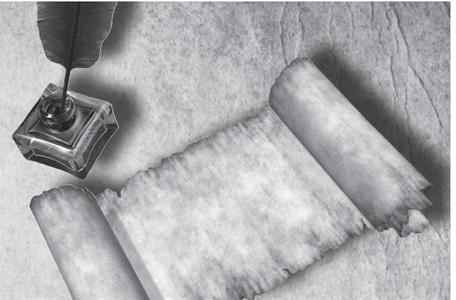


HISTORIAN'S DIGEST



Volume 53, Number 1

Winter, 2013

General Commission to Host 2013 Annual

For the first time in the 24 year life of the Historical Society of the UMC, our annual meeting will be hosted by the General Commission on Archives and History at the Archives Center at Drew University in Madison, NJ. The Historical Society meeting will be held from Saturday, September 14 – Monday, September 16 and will overlap with the annual meeting of the General Commission which will begin on Thursday afternoon, September 12.

For many years it has been the tradition for the second meeting of each quadrennium for GCAH to be held at the Archives Center in Madison and for the Chairpersons of the Conference Commissions on Archives and History to be invited to that meeting. And this year, for the first time, Historical Society members will have the opportunity to sit in on these sessions, as well. Though the Historical Society meeting will not begin officially until Saturday afternoon, anyone who wishes is welcome to arrive early and attend the GCAH meetings as well as a session planned for the chairpersons of annual conference Commissions on Archives and History.

As an integral part of the meeting tours of the Archives Center will be given and the library and archives will be open for folks who may wish to take the opportunity to do research, as well.

(cont. on page 2)



PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

Thursday, September 12

Afternoon Tours of the Archives Center
5:30 Dinner in Crawford Hall at the Ehinger
Center
7:00 pm Opening Plenary for GCAH

Friday, September 13

9:00 am till 5:00 pm – Business session of GCAH
Evening – Distinguished Service Award Dinner
and Program

Historical Society Schedule

Saturday, September 14

**9 am till noon – Historical Society Board of
Directors meeting**
9 am till noon – Business session of GCAH
Lunch – catered in Crawford Hall
Afternoon - session with Conference chairs and
Historical Society Leadership: What is the
difference between a Commission and a HS?

Afternoon tours of Archives Center for
Historical Society Members

**All Historical Society members should arrive by
dinner on Saturday.**

Dinner – Crawford Hall

**Evening program – Historical Society
business meeting and Ministry of Memory
and Saddlebag Selection Awards**

Sunday, September 15

**Worship at John Street Church – Lower
Manhattan**

Lunch

Afternoon activities - tba

Evening – lecture - tba

Monday, September 16

Historical Society Business Meeting;

Lecture - tba

Closing worship

Lunch

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Please send address changes to Phil Lawton. Editorial correspondence should be directed to Pat Thompson. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is April 1, 2013.

Historian's Digest is published quarterly by the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church.

From the President, Dan Swinson

Our next meeting of the Historical Society is being planned for September 12-16 at Drew University at the Archives Center. This will be a joint meeting of HSUMC, the Commission on Archives and History, and chairpersons of Conference Commissions on Archives and History. We will have an opportunity to network with a broad range of folk interested in United Methodist history. On that basis alone, the meeting will be well worth attending.

We will also celebrate beginnings of Methodism in America with worship at John Street Church and an afternoon walking tour of United Methodist sites in lower Manhattan. I have been whetting my appetite by re-reading Wakeley's *Lost Chapters* with its annual accounts of Methodism in New York, including frequent citations from "the old book," the official record of John Street. By the way, for those interested, Wakeley is available in reprint. I found it in one of the background levels (what I call the Filene's Basement) of the Cokesbury web page. Grab a Wakeley and plan to come to the annual meeting.

One of the most powerful parts of my travels in connection with the history of our Church has been the opportunity to stand in the places that I would otherwise only have read about. I have shared a number of these over the past three years in the President's column of the *Digest*. As I have shared, the opportunity to "go and see" has repaid my membership in HSUMC, whether in time or money, many times over. While we will be transitioning leadership at the next meeting of the Society, I look forward to remaining part of this exciting ministry.

By the way, looking ahead. The 2014 meeting is tentatively set for the Southeast Jurisdiction, probably in Georgia (that is a meeting that I missed years back, and look forward to now). The 2015 meeting has been scheduled for the North Central Jurisdiction, and is being planned by the Northern Illinois Conference for Chicago. We have also had a letter of consideration for 2016 for Missouri and a return to South Central Jurisdiction. Significant days are ahead.

Peace,
Dan

(cont. from page 1)

The Historical Society meeting will open with dinner on Saturday in Crawford Hall, followed by the opening session of the Historical Society business meeting and the Ministry of Memory and Saddlebag Selection awards.

