

# CONFERENCE COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

*The Book of Discipline ¶640.1-4*

## AGENDA, WED., FEB. 15, 2017 AT 10 AM

### I. CALL TO ORDER

#### A. Membership: (*Discipline ¶640.1*)

David Werner, Chair.	Barbara Brower, Director of Finance & Administration
Cindy Yanchury	Kathy Spence Johnson, Archivist
Hilda Parks	Thelma Boeder, Conference Historian
Mary Bakeman	David Laechel, Secretary of Memoirs
Mary Beth Nelson	Randy Koppen

#### B. Brief updates by each member

#### C. Opening Devotions: David L.

#### D. Operate by Consensus

### II. REVIEW OF OUR WORK

#### A. Minutes of Nov. meeting. Comments, corrections, adoption.

#### B. Review of Commission duties as outlined by *The Book of Discipline* (¶640.1)

It will be our policy to look at the duties intentionally the first meeting of the calendar year.

##### 1. Duties (¶640.1)

- a. *“To collect and preserve the historically significant records of the annual conference and its agencies, including data relating to the origin and history of the conference and its antecedents;  
to encourage and assist the local church in preserving their records, compiling their histories, and celebrating their heritage;”*
- b. *“To provide for the permanent safekeeping of the historical records of all abandoned or discontinued churches in the bounds of the annual conference and its antecedents (see ¶2548.3);”*
- c. *“To maintain a fire-safe historical and archival depository and to see that all items that obviously will have value for future history are properly preserved therein;”*
- d. *“To provide for the ownership of real property and to receive gifts and bequests;”*
- e. *“To nominate to the General Commission on Archives and History buildings, locations, or structures within the annual conference for designation as historic sites or heritage landmarks;”*
- f. *“To maintain contact with officially designated historic sites and heritage landmarks in their bounds;”*
- g. *“To assist the bishop or the appropriate conference committee in planning for the historical hour and other appropriate historical observances at annual conference sessions;”*
- h. *“To establish retention and disposition schedules for annual conference and local church records under standards or guidelines developed by the General Commission on Archives and History;”*

- i. *“To cooperate with and report, when requested, to the general and jurisdictional commission on archives and history;”*
- j. *“And to Engage with other Wesleyan, Methodist, or Evangelical United Brethren-related denominations in lifting up our joint heritage.”*

**2. Conference Historical Society (§640.2)**

*“The Commission may organize a conference historical society and encourage membership therein for the purpose of promoting interest in the study and preservation of the history of the conference and its antecedents. The officers of the conference commission on archives and history may be the officers of the conference historical society. Membership in the historical society shall be established as the society may determine. Membership may include the payment of dues as the society may direct, and in return, members shall receive official publications and publicity material issued by the commission and the society and other such benefits as may be deemed suitable.”*

**3. Annual Conference Historian (§640.3)**

*“Each annual conference may have a historian to undertake specific duties as may be designated by the commission. The annual conference historian may be a member of the annual conference commission on archives and history.”*

**4. Ethnic Congregations (§640.4)**

*“The annual conference commission on archives and history shall work with the ethnic congregations of the conference to develop and preserve the historical records of those congregations and antecedent conferences.”*

**C. Discussion, reflections and ideas?**

**III. BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMISSION**

**Preemptive Items:**

1. How can we provide training for church historians and keepers of records?
2. How can we work with new church starts, helping them record their burgeoning stories during the early years? Contact the leaders of the church planing trainings?
3. How can we encourage ethnic churches who have started recently to intentionally record their history? Perhaps draw upon *Guidelines for Church Historians*.  
Ethnic congregations (7 total). Lindy Zabel, Dan Johnson. Congregational Development
4. Discussion around the email from Mary regarding ideas for moving forward.

