

Historical Messenger

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Commission Update

We begin our report with the sad news of the death of Commission on Archives and History Chair Marilyn Munsell McNitt. She was diagnosed in February 2013 with acute myeloid leukemia, underwent three rounds of chemotherapy, achieved a temporary remission, and was preparing for a bone marrow transplant when the leukemia became active again.

Additional chemotherapy and a total of 113 transfusions of red blood cells and platelets failed to stem the disease and she succumbed to it on 22 October 2013. Marilyn McNitt is survived by her husband Bill, daughters Sarah (Jason Sprague), and Rebecca, and exchange student "daughter" Marie-Theres Niedermaier.

At the following Commission meeting, the body named Commission member Mary Whitman as Acting Chair. At this year's meeting of the annual conference, she was appointed as Chair of the Commission.

Mary Whitman, our new Commission chair, is originally from Ithaca, Michigan. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Education degree from Central Michigan University. After graduating from Central, Mary taught in Oscoda for two years and then spent the remaining thirty-seven years of her career in the Swan Valley School District in Saginaw. She received her Masters of Library Information Science from Wayne State University in 1994. She retired in 2004 after spending most of her thirty-nine year career in school libraries.

Mary is a member of First United Methodist Church in Saginaw, Michigan, where she is involved with a number of committees including: community connectors, worship, grow team,



Photograph courtesy of the McNitt Family

member care, memorials, staff parish, the building committee, and United Methodist Women both at the local and district levels. She was also chair of the Detroit Conference Committee on Memoirs, which has now been incorporated into the Commission on Archives and History.

A major disruption at the Commission archives occurred in June 2013 when heavy rains led to flooding in the lower level of Adrian College's Shipman Library. None of the Conference's historical materials were damaged because the water stopped short of the lowest shelves, but we lost some archival supplies and the archivist could not work in the office area for several weeks due to clean-up and the replacement of the wet carpeting with a tile floor. Eventually things returned to normal, so the archivist could resume full reference services, research on behalf of the Commission, and archival processing and description.

Commission Update (continued)

Commission members and the archivist have devoted many hours of research and discussion to the Conference Cane award in the last two years. This cane honors the oldest living ordained elder living within the boundaries of the Conference and having served for at least 35 years. The Rev. Konstantin Wipp had held the cane award for roughly seven years at the time of his death in August 2012. Subsequently the archivist created a database tracking the ages and length of service of retired clergy to help determine future holders

of this award. After producing a list of possible recipients, Commission members reviewed each candidate to determine if they met all qualifications and decided which one would receive the award. As the recipients are all fairly elderly, the Commission has gone through this process three times in a little over two years, giving the award to Tex Rickard in 2013 and Donald Crumm in 2014. The conference cane will be presented in 2015 to Rev. Arthur Spafford.

Do You Have Materials for the Archives?

- ◆ Call us!
- ◆ E-mail us!
- ◆ Stop by the archives during annual conference!
- ◆ Let us know you have materials and we can:
 - ◆ Pick them up
 - ◆ Arrange a drop-off time
 - ◆ Let you know what kinds of materials should be archived



Archivist's Report

We have worked hard on collection processing over the last year and have significantly cut the amount of unprocessed materials. A listing of collections recently received and/or processed appears on page 4 and an article about the processing of the H.W. Hicks papers appears on page 5.

The processing backlog, which totaled more than 200 linear feet a few years ago, is now about 30 feet and we have accomplished this while receiving many new accessions. A few district files remain unprocessed, but we have achieved a significant level of control over our church, district, and conference records.

Other projects have included researching and identifying new recipients for the conference cane (see the top of this page and pages 5 and 6), participating in the North Central Jurisdiction Convocation on Archives and History (see page 4), and advising churches and organizations on the retention of historical records. We also conduct research in the records to respond to reference inquiries and assist onsite researchers.

One major project facing us is gaining control over our book collection. As it currently stands, part of our collection has been listed in a database, but as collections have shifted and boxes have

been opened, this collection has grown. At the moment, we have three or four separate sequences. We would like to get all of the books into a single sequence, remove duplicates and items that do not fit our collection policy, and work with Adrian College to get the remaining books added to their online catalog so that we can raise awareness to conference members, as well as Adrian students, of what we have to offer at the archives.

We also need to go through our clergy index, our clergy vertical file, and the pastoral record within the conference journal to ensure that each minister in the conference has a biography folder that we can build upon or start.

We have a few other volunteer projects that we are looking for people to help with. If you would like to volunteer for any projects at the archives, please let us know by contacting us at dcumcarchives@adrian.edu.

