

SECTION XI

HISTORICAL RECORD OF SESSIONS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE

A detailed history of the South Carolina Conference can be found in *The History of South Carolina Methodism* by Albert D. Betts (Columbia: The Advocate Press, 1982), and the following chronology is based on the information contained in Dr. Betts' history. When John Wesley called his lay preachers together in London on June 25, 1744, to "confer" on the work of the growing Methodist Societies, the pattern for an annual "Conference" was begun. The practice was brought to America as the Methodist Societies developed here.

In the early days of American Methodism the Conferences were not neatly divided by the geographic boundaries we have today, and, correspondingly, it is difficult to trace precisely a lineage that would make it possible to identify "the first Conference." Dr. Betts refers to the "first American 'Annual Conference'" (p. 34) as the one held in George's Church, Philadelphia, July 14, 1773, on the call of John Rankin who had been sent to America by John Wesley. The work of Methodism in South Carolina was organized in 1785, when a "section" of the Conference was called at Louisburg, North Carolina, on April 20, 1785, at which Francis Asbury presided. About two years later, on March 22, 1787, the first session of a South Carolina Conference was held in Charleston, with both Bishops Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke sharing responsibilities as presiding officers. Sessions of the 1785 Conference are shown in the tables below.

The 1866 South Carolina Conference was organized on April 2, 1866, in Charleston, South Carolina, by leaders of the Methodist Episcopal Church to minister to African Americans, many freed slaves, who would not accept the continued segregated worship of the races. A history of the 1866 Conference may be found in *Passionate Journey* by John W. Curry (St. Matthews: Bill Wise Printers, 1980.) Pursuant to the 1964 General Conference action which dissolved the Central Jurisdiction to achieve "racial inclusiveness at all levels of the church," the 181st Session of the South Carolina Conference (1785) passed a resolution requesting bishops of the two South Carolina conferences to appoint a committee to work out a plan of merger.* The two conferences became one in 1972. Sessions of the 1866 Conference are shown in tables below.

In 1914, the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, voted to divide the South Carolina Annual Conference (1785) and instructed the conference to fix a line of division. At its 129th Session the South Carolina Conference (1785) created the Upper South Carolina Conference.** The two were combined again in 1948. Sessions of the Upper South Carolina Conference are shown in tables below.

* *Journal and Yearbook*, South Carolina Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, June 13-17, 1966, Columbia, South Carolina, pp. 94-95.

** *Minutes and Yearbook*, The Upper South Carolina Conference, The Methodist Episcopal Church, Spartanburg, South Carolina, October 29-November 2, 1947, p. 152; *Journal minutes*, 129th Session, South Carolina Annual Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1914, p. 18.

SESSIONS OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA ANNUAL CONFERENCE (1866)

Based on a study of the Conference Journals 1866-1972 and taken from the Cumberland Methodist Church Anniversary Booklet 1952 (Update).

| Date of Conference | Place of Conference | Bishop Presiding |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| April 2, 1866 | Charleston | O.C. Baker |
| Mar. 3, 1867 | Charleston | Levi Scott |
| Feb. 26, 1868 | Charleston | E.S. Janes |
| Feb. 11, 1869 | Camden | E.S. Janes |
| Dec. 22, 1870 | Claffin, Orangeburg | M. Simpson |
| Jan. 1, 1872 | Charleston | M. Simpson |
| Jan. 15, 1873 | Greenville | E.R. Ames |
| Jan. 15, 1874 | Columbia, S. House | G. Haven |
| Jan. 14, 1875 | Camden | I.W. Wiley |
| Jan. 13, 1876 | Charleston | R.S. Foster |
| Jan. 17, 1877 | Sumter | W.L. Harris |
| Jan. 16, 1878 | Columbia | Levi Scott |

