

Commission on Archives and History Minutes
February, 13, 2018

Present: David Werner, chair, Marybeth Nelson, Mary Bakeman, David Laechel, Hilda Parks (via conference phone), Randy Koppen (via conference phone), Thelma Boeder, Barb Breuer (joining us for about 10 minutes). Missing, due to illness: Kathy Johnson

Thelma agreed to prepare a summary version of minutes in Kathy's absence.

1. Introductions: Barb to the rest of the commission, all sharing.
2. Devotions by David L. with thoughts on fake news.
3. November meeting minutes accepted.
4. MN Connect articles, spring and summer: a) UTS Dayton/NCJ CAH/HSUMC conference in July; b) 150th Red Rock Camp Meeting Homecoming - Kathy prepare a) and David W. prepare b) and figure out between them which should be published first.
5. David L. has yet to compile list of church historians, official or unofficial, but will do - check with conference office on what is available and figure best way to proceed.
6. Reviewed David W.'s draft letter to historians. Mary - correct National Archives and generally shorten. Thelma - likes links, maybe some bullets.
7. David W. contacted Mark Seeley (no reply yet) and Judith Clark regarding serving on the commission. Judith will consider; Hilda will talk to her next week.
8. CAH report to conference - Kathy has edited David's draft. Again, maybe use bullets instead of paragraphs.
9. 2019 NCJ CAH convocation brainstorming the what (theme or themes), where, who (presenters) - a very mixed discussion, with an attempt at some organization in this summary:
 - a. What:
 1. aspects of Dakota Conflict - what it was, effects on congregations, the community
 2. EUB history - noting 1969 Minnesota merger to become UMC
 - b. Where:
 1. Mankato/New Ulm/Redwood Falls - strong possibility
 2. St. Cloud as gateway to Paynesville - strong possibility
 3. Southern Twin Cities metro - possible, but probably not, mentioned in passing
 4. Duluth - no obvious support
 5. Rochester - no, we were in SE MN (Winona) when we hosted last
 - c. Who (Thelma is game, others on list are possibilities with ties to potential themes noted if we know of such):
 1. Thelma will present on her congregation start/end project, tailoring it to whatever theme and wherever we meet
 2. Mary B. - writing a book on the aftermath of events of 1862 on the settlers
 3. Mary B. - connections other scholars, including Native Americans
 4. Joe Laechel (David's son) - New Ulm Battery
 5. Richard Jacobsen - gave presentation at Morton related to New Ulm and war

6. Mark Seeley
7. Linda Gesling
8. Clay Oglesbee
9. Paynesville Grace UMC
10. Middle Creek UMC
11. Redwood Falls First UMC
12. New Ulm First UMC
13. New Ulm Oakwood UMC
14. Mankato Hilltop UMC
15. Mankato Centenary UMC
16. Blue Earth Hope UMC

Having made no progress on a final decision, David W. asked each of us to prepare a rationale for a favored site and share with all by email in two weeks (Feb. 27). Think about it, pray about it, and trust that we can develop a plan based on comparing our individual proposals.

10. David W. talked to Randy Tabor at Robbinsdale Olivet. Randy says, yes, the congregation is viable for the foreseeable future.
11. David W. reported that the 50th anniversary of the UMC will be noted at annual conference as a part of the worship featuring the conference preacher.
12. Referring to the Western North Carolina digitizing project, we agree that digitizing media (reel-to-reel, audio, etc.) is a good idea. Mary said we should start with compiling an inventory. Thelma thought Kathy probably can provide that readily, if not immediately.
13. David W. announced he would like to step down as chair, especially since he cannot attend NCJ CAH in 2018, nor will he be here when we host in 2019. Who would like to assume the chair?? No volunteers, but Thelma said not appropriate for her.
14. Next meetings: May 8, September 11

Thelma Boeder, secretary pro temp