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OFFICIAL JOURNAL

One Hundred and Tenth Session

Northern New York Annual Conference United Methodist Church

(Organized 1873)

Legal Successor
of the

Black River Conference (Organized 1836)
and part of the

Onondaga Conference (Organized 1829)

Held at CLARKSON COLLEGE POTSDAM, NEW YORK MAY 26th - 28th, 1982

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NORTHERN NEW YORK CONFERENCE

William Wilbur and Dr. Bruce Chapman, Superintendent of Mohawk District.

Dr. Chapman said of him "Merle Brown was seemingly always in ministry whether in the family role, the pastoral role, the administrative role, the teaching role or the neighbor role. That continued to be the pattern of his life right up to the time of his translation into eternity. The excitement of creatively moving to new frontiers seemed always to be present in his life and ministry. That "always present" ans now too."

Charles S. Williams

GERALD S. BOYER

Gerald S. Boyer entered the earthly phase of life in Weisport, Pennsylvania, on November 25, 1911, the son of Joel and Caroline Markley Boyer. He completed this portion of life eternal at Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital, Cooperstown, New York, on July 4, 1981.

Following public school education, he received his bachelor of science degree from Albright College in 1938, and a bachelor of divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York City in 1941.

As a seminary student, he served as a student associate pastor in Christ and Westchester Methodist Churches.

Upon graduation from seminary, he was appointed by the New York Conference of the Evangelical Church to East Stone Arabia. Subsequent pastorates in the New York Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren Church included Binghamton 1948-53, West Sand Lake 1953-66, and Webster 1966-68.

Brother Boyer's pastorates saw the changes brought about by two denominational mergers: first, in 1946, the merger of the Evangelical and United Brethren Churches to form the Evangelical United Brethren Church; second, in 1968, the coming together of The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church to create the United Methodist Church.

The latter development resulted in his becoming a member of the new Western New York Conference where he continued to serve at Webster until 1972. In 1972, he transferred to the Northern New York Conference and was appointed to the Churches of Christ Uniting (United Methodist-United Presbyterian) at Richfield Springs. He was granted the retired relationship at the



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MEMOIRS

1977 session of the Northern New York Conference.

After retirement, the Boyers moved to their home near East Stone Arabia, where his widow still resides.

Gerald Boyer held many leadership positions in the New York Conference, and served as a trustee of Albright College. He was an active supporter of the creation of the United Methodist Church.

He was married to Thelma A. Saltsman on April 5, 1942 at Harmon On Hudson, New York. Two children were born to the marriage: a son, Lin, who died in 1965; and a daughter, Tami, now living in Branchport, New York.

In addition to his widow and daughter, he is survived by three sisters and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral service was held in the Richfield Springs Church on July 7, 1981 with Bishop Joseph H. Yeakel, the Rev. Charles Rudd, the Rev. Leonard W. Owen, and the Rev. Clair Carpenter participating.

Possessed of a gentle spirit, a ready smile, and a warm handshake, Brother Boyer was loved and respected by all who knew him. He was, indeed, a good minister of Jesus Christ.

Arthur B. Oot, Jr.

REV. JOHN WILLIAM DAME

Rev. John William Dame died Sunday, Dec. 6, 1981 after a long illness. He was born in Jamaica Plain, MA., Feb. 27, 1922, son of William and Hedvig (Osmo) Dame.

John attended East Boston schools and was a graduate of E. Boston High, the Class of 1940. He also was a graduate of the Salvation Army Training School, Valient Session, The State University of New York at Potsdam, and Boston University Pastor's School.

He leaves his wife, C. Elsie Dame, pastor of the West Swanzey Community Church; a son, Christian of Boston; a daughter, Karen Cheney of Enosburg Falls, Vermont; a son, Calvin, of Westminister, Mass. and a daughter, Johanne Dame-Brusie of Amherst, Mass.

John served in the United Meth. Church in Madison, Maine; East Troy, Penn.; Mecklenburg, N.Y. and LaFargeville and Depauville, N.Y. John was ordained deacon in Ilion, NY in 1957 and elder in Canton, NY in 1959. John served the church for 36 years.

John faced his illness as he did everything else in life, with excitement and joy. He felt that God was leading him along paths he had never travelled before and for him each day brought with it challenges and opportunities. He made some video tapes for the Muscular Dystrophy Organization in Sept. They were filled with messages of God's goodness, presence and love. Many people called to say that he had helped them face their own terminal illnesses with faith and courage. John taught his family and everyone else the meaning of hope and