

MINUTES

OF THE

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIRST ANNUAL SESSION

(Sixteenth Annual Session Since the Uniting Conference)

OF

The Baltimore Annual Conference

OF

THE METHODIST CHURCH



held at

WESTERN MARYLAND COLLEGE

WESTMINSTER, MD.

June 1-5, 1955

*Adopted by the Conference as its Official Record*

BISHOP G. BROMLEY OXNAM	- - - - -	President
DORSEY K. STURGIS	- - - - -	Secretary
LOWELL S. ENSOR	- - - - -	Conference Host

No complete record of his preaching appointments is available. Before coming to Baltimore, he was the minister of a church in Berlin, New Hampshire.

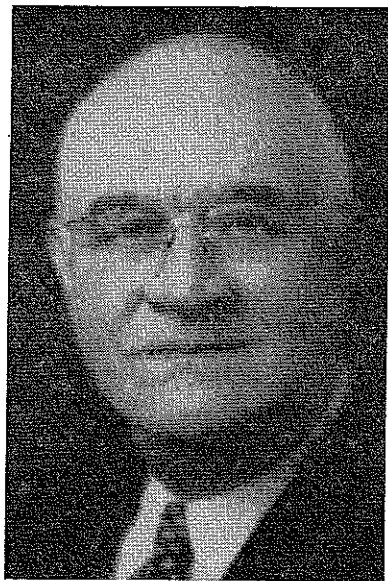
In Baltimore he served Seamen's Bethel until that work was discontinued, and the property sold. He then became officially related to the Broadway Methodist Church with Dr. John S. German.

When his health failed he was taken to a hospital where he remained until his death, which took place June 12, 1954.

The funeral service was held at Racine, Wisconsin, in which area many relatives now reside. The address was made by Rev. David Helikson, parish visitor of the Trinity Methodist of that city. His body was interred in the family lot. Bro. Oakland never married. Kind friends looked after his interests and by so doing gave him great comfort. According to our Conference Claimant's Annuity Distribution, Bro. Oakland had thirty three years of active ministry. "Servant of God well done."

JOHN T. ENSOR.

### HARRY WILSON BURGAN



Harry Wilson Burgan, the son of Franklin Stevenson and Elizabeth Atherton (Wilson) Burgan, was born in Baltimore, Maryland on October 13, 1880. He was the grandson of The Reverend Joseph P. Wilson who was for many years a member of the Maryland Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church and afterward a member of the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

He was educated in the public schools of Baltimore with two years in the Baltimore City College. He also graduated from the Baltimore Business College. He received a B.S. degree from the Williamsport Dickinson Seminary in 1903 (now Lycoming College), a B.D. degree in Drew Theological Seminary at Madison, New Jersey in 1906; a D.D. degree at St. John's College, Annapolis, Maryland in 1917. For two years he took graduate courses at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md.

He was converted in the Madison Square Church, Baltimore, at eleven years of age, and joined this church

He was recommended by the quarterly conference of Madison Square Church for admission on trial in the Baltimore Annual Conference.

He was admitted on trial in the Baltimore Conference in 1906, and ordained the same year as deacon by Bishop Luther B. Wilson. He was received into full membership in 1908 and ordained elder by Bishop Earl Cranston.

On October 22, 1913 he married Elsie Busted Draper at Havre de Grace, Md. The ceremony was performed by the Reverend Dr. Edward Hayes, District Superintendent, and the Reverend Dr. George E. Wood of the Wilmington Conference, an uncle of Mrs. Burgan. Mrs. Burgan is a graduate of Goucher College. Her presence has been a blessing and benediction to all in every church they served and a great help to her husband.

During the years of his ministry Dr. Burgan served with fidelity and devotion. He served the following churches: one year as a supply pastor at Mt. Hope charge in the Newark Conference while a student at Drew; in the Baltimore Conference: Hunt's Memorial 1906-1910, Guilford Avenue 1910-1915, Calvary Annapolis 1915-1925, Superintendent of the Baltimore District 1925-1931, Hamline, Washington 1931-1949; he retired in 1949.

Dr. Burgan was elected six times a delegate to the General Conference. He served in 1924, 1928, 1932, 1936, 1940 and 1944. He was also first reserve delegate and reserve delegate-at-large to the Uniting Conference at Kansas City, Mo. 1939. He was on the planning committee for several jurisdictional conferences.

Dr. Burgan was a member of the board of trustees of the American University and for a considerable period of time was chairman of the board. He was trustee of Morgan College, Baltimore; the Swartzell Home for Children, D. C.; chairman of the board of the Strawbridge Home for Boys, Eldersburg, Md.; Vice-President of the Board of Education of the Conference; Recording secretary of the Board of Temperance; the first Protestant Vice-president of the committee on Religious Life in the Nation's Capital; a member of the Round Table, D. C.; and also a member of the Board of Child Care. He was Executive Secretary of the Methodist Union from 1949 until his death. He had been a trustee of the Union for many years.

