

CONFERENCE COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

The Book of Discipline ¶641.1-4

AGENDA, TUES., FEB. 13, 2018 AT 10 AM

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Membership: [*Discipline* ¶641.1]

David Werner, Chair.

Mary Bakeman

David Laechel, Secretary of Memoirs

Mary Beth Nelson

Kathy Spence Johnson, Archivist

Thelma Boeder, Conference Historian

Randy Koppen

Hilda Parks

Ex-officio members:

Barbara Brower, MAC Director of Finance & Admin.

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

B. Greetings from Barbara Brower

C. Brief updates by each member

D. Opening Devotions: David L.

E. Operate by Consensus

II. REVIEW OF OUR WORK

A. Minutes of Nov. meeting. Comments, corrections, adoption.

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.

We will preempt this task until further notice to allow more time for Jurisdictional items.

III. BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMISSION

Preemptive Items: Creative ways the CAH can support local churches. [¶641.1]

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

2017 Summer David L. & Kathy 2017 Heritage Sunday

Fall Thelma & Kathy GCAH Picture

Winter A Historic Holiday

2018 Spring

Other ideas: 150th Red Rock Camp Meeting Homecoming
50th Anniversary of the UMC merger

2. Idea starter: Helping local churches record their histories.

-David L. will send out an email to local churches asking who their historians are (official or unofficial!), or a contact person

-David W. will draft a letter that can be sent out to current church historians to thank them for their work and to encourage them. To be sent out in 2018. See attached.

3. Connect with Mark Seeley and Judy Clark about serving on this commission (David W.)

4. North Central Jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History Convocation

Notes: We are allowed to send the CAH chair and two other official delegates from the MAC. If the chair does not go, then we still elect/send only two delegates.

See also Kathy's list of themes of past NCJ CAH Convocations, emailed.

2016 Hosted by Iowa, at Mount Pleasant.

2017 Hosted by Dakotas, at Bismarck (July 11-14, 2017)

2018 Hosted by Dayton, OH at United Theological Seminary. Theme: 1968 UMC merger.

2019, July 8-13. Minnesota hosts (plan for 30-60 people)

Paynesville, Lake Koronis Ministries unavailable.

Other ideas: Evangelical Association/Church focus - Paynesville, Middle Creek (bldg) was center of mission work for Evangelicals, etc.

EUB lens: New Ulm, Blue Earth, Paynesville

St. Cloud

Native American lens: Mankato - Blue Earth - New Ulm

Sioux Uprising

MAC's conversation with the Dakota about returning the Red Rock

The 5 Sacred Rocks of the Mississippi Riverbed for Native Americans

Talk about repatriation/rematriation process, how to do it well.

Team of UM Conference, Newport UMC, CASDA, Archives,

Red Rock Camp, and then the Dakota people

The Dakota War (New Ulm pastor was killed)

Traverse des Sioux 1851 Treaty signing site in St. Peter

What do you do when historic sites change hands outside of our control?

Thelma leads a presentation on her Church Starts project, including how she conducted the research, and how others can, too.

The Way Forward Commission, a historical perspective?

(2020 MN hosts General Conference)

Other business before the Commission, as time:

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

- | | <u>Last Visited?</u> |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Issues/concerns about our 15 official Historical Sites of the MNAC? | |
| a. Site of Kaposia*, south St. Paul (1 st Methodist Indian Mission in MN, 1 st UMC)
Plaque at Dakota Co. Historical Museum | Mary B, 5/2014 |
| b. Red Rock and Missionary Log Cabin* (located at Newport UMC) | Active Congregation |
| c. Jacob Fahlstrom's Grave*, Afton (1 st convert to Methodism in MN) | Thelma, 12/2016 |
| d. First Site of Hamline University* (Plaque on 1 st UMC Red Wing) | Kathy, 7/2017 |
| e. Lenora Church* | Mark Woodward, regularly |
| f. Old Salem Church* (Inver Grove Heights) | Summer event scheduled for 6/4/17 |
| g. Taylor's Falls UMC* | Active Congregation |
| h. Koronis Ministries* ("Lake Koronis Assembly Grounds," Paynesville) | Active Ministry |
| i. Market St. M.E. Church Site* (Marker on parking ramp) | Kathy 8/2015 |
| j. Wesley UMC* (currently "Historic Wesley Center on Grant St") (Mpls) | Kathy 5/2017 |
| k. Ottawa Church* (Le Sueur Co. Historical Society) | Hilda, Summer 2016 |
| l. Portland Prairie Church | April 2016 |
| m. Olivet UMC, Robbinsdale | Active Congregation |
| n. First Finnish ME Church, Salem,* near Moose Lake | Thelma, July 2017 |
| o. Hamline Church UMC* | Active Congregation |
| *UM Historic Site of GCAH (13 of them) | |
| <i>-A more complete description is posted on the Conference Web site.</i> | |

2. Updates on Historic Sites:

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

The Finnish site is currently owned by Moose Lake UMC. In 1958 the cemetery was sold to West Side Church for \$1.

