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*of the*  
**THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION**  
*of the*  
**WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA**  
**ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
*of*  
**THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

Successor Conference to:

North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church (1828)  
North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church (1869)  
Blue Ridge-Atlantic Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church (1879)  
Western North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South (1890)  
Western North Carolina Conference of The Methodist Church (1939)  
North Carolina Conference of the Central Jurisdiction of The Methodist Church (1939)  
North Carolina-Virginia Conference of The Methodist Church (1965)

**JUNE 9 - 12, 2005**

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**RAY FRANKLIN SWINK**  
June 1, 1918 – February 15, 2005



Born June 1, 1918, in Davidson County, North Carolina, Ray Franklin Swink was the youngest of eight children of Alice Wrenn and George Franklin Swink. Following graduation from Linwood High School in Davidson County, Ray received degrees from Brevard College (A.A., 1942), High Point University (A.B., 1944), and Duke Divinity School (M.Div., 1947), as well as the honorary degree of doctor of divinity from Pfeiffer University in 1975.

On August 19, 1947, Ray married Mary Lillian Andrews. Ray and Mary celebrated the birth of their daughter, Sandra Walker Swink, on November 30, 1955. Two grandchildren, Jennifer and Reid, born to J. Wesley and Sandra Swink Bobbitt, brought joy to their lives.

Ray was ordained deacon and joined the Western North Carolina Conference on trial in 1946. He was received into full connection and ordained elder in 1948. His first appointment was to Brevard College, where he served as assistant to the president from 1946 to 1948, and where he was head of the Department of Religion from 1948 to 1949. He then served as pastor in the following appointments: Concord-El Bethel (1949-1951); Davidson (Thomasville District), 1951-1956; Asheville: Oakley, 1956-1961; Granite Falls: First, 1961-1966; Charlotte: Commonwealth, 1966-1972; and High Point: First, 1978-1981. Ray also served as Albemarle district superintendent (1972-1978) and as administrative assistant to Bishops L. Scott Allen and L. Bevel Jones III (1981-1988).

Across the years of his ministry, Ray was active in the Christian Action League of North Carolina, the North Carolina Council of Churches, the General Assembly of the National Council of Churches, and Kiwanis International. He also served on the Methodist Board of Publication; the Western North Carolina Conference Board of Pensions; and the governing boards of Arbor Acres, Givens Estates, and The Methodist Home.

After serving forty-two years as a member of the Western North Carolina Conference, Ray retired in 1988. He and Mary continued to live in their home in Charlotte until they became residents at Aldersgate United Methodist Retirement Community.

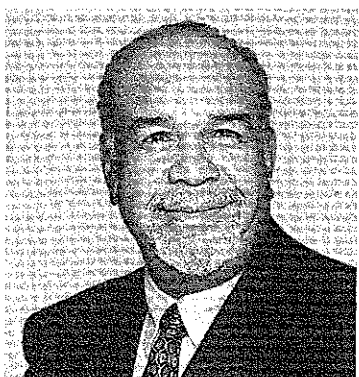
Following a brief illness, Ray died on February 15, 2005, at Liberty Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Charlotte. A Service of Celebration was held on February 17 at Myers Park United Methodist Church, Charlotte, with James C. Howell and Joe A. Hamby officiating.

In reflecting on the legacy of Ray Swink's life and ministry, it is clear that his commitment to Christian social concerns and his interest in Christian higher education were paramount. His many gifts may have best served the church in his appointments as district superintendent and administrative assistant to the bishop, where he so effectively combined administrative leadership, a pastor's heart, the gift of his unhurried presence, and his genuine love for the ministers and churches of our annual conference.

Thanks be to God for the Christ-like life of Ray Franklin Swink!

James T. Trollinger

**CLARENCE EDWARD WRIGHT**  
September 23, 1935 – May 12, 2004



*"But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5).*

These are words that meant so much to Clarence Edward Wright, as became obvious at his service of death and resurrection on May 15, 2004, at his last appointment, the New Goshen United Methodist Church in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Clarence was born the oldest of six children, in Brown Summit, North Carolina, to Maggie Milton and the late John Lester Wright on a wonderful autumn day, September 23, 1935. His formal education began in the Guilford County school system. He joins his family who have left the Church Militant and gone to the Church Triumphant! Those are his loving father, John Lester; one brother, Howard; and one son, John Edward.

Clarence worked at P. Lorillard Tobacco Company and at Cellar Anton's Italian restaurant, which prepared him for his ultimate calling to the ministry in The United Methodist Church. Clarence was a life-long member of Jackson United Methodist Church at Brown Summit, where he served as lay speaker, Sunday School superintendent, chairperson of the board of trustees, and a member of the

United Methodist Men. Clarence never forgot the words his cousin Leroy Jordan, some 17 years prior to his entering the ministry, said to him: "I'm gonna call you preacher, because one day you're gonna be a preacher."

Clarence committed himself to the educational requirements of the Western North Carolina Conference. He attended North Carolina A&T State University at Greensboro and completed the Advanced Course of Study at

Duke Divinity School. Clarence accomplished his ultimate goal with the educational requirements for ordination as an elder at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. While pursuing his education, Clarence loved the children that rode his bus going Madison Elementary and Northeast Junior High schools in Guilford County. He encouraged these children to be the best they could be. He developed some great and caring relationships with those students.

