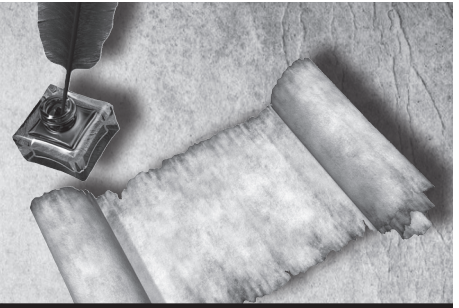


# HISTORIAN'S DIGEST



Volume 55, Number 4

Fall, 2015

## ***Peninsula-Delaware Conference to Host 2016 Annual Meeting in Conjunction with the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Jurisdiction Commission on Archives and History at Whatcoat UMC in Dover, Delaware***

Francis Asbury referred to the Delmarva Peninsula as "the garden of the Lord." In 2016 members of the Historical Society of The United Methodist Church and the NEJCAH will be invited to spend some time exploring the garden, as they hold a joint meeting in Dover, Delaware, May 24-26, which will be held at the historic Whatcoat United Methodist church, the oldest African American church in Dover.

Details and registration materials are included in this issue, but there are two things which you might note because they may impact your travel plans. First, as this is a joint meeting of two organizations, the sessions will begin earlier than usual at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday. Second, the meeting is scheduled for the last week of May so that we can meet the week after the conclusion of General Conference. In 2012 the last General Conference passed legislation - later declared unconstitutional by the Judicial Council - which would have drastically changed the way historical work is done in The United Methodist Church. Similar proposals are expected to come before next year's General Conference. By the time we gather in Dover next May, we could be dealing with some major changes in the structure of the denomination. The final session on Thursday morning will include an open forum in which historians from all over the country will have the opportunity to talk together about whatever is done at General Conference.



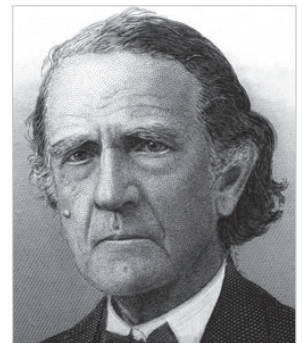
*Rev. Joe DiPaolo*

The major presentation at the meeting will be made by the Rev. Joseph DiPaolo, the secretary for the Northeastern Jurisdiction Commission on Archives and History, and currently the pastor



*Whatcoat UMC*

of the First United Methodist church in Lancaster, PA, on Bishop Levi Scott, born in 1802 near Odessa, DE. He was originally a member of the Philadelphia Conference and was elected Bishop in 1852, the first individual to have been elected to the episcopacy from the state of Delaware. He was a member of the Pennsylvania Colonization Society and traveled to Liberia in that capacity. Later he was instrumental in the organization of the Washington Conference, one of the first Black Conferences to be established in 1864 in the Methodist Episcopal Church. One of the stops on our Wednesday tour will be the Old Union Church at Odessa, DE, the home church of Bishop Scott, where he is also buried.



*Bishop Levi Scott*

We hope that many of you will be able to join us on the East Coast where it is always beautiful in the springtime. Please see the insert on page five for more details regarding the annual meeting and the registration form on page six.

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Please send address changes to Marge Benham. Editorial correspondence should be directed to Pat Thompson. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is January 1, 2016.

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

## Message From the President

Test your historical knowledge of Methodism: How many years have Methodists and Roman Catholics been engaged in an international dialogue? Find the answer at the end of this message! In mid-October, I spent a week in Kuala Lumpur at the Council of Churches of Malaysia conference center as a participant in the Joint Commission for Dialogue between the Roman Catholic Church and the World Methodist Council. This Joint Commission studies a theological topic for five years, during which time participants present papers related to the topic. These papers then feed into the final report, which is thoroughly read, edited, and vetted by all members of the Joint Commission. The final report is presented to the World Methodist Conference, whose next meeting will take place in Houston from 31 August – 3 September, 2016.

Topics for the Joint Commission are chosen precisely because they tend to be divisive between the two communions. At the same time, there is the expressed desire to face these differences in order to come not only to a greater understanding of each other but also to visible unity – at some point in the future. Topics tackled by this Joint Commission have included the Holy Spirit, the Church, Revelation and Faith, and for this cycle of the dialogue, “The Call to Holiness: From Glory to Glory.”

