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of
The United Methodist Church**

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Edited by the Conference Secretary and Staff

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Rev. Gary R. Brooks, Conference Secretary-Elect
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(Mrs. James) Cunningham of Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania; her son, Robert Mark Brown of Pottstown, Pennsylvania; one granddaughter, five grandsons and one great-grandson.

IDA HAHN

Ida Hahn, the widow of Rev. Hubert C. Hahn, died January 17, 1996.

MARJORIE E. BURRES

Marjorie E. Burres, the widow of Dr. Paul Burres, died March 21, 1996. She was 94 years old. She had been living at the Bedford Manor Nursing Home in Gardner, Kansas. She is survived by two children, Richard Burres of Kansas City, and Lornita Garrett of Eudora.

BISHOP ERNEST T. DIXON, JR.

Ernest Thomas Dixon, Jr. was born in San Antonio, Texas on October 13, 1922. His parents were Ernest Thomas Dixon, Sr. and Ethel Louise Reese Dixon. He grew up on the east side of San Antonio that had been referred to, at times, as the Black Ghetto. He graduated from Phyllis Wheatley High School in 1939. During his years in high school, 1936-1939, he lettered in football, served as student principal, was elected president of the senior class, and graduated with highest honors.

Ernest, better known as "Billy" in the East Side, was very active in the neighborhood. While attending high school, some persons believed that "Billy" Dixon would be sent to the Detention Center at Gatesville before he graduated. Dedicated clergy and lay persons of Jacob's Chapel United Methodist Church helped to guide him through those difficult years and influenced his decision to enter the Christian ministry.

When he entered Samuel Huston College in September 1939, the United States of America was experiencing a great Depression. His father's salary was very low and his mother was washing clothes for \$2.50 a bundle. To supplement the scholarship he received, Ernest served as a table waiter at hotels and night clubs in Austin, Texas during the school year and mowed lawns and waited tables at the Fort Sam Houston Officers Club in the summer. He graduated magna cum laude from Samuel Huston College (now Huston-Tillotson College) in May 1943. In July 1943, he married Lois Freddie Brown. They had four children: Freddie Brown, Ernest Reese, Muriel Jean and Leona Louise. Lois Dixon died in December 1977 and Ernest Reese died in October 1990. In May, 1979 Ernest married Dr. Ernestine Gray Clark and acquired a daughter, Sherry Diane Blue.

Ernest went to Drew Theological Seminary while assisting churches, first in Harlem, New York, and then in Summit, New Jersey, receiving his B.D. degree in 1945. He was then ordained deacon by Bishop Robert N. Brooks and took up work as Director of Religious Extension Service at Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University) in Alabama. During his six years of service at Tuskegee, Ernest coordinated a low-cash cost housing program which resulted in the building of two AME Zion Churches and several demonstration family homes. As he completed the last two years of his service at Tuskegee, Ernest served also as Visiting Instructor of Rural Church Work at Gammon Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia and was the co-organizer and co-pastor of Bowen United Methodist Church, Tuskegee.

In 1946, Ernest was ordained elder, again by Bishop Robert N. Brooks. He returned to his home Conference (West Texas) where he served as Executive Secretary of the Conference Board of Education in 1951-52.

The family moved to Nashville in 1952 when Ernest Dixon joined the staff of the Division of the Local Church, General Board of Education, a position he held until he became president of Philander Smith College, Little Rock, Arkansas in 1965. In 1969 he again became a general agency staff member, this time in charge of coordination for the Program Council in Dayton, Ohio. He was in this position when elected to the episcopacy in 1972 by the South Central Jurisdictional Conference meeting in Houston. He was assigned to the Kansas Area. In 1980 he was assigned to the San Antonio Area, back in his home state of Texas. After serving the San Antonio Area for twelve years, Bishop Dixon retired in August, 1992.

Ernest Dixon was president of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry 1972-76. He served as

president of the Texas Conference of Churches for a two-year term, 1984-86 and as president of the Council of Bishops for the 1988-89 term. From 1978-1992 he served as president of the Board of Trustees, Gulfside Assembly, Waveland, Mississippi.

Bishop Dixon served on many boards and commissions, some of which were: Health Care Ministries United Methodist Church, Planned Parenthood, United Negro College Fund, Huston-Tillotson Board of Trustees, Board of Directors of Santa Rosa Hospital Foundation, Martin Luther King Commission of San Antonio, and the Texas Methodist Foundation. He was given honorary degrees by Huston-Tillotson College, Southwestern College, Baker University, Westmar College, and Kansas Wesleyan University. He served as a member of the Executive Committee of the World Methodist Conference 1976-1992.

Ernest Dixon died June 29, 1996. He is survived by his wife, Ernestine Clark Dixon; one son, Freddie B. Dixon, Sr. and wife Barbara of Austin, Texas; three daughters, Muriel Jean Dixon, Leona Louise Thomas and husband John of San Antonio, and Sherry Dianne Blue and husband Tony of Washington, D.C.; five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, two nephews, a cousin, and a host of other relations and friends.

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