If you have historical materials relating to the conference, a district, a church, or a clergy member, please let us know. We can send you a retention schedule created by the General Commission on Archives and History that shows how long records should be retained and which are deemed to be permanently valuable and appropriate for placement in the archives.

J.A. Baughman Church History Award Application Form

Detroit Annual Conference Commission on Archives and History

Deadline: March 15, 2015

The Commission on Archives and History sponsors an annual church history competition named in honor of Rev. J.A. Baughman, a prominent founder of Methodist churches in southeastern Michigan during the nineteenth century. Send in a written history, a video history, or even the link to a website detailing the story of your church. The Commission recognizes the best entry at Annual Conference.



Contestants are under no strict guidelines. Past entries have included formal written histories complete with oral histories, video interviews with longtime congregants and church historians, photographs, building histories, video/audio recordings of sermons and special services, and all of the above. The only limitation is your imagination.

If your church would like to participate in the Detroit Conference's church history competition, please fill out this application and submit it, along with your church's entry, to the Conference Archivist at the address listed below. Questions and comments concerning the competition may also be sent to the Conference Archivist.

Church Information

Name of church:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Church website (if applicable):

Contact person/phone, e-mail:

Format (circle all that apply): Print Video (DVD/VHS) Website Other

Date history was compiled:

Submit application and entry to:

**Conference Archivist
Archives of the Detroit Conference of the United Methodist Church
Shipman Library, Adrian College
110 S. Madison St.
Adrian, MI 49221**

Send in a:

- written history
- video history
- photographs
- recordings
- link to a website detailing the story of your church
- something new!

The Commission recognizes the best entry at Annual Conference.

Recently Opened Collections

Local Churches

- ◆ Burton: Emmanuel
- ◆ Decker
- ◆ Detroit: Henderson Memorial
- ◆ Detroit: Waterman Preston
- ◆ Ishpeming: Salisbury
- ◆ Lincoln
- ◆ Lincoln Park: Dix
- ◆ Lincoln Park: First
- ◆ Owosso: Central
- ◆ Owosso: Trinity

Conference and Districts

- ◆ Annual Conference Photographs
- ◆ Blue Water District
- ◆ Blue Water District Board of Missions
- ◆ Blue Water District United Methodist Women
- ◆ Detroit Conference United Methodist Women
- ◆ Marquette District United Methodist Women
- ◆ Michigan Area Episcopal Office

Personal Papers

- ◆ Harold and Adele Gloyd Papers
- ◆ Henry Warren Hicks Papers

Archives Acquisitions and Processing

The Detroit Annual Conference in May of each year is always a busy time in the Archives for both research visits and donations. District and local church officials take advantage of traveling to Adrian to empty their storage areas and add to our archival collections. During Annual Conference this past May individual donations ranged in size from a few pages to many boxes. We received more than 21 feet of records including:

- Ishpeming Salisbury United Methodist Church (pictured) - 3 linear feet
- Owosso Central United Methodist Church - 1 linear foot
- Owosso Trinity United Methodist Church (including predecessor churches Asbury and Corunna Avenue) - 1 linear foot

District Records:

- Detroit Renaissance District (and the old Detroit East and Detroit West Districts) - 7 linear feet
- Marquette District - 3 linear feet
- United Methodist Women of the Marquette District - 4 linear feet

Local Churches:

- Detroit Henderson Memorial United Methodist Church - 1 linear foot
- Detroit Preston United Methodist Church - 1.5 linear feet



Since Annual Conference, we have received personal papers of long-time Allen Park Trinity United Methodist Church members Harold and Adele Gloyd (4 linear feet) concerning the history of that

church and Detroit Woodmere United Methodist Church and also records of Lincoln United Methodist Church in Lincoln, Michigan (1 linear foot).

North Central Jurisdiction Convocation

The North Central Jurisdiction Convocation on Archives and History was held July 7-10, 2014 in Petoskey, Michigan. The Detroit Conference was represented by Archives and History Chair Mary Whitman, Commission Secretary Della Wilder, North Central Jurisdiction President Linda Schramm, General Commission member Diana Miller, Archivist Rebecca McNitt, archives volunteer Bill McNitt, Friends of the Archives Treasurer Sharon Scott, and Friends of the Archives President Jan Engler. Archives and Commission members from the Dakotas, Minnesota, Iowa, Indiana, both Illinois and Ohio conferences, and the West Michigan conference also attended this convocation.

