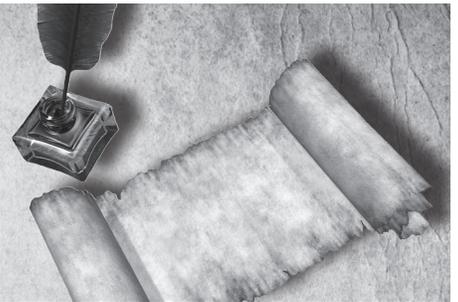


HISTORIAN'S DIGEST



Volume 55, Number 2

Spring, 2015

Register Now for 2015 Annual Meeting!

Registration materials are now available in this newsletter for our 2015 Annual Meeting and Convocation, "Diversity: It's Complicated," which will be held from July 20-23 at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in Chicago. Meeting details are available in the insert along with the registration materials. The meeting promises to be an exciting one with a number of excellent presentations. Our new HSUMC President, Dr. Priscilla-Pope Levison will be making a presentation related to our theme, "Diversity-It's Complicated." Later in the afternoon, Dr. M. Rene Johnson, currently the president of the Saginaw Bay, MI, UMW, will be presenting a lecture on Native American pastors in the Upper Midwest. In the evening the HSUMC banquet will be held featuring the Ministry of Memory and Saddlebag Selection awards.



Dr. M. Rene
Johnson

Wednesday is tour day which will include the Frances Willard House and Museum, the First UMC, Chicago (The Chicago Temple), the Greenstone UMC in the National Park Service's Pullman Neighborhood, and finally, dinner at St. Mark UMC (formerly a church in the Lexington Conference, Central Jurisdiction). After dinner, the Rev. Dr. William "Bobby" McClain will present a paper on the former Central Jurisdiction.



Dr. Bobby McClain

Prior to the HSUMC business meeting on Thursday morning, there will be a lecture by Dr. Jaeyeon Lucy Chung, Director of the United Library at G-ETS, on the archival implications of the theme of the event.

Don't forget the "add-on tour" that is available on Friday in Indiana which features a tour of the newly developed Helenor Alter Davisson sites. Davisson was the first known woman in the United Methodist tradition to be ordained when she received deacon's orders in the Methodist Protestant Church in Jasper County, IN.



Dr. Jaeyeon Lucy
Chung

The First Finnish Methodist Episcopal Church in America: Recovering A Lost, or Nearly Lost, History —by Thelma Boeder

During my years as archivist for the Minnesota Conference, I noted two interesting references in our journals and histories to Finnish Methodists in Minnesota. One claimed Minnesota was home to the first Finnish Methodist Episcopal Church in America, the other said the world (not true). Curious, but being driven by other archival responsibilities and research requests, these claims just lurked in the back of my mind for years. Once, though, coming home from an "up north" vacation, I drove a highway west of Moose Lake where this site might have been. As it turned out, it was not the right highway.



Ensimmäinen suomalainen metodistijakkeli Amerikassa.
The first Finnish Methodist chapel

I retired, and my successor, Kathy Spence Johnson, also noted those interesting references with much the same response - too many other pressing claims on her time. What triggered a change? A move by a retired New York Conference clergy member to Duluth, Minnesota. Rev. Richard Edwards agreed to serve a part-time appointment in Moose Lake. A New York friend informed him that was where the first Finnish MEC in the United States was founded. Of course, Rick asked questions of his new congregation at Moose Lake United Methodist Church but learned nothing further. It was a lost piece of local history. In fairness, this was not surprising. Moose Lake UMC was founded by English-speaking Methodists in town. The Finnish congregation was west of town and rural. The City of Moose Lake and surrounding area is defined heavily by the before and after of the Great Fire of 1918, which decimated this forested region based on a logging economy in its early years. The story of that

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Message From the President

In anticipation of the sesquicentennial of United Methodist Women (UMW) in 2019, MTSO, the Methodist Theological School of Ohio and UMW teamed up to host a significant conference on May 28-30, 2015 on the theme, "United Methodist Women's History: Voices Lost and Found." Dr. Dana Robert will be the opening speaker, and papers will be presented covering home and foreign mission, the effect of the work on women and communities, significant figures in the history of United Methodist Women, and deaconess history.

This conference will be an opportunity for considering the current state of historical research on United Methodist Women and for identifying areas in need of further research. The HSUMC will be well represented by Pat Thompson, editor of this newsletter, who will deliver a paper on "Woman's Work for Woman: Celebration of the Origins and Founders of the WFMS." Russ Richey and I, as members of the planning team, have worked for several years to bring this conference to fruition. For more on the conference, including the registration form, follow this link: <http://www.mtso.edu/theologicalcommons/um-women-sesquicentennial>.

