HARMON, NOLAN B. (NOLAN BAILEY), 1892-.
Nolan B. Harmon papers, 1933-1993

Emory University
Pitts Theology Library
1531 Dickey Drive, Suite 560
Atlanta, GA 30322
404-727-4166

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Harmon, Nolan B. (Nolan Bailey), 1892-.
Title: Nolan B. Harmon papers, 1933-1993
Call Number: Manuscript Collection No. 134
Extent: 10.3 cubic feet (27 boxes)
Abstract: Contains biographical material, sermons, and addresses from Nolan Harmon, as well as reports and committee files from the Methodist Church.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction
All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.
The copyright to the Harmon papers is maintained by the Estate of Bishop Nolan B. Harmon.

Citation
[after identification of item(s)], Nolan B. Harmon Papers, Archives and Manuscript Dept., Pitts Theology Library, Emory University.

Processing

Collection Description

Biographical Note
The Bishop Nolan Harmon was born in Meridian, Mississippi, on July 14, 1892. He was the son, grandson, and great grandson of Methodist Ministers. Harmon attended Milsaps College in Mississippi and was a member of the first class of the Candler School of Theology in 1914. He then received his Master of Arts at Princeton University in 1920. Harmon received honorary
degrees from Milsaps College, Hamline University, Western Maryland, Mt. Union and Wofford Colleges. He also received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Emory University in 1958.

In 1940 Harmon was elected book editor of the re-united Methodist Churches, editing documents of the Abington Press, and the journal Religion in Life. He was also general editor of the twelve volume Interpreters Bible. In his retirement, he edited the Encyclopedia of World Methodism. Bishop Harmon was elected to the Episcopacy in 1956. From 1956 to 1964, Harmon was bishop of churches in many of the states in the Southeast. Between 1960 and 1964, Harmon was a member of Methodist committees that revised Methodist Hymn books. He retired from the ministry in 1964.

Bishop Harmon wrote many books including Ministerial Ethics and Etiquette, his autobiography Ninety Years and Counting, and The Famous Case of Myra Clark Gaines. Bishop Harmon made civil rights history in April 1963 when he along with eight other ministers released a statement calling on African Americans to stop taking part in demonstrations initiated by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The statement called the Atlanta-born King's actions "unwise and untimely" and stated that only "slow, slow, slow" change should bring about equal rights. It was this statement that inflamed Dr. King and caused him to write the famous "Letter From the Birmingham Jail." Bishop Harmon in his 1983 biography referred to the letter as a "propaganda move."

After his retirement, Bishop Harmon joined the Emory University faculty as a visiting professor but he continued there into his 96th year. He taught two classes, government, and the history of Methodism. Harmon died in June 1993.

Scope and Content Note
The first series of this collection is composed of biographical material concerning Bishop Harmon.

The second series, and by far the largest series, is composed of Literary Works Bishop Harmon. This series is comprised of three sub-series: Sermons: this material is maintained in its original order and can be accessed by using the "Index to Sermons" prepared by the Bishop himself. The sermons cover the years 1933 through 1968; Addresses: which is divided into dated and undated addresses; articles: which is likewise divided into dated and undated materials; a small file which Bishop Harmon had entitled lectures; some book reviews; four poems by the bishop; and a collection of manuscripts.

Series Three is composed of material dealing with the Methodist Church and contains reports, material on race relations from the early 1960's, and committee files.

Series Four contains teaching material used by Bishop Harmon and is comprised almost entirely of copies of exams for the various courses he taught at Candler School of Theology.

Series Five contains correspondence relating to professional issues and controversies which concerned Harmon. Especially interesting is the material related to Harmon's disapproval of Martin Luther King's use of civil disobedience and rejection of the Board of Social Concern's position's support of King.

Series Six contains assorted "scrapbook" material originally arranged by Harmon. This material contains clippings, photographic prints, and pamphlets.
Series Seven contains ephemera including General conference medals and commemorative coins, a Communion set for Methodist Chaplains from around 1918, and assorted commemorative gavels.

