

# *The Indiana United Methodist Historical Society* *Newsletter*

P. O. Box 331, Greencastle, Indiana 46135

Fall 2005

## **We Came Together**



Meeting at the Franklin United Methodist Community on April 30, 2005, the South Indiana Conference United Methodist Historical Society accepted the invitation of the North Indiana Conference Commission on Archives and History to expand northward, becoming the Indiana United Methodist Historical Society. A vote by over two-thirds of the members present authorized a revised set of by-laws, doubling the size, concern, and commitment of what is now IUMHS.

John Baughman reviewed the history of SICUMHS as an outgrowth of the South Indiana Conference Commission on Archives and History, having been established as independent of, but amenable to the Commission. Dr. Baughman also presented a revised set of by-laws, broadening the society's interests to

include Indiana Methodist history throughout the breadth of Indiana.

Comments were welcomed from the floor. Reverend James Gentry, representing Bishop Coyner, expressed approval of what was being proposed, saying the expansion being considered moved SICUMHS in the same direction the Bishop's cabinet was moving, toward a "consideration of the larger picture," one that "bridges conferences." Douglas Davies, speaking for the North Indiana Conference Commission on Archives and History, which he chairs, stated, "We [of the North Conference] are amazed at what your organization has accomplished. We want to grab hold of your coattails."

In countering the assertion that the leadership of SICUMHS was few in number and overworked, member Jack Seville said he did not perceive an influx of new leadership coming from the proposed change. Mr. Seville also pointed out the hardship, especially for an older membership, of possibly having to travel from the southern border of Indiana almost to Michigan for an annual meeting. The proposed expansion, too, Mr. Seville thought, seemed abrupt and should be "worked toward before we act."

Dr. Baughman responded to one of Mr. Seville's major points by saying the Executive Committee could weigh travel considerations, favoring meeting sites central to the state, with only occasional ventures north and south.

A motion closed discussion, and a vote approved acceptance of the new by-laws. President Jack Haskins said that those nominated officers for 2005-2006 being accepted at the April 30<sup>th</sup> meeting would continue to serve, with the North Conference being represented by Douglas Davies. Future Executive Committee members would be selected from both conferences.