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"SUPER-RIGHT" HEAVY CORN-FED BEEF

Race Issue, Clergy Appointments Highlight Methodist Conference

ROASTS

LAKE JUNALUSKA, N.C.—Western North Carolina Methodism will come to grips with vital issues affecting both external and internal church program and structure during the annual meeting of its Conference through Sunday here.

Race will continue to be the headline-catching issue, but equally as important to Methodists will be programs aimed at better preaching, better pensions for clergymen, a revamped personnel structure for Conference employees, and psychiatric assistance for pastors in stress.

Bishop Earl G. Hunt, Jr., spiritual leader of the Charlotte Methodist Area which includes the Western North Carolina Conference will preside over all sessions of the five-day meeting and is delivering two addresses: a "State of the Church" talk the opening night, Wednesday and a closing inspirational sermon during the 10:30 a.m. worship service Sunday.

The bishop, who is presiding over the annual Conference meeting for the second time since being assigned to the Charlotte Area in 1964 will also read the appointments of about 800 clergymen to western North Carolina congregations, colleges and universities, administrative posts, the mission fields and chaplaincy.

Each year about 200 clergymen are moved to different pulpits in the traditional "traveling ministry" system of Methodism. The average length of service with a congregation is four years, but church law allows a minister to be moved each year.

Bishop Hunt and his cabinet—the clergymen who serve as superintendents over the 13 districts into which the Conference is divided—concluded their pre-conference work in ministerial appointments during Monday and Tuesday sessions at Lake Junaluska.

There will be five other key speakers during the meeting, in addition to Bishop Hunt.

The "Conference Preacher"—the clergyman who will deliver inspirational addresses during the legislative session—will be Dr. William R. Cannon, Jr., of Atlanta, Ga., dean of the Candler School of Theology, Emory University. He will preach once Thursday and twice Friday.

Three other bishops will appear on the program. Bishop T. Otto Nall, who leads Minnesota Methodists and is one of Methodism's outstanding journalists, will give the address tonight as the Conference Historical Society celebrates the 200th anniversary of the Methodist Church in the U.S. In connection with this, a 250 page book, "Methodism in Western North Carolina", will go on sale. The author is Dr. Elmer T. Clark, leading Methodist historian of Lake Junaluska, and secretary emeritus of the World Methodist Council.

Bishop Nolan B. Harmon of Atlanta, Ga., retired who presided over the Charlotte Methodist Area from 1956-64 and is now editor of the World Encyclopedia of Methodism, will deliver the traditional Memorial Service sermon Saturday.

Dr. Finis A. Crutchfield pastor of Boxton Avenue Methodist Church in Tulsa, Okla., fourth largest in Methodism with 6,400 members, will be the other speaker. He will

be featured during a program on Christian Higher Education tomorrow night.

The program of the Institute for Homiletical Studies, designed to improve the preaching and the preachers of the Conference, was outlined Wednesday afternoon. Wednesday night the committee to study Conference Personnel and related matters is to give its recommendations on Conference structure.

The relationship of white and Negro Methodists will be discussed during two reports this morning. One report will concern the relationship of the entire Southeastern Jurisdiction and its 16 white annual Conferences to the eight Negro Conferences of the Central Jurisdiction.

The other report will tell the delegates results of discussions between the three white Methodist annual Conferences of Western North Carolina, Virginia and North Carolina, and the Negro North Carolina-Virginia Methodist Conference.

This afternoon the Board of Pensions will present its proposals regarding a new pension program which would cost western North Carolina Methodists larger sums of money now in order to save the Methodists expenditure of heavy sums of money in the future, along with other benefits.

The expected 1,200 delegates divided between laymen and clergymen—will hear about new youth and adult church school curriculums, tomorrow. Tomorrow afternoon the Board of Missions will detail its latest ventures into the spreading of the Gospel overseas and locally; and the Board of Evangelism will give plans for a special week long pulp exchange with the Virginia Methodist Conference early in 1967.

The report of the Committee on Pastoral Care and Counseling—aimed at providing clergymen with a pressure valve in times of stress—will be given Saturday.

Saturday night will feature one of the spiritual highlights of the entire week, as candidates for the Methodist orders of deacon and elder are ordained, and a missionary is commissioned for missions service overseas.

All delegates will be given the Sacrament of Holy Communion early Sunday morning and the morning worship service and the reading of the appointments of clergymen will follow.

Nearly two dozen other reports will come during the five days, to be discussed and voted upon by the delegates.

Assisting Bishop Hunt in the program will be Dr. Charles D. White of Asheboro, the Conference secretary.

Since the Conference began meeting regularly at Lake Junaluska, rather than moving the yearly sessions from city to city, districts have been rotated as hosts. This year the Gastonia and North Wilkesboro Districts are the hosts.

The Lake Junaluska Assembly is the mountain retreat for the three million Methodists of the Southeastern Methodist Jurisdiction—located in nine states—and serves for training, worship, conferences and inspiration.

Dr. James W. Fowler, Jr., is the superintendent of the Assembly. Dr. Edwin L. Jones Sr., of Charlotte, is president of the Assembly's Board of Trustees

Cherokee Scout & Clay County Progress, Thurs. June 9, 1966



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