

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	Clafiin, 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
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
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.