When I think of the quintessential United Methodist woman whose tireless involvement embraced myriad Methodist organizations, Jennie Fowler Willing (1834-1916), leaps to mind. She became involved in multiple service arenas, three of which I will briefly delineate here—mission, temperance, and evangelism. In terms of mission, she worked assiduously to support Methodist women's work for mission, serving as an officer in both the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society (WFMS) and the Woman's Home Missionary Society (WHMS) of the Methodist Episcopal Church. From 1886-1890, as Secretary of the Bureau for Spanish Work of the WHMS, she oversaw its work in New Mexico and Arizona.

In terms of temperance, Willing delivered a stirring speech on women and temperance in 1874 in conjunction with meetings and marches of the "Woman's Crusade" to support a ban on liquor. Her speech prompted many who heard it to consider forming a national temperance organization. She then chaired for a year the meetings which eventually gave rise to the national Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), which grew to become the largest women's organization by the end of the nineteenth century. Willing went on to serve as vice president of the national organization and edited its first periodical. Her loyalty to the WCTU lasted throughout her lifetime. When she died at the age of eighty-two, she was president of the Frances Willard WCTU unit of New York City and organizer for New York state's WCTU.

In terms of evangelism, Willing served for several years as Secretary of the WCTU's Department of Evangelistic Institutes and Training for the WCTU. Under the umbrella of this department, she founded a religious training school in New York City, the New York Evangelistic Training School, where she provided an education in Bible and practical work to men and women wanting to become missionaries to the city or on the foreign field. Her lectures on evangelism given at the school were published as a book, titled *How To Save Souls*. Willing embodied the Wesleyan commitment to sober living with her commitment to temperance. She embodied the Wesleyan commitment to evangelism, especially of the poor and dispossessed in New York City's factories and tenements. Finally, she embodied the Wesleyan commitment to women in ministry as she preached in churches, camp meetings, and WCTU gatherings, and on the streets of America's towns and cities. Her personal motto, *plus ultra*—more beyond—epitomized everything Willing dedicated herself to accomplish.



Dr. Priscilla Pope-Levison

— Dr. Priscilla Pope-Levison

The Eighth Historical Convocation

Monday, July 20 – Thursday, July 23, 2015

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

Evanston, Illinois

The Eighth Historical Convocation is a joint meeting of the General Commission on Archives and History, The Historical Society of The United Methodist Church, the North Central Jurisdiction Commission on Archives and History, and the Commission on Archives and History of The Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church

Theme—“Diversity: It’s Complicated”

(United Methodism has always been diverse and has had a complicated relationship with that diversity.)

(The General Commission on Archives and History will hold its annual meeting from Saturday, July 18 through Monday July 20. This schedule begins with the arrival of HSUMC, NCJCAH, and CAHNIC on Monday, July 20)

Monday, July 20

Travel day for Historical Society and Jurisdictional Commission

1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Historical Society of The United Methodist Church Board meeting

(Dinner on your own)

7 p.m. Chapel of the Unnamed Faithful, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (G-ETS): Opening with greetings from area Bishop and G-ETS President and entertainment

Return to Hotel

Tuesday, July 21

Breakfast on your own

9 a.m. Room 205 G-ETS: Business meeting (Jurisdiction with HSUMC and other participants attending)

10:15 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. Room 205 G-ETS: President’s Inaugural Lecture by Dr. Priscilla Pope- Levison of Seattle Pacific University

Noon Room 205 and grounds (including lake front) Lunch

1 p.m. Room 205 G-ETS: Lecture by Dr. M. Rene Johnson of Michigan on Native American Methodist preachers in the upper Midwest.

2:15 p.m. Break

2:30 p.m. Room 205 G-ETS: Business meeting (Jurisdiction with HSUMC and other participants attending)

6 p.m. Banquet at Evanston First United Methodist Church (catered by Tre Kronor Swedish Restaurant of Chicago) with HSUMC awards (Ministry of Memory, Saddlebag Selection), a brief presentation on the ministry of First Church, and perhaps a facility tour with emphasis on the Church's new Archives Room.

Return to Hotel

Wednesday, July 22 Tour Day

The Tour Day will begin at 8:00 a.m. at the Frances Willard House and Museum in Evanston. At 8:45 a.m. we will board buses to drive by several sites significant to United Methodist history on the Northside of Chicago. We will have lunch, a tour, and a brief program at First United Methodist Church, Chicago (the Chicago Temple). In the afternoon, we will drive by Southside sites and stop at the new National Park Service Pullman Neighborhood location (including Greenstone United Methodist Church). We will finish the day with dinner at St. Mark United Methodist Church (formerly of the Lexington Conference, Central Jurisdiction).

