

Commission on Archives and History

November 12, 2019

Minutes

Attending: David Werner, Thelma Boeder, Mary Beth Nelson, Heidi Heller, On conference call: Hilda Parks, Randy Koppen, David Laechel, Dan Foster

David W. welcome Heidi as the new archivist and asked her to introduce herself. Heidi shared that she graduated with a Master's in Library and Information Science with a focus on Archives this past May. She also works part-time at MNHS and has previously worked at Stearns History Museum and Hennepin History Museum. She lives in Roseville with her husband Tom and three teenagers. Everyone else in the group introduced themselves.

Randy Koppen shared a devotion on Jeremiah 29 and shared he had been reading about the historical split in the Methodist Episcopal Church over slavery. He reflected on how history often reflects the present and how we are called to hold onto the stories of the past and know that God's word will lead us through difficult times as it has in the past and will again.

Hilda agreed to do the next devotion.

The Minutes of September 10, 2019 were accepted as written.

David W. indicated that the Commission will need to review the duties outlined by *The Book of Discipline* at the February meeting.

Randy shared that he has only sent out one letter recently to a congregation celebrating a milestone. He wondered if there might be a better process to recognize a milestone or anniversary. It was recommended that if Heidi gets any research requests related to a milestone that she pass this information along. Other Commission members were encouraged to let Randy know if they hear of any anniversaries. Thelma suggested that District Superintendents might be more aware of some of these events. Heidi will send an email to DS to ask them to make her aware of any significant events when they become aware of them. Randy will also continue to rely on the Bishop's Office for notifications.

Randy and Hilda shared they had sent out 11 surveys to ethnic congregations. Two surveys have been returned. Heidi will provide Hilda and Randy with a list of who has responded to the survey, so they can follow up with the other congregations. David W. will contact Ben Ingebretson to encourage new church starts to document their histories.

Thelma's document *Planting United Methodist Roots in MN* is up on the Conference website under the archive page. Heidi will contact Christa to see if an article can be done in MN Connect in the next few weeks.

Thelma will reach out to Christa to see if an article can be done for MN Connect to introduce Heidi as the new archivist.

David W. shared that Thelma has been nominated for the Ministry of Memory Award. The award announcement will be made early next year. Heidi will email out the nomination to the entire CAH.

Hilda sent a letter to Ottawa Church and has heard from a friend that nothing is likely to happen with winter coming. Supposedly grant monies are being sought to cover the repair cost of the steeple.

Thelma will be the new contact person for Old Salem Church.

David W. has not received any response from the contact at the Market Street ME Church site. The construction project should be done so it was suggested that might be easiest to just stop by the site at some point and see if the plaque was reposted. Thelma offered to try and stop by at some point.

Thelma will be working on updating the Facebook page for the First Finnish ME Church.

David L. indicated that he hoped to visit the Olmsted Co. Historical Society in the next week to see what information he can find on the site of the First UB Annual Conference.

The MAC will be held in Sioux Falls on June 10-12, 2020, it will be a joint conference with the Dakotas Conference. A ministry fair will be held in Sioux Falls similar to what is done at MAC. The CAH needs to determine what type of display we want to do at the ministry fair. Heidi will contact Laurie Langland, Dakotas Conference archivist, to determine if they traditionally do a display or something different.

David L. has finished last year's memoirs and has started on this years, but the responses for this year have been slow in coming in.

Next year the NCJCAH Convocation is in Iron Mountain, Michigan – July 6-9. We will need to send two delegates.

Heidi reported the General Collection Assessment has been completed by Midwest Art Conservation Center. The report indicated no major immediate concerns but several items need to be addressed over the next several years.

Storage space continues to be an on-going issue and hopefully can be addressed in the next year. Additionally, due to some reconfiguration of office space, the archive's library will be moving to the basement in a new conference room space, which creates some additional storage issues. Heidi is advocating that the most used items such as the annual reports remain on the 4th floor for easy access. Some books from the library might need to be weeded out.

Nothing new related to Minnesota UM Historical Society. They still have grant monies available. It was suggested that maybe Heidi apply for a grant from the historical society for environmental monitoring devices.

Discussed how to develop a list of historical cemetery associations in our Conference. Various county historical societies have a list of cemeteries in the county, this might be a good resource to start a list.

Next meeting is February 11, 2020, Heidi will reserve the room for the meeting. The following meeting will be May 19, 2020.

Adjourned