Congruent with John Wesley’s “Letter to a Roman Catholic” (1749), which emphasized mutual concern and respect between different branches of the Christian church, Methodists have been at the vanguard of ecumenism since the mid-nineteenth century with participation in the Evangelical Alliance (1846) and in ecumenical student movements, like the YMCA (1844) and YWCA (1854). In the twentieth century, Methodist leadership provided a key impetus for the World Missionary Conference (WMC) in Edinburgh, 1910. Methodist layman, John R. Mott (1865-1955), remained a pivotal ecumenical figure throughout much of the twentieth century. He chaired the WMC, authored a book on its theme, *Evangelization of the World in This Generation*, chaired the Continuation Committee after the WMC, chaired the International Missionary Council which merged four decades later with the WCC, and served as Honorary President of the WCC. Methodist leaders have continued to provide valuable ecumenical service under the umbrella of the WCC at every level, including three general secretaries: Philip Potter (1972-84), Emilio Castro (1985-92), and Samuel Kobia (2004-2009).

A significant portion of Methodist ecumenism relates to intra-Methodist unity, both internationally and nationally. An early international gathering of Methodist groups for cooperation and fellowship was the Ecumenical Methodist Conference, whose first meeting in 1881 hosted delegates representing twenty-eight Methodist bodies in twenty countries. It then convened every ten years until 1931. Two decades later, another international organization for Methodists formed, the World Methodist Council (WMC), which meets every five years. At a recent WMC meeting, representation extended to 76 member churches from 132 countries. The WMC helps to keep alive Methodist ecumenism by sponsoring the Joint Commission for Dialogue between the Roman Catholic Church and the World Methodist Council. On the WMC website, past documents from the Joint Commission are available via this link: <http://worldmethodistcouncil.org/resources/ecumenical-dialogues/>

And the answer to the question is ... When the final document of this Joint Commission is presented to the World Methodist Conference in 2016, it will mark the 50th year of the international dialogue between Roman Catholics and Methodists.



Dr. Priscilla  
Pope-Levison

— Dr. Priscilla Pope-Levison



## ***“Diversity: It’s Complicated” – Report of the 2015 Annual Meeting Continued from Summer 2015 Issue***

*The papers presented at the 2015 HSUMC Annual Meeting and Historical Convocation, hosted by the NCJCAH at Garrett-Evangelical Seminary in Evanston, IL, in July, were of such quality that the decision was made not to reduce the summary of those papers to fit entirely into the Summer issue of the Historian’s Digest but to give them the honor they were due; thus, we are continuing the summary of the meeting and the papers into this issue.*

Our final presentation was made on Thursday morning, July 23, by Dr. Jaeyeon Lucy Chung, Director of the United Library at G-ETS. Prior to her presentation, however, the Rev. Christopher Shoemaker made a special presentation to Dr. Chung of a copy of the portrait of the Rev. Helenor Davison for the G-ETS library. Helenor Davison, you will remember, was the first known woman to have been ordained in The United Methodist Church, when she was ordained as a deacon in the Wabash Conference of the Indiana Methodist Protestant Church in 1866. See page eight for a summary of the special “add-on tour” of historic sites related to Helenor Davison which followed the annual meeting.



*Rev. Christopher Shoemaker and Dr. Lucy Chung*

The Rev. Dan Swinson then announced that the Barbara C. McCuen Street was being named in Chicago after the Rev. Barbara C. McCuen, the first African American woman to receive full clergy rights in the Northern Illinois Annual Conference. Following the presentation and the announcement, HSUMC Board member, Joyce Plyler, from South Carolina, gave a brief devotional on Holiness.

Dr. Chung then presented her paper, “Diversity in the Ministry of Memory – Archival Implications.” She began by pointing out how the demography of the United States is changing rapidly. The Census Bureau of the United States projects that minorities who are currently about 1/3 of the population will become the majority by 2043, with the non-Hispanic white group remaining the largest but no one group making up a majority. She noted that despite drastic changes in demographics, churches currently do not much reflect the new reality. Dr. Chung quoted Lovett Weems as saying, “The nation is getting younger and more diverse, but the church is getting older and less diverse.” 2013 membership statistics provided by GCFA (General Council of Finance and Administration) reported that only about 10% of the membership of the UMC were Asian, African, Hispanic, and Native American while 1998 figures reported nearly 87% white members. A 2004 census of the archival profession showed an even greater disparity with only about 7% of the

archivists responding being from minority ethnic or racial groups.

