

HISTORIAN'S DIGEST

Volume 48, Number 3

October 2008

Annual Conference Archivists attend training event at GCAH

by Dale Patterson

The first-ever training event for Annual Conference archivists was held by the General Commission on Archives and History at the Madison, N.J. Archives and History Center July 31-August 3, 2008. Thirty-five conference archivists from across the U.S. gathered for this 2 ½ day event.

The event opened with a dinner and lecture by Dr. Morris Davis, assistant professor of the history of Christianity and Wesleyan/Methodist studies at the Drew School of Theology. Davis commented on early 20th century photographs from the Archives Center. The second day opened with a tour of the four-story Center followed by workshops on processing and reference techniques used by the GCAH staff. Afternoon workshops focused on the use of standards in describing archival material, preservation tips, and an introduction to the draft guidelines for managing electronic records. Saturday featured a tour of lower Manhattan, beginning at John Street UMC and

including a look at the old Five Points Mission area and the African Burial National Monument. That afternoon, back at the Center, one panel discussed specific issues in conference archives and a second panel dealt with building supportive relationships between the archives and the annual conference. Sunday worship was at Madison UMC with General Secretary Dr. Robert Williams preaching. A final session discussed what should happen next.

An important element of the training event was the interaction among conference archivists, who now have friendly colleagues with whom to share ideas and strategies. One participant said that, "I expected this to be good. I just didn't know how good it would be." Many among the group went away feeling challenged but excited about their challenges. It is hoped that the session will be repeated in four years. Plans are to develop a list of material to keep for closed local churches, which will be shared on the UMCAH listserv. This new list will be distinct from the current list in the guidelines for active churches.

General Commission and EUB Heritage convene in Dayton

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the denominational merger that created the United Methodist Church, the General Commission on Archives and History (GCAH) held its annual meeting in conjunction with an international conference of scholars who are working to recover and interpret the history and heritage of the Evangelical United Brethren Church and its predecessor denominations. Both groups convened in mid-September in Dayton, Ohio.

The academic conference, "Forty Years after Dallas: Retrieving the EUB Heritage for United Methodism," was sponsored by The Center for the Evangelical United Brethren Heritage at United Theological Seminary in Dayton. The September 12-13 event included exhibits on Jacob Albright and the 1968 Uniting Conference, as well as a full schedule of lectures on a variety of topics relating



Scott Kisker, assistant professor of the history of Christianity at Wesley Theological Seminary, presented a paper at the EUB Heritage Conference on Otterbein, Boehm, and the United Brethren in Christ.



General Secretary Bob Williams addresses the General Commission on Archives in History at the Dayton meeting.

(Photography by Dewayne Lowther)

to Evangelical Association, the United Brethren in Christ, the Evangelical United Brethren, and the Pietist traditions that have impacted these United Methodist predecessor denominations. Dr. William Abraham of the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University sent attendees forth with a stirring address commending all that

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The Historian's Digest is published quarterly by the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church. Please send address changes to Phil Lawton at Philip.Lawton@dol.net. Editorial correspondence should be directed to Jane Donovan. The deadline for submissions for the next issue is December 1, 2008.

Editorial Comments

Thanks to all of you who completed the June 2008 survey, and especially to those of you who offered a number of thoughtful and stimulating suggestions for the future direction of *Historian's Digest*. Over the past year, there have been unexpected challenges for your new editor, and I am grateful for your support, encouragement, and, most of all, your vision as we seek to expand and clarify the purpose and mission of this newsletter.

In response to your requests, we will begin to publish brief essays that don't quite fit the needs of *Methodist History*, and we will try to offer resources that may be of help to your conference and jurisdictional historical societies. We begin that effort in this issue with a select bibliography of published resources on the EUB heritage compiled by Dr. Donald Gorrell of United Theological Seminary.

As we move forward with this effort, I welcome your suggestions. Please feel free to contact me at donovanjb@comcast.net at any time.