Box 27, which is split across several series, was added to the collection in early 2009 and contains correspondence, sermons, public addresses, articles, opinion pieces, Methodist conference reports, and miscellaneous writings from the period 1957-1963. The correspondence and other writings cover an interesting period in Harmon's life, during which he expressed opinions about the Civil Rights movement and social change. Box 27 also includes a booklet of poetry by Juliet Howe Harmon, as well as a card of miniature portraits of Southern Methodist bishops from the immediate post-Civil War period, sent to Bishop Harmon in 1948.

**Arrangement Note**

Organized into 7 series: (1) Biographical Information, (2) Literary Works, (3) Methodist Church Materials, (4) Candler School of Theology, (5) Correspondence, (6) Scrapbooks, and (7) Ephemera.
Description of Series

Series I: Biographical Information, 1966-1993
Series II: Literary Works, 1919-1980, undated
Series IV: Candler School of Theology, 1986-1988, undated
Series V: Correspondence, 1933-1968
Series VI: Scrapbooks, 1956-1964
Series VII: Ephemera, 1884-1984, undated
Series I
Biographical Information, 1966-1993
Boxes 1, 13

Scope and Content Note
This series contains biographical material concerning Bishop Harmon.

Arrangement Note
Arranged by file type.

Memorial Service, 1993 June 12
Box  Folder  Content
1   1       Memorial service program
1   1       Eulogy: William R. Cannon
1   1       Eulogy: Joel D. McDavid

1988 Robbery
1   1a      Police report and correspondence

Photographs
13  1       Photograph of Bishop Harmon (2), undated
13  2       Photograph of Bishop Harmon with the Emory University Trustees, 1958 November 7
13  2       Photograph of Bishop Harmon with the South Eastern Jurisdiction College of Bishops, circa 1972
13  2       Photograph of Bishop Harmon at a dinner with the Western North Carolina Conference group, Nashville, 1973
13  3       Assorted photographs of Bishop Harmon, undated

Awards, Certificates, etc.
13  4       Presidential Order of Merit, 1991
13  4       Certificate of Appreciation; Western North Carolina Conference, United Methodist Church, 1966
13  5       Plaque: "In Celebration of 100 Years of Life and Christian Ministry", Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church. 1993
Series II
Literary Works, 1919-1980, undated
Boxes 1-10, 23-27

Scope and Content Note
Contains sermons and addresses by Bishop Harmon, as well as sermon notes, articles, book reviews, poems, and a collection of manuscripts.

Arrangement Note
Arranged by file type.

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<td>Index to sermons</td>
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<td>Vol. 1, Index to Sermons, Lectures &amp; Address. Nos. 1-81</td>
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Vol. 27, Nos. 1261-1294

1. Early sermons
2. "Book G"; new sermons, etc., 1963-1968
3. "Book H"; sermons, addresses, etc., 1965-1968
4. Sermon Preached at the General Conference; Trinity Methodist Church; Denver, Colorado, 1960 April 28
5. Sermon for General Conference, 1960
6. "The True Prosperity" First Methodist Church, Birmingham, Alabama, 1961 March 5
8. "We Owe So Much," Myers Park Presbyterian Church, 1963 November 28
9. Ordination sermon for bishops, 1964 July 12

Sermon notes

1. Sermons and Addresses, circa 1957-1962
2. Sermons and Addresses, circa 1963-1964
3. Sermon notes, circa 1919-1925
4. Sermon notes, circa 1936-1964
5. Sermon notes, circa 1938
7. Sermon notes, circa 1949-1990
8. Sermon notes, circa 1949-1963
10. Sermon notes, circa 1949-1958
11. Sermon notes, circa 1949-1982
15. Sermon notes, circa 1957-1963
17. Sermon notes, circa 1958-1959
22. Sermon notes, circa 1960-1970
Sermon notes, circa 1969-1970
Sermon notes, circa 1975-1976
Sermon notes, circa 1975-1984
Sermon notes, circa 1978-1979
Sermon notes, circa 1979-1985
Sermon notes, undated
Radio Sermons, circa 1929-1935
Radio Sermons, 1933-1939.
Radio Sermons, circa 1935-1936
Radio Sermons, circa 1935-1939
Radio Sermons, circa 1936-1938
"Book A," Sermons
"Book B," Annual Conference prayers, sermons, talks, & programs
"Book C," sermons & addresses
"Book D," sermons, prayers, etc. for conference ministerial meetings
"Book E," sermons, lectures
"Book F"
"Book I"
"Book J"
"Book K"

