



Volume 53, Number 2

Spring, 2013

PLANS FINALIZED FOR 2013 ANNUAL MEETING

From the General Secretary of GCAH, Robert Williams:

The annual meeting of the Historical Society of The United Methodist Church will be Saturday, September 14 through Monday, September 16 at Drew University, Madison, New Jersey following the meeting of the General Commission on Archives and History. You are welcomed 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. This is a meeting that overlaps three entities so we seek your careful attention to the registration information.

Housing will be provided at the Madison Hotel, which is about 5 minutes from campus. We will make your hotel reservations based on the information you provide when you register and you will pay the hotel directly. Cost for the rooms for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday is \$89 plus tax (\$13.35) and \$149 plus tax for Thursday night. Continental breakfast is included in this price. We have identified a Ramada Inn within a ten mile radius of Madison that is a possible alternative to the Madison Hotel - the Ramada Conference Center East Hanover/Parsippany <http://www.easthanoverramada.com>. Shuttle between this hotel and the Archives Center will not be provided, however.

If you plan to travel by air, Newark Liberty (EWR) is the closest airport. You may make your own arrangements or you may contact Vicky Lee, Corporate Travel Manager, Travel Leaders, who serves as travel agent for the general agencies. If you contact Vicky, please identify yourself with GCAH to purchase your flights. Contact information for Travel Leaders is 706-882-9381 (local); 1-800-544-2307 (toll-free); E-mail vlee@travellleaders.com. Your airfare must be placed on your own credit card and is your responsibility. If you are driving, directions to our offices can be found on the Drew web site, www.drew.edu. Directions to the Madison Hotel can be found at www.themadisonhotel.com. From the airport to the Madison Hotel by taxi is approximately \$60. We will arrange for groups to return to the airport together.

You may want to contact the chairperson of your conference commission and encourage that person to attend or to coordinate travel plans. The General Commission invites conference chairs to one meeting of the General Commission each quadrennium. If your chair has not received an invitation from the General Commission, please have them contact Michelle Merkel-Brunskill, Executive Assistant, at 973-408-3189 or mmerkel@gcah.org.

I look forward to seeing you in September, if not before. All the best to each one of you.



Archives Center at Drew University – Headquarters for GCAH

Please note: The registration form and final schedule appear on the insert in this issue of Historian's Digest. The deadline for registrations is July 15.

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

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the United Methodist Church.

From the President, Dan Swinson

How often is the ministry of memory exciting? We who are in the midst could probably say every day. Archivists and librarians service requests that bring new insights into their collections. Scholars in the lone pursuit of a subject are surprised by the unexpected and unforeseen. Genealogists stumble onto family facts that reward long searches (the Ancestry.com commercials work this theme all the time). Those who supervise and care for historic sites and shrines find their charges changing each time the combination of sunshine and cloud change. The ministry of memory is exciting every day.

If only the ministry of memory were valued in proportion to that excitement. Libraries and archives struggle to maintain their charge. Commissions on Archives and History battle the budgets of their judicatories for funds sufficient to fulfill their responsibilities. Scholars and teachers advocate for the importance of the field. Publishers despair in the sales of titles, however significant. Even genealogists, who have found a personal and popular niche, struggle with indifference among those who should be most interested.

But memory has teeth, and can bite. Then all kinds of folks get excited. Recently, at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, campus advocates for Native American issues have raised questions about the part that John Evans had in the Sand Creek massacre. The namesake of the city and a founder of the University, Evans was governor of the territory of Colorado at the time of the massacre. It did not help that Evans, a lay Methodist, was issuing directives to Colonel John Chivington, a one time Methodist preacher, who commanded the troops on the ground. Chivington was of sufficient ecclesiastical note to have been elected a delegate to General Conference.

Suddenly local media was interested in the mid-nineteenth century, and, as you can guess, archives, libraries, and scholars in Evanston, Colorado, and Washington, D.C. were very much in demand.

While this excitement can sometimes be ambiguous, especially in the need to explain the more obvious points of difference between their world and ours, it still points to the fact that memory is more than memory, and that what we value in the ministry of memory can erupt with significance into the world today.

Be ready. It may happen for you.

Peace,
Dan

Congratulations to Our New Officers Elected for 2014 – 2017

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

(The election was unanimous)!

