

CONFERENCE COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

The Book of Discipline ¶641.1-4

AGENDA, TUES., MAY 8, 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

Ex-officio members:

Barbara Brower, MAC Director of Finance & Admin.

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

Kathy Spence Johnson, Archivist

Thelma Boeder, Conference Historian

Randy Koppen

Hilda Parks

B. Brief updates by each member

Randy Koppen, apologies

D. Opening Devotions: David L.

E. Operate by Consensus

II. REVIEW OF OUR WORK

A. Minutes of Feb. 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

David & Kathy

NCJ CAH at Dayton, OH: UMC 50th merger

Other ideas:

150th Red Rock Camp Meeting: 6/29-7/1

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. has draft letter that can be sent out to current church historians to thank them for their work and to encourage them, when David L.'s list is compiled.

3. Dan Foster and Judy Clark have agreed to be on nominations for CAH at AC Session!

4. North Central Jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History Convocation

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)

David W. is unavailable summer 2019. Need to appoint “Jurisdictional Convocation Organizer.”

Discussion around proposals circulated by team members the past two months & making the plan:

Other business before the Commission, as time:

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

1. Issues/concerns about our 15 official Historical Sites of the MNAC?
2. Report from the First Finnish Fellowship, Thelma B., Chair. and CAH rep.
3. Historical markers to be delivered to the site in some meaningful and encouraging way:
Portland Prairie Church: the GCAH plaque will be provided. Kathy will contact Deb Ray.
Market St. M.E. Church Site - David W. will contact this spring.
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., "This is the year!"

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

2018 - Olivet UMC

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.

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. UM Historical Society of MN [¶641.2]

Dormant. There are some funds available for grants.

J. 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.

K. Any Other Business?

- 1.

IV. SETTING THE NEXT MEETINGS: Sept. 11, and Nov. ? _____

[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