Unbound sermons
I Corinthians, 6-2 "Do you not know that the saints are to judge the earth";
Hansen Memorial Church, Brooklyn, N.Y., 1943 April 9
"Easter Hope," 1961
"The True Prosperity," First Methodist Church, Birmingham, AL, 1961 March 5
"Meditation Upon the Seventh Word," Good Friday, 1962 April 20
"The Living of These Days," Ovens Auditorium, Charlotte N.C., 1963 January 13
Ordination Sermon for North Alabama Conference, Birmingham, 1972 June 5
Sermon preached in Hansen Memorial Church, Brooklyn, N.Y.; text I
Corinthians, 6-2, undated

Addresses
"The Preacher as a Student," 1922 February 20
"The Broader Knowledge," speech at Millsaps College, circa 1929
"For Such a Time as This," address to the New York Conference at Newburgh,
New York, 1943 May 8
"Our Faith in Prayer," The Methodist Hour, 1949 November 13
Devotional Address to the Ecumenical Conference of World Methodism, 1951 September 3

"Man and Measures," Emory University, 1952 June 7

"Perpetual Pentecost," Lynchburg, Virginia, 1953 May 24

"Toward What Unity?" Sigma Chi, 1954 November 3

"A Prayer of Dedication" at the dedication of the new School Building at Samarcand, N.C., 1956 October 17


"Address Given by Bishop Nolan B. Harmon at the Funeral of J. Ernest Yountz," 1960 June 7

Address to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference, Washington, D.C., 1960 June 17

Dedicatory Invocation by Bishop Nolan B. Harmon at the Wylie Station of the Duke Power Company, 1960 October 3

Invocation by Bishop Nolan B. Harmon on the Occasion of the Visit of Vice President Nix, Charlotte Coliseum; address, 1960 October 3

"God's Open Door - A New Year's Meditation," 1961 January 1

"Distinctive Emphases of Methodism," Talk on WBT radio, 1961 May 24


Statement on Race, Birmingham North Alabama Conference, 1961

Methodism and Practical Ecumenicity," Dallas, 1961

"Call Them to Preach," address, 1962 May

"The Nature of the Church - Unity in Diversity," South Carolina Methodist Advocate, 1963 January 17

"Aldersgate and Organization," Southeastern Jurisdictional Convocation, Memphis, Tenn, 1963 March 5-7


"Save the Order of Deacons," 1964 March 12

"The Episcopacy Speaks Through Particular Men," address delivered ex tempore to the newly elected Bishops, Gatlinburg, Tenn, 1964 October 5

Conference Historical Address - 1965, Florida Historical Society & North Georgia Conference meeting, 1965 June


"The Care of All the Churches," address prepared but not delivered to the North Central Conference, 1972 July 13
"Devotions for College of Bishops," 1973 January 10
Address at Old Rehoboth, undated
An Address on Religious Book Publishing, undated
In Appreciation of Benjamin A. Whitmore; eulogy, undated
Charge to Dr. Marsh when he became President of Wofford, undated
"Laymen and Methodism," undated
"The Memphis Conference in its Larger Setting," undated
"Methodist Revision and Revisers," Bicentennial address, undated
"Ministerial Ethics," undated
"Purpose and Persons," undated
Speech regarding interpreter's Bible, undated
"What John Wesley Sent to Us," South Carolina Conference, undated

Gems for Thought; Morning Radio Talk, American Broadcasting Co.
"Time Marches On," No. 3, 1947 July 16
"Ideas," Evening Radio Talk, 1947 July 30
"Self Respect," No. 1, 1949 September 1
"The Importance of the Important," No. 2, 1949 September 8
"The Castle Within," Radio Talk, undated
"The Temple in the Heart," Radio Talk, undated
"Times of Crisis," Radio Talk, undated