— *Jane Donovan, Editor*

New cycle begins for Heritage Landmark applications

As we begin a new quadrennium, the application cycle for Heritage Landmark status also begins anew. Heritage Landmarks are buildings, locations, or structures that are specifically related to significant events, developments, or personalities in the overall history of the United Methodist Church or its antecedents. They must have distinctive historic interest and value for the denomination as a whole, as contrasted with local or regional historic significance. Generally, buildings, locations, or structures that have achieved historic significance within the last 50 years are not considered for designation as an official UM Heritage Landmark.

All nominations – ALL nominations – for Heritage Landmark status must be made by the annual, central, or jurisdictional conference commission on archives and history or equivalent in whose region it is located. Nominations go to the General Commission on Archives and History. The GCAH Committee on Heritage Landmarks will review each nomination and make recommendation to the full GCAH. The GCAH then decides whether to send the nomination forward for General Conference consideration. The final decision on Heritage Landmark nominations is made by General Conference. This means that the next opportunity for Heritage Landmark designation will come at the 2012 General Conference. Therefore, all Heritage Landmark nominations must be submitted to GCAH in 2011. That gives you 2 full years to prepare your nominations.

The United Methodist Church presently recognizes 41 Heritage Landmarks. None of those are located outside the continental United States, and precious few of them represent the history of ethnic minorities in the UMC or its predecessor bodies. The Heritage Landmarks Committee and the General Commission especially encourage applications in those areas.

For more information, please contact Jane Donovan, Chair, Heritage Landmarks Committee, at donovanjb@comcast.net or by phone at 304-594-3914.

Have you visited the HSUMC web site?
www.historicalocietyunitedmethodistchurch.org

Select Bibliography of Published Resources on the EUB Heritage: Church of the United Brethren in Christ

by Donald K. Gorrell, Ph.D.

Primary Sources:

Drury, A. W., ed., *Disciplines of the United Brethren in Christ, 1814-1841*. Part I in English, 1814-1841. Part II: In German, 1814-1819, 1841 (Dayton, Ohio: United Brethren Publishing House, 1894). See especially the appendix, "Correspondence between the United Brethren and the Methodist Episcopal Church Between 1809 and 1814 (pp. 808-820).

Drury, A. W., ed., *Minutes of United Brethren Conferences, 1800-1818* (Dayton, Oh.: United Brethren Publishing House, 1897).

Hildt, John, ed., *The Life and Journal of the Rev'd Christian Newcomer* (1834, edited by Abram Sangrey and reprinted Lancaster, Penn.: Jacob Albright District, United Methodist Church, 1996).

Hough, Samuel S., ed., *Christian Newcomer: His Life, Journal, and Achievements* (Dayton, Oh.: Board of Administration, Church of the United Brethren in Christ, 1941).

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Berger, Daniel, *History of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ* (Dayton, Oh.: Otterbein Press, 1914).

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Core, Arthur C., *Philip William Otterbein: Pastor, Ecumenist* (Dayton, Oh.: Board of Publication, The Evangelical United Brethren Church, 1968).

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Koontz, Paul Rodes and Walter Edwin Roush, eds., *The Bishops: Church of the United Brethren in Christ*, 2 vols. (Dayton, Oh.: Otterbein Press, 1950).

Lawrence, John, *The History of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ*, 2 vols. (Dayton, Oh.: United Brethren Publishing Establishment, 1868).

Ness, John H., Jr., *One Hundred Fifty Years* (Dayton, Oh.: Board of Publication, Evangelical United Brethren Church, 1966). [history of the publishing house]

O'Malley, J. Steven, *Pilgrimage of Faith: The Legacy of the Otterbeins* (Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1973).

Stein, K. James, *Church Unity Movements in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ until 1946* (Ann Arbor, Mich.: UMI Dissertation Services, 1994; Ann Arbor, Mich.: University Microfilms, Inc., 1966).

Thompson, H.A., *Our Bishops: A Sketch of the Origins and Growth of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ* (Dayton, Oh.: United Brethren Publishing House, 1903).

