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Eastern Pennsylvania Conference The United Methodist Church



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JOURNAL

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In the course of a long, active ministry, Leroy served in various other ways. He was President of the Lehigh Valley Ministerium Leadership School, 1936-38; Dean of the Methodist Leadership School, 1945-47; Sub-District Counsellor Methodist Youth Fellowship, N.W. District 1958-60. He served on the Social Service and Peace Commission 1941-51 (as President in 1941-1942); was a member of the Committee on Ministerial Relations and General Qualifications, 1944-57; Board of Directors, Conference Education Society, 1951. He was a member of the Fraternal Order of Masons, Harmony Lodge, Masonic Temple, Philadelphia.

In every financial drive and apportionment fixed by the Annual Conference, Leroy's churches always met their quotas in full. The most important fact, however, is that he was the full time, devoted pastor to whatever church he was appointed. His goal was to visit every member at least once a year, and of course in times of sickness, death or other problems, this care was greatly extended. Much time was spent on sermon preparation, also, with careful research for good illustrations. He never used notes in the pulpit. Someone called him a "preacher's preacher," though certainly his main goal was achieved in communication with his members in the pews.

A keen interest in the world-at-large, a love of books, hobbies including gardening, playing the piano and baking, helped to make his life a full one. As he grew older, he expressed a reluctance to see the end of "The Great Adventure" of life. His last year, however was one of increasing pain and distress, and at the end, death came as a friend.

Leroy died on December 1, 1979, having reached the age of 90 on November 18th. Dr. Claude Edmonds, District Superintendent, spoke at the service, which was held at Mt. Carmel Church, and conducted by the pastor, Rev. Stanley Krall. Many testimonials were given by ministers and lay persons who had been supported and touched by his ministry. This, after all, had been his main purpose—"to help."

The burial took place at Cheltenham Hills Cemetery in Philadelphia. Leroy is survived by a brother, J. Hiatt; two daughters, Dorothy H. Ewing and Mrs. Joseph W. (Eleanor L.) Bond; two sons, Warren G. and John T.; six grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

—Dorothy H. Ewing

MILLARD RAYMOND MEREDITH

Millard Raymond Meredith was born January 4, 1898, in Chester, Pennsylvania, the son of John and Mary Meredith. He received his early education in the Chester school system. In May 1927 he graduated from The Lancaster Theological Seminary, after which he attended Crozier Theological Seminary for further studies and preparation for the ministry. He was ordained a deacon in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on March 25, 1928, and ordained a minister on March 12, 1930 in the Philadelphia Conference.

As a young man he had felt the call to serve the Lord, and his interest in the activities of the Methodist Church in his community in Linwood, Pennsylvania, led to his becoming superintendent of the Sunday School, and he served in that capacity for several years. After leaving high school, while working at jobs to support himself, he enrolled in a correspondence course with Moody Bible Institute and became a lay minister. It was at this time, in 1923, he received his first assignment from the Conference, Fremont Circuit. At the time there were five churches on the circuit and he travelled from church to church by horse and wagon to preach God's Word. He also served as a lay minister in the churches in the Safe Harbor Circuit from 1924 until 1926, and Elverson and Mt. Carmel in 1926 and 1927. After his ordination, as deacon, and as minister, he served the following churches: Schuylkill Haven (1928-1929); Hopewell (1929-1931); Lima (1931-1933); Lehighton (1933-1934); Wind Gap (1934-1939); Hulmeville (1939); Mountain Home (1940-1944); in Philadelphia, at Siloam (1947-1949), Devereaux (1949-1954), and Tioga (1954-1956); in Steelton (1956-1958); Shenandoah (1958-1962); Minersville (1962).



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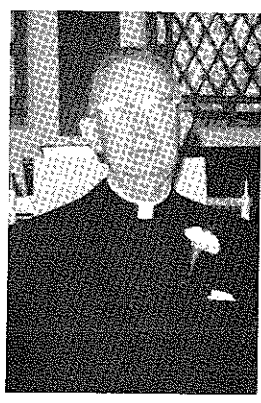
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His activities outside the church were few. He gave his life to the Lord and his time was involved with his congregations and visiting the sick and disabled.