This convocation involved several field trips, including: Greensky Hill Indian

Mission United Methodist Church (pictured), where we learned about their church history and enjoyed a meal of traditional Native American foods prepared by the church members, who also hosted a panel discussion and performed music for our group; Bay View Association, where we received a brief tour of the grounds and learned about their archives; and Lake Louise Christian Community, Camp & Retreat Center, where we learned about the history of the camp and took a walking tour. We are looking forward to the 2015 Convocation in Chicago, Illinois!



Photo courtesy of West Michigan Conference website

H.W. Hicks Papers fully processed

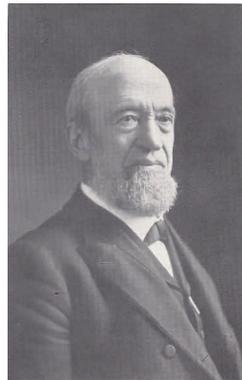
Rev. H. W. Hicks (1837-1912) began his career as a minister in the Methodist Protestant Church in 1858 and transferred to the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1868. Hicks served a series of churches, mostly in small towns and rural areas in the Flint-Saginaw region of southeast Michigan, with the exception of the years 1890-1892 when he was the associate editor of the Pacific Christian Advocate magazine in Oregon.

The Detroit Conference Archives acquired the 8.8 feet of Hicks Papers in the 1960s, but only a few selected portions of the collection were processed before last year - primarily the letters to Hicks from his colleagues Elisha E. Caster and Robert C. Lanning. Those letters were used by James Dodd in two scholarly papers delivered in the 1970s, one of which resulted in an article in *Methodist History* magazine.

This year, we removed all of the remaining letters from envelopes, flattened and arranged them, and created a finding aid for the collection. This important collection contains thousands of letters he or his wife received from family members, fellow

clergymen and their families, members of current and past churches, and friends. Also included are occasional drafts of outgoing letters, a subject file (including one diary), and copies of his public addresses and sermons. The collection contains important information on both the Methodist Protestant and the Methodist Episcopal churches in the 19th and early 20th centuries and the many local churches served by Hicks and his colleagues.

This large collection at our archives is not a complete record of Hicks' career and family, because other descendants donated 11 feet of Hicks Papers to the Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library and a small collection (2 volumes and 2 folders) to the Bentley Historical Library of the University of Michigan.



Henry Warren Hicks

Detroit Conference Cane

The Detroit Conference Cane was implemented in 1904 to recognize one hundred years of Michigan Methodism. Its creation coincided with the founding of the Conference Historical Society, now the Commission on Archives and History.

The Cane is presented to and held by the oldest ordained member of the Conference who has served as an active member of the Conference for at least thirty-five years and lives within the boundaries of the conference. Each recipient holds the award for the remainder of his or her life, and upon his or her death it reverts to the

Conference. The Conference Cane itself is present at the ceremony honoring the cane holder where the recipient receives a plaque; the cane itself remains at the archives when not being presented.

The body of the cane is made from wood from the church in Adrian where the Detroit Conference was founded. The cane contains wooden inlays from the first Methodist Church building in River Rouge, the desk of Seth Reed, the tree that overlooks the grave of Barbara Heck, the pulpit of Robert Strawbridge, and the building in which Judson Collins converted to Methodism.



Conference Cane

The Conference Cane was started in 1904 to celebrate 100 years of Methodism in Michigan. The Cane is presented to the oldest member of the Conference who has "served in the Detroit Conference under the appointment of the Bishop for thirty-five or more years."

HOLDERS

1904 - Francis A. Blades
 1905 - Seth Reed
 1924 - Philip J. Wright
 1928 - David Casler
 1929 - David B. Millar
 1941 - James E. Jacklin
 1944 - Samuel Graves
 1948 - George F. Tripp
 1950 - Thomas M. Mott
 1951 - Carl S. Risley
 1953 - David N. Earl
 1954 - Edwin D. Dimond
 1959 - James T. Stephens
 1960 - H. Addis Leeson
 1964 - R.C.G. Williams
 1966 - Charles A. Bragg
 1967 - William A. Gregory
 1971 - Frank M. Purdy
 1973 - Henry I. Voelker
 1975 - Russell D. Hopkins
 1984 - Benjamin F. Holme
 1990 - Myron R. Everett
 1993 - George M. Jones
 1998 - Walter C.B. Saxman
 2002 - Ira L. Wood
 2003 - Alvin Burton
 2005 - Konstantin Wipp
 2013 - William D. Rickard
 2014 - Donald O. Crumm
 2014 - Arthur Spafford

In Memoriam: Konstantin Wipp



Rev. Konstantin Wipp

On 3 August 2012, the 27th holder of the Detroit Conference Cane, Konstantin Wipp, died at the age of 99, just months shy of his 100th birthday. Rev. Wipp was born 15 November 1912 in Torgu, Estonia. He attended the Union Scandinavian School of Theology, as well as taking courses in English and German.

