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THE METHODIST CHURCH

ONE HUNDRED TENTH SESSION

Held in

St. Paul's Methodist Church  
Green Bay, Wisconsin

Francis Foulke, Minister

MAY 31 - JUNE 3, 1956

William V. Stevens, Editor and Publisher

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Watertown, Wisconsin

being in charge of the Abrams congregation, where he began his ministry in 1890, for four years. Following that, he served on the staff of First Church, Waukesha as pastoral visitor.

Samuel Olson and Harriet Jane Ames were married at Mill Center, December 26, 1889. She passed away in January, 1940, and a daughter, Mrs. Laretta Frances Meekman, died in October, 1952.

Following his "second" retirement, Brother Olson lived with his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Rudolf Abel, in Waukesha, where his contagious faith and cheerful, winning personality, enriched the life of his church and community. He entered into the life immortal on November 25, 1955 after an illness of a number of weeks. Memorial services were held in the First Methodist Church, Waukesha, with Rev. William Blake, Rev. E. J. Mathews and Rev. K. D. Cannaday participating, November 28, with interment in West Lawn Memorial Park, Racine.

Survivors include one son, J. A. Olson, St. Paul, Minnesota, two daughters, Mrs. Ruth Beadle, Beaver Dam, and Mrs. Evelyn Abel, Waukesha; one sister, Mrs. Tilda Ambler, Minneapolis, Minnesota; four grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Through a childhood filled with hardships, Samuel Olson found his strength and his guidance in his inner experience with the living God, an experience that grew richer and more real with the passing of the years. It was his passion to share the secret of his victorious living with others, and his whole ministry found its center in this attempt. Church after church felt the spiritual force of his inspired leadership. He served, for the most part, in humble charges, but wherever he went, life was the richer for it. The light of his inner experience could not fail to light up other lives with its contagious influence. He was an inspiration and perpetual encouragement to the ministers who served as his pastors in retirement. In the pew, as the gospel was preached, his face glowed with the inner light, so that he drew forth from the ones speaking all that was best and holiest. The secret of his life can perhaps be best expressed in the verse of some unknown poet, lines which he copied down and cherished:

"I met with God,  
He took my hand,  
And softly said,  
'I understand.'

"I looked at Him,  
And then I knew  
That what He said  
Was really true.

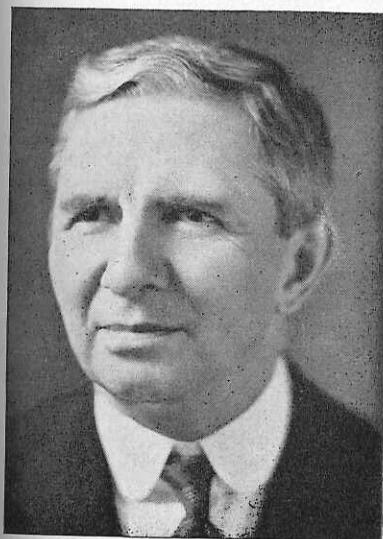
"There is no problem,  
Grief or care  
That can't be solved  
With God in prayer."

And his life was its demonstration.

#### FREDERICK J. TURNER

Frederick J. Turner was born in Brandon, Wis., July 18, 1880. His formal training was received in the Oshkosh High School, the Oshkosh Normal School (now Oshkosh State College) and the University of Wisconsin. His divinity school or professional training was

received in the Conference Course of Study.



Dr. Frederick J. Turner

Dr. Turner (he was honored with the degree of Doctor of Divinity by Lawrence College in 1939) was received on trial in the Wisconsin Annual Conference in 1905. Two years later he was ordained deacon and received into full connection, and in 1909, at Kenosha, he was ordained an elder by Bishop William F. McDowell.

Few members of the Conference have been as signally honored with positions of trust and responsibility as he. Twice he was elected to General Conference and several times was elected first alternate. He was first alternate to the uniting Conference in 1939, and, as such, delegate to the North Central Jurisdictional Conference. For 17 years, he was chairman of the Conference Relations Committee, where he guided the young ministers through the first few difficult years of their apprenticeship. While conference president of the Epworth League, he and Rev. E. M. Oliver initiated the young peoples' institute at Camp Byron. He served as Conference Treasurer, and was the youngest man in the Conference to be District Superintendent. Other positions of trust he held included membership on the board of Bellin Hospital, Wesley Foundation at the University of Wisconsin, and the Deaconess Board. Besides serving as District Superintendent of the Janesville District, he held the following pastorates: Crandon, Rosendale, Neenah, Sheboygan First, Beloit First, Wausau First, Racine First and Waukesha. While pastor at Beloit, that church became the first charge in the Conference to pass the 1,000 mark in membership.

As a young man, it was Dr. Turner's dream to enter missionary work in India, but mission board doctors ruled that his health was not equal to that rugged assignment, and he took up his ministry in this country. He served First Methodist Church, Waukesha from June 1940 until May 1944, when ill health, caused by the strain of overwork, made retirement advisable. He was called from the Church militant which he had served long and faithfully, to the Church triumphant on Sunday, June 26, 1955 after a period of illness.

