

## Commission on Archives and History

May 19, 2020

### Minutes

**Attending:** David Werner, Thelma Boeder, David Laechel, Mary Beth Nelson, Hilda Parks, Randy Koppen, Dan Foster, Judith Clark, and Heidi Heller

**Absent:** Mary Bakeman

All members provided a brief update on what they have been doing during the pandemic and last meeting.

Judy shared a devotion that reflected on the current situation and reminded us to trust in God to guide us through and that we need to let go and let God.

The minutes of February 11, 2020 were approved.

The General Conference was postponed due to the pandemic until 2021, so we do not know how that will impact our Commission's work. We will continue in a holding pattern and wait to see what happens once the conference occurs.

We discussed possible quarterly articles for MN Connect. The spring article was going to focus on the NCJ CAH in Michigan, but that has been postponed until 2021. Dan suggested an article on the 1918 pandemic and how it impacted churches during that time. Heidi will talk to Christa about doing the article and if the idea is approved Heidi will research and write something up. The summer article could still be on events at Historic Sites, but we are not sure what events have been canceled or are still going on. Thelma will keep an eye on it and write something up if any events are still going on.

Randy and Hilda have touched base about the letters sent to ethnic congregations. Hilda has spoken with the Korean congregation in Mankato and encouraged them to send in the survey. Heidi has not received any additional surveys but has not checked her office mail in the last several weeks.

Heidi determined the church plants and signed up for newsletters for those that are sending them out. She is saving the emails they are sending out and created files for the churches.

No one has visited any of the historic sites recently. If people are out this summer and in the area of the sites, we are encouraged to stop by and check on them.

Thelma has not done any additional work on the First Finnish Fellowship Facebook page. She is thinking that it might be a good idea to create a Historic Site Facebook page and incorporate the information on the First Finnish page into the new page.

We have not received any new applications for historic sites. A question was asked on what are the qualifications for a site to apply for historic site status. Heidi will send out the qualifications for historic sites.

David L. has not done any additional research on the First UB Annual Conference site. He hopes at some point to get out to Marion, where the site is located.

There are no significant anniversaries in the MAC.

Thelma will continue as Conference Historian. She is thinking about the next project to work on and as previously mentioned is thinking of creating a Facebook site for historic sites.

David L. reported work is continuing on the memoirs and he plans to turn them in by the first part of June. Even though the Annual Conference has been postponed until August, the memoirs will still cut off in June for the 2020 Conference and Journal.

Randy reported there are no major local church anniversaries coming up. He last sent something out in January.

Heidi reported that she has been working from home since March 17. During that time, she has submitted the final report on the MNHS Legacy Grant and received approval for it. She has been processing closed church records from home. She has also been scanning photos from the local church collection and adding them to PastPerfect. The biggest challenge of working from home has been answering research questions, but has been able to help individuals and can still go in if needed.

David W. asked if we want to try and resolve the shutdown of UM Historical Society this year or wait another year because of the pandemic. There was a discussion on who had the authority to disband the group, and technically the CAH does not have the authority. David L. pointed out that the group would need to meet to formally disband it. Thelma and Hilda are on the executive committee of the society and could meet with Laurie Boche to determine what to do to disband the group. Thelma will send out an email to Laurie, Hilda, David W., and Heidi to propose a meeting to getting the ball rolling to formally disband the group. The group still has some funds available and Heidi suggested she could propose a few grants to use some of the funds to purchase items or make changes that were proposed in the General Collection Assessment.

Thelma proposed possibly adding the list of active fellowships of UM Historical Sites on the potential historic site Facebook page.

NCJ Convocation has been postponed until July 2021 and the Annual Conference is going online for 2020. Thelma's project will be the focus at the 2021 Annual Conference. General Conference postponed until 2021, Thelma will consider hosting a gathering for archivists and conference historians next year at the General Conference.

David L. mentioned that he will be sending photos and other memoir related items to Heidi. Also, he will be starting to work on the stoles project and trying to get them all documented.

The next meeting is on September 8, 2020. Heidi will reserve the room for the meeting if we are back in the building. The following meeting will be on November 10, 2020.

Adjourned