Chung noted that as the theme of the Convocation states, diversity is a complicated issue and is more than the increase of visual, numeric representation. It is also about a sensitivity to the dynamics of differences and the inclusion of all experiences:

*While diversity has been continuously present within United Methodism by embracing diversity in response to social and political issues, theological perspectives, styles of worship, etc., the notion of diversity itself has been insufficiently explored, given its complexities and implications. Attitudes toward diversity have not been always open and transparent. It may be also true that a sense of ambiguity and complexity toward diversity has deeply impacted the Church’s ministry of memory, its endeavor to collect and preserve representative historical records. Particularly when church historians and archivists select and make decisions of what to collect, preserve, and make accessible in our daily practice, the prevalent culture of ambiguity might have been operating. Archivists and record managers are not mere custodians of historical records. They have the power to ensure that the holdings of historical*

*cont. page 4*

*records are balanced and represent the diversity of human experience whether or not they are aware. The archivist's primary task is "holding up a mirror for humankind," just as F. Gerald Ham, the past president of the Society of American Archivists, asserts.*

Chung continued to present three points: a notion of diversity defined in different contexts, diversity in the representation of historical records and diversity in the archival profession itself, and finally, diversity and inclusivity as the guiding principles in the ministry of intended memory within The United Methodist Church.

She began by offering a number of definitions of diversity which included unique backgrounds, beliefs, values, skills, attributes, characteristics and similarities of people; gender, race, ethnicity, culture, socioeconomic status, geographical location, age, or physical limitations, as well as archival interest or repository type; and the need to reflect the diversity of society as a whole. "While the notion of diversity can be defined variably in different contexts, most reflect a spirit of respecting and embracing differences and multiples viewpoints."

Chung then addressed diversity in the context of archives, listing three basic aspects of diversity: diversity in the historical record, diversity within the profession, and diversity in the professional membership of organizations such as the Society of American Archivists. "Diversity, in a word, is ensuring that all components such as archivists, the holdings they collect and manage, and the users they serve reflect the diversity of society as a whole."

Chung noted that prior to the 1970's there were two primary attitudes toward archival work. On the one hand it was the primary task to simply document and maintain authenticity and integrity of records, not to interpret them by deciding what to keep or not. On the other hand others advocated that the act of selection for permanent retention was also essential to the archivist's duty.

In the 1970's, however, a group of archivists arose who agreed that the archivist's task should be to preserve a picture of the whole of society as completely and faithfully as possible. Prior to this, large segments of society such as the poor and marginalized had been neglected in favor of the rich and powerful. This was further skewed by the orientation of archivists to collect what was most easily accessible. F. Gerald Ham suggested that the archivist's most important and intellectually demanding task was to "provide the future with a representative record of known experience in our time." Rather than continuing to document the well-documented, and thereby producing an unrepresentative collection [Ham] challenged archivists to "hold up a mirror to humankind."

Chung went on to say that in the last 40 years more archival repositories have been dedicated to documenting the lives of women, African Americans and racial/ethnic groups, gay and lesbian groups, religious communities, laborers, immigrants and other marginalized communities as well as preserving records of prominent organizations and papers of individual leaders while tending to neglect the collection and preservation of the records of ordinary people.

She addressed the difficulty of recruiting a more diverse population of archivists. There seems to be three major reasons for this. First, the fact that the general public seem to lack any understanding of the nature or importance of archival work. Second, for people of color, archives are seen as institutions which primarily preserve the history of European Americans. And finally, the relatively small number of people of color who earn Master's Degrees also seems to play a part in minorities not entering the profession. "We should note that diversity in the representation of historical records and diversity within the profession are not separated but interconnected; diversity begins with a commitment to inclusion. For the profession and the organization to be truly diverse, all interested people must feel included and welcomed despite their differences."

Chung concluded by emphasizing the need for both diversity and inclusivity in the ministry of memory within the UMC. She said, "Echoing F. Gerald Ham's phrase, 'holding up a mirror for humankind,' the goal of Methodist archives should be mirroring all experiences in the Methodist Church and representing diverse memories." She also pointed out that diversity is not enough, and we must address inclusivity, too. "As a commitment to diversity, inclusivity calls for our intentional effort to value and embrace diversity... While it is critical to keep a stance of objectivity and fairness, archivists are continuously involved in selection as informed, intentional activity. When collecting, preserving, providing access or even assisting researchers, archivists continue to make decisions. Selection should be deliberate, informed by such guiding principles as diversity and inclusivity. The power of an archivist lies in the daily practice to document the undocumented, give to the voiceless a voice, and to include the underrepresented."