Articles and Papers
"Concerning Spiritual Gifts," 1927 March 26
"Have Faith in God," Baltimore Southern Methodist, 1937 February 18
"We Have Become too Contemporary," Christian Advocate, 1942 April 23
"What I Like About the Presbyterians," Christian Advocate, 1943 May 27
"What I Like About the Lutherans," Christian Advocate, 1943 June 3
"What I Like About the Episcopalians," Christian Advocate, 1943 June 10
"What I Like About Roman Catholics," Christian Advocate, 1943 June 24
"What I Like About the Methodists," Christian Advocate, 1943 July 1
"The Boards," Christian Advocate, 1944 August 3
"The Judicial Division," Christian Advocate, 1944 August 10
"The Judicial Council," Christian Advocate, 1944 August 17
"Variations in the Lord's Prayer," Christian Advocate, 1945 January 18
"Variations in the Apostle's Creed," Christian Advocate, 1945 March 1
"Christianity, Capitalism and Collectivism," 1945 December
"The Church's Debt to the Model T," Virginia Methodist Advocate, 1947 May 15
"Methodist Presses around the World," Christian Advocate, 1947 September 18
"Ode to the Model T," [1947]
"The Jurisdictional System Re-Studied," 1950
"Ordination and the Sacrament," [Virginia Methodist, 1951 July]
"Apostles Creed and Prominent Methodist Doctrines," draft, 1952 January 6
"The Threat of Formalism," 1955 December
"Forms of Methodist Worship." Workers with Youth, 1957 January 31
"The Editorial Division of the Board of Education," Adult Teacher, 1962 January
"The Jurisdictional Plan," Christian Advocate, 1960 March 31
"The Trust Clause and Methodist Property," 1958 August 7
"Francis Asbury," Together, 1962 April 15
"Laymen Electing Laymen for General Conference," 1963 March
"When Ministers Vote," 1963 December
"The Methodist Church," 1965 September 2
"Methodist Polity and Ecumenical Church Union," 1967 April
"Polity and Church Union," 1969
"That COCU Plan," North Carolina Christian Advocate, 1971 April 1
"On Electing Bishops," Christian Advocate, 1971 June 10
"Laymen and the Annual Conference," unpublished article, 1971
"Like an 'Agnes' Survivor giving instructions to Noah," Virginia Advocate, 1972 October 5
"Revising the Hymnal," 1973
"John Wesley's Sunday Service and its American Revisions," 1974 January 28
"Recalling the Human Side of Revising Our Hymnals," Music Ministry, 1974 January
"Conferences are Still Preachers' Conferences," United Methodist Today, 1974 March
"How Appointment Making has Changed," 1978 May
"Creating Official Methodist Hymnals," 1978 July
"Mankind Central in God's Universe," 1981
"About Gambling," undated
"Advantages and Disadvantages of a Big Conference," undated
"Among Our Souvenirs - The Family Pew," undated
"Among Our Souvenirs - The Family Pray," undated
"Anthropocentric Teleology," undated
"The Apostle's Creed in Methodism," undated
"Biblical Style," undated
"Books that have Influenced my Life," undated
"The Burial Office," undated
"Capitol Punishment," undated
"China Tottering," undated
"Church and State - A Plea for Equity," undated
"Church and State - A Relation in Equity," undated
"Church Membership," undated
"Church Union," undated
"The Communion of Saints," article [for Edinburgh Conference], undated
"The Communistic Dilemma," undated
"The Creoles of George W. Cable," undated
"Cuba," undated
"Dean Lynn Harold Hough as a Churchman," undated
"Fearless Understanding," Josh. 1-6, undated
"Fee--FI--FO--FUM: Smelling the Blood of an Englishman," undated
"The Fish-Eagle," undated
"The First Man," undated
"Four Years for the Local Church," undated
"The Value of the French Alliance in the Revolutionary War," undated
"The General Conference," undated
"A Holy Sacrament -- The Baptism of Infants," *Rites and Ritual of Episcopal Methodism*, p. 163, undated
"The Inevitable and Methodism," undated
"Lift up Your Hearts," undated
"The Measure of a Man," undated
"Methodist Money and Its World-Wide Job," undated
"The Minister and His Books," undated
"A Minister of '54," undated
"The Miracles - Wings or Weight," undated
"Mobilizing the Scholarship of Protestantism," undated
"Montanus, A Prophet," undated
"My Father and Gabe Johnson," undated
"The Nation State," undated
"Needed - The Epworth League," undated
"Our Episcopacy," undated
"The Paradox of Christian Leadership," undated
"Polity as a Bar to Church Union," undated
"Proposed Constitutional Amendments," undated
"The Sacrament," undated
"The Sin of Preachers," undated
"St. Augustine," unfinished article, undated
"St. Augustine and the Problem of Evil," undated
"Structural Organization of the Methodist Church," undated
"The Style and Content of Ephesians," undated
"Suggestions for the Opening Service in Adult Groups," undated
"Sweet are the Uses of Adversity," [won prize for extempore writing at Millsaps]
"Teaching the Miracles," undated
"Trends in Christian Through," undated
"Variations in the Apostle's Creed: 'Holy Catholic Church'," undated
"Under the Southern Cross," undated
"Wesley's Conversion Versus Augustine's," undated
"What is Gambling?," unpublished article, undated
"What Sacraments and Why?," undated
"When We Retire: A Message for Veteran's Day," undated
"Where a Chaplain was not a Chaplain," undated
"The World Methodist Council," undated
"The Worshipping Home," undated
"Your Bishop and Mine," undated