**The Historical Society of the United Methodist Church
September 14-16, 2013**

Meetings of the General Commission on Archives and History and the Chairpersons of Commissions on Archives and History from the Annual Conferences precede the formal start of the meeting of the Historical Society. All persons are welcomed at all meetings.

Thursday, September 12

7:00 pm Opening Plenary for GCAH, Crawford Hall

Friday, September 13

9:00 am till 5:00 pm – Business session of GCAH, Crawford Hall

6:00 pm – Distinguished Service Award Dinner and Program, Crawford Hall

Historical Society Schedule

*****All meetings and meals are on the Drew University campus in Crawford Hall at the Ehinger Center unless otherwise noted.***

Saturday, September 14

**9 am till noon – Historical Society Board of Directors meeting, United Methodist
Archives Center**

9 am till noon – Business session of GCAH

Noon - Lunch

**Afternoon – session with Conference chairs and Historical Society members
focusing on the work of Commissions and Historical Societies lead by
Robert Williams and Dale Patterson**

Afternoon tours of Archives Center for Historical Society Members

Opportunity to visit the Kean Room in the Learning Center of Drew University

6:00 pm - Dinner

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

Sunday, September 15 (Transportation to New York by chartered bus)

Worship at John Street Church in New York City

Catered lunch in church yard

**Presentation by Ms. Jo Hibbard, Officer for Methodist Heritage of the Methodist
Church of Great Britain on Heritage Sites in Great Britain**

Walking tour of lower Manhattan or afternoon free

Dinner on your own

6:30 pm Bus departs New York for return to Madison Hotel

Monday, September 16

Historical Society Business Meeting

**Lecture – Dr. Kevin Newburg, Post-Doctoral Fellow in Methodist Studies, The
Theological School, Drew University. Title: “Turn of the Century Worship
Wars as reported in the Christian Advocate.”**

Worship

Lunch on your own.

REGISTRATION
Historical Society Annual Meeting
September 14-16, 2013

Please fill out separate registration form for each attendee.
Please return this form as soon as possible but not later than July 15.

Name _____ Annual Conference _____

Address _____

Phone (preferably cell phone) _____; E-mail _____

Special needs _____

Travel Arrangements:

___ I will be driving.

Date of arrival _____

Date of departure _____

___ I will be flying.

	Date	Time	Airline	Flight Number
Arrival	_____	_____	_____	_____
Departure	_____	_____	_____	_____

___ **\$75 registration fee includes all meals listed below and related program expenses.**

Make check payable to "GCAH" and mail check with registration form to P.O. Box 127,
Madison, NJ 07940.

Lodging: (you will pay hotel directly at check-out but we will make the reservation.)

___ Thursday night (\$149 plus taxes)

___ Friday night (\$89 plus taxes)

___ Saturday night (\$89 plus taxes)

___ Sunday night (\$89 plus taxes)

Meals:

Please indicate the meals you expect to attend.

(Complimentary breakfasts are available at the hotel.)

___ Friday lunch

___ Friday dinner

___ Saturday lunch

___ Saturday dinner

___ Sunday lunch (in New York City)

___ **Bus to New York City from Madison Hotel on Sunday morning. (No additional cost.)**

___ **Bus from New York City to Madison Hotel on Sunday afternoon. (No additional cost.)**

[Note From the Editor:] In the Winter 2013 issue our President, Dan Swinson, made the following observation: "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." In the article below Nancy Noble takes us on a United Methodist church history journey through New England.

New England Travels, Through the Lens of United Methodist Church History

By Nancy Noble, Historian, Evergreen UMC, Long Island, ME and Archivist, Maine Historical Society

Some of the churches are on the side of the road in rural New England – if you blink, you miss them. Others are inner city, often in gritty neighborhoods. Almost all are beautiful icons of spirituality, full of history, with stained glass windows and full basements offering suppers and meeting spaces to their communities. As a member of the Commission of Archives and History for the past decade, as well as the New England United Methodist Historical Society, I have been honored to have been able to visit these churches, explore their history, and meet their members.

Dennis, Massachusetts, was our destination one November, where fall was still in full glory, yet quieter than most of the year. Here we celebrated the 50th anniversary of "Full Clergy Rights for Women in the Methodist Tradition," including Anna Howard Shaw who was serving at the East Dennis Wesleyan Church in 1880 when she became the first woman in the Methodist tradition in New England to be ordained (in the Methodist Protestant Church). In Newburyport, Massachusetts, on another fine autumn day, we met at the People's UMC. From here we strolled the tree lined side streets filled with 19th century homes to Old South Meeting House (First Presbyterian Church), where George Whitefield is buried. On a rainy spring weekend in "down east" Maine, we met at one of Margaret Henrichsen's 7 churches, Gouldsboro UMC, as described in her charming and entertaining memoir, *Seven Steeples*.