*Dr. Lucy Chung*

Joint Annual Meeting  
Northeast Jurisdiction Commission on Archives and History  
Historical Society of The United Methodist Church  
May 24 – 26, 2016

Whatcoat United Methodist Church  
341 Saulsbury Road  
Dover, Delaware

Hosted by the Commission on Archives and History of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference

**Program Schedule**

Tuesday, May 24

- 8:00 Registration at Whatcoat UMC
- 9:00 Opening Worship with Bishop Peggy Johnson preaching
- 10:00 Opening Session of Historical Society
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 History of host church, Whatcoat UMC
- 11:15 Report of the General Secretary on actions of General Conference and other items of interest
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Presentation by Rev. Joe DiPaolo on the life of Bishop Levi Scott
- 2:30 Break
- 3:00 NEJCAH Business Session
- 5:00 Dinner – Following dinner Historical Society will present the Saddlebag Selection Award and the Ministry of Memory Award

Wednesday, May 25

- 8:00 Busses leave hotel for all day tour featuring
  - Historic Dover
  - Barratt's Chapel
  - Old Union Church, Odessa, DE, the home church of Bishop Scott
  - Lunch at Ebenezer UMC, Delaware City, followed by afternoon tour of Fort Delaware State Park with a visit from a Civil War chaplain
  - Dinner at historic Asbury UMC, Smyrna [Duck Creek], DE

Thursday, May 26

- 9:00 Joint session of Historical Society and NEJCAH, including an open forum to discuss actions of General Conference
- 11:00 Closing Worship
- 12:00 Boxed lunches available to eat at church or take with you on the road

1 CEU will be available for those attending all 3 days of the meeting.

**LODGING:** Hotel rooms are not included in the registration. A block of rooms has been reserved at Dover Downs Hotel, 1131 N. DuPont Highway, Dover. Deluxe king/double rooms can be reserved for \$129 per night. This rate is guaranteed only until April 23. Call the hotel directly at 866-473-7378 and ask for the rate for “Historical Society of The United Methodist Church”.

Note: Dover Downs Hotel is part of a large entertainment complex which includes a gambling casino. A variety of other lodging is available in the Dover area. Those attending the meeting may choose to make reservations in other hotels. Contact the registrar for more information.

**TRANSPORTATION:** Dover is easily accessible from the north or south by US Rt. 13 and Delaware Route 1. US Air provides regular service to Salisbury-Ocean City Wicomico Regional Airport (SBY), and Amtrak serves Wilmington, DE. The host commission can arrange transportation from either of these locations. Limousine service and car rentals are also available at Philadelphia and Baltimore-Washington Airports. For more information contact the registrar.

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Send registrations and all other correspondence to the registrar:

Barb Duffin, Curator  
Barratt’s Chapel & Museum of Methodism  
6362 Bay Road  
Frederica, DE 19946  
302-335-5544  
barratts@aol.com

Make checks payable to “Barratt’s Chapel”

**REGISTRATION** including all meals except breakfasts

<b>Early Registration by April 25</b>	<b>\$160</b>	_____
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<b>Registration after April 25</b>	<b>\$185</b>	_____
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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

*If you have any special needs please contact the registrar.*

NOTE: Photographs will be taken during the meeting. Some of these may be used for publicity by the HSUMC and/or the NEJCAH. Also a list of registrants will be made available for the private use of those attending the meeting. If you do not want your photo used, or do not want to be included in the list please notify the registrar when you register.



Following Dr. Chung's address HSUMC President, Dr. Priscilla Pope-Levison opened the annual meeting of the HSUMC. She introduced the officers and gave special thanks to Dan Swinson for organizing this Convocation.

The Minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting, published in the April 2015 issue of *Methodist History* were accepted as printed. The Treasurer's Report and Proposed Budget for 2016 were presented and accepted. (See below).

Our membership has increased somewhat over the past year, due in part to a letter which our President sent out to academic colleagues. It was agreed that we should expand our current membership categories to include the Benefactor category for \$100/year and a student category for \$10.00/year (receiving *Methodist History* online).

