

AMEND PARAGRAPH 641.1 Adding "Withdrawn" and "Disaffiliated"

Total Number of Pages: 1

Suggested Title: Re safekeeping of historical record; Insertion of "withdrawn" & "disaffiliated"

Discipline Paragraph: 641.1

General Church Budget Implications: NONE

Global Implications: NONE

....to provide for the permanent safekeeping of the historical records of all abandoned, or disaffiliated, discontinued or withdrawn churches in the bounds of the annual conference and its antecedents....

Rationale: Given the possibility of potential exit ramps from the UMC or dissolution of same, GCAH, in naming conditions of potential exit want to insure that churches departing the UMC will have church records preserved.

Date: September 11, 2019

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AMEND PARA. 1712.2

Total Number of Pages: 2

Amend listing of Heritage Landmarks

Discipline Para. No: 1712.2

General Church Budget Implications: None

Global Implications: None

Submitted by: The General Commission on Archives and History

2. Present Heritage Landmarks—The present heritage landmarks of The United Methodist Church (and the year of their designation by General Conference) are: Acuff’s Chapel, between Blountville and Kingsport, TN (1968); Albright Memorial Chapel, Kleinfeltersville, PA (1968); Asbury Manual Labor School and Mission, Ft. Mitchell, AL (1984); Barratt’s Chapel, near Frederica, DE (1968); Bethune-Cookman College University, Daytona Beach, FL (1984); Bishop John Seybert/Flat Rock Cluster, Flat Rock and Bellevue, OH (1992); Boehm’s Chapel, Willow Street, PA (1984); College of West Africa, Monrovia, Liberia (2012); Christ United Methodist Church, Honolulu, HI (2020); Cokesbury College, Abingdon, MD (1984); Cox Memorial United Methodist Church, Hallowell, ME (1992); Deadwood Cluster, Deadwood, SD (1984); Edward Cox House, near Bluff City, TN (1968); First Evangelical Association Church Building and Publishing House, New Berlin, PA (1988); First United Methodist Church, Johnstown, PA (1996); Green Hill House, Louisburg, NC (1968); Gulfside Assembly, Waveland, MS (2016); Hanby House, Westerville, OH (1988); Helenor M. Davisson Cluster, Jasper Co. , Indiana (2020); John Street Church, New York City (1968); John Wesley’s American Parish, Savannah, GA (1976); Keywood Marker, Glade Spring, VA (1988); Lakeside Chautauqua, Lakeside, OH (2020); Isaac Long’s Barn, Landis Valley, Lititz, PA (2008); Lovely Lane Chapel, Baltimore, MD (1972); Mary Johnston Hospital, Manila, The Philippines (2012); McMahan’s Chapel, Bronson, TX (1972); Methodist Hospital, Brooklyn New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, NY (1972); Newtown Indian United Methodist Church, Okmulgee, OK (2012); Old McKendree Chapel, Jackson, MO (1968); Old Mutare Mission, Zimbabwe (2012); Old Otterbein Church, Baltimore, MD (1968); Old Stone Church Cemetery and Site, Leesburg, VA (1968); Organization of The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Louisville, KY (1984); Pearl River United Methodist Church, Madison County, MS (2016); Peter Cartwright United Methodist Church, Pleasant Plains, IL (1976); Rehoboth Church, near Union, WV (1968); Robert Strawbridge’s Log House, near New Windsor, MD (1968); Rutersville Cluster, Rutersville, TX (1988); St. George’s Church, Philadelphia, PA (1968); St. Simon’s Island, GA (1968); Simpson House, Philadelphia, PA (2012); Wesley Foundation, University of Illinois, Champaign, IL (1996); Town of Oxford, GA (1972); United Brethren Founding Sites Cluster, Frederick, Keedysville, and Beaver Creek, MD (2000); Wesleyan College Cluster, Macon, GA (1992); Western Union/Westmar College Campus, Le Mars, IA; (2020); Whitaker’s Chapel, near Enfield, Halifax County, NC (1972); Willamette Mission, near Salem, OR (1992); Wolcott United Methodist Church, Wolcott, VT (2024); Woman’s Foreign Missionary Society founding site, Boston, MA (2004) Wyandot Indian Mission, Upper Sandusky, OH

(1968); United Methodist Building on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC (2016); and Zoar United Methodist Church, Philadelphia, PA (1984).

