

THE LUMBER RIVER CONFERENCE

by Jason B. Lowry,
A member of
Hopewell Church
one of a series of articles of
the Lumber River Conference
ORIGIN
"Greetings to the members of the Holiness Methodist Church: Dear Beloved Brethren— we esteem it our privilege and duty to recommend to you this volume which contains the Doctrine and Discipline of our church, both of which, as we believe, are agreeable to the Word of God."
(DDHMC, page 3, revised 1962)

HISTORICAL STATEMENT

On October 26, 1900 six preachers met at Union Chapel Church in Robeson County, North Carolina and the plan by John Wesley, was submitted to them, and was, in part, heartily approved. Thereupon they organized the Holiness Methodist Church, and adopted some articles of religion. They also enacted laws necessary for the government of the new church. Such was the origin of the Lumber River Conference of the Holiness Methodist Church. While its policy and rules may from time to time be modified to meet changing conditions and opportunities, it remains unchanged in doctrine. It teaches the doctrine of scriptural holiness in full, without side issues.

Beloved, we are glad to have the privilege of recommending to you the Holiness Methodist Church, which we believe, is agreeable to the Word of God, the only and the sufficient rule of faith and practice. She will use the liberty given to her by the Lord. We believe that God's design in raising the Holiness Church is to evangelize and spread scriptural holiness over the world; therefore, may the Holiness Methodist Church in her organic form and in spiritual power, be successfully planted in the different countries. May she prosper and flourish in the work of the Lord. Her sole object is to fulfill to the end of time, divine vocation in evangelizing all true reforms and in the promotion of Holiness among all branches of the one Church of Christ. Page 9, Doctrine and Discipline of the Holiness Methodist Church. (Revised 1962).

According to the official Journal of the Eighty-First Annual Session of the Lumber River Conference of the Holiness Methodist Church (OJEFAS LRCHMC) page 13. RESOLUTION OF THANKS

Whereas, it is fitting, as we reminisce the place of origin of the Lumber River Conference (LRC) that we pay tribute to Union Chapel Church and community for furnishing a place to organize and set the stage for future developments and,

Whereas, we pay tribute to the men: H.H. Lowry, J.H.

Sampson, C.C. Lowry, F.R. Lowry, Israel Locklear and Elias Locklear for foresight and integrity, etc. This part of the Resolution of Thanks was prepared and submitted to the LRC by the Secretary, Calvin Lowry, who has served in this capacity for 27 years. By this knowledge and experience in working very close with the Conference for these number of years, he also carries the name of Acting Attorney General on needed information of operations.

For some brief comments and observations of a document prepared in 1900 or 82 years ago, there are several thoughts come about without knowing about many of the details. There must be some one still living today that could answer to a lot of information concerning the historical setting of LRC. It really would be good to have this information recorded. Then we would not have to wonder about it as we do about John White's Lost Colony or Henry Berry Lowry, for the authority on the subject for several years they reported finding a trace of Henry Berry Lowry out in the state of Texas. Now they have moved the same untruth to the site of Tean, etc.

The six preachers that accepted the plan by John Wesley that was submitted to them, the three Lowrys were my uncles. Who submitted the John Wesley plan? They also enacted laws necessary for the government of the new church. Now, we have the Constitution, laws and rules, but who all made up they? Do the families that were involved with this important historical event have any minutes of this meeting? Someone must have written up a brief account of the time and all the people involved. For example, in the Preamble of the Constitution when we was used it stated who we were—we, the ministers and laymen of the LRCHMC. As we was used at the beginning of the greetings and they later on sounds like some other parties presented the plan, is so who were they? A brief description of the Original Discipline 1900, a small black book, the same size in dimension (4"x6") as the other two revised editions 1938-1962. The first edition was forty-six pages, while the second edition was sixty-nine pages. The third edition - revised 1962 and the last revised edition has seventy-eight pages. This difference reflects additional reports and rules and regulations.

The "Doctrine and Discipline of the Holiness Methodist Church" described above is the Bible of Operations of the Lumber River Conference. Amazingly, I believe, it carries the feelings of just about all occasions that could happen in a church. (This will be given in another article of a series).

We need some additional information for a closer interpretation of historical statements at the final meeting of organization. Does someone hold any minutes of any previous meeting?

This statement is found in the first paragraph of the Historical Statement of the DDHMC page 9. "While its policy and rules may from time to time be modified to meet changing conditions and opportunities, it remains unchanged in doctrine." These minutes and anyone else that had anything to do with the writing up of these documents in 1900 had a lot of foresight of the changes that may occur in the future.

