

# CONFERENCE COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

*The Book of Discipline ¶641.1-4*

## AGENDA, TUES., SEPT. 11, 2018 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

Kathy Spence Johnson, 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. Brief updates by each member

Welcome to new members on the CAH: Judith Clark & Dan Foster!

Personal updates: How was your summer?

#### D. Opening Devotions: David L.

#### E. Operate by Consensus

### II. REVIEW OF OUR WORK

#### A. Minutes of May 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.

2018	Spring	David & Kathy	NCJ CAH at Dayton, OH: UMC 50 <sup>th</sup> merger
	Summer	Kathy	July 29 Portland Prairie event, Bishop. David L. will present General Church plaque.

Ideas: Fall:

Winter:

##### 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. Attached.

#### 4. North Central Jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History Convocation

2018 Hosted by Dayton, OH at United Theological Seminary. Theme: 1968 UMC merger.  
2019, July 8-10. Minnesota hosts (plan for 30-60 people)

Location: Mankato, MN

Theme: The Way Forward: Looking Backward to Discern a Path Forward

Description: The Convocation will look at three historical experiences of transition with the desire to share stories of these transitions, offer insights into understanding them more deeply, and to ask if the experiences of these transitions can help inform how people of faith today can face the discussion and transitions of the UM Special General Conference on human sexuality that will have taken place in February 2019.

Experience of Transition #1: The EUB-ME Church Merger of 1968 (1969 for MAC).

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the UMC merger, we will tell stories of what this looked like in the local Mankato area (sharing the local stories), offering a lense through which to understand the merger. Included in this story is the continued narrative of dissatisfaction by the EUB-descendents of being "swallowed up," "forgotten," or "marginalized." Narratives will need to frankly and honestly "name the realities" of this past merger, and perhaps draw connections to what the UMC will be going through next summer. A question to ask will be what we can learn from this past merger to inform the current transition of the UMC. What went right...what went wrong...and how can sharing this help us now?

Experience of Transition #2: Learning to Live Together: The Dakota and the Europeans.

Tell stories of the Dakota War and the historical events of the Mankato area (including the survivors of the Dakota War finding refuge near Mankato, the hanging of 38 Native warriors in Mankato, and perhaps even the 1851 Sioux Treaty signing north of St. Peter). Share stories of the aftermath years of the surrounding Evangelical Association people and how the prairie to the west was deserted: churches closed as people left the farms and towns. A question to ask is if the Christian people of faith made any positive relationships or impacts with Native peoples, if there are stories--or lack of stories!--of understanding and connections. Another part of the story to share from the current MAC is the proposal to find a way of returning the sacred Red Rock held in care at the Newport UMC location, and sharing stories of seeking continued reconciliation amid a difficult past.

Experience of Transition #3: Learning to Live Together: Immigration since the UMC Merger.

Tell stories of the immigration of peoples from non-Western continents into Minnesota over the past 50 years, as well as the ways United Methodists have engaged them, witnessed to the Christian faith, and built relationships. One Mankato UM church hosts a Korean congregation, and another has had some ministry to Somali people. A question to ask is what can be learned from extending the community of faith to include people "not like us" to help us engage a global UMC and its changing organization.

Other Considerations: Hilda said she would do some "on site" exploration for lodging and restaurants. A tour day could visit local sites pertaining to each of these three experiences. Thelma Boeder said that she could offer a talk from her local church histories on any of these three experiences. We could ask non-United Methodists to share and give some "outsider" perspectives. Others could be asked to help serve on the work team, such as Judith Clark. What local people can we include to give talks and perspectives?

2018 NCJ CAH Invitation: David Laechel would share an official invitation at 2018 Convocation.

Report from 2019 Convocation Work Team: Hilda, David L., Randy Koppen:

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 <sup>st</sup> Methodist Indian Mission in MN, 1 <sup>st</sup> UMC)<br>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 <sup>st</sup> convert to Methodism in MN)   | Thelma, 12/2016                   |
| d. First Site of Hamline University* (Plaque on 1 <sup>st</sup> 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. 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.
3. Historical markers to be delivered to the site in some meaningful and encouraging way:  
Portland Prairie Church: Did David L. present the plaque at July 29 event?  
Market St. M.E. Church Site - David W. contacted owners. Still in progress.
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  
Display at Red Rock Camp meeting's 150th.

**I. UM Historical Society of MN** [¶641.2]  
Dormant. There are some funds available for grants.  
Return of \$1,253 unused grant?

**J. Compiling a List of Active Fellowships of UM Historical Sites in MN**  
Annual meetings, contact information, etc. that we can promote and communicate.  
7 so far, incl. Old Salem in Paynesville, Portland Prairie, Lenora, Inver Grove, Prairieville

**K. Any Other Business?**

1. David L. and Thelma B. were our delegates to the 2018 NCJ CAH Convocation. Report?

**IV. SETTING THE NEXT MEETINGS:** Nov. 13, and Jan. 2017 - Day? \_\_\_\_\_

[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 50<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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