Fred Turner was married to Frances Blaisdell at Rhinelander September 18, 1907, and she proved a loyal and able helpmate in the many tasks of the ministry that have a way of enlisting the whole paragon family. Mrs. Turner survives him, as does a daughter, Mrs. Dorothy Freiman of Waukesha, and two grandsons. A brother, William, of Brandon, also survives.

Services were held at Waukesha June 29, with Rev. William Blake and Rev. E. J. Mathews in charge, followed by interment in Highland Memorial Park.

Though Dr. Turner was honored, respected and trusted by his Conference as few Methodist ministers are, he would regard that as secondary. What mattered most was his holy calling and the Christian faith, the faith that reaches its climax in victory over death. His friend, Bishop Ralph S. Cushman, penned the lines that literally demand to be used as his requiem:

"What matters if one chapter nears the end?  
What matters if the silver deck the brow?  
Chanting I go  
Past crimson flaming  
From the autumn hills,  
Past winter's snow,  
To find that glad new chapter  
Where God's spring  
Shall lift its everlasting voice to sing."

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#### VICTOR THOMAS NEARHOOF

The Rev. Victor T. Nearhoof, pastor of the Methodist churches at Almond and Blaine, died in St. Luke's Hospital in Racine, on the 12th of December, 1955. He was serving the charge for the second year, when he was taken sick and had to go to the hospital.

He was born in Warrior's Mark, Pennsylvania, on the 11th of January, 1890. He held a Master's degree from Dickinson College and a Bachelor of Divinity degree from Garrett Biblical Institute.

Besides the Almond and Blaine churches, he served also the following: Epworth (Milwaukee), Sheboygan Falls, Oconto Falls, Manitowoc, Fond du Lac St. Matthews and North Fond du Lac, and Racine Trinity.

Memorial services were held in the Almond Methodist Church on the 17th of December, 1955, with the Rev. Alvin Lindgren officiating, assisted by the Rev. T. Parry Jones.

Surviving are his wife, three daughters: Miss Dona Joan Nearhoof, Mrs. Nance Winegarner, and Mrs. Emmagene Proost; one brother: Ernest; and two sisters: Mrs. George Peters and Mrs. James Oliver.

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#### HENRY JOHNSON

With the passing of Henry Johnson on April 11th, 1956, one of Wisconsin Methodism's own boys completed his long and illustrious career. Brother Johnson was one of God's noble men, born in Racine. A clear cut call to the ministry caused him to seek adequate preparation in Lawrence College, Garrett Biblical Institute, Boston University School of Theology, and a number of other institutions where he did graduate work. He earned the degrees of B.A., M.A., B.D., and S.T.D.

While in the East, he met Miss Lulu Jewell, a young woman from Wisconsin, who with an equally clear call to a Christian ministry of service was preparing herself to be a deaconess. They were married and returned to Wisconsin, to create home and career together.

He entered the Wisconsin Conference on trial in 1911 and was received into full connection in 1914. His first full time appointment was in 1915 to Epworth Church in Milwaukee.

Brother Johnson's ministry divided itself roughly into thirds. The first period covers 14 years during which he served pastorates at Milwaukee: Epworth, Racine: Grand Avenue, Milwaukee: Trinity, and Green Bay: First Church. The second period is of nine years duration during which he served in the Northern Minnesota Conference at Minneapolis: Calvary, Fergus Falls: First Church, and Minneapolis: North Church. The final period involved 18 years of service in Wisconsin, beginning in 1935 and concluding with his retirement in 1952. During this time he served at Neenah, Sheboygan: Wesley, South Milwaukee, and Racine: Trinity.

In all, it was a rich and rewarding 41 years of labor for the Lord, with hundreds of sermons prepared and delivered, building operations planned and executed, debts paid off, membership increases, new marital teams blessed, babies baptised, children instructed, and the gaping wounds of sorrow assuaged. But in the business of each and every day, Henry Johnson never neglected to keep the banner of his enrollment with God brightly unfurled. He maintained a dignity in his calling most unusually salutary. There was an evangelistic fervor to his ministry everywhere observed and appreciated. After his retirement, his health declined with the last few months spent in a hospital. His summons was to a well earned rest and a rewarding eternal friendship.

He is survived by his wife; a son, the Rev. Ralph W. Johnson; a daughter, Mrs. Robert Shelley; a grand daughter, and a host of relatives and friends.

Services were held in Bland, Missouri, with interment and grave-side rites in Forest Home cemetery, Milwaukee, with the Rev. Earl E. Allen in charge.

Look, child of God, the race is done! The warfare and strife of life is past. Now you enter into your heavenly Father's home: God's reward to you—for your faith, your work, and your deeds on earth.

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#### ADELAIDE RABY

The Reverend Adelaide Hurlburt Raby, a retired Local Elder of Wisconsin Annual Conference, met her Master face to face, July 19, 1955, and I know she heard His "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of thy Lord." I have never known anyone who served more conscientiously and gladly, or one who was more self-disciplined.