

ANNUAL REPORT 1996
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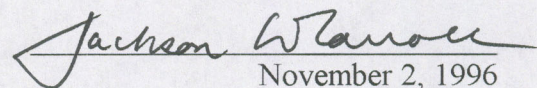
During the past year, I have continued to serve as Williams Professor of Religion and Society and Director of the J. M. Ormond Center for Research, Planning and Development in The Divinity School of Duke University. My teaching role has included offering various Divinity School courses in the theology and practice of ministry and in sociology of religion. I also have advised M.Div. and graduate students, including supervising several theses. I also led various continuing education events both at Duke and elsewhere, including a Congregational Studies Institute in Hartford, CT. In the fall and spring I was a participant in the Divinity School's faculty exchange with the University of Bonn, Germany, and presented a paper at Bonn in June 1996.

My duties as Director of the J. M. Ormond Center have included administration of the Center, involvement in research projects, and consulting with congregations. During the year, I completed a co-authored book on the role of a seminary's culture in theological education, *Being There, Culture and Formation in Two Theological Schools*, to be published in the Spring of 1996 by Oxford University Press. I also co-authored a chapter on United Methodist congregations for one of the volumes in the Divinity School's research project on Methodism and American Culture. I am currently completing a study of small membership Methodist churches in the two North Carolina annual conferences and co-editing a new version of the *Handbook for Congregational Studies*, to which I also contributed a chapter. Research in progress includes a study of the impact of generational differences in congregational life funded by the Lilly Endowment. I have also consulted with several congregations during the year, assisting them in interpreting congregational surveys which the Ormond Center has helped them conduct as part of their long range planning processes.

During the year, I have preached on several occasions, both at the Divinity School and in local congregations, including Duke Memorial United Methodist Church, where my wife and I attend. I have also celebrated or assisted in celebrating the Eucharist on several occasions, and I am a member of the chancel choir of Duke Memorial Church.

My continuing education has included attending several professional society meetings, and I also am a regular participant in the Project Team for Congregational Studies, an ad hoc group of faculty members from several schools across the U.S. who meet twice yearly for discussion and continuing education focused on congregational studies. My involvement in the Bonn faculty exchange was also a significant experience of continuing theological education.

In sum, this has been a busy but productive year. My teaching and research involvements are important to me as the central ways I express my calling in ministry, and I have found them both enjoyable and deeply gratifying. I have also appreciated opportunities for preaching, celebrating the sacraments, and being part of the worship and fellowship of Duke Memorial United Methodist Church.


November 2, 1996

