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Washington Probably Will Be First on Centenary List, Conference Is Told.

BALTIMORE, April 7.—The Baltimore annual conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, which began its one hundred and thirty-seventh session yesterday at Mt. Vernon Place Church, will probably be in the lead of all the annual conferences in percentage of increase to the centenary fund for the past year.

WASHINGTON AREA LEADS.
 This statement was made at the centenary meeting last night by the Rev. Dr. Morris E. Swartz, secretary of the Washington area. He said that the whole Washington area would show an increase in its contributions to the centenary fund, but that he feared the area would "be alone in its glory."

Bishop W. F. McDowell, of Washington, and the Rev. Dr. E. D. Kohstedt, of Chicago, director of field activities for the centenary, were the chief orators. John L. Alcock presided.

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side and Elmore B. Jeffery, chairman of the Washington area committee, told briefly of the progress of the work.

LAYMEN ALREADY ON HAND.
 Prominent laymen arrived yesterday although they will not hold formal meetings until tomorrow. It is believed that they came to sound the ministers on the question of allowing laymen seats in the annual conference, from which they are now excluded. An amendment was adopted by the General Conference last year in Des Moines, Iowa, admitting laymen to the annual conferences, as they already have been admitted to the General Conference. This amendment must be ratified by the annual conferences and by the lay electoral conferences before it becomes effective.

EXPECT RATIFICATION.
 The Baltimore Electoral Conference, which usually meets on every four years to elect delegates to the General Conference, will meet tomorrow to discuss the amendment. Its ratification by the laymen is not doubted. The business session of the annual conference will also hold its annual meeting tomorrow. Both bodies will meet in First Presbyterian Church.

The business session of the annual conference yesterday was taken up with reports from the Frederick district, the Rev. Dr. B. Frank Devries, superintendent; the Baltimore East district, the Rev. Dr. John T. Ennor, superintendent; and the Baltimore West district, the Rev. Dr. W. W. Barnes, superintendent.

All three districts reported unusual progress both in new members and in contributions for the past conference year, both in church congregations and in the Sunday schools. Dr. Devries reported 1,024 new members in his district. Dr. Barnes reported an increase of 600 members or 100 percent in the financial report and of \$6,500 increase in centenary funds. Dr. Ennor told of plans for the Gatch Church, on the Belair road, which will cost about \$100,000 and of improvements to Monument Street Church, Appold Church, North Avenue Church, and of the new site for Waverly Church.

MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD.
 A memorial service was held after the business session, the Rev. Dr. Edward L. Watson, of Roland Park, presiding. Memorials were read for John T. Stone, who was president of the Maryland Casualty Company and who was delegate to the last general conference, although he died while the conference was in session; to the Rev. J. I. Winger, of Forest Hill, Harford county, and to the Rev. Charles T. Weede, of Kensington.

SOUTHERN CHURCH OPENS CONFERENCE
 ROANOKE, Va., April 7.—Since the Greene Memorial Church, in which the 137th session of the Baltimore Annual Conference Methodist Episcopal Church South will begin today, was damaged by fire Sunday, to the extent of \$25,000, the sessions of the conference will be held in the auditorium instead of the Sunday school part of the building. The board and committee meetings will be held in the Young Men's Christian Association building, opposite the church.

Bishop E. R. Hendrix, of Kansas City, Mo., the presiding bishop, arrived on Saturday. He is the guest of F. B. Thomas. The bishop was the guest of honor of the Billy Sunday Men's Club last night. Bishop U. V. W. Darlington, of Huntington, W. Va., is expected tomorrow. He will assist Bishop Hendrix in the heavy work of the conference, which must be done in less time by one day than that of previous conferences. Because of the abbreviated session part of tomorrow will be occupied with educational addresses in the interest of raising \$33,000,000 in an eighty-day campaign the latter part of May.

Among the most important things that will be considered on Friday will

be the centenary and missionary interests. Dr. H. N. Snyder, president of Wofford College, Spartanburg, S. C., is expected to make the principal educational address today.

The board of missions has been in session all day. It is composed of the Rev. Dr. C. D. Harris, Baltimore, president; J. E. Scott, Overlea, Md., vice president; the Rev. S. K. Cockrell, Woodstock, Va., secretary; J. E. Alexander, Alexandria, Va., treasurer; M. L. Dinwiddie, Alexandria, Va., assistant treasurer; Dr. H. H. Sherman, Front Royal, Va., conference missionary secretary; Judge E. D. Newman, conference lay leader, and the Revs. Absolom Knox and J. H. Baithis, Baltimore; Dr. H. M. Cantor, Harrisonburg, Va.; the Rev. William Stevens, Manassas, Va.; the Rev. R. C. Maxwell, Sykesville, Md.; the Rev. A. Lee Barret, Frederick, Md.; E. Chase Hale, Alderson, W. Va.; C. M. Lewis, Cumberland, Md.; F. B. Thomas, Roanoke, Va.; William Dean, Harri-

sonburg, Va.; D. C. Chambers, Alexandria, Va.; E. B. Reed, Charles Town, W. Va.

Dr. H. H. Sherman, in submitting his report as missionary secretary, made the statement that there was an increase in the salaries of pastors for the year just closing of \$50,000, which makes a total for the past two years of \$70,000, an increase of 33 per cent.

INCREASE OF 60 PER CENT.
 The grand total for all purposes for the year 1919-20 was \$1,135,364, as compared with \$705,061 for the previous year, an increase of about 60 per cent. A large part of this increase has been due to the centenary spirit and efforts, with its stewardship and lecturing program, he said.

The sermon was preached last night to a large congregation by the Rev. Joseph H. Baithis, of Baltimore. Every train is bringing throngs of preachers and laymen to Roanoke, crowding the hotels and homes.

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Average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the six months preceding the date of this statement:

Average net paid circulation—
 Daily 53,842
 Sunday 47,650
 (Signed) A. T. Macdonald, General Manager.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 6th day of April, 1921.
 C. WILKES,
 My commission expires Jan. 31, 1922.

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