He served Hamline Church for 18 years. It was one of his great loves. One of his members said after his death, "His great personal interest and pastoral love and concern for his people as well as his deep faith in God helped to sustain the church in the debt-burdened days of the thirties during the depression. He had a genuine spirit of helpful counsel for ministers and laymen alike, a ready wit and humor that played about his fine ideas bringing common sense into every situation, and an unflinching courage for fair play and righteousness when occasion demanded. Even in his own difficult personal decisions toward the last of his days his courage, faith and cheerfulness were unflinching." Just recently Hamline Church dedicated "The Burgan Memorial Chapel-Parlor" in his memory.

Theodore R. McKeldin, Governor of Maryland, on the fly leaf of a book he presented to Dr. Burgan, made the following comment about him saying, "You are one of the first citizens in the Kingdom of God. You have been a great blessing to untold thousands that you know not of." Governor McKeldin signed the note, "Affectionately and gratefully your spiritual son in Christ." He was district president of the Epworth League a part of the time while Dr. Burgan was district superintendent.

Bishop Hughes characterized the ministry of Dr. Burgan very well when he said, "We have some ministers who are good preachers, some who are good financiers, and some who are good pastors, but Dr. Burgan embodies all three qualities."

Dr. Burgan lived a full life. He preached an evangelistic gospel. He was a good man, and an effective preacher. People came to hear him. He had great ideals. His life was blameless. His voice was never quiet against wrong. At Annapolis, Md., and in Washington, D. C., he always opposed the liquor traffic, gambling and other forms of evil. He would appear at hearings and speak out against such things.

He was a strong counselor. His advice was worthy of following. His staff in all of his churches respected him highly and found working with him a great delight. Such a life as his shall never die.

Dr. Burgan entered his Heavenly home, July 9th, 1954 at the age of 73. Dr. Asbury Smith, District Superintendent of the Washington West District, officiated at his funeral with the assistance of Dr. Ralph D. Smith of the Petworth Church. The funeral was held at Hamline Church on Monday, July 12. Burial was in Loudon Park Cemetery, Baltimore, Md.

Bishop Cushman in one of his poems gives voice to the type of ministry Dr. Burgan gave:

I do not ask  
That crowds may throng the temple,  
That standing room be priced;  
I only ask that as I voice the message,  
They may see Christ!  
I do not ask  
That men may sound my praises,  
Or headlines spread my name abroad;  
I only pray that as I voice the message  
Heart may find God!  
I do not ask  
For earthly place or laurel  
Or of this world's distinction any part;  
I only ask, when I have voiced the message  
My Saviour's Heart!

RALPH D. SMITH.

### ARTHUR ELMER OWENS



I came to know Brother Owens in the twilight years of his life. Because of a severe illness he was unable to take active part in the worship services and yet he attended as long as it was physically possible for him to do so. He loved to be in His Father's House and each Communion Sunday found him seated in the front of the Sanctuary, prepared to partake of the Sacraments with an inspiring attitude of worship. His presence and the prayers he offered were always a benediction and a source of spiritual strength.

Arthur Elmer Owens was the son of Thomas L. and Mary K. Owens. He was born on September 8, 1879 in Sunnybrook, Baltimore County, Maryland. At the age of 24 years he decided to enter the ministry. He graduated from Randolph College and was assigned to active work in the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Church in 1908.

He served the following charges, 1908-1909 Perry Hall-Loreley; 1910-1911 Hillsboro, Md.; 1912-1913 Kent; 1914-1917 Frederick Ave.; 1918-1922 Salem Annapolis; 1923-1925 Grace, Gaithersburg; 1926 Shepherdstown, West Va.; 1927-1928 Strasburg, Va.; 1929-1932 Marvin, Washington; 1933 Poolsville; 1934 Potomac; 1935-1937 York Hill, Brunswick; 1938-1940 Andrew Chapel; 1941 Retired; Restored to effective relation 1942-1943 Hyndman, Pa.; 1944-1945 Smithsburg; 1946-1947 Patuxent; 1948 Retired.

Mr. Owens along with Mrs. Owens was interested in local and world events. He was anxious to note and lively discussed political events.

After Mrs. Owens incapacitating illness he made his home with her at Shaffer's Convalescent Retreat in Ellicott City. Here he made friends readily. After Mrs. Owens's passing, he went to the Home for the Incurables to be in closer contact with his sister, Miss M. F. Owens. He is survived by her and two sons, George H. Owens, Mt. Clemens, Mich., and Thomas A. Owens, Chicago, Illinois.