He was admitted as a minister in July 1939 by the Baltic and Slavic Annual Conference at Tallinn, Estonia. Rev. Wipp served appointments in Estonia from 1939 to 1944, at which point he moved to Sweden. He was ordained a deacon and elder at Gävle, Sweden in June 1948. He remained in Sweden until 1949.

Rev. Wipp moved to the United States in 1949. His first appointment in the Detroit Conference was at Grace Methodist Church in Marquette (1949-1951). He later served at Grand Marais: McMillan (1951-1954), Norway (1954-1957), L'Anse (1957-1965), Escanaba: First & Bark River (1965-1969), Gwinn/Ishpeming: Salisbury (1969-1974) and Munising (1974-1978). He retired from the Detroit Conference in 1978.

Rev. Wipp was survived by his two daughters, Tiiu and Sandra; his son, Dan; seven grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren.

In Memoriam: William "Tex" Rickard



Rev. William Rickard

Rev. William Rickard, who was born 30 July 1921 in Houghton, Michigan, died 8 November 2013 after a short illness. Rev. Rickard was a graduate of Albion College and Garrett Theological Seminary.

Rev. Rickard began his ministry in Wisconsin upon graduation from Garrett Theological Seminary before returning to Michigan. During his time in the Detroit Conference, he served at churches in Midland, Saginaw, Port Huron, Livonia, East Detroit, Sterling Heights, Davis, and

finally at Mount Clemens, the church he had attended in his youth and the place where he had married his wife.

Rev. Rickard married Mary Helen Gregory in August 1945, during his studies at Garrett. They remained married until her death in 2000. The Rickards had three sons, Greg, Ron, and Steve; three daughters, Tilda, Evelyn, and Lori-Ann; as well as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In Memoriam: Donald Crumm



Rev. Donald Crumm

Rev. Donald Crumm, who led several churches and was involved with civil rights, died 20 September 2014 at his home in Grand Blanc. He was eighty-eight years old.

Donald Crumm was born near Monroe, Michigan on 14 December 1925. He served in the U.S. Navy Signal Corps in the Aleutian Islands in World War II. He attended Adrian College, then Drew Theological Seminary in New Jersey, and was ordained for ministry in Michigan.

Rev. Crumm was involved in the building and extensive renovation of churches in Bay City, Allen Park, and Goodrich. He also served as pastor in Detroit, Southfield, Waterford, Sebawaing, Hope, Edenville, Brent Creek, and Northwest Venice.

Rev. Crumm is survived by his wife, Barbara, three sons, David, Daniel, and John, three daughters, Amy, Joann, and Shauna, and 10 grandchildren.

Web News

We have a new Facebook page, so feel free to come and like us (go to facebook.com and add in a backslash and the words "DetroitConferenceUMCArchives")! We hope to hear from you and get feedback



on what you would like to see in the future.

We are also close to completing a new website that will allow us to put more of our materials and finding aids online, but some additional fine tuning and testing is needed before that content goes live.

We hope that these online efforts will help us to make ourselves better known to the Detroit Conference, as well as building stronger connections with other Methodist archives across the country.

Please let us know if you have any special requests for items to include on our Facebook page or website.

Questions about the content of this newsletter and research queries may be directed to:

Detroit Conference of the United Methodist Church
 Shipman Library
 Adrian College
 110 S. Madison St.
 Adrian, MI 49221
 (517) 265-5161 x4429
 dcumcarchives@adrian.edu

Friends of the Archive

Donations of historical materials to the archive collection may be made after consultation with the archivist. Monetary donations are welcome by joining the "Friends of the Archive" group, which sponsors memberships of one year for \$6, two years for \$15, five years for \$30, and a lifetime membership of \$100. Payment by check (payable to "Friends of the Archive") and member information can be sent to:

Sharon Scott, Treasurer
 214 E. Michigan Ave.
 Clinton, MI 49236

"Friends of the Archive" is a non-profit group that supports the Archive and the mission of historical preservation of documents and material pertaining to the Detroit Conference. Your support is necessary to sustain the Archive and bridge the past, present, and future.



Extended online content coming soon!

Mary Whitman –
 Chair

Rebecca McNitt -
 Archivist

Detroit Conference Archives
Shipman Library
Adrian College
110 S. Madison Street
Adrian, Michigan 49221

If you would like to receive *The Historical Messenger* electronically, please e-mail us at dcumcarchives@adrian.edu!