On Sunday morning we will gather for worship at John Street UMC in lower Manhattan, one of the Heritage Landmarks of the United Methodist Church. Arrangements for the remainder of the day have not yet been finalized.

The Historical Society meeting will conclude on Monday morning with any remaining business, another lecture and closing worship.

Final arrangements and all other needed information will be included in the May issue of *Historian's Digest* along with the Registration Form.

PLEASE NOTE: All HSUMC members are eligible to vote for officers for the Society. Please see biographical information and the official ballot on the insert. The ballot needs to be returned by no later than March 15, 2013.

Nominating Committee Report

We are pleased to present the following slate of nominees for officers of the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church, 2013-2016:

President – Russell Richey
Vice-president – Daniel Swinson
Treasurer – Kerri Shoemaker
Secretary – Barbara Essen

Biographical sketches are included in this issue of *Historian's Digest*, as is the ballot and voting instructions.

Thelma Boeder, convener
Sue Alexander
Robert Sledge
Patricia Thompson
Charles Yoon

Below and on the back are the biographical sketches for those who have been nominated as officers for the Historical Society of the UMC. The ballot is on the back of this page.

President: Russell E. Richey

Before retiring, Russell E. Richey was William R. Cannon Distinguished Professor of Church History, Candler School of Theology, and Senior Fellow of Emory's Center for the Study of Law and Religion. From 2000-06 he served as Candler's Dean and has been named Dean Emeritus. He previously held academic and administrative posts at Duke Divinity School and Drew University. He is currently a visiting professor at Duke Divinity School and research fellow at its Center for Studies in the Wesleyan Tradition.

An editor of the *Methodist Review* and editorial advisory board member of the *Journal of Southern Religion*, both on-line ventures, he writes on denominationalism, civil religion and American Methodism. Among recent books are *Episcopacy in the Methodist Tradition: Perspectives and Proposals* (with Thomas Frank), 2004; *Marks of Methodism: Practices of Ecclesiology*, 2005; *Mr. Wesley's True Heirs: Extension Ministers*, 2008; *Doctrine in Experience: A Methodist Theology of Church and Ministry*, 2009; *Methodist Connectionalism: Historical Perspectives*, 2010; *The Methodist Experience in America: A History*, (with Kenneth E. Rowe and Jean Miller Schmidt), 2010; and *American Methodism: A Compact History* (also with Rowe and Schmidt). A festschrift, *The Renewal of United Methodism: Mission, Ministry and Connectionalism, Essays in Honor of Russell E. Richey*, edited by Rex D. Matthews was published by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry in 2012.

Richey has been a member of the Historical Society since its founding and served as Secretary from 1989 – 1992. He served as well on the General Commission on Archives and History. Writer for the UMC Task Force to Study the Episcopacy established by 2004 General Conference, he serves on the national Episcopal- United Methodist Bilateral, on the UMC Committee on Faith and Order and as Vice President of the Wesley Works Editorial Project.

He and his wife Merle now reside in Durham, North Carolina, home for both of them. They have two children and four grandchildren (William and Jennifer Richey's Benjamin and Ruby, and Elizabeth and Bennett Thompson's Reeves and Lane).

Vice-President: Daniel Swinson

Daniel Swinson is a clergy member of the Northern Illinois Conference, where he has served as a local pastor since 1981. He has a PhD in the History of Christianity from the University of Chicago, where he completed a dissertation on Methodism and the temperance movement in the antebellum period under the direction of Martin Marty. He has served at every level of the Church’s ministry of memory including Conference commissions, the North Central Jurisdiction CAH, the Historical Society of the UMC, the General Commission on Archives and History, and the World Methodist Historical Society. He currently serves Trinity United Methodist Church in Mt. Prospect, Illinois, where he lives with his wife, June. The Swinsons have two grown children, one grandchild, and a second expected momentarily.

Secretary: Barbara Essen (for a second term)

Barbara Essen is a Clergy member of the Pacific Northwest Conference and currently serves a three point charge made up of the Nezperce, Grangeville and White Bird churches in Idaho. She has served on her Conference Archives and History Commission for 8 years and currently serves as chair of its Historical Society. She has served as secretary of the Historical Society of the UMC for the last 4 years.

Treasurer: Kerri R. Shoemaker

Kerri R. Shoemaker is currently a business analyst at an electronics payments processing company in Columbus, Georgia. She has been married to Chris, a United Methodist pastor, for 15 years and is a lifelong United Methodist, growing up at Pitts Chapel UMC in Jones County, Georgia. She graduated from Jones County High School and went on to earn a B.S. in Mathematics from United Methodist-affiliated LaGrange College, just north of Columbus, Georgia. From 2009-2012, she held the position of Editor of NEWS and NOTES, the newsletter publication of the Southeastern Jurisdiction Historical Society.