Then too, the formal education of the people evolved in the writing was probably about the eighth grade level. As we know today about time and inflation, the eighth grade level of formal education then may equal more than a today's Master's Degree from our top university systems. To paraphrase the quoted statement from the DDHMC, "rules may from time to time be modified to meet changing conditions and opportunities, it remains unchanged in doctrine." The basic rules and regulations of operations that is found in the 1900 edition of the discipline is also remain the same as in the 1938 and 1962 editions. While we have in the Conference congregation in 1982 several well trained school teachers with Masters degrees, lawyers and pharmacists, the modified changes that our forerunner could see for the future opportunities spoke of in 1900 remains the same for our conference operations in 1982. The Lumber River Conference is a real interesting organization to study and see their method of operations. At each Annual Conference we have one delegate from each of the eight churches elected at the fourth quarterly conference to represent the people for only three days at the conference session. These eight delegates that represent the people can be out voted on any issue and any time by what is known as the "Conference Bar" made up of 22 ministers, Elders, Deacons and the administrative staff. Usually, these are elder people of the Conference that has been trained and promoted within the Conference school to hold the line and control any new ideas, or opportunities that our forefathers spoke about in 1900. Well, how about it? There are really some very rich statements formulated by this group of Patriarchs. Get a load of this quoted statement. "We believe that God's design in raising the Holiness Church is to evangelize and spread scriptural holiness over the world; therefore, may the Holiness Methodist

Church in her organic form and in spiritual power, be successfully planted in the different countries." When the founders spoke of spreading scriptural holiness over the world and spiritual power planted in different countries is definite proof that the world they spoke of was more than just a little world around them as they mention the countries. For any reason this church conference organization of 1900 has anything to do with the coming of the Lord, all of us have plenty of time to wait on him. This time limit is primarily based on the distance the conference has traveled since 1900. While it is estimated to be 25000 miles around the world, we have added on two more churches and traveled just outside of Robeson County into Hoke County in 82 years.

The second paragraph of the Historical Statement page 9 DDHMC states, "Beloved, we are glad to have the privilege of recommending to you the Holiness Methodist Church..." Again the question is asked who are "we"? Some of our conference officials interpret the word "Holiness" was just added to the church conference titles to differentiate us from the Blue Ridge Methodist Church Conference that was already here when the Lumber River Conference was organized in 1900. For all of us to fully understand the origin of the Lumber River Conference we need more information surrounding the circumstances. Someone states a law that goes somewhat like this: "For every action there is a reaction."

My vague studies in history of the periods following the Civil War 1860-64 people generally were not very well organized socially, economically, religiously, educationally and otherwise. There must be a lot more specific information known about this period in the turn of the century in Robeson County. For the conference not to have grown statistically over the years tells us today that whenever it was organized to take in certain people that it had really served its purpose for the people that were involved at that time.

There are several questions. What was the economic conditions in 1900? What were the educational and religious circumstances? How many committees and how active were they on race issues? Were people barred from attending certain schools and churches? About how many many little town and city children were reprimanded in the homes for smiling at little country children that were not as clean as the townspeople children? These and many other questions of inquiry and the answers may give some of the main reasons for a small group of people in Robeson County to have their own organization for religious purposes?

For time and space let us look at just two more items in the first paragraph of the Historical Statement: "The plan by John Wesley, was submitted to them (six preachers) and was, in part, heartily approved." Now, in part of this statement signifies that the six preachers accepted what they (the preachers) wanted to accept. We assume that we the conference have what was accepted shown in the DDHMC. Then we may wonder about what else was in the full package of the plan by John Wesley the representatives had with them. Then we assume further that the parts of the full plan by John Wesley that was accepted by the six preachers struck their fancy that these parts are the most important ones for the people at this time.

Secondly, "They also enacted laws necessary for the government of the new church." We will discuss the constitution and by laws at a later time, but lets consider for now some of the parliamentary procedures carried out by the top administrators, the Bishop and the "Bar" composed of the eight delegates representing the people and about 22 elders, Deacons and staff members of the administration of the conference. For sure, the order of business is not carried out by the standard rules of Roberts Rules of Order. We are making some progress along this line of authority. For the first time in the history of the conference, it was difficult, but we elected Rev. James

Harold Woods as Bishop, a graduate of PSU and Asbury Seminary at Wilmore, Kentucky. He of course is familiar with Roberts Rules of Order and will take some time for it to fully work with the group. Previously we have had what one might call a "multiplicity system" that depended on largely who was on the floor or what they were saying. The Bishop would take the position of ruling one out of order, or tabling a piece of business for the term of his office. For another example of operation, the Bishop appointed a committee along with him as chairman to study and up grade the "Discipline" a very touchy thing with the conference, to not call the committee together for more than five years to make a report. Just to report some of the remarks made by individuals who are disenchanted with the ministerial meeting held four times a year under our security. "This organization will out shine the Court House Ring (the crew that ran the politics in the county for more than 50 years) in holiness."

