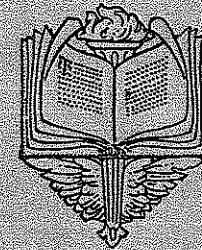


Commission On Archives And History
The United Methodist Church

MINUTES
OF THE
FORTY-SECOND SESSION
WESTERN NORTH
CAROLINA CONFERENCE
METHODIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH, SOUTH



CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH
ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

1931

He came to school regardless of weather or roads, helped the younger students in crowded times, and even was taken into confidence, as few students are, with reference to the moral conduct of the student body. After that, just a few years, I turned from teaching to the full work of the ministry, where I found myself happy, and I was not in the least surprised when I learned that Dwight was following the same call, 'Come and follow me.'

A memoir of Dwight would be incomplete if in it we failed to mention his life in the home and his entire unselfish devotion to his parents, brother and sisters. Just two weeks prior to his death he was with home-folks, seemingly in perfect health, and there never was a time that he seemed to enjoy being at home quite so much.

Dwight was born in Davie County, N. C., March 21, 1886. His parents, Richard Jesse Brown and Mary Jane Bowles Brown, belong to the substantial citizenship of that section and were members of the Methodist Church. In this environment Dwight spent his childhood and youth, united with the church, felt an early call to the ministry, attended the community schools and later Weaver College.

Brother Brown joined the Conference at High Point in 1912. His appointments were as follows: 1913-14, Mt. Holly; 1915, McAdenville; 1916, student in Candler School of Theology, Atlanta, Ga.; 1917, Chadwick, Charlotte; 1918-21, Belwood Circuit; 1922-25, West End, Gastonia; 1926-27, Weaverville Station; 1928-31, Proximity, Greensboro. He was a member of the Junior Order and in Masonry a Scottish Rite, Royal Arch and a member of the Shrine.

Dwight Brown was a devoted follower of his Lord and Master and in many ways was like him. He was like him in being a lover of little children, of the fields and flowers, and of the sunset and the stars. He was like him in overlooking the faults in others and in his ability to see the best in men. He was like him in his habit of prayer. In his diary which he had been keeping for the last year there appears almost a constant repetition of the sentence, "The day was begun by reading God's Word and prayer and was closed in the same way." Like his Lord, he was constantly eager to complete in the best manner possible the task assigned to him. His dear wife gives us a glimpse of the man's zeal when she writes: "The week before his death, I plead with Dwight to take some time for rest. The fall revival was to begin in a few days and he was visiting constantly inviting people to the services. The heat was intense that week and I saw that he was overtaxing his strength. Even at the noon hour he was seeing people and told me he didn't have time to rest."

With rare insight and beauty his presiding elder, W. A. Newell in the funeral service said, "The angels must teach him to rest. He had forgotten self so long that he was never able to take thought of self. In these last weeks he often stopped at my home and told me that he must make a change this year and that he preferred a lighter work. This had been arranged for him and to his entire satisfaction. But his appointment was in other hands. He would not have chosen the time of his going for his times were in God's hands, but the manner of his going was in accordance with his soul's desires. He passed this way at mid morning with his armor on. One clear call and he beheld his Master's face. He needs no witness, but every one in the world who knew him knows where he is and the way to the place of his abode."

On the 27th day of October, 1926, he was happily married to Miss

Anna Mae Fuller of Raeford, N. C. These two walked the shining way without a shadow, and those five short years were the most beautiful of the forty-five of his earthly sojourn. Between him and his wife there were at all times a deep devotion and a thorough understanding. Their happiness was complete. Their lives were together blended in the life of their Master, and their greatest joy was to do His will. It was one of their dreams to visit together the land where our Saviour dwelt in the flesh and where a former visit of Dwight's had been a perpetual inspiration to him.

In the presence of a tragedy like this which tears asunder two hearts and lives of so great devotion, human understanding staggers and earthly wisdom grows silent. To attempt to explain is but the chattering of a magpie. Yet love is stronger than death and the broken life that abides on the shores of time will stagger on toward the gates of the Celestial City.

A. W. PLYLER.

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REV. H. H. JORDAN

Henry Harrison Jordan, eldest son of Miles C. and Lucy Edwards Jordan, was born in Iredell county August 14, 1862. He grew to manhood during that period immediately following the Civil War, when the country schools were inadequate and general conditions so adverse that only a limited few were able to secure more than a common school education. Despite his limitations he had such a thirst for knowledge that he made the most of the meagre school facilities of the countryside, read such books as he could secure and remembered what he read, so that by the time he reached his majority he was well informed and gifted in speech with an ambition to make the most of himself.

He read law under Major Harvey Bingham of Statesville, secured his license in September, 1888, and located in Mooresville to practice law. It was there that I first knew him.

While his parents were Baptists he was converted under the preaching of Rev. W. M. Bagby on Statesville circuit and joined the Methodist church in which he was an active worker when he came to Mooresville and proved to be a capable teacher in the Sunday school, of which I was then the superintendent, and later in 1890 he succeeded me in that office. He was a frequent and welcome visitor to our home and it was there he met a charming young lady, Miss Annie Sellars of Burlington, who was our house guest, with whom he fell in love and they were married February 17, 1891, and for full forty years she was his devoted helpmeet and home keeper until his decease May 2, 1931. Heeding the call to preach he forsook the law for the gospel, was licensed to preach and received on trial into the Western North Carolina Conference in November, 1891.

He soon grew into a popular preacher and filled the following appointments in the order mentioned, covering a period of thirty-eight years: Lenoir Circuit, Ramseur, Mocksville, Henrietta, Kernersville, Walkertown, Marion, Morganton, Gastonia, Monroe, Shelby District, Hickory, and last, Coburn Memorial, Salisbury; and while on this charge his health failed and at the Conference of 1929 was granted the superannuate relation.