2013 Ballot for Officers for the HSUMC for 2013 – 2016

Please mark the ballot below and return it by no later than March 15, 2013 to:
General Commission on Archives and History, PO Box 127, Madison, NJ 07940

President: Russell E. Richey _____ Write-in _____

Vice-President: Daniel Swinson _____ Write-in _____

Secretary: Barbara Essen _____ Write-in _____

Treasurer: Kerri Shoemaker _____ Write-in _____

Saddlebag Nominations Requested

January has arrived again, 2012 is over and done, and there were undoubtedly some fine books on Methodist history, theology, polity, and biography that were produced during the year. The HSUMC annually honors one book with our “Saddlebag Selection” award as the best work in the field during the calendar year. This year we will name our eighth winner, following in the footsteps of some distinguished books of the past, including the first, Robert Bray’s biography of Peter Cartwright (2005) and the most recent, the 2011 publication *The Poisoned Chalice* by Jennifer Woodruff Tait.

Each year, invitations are broadcast to appropriate publishers asking for nominations for one or more of their books. But the invitation receives best consideration by publishers when they can be told that the book was suggested by one of the members of the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church.

That’s where you come in. If you know of a worthy work published in 2012, please send your suggestions to Rob Sledge, the Saddlebag Selection coordinator, by e-mail: rsledge@mcm.edu or at Box 637, McMurry University Station, Abilene, Texas 79697. Then the publisher can be contacted again with the word that the book has been nominated.

Deadline for entries from the publishers is April 15 this year, so suggestions from the membership should come in by mid-February if possible. The selection will be announced in advance of the annual meeting in September and the winning author(s) invited to attend to receive the award and address the Society.

The selection committee consists of Dr. Charles Yrigoyen of Pennsylvania, Ms. Linda Schramm of Michigan, Rev. Lyle Johnston of Arizona, and Dr. Sledge.

The previous choices have been:

2005 Robert Bray, *Peter Cartwright: Legendary Frontier Preacher*, University of Illinois Press

2006 John R. Tyson, *In The Midst of Early Methodism: Lady Huntingdon and Her Correspondence*, Scarecrow Press

2007 Rex D. Matthews, *Timetables of History for Students of Methodism*, Abingdon Press

2008 Charles Yrigoyen, Jr., John McEllhenney, Kenneth Rowe, *United Methodism at Forty: Looking Backward, Looking Forward*, Abingdon Press.

2009 John Wigger, *Francis Asbury and the Methodists*, Oxford University Press.

2010 Russell E. Richey, Kenneth E. Rowe and Jean Miller Schmidt, *The Methodist Experience in America: A History*, Abingdon Press.

2011 Jennifer Woodruff Tait, *The Poisoned Chalice*, University of Alabama Press.



United Methodist Heritage Sunday

May 19, 2013

“The Power of Place: The Contemporary Mission of Heritage Landmarks and Historic Sites”

The theme for Heritage Sunday in 2013 as set by the General Commission on Archives and History is “The Power of Place: The Contemporary Mission of Heritage Landmarks and Historic Sites.” The date is set by action of the General Conference and noted in The Book of Discipline as being Aldersgate Day or the Sunday preceding that day. Certainly a local church is free to observe it on another date. Even though the date reminds us of John Wesley’s “heartwarming experience” at meeting on Aldersgate Street in London, it can also call to mind Otterbein’s and Albright’s experiences of the grace of God as these experiences lead to the evangelical revival. The Discipline states, “Heritage Sunday calls the Church to remember the past by committing itself to the continuing call of God.” (par. 264.1)

The theme will remind the church that there are 46 Heritage Landmarks and almost 500 Historic Sites. Heritage Landmarks are set by the General Conference upon recommendation of GCAH and Historic Sites are determined by annual conferences. (See Discipline, par. 1712) As resources are developed for the observance of Heritage Sunday, they will call upon United Methodists to consider the role that pilgrimage has played in spiritual formation, what it means to understand sacred space, and how location can inform efforts for evangelism, mission, and social transformation today.

Powerful images of place arise from the Biblical witness. When Jacob awakes from his dream at Bethel he said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” (Genesis 28:17) Also, when the Israelites crossed the Jordan River they were commanded to take stones from the river and build a monument at Gilgal so that future generations would ask what those stones mean and would be taught about God’s actions. (Joshua 4) There are those places whose very history can inspire visitors to faithful living and can inform inquirers about meaningful ministry.

Worship and other resources will be posted on or about March 1, 2013. Please be in touch with Bob Williams (rwilliams@gcah.org) if you will be developing resources for your conference to highlight any of your historic sites for Heritage Sunday.

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