Articles About Church and State Involvement
"The School, the Courts and the Church," 1948
"The Serpentine Wall: Between Church and State in American," undated

Lectures
Some Present Emphases, undated
The Rebirth of Christology, undated
Blueprints of Things to Come, undated
Address on Evangelism to the Newark Conference, 1941 May 12
Evangelism for the Newark Conference, [1941 May 13]
Address: "These are not Dull Times," undated
Coercion and Christianity, talk to New York Preachers, 1941 February 24
"New Currents in Old Waters," Address to Louisville Pastor's School, 1936 June
Lecture on Present Trends in Christian Thought, undated
Junaluska Lectures: Introduction, undated
Untitled Lecture, undated
Two Lectures on the "Old Baltimore Conference," undated
"Time and the Christian," Duke University, 1962 March 7
ILIFF Lectures:"The Minister and his Reading" & "Methodist Ritual," undated
"Lectures on Life and Letters of St. Paul," undated

Book Reviews
"The Doctrine of the Trinity" by Cyril C. Richardson
"Lake Ponchartain" by Adolphe Roberts
"A Study of History" by Arnold J. Toynbee

Poems
"And There Shall be No More Sea," 1971
"Simmons," undated
Untitled poem, undated

Manuscripts
"This Methodism," undated
Ninety Years and Counting, undated
Chapter 6 of untitled book on World War I
"Notes on Books I would like to write"
Research material for book on the Myra Clark Grimes Case
Series III
Methodist Church Materials, 1960-1998, undated
Boxes 10-11

Scope and Content Note
Contains reports, material on race relations from the early 1960s, and committee files.

Arrangement Note
Arranged by file type.

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<td>Ministry Study Committee, 1982</td>
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<td>Hymnal Revision Committee of the General Conference, 1986-1988</td>
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Race Relations

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<td>Letter to the District Superintendents of the South Carolina Conference, 1960 April 14</td>
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<td>Open letter to the Council of Bishops of the Methodist Church, 1963 November 8</td>
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<td>&quot;The Methodist Church and Race,&quot; position paper, undated</td>
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<td>The Managerial Tasks of the District Superintendent. A report form the Southeastern Jurisdiction Council on Ministries, 1979 July</td>
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<td>Biographical Sketches of the sixteen United Methodist Bishops elected by the 1980 Jurisdictional Conferences, 1980 November</td>
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<td>Report of the Commission for the Study of Ministry to the General Conference of the United Methodist Church, [1984]</td>
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<td>Report of the Committee on Our Theological Task to the General Conference of the United Methodist Church, [1988]</td>
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<td>UMCare: A Report on Its Development, 1992 February 15</td>
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Miscellaneous