He served the four year term in six out of the thirteen fields of his activity, and to any one of the others he would have been welcomed back for the full quadrennium.

Brother Jordan was a consecrated Christian, warm-hearted with loving social graces, interested in everybody and loved by little children, by young people and old people.

He was what we call an all round minister, but first of all an earnest gospel preacher with the evangelistic note prominent in all his ministry. He believed in a real heaven and a real hell and pleaded with sinners to forsake the evil and give their hearts to Christ. He was not a narrow sectarian for he loved all people, but he had deep convictions and believed with all his soul in the doctrines and polity of Methodism, and he preached sound doctrine to the edification of believers and the conversion of sinners and backsliders, and many were added to the church in every charge he served.

He was a house to house pastor and knew his people intimately and knew how to unite his forces for every forward movement. His practical knowledge of business was a great help in raising money to pay church debts and to build churches and parsonages.

He was a patron of education and encouraged the young to go to college, and it is said that he directed more young people to Trinity College than any other pastor in the state. For fifteen years he was chairman of the board of trustees of Rutherford College, and in several crises in the history of that school it was his faith and resourceful leadership that kept its doors open for students. On account of ill health he finally gave up the chairmanship and then they honored him with the position of chairman emeritus.

He was also for some years chairman of the Conference Board of Education and retired from that position, being no longer eligible because of his appointment as presiding elder.

When they organized the Pastors' School at Duke University he was a director from our Conference and never missed a meeting of the Board nor failed to attend a session of the summer school until prevented by physical illness.

He stood high with his brethren, was influential in shaping Conference policies and was a delegate to the General Conference of 1922. He possessed native intellect of high quality and his mental vigor steadily increased through constant exercise, for he was a diligent student. He made friends by being friendly and held them constant as with hooks of steel. His influence over young people was great and he inspired many of them to make the most of life. As he had a passion for knowledge and often studied far into the night, he was not content without quickening the ambition of youth to push forward in search of wisdom and truth.

He was fortunate in his marriage and happy in his domestic life. The Christian virtues were beautifully exemplified in his home, for there the very atmosphere was saturated with the spirit of love. He was a devoted husband and a wise and gentle father. He and his faithful wife succeeded in bringing to maturity a well trained group of children who honor their parents and fear the Lord. There are four sons: B. E. Jordan, in business in Alamance; Dr. Henry W., a dentist in Belmont; Chas. E., a lawyer officially connected with Duke University, and Frank B., who this year received the B.D. degree from Duke and will join the Western North Carolina Conference at this session. Then there are two daughters: Mrs. J. O. Taylor of Mount Croghan, S. C., and Mrs. H. C. Sprinkle, Jr., of Nashville, Tenn., gentle and cultured Christian women.

For two years prior to his death he was a great sufferer and for many months was a patient in the Duke Hospital in Durham, where he died

last May 2; but in his affliction he was patient and full of faith.

He lived wisely and to noble purpose and made the world better by the work he did and the example he set. When the last messenger came there was no fear, for a sure confidence filled his heart with the peace which passeth understanding, and thus he entered into that rest which remaineth to the people of God.

The funeral and burial service was at Burlington, conducted by his close friends, Dr. C. C. Weaver and Rev. H. C. Sprinkle, assisted by Rev. L. D. Hayman of Burlington. The honorary pallbearers were Doctors W. P. Few, R. L. Flowers, W. H. Wannamaker, H. E. Myers, H. E. Spence and J. M. Ormond of Duke University, and W. A. Lambeth and W. A. Stanbury of Durham.

The active pallbearers were W. E. Whitfield, Harold Groce, Herbert Minga, J. G. Wilkinson, Chas. P. Bowles and A. C. Waggoner, all graduates of the Duke University School of Religion. The funeral service was simple and beautiful and the abundant floral offerings expressed the love and sympathy of many friends.

Ever since we first met in Mooresville in our young manhood there has existed between Brother Jordan and myself a friendship which the years have not dimmed, and his departure brings sorrow to my heart. May the Lord whom he served give comfort to and ever keep secure the stricken widow and children.

WILLIAM L. SHERRILL.

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REV. ELMER SIMPSON

Rev. Elmer Simpson, who died July 28, 1931, at his home in Dobson, following a paralytic stroke, April 3, 1931, was born at Liberty Town, Maryland, May 31, 1861. He was the son of Richard W. and Julia Hammond Simpson. He received the A.B. degree from New Windsor College, New Windsor, Maryland, and the B.D. degree from Westminster Theological Seminary, at Westminster, Maryland. He had been in the active ministry forty years, having been a member of the Western North Carolina Conference for the past twenty years. Those who survive are his wife, who was Miss Lula Virginia Peerman, of Altavista, Virginia; one daughter, Mrs. Julia S. Shafer; two sons, Rev. Oscar L. Simpson, of Nashville, Tennessee, and Elmer M. Simpson.

Concerning the passing of this noble man from the ranks of service in the Conference, it may be said that a good man, a faithful pastor, and a strong preacher of the gospel has gone.

It is an engaging thought that such men as Chaucer, Goldsmith, and Fielding have commemorated in literature the "good man of religion"—the true pastor, and that their words show not mere conventionality, or visionary idealism, but rather personal admiration and reverence. It may be said with certainty of Rev. Elmer Simpson,

"A good man was ther of religioun.

But Cristes loore and his Apostles twelve,
He taughte, but first he folwed it hymselfe."

And it may further be said that—

"A man he was to all the country dear."

The many people whom he served during the long years of his ministry are witnesses to these facts. An old man who had lived next door to him for over three years had this to say: "Mr. Simpson's life causes me to