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1987 OFFICIAL JOURNAL

Southwest Texas Conference

The United Methodist Church

18th SESSION - - - 1970 - 1987

One Hundred Twenty - Ninth Session

of

Methodist Conferences

in

Southwest Texas

1858 - 1987

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
AND BAYFRONT PLAZA CONVENTION CENTER
Corpus Christi, Texas

Edited by
David A. Seilheimer

C. MEANS

was born in White, S.D., May 7 1907. Daughter of
rel Christensen. Graduated from White, S.D. High

she was a unique gift of God. One of the trade
ness wa a great loyalty to her Danish roots and
friends. A trademark of her unique life was her
g a homemaker. On the day before her death, on
e directed the cooking of the Christmas dinner
her trade mark of her life, was her loyalty to the
as a loyal member of the LeGrand Smith Circle.
ither, and regular attender in worship. In early
unday School Teacher of Sixth Graders, that any
delighted in. She would spend 4 to 5 days
xth Graders.

t Church, and was always active in the life of the
ans) served. She loved Church School work, the
community work. Esther was married to Rev. C.
er 26, 1986 at her home in San Antonio, after a
emorial Service was held at Travis Park United
with Rev. Malford Hierholzer, Dr. Ralph H. Seiler,
one officiating. She was devout Christian, faithful
ne who knew her.

EEVES

of the late Walter T. and Lena Milam Reeves,
y 6, 1906, and was brought up in Tupelo,
er was District Lay Leader of the now Tupelo
hodist Church. Rev. Reeves graduated from
tute in May 1921. He then enrolled at Emory
y 1922, where he was Captain of the R.O.T.C.;
; Sigma Nu; Pan-Hellenic Council; Owls; Alpha
olarship). B.A. cum laude, Summer 1925. Rev.
arlington School for Boys, in (Rome, Georgia)
ended Princeton Theological Seminary, 1926-29
time he was Pastor of the Congregational
Center, Vt. in the summer of 1927. In May 1928-
Assistant Minister and Youth Director, of the
Church in Trenton, N.J. He was admitted on trial
ethodist Conference, in November 1929, he
er 1931.. He was ordained elder in November
mber 1942, when he accepted an invitation to
veled in the United States and aboard with the
(Rev. Reeves received the Key to the City of
play in January 1948); Jotham Valley; The
is So Startling. Rev. Reeves then joined the
p Island, Michigan, he served there from July
s School of Theology until 1969. Rev. Reeves
also serving as associate minister of Laurel
9-71. Milam Reeves was minister of the United
as, while Teaching Bible History at Victoria
y 29, 1978.

Rev. Reeves served in the Mississippi Conference at the following churches: Beauregard Circuit;
Pearl River Avenue, McComb; Lena Circuit; Sumrall; State Line and Bicatanna; Taylorsville Circuit.

DR. L. U. SPELLMAN



Louis Uhland Spellman (L.U.) was born to Earnest and his wife,
Caroline Glimp Spellman, on March 2, 1889, in DeWitt County near
Old Rocky. L.U. married Laura Smith of Smiley in October of 1915.
They had two sons, Louis Uhland, Jr. and Norman Woods Spellman,
both of whom have distinguished careers in business and
education.

Louis Uhland Spellman is the third generation of a renowned
German family which began when Franz Heinrich Spellman, born in
Backhorst, Germany and at age 20, like Abraham, he felt a call to a
new country - America. He sent his sister to their cousin, Anna
Mogaretta Michel, "Franz wants to marry you", she said to Anna.
"So,--to whom?" "To you, if you will have him." They were married
September 15, 1850, and a few weeks later landed at old Indianola,
on the Texas Coast. Thus was the a beginning of one of the
greatest of the German immigrant families who settled in South
Texas. This union of Franz and Anna some generations later now numbers above four hundred. A
few years after arriving in Texas the Spellman clan settled on clear Creek between Smiley and
Yorktown. Franz Spellman, apart from tending his small plot of land at Old Rocky, was also a
Colporter, and he traveled the countryside distributing bibles and tracts.

Louis was converted to Christianity in early childhood in his home. He joined the Rocky Methodist
Church in Gonzales County in July 1900. He attended Southwestern University and Southern
Methodist School of Theology. He received Bachelor of Arts from Southwestern University in 1915.
Bachelor of Divinity from Southern Methodist University in 1923, a Doctor of Divinity from McMurray
College in 1937 and Doctor of Laws from Southwestern University in 1945.

L.U. Spellman had four sisters and five brothers. L.U. was the one singled out in his family to be a
preacher. This was an old custom of early families--to give at least one son to the ministry.

