



Telling Our Stories

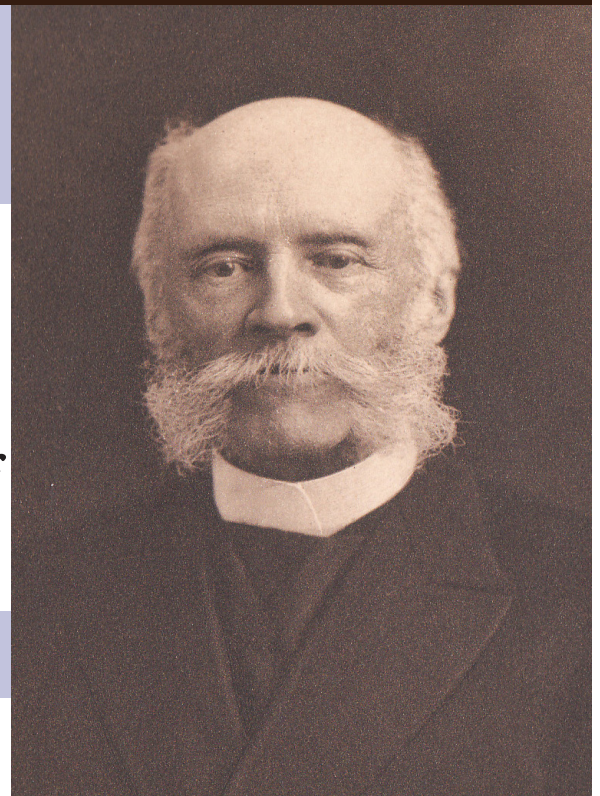
250 Years of United Methodism
in the New York Area

1766-2016 www.nyac.com/250years



Newspaper Editor and Leading Opponent of Women's Rights

1836-1920



James Monroe Buckley

Rev. Dr. James Monroe Buckley became editor of the *New York Christian Advocate* newspaper in 1880, using his pen and position to advance causes in which he believed.

Buckley used his pen to advocate for the creation of Methodist Episcopal Hospital in Brooklyn in 1881. His editorial lamenting the accidental death of an organist due to lack of medical care in NYC inspired the funding of this first hospital in Methodism. Buckley served as president of its board for 35 years.

In contrast to the laudable legacy of Methodist Hospital, Buckley was a strong opponent of women's rights, voicing his views in articles and in his book *The Wrong and Peril of Woman Suffrage*. He was a delegate to every ME General Conference (GC) from 1872 to 1912, and some observers called him the "Captain of Conservatives."

In 1888, Buckley was a member of the special Committee on the Eligibility of Women that considered whether the five women elected by their annual conferences would be seated at the GC. The controversy centered on whether women could be considered "laymen." Buckley argued that they could not. The committee agreed with Buckley, and the GC accepted their report, rejecting seating the women by 237 to 198. The first female lay delegates to the GC would not be seated until 1904.

For Discussion

- How might the United Methodist Church be different today if women had been seated at the GC in 1888 rather than 16 years later?
- We tend to think of narrow-mindedness as a thing of the past. Are there narrow lenses that people look through in your church today?
- People are rarely one-dimensional. Are there people that you disagree with on some issues but not others? How do you handle those interactions?

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