

MINUTES
OF THE
TWO HUNDRED FIFTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF

THE BALTIMORE ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



University Of Maryland
Baltimore County
Catonsville, Maryland
June 10-12, 1989

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Bishop Joseph H. Yeakel Presiding
Donald S. Stewart Secretary

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WILLIAM ERNEST BISHOP

1914-1989



William Ernest "Bobby" Bishop was born the first day of March, 1914, in Sandy Spring, Maryland to the late Mr. Llewellyn and Mrs. Bertha Thomas Bishop. On that balmy day God blessed the world with a true and faithful servant.

Bobby Bishop grew up in the church. At the tender age of six years, "Mother B" fashioned a special robe for her little Bobby. During these formative years both parents loved and supported their son with the Holy Scriptures as their guidebook. Early on, young Bobby ascended the pulpit of the Sandy Spring Methodist Church practicing how to share the "Good News" with his boyhood friend Paul Scott. Bobby preached, and Paul listened. God's favored messenger was now chosen and working on kingdom-building.

He lit up the classrooms of Sandy Spring Elementary School with his quick wit and zest for learning. In 1931, he graduated from the First High School for "Negroes" in Montgomery County.

In the midst of the Great Depression the Bishop family lovingly labored to send their son to the Bowie Normal School and on to the emerging Bowie State Teachers College. In 1941, William Ernest "Bobby" Bishop and his life-long friend, Allison Claggett, were the first male degree candidates of the then Bowie State Teachers College. The Bachelor of Science Degree from Bowie State laid the firm foundation for his academic studies for ministry at the Howard University School of Religion — 1945-1947.

In 1941, while serving as principal of Bowie Elementary School, Bobby met the love of his life on the campus of Bowie State. This young graduate began a new pursuit. On May 6, 1942, Laura Brooks became the wife of an elementary school principal. God had provided Bobby with a partner who further deepened and strengthened the call to ministry. To this union was born a beautiful baby girl, Wilma.

This young family exemplified great teamwork as operators of the Brooks neighborhood grocery store for 15 years in Fairmount Heights, Maryland. Bobby taught at the Boys Village, Cheltenham, Maryland. He worked for the Department of Recreation, Montgomery County, the United States Government as a stock clerk and Special Police, and finally, as a salesman of tobacco, candy and wholesale cars. Bobby Bishop worked to support his family while moving closer and closer to parish ministry.

While a student at the Howard University School of Religion, Bobby was Student Assistant at Fairmount Heights United Methodist Church. Bobby, Laura and Wilma had begun the road as a parish family. The files of the Baltimore Annual Conference record the following:

- 1945-47 — Attending school
- 1945 — Received on probation Ordained Deacon
- 1947 — Ordained Elder
- 1948-52 — Ridgely-Huntsville
- 1953-65 — Hughes Memorial, Washington, D.C.
- 1966-71 — Superintendent, Baltimore Northwest District
- 1972-74 — McKendree-Simms-Brookland
Ten Central City Churches Coordinator
- 1975-78 — McKendree, Washington, D.C.

ER

Eugene Arter was born on Au-
per's Ferry, West Virginia. He
ntary education in Harper's
ol and college education was
College.

6, Rev. Arter moved to Fair-
; he joined Trinity Methodist
l as church superintendent.
Miss Irma O. Whiting. Later
nd this union would last for

er was granted local preachers
ston, W. Va. District Confer-
session at Cumberland, MD.
Conference Course of Study,
pointed to the Morgantown-

the Washington Conference
was ordained deacon in 1935,
ined Elder and a full member
hington Conference. During
is ministry, Rev. Arter served
ees including the Conference

he Board of Directors of the
ry Secretary of the Washing-
nd began in 1941 at the Mt.
ed to the Atholton Charge. He
re, a new church was built at

h in Falls Church, VA. He re-
e Assistant Pastor of the Mt.
s of the church until his death

essa Smith on December 19,
is Dewayne and Edward; two
n, three great-grandchildren;

The Family

1979 — Retired, Baltimore Annual Conference —
United Methodist Church

In a retired relationship to the Baltimore Conference, The Rev. Bishop began his interdenominational work in earnest. Bobby and Laura, having been called to the District Superintendentcy, were now being called to interim pastoral leadership at:

Plymouth Congregational Church — Washington, D.C.
Lincoln Park United Methodist Church — Washington, D.C.
Heritage United Church of Christ — Reston, VA.

and

First United Methodist Church — Hyattsville, Maryland
as Minister of Visitation

Throughout his ministry, William Ernest Bishop was a compassionate and faithful mentor to many clergy and laity throughout the area. One of the most cherished events in his ministry was the procession of 67 adults plus children from the parish church-house on 54th Street to the new church facility at 53rd and Ames St., NE called Hughes Memorial. Bobby Bishop, by the power of God and with sheer determination had overcome the doubters. He later employed these skills to coordinate 10 central city churches and merge three churches into one — McKendree. He was a master planner and fastidious worker.

Additionally, William E. Bishop loved music and organized and directed the Melody Singers of Sandy Spring, Maryland, supported the Walton Singers of D.C. and the D.C. Gospel Music Workshop Choir and the Metropolitan Police Choir. The Progressive Limited Men's Quartet were his traveling companions for Christ. He served as the President of the Far East Ministers Interdenominational Alliance and Black United Methodist Pastors.

Numerous awards and certificates adorn his walls. All are too many to mention. However, the 1984 United Methodist Harry Hoosier Award for outstanding and exemplary leadership as a Minister of Jesus Christ underscores them all. He was a member of the Baltimore Conference Board of Evangelism, Commission on Minimum Salary and a General and Jurisdictional Conference Delegate in 1968. In June 1968, he received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Western Maryland College. He has traveled to Canada, the Middle East, Europe and Greece.

The greater Washington area through the Metropolitan Police, Park Police and firefighters benefited from his work as chaplain for many years. He also worked as an Employee Relations Specialist.

For Bertha Bishop, his devoted mother; Laura Brooks Bishop, his loving wife; His daughter, Wilma Bishop Dean and his grandchildren, Kia and Anthony Dean, Laura Scott; nephews, Daniel and The Rev. Walter Cox, Keitha Cox Lindsay and Walter Cox, Jr.; Keitha's children, Lance and Keith-Sean and Walter, Jr.s., Kia; sister-in-law, Edna Bishop and for his extended family; Delores Awkward, Rebecca Powell, Delores Pride, Sonja Dale and Allicia Lundtvedt, Elizabeth and James Faircloth, Avis Hill, Leroy Gonder, David Hall, Kevin Smith, Kirklin Frazier and a host of relatives and friends to whom he responded as brother, daddy, papa and Bobby Bishop, this man of God will always be alive in our hearts and minds. From his pen he wrote:

"As long as hope is vital in your mind, you are alive."

The Bishop Family

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