(A personal note by the writer: This organization may rank right next to the AMA (American Medical Association). Next time, The Constitution and by-laws.

Program Chairman Ira Pate Lowry welcomed members of Kiwanis and their wives at the annual Christmas meeting of the Club. He spoke of the influence of the women, particularly at this season of the year, and of the four pages of letters from the children to Santa Claus which appeared in this evening's Robesonian.

Mr. Lowry introduced the speaker, the Reverend Ray Sparrow of First Methodist Church of Pembroke. Rev. Sparrow asked that we turn our hearts and minds to the account of the journey of the Wise Men as given in the 2nd Chapter of Matthew. These wisemen saw a star and followed it. Who were they and why did they feel compelled to go on this journey? Their reasons have never been revealed so we can only speculate. Clearly these wise men were inquisitive. They wanted to learn about the meaning of this star; they were open to change and responsive to new ideas. The star is a vision that gives a goal in life that saves us from decay and apathy.

In discussing the impact of change, Rev. Sparrow cited the impact of the development of the little park in Pembroke—the children love the play ground, the citizens remember those who served their country, and all enjoy the picnicking and fellowship which the park provides. It meets the needs of people.

Difficulties are encountered in real life in "following the star" such as Herod destroying the first born in attempting to kill Jesus for he feared he would lose his crown. Had Herod had his way, we would not be here tonight celebrating Christmas. The "Herods of Life" can put to death the good things of life. There are always people who have the wrong ideas of life. We must go on just as the wise men pursued and persevered. The Star of Christmas beckons us home to serve God as a source of life and a life of eternity, under the star, is our greatest goal.

Following Rev. Sparrow's Christmas message, Ira Pate Lowry led a discussion on the meaning of Christmas to each individual. Concluding the program was carol singing accompanied by Mrs. Mary Alice Teets, pianist.

Presiding at the meeting was Club President Alvin Ray Lowry and the invocation was given by Albert Hunt. Pianist for the opening songs was Ira Pate Lowry.

A Christmas gift of money was presented to Cathy Chavis, Town and County Restaurant waitress.

Temperatures of the waters in the Red Sea often rise to about 100 degrees F.

"The applause of a single human being is of great consequence."
Samuel Johnson

OBITUARIES

HORACE L. PAUL

Mr. Horace L. Paul, age 61, of Route 1, Pembroke died Thursday in Southeastern General Hospital following an extended illness. Funeral services were held Sunday at Biggs Funeral Chapel. Officiating ministers were Rev. Johnie Pollard and Rev. Elton Bryan. Burial followed in Oxendine Cemetery.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Peggy Paul of the home; three sons, Mr. Horace Layton Paul, Jr. of Thomasville, Mr. Gregory Scott Paul of Pembroke and Mr. Kent Paul of the home; one sister, Mrs. Zelma Brown of Milmont Park, Penn.; and four grand children.

Pallbearers were Mr. Roscoe Sanderson, Mr. Micheal Sanderson, Mr. Ancil Sanderson, Jr., Mr. William Caulk, Mr. Henry Chavis Jr. and Mr. Gary Moody.

HENRY (FISH) BREWER

Mr. Henry (Fish) Brewer age 52, son of the late Levi and Quinie Bell Brewer of Route 8, Lumberton, died at 11 a.m. Thursday in a Fayetteville Hospital following an extended illness. Funeral services were held at 2:30 p.m. Sunday at Liberty Holiness Church with the Rev. Luther Locklear, Jr. and the Rev. James M. Bell officiating. Burial followed in Mt. Olive Church Cemetery.

Survivors include one daughter, Miss Evelyn Brewer of Baltimore, Md.; four brothers, Mr. Henry C. Brewer, Mr. Clayton Brewer, both of Lumberton, Mr. Furman Brewer of Pembroke, Mr. Baskin Brewer of Winter Haven, Florida; four sisters, Mrs. Grace Bell, Mrs. Rose Anna Sanderson, Mrs. Suzanne Hammons, all of Lumberton; and one grandchild.

Pallbearers were Mr. Clyde Brewer, Mr. Venson Sanderson, Mr. Lester Sanderson, Mr. Larry Brewer, Mr. Donnie Brewer and Mr. Luther Brewer. Flowers were arranged by Mrs. Teresa Jones assisted by the ladies of Liberty Holiness Church.