Dr. Spellman was licensed to preach in 1910 in Cuero District of the West Texas Conference. He
was admitted on trial in 1915 in the San Angelo District of the West Texas Conference. He was
admitted in full connection in 1917 in Corpus Christi in the Southwest Texas Conference by Bishop
Mouzon.

Soon after he was licensed L.U. returned to Old Rocky school house to preach his first sermon. His
brother, Christian, describes the first sermon: "All the Spellman children journeyed by wagon to a
barbecue in a Live Oak grove near Nopal. I was sure Elmer, a mere lad, was led into sin by gus
Hattenbad and in a secluded nook partook of a cigarette. His depravity was seen and noted by L.U.
though no word was spoken. However, while he, L.U. mused, the fire burned. It became as a
burning flame whilst we were on the slow journey home. The philippic was well conceived. First
came the bold accusation as from Nathan to David and then the fiery denunciation as per Amos on
the temple steps at Bethel. Then came the comprehensive treatment on the effects of tobacco, on
the physical and moral fiber of its victim. There came then the masterly summation. Here were
pictured two pathways; one of which led to a life of integrity and honor, the other to infamy and
shame. His eyes shining with a greenish light, he looked upon the...object of his philippic and said
'it's up to you, you can take either road.' Truly prophet, sinner and clown rode together that day and
now I know not why my voice was raised in ribald laughter throughout".

Such was typical of every member of the Ernest Spellman children. Although L.U. was the only
college graduate, all of them --Christian, Paul, Elmer, Bertha, etc., were people of great wisdom and
would that space permit a full profile of a true Spellman: anecdotal, great sense of humor, solid

citizens. L.U. epitomizes the great number of Germans who have given such strength to Methodism in the Southwest.

L.U. and Laura served Provident City, Nursery and Yorktown Circuits; Mercedes-LaFeria; Midland; Robstown; South Bluff, Corpus Christi; First Church, San Angelo; University Church, Austin; First Church, Seguin; and as Superintendent of five Districts--Uvalde, Corpus Christi, San Angelo, San Antonio and Kerrville.

Dr. Spellman was a delegate to General Conference many times. He served on the Board of Trustees at Southwestern University. He served on numerous General and Conference Boards and Agencies. Dr. L.U. Spellman was one of the original singers of the Texas Methodist Foundation Charter, dated April 5th, 1938.

Dr. Spellman died April 11, 1987, and was buried from First Church, Seguin, with Bishop Eugene Slater and Rev. Bill Huth conducting the last rite. He was buried alongside his wife in the Spellman Cemetery in dewitt County just a few miles from where he was born.

These lines were found in the old Bible of Grandmother Anna and best describes the life of L.U. Spellman, "as for me and my house we will serve the Lord".

DR. SPENCER STOCKWELL



Dr. Spencer Stockwell, administrator of the Methodist Mission Home from 1956 to 1974, died July 26, 1986 in Denver Colorado. Memorial services were held July 28th at the Good Shephard United Methodist Church in Denver and he was buried alongside his wife in Oklahoma City. Dr. Stockwell came to the Mission Home from New Orleans in 1956 where he had been director of a Maternity Home. He was the first professional in the field of social service to lead the Mission Home. He was a graduate of Tulane University with a Masters degree in Social Work. During his years of leadership he installed a system in keeping with the best of social services. He also qualified the home as an Adoption Agency. He will best be remembered for his great love for the work of the Mission Home. He came from a family of dedicated workers, a brother was a missionary in China; a brother serving in South America who became a bishop. One of the outstanding legacies Dr. Stockwell will be remembered for was the thousands of babies adopted into homes of so many grateful parents. He is fondly remembered by so many. Also, Dr. Stockwell was the inspiration to re-locate the Mission home from the old site on 9th street to the 20-acre campus at the edge of the city plus leading out in a seven-building campus with facilities for a hundred girls at a cost of \$1,250,000.00. Dr. Stockwell retired in 1974 and made his home in San Antonio until the death of his wife two years ago. He then moved to Denver, Colorado to live in a Retirement Home and to be closer to his son and brother.



Rev. Wattlely was ma
in 1980. Rev. Wattlely

Warner Santford Ode
on September 11,
Oklahoma. He met M

He was described as
in the depression, a r
Oklahoma, California
Sweet, Idaho from 19
Trinity when Warren
Rochelle for the servi
Idaho conference, as
eleven years he has b
One of his major inte
He was always conce
was committed to his

He is survived by his
William Odell of Willi
Emmett, Idaho; four g