* designates the most important text for general understanding

General Commission and EUB Heritage convene in Dayton

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the EUB brings to United Methodism and the theological resources available to the contemporary church from our Pietist ancestors in the faith.

On Saturday evening, September 13, the academic conference passed the baton to GCAH, which opened its deliberations with the election of officers for the new quadrennium. Bishop John Schol of the Baltimore-Washington Conference was elected GCAH president, Bishop Kainda Katembo of Zambia was elected vice president, and Bill Wilson, assistant to the bishop of the West Virginia Conference, is the new secretary. Treasurer's responsibilities are provided by GCFA. Following the election, the 2008 Distinguished Service Award was presented to K. James Stein, Senior Scholar in Church History at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston IL.

General Secretary Bob Williams preached at Sunday morning worship at Fairview UMC in Dayton, then the Commission began its business meeting on the third floor of the church. After a couple of hours, the meeting was moved to the church basement, then at 5 p.m., well ahead of schedule, GCAH members were evacuated to a local restaurant as the remnants of Hurricane Ike blasted through western Ohio, leaving a great deal of damage in



K. James Stein, Senior Scholar in Church History at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, accepts the 2008 Distinguished Service Award from the GCAH.

its wake, including power outages. Hardy Commission members suffered through cold showers and no internet access for another two days, leaving Dayton with a new appreciation of the hardiness of our pioneer ancestors as well as our EUB heritage. GCAH members wish to express their deepest thanks to Jason Vickers, Sara Blair, Tim Binkley, and all the folks at United Seminary who exhibited the finest standards of Christian hospitality under unexpectedly difficult conditions.

Support the Archives and History Endowment Fund

The United Methodist Archives & History Endowment Fund was established to ensure that the historical interests of the United Methodist Church are maintained, archived, and preserved. In order to begin to earn interest from the endowment, we need to raise at least \$50,000. We're nearly halfway there, due to a generous gift from the Boehm's Chapel Society. Gifts can be made in honor or memory of a friend, family member, or colleague in the history and archives ministries of the UMC. Please send your donations to The United Methodist Church Foundation, and designate them to the ARCHIVES AND HISTORY ENDOWMENT FUND. Checks can be mailed to The UMC Foundation, P. O. Box 340029, Nashville TN 37203-0029. If you'd like more information about this important effort, please contact Bob Williams at rwilliams@gcah.org

EUB Legacy Fund established by UTS

United Theological Seminary is offering a designated scholarship and endowment fund to benefit United Methodist students in UTS degree programs while honoring and celebrating the distinctive Evangelical, United Brethren, and Evangelical United Brethren heritage. For more information, or to contribute, please contact the Development Office, United Theological Seminary, 4501 Denlinger Road, Dayton OH 45426 or www.united.edu

Call for Distinguished Service Award Nominations

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2009 Distinguished Service Award, which is given by the GCAH to a person who has made significant contributions to the historical endeavors of The United Methodist Church (the general church, not annual conference or jurisdiction) throughout his or her career. To make a nomination, please write to the General Commission on Archives and History, P.O. Box 127, Madison NJ 07940. Your letter should include a two paragraph assessment of the nominee's qualifications and contributions. For more information, please contact Bob Williams at rwilliams@gcah.org

Mark your calendar!

October 18, 2008:

Annual meeting, South Carolina Conference CAH, Greenwood, S.C.
Contact: A. V. Huff,
av.huff@furman.edu

April 23-26, 2009:

Western Jurisdictional CAH annual meeting, Homer, Alaska
Contact: Mike Cline,
drmscline@yahoo.com

May 5-7, 2009:

Northeastern Jurisdictional CAH annual meeting, Scranton, Pa.
Contact: Janice Sherick,
jes6521@paonline.com

June 29-July 2, 2009:

20th anniversary meeting, United Methodist Historical Society, Lake Junaluska NC
Contact: Pat Thompson,
pajt8817@aol.com

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