

# HISTORIAN'S DIGEST



Volume 49, Number 1

January 2009

## Vote for New Officers

The slate of officers for 2009-2012 proposed by the nominating committee is President, Daniel Swinson; Vice President, Jim Morris; Secretary, Barbara Essen; and Treasurer, Chuck Yrigoyen. You are free to write in other candidates of your choice.

Your ballot can be found on page 4 of this issue of *Historian's Digest*. Please send your completed ballot to the General Commission on Archives and History, P. O. Box 127, Madison NJ 07940 no later than March 31, 2009.

Thanks to Linda Schramm (Chair), Jim Pyatt, Janice Sherick, Jean Traster, and Jim Walker for serving as our nominating committee. Brief biographical sketches of the candidates follow.

**Daniel Swinson** holds an MA and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, where his dissertation on Methodism and the Temperance Movement was supervised by Martin Marty. He has taught in several settings and his work has been published in *Religious Periodicals of the United States* (ed. Charles Lippy, Greenwood Press, 1986), *Twentieth-Century Shapers of American Popular Religions* (ed. Charles Lippy, Greenwood Press, 1989), and *Celebrating Our Heritage of Christian Perfection*, the 1994 UMC Heritage Sunday resource booklet. He has also presented papers on John Wesley, Methodism and the Temperance Movement at various conferences, including the Canadian Methodist Historical Society and the

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*Lake Junaluska, North Carolina*

## 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Returns to Lake Junaluska

The 2009 annual meeting of the United Methodist Historical Society will take place in the spot where the organization was born 20 years ago: Lake Junaluska, North Carolina.

The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration will be held Monday June 29 through Thursday July 2 at the Lambuth Inn, Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center, and will be hosted by the Southeastern Jurisdictional Historical Society. On the same dates 20 years ago, the first Historical Convocation of The United Methodist Church met at the Lake and elected Dr. Rob Sledge as the first president of the UMHS.

Registration will begin at 1 p.m., June 29, at the new Bethea Welcome Center. Speakers for the event will include Arthur Warren, president of the SEJ Historical Society; Bill Lowry, *Lake Historian*; Art Swarthout; Chuck Yrigoyen; Bishop Larry Goodpaster; and Dr. George Freeman. Participants will also be treated to a boat tour of the lake, visits to the World Methodist Museum and Susanna Wesley Garden, and a reception at the home of Art and Betty Swarthout.

Reservations for housing and meals at the Lambuth Inn can be made by calling Lake Junaluska at 800-222-4930. Alternate housing includes the Terrace Hotel, apartments, cottages, campgrounds, and private lodges.

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The Historian's Digest is published quarterly by the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church. Please send address changes to Phil Lawton at Philip.Lawton@dol.net or P. O. Box 247, Felton DE 19943

Editorial correspondence should be directed to Jane Donovan. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is March 1, 2009.

## ***Letter from the President***

### **Dear Members and Friends of the HSUMC:**

As I sit here writing this letter, I am gazing out my living room window onto about a foot or so of snow and looking for still more tomorrow. By the time you receive this letter, however, we'll be well on our way to spring and beginning to think, once again, of our upcoming annual meeting.

This year will be special, as we celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society. As you will read in the front page article, the Society was officially organized twenty years ago on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, 1989 at Lake Junaluska. At that meeting I was elected as the Chair of the Section on Commissions and Historical Societies, having absolutely no idea what that would mean. It has been sometimes exciting and sometimes frustrating to have been a part of the development of HSUMC over the past twenty years. As you've heard from me before, we started out with over 1000 charter members and dropped to a low of about 250 members. We hope that as we are approaching our twentieth anniversary that we are on the upswing, once again. Many thanks to all of you who have helped in that effort.

I hope that many of you will plan to join us from June 29 - July 2 as we celebrate the coming of age of our organization. If you know someone who might enjoy becoming a member and learning more about our United Methodist heritage, please encourage them to join, as well – and to join us at the Lake in June.

I also want to call your attention to the ballot for new officers for the quadrennium which appears within this newsletter. Our officers are elected every four years by the membership, in the year following the General Conference of the UMC, and serve for the next four years. Please take a moment now to cast your ballot and mail it to GCAH by no later than March 31.

In the meantime, may you all enjoy a blessed Lenten season and a glorious Easter.