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<td>The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper: An Alternate Text, 1972</td>
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<td>Alphabetical Listing of Bishops, compiled August 1980.</td>
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<td>The Council of Bishops of the United Methodist Church, directory, 1981</td>
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<td>Endings and Beginnings: Managing Key Church Leader Transitions, 1983</td>
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<td>Biographical Directory of United Methodist Bishops, Spouses and Widows, 1992 November</td>
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<td>Encyclopedia of World Methodism material</td>
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<td>Important material on Episcopacy furnished by Leiffer to study group</td>
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Series IV
Candler School of Theology, 1986-1988, undated
Boxes 11-12

Scope and Content Note
Contains teaching material including copies of exams for the various courses he taught at Candler School of Theology.

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Courses Taught
12  1  CH-324 - The Hymnody of the Christian Church
12  2  CH-344 - Constitutional History of American Methodism
12  3  CH-352 - Constitutional History of Methodism
12  4  HT-346 - Doctrinal History of Methodism
12  5  PM-306 - Book of Discipline
12  6  PM-308 - Corporate Worship
12  7  PM-368 - Working Tools of the Minister
12  8  Course in Ministerial Ethics
Series V
Correspondence, 1933-1968
Boxes 14-19, 27

Scope and Content Note
Contains correspondence relating to professional issues and controversies which concerned Harmon.

Arrangement Note
Arranged by file type.

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<td>Drew University, 1954-1955</td>
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<td>Messages of Congratulations to Bishop Harmon [1 of 4], 1956-1957</td>
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<td>Dr. Emory S. Buck, 1956-1963</td>
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<td>&quot;Religion in Life&quot;, 1956-1960</td>
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<td>Emory University Baccalaureate Sermon, 1959</td>
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<td>College of Bishops – Southeastern Jurisdiction, 1956-1964</td>
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<td>Study on Jurisdictional System, 1958-1960</td>
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<td>Dedication of the Harmon Suite at Emory, 1962</td>
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<td>&quot;The Living of These Days&quot;, 1963</td>
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<td>&quot;Francis Ashbury&quot;, 1963</td>
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<td>Statement to NALA Conference, 1963</td>
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<td>Statement in &quot;Advocate&quot; on Prayers and Bible Reading, 1963</td>
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<td>&quot;The Role of the Council of Bishops&quot;, 1963</td>
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<td>&quot;Aldersgate and Organization&quot;, 1963</td>
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<td>The Board of Social Concerns – Martin Luther King, 1963</td>
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<td>Bishop’s Mission to Ministry, 1963-1964</td>
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<td>&quot;Save the Order of Deacons&quot;, 1964</td>
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<td>Inter-Jurisdictional Meeting in Atlanta Statements, 1964</td>
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<td>Letters of Appreciation, 1964-1968</td>
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Series VI  
Scrapbooks, 1956-1964  
Boxes 19-20

Scope and Content Note  
Contains assorted "scrapbook" material originally arranged by Harmon, including clippings, photographic prints, and pamphlets.

Arrangement Note  
Arranged by date.

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Series VII
Ephemera, 1884-1984, undated
Boxes 21-22, 27, 30

Scope and Content Note
Contains ephemera including General conference medals and commemorative coins, a Communion set for Methodist Chaplains from around 1918, and assorted commemorative gavels.

Arrangement Note
Arranged by alphabetically.

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<td>Commemorative Coins, 1884-1980</td>
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<td>Episcopal Record of Nolan B. Harmon, 1956-1964</td>
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<td>General Conference Medals, 1939-1984</td>
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<td>Juliet Howe Harmon, Memories of the last &quot;Gray&quot; and other poems, undated</td>
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<td>Juliet Howe Harmon poems, circa 1930</td>
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<td>22</td>
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<td>Methodist Chaplain Communion Set, circa 1918</td>
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<td>Photograph of Nolan B. Harmon, unknown</td>
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<td>Portraits of the Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, gift to Harmon 1948, undated</td>
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<td>St. Simon's Oak Gavel, unknown</td>
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<td>30</td>
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<td>Wooden bowls turned by Nolan Harmon (150mm diameter and 193mm diameter), undated</td>
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