Date: July 31, 2023

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ADD NEW PARAGRAPH

Total Number of Pages: 2

Suggested Title: Local Church Records and Disaffiliation or Division

Discipline Paragraph: ADD NEW PARAGRAPH

General Church Budget Implications: NONE

Global Implications: NONE

Whereas there is potential for the United Methodist Church to divide, or allow local congregations to disaffiliate (as per paragraph 2553);

And, whereas, such events may result in the loss of critical local church and annual conference records bearing witness to the prior ministry and mission of the United Methodist Church and its predecessors;

And, whereas, the maintenance of local church records is the responsibility of the annual conference (para. 233 and 2549.4);

Therefore, be it resolved that in the case of disaffiliating churches, the conference Commission on Archives and History will establish a plan whereby the legal records of said churches would be maintained at the annual conference archives, with costs of any copying to be borne by the disaffiliating congregation;

Be it further resolved that, in the case of a wider separation, resulting in the dissolution or division of an annual conference, each Annual Conference will establish a plan whereby its archival holdings will be maintained and supported by subsequent bodies, conferences or disaffiliated churches.

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Pages Number: 1 of 2

Agency: The General Commission on Archives and History

Title of Report: Quadrennial Report of the General Commission on Archives and History

Report of the General Commission on Archives and History

In addition to the information in the prior report, GCAH offers this addendum. Since the submission of the report for the originally scheduled 2020 General Conference, a few things have changed. GCAH is incredibly appreciative of the leadership offered to the agency and the connection by Rev. Dr. Alfred T. Day, III, who served as General Secretary until his retirement at the conclusion of 2020. In his stead, Dr. Ashley Boggan has been elected General Secretary and began this ministry in January 2021.

Boggan has continued the ministry of memory begun and embodied by her predecessors, but has intentionally continued to pivot GCAH towards a more programmatic emphasis. In this spirit, GCAH now has a monthly podcast called “Un-Tied Methodism” where GCAH helps the connection “unravel the past to make sense of today.” As the writing of this report, it has two seasons, with approximately 30 episodes.

GCAH has also begun offering online courses via the U.M. History Hub (umhistoryhub.teachable.com). From “Splits, Separations, and Reconciliations,” to “Local Church Historians’ School,” and “Way of Wesley Workshop,” GCAH is positioning itself to be an active teacher of our heritage for various levels of the connection. The above courses are ‘plug and play’ ready for individual, small group, Sunday School, seminary, or youth-group use. More courses are in development, including a Methodism 101 and a Methodist History Deep-Dive, both of which will be available Fall 2023 and are perfect refreshers of our Methodist heritage for any group.

GCAH is also partnering with other general agencies in new ways. GCAH shares a communicator with UMCOM, allowing the agencies to share costs, staff time, and resources. This relationship also ensures that programming of GCAH is more readily reported via UMCOM’s channels. GCAH continues to partner with Discipleship Ministries in hosting the Wesleyan Pilgrimage in July 2022 and July 2023. Discipleship Ministries is also now offering a CLM specialization in the Ministry of Memory. Conversations with other general agencies are continuous as to how to better partner in mission, share resources, and continue to serve the connection in new ways.

Finally, GCAH is working alongside the Council of Bishops and other connectional leaders to help the denomination “reclaim, revive, and renew” ourselves. Given this transitional moment, it is vital that we focus on what it means to be “Wesleyan” and how we want to be known in the world at this moment. In these conversations about identity, knowing our past is vital! In order to ensure that we have a more equitable future, we have to have a better understanding of our past.

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Agency: The General Commission on Archives and History

Title of Report: Quadrennial Report of the General Commission on Archives and History

GCAH is here to help all levels of the connection better understand our heritage. We are YOUR historical agency and are here to serve YOU.

Dr. Ashley Boggan, General Secretary

Bishop Cynthia Fierro-Harvey, President