At 7 p.m. at St. Mark, we will have a lecture by Dr. William (Bobby) McClain on the Central Jurisdiction.

Return to Hotel

Thursday, July 23

Breakfast on your own

9 a.m. Room 205 G-ETS: Lecture by Dr. Jaeyeon Lucy Chung, Director of the United Library at G-ETS on the archival implications of the theme of the event.

10 a.m. Break

10:15 a.m. Room 205 G-ETS: Business meeting (HSUMC with Jurisdiction and other participants attending)

Adjourn with lunch

Friday, July 24

Add-on Tour of Helenor Davisson Historic Sites in Indiana

(see page 4 of the 2015 Winter addition of Historian's Digest or contact Richard Stowe at astowe@mstar.net.)

Registration

Accommodations:

The preferred accommodations for both the General Commission and the Historical Society/Jurisdiction Commission will be at the **Hilton Garden Inn**, 1818 Maple Avenue, Evanston, Illinois. The Hilton is in downtown Evanston, less than half a mile from Garrett-ETS (there will be a shuttle service), and convenient to the shopping and dining of a major metropolitan area. The cost will be somewhat higher than is traditional, particularly for the Jurisdiction, but the facilities are first rate, with king-size or two double beds, private bathroom, individual temperature controls and accessibility. The cost is \$149 per night plus tax, single or double occupancy (having a roommate will save you 50%). There is a \$10.00 surcharge for additional persons per room.

Those attending should make their own reservations by calling the hotel directly at 1-847-475-6400, toll free at 1-877-STAY-HGI, or online at www.evanston.hgi.com. Request the HSUMC ANNUAL MEETING block. A group booking code will be provided for those registering on line. **The deadline for hotel reservations is Friday, June 19, 2015.** *However, the latest date to adjust the number of rooms without charge to HSUMC is May 22, 2015. The earlier you reserve, the better. If you need to reserve between May 22 and June 19, please let me know at the number or e-mail below, so that we do not release your room.*

For those who are driving, there is a parking garage contiguous to the hotel, with parking for guests (cost \$13 per day). For those who are flying, O'Hare International Airport is the most convenient destination. Transportation from O'Hare will be provided by the host conference both for arrival and departure. Include requests for transportation on the registration form for the Convocation. Limited parking is available on campus. If you wish or need to drive to G-ETS, please indicate under "travel plans" on the registration form.

If you have special dietary, accessibility, or other needs, if you need suggestions for other accommodations, or if you have any other questions or concerns about accommodations, please contact Dan Swinson directly: Daniel Swinson, Vice President, HSUMC, and coordinator of local arrangements for the Northern Illinois Conference, e-mail: djswinson@wowway.com or t.methodist@sbcglobal.net; cell phone: 847-772-6915.

Eighth Historical Convocation Program Registration

(Please fill out separate form for each attendee)

Name (Please print): _____
(as you wish it to appear on your name tag and registration list)

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

Annual Conference+ _____

Travel plans:

Special needs or requests:

Event Costs

Registration, all activities (program costs, banquet, tour day, lunches, snacks, etc.)	\$175.00	\$ _____
Registration minus Wednesday tour day	\$135.00	\$ _____
Registration minus Tuesday banquet	\$135.00	\$ _____
Registration, minus tour day and banquet	\$ 85.00	\$ _____
Tuesday Banquet only	\$ 45.00	\$ _____
Wednesday Tour Day only	\$ 45.00	\$ _____
Commuter rate per day (lunches, snacks, staff)	\$ 42.00	\$ _____
Total		\$ _____

Make Checks Payable to: The Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church (NICUMC)

Send Registration and Payments to: Trinity United Methodist Church, 605 West Golf Road, Mt. Prospect, Illinois 60056, attn. Dan Swinson. Questions, contact Dan Swinson at djswinson@wowway.com, or 847-772-6915.

(cont. from page 1)

first Finnish church culminates in the fire, which, in effect, nearly obliterated its memory.

The Conference Commission on Archives and History, bolstered with further research by Johnson, took up the cause of identifying and marking the site. We learned that the church was built close to an existing cemetery, the cemetery where the founding preacher, John Michaelson, is buried. We visited the cemetery 6.5 miles west of Moose Lake on Highway 27, and began to imagine what could be done. In the Fall of 2013, commission members started a series of meetings with Rev. Edwards, members of Moose Lake UMC, and others from the community, all strong supporters of the Moose Lake Historical Society and/or Finnish-American history. Our committee, dubbed the First Finnish Fellowship, identified a number of goals:

- excavate a local granite boulder to use for the monument
- establish ownership of the strip of land beside the highway adjacent to the cemetery
- demolish a half-burned building most recently used by a closed congregation of the Polish National Catholic Church (all members deceased)
- prepare the site, including a graveled parking area
- cut, polish, set and inscribe the boulder
- landscape the site, beginning by planting two birch trees
- arrange the dedication,
- publicize the project,
- and raise funds, starting from zero and anticipating a need for at least \$10,000



Local Finnish historian, Dan Reed, led the way with the first visionary decision. "Why buy a prepared granite marker – we have plenty of big rocks around here. I have one in mind..." Dan and a crew from the local excavating company dug up that rock only to find it was far too big to move. The next one was just right, estimated at 5-7 tons. It was loaded on a scoot, the scoot onto a truck, and taken to town. It sat in

the excavator's yard until the diamond cutting crew came to create a smooth face and a flat bottom. The small section removed became the bench in front of the finished boulder. It was polished and ready for placement in early summer 2014.



Meanwhile, we tackled the other issues, such as who really owned the quarter acre of land where the derelict building stood. The cemetery, deeded by the Minnesota Conference in the 1950s to the West Side Church, a non-denominational congregation across the road, is well-cared for, but ownership of the quarter acre close to the highway was confusing. Ultimately, we were able to transfer that property to Moose Lake UMC through a quit-claim deed. The building was demolished, site prepared, the boulder set, along with its accompanying seat and two small side boulders (one still carries burn marks from the 1918 fire), and the stone inscribed. July 6, 2014, dedication day, was warm, sunny, and very windy. It took two to hang on to the drape concealing the completed monument before the unveiling. We wondered if anyone would come and were thrilled to watch people arrive, set up lawn chairs and settle in. Bishop Bruce Ough led the formal dedication. Other participants included Big Waters District Superintendent, Susan Richey Nienaber, and Honorary Consul of Finland, K. Marianne Wargelin.

After the dedication, we hosted a reception in the Community Room at the The Fires of 1918 Museum in Moose Lake. Our part of the day's events ended officially with the reception. However, it segued naturally to the first performance of *When We Come to Cut the Grass*, a play written by our visionary Dan Reed (a man who wears many hats well) as a benefit for the museum. The play features a woman and her granddaughter coming to the local cemetery to mow the lawn. The two begin studying the stones, and the grandmother tells the stories of those buried there, her stories then acted in a series of vignettes. The First Finnish Fellowship enthusiastically endorsed scheduling our dedication events to end just prior to the performance at the high school.

(cont. next issue)

Spring Greetings from the GCAH General Secretary



*The Rev. Alfred T.
Day, III*

I'm finding that life as General Secretary is much like that of a circuit rider. This ministry is as much on the road as in the office. There's an image from a recent trip for a meeting of the Connectional Table (CT) in Maputo, Mozambique that is sticking with me. I had been flying for the better part of 24 hours – long enough that Francis Asbury's horse was starting to look like a better mode of transportation. So many plane changes, such a bumpy ride. Arriving at the Maputo airport, a world away from my Philadelphia departure, I had only the word of a CT administrator from Chicago that there would be someone to meet me. But who? Who do I know in Maputo? Or all of Mozambique? How I would identify them? How would they identify me? I did not have a clue. Not a name or description. If the travel instructions provided by the CT office had something to identify my greeter, by this time it was buried in the bottom of my backpack.

As soon as I cleared passport control and was legally admitted to Mozambique, as soon as I passed through the archway from baggage to ground transportation, there stood a man with sign, a hand drawn cross and flame on a piece of crinkled cardboard. Not my name.

Not his name. Just a well-used cross and flame. THE cross and flame. OUR United Methodist cross and flame. Then I knew. Here was my ride. Here was my way into an unknown place with a friend. (Thank heavens! I'm not sure I could have endured another grumpy, suspicious security agent!) Juan (a Pastor and Mozambique Conference DCM) and his son Milton held the sign. The cross and the flame identified them as my transport. It was my visa to a widening world of people, places, experiences and relationships. The cross and the flame was as good as my passport. Juan and Milton got me to where I needed to go with welcoming and embracing hospitality. I will never forget their standing there with the cross and the flame. I was a long way from home. I did not have a clue how I'd get to where I was supposed to be, save an image and imprint that is OUR shared identity, one that says WHO we are, WHOSE we are and WHAT we're about: God's powerful love, Jesus self-giving and resurrection reaching beyond old boundaries of life and death AND the Holy Spirit's igniting.

Did I forget to say one of the major items on the CT agenda was the Global Book of Discipline and continuing discussions around living-into the worldwide nature of The United Methodist Church? Crossing boundaries, the cross and flame is OUR imprint. Sorry if I sound more like a preacher than a General Secretary in this issue. There's always the next quarter.

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