

Commission on Archives and History

February 15, 2017

Minutes

Attending: David Werner, Thelma Boeder, Mary Bakeman, Marybeth Nelson, Kathy Spence Johnson. Randy Koppen and Hilda Parks by conference call.

We had a brief time of sharing.

David W. shared devotions from the Upper Room, "Eternal Light", asking Hilda to read John 1:1-18.

We operate by consensus.

David W. added three items to the agenda; Logo for Anniversary letter, David L memoirs question, Thelma Oral History information. These will be added before Item A. on page three of the Agenda.

The minutes of the November 2016 meeting were adopted as written.

We reviewed the duties of the Commission as outlined by the Book of Discipline. Our current focus is on encouraging the local church with keeping their history.

Our Historical Society is inactive, we would like to discuss with them how they might move forward. David proposed a meeting in Duluth with President Laurie Boche and the Board. David will contact Laurie.

We discussed ways to work with church historians. Ask churches what help they want, Ask "How can we help?" Help as churches approach us.

Thelma suggested that churches need many helpers; to organize, to help with physical plant, for digital expertise, storytellers, and party planners.

We discussed how to find the Church Historians on church forms.

We debated how to connect with the churches. Whom will we connect with? What communications to use.

We will try sending out brief blurbs through the Bulletin Board. Possible Social media. We determined we would send out "news releases" once a month and members agreed to do two per year. Kathy will check format with Christa Meland. March-Heritage Sunday, David L., April-Thelma, May-Mary B., June-David W. Topics will vary, Records Retention, Spring-cleaning, Church Anniversaries, Big Events, Small events, travel. We will review this at our May meeting.

Randy posed the question on what letterhead to use and who should sign the letters we are sending to churches with significant events and anniversaries. He had a Logo idea related to the logo of the General Commission on Archives and History. Kathy proposed a logo idea similar to one she uses for the Archives. The Archive letterhead will be adapted to this purpose. Kathy will send it to Randy. We decided that Randy will sign his name on behalf of the Commission and our names printed below.

David L informed us that when preparing Memoirs he has difficulty getting responses. Kathy works with Jean Edin and the Communications Department to find relatives. David can call Jean or Kathy for help. We agreed using a published obituary when there is no other information is acceptable.

Thelma said she had a conversation about County Line cemetery with Bruce Buller who is concerned about its upkeep. Kathy will check with Trustees about how this is being cared for.

There is still \$900 left in the grant that the UMHSMN gave us for the 160th anniversary. David W asked for ideas on how we will use this. Mary B had a suggestion of using it to make a video about the 50th anniversary of the 1968 merger of EUB and Methodists. Kathy presented an idea of using the money to purchase the Virtual Exhibit module of Past Perfect to create Exhibits. After some discussion, we decided to purchase the Virtual Exhibit. The Committee asked Kathy to make the first exhibit about the 50th Anniversary of the 1968 merger. Kathy will work on this. Kathy will write a letter to the UMHSMN to report how the money will be used.

Next meeting May 9, 2017, at Conference office, proposed date for following meeting September 12, 2017.