



Methodist Review
A Journal of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Rex D. Matthews

Candler School of Theology

Emory University

Atlanta, GA 30322

Tel: (404) 727-6345

Email: rex.matthews@emory.edu

Methodist Review Begins Publication

Methodist Review: A Journal of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies, a new open access, peer-reviewed electronic academic journal, begins publication.

Atlanta, GA – 1 May 2009 – The board of directors and the sponsors of The Methodist Review, Inc., are pleased to announce the launch of *Methodist Review: A Journal of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies*. As an open access, peer-reviewed electronic academic journal, *Methodist Review (MR)* publishes scholarly articles in all areas and eras of Wesleyan and Methodist studies, including biblical, theological, ethical, philosophical, practical, historical, biographical, and social-scientific topics and methodologies. The journal's URL is: www.methodistreview.org.

Methodist Review is sponsored by Candler School of Theology, Emory University; Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University; the Association of United Methodist Theological Schools (AUMTS); and the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church (GBHEM). The corporate office of The Methodist Review, Inc., is located at GBHEM in Nashville; the *MR* editorial office is located at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta. Technical support is provided by the Digital Systems division of the Emory University Libraries, where *MR* is hosted.

Methodist Review is partly a successor to and partly a transformation of *Quarterly Review: A Journal of Theological Resources for Ministry (QR)*, which was published jointly by GBHEM and The United Methodist Publishing House from 1980 to 2005. Russell E. Richey (Candler) and Ted A. Campbell (Perkins) serve as the general editors of *MR*; Rex D. Matthews (Candler) is the managing editor; and Valerie J. Loner (Candler) is the current editorial assistant.

Although its entirely digital format and blind peer-review policy are new, said Richey, *MR* seeks to continue a rich intellectual tradition that dates back far beyond *QR*, its immediate predecessor, to the establishment in 1818 of the *Methodist Magazine*, a North American Methodist effort to emulate John Wesley's own *Arminian Magazine* which began publication in 1778.

Campbell observed that the rigorous peer-review procedure used will help to ensure the academic credibility and quality of *Methodist Review*. To that end, *MR* has assembled a large editorial board of highly qualified senior scholars, including non-U.S. Methodist/Wesleyan scholars, all of whom serve on a voluntary basis, reviewing and evaluating articles submitted for publication in *MR* and advising the editors about their suitability for publication in the journal.

Methodist Review will not be published on the regular schedule of a print journal. Instead, articles will be published on the *MR* Web site when they are ready, and registered users will be notified of their publication by e-mail. Matthews noted that the electronic format was purposely chosen for the journal to best serve an increasingly global Methodist/Wesleyan academic audience by allowing for more timely delivery of articles and lower production costs. The financial support provided by its sponsors enables *MR* to provide immediate access to its content at no cost to its readers. A one-time, free user registration is required to access the articles published in the journal.

The first articles to be published in *Methodist Review* are these:

- Sarah Heaner Lancaster (Methodist Theological School in Ohio), et al., “What Makes Theology ‘Wesleyan’?” featuring contributions by Catherine Keller (Drew University Theological School), Donald A. Thorsen (Asuza Pacific University), Dennis C. Dickerson (Vanderbilt University), and Charles M. Wood (Perkins School of Theology), with an introduction by Sarah Lancaster.
- Russell E. Richey (Candler School of Theology), “The United Methodist Church at 40: Where Have We Come From?”
- Woodie W. White (Candler School of Theology), “The United Methodist Church at 40: How Have We Done?”
- Mary Elizabeth Moore (Boston University School of Theology), “The United Methodist Church at 40: What Can We Hope For?”

The first of these articles originated in a program session of the Wesleyan Studies Group at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. The other three derive from the plenary addresses given to the consultation on “The United Methodist Church at 40: Considering Our History, Teaching Our Traditions, Anticipating Our Future” hosted by the Candler School of Theology, 14–17 August 2008.

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Listings of the members of the *Methodist Review* board of directors, editorial board, and advisory board are now available on the journal's Web site www.methodistreview.org along with “An Editorial Welcome to *Methodist Review*” giving more details about the journal. For further information, contact Rex D. Matthews at (404) 727-6345 or at rex.matthews@emory.edu.