More urban settings included Lynn, MA, where we stood on a busy main thoroughfare in front of the Salvation Army, the site of the first Methodist Church in Massachusetts (built in 1791), to dedicate a marker. We also went to nearby Lawrence, another northern Massachusetts mill town. Here we visited the New England Conference headquarters, seeking a new home for our museum collections (formerly located at the St. Paul's UMC in Newport, Rhode Island, another delightful destination). On another glorious autumn day, we visited our conference archives at Boston University with masses of college students walking the quad and lining the hallways. In Saco, Maine, the church we were honoring, the Saco UMC, is now a private home, but the new owners were kind enough to allow us to install a marker on their house. We had a small service outside on the street corner, in their lovely neighborhood, and the homeowners participated in the liturgy commemorating Rev. Jesse Lee, who preached his first sermon in Maine in Saco in 1793. One of our most recent church visits was in Vermont, where we were finally able to travel because of the recent merger of the Vermont churches of the the Troy Conference with the New England Conference. The Wolcott UMC, on charming route 15, now sports a beautiful new highway marker out front honoring Rev. George S. Brown as the first African American Methodist minister in Vermont. We celebrated this new sign with members of the church and local historical society.

Our journeys sometimes take us to true New England picturesque settings, such as the George Whitefield Rock in West Brookfield, Massachusetts, on a spring day, along a scenic backcountry road. Whitefield preached from this rock in 1740; we all climbed on said rock for a photo opportunity, but no one attempted any postulating that day. Our meeting in Groveton, New Hampshire, brought us to quaint Stark Union Church, dating back to the 1850s - one of the most photographed sites in New Hampshire. Another quintessential New England church, also in New Hampshire, was the Chichester UMC, which dates back to the 1830s.

One of the best parts of our twice a year meetings in various parts of New England are the suppers that the church members prepare for us. These meals represent the best of church cooking, full of comfort foods and regional flavors. Our dinner in Newburyport was roast beef, mashed potatoes with



Nancy Noble stands on the Whitefield Rock

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gravy, peas, carrots, and apple pie a la mode. In Newport, we feasted on chicken casserole, rolls, Jell-O salad, chocolate chip cookies, and brownies. Saco church members cooked up beef stew, biscuits, spice (gingerbread) cake with whipped cream. In Wolcott we dined at the Town Hall up the road as the basement of the church was being used as a rummage sale – we enjoyed baked ham, baked beans, corn chowder, and apple pie.

Our accommodations vary, and also provide a bit of “local flavor” as well as “strange bedfellows.” My first meeting was held at Camp Mechuwana in Winthrop, Maine, and I shared a room with bunk beds with Pat Thompson and Margaret Bickford, members of the commission and historical society. From there we visited the Cox Memorial UMC in Hallowell, a United Methodist Heritage Landmark, where Melville Cox launched from to be the first Methodist missionary to Liberia in 1833. Another time we stayed at the beautiful Walker Center in Newton, Massachusetts, from where we took the subway through subterranean Boston to visit St. Andrews UMC in Jamaica Plain, the oldest Hispanic UM congregation in the New England Conference. At one meeting I shared a hotel room at the utilitarian Motel 6 with fellow commission member Sherry Oliver, when we traveled to the Union UMC in Boston, one of the first seven Historic African American Methodist congregations in America. Sherry later became the pastor of our small island church (talk about getting to know someone well beforehand!). Mostly we stayed in whatever was nearby to our meeting places, at a reasonable rate, which often meant funky mom and pop roadside motels, such as the Red Barn Motel in Millbridge, Maine, and the Sesuit Harbor Motel in East Dennis, Massachusetts. My favorite was the Morrill Place in Newburyport, a gorgeous sea captain’s mansion which seemed neglected and abandoned on the outside when we first arrived, but was thoroughly charming inside, owned by a serious craftswoman. It was also surprisingly reasonable, considering the convenient location and beautiful neighborhood.

Being a member of the New England Commission on Archives and History and the New England United Methodist Historical Society has been a wonderful opportunity to experience New England, both rural and urban, at its best – through our church history.

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