

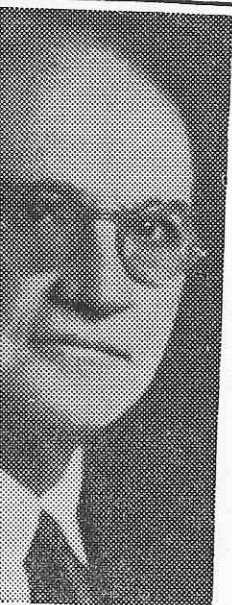
MINUTES
OF THE
FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
Baltimore Annual Conference
OF THE
METHODIST CHURCH



held at
MT. VERNON PLACE METHODIST CHURCH
Baltimore, Maryland
June 2-4, 1943

Adopted by the Conference as its Official Record

BISHOP FRANCIS J. McCONNELL	- - - - -	President
WILLIAM F. WRIGHT	- - - - -	Secretary
HAROLD A. BOSLEY	- - - - -	Conference Host



Greystone Studios, Inc.

ing Bishop
J. McCONNELL

osen of God. He called them to
h the Gospel; with the dreams
and eternity; with a sense of
wn; and with the responsibility
Kingdom of God might find a
n be bestowed upon them than
ministry. Weary and way-worn
they shall see from a farther
whose dream they carried in
me at last to the City that hath
od and the Lamb are in it, for
in their foreheads. They walk
light of the sun; for the Lord
rever and ever."

o ways. Backward in respect
enge to the living. It is now
ss and the glory of our high-
f dreams and deeds, and far-
se who led us along the way,
ly bow. The hope of the ages
If the vision is sustained, the
ter, hope shall come to full
p the faith we shall see the
m God, out of Heaven, and a
ng fashioned before our very

summons us to high and holy
y City, based on the words:
d he shall dwell with them,
shall be with them, and be
from their eyes." Brooding
e land, his imagination sees
k alone:

me
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s seen?

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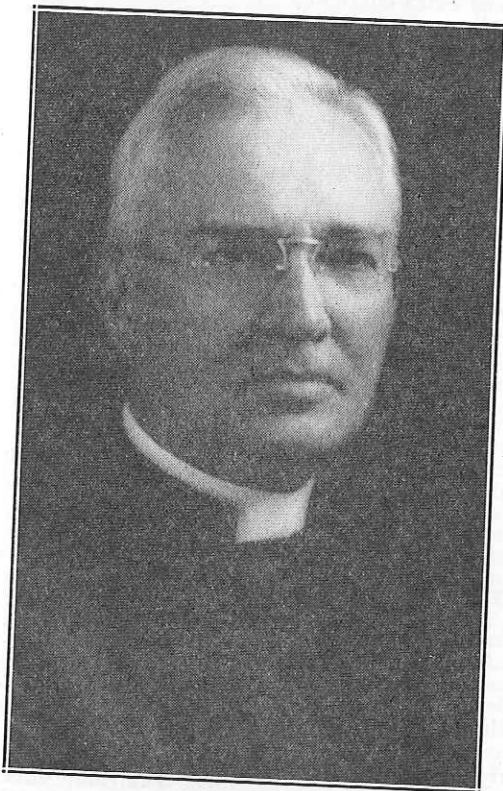
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BISHOP ADNA WRIGHT LEONARD



The Baltimore Annual Conference of the Methodist Church takes this means of writing into its records the passing of its late and lamented Presiding Bishop, Adna Wright Leonard.

The incredible accident which caused his death occurred while Bishop Leonard was in the line of duty. He would have died in no other way. He could have died in no other way.

This record which we now make is for history, not for us. We who knew him need no memorial of him to keep alive his personality. His life was so distinctive and his influence so marked that the memory of him is a perpetual possession for all of us.

Bishop Leonard has left his impress because he was for us a living example of so many desirable attributes. We name, among others, the following:

1. His consecration to Christ and to his Church. There is no doubt that Bishop Leonard's basic belief was personal regeneration. There can be little doubt that he believed that the doctrine of regeneration would most effectively proceed from the organism of the Methodist Church. He loved the Methodist Church and matched his love with a loyalty that never had exception. While this did not prevent him from participation in interdenominational life, none the less he was not only Methodism's staunch defender, he was her ardent crusader.

His influence in this regard has already been felt. His example will perpetually live with us.

2. His industry. Bishop Leonard was one of the most indefatigable workers American Methodism has ever produced. If Ruskin's statement that the mark of the educated man is "not only to be industrious, but to love industry" then it may be observed that Bishop Leonard has earned in this regard his Bachelor's, Master's and Doctor's degree.

We who were ministers under his episcopacy knew that he expected us to be industrious too. We had no hesitancy in responding to this appeal. His own example was too clear, too potent. Can there be contradiction to the statement that the tempo of the routine of every one of us has been accelerated as a result of his episcopal leadership?

In this regard it may again be said that his influence has already been felt. His example will perpetually live with us.

3. His orderliness. Bishop Leonard's industry was not a case of undirected activity. The amount of work which he undertook was amazing. The orderliness with which he performed it was as astounding. His per-

sonal appearance gave indication of that sense of order which characterized his conduct of a conference, the organization of his daily routine, the performance of both his curricular and extra-curricular episcopal activities.

Again, no sensitive soul can have come under his leadership without recognizing the gains resulting from a more definitely organized daily routine and dedication to specific objectives.

Here again his influence has already been felt. His example will perpetually live with us.

4. His obedience to duty. What a constant drive that was in his life! It drove him into the serving of the church. It drove him throughout his ministerial career. It drove him into death—which is not death but eternal life. It may seem that duty was a stern task-master: it cost him his life. Yet to affirm such a statement would be to deny what we all know was central in his life philosophy, viz, it is better to die nobly than to live carelessly.

Need any of us a memorial of this fact? His influence has already been felt. His example will perpetually live with us.

We continue to pray for God's richest blessing upon Mrs. Leonard and the other loved ones who must continue to mourn his loss while they maintain their pride in the nobility of his life.

F. G. HOLLOWAY,
F. R. BAYLEY,
CHESTEEN SMITH.

ROBERT EDWARD BENSON

Robert Edward Benson was born at Black Rock, Maryland, March 24, 1865, and passed to his reward June 25, 1942. The funeral services were conducted by Dr. J. Franklin Haas, Minister of the First Methodist Church of Baltimore, in which Brother Benson held his Quarterly Conference membership and where he served faithfully for eleven years as the teacher of the Men's Bible Class.

Brother Benson was married to Emma Lovenia Morris at Freeland, Maryland, July 1899, who, along with three sons, Francis, Paul and Mark, and two daughters, Mrs. Eugene Bruns and Mrs. Robert Labe, all of Baltimore, and nine grandchildren, survive him.

Brother Benson entered the ministry in 1894, was ordained a Deacon in 1896, and an Elder in 1900. He was retired in 1914 but was returned to the active ministry in 1920, serving thereafter for a period of nine years at Back River, Phoenix and Great Falls. The twenty years before retirement were given to faithful and rewarding service in Parkton, Brunswick, Williamsport, Eilerslie, Calvert Circuit, Exeter, Urbana, Winfield and Chestnut Ridge.

Brother Benson was a modest, unassuming man, with a gracious, reverent and helpful spirit. With limited formal education, Brother Benson "kept himself on the line of discovery" as Morley said of Gladstone, and thus achieved an insight into the Scriptures and life quite beyond many with greater educational opportunity. Dr. Benson set out at the beginning of his ministry to do the will of God and he faithfully maintained that attitude throughout his whole ministerial career.



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