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| Jan. 22, 1879 | Greenville | J.T. Peck |
| Jan. 21, 1880 | Charleston | Matt Simpson |
| Jan. 12, 1881 | Florence | H.W. Warren |
| Jan. 12, 1882 | Spartanburg | R.S. Foster |
| Jan. 10, 1883 | York(ville) | S.M. Merrill |
| Jan. 16, 1884 | Sumter | T. Bowman |
| Jan. 29, 1885 | Cheraw | J.M. Walden |
| Jan. 28, 1886 | Anderson | E.S. Andrews |
| Jan. 20, 1887 | Kingstree | C.D. Foss |
| Feb. 1, 1888 | Charleston | J.F. Hurst |
| Jan. 30, 1889 | Aiken | J.P. Newman |
| Jan. 30, 1890 | Marion | Thos. Bowman |
| Feb. 5, 1891 | Greenville | H.W. Warren |
| Jan. 13, 1892 | Orangeburg | R.S. Foster |
| Jan. 11, 1893 | Bennettsville | J.M. Walden |
| Jan. 3, 1894 | Camden | I.W. Joyce |
| Jan. 16, 1895 | Florence | C.H. Fowler |
| Jan. 29, 1896 | Charleston | M.F. Mallalieu |
| Feb. 3, 1897 | Columbia | J.F. Hurst |
| Dec. 1, 1897 | Beaufort | J.H. Vincent |
| Dec. 7, 1898 | Anderson | C.D. Foss |
| Dec. 6, 1899 | Greenville | E.G. Andrews |
| Dec. 12, 1900 | Darlington | J.N. Fitzgerald |
| Dec. 4, 1901 | Spartanburg | D.A. Goodsell |
| Nov. 27, 1902 | Orangeburg | C.D. Foss |
| Nov. 26, 1903 | Sumter | E. Cranston |
| Dec. 14, 1904 | Charleston | D.A. Goodsell |
| Nov. 29, 1905 | Yorkville | William Burt |
| Nov. 22, 1906 | Florence | J.F. Berry |
| Nov. 28, 1907 | Camden | D.H. Moore |
| Nov. 25, 1908 | Spartanburg | J.W. Hamilton |
| Nov. 24, 1909 | Orangeburg | J.W. Hamilton |
| Nov. 24, 1910 | Greenville | T.B. Neely |
| Nov. 23, 1911 | Sumter | L.B. Wilson |
| Nov. 20, 1912 | Anderson | F.D. Leete |
| Nov. 19, 1913 | Orangeburg | F.D. Leete |
| Nov. 19, 1914 | Columbia | F.D. Leete |
| Nov. 24, 1915 | Spartanburg | F.D. Leete |
| Nov. 22, 1916 | Florence | W.P. Thirkield |
| Dec. 12, 1917 | Allendale | F.D. Leete |
| Dec. 18, 1918 | Florence | F.D. Leete |
| Dec. 10, 1919 | Charleston | F.D. Leete |
| Dec. 8, 1920 | Cheraw | E.G. Richardson |
| Dec. 7, 1921 | Anderson | E.G. Richardson |
| Dec. 6, 1922 | Sumter | E.G. Richardson |
| Dec. 5, 1923 | Spartanburg | E.G. Richardson |
| Dec. 10, 1924 | Bennettsville | E.G. Richardson |
| Dec. 9, 1925 | Greenville | E.G. Richardson |
| Dec. 8, 1926 | Hartsville | R.E. Jones |
| Dec. 6, 1927 | Charleston | E.G. Richardson |
| Dec. 5, 1928 | Cheraw | F.T. Kennedy |
| Dec. 11, 1929 | Anderson | R.E. Jones |
| Dec. 9, 1930 | Sumter | F.T. Kenney |
| Dec. 8, 1931 | Camden | F.T. Kenney |
| Dec. 6, 1932 | Florence | F.T. Kenney |
| Dec. 13, 1933 | Spartanburg | F.T. Kenney |
| Dec. 5, 1934 | Columbia | M.W. Clair |
| Dec. 26, 1935 | Orangeburg | F.T. Kenney |

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| Dec. 1, 1936 | Bennettsville | C.W. Flint |
| Dec. 1, 1937 | Greenville | C.W. Flint |
| Dec. 6, 1938 | Anderson | C.W. Flint |
| Dec. 13, 1939 | Sumter | M.W. Clair |
| Dec. 10, 1940 | Cheraw | L.H. King |
| Nov. 26, 1941 | Florence | L.H. King |
| Nov. 25, 1942 | Camden | L.H. King |
| Nov. 25, 1943 | Darlington | L.H. King |
| Nov. 22, 1944 | Sumter | W.J. King |
| Nov. 21, 1945 | Marion | L.H. King |
| Nov. 20, 1946 | Greer | E.W. Kelly |
| Nov. 19, 1947 | Anderson | E.W. Kelly |
| Nov. 24, 1948 | Sumter | J.W.E. Bowen |
| Nov. 22, 1949 | Orangeburg | J.W.E. Bowen |
| Oct. 25, 1950 | Spartanburg | J.W.E. Bowen |
| Oct. 24, 1951 | Florence | A.P. Shaw |
| Oct. 21, 1952 | Sumter | J.W.E. Bowen |
| Oct. 11, 1953 | Charleston | J.W.E. Bowen |
| Oct. 13, 1954 | Greenville | J.W.E. Bowen |
| Oct. 12, 1955 | Camden | J.W.E. Bowen |
| Oct. 10, 1956 | Spartanburg | J.W.E. Bowen |
| Sept. 12, 1957 | Orangeburg | J.W.E. Bowen |
| Oct. 8, 1958 | Sumter | J.W.E. Bowen |
| Oct. 7, 1959 | Columbia | J.W.E. Bowen |
| Oct. 19, 1960 | Florence | M.L. Harris |
| May 17, 1961 | Sumter | M.L. Harris |
| May 16, 1962 | Charleston | M.L. Harris |
| May 28, 1963 | Clafin | M.L. Harris |
| May 19, 1964 | Camden | M.L. Harris |
| June 9, 1965 | Clafin | C.F. Golden |
| May 26, 1966 | Sumter | N.W. Moore |
| May 22, 1967 | Anderson | C.F. Golden |
| May 28, 1968 | Florence | C.F. Golden |
| May 27, 1969 | Clafin College | Paul Hardin, Jr. |
| May 25, 1970 | Clafin College | Paul Hardin, Jr. |
| May 24, 1971 | Clafin College | Paul Hardin, Jr. |