at New England Deaconess Hospital. He returned to his home in Salem, and died in that city, October 17, 1947.

He never married, but made his home with his sister, Miss Lavinia Cairns, who is his only survivor. The funeral service, held in Wesley Church, Salem, October 19, 1947, was in charge of Rev. W. Henry Shillington and Rev. John L. Wingett. Fitting tribute was given by Rev. H. Daniel Hawver.

REV. R. EMORY BEETHAM

Rev. R. Emory Beetham died in Daytona Beach, Florida, December 4, 1947, in his seventy-fourth year. Born in a Methodist parsonage in Bedford, Ohio, his life was devoted to the Ministry. His first term of service was on the mission field: for three years he was in Umtali, East Africa. Called to the presidency of his alma mater, Scio College, he followed that service in the office of vice-president of Mount Union College. He later was chaplain in the first World War, was pastor in leading churches of several Conferences, and finally, at Wesley Church, Salem, and Trinity, West Medford, in the New England Conference.

After forty years in the Ministry, on account of failing health he retired, spending the remainder of his life in Florida. He was a graduate of Scio College



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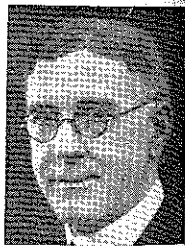
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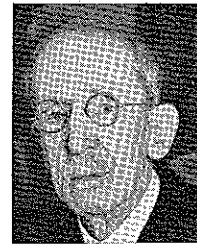
Ministry, on account of failing health he retired, ife in Florida. He was a graduate of Scio College

and Drew University. His marked ability, learning, prophetic spirit and broad outlook made him an outstanding and influential character in our Ministry.

The funeral service was held in Daytona Beach, Florida, and interment was in Cadiz, Ohio. He is survived by his wife, whom he first met in Africa, and she has been his devoted companion for forty-three years.

REV. GEORGE F. DURGIN

Rev. George F. Durgin died May 16, 1948, at the Deaconess Hospital, Boston, at the age of eighty-seven years. He had retired many years ago after a ministry of thirty-five years. His first pastorate was at Milton Mills, New Hampshire, and others included Ludlow Center, Florence, Chicopee, Ipswich, Flint Street, Somerville, Hyde Park, Bethany, Rosindale, and Bromfield Street, Boston. In 1912 he became vice-president of the East Maine Conference Seminary, and in 1914 was named president of Walden University. In 1917 he was named secretary of Mission Study and Stewardship Department in the General Board of the Epworth League. He retired in 1925, after a short term as pastor in Townsend Harbor. He leaves a sister, Mrs. Cora Chipman of Gray, Maine. Funeral services were held in Dorchester, May 19, 1948.



G. F. DURGIN

MRS. CHARLES H. DAVIS

Funeral services for Mrs. Helen W. Davis, seventy-three years of age, who died on May 31, 1947, were held at the First Methodist Church, Needham Heights, June 3, 1947. She was the widow of the late Rev. Charles H. Davis, long an esteemed member of the New England Conference, as was his father before him. She was born in Bournemouth, England. She leaves two sons, Charles D., of Springfield, Pennsylvania, and Kenneth E., of Rochester, New York.

MRS. GEORGE H. CHENEY

Mrs. Eleanor (Robinson) Cheney, of Fairhaven, Massachusetts, widow of Rev. George H. Cheney, died June 16, 1947, after an illness of over two years. She was born in Prince Edward Island, July 2, 1857, the daughter of Joseph and Mary (McGregor) Robinson. Her mother died soon after her birth. When she was seventeen, her maternal uncle, the late David L. McGregor (at that time one of Massachusetts' leading Methodists) of Somerville, took her to Boston, and he and his wife became in time as father and mother to her. At their home she met Rev. George H. Cheney, whom she married in 1881. She devoted her long life to her husband and children. For more than twenty years her care for an invalid daughter, Sarah, kept her alive, when specialists reckoned her life-span by months.

Four children survive: Miss Emily M. Cheney, for many years a teacher, and now retired; Miss Eleanor R. Cheney, of Fairhaven; Miss Edith I. Cheney,