

Races Unite in Church Merger

By **THELMA HARNETT**
State Journal Church Writer

Two Lansing Church of Christ congregations—Butler



W. D. WILEY

Boulevard Church of Christ, a Negro congregation, and the Church of Christ at 321 E. Holmes Road—have merged.

The combined groups held their first service together last Sunday at the Holmes Road church.

W. D. Wiley, minister of the former Butler Boulevard church, will share the pulpit and other ministerial duties with the Holmes Road church minister, Allen Killom.

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Formerly of Dayton, Ohio, Mr. Wiley moved here last January to work with the Butler Boulevard church and was sponsored by the Holmes Road church. Since that time the Butler Boulevard congregation has quadrupled. The building in which the group met was recently sold to Oldsmobile. This development presented the impetus toward consolidation, he said.

Mr. Killom came to the

Holmes Road Church of Christ from Trenton in May 1967.

Commenting on the merger he said, "While militants and advocates of black power and white segregationists have been warring against each other and clamoring for their respective 'rights,' we have been quietly solving this problem among the members of the two churches.

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"I am happy with the situation," said Mr. Killom, "as it is a practical way to solve the race problem, because after all, we are all one in Christ."

The clergyman said the merger has been well received by the white congregation, and that this has been particularly noticeable among the young families and college students.

"This is really a history-making event and I am happy to be a part of it," Mr. Wiley said. "The merger has been accepted by the Butler Boule-

vard congregation 100 per cent. It will open more doors for the future of the congregation."



ALLEN KILLOM

Above is a front-page story which appeared in the November 30th issue of the State Journal in Lansing, Mich.

Holmes Road had been sponsoring the Butler Boulevard work for some time and when these brethren were faced with the need to find another location, it seemed to be just the right time to "merge." For a long time, Christians have preached that "all are one in Christ" and now, a few are beginning to practice this principle.

We are greatly encouraged by the many favorable comments by members of the church and by our neighbors and friends in the area. The three fine elders of the Holmes Road congregation, Ed Church, Jay W. Robinson and

Lyle Wight, are to be commended for this great step which they have taken. Both congregations have shown a wonderful attitude. Not one criticism has been voiced.

Brother W. D. Wiley, who was the minister for the Butler Boulevard church, is proving to be an excellent co-worker with this writer. We ask the prayers of your readers for this practical approach to the race problem. We feel that this is Christianity in action, a far more effective way than conducting "Race Relations Workshops", although these also may prove helpful, and we urge the whole brotherhood to consider this solution.

Allen Killom