

COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

The Commission on Archives and History's main actions are to fulfill our goals to promote awareness of the Indiana United Methodist Archives and the Commission's mission is to provide ways for local churches to preserve the records and promote the stories of their congregations were to those ends, we have carried out the following tasks:

1. Collected records from disaffiliated churches to ensure availability for future use.
2. Promoted the Church Heritage Award.
3. Provided resources and presentations for the centennial celebrations of Camp Rivervale and Epworth Forest Campground.
4. The Commission also contributed to the cost of replacing the HVAC at the Robertson Meeting House and arranged for the gravestones for Moses Ashworth (early Methodist circuit rider) and his wife to be moved to the site of the Meeting House near the memorial stones for Bishop Robert T. Roberts and his wife.
5. Collaborated with the Indiana Methodist Historical Society to promote and encourage the exploration of United Methodist history. This has included celebrating the life and work of former Conference Historian Richard Stowe who died this past summer.
6. Recognized the 2023 and 2024 Bicentennial churches. Bicentennial churches are Indiana United Methodist Churches which have continuously provided and nurtured Christians for 200 years. The following churches are recognized as Bicentennial churches.

2024 Bicentennial Churches –

- Cloverdale UMC, Putnam County
- Ellettsville First UMC, Monroe County
- Blue Grass UMC, Vanderburg County
- Welborn UMC, Posey County
- Knightstown UMC, Knightstown, Henry County
- Covington UMC, Covington, Fountain County

During the 2021-2024 quadrennium, the Commission structured its work around **six goals**, to motivate churches to use their history to inform its present and guide its future in Christ.

- To continue to recognize Bicentennial Churches
- Encourage and promote the Heritage Church Award
- Preserve the records and promote the histories of conference and congregations through the tools available from DePauw University Archives.
- To facilitate the smooth transition of archival materials from disaffiliating local churches to the Indiana United Methodist Archives at DePauw University
- To celebrate milestones in the history of Indiana Methodism such as celebrating Camp Riverdale's centennial in the Fall of 2023
- Continue to work with the Indiana Methodist Historical Society to promote and encourage the exploration of United Methodist history.

In anticipation of the next quadrennium, we have taken time to do some focused planning. Michael G. Cartwright led a session in October in which we explored the heritage of Indiana Methodism, including the

1 work of people like John Baughman who gave a memorable address on the occasion of receiving the
2 "Ministry of Memory" award in 2016. We are taking steps to deploy in several areas based on the interests
3 and gifts we bring to the work of the Commission. Going forward, each member will take on particular tasks
4 for projects to which they may contribute: These include consulting with local church historians, arranging
5 for resources for use by local church historians, publicity and communications, especially with respect to
6 celebrating milestones of congregations, liaison with the jurisdictional and general commission, serving as
7 treasurer, secretary, and liaison with the Indiana Methodist Historical Society.

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9 We are already following through on this agenda. Building on the work that he carried out for the centennial
10 celebration of Camp Rivervale, Jim Tichenor is preparing a resource for use with children and youth in the
11 camping program. Tichenor's work draws upon the already existing text of the late John Baughman while
12 incorporating illustrations and formatting that work best for the needs of younger readers. Tichenor is
13 developing this resource in collaboration with Pam and Steve Tedroe, and Wes Wilson, emeritus archivist at
14 the UM Archives and DePauw University, is also consulting with us on this project.

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16 This spring we launched a "pilot project" in Oral History gathering that we have developed in collaboration
17 with the CSRW. This will prepare the way for a quadrennial project to be carried out after January 1, 2025.
18 Each year we will celebrate the ingathering of Collecting Hoosier UM Stories. Michael Cartwright is serving
19 as the project ambassador to encourage clergy, laity, congregations, and conference groups (UMM, UWF)
20 to collect stories that can be used in the future. Shalimar Holderly is serving as the project registrar to ensure
21 that the submissions are correctly recorded with reference to the records of UM Archives at DePauw. Some
22 of these stories will remain confidential for 25 years. Others will be available sooner if participants authorize
23 immediate release when they submit their oral history.

24
25 Based on the first fruits of our pilot project with women clergy present at the Commission on the Status and
26 Role of Women leadership retreat in March 2024, we can already tell that gathering oral histories is going
27 to be an important way for the annual conference to "Cultivate Joy" and share the Good News with our
28 neighbors (near and far). We are finding that when clergy and laity are invited to share the stories of their
29 participation in the ministries of the UMC, they not only narrate the past but also testify to God's faithfulness
30 in the present.

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32 We plan to do a few oral history interviews during the 2024 session of INUMC, and then will make
33 adjustments to story gathering procedures through the summer and fall as we put together "kits" for use by
34 clergy and laity associated with UM congregations throughout the INUMC. We propose to challenge the
35 conference to join us in gathering at least 100 clergy and 100 laity representing at least 100 congregations
36 of the annual conference.

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38 Each year, beginning in 2025 we will hold "in-gathering" celebrations as complete objectives toward our
39 overall goals, which we will finalize after the 2024 budget is set. We look forward to sharing regular updates
40 as the 2025-28 quadrennium begins. Among the stories we hope to collect is the remarkable collaboration
41 between our annual conference (and its predecessor bodies) and DePauw University, a cooperative
42 arrangement that goes back to 1951, which means that we will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the UM
43 Archives in 2026.

1 In addition, like other annual conferences of the UMC, we encourage all congregations to use the resources
 2 that have been developed by the General Commission on Archives and History, During the 2024
 3 Conference year, we hope to see more congregations and local church historians drawing upon the Local
 4 Church Historian training modules available from GBHEM. In addition, we encourage clergy and laity to
 5 make use of the remarkably encouraging new line of resources developed under the leadership of Dr. Ashley
 6 Boggan D., particularly the *Un-tied Methodism* podcast [https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/un-tied-](https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/un-tied-methodism-podcast)
 7 [methodism-podcast](https://www.resourceumc.org/en/content/un-tied-methodism-podcast). We were pleased to collaborate with the Digital Archivist at GCAH in developing the
 8 new “United Methodist Stories” oral history application, and we are grateful for what GCAH is doing to
 9 develop digital data collection tools to make it possible for record keeping to be as functional and effective
 10 as possible while telling the kinds of encouraging stories that cultivate joy for the church’s mission.

11
 12 **Budget**

13 The INUMC Commission on Archives and History has requested that our budget for 2025 be restored to the
 14 level prior to the pandemic (\$2,000). This support will enable CAH to reach our goals to help congregations
 15 discover and maintain their histories to inform their present and guide their future in Christ.

16
 17 Michael G. Cartwright
 18 Chairperson of the Commission on Archives & History

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 21 **Indiana United Methodist Commission on Archives and History**

<i>Line Items</i>	<i>Budget</i>
22 Jurisdictional Dues	\$. 100.00
23 Special Projects	\$1,200.00 [Oral History Project]
24 Annual Conference	\$. 200.00
25 Local Church Historians School	\$. 100.00
26 Recognition and Publicity	\$. 200.00
27 Special Events	\$ 75.00
28 Discretionary	<u>\$ 125.00</u>
29 Total	\$2,000.00