### A. Care for MNAC's "Historic Sites" [C.1.f.]

- | 1. Issues/concerns about our 15 official Historical Sites of the MNAC?  | <u>Last Visited?</u>     |
|---|--------------------------|
| a. Site of Kaposia*, south St. Paul (1 <sup>st</sup> Methodist Indian Mission in MN, 1 <sup>st</sup> UMC)<br>Plaque at Dakota Co. Historical Museum | Mary B, 5/2014           |
| b. Red Rock and Missionary Log Cabin* (located at Newport UMC)  | Mary, 10/2015            |
| c. Jacob Fahlstrom's Grave*, Afton (1 <sup>st</sup> convert to Methodism in MN)   | Thelma, 11/2015          |
| d. First Site of Hamline University* (Across street fr Red Wing UMC)  | David L. 6/2015          |
| e. Lenora Church*   | Mark Woodward, regularly |
| f. Old Salem Church* (Inver Grove Heights)  | Thelma, 6/2014           |
| g. Taylor's Falls UMC*  | Active Congregation      |
| h. Koronis Ministries, Paynesville ("Lake Koronis Assembly Grounds")  | Active Ministry          |
| i. Market St. M.E. Church Site* (Marker on parking ramp)  | Kathy 8/2015             |
| j. Wesley UMC* (currently "Historic Wesley on Grant") (Mpls)  | Kathy 8/2015             |
| k. Ottawa Church* (Le Sueur Co. Historical Society)   | Hilda, Summer 2015       |
| l. Portland Prairie Church  | Annual Gathering, 2014   |
| m. Olivet UMC, Robbinsdale  | Active Congregation      |
| n. First Finnish ME Church, Salem,* near Moose Lake   | Thelma, Summer 2015      |
| o. Hamline Church UMC*  | Active Congregation      |
- \*UM Historic Site of GCAH (12 of them)  
*-A more complete description is posted on the Conference Web site.*
2. Updates on Historic Sites:
3. Plan of Action for any historic site that has a change in ownership or situation that might affect our ability to promote it as a historic site. Any residual issues?
4. Report from the First Finnish Fellowship, Thelma B., Chair. and CAH rep.
5. Historical markers to be delivered to the site in some meaningful and encouraging way:  
 David L. was unable to find the MAC plaque when he visited Portland Prairie Church in May. Kathy said she would check with Deb Ray to see if it has been placed, & where.  
 Market St. M.E. Church Site - Connect with parking ramp owners (David)  
 Fahlstrom's Grave - Attach marker to grave will cost about \$175. (Thelma & Kathy)
6. Any issues on any of the other sites we need to be aware of?  
 Presenting the GCAH plaque to Koronis ministries. (David W.)
7. Have there been any requests for an Application and Guidelines for the nomination of Historical Sites to the MNAC? Is any action needed?
8. Any further information on the site of the First UB Annual Conference, held at Marion, MN, on Aug. 5, 1857...perhaps held at John W. Fulkerson's farm? Perhaps the Olmsted Co. Historical Society could provide more info? (Thelma and David L.)

**B. Nominating “Historic Sites” (not “Landmarks”) to the General CAH**

We will submit the application for one site per year.

2017 - Portland Prairie

2018 - Olivet UMC

**C. 2016 is the 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the MAC.**

\$2,000 grant from UM Historical Society of MN. \$1,100 spent on 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrated at the 2016 MAC Session. \$900 residual. We will hold the residual until February so that we can explore other ideas for how to use that money to produce a video with the time line created for the 160<sup>th</sup>. If we have no good idea by our February meeting, we will return the money. Scott Van Daalen, new staff person at Forest Hills UMC, is UNABLE to take on this project.

**D. Annual Conference Historian [C.3.] Report from Thelma, the Conference Historian.****E. Secretary of Memoirs Report from David Laechel, Secretary of Memoirs****F. Permanent safekeeping of the historical records of closed churches. [C.1.b.]**

Kathy needs some volunteer help to go through several boxes and sell some old books.

**G. Conference Archives [C.1.a., b. and c.] Any concerns/issues?****H. North Central Jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History Convocation**

We are allowed to send the CAH chair and two other official delegates from the MAC. If the chair does not go, then we still send only two delegates.

2016 Hosted by Iowa, at Mount Pleasant.

2017 Hosted by Dakotas, at Bismarck (July 11-14, 2017)

2018 Hosted by (Duane Coates things it's already spoken for, perhaps Wisconsin?)

2019 Minnesota?? (Duane Coates reminded us we are hosting General Conference 2020)

Ideas: Paynesville, at Lake Koronis? Focus on Evangelical Assoc.

**I. UM Historical Society of MN Report? Any issues to discuss?**

Thelma will talk with Laurie to discuss options for the future.

**J. Any Other Business?****IV. ESTABLISHING OUR PRIORITIES FOR OUR FUTURE WORK**

**V. SETTING THE NEXT MEETINGS:** May 9 or 10?

? Sept. \_\_\_\_\_