

MINUTES
OF THE
ONE HUNDRED NINETY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION
OF
THE BALTIMORE ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Legislative Sessions held in Church of the Brethren,
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Calvary United Methodist Church,
Trinity United Methodist Church, Frederick, Maryland
On May 10, 1975

Plenary Session held in Washington Hebrew Congregation
May 27-28-29, 1975

Adopted by the Conference as its Official Record

BISHOP JAMES K. MATHEWS	- - - - -	Presiding
HAROLD B. WRIGHT	- - - - -	Secretary

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at Solomons Island, Maryland, y, at the age of sixteen. His l Prep School, Mount Vernon yland College, Wesley Theo- hns Hopkins University.

ren, Ben was obligated to help d continued his education for school. After being out of e Business World for several pursue his studies in prepara- inistry.

ed the Baltimore Annual Com- ame year, married the lovely f Baltimore. Two daughters, later two sons-in-law and six eir lives with joy. Conference thirteen years in the Rural seven years in Baltimore City

5, "Do your best to present e approved, a workman who shamed, rightly handling the re words Ben Denton lived by. emphasis on his preaching red a "strong Bible Preacher," le of all ages and was in turn hundreds of cards he received

ed to help others. He was a approximately eighteen years, for the Maryland State Police,

owson, Maryland in 1941, got sistory and became a Shriner orial messages at the Temples

8, he served Towson United h. While visiting his daughter anuary 11. Even while hospital- act with him, affecting their 1 6, Ben went on to meet his

March 9, prior to the funeral Bayley Jones and Clarence L. In addition to his daughters, s D. Ittner of Baltimore, he is ildren. Roberta passed on in ithout an anchor." Despite his

ry, his people and his family. made a lasting impression on is memory, both in Maryland Ben Denton.

DORIS D. ITTNER

PAUL H. GROSECLOSE

On June 11, 1906, the Lord blew breath into the being of Paul H. Groseclose, son of William S. and Lillian Hicks Groseclose. Born to a humble beginning near Marion, Virginia, Paul quickly learned what it was to sacrifice, to be without. But his Christian upbringing helped him to walk closely with the Lord, which culminated in his ordination in October, 1936.



On August 6, 1935, Paul and Virginia Vawter were united in matrimony. Virginia was an able and valuable assistant during his entire ministry. From this wedlock came three fine sons: William, Keith, and Douglas.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Paul labored hard as Conference Secretary from 1956-1964.

But Paul's successful ministry was abruptly curtailed as he was suddenly stricken with rheumatoid arthritis on June 30, 1964. He was one of two patients in medical history with arthritis of the heart, lungs, and spinal cord, which finally forced him into disability leave in June, 1966.

Small in stature, Paul was great in character. Refusing to be a "Yes Man", he made rigid decisions based on the Christian principles which he so forcefully proclaimed. Paul was a man of integrity, a man of compassion, a man of friendliness, a man who never met a stranger. But what truly exemplified Paul the best was his unwavering courage and unwavering faith, for his affliction tested him as few of us will ever be tested. Yet in the midst of his discomfort and pain, Paul never once complained or became embittered, but always maintained his feeling of joy as he trusted in the Lord. His many physicians and specialists acknowledged that it was only Paul's strong faith which kept him alive and so amazingly active. A lesser man could not have endured.

On April 8, 1975, as his bodily functions ceased, God's great servant, Paul H. Groseclose, made a final claim upon the rich, eternal promises of Jesus Christ.

KENNETH C. HAMRICK