

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
HSUMC AND THE NEJCAH
THURSDAY, MAY 26, 2016
WHATCOAT UM CHURCH
DOVER, DELAWARE**

Matthew Loyer, chair of the Commission convened the meeting. The commission thanked all those who had helped with the planning of this event—especially Dr. Sutton; the Whatcoat Church; and Phillip Harris, who made possible the crab cakes for dinner. He announced that one can order crab cakes on line at deepseaphil.com. The NEJCAH accepted their audit and elected officers for the new quadrennium. Matthew reminded people about the Continuing Education credit forms available for those who need them.

The meeting was then turned over to the HSUMC president Priscilla Pope-Levison at 9:20 am. Priscilla was pleased to announce that the Historical Society is now back above 200 members.

Treasurers Report/ Purposed Budget

Kerri Shoemaker passed out copies of the Treasurer's report and the proposed budget for 2016-2017. The budget only reflects three-quarters of the year because of the dates of our meetings. The report was presented to the body for adoption and was accepted.

Proposed Budget

The proposed budget was presented for adoption and was accepted as presented.

Upcoming Meetings

2017: Larry Hayden invited everyone to join us for the Historical Society's meeting to be held June 26-29th in Alaska in conjunction with the Western Jurisdiction Archives and History Commission.

Awards:

The Historical Society gives out two awards and this year we were pleased to present **The Saddlebag Award** to Russ Richey for his book *Methodism in the American Forest*. There were three books this year vying for this award and the other two were:

The Wesleys in Cornwall, 1743-1789, by Samuel J. Rogal (McFarland Publishing, 2015); and

Adam Poe, Evangelist & Faithful Servant, by Melissa A. Stangland (Daystar Publishing, 2015).

The Ministry of Memory Award was given to Phil Lawton for his outstanding work in the area of Church History. This year the board voted to allow more than one Memory of Ministry award if we have qualified applications. The group was encouraged to recommend names for this award.

Nomination Committee:

Priscilla announced the five members of the nominating committee as follows: General Secretary Fred Day, Joyce Plyler, Chris Shoemaker, Russell Richey, and Priscilla Pope-Levison. They are to present a slate of officers for the next quadrennium in the February edition of *Historian's Digest* to be voted upon. The question was raised about minority representation on our board and people were assured that we try to be inclusive. It is always good to be reminded about inclusivity.

Minutes

The secretary moved that the minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting of the Historical Society of the UMC held at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Illinois, be accepted as printed in the January, 2016, issue of *Methodist History*. The minutes were approved.

Report of the General Secretary

Fred Day reported about General conference. He gave thanks for the presence of GCAH at General Conference and felt that they made a huge difference in people's understanding of who GCAH is and what we do. Plan UMC did not emerge from committee, leaving GCAH as an independent Commission for the next four years. Legislation from Finance and Administration also did not make it out of committee. We named three new Heritage Landmarks and the African American Methodist Heritage Center is still related to GCAH.

Overall there were some ironies on the second day. They voted down a rule regarding Holy Conferencing and marked the 200th anniversary of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the Sand Creek Massacre, and the 60th anniversary of the ordination of women—all of which show that at times some of God's family are deemed unacceptable. This said, conference was at times exhilarating, frustrating, sad, joyful, and felt like a gridlock, but we stuck together to plot a way forward. Fred referred to Isaiah 43:19: "Behold, I will do new things." God reveals in the tensions of life the one who comes to us through toils and snares. It was noted that we commissioned 29 missionaries at General conference. Fred ended by stating we are best when we sing our theology: "there is a song in every silence...."

Video presented at General Conference about Francis Asbury

The video "Francis Asbury: A Flame Spirit" used at the GCAH display at General Conference, was then shown. It is now available on the GCAH website; it is 8 minutes long. They ran out of money so they couldn't get to Love-ly Lane Meeting House site in Baltimore to record there. Chuck Yrigoyen was responsible for much of the content of the video.

Closing

Fred Day closed us with a prayer from a traditional Jewish liturgy. The comment was made that the British put us to shame with their celebration for Francis Asbury. The BBC had a full day presentation while we could only get 30 seconds at General conference. Thanks was given for the team that put things together for General Conference, helping to hold us together.

We had a break until 11:30 am, when we reconvened for closing worship.

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