

2008
NORTHWEST TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE JOURNAL

MOVING FORWARD WITH HOPE



**Ninety-Ninth Session
Bishop D. Max Whitfield, presiding
Combined Annual Conference with New Mexico
Glorieta Conference Center
Glorieta New Mexico 87535
June 3 – 6, 2008**

JOURNAL

**NORTHWEST TEXAS
ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

OF

**THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1910 - 2008**

Ninety-Ninth Session

**Joint Annual Conference Session with New Mexico
Glorieta Conference Center
Glorieta New Mexico
June 3 – 6, 2008**

Bishop D. Max Whitfield, Presiding

Rosemary Prumer, Editor

\$15.00



Bishop D. Max Whitfield



MINISTRY CABINET

(Left to Right): Randy Hollums, C. Edward Allsup, Namiqa Ardhuerumly Shipman,
Bishop D. Max Whitfield, T. Todd Dyess, Ava Burdine Berry, and James G. Nunn

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NORTHWEST TEXAS ANNUAL CONFERENCE HISTORY

The following was written by Dr. Darris L. Egger when he was the Conference Historian

The present Northwest Texas Conference came into being in 1910 out of the old Northwest Texas Conference. That conference was established in 1866 and extended from south of Waco northwestward to all the Panhandle. The present NW Texas Conference extends from Abilene on the south, Midland on the west and Vernon on the northeast, and then to the top of the Panhandle.

Albany is the oldest existing church in the Conference, having been organized in 1873, a year before Shackelford County was organized. The first district in the present Conference was Belle Plaine, which lasted only three years, 1881-1883. The Abilene District came into being in 1883 and is still going strong. The "Pan Handle" District was also created in 1880, but lasted only one year.

The Vernon District was established in 1888, and until 1894, when the Clarendon District was formed. The Abilene and Vernon Districts administered all the work in what would become the Northwest Texas Conference. In 1904 the Colorado District was organized and known as "The Jumbo District" extending all the way north to Tulia and west to the New Mexico line. The year 1906 saw the creation of the Plainview District, and the Stamford District was formed soon after in 1908.

When the huge Conference was divided into the Central Texas and the present Northwest Texas Conferences in 1910, the latter had six districts: Abilene, Clarendon, Colorado, Plainview, Stamford and Vernon. At the first session of the new Conference, three new districts were added: Amarillo, Big Spring and Hamlin. Throughout the 85-year-old history, there have been new alignments in districts and name changes made, but all covering the same territory as in 1910.

Through dedicated lay and clergy, the Northwest Texas Conference has attempted to carry the Gospel to the 66 counties within its boundaries, to the nation and the world. This has been done with missionary zeal and mission dollars, by evangelistic fervor, through higher Christian education. The Methodist zeal for Christian higher education was manifested by the establishment of five colleges: Belle Plaine, Seth Ward, Clarendon, Stamford and McMurry. Only McMurry succeeded in the struggle for existence and has since become a university.

In addition, Wesley Foundations have provided Christian campus ministries at Texas Tech and West Texas A & M. Youth camps at Ceta Canyon Camp and Butman Methodist Camp and Retreat Center, Youth Assemblies at McMurry, the ministry of healing at Methodist Hospital in Lubbock and in its affiliates throughout West Texas and Eastern New Mexico, and Golden Cross are only a few of our channels of ministry.

Local churches are where ministries begin and take place. None could have happened without local church interest and commitment. Sunday Schools teaching the age-old truths, pastors in pulpits challenging people to live the Christian imperative have fueled the work of the church in the world.

This is a "bare bones sketch" of the history of the Northwest Texas Conference.

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