IN THE ARMED FORCES



Sgt. Rory C. Eddings, Company B 9th Battalion, 2nd Infantry Brigade, Fort Benning, Ga. has completed Primary Leadership Course and has been accepted to attend Drill Sgt. School. Sgt. Eddings is married to the former Phyllis Ann Cummings and is the son of Randolph and Kathryn B. Eddings of Route 3, Maxton.

Sgt. Eddings joined the Army in 1978.

Birth Announcement

Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Eddings Jr. announce the birth of their daughter, Corinne born Nov. 23, 1982. She weighed 8 lbs. 5 oz. She is the granddaughter of Glen and Clara Lowry and Randolph and Kathryn Eddings.



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MRS. KATH TADLOCK

Mrs. Kathie Tadlock, age 61, of Route 3, Fairmont died Saturday in Southeastern General Hospital following a short illness. Funeral services were held at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday at Raynham Full Gospel Indian Church. Officiating ministers were Rev. Phyllis Ballinger, Rev. Johnnie Chavis, and Rev. T.M. Swett. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Survivors include her husband, Mr. Dozier Tadlock of the home; two sons—James William Hunt of Fairmont and Dozier Tadlock Jr. of Rowland; nine daughters—Mrs. Julia Mae Hunt; Miss Ruth Nelia Tadlock, both of Rowland; Mrs. Myrtle Woolbright of Orlando, Fla.; Mrs. Ester Harmon of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Miss Katherine Tadlock of Kentucky; Mrs. Rendell Jones, Mrs. Lillie Jane Fields, Mrs. Judy Carroll Hunt, all of Lumberton; and Mrs. Linda Lee Campbell of New Jersey; two adopted daughters—Miss Penny Carter and Miss Janet Carter, both of Lumberton; one sister, Mrs. Annie Hester Chavis of Rowland; 21 grandchildren.

Pembroke

Sr. High

Honor

Roll

Mr. Roy Maynor, Jr., Principal of Pembroke Senior High School announces that the students below have been named to the Honor Roll for the Second six weeks grading period:

12th Grade "A" Honor Roll: Ana Fonseca and Christopher W. Hunt.
11th Grade "A" Honor Roll: Mark Graham and Kimberly Oxendine.
10th Grade "A" Honor Roll: Melody Diane Chavis and Tyrone Delton Lowry, Jr.
12th Grade "B" Honor Roll: Michelle Alkins, Lisa R. Baker, Sherry A. Brooks, Debbie Butler, Felicia Carter, Miriam Chavis, David Cummings, Rena Cummings, Sharon E. Daniel, Susan Deese, Bruce L. Dial, Donna M. Dial, Claudia Fonseca, Rosearia Gomez, Roger Hammonds, Carol Hunt, Gregory Hunt, Joseph Johnson, Deano Jones, Robert Jones, Alan Locklear, Arlene Locklear, Belinda Locklear, Clarence E. Locklear, Doreen Locklear, Gertie Lynn Locklear, Jackie R. Locklear, Jeffrey L. Locklear, Cathy Maynor, Laura Denise Maynor, Tracy Lynn Maynor, Rose McGirt, Karla Jo Miller, Carol Moore, Sherry O'Brian, Bridget Oxendine, Burney Oxendine, Carlene Oxendine, Annie Powell, Sheila Regan, Leslynn O. Revels, Jimmy Sampson, Pamela Kaya Sampson, Tammy R. Sampson, Paula Smith, Derwin Strickland, Mark Strickland, Terry Strickland, Jacqueline Swett.

11TH GRADE B HONOR ROLL: Audrey Brayboy, Cathy Brayboy, Penny Brooks, Paul Cummings, Richard Kelvin Demery, Julie Dunavan, Lemark Harris, Kenneth Hunt, Marlene Hunt, Michael Lynn Jacobs, Ann Dora Locklear, Christopher Locklear, Christopher S. Locklear, Sheila L. Locklear, Teresa L. Locklear, Jacqueline Lowery, Jennifer Morgan, Jerry Newman, Phillip Edward Odum, Nancy Oxendine, Tammy Sue Oxendine, Gale Sampson, Julika Sampson, Tyra Sampson, Janet Iris Sutton, Deborah Ann Swett and Alan Townsend.

10. H GRADE B HONOR ROLL: Pamela Brooks, Kimberly Chavis, Kimberly Dale Chavis, Tongee Chavis, Cletis Cummings, Andrew Lee Hunt, Cassandra Hunt, Raymond Hunt, Jr., Ronald Jacobs, Windell C. Jacobs, Angela Jones, Gwendolyn Jones, David Locklear, Eller Beth Locklear, Paul Locklear, Stacy Locklear, Jr., Lisa J. Lowry, Robert Marciniak, Kimberly McCartney, Brenda Oxendine, Hughes Oxendine, Delina Sampson and Sherry Warner.

