

MINUTES  
OF THE  
ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY-SECOND ANNUAL SESSION  
(Twenty-seventh Annual Session Since the Uniting Conference)  
OF  
THE BALTIMORE ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
OF  
THE METHODIST CHURCH



held at  
METROPOLITAN MEMORIAL CHURCH  
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY  
WESLEY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
June 8-12

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*Adopted by the Conference as its Official Record*

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BISHOP FRED G. HOLLOWAY - - - - - Presiding  
HAROLD B. WRIGHT - - - - - Secretary  
HURST R. ANDERSON, EDWARD G. LATCH  
and NORMAN L. TROTT - - - - - Conference Hosts

## KEMP DUDLEY SWECKER

Kemp Dudley Swecker, a faithful servant of God, was born on July 19, 1878, to Christopher S. Swecker and Nebraska D. Swecker in Dunmore, West Virginia, Pocahontas County.



Converted as a mere boy, under the preaching of C. W. McNeil, he displayed early in his life a deep loyalty to Christ and His Church. Always responsive to the call to service, he was for nearly 20 years a steward in the Southern Methodist Church in Dunmore. At the age of 33, he received the call to preach. Thereupon he resigned his job as a rural mail carrier and, at half his former salary, he was appointed to his first charge, a circuit of nine churches. Beginning as an Approved Supply Pastor, he diligently pursued the Conference course of study and soon was ordained Elder.

Kemp D. Swecker was a faithful evangelist for Christ. Whenever he preached he challenged his congregations to Christian commitment. Most of the conversions of his ministry occurred during the Sunday morning services. His fervent evangelistic preaching was beautifully complemented by a kindly sense of humor and an always gentle demeanor.

In August of 1907, Miss Margaret B. Campbell of Highland County, Virginia, became his bride, and to this happy union three daughters were born. During the thirty-two years of active ministry, Mrs. Swecker was a faithful and devoted helpmate for her husband, capably assisting him in the discharge of his pastoral duties. After a sudden illness she died November 2, 1950, and was laid to rest in Dunmore, West Virginia.

Reminiscent of the historic Circuit Riders, Mr. Swecker traveled to his first appointments by horseback, leaving home before daylight and returning far into the night. During the rugged Allegheny winters, the food for his journey often froze in the saddle bags before it was eaten. The rigors of his early ministry brought on an incurable eye disease which made his later labors painful and difficult. But he always bore his affliction cheerfully and without complaint.

Mr. Swecker was an avid reader and a lover of sound learning. He appreciated the joys of rural life and experienced great satisfaction from gardening. As a pastor, he spread joy and good cheer among the Methodist people whom he served, a quality that endeared him to his several congregations. As a preacher, he faithfully proclaimed the Word of God as he understood it.

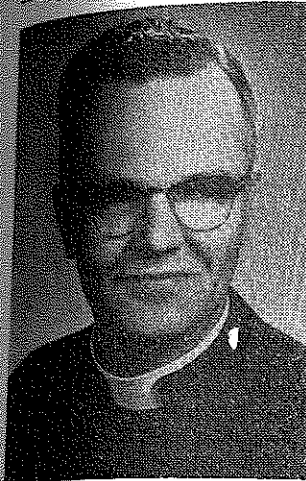
After retiring in 1949, he lived alternately with his two daughters until 1960 when, by reason of failing health, he entered the Valley View Nursing Home, near Middletown, Maryland.

Mr. Swecker died at the Valley View Nursing Home May 27, 1966. A funeral service was conducted by the Rev. Ralph M. Sharpe at the Etchison Funeral Home in Frederick, Maryland, on May 30, 1966. Graveside rites were conducted before interment at Dunmore, West Virginia, June 1, 1966.

CLARK S. AIST

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"Therefore, since we are through our Lord Jesus Christ, glory of God. More than that suffering produces endurance,



day of hers, they were married; their union were born two children: Dettmering, and W. Frank Wilson.

Wilber continued his education of Theology at Emory University and study at Drew University and Trial in the Kentucky Annual Conference as student pastor; and in 1935 as Elder. In 1940, he transferred Associate Minister of Mount Ve

From here, he entered the U.S. Army, 108th Medical Battalion, Service Plaque on June 14, 1945, months later. Wilber's Asiatic-Pacific Stars, and his Philippine Liberation completing his active duty, he retired until May, 1952.

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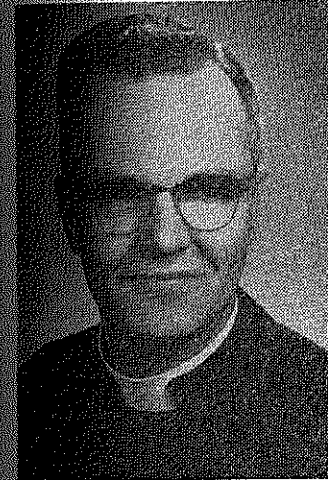
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### WILBER H. WILSON

"Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. We rejoice in our hope of sharing the glory of God. More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts."



On Thursday afternoon, March 3, 1966, climaxing long years of suffering, one of God's gentlest and most faithful servants entered his Father's house and following services conducted at University Methodist Church in College Park on March 7, his body was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery.

Born June 19, 1909 on a farm in Oxford, Nebraska, Wilber was one of three sons given to Raney C. Wilson and his wife, Ocie Collins Wilson. He received his early education in the public schools of Toledo, Ohio, and in 1928, entered Asbury College, where he studied from 1928 to 1933, except for a year spent at the University of Toledo. It was on Asbury's campus that he met and lost his heart to Nancy Knight; and a year after his graduation, and on the

day of hers, they were married in Asbury's Hughes Memorial Chapel. To her union were born two children, Nancy Caroline, now Mrs. Richard Batmaring, and W. Frank Wilson.

Wilber continued his education, receiving the B.D. from Candler School of Theology at Emory University in 1939, and doing subsequent graduate study at Drew University and at Princeton. He had been received on trial in the Kentucky Annual Conference in 1933, where he had served as a student pastor; and in 1935 and 1938, received ordination as Deacon and as Elder. In 1940, he transferred to the Baltimore Conference, serving as Associate Minister of Mount Vernon Place Church in Washington.

From here, he entered the U.S. Army, as Chaplain to the 33rd Infantry Division, 108th Medical Battalion. His Unit was awarded the Meritorious Service Plaque on June 14, 1945, to which was added a Bronze Star four months later. Wilber's Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon carried two Bronze Stars, and his Philippine Liberation Ribbon a single Bronze Star. After completing his active duty, he remained a member of the Army Reserve until May, 1952.

An accomplished artist and musician, Wilber was first of all a devoted servant of Jesus Christ, whose long suffering produced in him endurance; and endurance, character; and character, that hope which, we may be certain, did not disappoint, because God's love had been poured into his heart.