4. Historical markers to be delivered to the site in some meaningful and encouraging way:

Portland Prairie Church has no MAC Historic Site plaque and has no money to purchase one.

They would be open to one being provided. The GCAH plaque will be provided.

Kathy will contact Deb Ray. July 29 event? David L.?

Market St. M.E. Church Site - David W. will contact in the spring about construction plans for 2018 and plaque placement.

5. Any issues on any of the other sites we need to be aware of?

Red Rock at Newport UMC: Bishop's Conversation Team includes Kathy J. and Mary B.

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

7. 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., "This is the year!"

B. Nominating "Historic Sites" (not "Landmarks") to the General CAH [¶641.1]

2017 - Portland Prairie, finished!

2018 - Olivet UMC (David W. will connect with the pastor to inquire about the church's longevity.)

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

2018 Marking the 50 anniversary of the UM merger in 1968. The merger was voted on at General Conference 1968, but it didn't happen in MN until 1969.

David W. connect with sessions lead to see what we can do at Conference session.

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

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

F. Marking Local Church Anniversaries. Randy

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

H. Conference Archives [¶641.1] Kathy, Conference Archivist

PastPerfect software of archival materials, with virtual exhibits on a website: Kathy has the Catalogue up and running! Virtual Exhibit is intended for 2018.

I. North Central Jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History Convocation

J. UM Historical Society of MN [¶641.2]

Kathy will continue to renew the MN registration for the Historical Society for MN.

We will not attempt to renew the Historical Society's 501c3 status.

The Historical Society is dormant, waiting for interested people to make it active.

There are some funds available for grants. Applications can be submitted to Society officers.

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

Annual meetings, contact information, etc. that we can promote and communicate.

Old Salem in Paynesville, Portland Prairie, Lenora, Inver Grove, Prairieville, etc.

L. Any Other Business?

1. From Western North Carolina:

We are considering updating them (from reel-to-reel, audio, VHS, CD-Rom, and DVD) to a digital format that we could then save on the cloud and have available (perhaps) in perpetuity. However, the estimate is \$43,000 to make it happen for all of these years and formats. Not sure where that money would come from.

Kathy: We too have recording of Annual Conference since the 60s.

2.

IV. ESTABLISHING OUR PRIORITIES FOR OUR FUTURE WORK

Monthly emails with reminders of things to do and think about:

V. SETTING THE NEXT MEETINGS: May 8

Sept. _____

[Draft of letter of appreciation and encouragement to local church historians.]

Keeper of Your Church's Story:

Greetings to you in the name of the God of Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow!

I visited the National Archive building in Washington D.C. last year. Below the statue to the left of the main entrance was an inscription that captures well the purpose of recording and sharing the stories of our past:

The heritage of the past is the seed that brings forth the harvest of the future.

The work of God's church is to plant the seed of the Gospel (1 Cor. 3:6-8). As archivists and historians of our local churches, we continue to plant the seeds of our spiritual heritage in order to make possible a future harvest in God's Kingdom. After all, Jesus said, "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed" (Matt. 13:31).

On behalf of the Commission on Archives and History (CAH), I want to thank you for your faithful work of seed planting as you continue to collect, preserve, and share the story of God's work among your congregation. What you do is often not recognized as important in the moment, but you are sharing the Gospel by what you do! This past December my local church celebrated its 50th anniversary. Our historian displayed our church's story in ways that captured our church's excitement and invigorated our ministry into the future. The preservation work done by all our historians was of great value! I hope you are able to see the work you do as equally important.

The Commission on Archives and History is part of the MN Annual Conference of the UMC. Our passion is to help preserve and tell the story of God's ministry within the UMC of our state. We serve as a resource to local churches to help you collect, preserve, and tell your stories. We offer resources to your church made available on the Conference website, such as the Records Retention Schedule (<https://www.minnesotaumc.org/church-records>, or key strokes: <https://www.minnesotaumc.org> → "For Clergy/Churches" → "Church Resources" → "Church Forms" → "Church Records") and listing of the UM Historic Sites of the Conference (<https://www.minnesotaumc.org/historicalsites>). The Conference Archivist, Kathy Spence Johnson, is also available to provide assistance or answer any questions. She can be reached at 612-230-6149 or kathy.johnson@minnesotaumc.org.

We want to encourage you to keep tending the story of God's grace among you. Ask, "What would testify to someone 20 years from now of God's faithfulness and help them hear the testimony of what God has done among us today?" Please contact us if there is any way that we can be of help or assistance to you.

Again, thank you for what you do. You are doing meaningful and lasting work. You are appreciated! And may the Lord continue to bless you as you continue to sew the seeds of God's grace that will bring a harvest in the future.

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. David Werner,
Chair., MAC CAH
Pastor, Forest Hills UMC, Forest Lake, MN