Pembroke Middle School Honor Roll

Betsy rating, principal of Pembroke Middle School, released the following honor roll. All students are in the seventh grade.

A HONOR ROLL

Sharie L. Billings, John Brooks, Charlotte D. Chavis, Patricia Cummings, Teresa Cummings, Carmen Deese, Nancy R. Ford, Petrice Hunt, Scot R. Hunt, Samuel Jacobs, Ginger Kilgore, Nina Locklear, Roger E. Locklear, Clifton B. Lowry, Julia N. Lowry, Monica L. Lowry, Monica L. Lowry, Melanie R. Obriant, Jamie C. Oxendine, Reginald Oxendine, Anthony Q. Maynor, Angela D. Revels, Jeremy Sampson, Rose Strickland, La-Meecha Swett, Brian T. Woodell, Bruce T. Woodell.

B HONOR ROLL

Mike Bazley, Sandra K. Bledsole, Timothy Brewington, Travis Bryant, Lee C. Bullard, Tammy Chandler, Dacia Deese, Betty Dial, Melissa Dial, Angela Frances, Grant Floria, Sean Graham, Cheryl Hammonds, Terrence Hammonds, Brian Henry, Sean Hunt, Priscilla M. Jacobs, James R. Jones, Jamie L. Jones, Natasha Jones, Tina A. Jacobs, John Kremski Jr., Nancy Kerns, Carol Locklear, Henry Locklear, Jamie Locklear, Jeanie Locklear, Jermie Locklear, Kimberly Locklear, Mark D. Locklear, Maxine Locklear, Pamela C. Locklear, Rhet A. Locklear, Ritchie Locklear, Ronald Locklear, Rose Locklear, Scarlett Locklear, Tina Locklear, Vondra Locklear, Wanda Locklear, Darnell W. Lowery, Lorrie A. Lowery, Stephen Lowry, Joshua Malcolm, Leslis C. Maynor, Patrick Maynor, Nichole McLemore, Alice McRae, James T. Nogowski, Gina Oxendine, Jennifer Oxendine, Kerry Oxendine, Kelvin B. Oxendine, Carolyn Parson, Sandra Pipkin, Suzette Pipkin, Chandra Ransom, Kimberly Rayas, Buffy Revels, Shauna Revels, Tammy Revels, Chris Sanderson, Sabrina Sanderson, Joy Saxon, Karen Scott, Kellie Sheffield, Siane Smith, Paula Stickney, Gary Strickland, Tina Strickland, Virginia L. Taylor, Hilton Woodell, Roger D. Woodell, Sherry Wynn.

Locals Part of Peace Keeping Force in Lebanon

GREGORY HUGGINS

Navy Hospitalman Gregory Huggins, son of the Rev. and Mrs. J.C. Huggins of Lumberton, NC is serving as a member of the international peace keeping force in Lebanon.

He is a member of Marine Service Support Group 24, 24th Marine Amphibious Unit (MAU), Camp Lejeune, NC.

DALLAS HARRIS

Marine PFC Dallas Harris, son of Margaret Harris of Maxton, NC is serving as a member of the international peace keeping force in Lebanon.

He is a member of Marine Service Support Group 24, 24th Marine Amphibious Unit (MAU), Camp Lejeune, NC.

DARRYL K. THOMPSON

Marine Lance Cpl. Darryl K. Thompson, son of Ray P. and Mary L. White of Lumberton is serving as a member of the international peace keeping force in Lebanon.

He is a member of Marine Service Support Group 24, 24th Marine Amphibious Unit (MAU), Camp Lejeune, NC. In conjunction with Lebanese Army, French and Italian troops, approximately 1200 Marines of the 1800 member 24th MAU began patrolling East Beirut.

The 24th MAU relieved the 32nd MAU of peace keeping efforts in early November. The 32nd MAU had been ordered to the war torn nation in June to participate in the evacuation of American citizens and foreign nationals. The 32nd MAU returned to Lebanon in August to supervise the evacuation of the PLO, and in September as part of the multi-national peace keeping force.



Carowinds theme park will be launching a week-long, six-city talent search from January 30 to February 9 to find singers, dancers and musicians for the 1983 live shows program. Representatives of Carowinds will be holding auditions at Carowinds (Jan. 30), University of South Carolina in Columbia (Jan. 31), East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C. (Feb. 1), University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill (Feb. 2), University of North Carolina in Greensboro (Feb. 3), and North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem (Feb. 3).