

# CONFERENCE COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

*The Book of Discipline ¶641.1-4*

## AGENDA, TUES., FEB. 11, 2020 AT 10 AM

### I. CALL TO ORDER

#### A. Membership: [*Discipline* ¶641.1]

David Werner, Chair.

Mary Bakeman

Judith Clark

David Laechel, Secretary of Memoirs

Mary Beth Nelson

Heidi Heller, Archivist

Thelma Boeder, Conference Historian

Dan Foster

Randy Koppen

Hilda Parks

Ex-officio members:

Barbara Brower, MAC Director of Finance & Admin.

Elizabeth Lopez, Member of GCAH [*Discipline* ¶710.6]

#### B. Office hours of Heidi Heller, Archivist: M-Tu: 7:30a - 4:30p, W: 7:30a-11:30a

#### C. Brief updates by each member

#### D. Opening Devotions: Hilda Parks

#### E. Operate by Consensus

### II. REVIEW OF OUR WORK

#### A. Minutes of November meeting. Comments, corrections.

#### B. Review of Commission duties as outlined by *The Book of Discipline* [¶641.1]

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 (§641.2)**

*“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 (§641.3)**

*“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 (§641.4)**

*“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**

### **A. Creative ways the CAH can support local churches. [§641.1]**

#### **1. Provide a quarterly article in MN Connect, promoting an event.**

2018	Spring	David & Kathy	NCJ CAH at Dayton, OH: UMC 50 <sup>th</sup> merger
	Summer	Kathy	July 29 Portland Prairie event, w/Bishop.
	Fall:	Kathy	Email blast to church historians
2019	Winter:	David L.	“Save the date” for Convocation of JCAH
	Spring:	David L.	Formal invitation to Convocation of JCAH
	Fall:	Thelma/Heidi	Thelma’s work published w/Heidi’s help
2020	Winter:	Heidi	Introduction of new archivist...meet & greet?
	Spring:		
	Summer:		

## 2. Helping local churches record their histories.

In 2019, Hilda & Randy sent out 11 letters to ethnic congregations. 2 Responses.

David W. will talk to Ben Ingebretson, MAC Director of New Church Development, about newly planted churches documenting their origins. Will draw upon Hilda and Randy's document for guidelines.

David W. will contact Church in the Maples about them reconstructing their story of origin.

## B. Care for MNAC's "Historic Sites" [¶641.1]

### 1. Issues/concerns about our 15 official Historical Sites of the MNAC? Last Visited?

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. 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           |
| 2. Red Rock and Missionary Log Cabin (located at Newport UMC)  | Active Congregation      |
| 3. Jacob Fahlstrom's Grave, Afton (1 <sup>st</sup> convert to Methodism in MN)   | Thelma, 9/2018           |
| 4. First Site of Hamline University (Plaque on 1 <sup>st</sup> UMC Red Wing)   | David L., 8/2018         |
| 5. Lenora Church (MAC owns)  | Mark Woodward, regularly |
| 6. Old Salem Church (Inver Grove Heights) (MAC owns)<br>The "Friends of Old Salem" is active and Laurie Boche is involved.                         | Judy & Thelma 1/6/19     |
| 7. Taylor's Falls UMC  | Active Congregation      |
| 8. Koronis Ministries ("Lake Koronis Assembly Grounds," Paynesville)   | Active Ministry          |
| 9. Market St. M.E. Church Site (Marker on parking ramp)  | Kathy 8/2018             |
| 10. Wesley UMC (Mpls)  | Kathy 5/2017             |
| 11. Ottawa Church (Le Sueur Co. Historical Society) Anniversary Worship  | Summer/2019              |
| 12. Portland Prairie Church  | David L., 7/2018         |
| 13. Olivet UMC, Robbinsdale  | Active Congregation      |
| 14. First Finnish ME Church, Salem, near Moose Lake  | Thelma, 7/2017           |
| 15. Hamline Church UMC   | Active Congregation      |

*A more complete description is posted on the Conference Web site.*

Note: All sights are listed as UM Historic Site of GCAH

### 2. Report from the First Finnish Fellowship, Thelma B., Chair. and CAH rep.

The Finnish site is currently owned by Moose Lake UMC, the cemetery by West Side Church

### 3. Market St. M.E. Church Site - David W. emailed the owner company again in November.

### 4. Have there been any requests for an Application and Guidelines for the nomination of Historical Sites to the MNAC? Is any action needed?

### 5. 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? David L. will research.

## C. Significant Anniversaries of the MAC. [¶641.1]

## D. Annual Conference Historian [¶641.3] Report from Thelma, the Conference Historian.

Thelma's origin research project is available on conference web site in a PDF. Is there any way to have it in a format on line so it could be searchable?

**E. Secretary of Memoirs** Report from David L., Secretary of Memoirs

**F. Marking Local Church Anniversaries and Milestones.** Randy

Randy sends letters of congratulations to churches celebrating milestones.

**G. Permanent safekeeping of the historical records of closed churches.** [¶641.1]

-Archives are nearing full capacity. Some humidity concerns. Also reorganizing the space both in the basement and the research room upstairs. Ongoing access to archives is a concern.

**H. Conference Archives** [¶641.1] Conference Archivist

Reorganizing the space both in the basement and the library and research room upstairs: ongoing access to archives is a concern.

**I. UM Historical Society of MN** [¶641.2]

Dormant. Laurie Boche is president. Other officers include Thelma Boeder and Hilda Parks. There is about \$2,800 in funds available for grants. Requests go to Laurie Boche.

**J. Compiling a List of Active Fellowships of UM Historical Sites in MN**

Current list includes: Old Salem, Inver Grove; Salem, Paynesville; Portland Prairie; Lenora; Old Prairieville Cemetery; Pickerel Lake German Methodist Episcopal; Palmyra Swedish Methodist Episcopal.

Another idea would be (for Thelma?) to make a listing of all historical cemetery associations in our Conference.

**K. Any Other Business?**

North Central Jurisdiction Convocation will be July 6-9 at Iron Mountain, Michigan  
We will need to elect 2 delegates, who will have access to reimbursable expenses.

**IV. SETTING THE NEXT MEETINGS:** Tues., May 19<sup>th</sup> from 10a.m. - Noon. (Avoiding General Conference). Archivist asked to book the room.  
Annual Conference will be in Sioux Falls, June 10-12.  
July 6-9 North Central Jurisd. Convocation at Iron Mtn, MI  
Tues., Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>??