Clarence's spiritual journey led him to accept the call to the ordained ministry, and was licensed to preach in 1989. He was admitted to associate membership in the Western North Carolina Conference and ordained deacon in 1996 and admitted to full connection and ordained elder in 1999. He served appointments to Asheboro: St. Mark's, 1989-1992; Empire Circuit, 1992-1995; and Kings Mountain: Galilee-St. Paul's, 1995-2003. He was granted retirement in 2003 and served as pastor at New Goshen until his death on May 12, 2004, at his home in Greensboro.

Clarence was a devoted and loving husband to his beautiful wife, Rebecca Jordan, for almost 50 years. They were married on July 31, 1954. Two children survive their father: Melvin Clarence, born on June 26, 1957, and now of Greensboro, and David Lamont, born on October 6, 1959, and now of Winston-Salem. He is also survived by his grandchildren: Jada, Stephanie, Nicholas (Dianna), James (Leslie), Dana, Louis, and Ian; his six great-grandchildren; his mother, Maggie Milton McAdoo, of Brown Summit; his brothers, James (Diane) and Levi (Lellia), both of Brown Summit; and his sisters, Mildred (Eddie) Bryant of Brown Summit and Frances (Eugene) Randolph of Greensboro. Clarence always remembered the words of our grandfather, who had a well-known saying around his farm. He would tell Clarence, "There will be a lot of flopping, but a few flying!" Clarence shared this statement with all his congregations.

Clarence was an avid reader. His favorite subjects were John Wesley and Black history. Of his many pleasures, the one which he felt to be the most rewarding was reading to his granddaughter. There are no more appropriate words with which to capture the true essence of his life than the words of his favorite hymn:

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.  
Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

Paul N. Milton

### G. CHRONOLOGICAL ROLL OF DECEASED CLERGY AND DIACONAL MINISTERS

Note: The complete rolls of deceased clergy of the Blue Ridge-Atlantic Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, and the Western North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, prior to Unification in 1939, are to be found in the 1939 journal of the Western North Carolina Conference of The Methodist Church, pages 114, 153, and 252.

The complete rolls of deceased clergy of the North Carolina-Virginia Conference of The Methodist Church for the period 1964-1967 are to be found in the 1967 journal of that conference, page 55.

The complete rolls of deceased clergy of the Western North Carolina Conference of The Methodist Church for the period between Unification in 1939 and the formation of The United Methodist Church in 1968, including the deceased clergy of the North Carolina-Virginia Conference for the 1967-1968 conference year, are to be found in the 1968 journal of the Western North Carolina Conference, pages 363-366.

The journals referred to herein may be found in the Archives Room of the Conference Memorial Center, 3400 Shamrock Drive, Charlotte.

*Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; yea, saith the spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them. — Revelation 14:13*

#### 1. FULL CONNECTION

NO.	NAME	BIRTH (Place and Date)	ADMITTED INTO TRAVELING MINISTRY	DIED (Place and Date)
1	N.C. Williams, Sr.	Moore Co., April 23, 1888	WNC, 1915	Winston-Salem, May 8, 1968
2	E.K. McLarty, Jr.	Buncombe Co., Aug. 5, 1908	WNC, 1936	Brevard, May 23, 1968
3	E.V. Williams	Mecklenburg Co., Sept. 29, 1936	WNC, 1961	Cullowhee, May 31, 1968
4	M.B. Stokes	Columbia, SC, Dec. 12, 1882	WNC, 1907	Charlotte, July 4, 1968
5	G.B. Ferree	Randolph Co., Jan. 8, 1888	WNC, 1931	Asheboro, July 28, 1968
6	R.C. Sharpe	Guilford Co., July 27, 1892	NC, 1933	Baltimore, MD, Nov. 4, 1968
7	T.B. Huneycutt	Stanly Co., Feb. 12, 1886	WNC, 1928	Rutherfordton, Nov. 15, 1968
8	C.M. White	Bedford Co., TN, Nov. 25, 1879	BR-A, 1914	Statesville, Dec. 31, 1968
9	I.L. Roberts	Cleveland Co., Sept. 22, 1898	WNC, 1926	Leesburg, FL, Jan. 22, 1969
10	L.D. Thompson	Gaston Co., Sept. 14, 1880	WTexas, 1907	Charlotte, March 19, 1969
11	R.F. McCallum	Robeson Co., Aug. 5, 1889	NCME	Winston-Salem, April 15, 1969
12	R.M. Varner	Randolph Co., Dec. 1, 1900	WNC, 1932	Fort Mill, SC, May 6, 1969
13	J.M. Green	Ashe Co., Aug. 11, 1884	WNC, 1920	Yadkinville, May 13, 1969
14	O.J. Jones	Gaston Co., May 21, 1879	WNC, 1909	Charlotte, May 23, 1969
15	G.H. Caldwell	Guilford Co., Oct. 10, 1888	NCME, 1912	Greensboro, May 31, 1969
16	W.B. Royals	Randolph Co., Feb. 1, 1919	WNC, 1944	High Point, June 14, 1969
17	E.M. Avett	Anson Co., Oct. 20, 1879	WNC, 1906	Mocksville, July 1, 1969
18	A.L. Latham	Ashe Co., Dec. 4, 1878	BR-A, 1905	Charlotte, Nov. 3, 1969
19	I.J. Terrell	Stokes Co., May 15, 1892	WNC, 1943	Denton, April 1, 1970

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