

The Ministerial Exchange Program which began with a single exchange 35 years ago, has continued to grow with a total of 446 ministers and their families participating during the five-year period. This growth reflects not only an increase in participants each year but an increase in the number of countries represented.

1977 — 66 ministers from England, Wales, Northern Ireland and 17 American States.

1978 — 88 ministers from England, Northern Ireland, Wales, Isle of Man and 23 American States.

1979 — 90 ministers from England, Isle of Man, Northern Ireland, New Zealand and 22 American States.

1980 — 100 ministers from England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Isle of Man, Channel Islands, New Zealand and 19 American States.

1981 — 102 Ministers from India, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Eire, Wales, England, South Africa and 24 American States.

In addition to local church pastors participants in the program included District Superintendents, District Chairmen, College and Industrial Chaplains, Campus Ministers, Probation Officers, Synod Secretaries and Mission Superintendents. Three ethnic groups have been represented and for the first time clergy women have been involved.

The Youth and Community Volunteer Scheme was adopted in 1977 as an official program of World Exchange. Youth volunteers from the United States, England and New Zealand have served churches in England, Samoa, the United States and Austria.

The Korean-American Methodist Interaction Program was developed in 1979 to undertake mission interaction between the Korean Methodist Church and the United Methodist Church in the USA with pastors, lay leaders, women and students exchanged between the two churches. Fifty-four persons have participated in the program since it began.

A "Pilot" Lay Exchange Program was initiated in 1981 with four outstanding lay leaders from the United States and England exchanging. Both exchanges have been very successful and guidelines for participation are now being formulated in anticipation of program expansion.

In summary, a total of 514 ministers, youth and laypersons, their families, churches and communities have been involved in exchange during the 1977-1981 period.

We would like to record our appreciation to members of the Executive Committee for their encouragement and support during the past quinquennium.

We would also like to thank Dr. Charles Parlin for his generous contribution which enabled us to include "Third World" and ethnic exchanges in the 1981 program.

We respectfully submit this report to the Council for endorsement.

A. Stanley Leyland, Chairman, Exchange Committee, 1977-1981

Edna Alsdurf, Director, World Exchange Program

Appendix XIII

REPORT OF THE YOUTH COMMITTEE AND CONFERENCE

The Youth Committee:

In the last quinquennium, the Youth Committee has, in effect, been constituted from the Youth Members of the Executive Committee and has met, therefore, in conjunction with the Executive Committee's meetings. There was also a meeting of these resident in the USA in December 1979 in preparation for the Truro ICYC and the 1981 Conference. The lack of a travel budget has meant that only those members who have been funded by their respective churches have been consistent

attenders; this has meant a predominantly American and British orientation. However, a measure of continuity between meetings was achieved and the Committee has remained faithful to its task as its members have grown together in love and service.

Together we have been vocal participants in the Executive Committee. We have worked with the Evangelism Committee in the planning and execution of the Truro ICYC. The last two years have seen the planning of the Youth Conference which took place prior to the meeting of the World Methodist Conference in Hawaii.

The Youth Conference:

The Youth Conference met at Camp Kailani on the north shore of Oahu, July 16-20. The 78 participants came from 32 nations; 43 persons came from outside the USA and there was a strong presence from Africa and Asia.

The Conference was entitled "1981 and our Christian Agenda". Bishop Roy Nichols gave two major addresses, the first of which reminded the participants of the historical roots of our tradition; the second issued various challenges as to how the Church might move forward as an effective witness to the world.

The major themes raised by Bishop Nichols inspired the 6 working groups in which the major work of the Conference was done. Each working group was led by a Youth member of the Executive Committee: their titles were: (1) Spiritual formation and Christian Disciplines; (2) Human rights, war and peace; (3) Evangelism and mission; (4) Hunger, spiritual and physical; (5) Creation and our Christian responsibility; (6) Christianity in a pluralistic (changing) world.

Discussion was lively and new understandings were reached. In a plenary session of reports we discovered that our personal spiritual growth is fundamental to our concern for the other areas which had been explored — a Christian must always be concerned for the world. We have experienced that it is not always simple to discern God's will when the world makes its diverse claims upon us.

We also had a session in which small groups shared the successes and failures/problems of the Youth Programmes in our countries and sought ways in which we could help one another to solve the problems.

Often our problems were similar — we saw a need for strong leadership of youth, for good programming and most of all for openness in the Church to the concerns of youth.

We worked, lived, played and prayed together. Together we felt the presence of the Holy Spirit in our final Communion Service, as we pledged ourselves to go out in the service of Jesus Christ. We have grown closer to one another, across the barriers of language and culture, acknowledging that sometimes it is hard to celebrate unity in diversity, in our struggles we can only attest that we are one in the Spirit.

W. Kilworth-Mason
Marta Burke

Appendix XIV

REPORT OF THE MANAGING TRUSTEES OF THE EPWORTH OLD RECTORY

Introduction

The Epworth Old Rectory was purchased for Methodism by funds donated through the World Methodist Council and after restoration and furnishing in 18th Century styles was opened in June 1957