In July 1919 he married Anna L. Reese. They had two sons, one of whom died at 14 years of age. He is survived by a son, Robert W. Meredith, of Toms River, New Jersey, and a grandson, William R. Meredith, of Miami, Florida. A sister, Dorothy Zerbe, of Media, Pennsylvania, also survives.

After his retirement in 1962, he and his wife lived in Folcroft, Pennsylvania and were members of the Prospect Park United Methodist Church. He continued to serve, after his retirement, as substitute minister in churches in the area whenever called upon. Finally, poor health forced him to give this up. After the death of his wife, on May 2, 1977, he moved into Simpson House of the United Methodist Church, in Philadelphia, where he spent his remaining years. He died on September 23, 1979 at the age of 81. The Rev. C. Lyle Thomas, District Superintendent of Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, and the Rev. Charles Malin, of Prospect Park United Methodist Church, officiated at his funeral and he was buried in Lawncroft Cemetery, Linwood, Pennsylvania.

—Robert W. Meredith

J. B. DEAVER COOKE

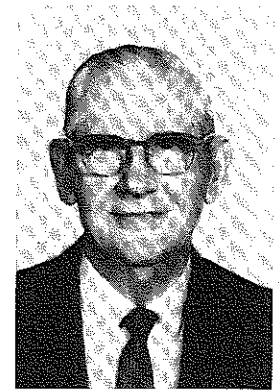
J. B. Deaver Cooke was born in Philadelphia, Pa. on November 11, 1901, the son of Thomas Roland Cooke and Ida Louise Gifford. His family moved to a small farm in Chester County when he was 7. His early education was therefore obtained in country schools. At age 14 while plowing a field on the family farm, he experienced God's overwhelming presence and knew his life would be dedicated to His service.

He attended nearby Lincoln University as a day student receiving his A.B. degree in 1924. His master's degree in history of religion was obtained from the University of Pennsylvania in 1933. He pursued theological studies at Princeton Theological Seminary, Temple University School of Theology and Philadelphia Divinity School.

After teaching school for four years, he entered the ministry in the Philadelphia Conference in the class of 1929. His appointments were 1928, Church of the Redeemer, Phila (S); 1929, Cornwells Heights; 1931, Elam; 1933, Lima; 1937, Windsor Street, Reading; 1942, Cookman, Phila; 1945, Sabbatical; 1946, Voluntary Location. In 1965 he returned to the ministry as assistant at Lima until 1973. His Charge Conference relationship was at Drexel Hill. Interested always in helping people develop spiritually, he published a book on preaching and several monographs about how to implement small study groups.

His marriage at an early age to Elizabeth (Brinton) ended in 1946. In 1951 he was married to Margaret Clark and since 1966 their home has been at 153 Blanchard Road, Drexel Hill, Pa.

Increasing disability since 1975 from a Parkinsonian-like disease curtailed his activity. Although he was able to enjoy many things, it saddened him that he could not talk with people as his speech was affected. He died at Delaware County Memorial Hospital on March 24, 1980 after one week of illness diagnosed the day of admission as pneumonia and acute leukemia. According to his wishes his body was given to the Humanity Gifts Registry. A memorial service of celebration was held at the Lima United Methodist Church on Palm Sunday with the following pastors participating: Jack Gilbert, Benjamin O. Gould, George Hewitt and Bruce Ogilivie, lay person. Mr. Gould in his message said: "There was no doubt about this warm hearted son of Wesley. He was no ball of fire, but within his heart there burned a steady flame. He had an easy way with people—a real love for them, young and old alike. He was a friend to all, reliable and steady, ready to every good work, for he was moved with compassion like the one whom he followed faithfully as Lord."



—Margaret Cooke