The 2016 Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Peninsula-Delaware Conference and the Northeastern Jurisdiction CAH on May 23-26, 2016 at the Dover Downs Hotel in Dover, DE, the week following General Conference. Time has been built into the agenda for a

major discussion about whatever re-organization plan may be accepted at the General Conference and how this may affect the work of the Archives and History community in the United Methodist Church. (More detailed program information and a Registration form are available on pages 1,5,6).

The 2017 Annual Meeting will be hosted by the Western Jurisdiction in Alaska from June 26th -June 29th. More details will be forthcoming during 2016. The 2018 Annual Meeting will be hosted by the South Central Jurisdiction in St. Louis, tentatively scheduled for the month of July.

Rob Sledge has chaired the Saddlebag Selection Committee for the ten years that it has been in existence and has tendered his resignation. Linda Schramm, who has been on the Committee for many years will be the new Chairperson. New members, Betty Lusk and Jane Donovan, will serve along with Charles Yrigoyen, Jr. also a long-time committee member. (See notice below regarding submissions for the 2016 Saddlebag Selection).

### HSUMC Treasurer's Report – June 30, 2015

Beginning Balance – June 22, 2015 **\$11079.44** (\$3,000 Albea Godbold Fund – a fund into which members may make donations for the support of HSUMC)

		<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Income:	Dues	\$5000	\$6690
	Gifts/Donations		827
	Albea Godbold Fund		50
	Reserves	<u>7015</u>	
	Total Income	<b>\$12015</b>	<b>\$7517</b>
Expenses:	<i>Methodist History</i>	\$5115	\$5014.90
	<i>Historian's Digest</i>	1700	1750.93
	Awards	1600	539.63
	Travel (Board)	3000	684.45
	Insurance	500	
	Postage & Misc.	<u>100</u>	<u>95.22</u>
	Total Expenses	<b>\$12015</b>	<b>\$8085.13</b>

Ending Balance – June 30, 2015 **\$10561.31** (\$3050 Albea Godbold Fund)

Difference between income and expenses: **-\$518.13**

Notes: There is no reserve fund; figure represents funds needed to fully meet budgeted expenses. *Methodist History* includes July & October 2014 and January & April, 2015 editions; *Historian's Digest* includes Spring, Summer, Fall 2014 and Winter 2015 editions.

### HSUMC Proposed Budget for 2015-2016

Budget	
Income: Dues	<u>\$5700</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$5700</b>
Expenses: <i>Methodist History</i>	\$5115
<i>Historian's Digest</i>	1800
Awards	
1600	
Travel (Board )	3000
Insurance	500
Postage/Misc.	<u>100</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$12115</b>

\*\*\*\*\*

### 2016 Saddlebag Selection Notice

If you are aware of a book published in 2015 that relates to United Methodist history, theology, polity or biography that you think might be worthy of the 2016 Saddlebag Selection Award, please contact chairperson, Linda Schramm at [lars@greatlakes.net](mailto:lars@greatlakes.net) as soon as possible for an application form and further instructions regarding submission of this book.

# Add-On Tour of Helenor Alter Davison Sites – Indiana



"Helenor M.  
Dau. Of  
Rev. J. Alters  
& Wife of  
T.H. Davisson  
Died  
Oct. 9, 1876  
Aged  
53 Y's 8 M's  
& 10 D's."



**JASPER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
HEADQUARTERS AND MUSEUM**  
Built ca. 1882 by the Free-Will Baptist Church on  
the northeast corner of Susan and Van Rensselaer  
Streets. Sold in 1902 to the Methodist Protestant  
Church and moved to the present site and in 1918  
purchased by the Christian Science Society. Used  
until 1986 when, at the suggestion of Cordelia  
Stockton, and the remaining members, Wayne  
Hasselbring and Ora Kepner, the Society donated  
the building to the Jasper County Historical Society.

Pictorial Display of Tour on Friday, July 24  
of Helenor Davison sites: Tour group gathers  
at Helenor Davison's gravesite; Helenor's  
grave stone; close up; words on stone; Rosebud  
School; Marker on Rosebud School; Marker on  
Jasper County Historical Society Museum; Jasper  
County H.S. Museum; Display in museum; Alter  
Homestead; John Alter's grave stone; Moses  
Davisson's grave stone (Helenor's father-in-law).

**ROSE BUD SCHOOL**  
Located ca. 1877 in Union  
Township at the northwest corner  
of county roads 700W and 100N,  
on land owned by the Alter  
family. Donated to the Jasper  
County Historical Society by  
Hally Alter. Moved to the Fair  
Grounds October 1977.



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