*Grace and Peace,*

**Pat Thompson**

## ***Editor needed for Historian's Digest as of July 1, 2009***

Jane Donovan, who has been editing *Historian's Digest* since October 2006 has resigned from that position as of June 30, 2009. Therefore, the HSUMC Board is looking for a new editor. The editor is a voting member of the Board of the Historical Society elected by the Board members on an annual basis. The editor is responsible for soliciting the information and preparing four editions of *HD* – Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. In response to comments received from the questionnaire that was sent to all members in the late spring, the Board has decided to expand *HD* to include short to medium length articles on research which folks in the society may be conducting related to United Methodist history. If you are interested in writing and editing and think that you might be interested in this position, please contact me at: Patricia Thompson, PO Box 538, Morrisville, VT or [pajt8817@aol.com](mailto:pajt8817@aol.com).

## **GCAH report available on-line**

The General Commission on Archives and History held its first annual meeting of the new quadrennium in Dayton, Ohio in September. A full report of the meeting is available on the GCAH website, [www.gcah.org](http://www.gcah.org).



## Vote for New Officers

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HSUMC joint meeting in Kingston, Ontario, in 2004. Swinson has pastored congregations in Northern Illinois for the past 30 years, and has served in several annual conference positions, including as Conference Secretary for the Northern Illinois Annual Conference. He is a former chair and secretary of the Northern Illinois Conference CAH; former chair and vice chair of the North Central Jurisdictional CAH, and a former member of the General Commission on Archives and History.

**Jim W. Morris** is currently serving his fourth term on the General Commission on Archives and History. He chairs the Iowa CAH and the North Central Jurisdictional CAH, and previously chaired the Southeastern Jurisdictional CAH. A founding member of the UMHS, he has been elected a delegate to Jurisdictional Conference 3 times and a delegate to General Conference twice.

**Barbara Essen** is a clergy member of the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference, where she serves Pomeroy UMC, which recently celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. She is a former officer and member of the Pacific Northwest Conference CAH and currently chairs her Conference Historical Society. She has previously served on her Conference Board of Pensions and Board of Trustees.

**Charles (Chuck) Yrigoyen, Jr.** has served as UMHS treasurer since 2006. He was the General Secretary of the General Commission on Archives and History for 24 years, and presently directs United Methodist Studies at Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster PA. Chuck's most recent book is *United Methodism at Forty: Looking Back, Looking Forward*. He is the author or editor of 8 other books on the Wesleys and Methodism, and has contributed articles or reviews to more than 30 journals and periodicals. He is a founding member of the UMHS.

## Saddlebag Selection Invites Nominations

*by Rob Sledge*

The Saddlebag Selection process previously has depended on the response of publishers to our invitation to submit entries in the competition. Henceforth, we also invite the HSUMC membership to initiate the nomination process. If you have run across a good book on United Methodist history, biography, theology, or polity that was published in 2008, please make the nomination to the selection committee coordinator, Rob Sledge, and he will contact the publisher to complete the entry.

Previous Saddlebag Selections have included:

2005 Robert Bray, *Peter Cartwright: Legendary Frontier Preacher*

2006 John Tyson, *In the Midst of Early Methodism: Lady Huntingdon and Her Correspondence*

2007 Rex Matthews, *Timetables of History for Students of Methodism*

Send your nominations **no later than February 25** to Dr. Rob Sledge, Box 637, McMurry Station, Abilene, Texas 79697 or by email to [rsledge@mcm.edu](mailto:rsledge@mcm.edu).

## 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Returns to Lake Junaluska

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Registration materials will be available February 1 and will be included in the April issue of *Historian's Digest*. For more information, or to receive a registration form prior to the April issue of *HD*, please contact Art Swarthout, Registrar, at [abswarthout@bellsouth.net](mailto:abswarthout@bellsouth.net), or P. O. Box 268, Lake Junaluska NC 28745 or by phone at 828-452-2689. Please send requests for display space or

agenda announcements to Art. The Lambuth Inn and the Lake are handicapped accessible. For more in-depth information on the 2009 annual meeting, please go to our website at <http://www.historicalocietyunitedmethodistchurch.org> or go to [www.gcuh.org](http://www.gcuh.org) and click on the link to Historical Society of the United Methodist Church.



# Ballot for officers of the HSUMC for 2009-2012

## President

\_\_\_\_\_ Daniel Swinson

\_\_\_\_\_ Write In \_\_\_\_\_

## Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_ Jim Morris

\_\_\_\_\_ Write In \_\_\_\_\_

## Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_ Barbara Essen

\_\_\_\_\_ Write In \_\_\_\_\_

## Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_ Chuck Yrigoyen

\_\_\_\_\_ Write In \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your completed ballot no later than MARCH 31, 2009 to

**General Commission on Archives and History**

P. O. Box 127

Madison NJ 07940

**Have you  
visited the  
HSUMC  
web site?**

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