



Historian's Newsletter

Fall 2021

United Methodist Historical Society of Ohio

Visit our website at www.umhso.org

Also on Facebook at UMHSO

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- Upcoming 183rd Convocation

President's Welcome

The 182nd Convocation and Annual Meeting of the United Methodist Historical Society of Ohio was hosted at Anderson Hills UMC in Cincinnati on October 22-23, 2021.

Due to the pandemic, this is the first time the Society was able to meet since May 4, 2019. The Executive Board continued to meet during the interim as needed. Our recent meeting, however, ensured society members could renew their fellowship and conduct official business face-to-face.

This newsletter will share the highlights of our two-day event—from the visits to UMC historical sites on Friday through the business meetings, presentations, and sharing by society members on Saturday.

The recent Convocation held in October 2021 had several unique features as a direct result of the pandemic. First, our sessions are usually held in May, but the Executive Board did not want to wait until the spring of 2022 to meet.

Second, there were two business meetings. The morning session focused on business from 2020 such as officially electing the officers who had served throughout 2021. The afternoon session focused on business for the upcoming year such as electing officers for 2022.

Anderson Hills UMC was pleased to welcome the UMHSO back to our region. The last meeting in southeastern Ohio was at United Theological Seminary in Dayton in 2013. The last meeting in Cincinnati was at Twin Towers in 1992.

Our recent convocation was a time to cherish and remember our collective history as Ohio United Methodists. Laity and clergy celebrated the accomplishments and contributions of those who have served our Ohio UMC for the Glory of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

**In service for our Lord Jesus Christ,
Bill Smith, President UMHSO**

Tour of Five Local Church @ 182nd UMHSO Convocation
Friday, October 22
Host – Bill Smith, President UMHSO



Milford First United Methodist Church

542 Main Street | Milford, Ohio
Joyce Snell, Church Historian

- The first class in the old Northwest Territory—organized in 1797.
- One of three United Methodist Churches in Milford, Ohio.
- Rev. Francis McCormick was the founder and led the class from his cabin. The current site is privately owned and developed.
- Francis McCormick was a close disciple of Bishop Francis Asbury.
- McCormick travelled to nearby Newtown, Ohio where he recruited newly arrived Rev. Philip Gatch to settle in Milford.
- A frame church building was built at Main and High Street in 1818.
- The current structure dates to 1835 and has been modified.





Armstrong Chapel UMC

5125 Drake Road | Cincinnati, Ohio | Indian Hill Area

Greg Johnson, Church Historian

Special Visit by "Peter Cartwright"

- Armstrong Chapel traces its origins to 1798.
- Nathaniel Armstrong provided the first meeting house on his property for Methodist class meetings.
- Old Armstrong Chapel was built and completed in 1831 on property deed by Armstrong for a place of worship and burial ground.
- The current Armstrong Chapel church building was completed in 1959.
- The Jefferson School building directly across the street serves as the current church offices.





Newtown United Methodist Church

3546 Church Street, Cincinnati, Ohio | Village of Newtown

Robin Steinmetz, Church Historian

Senior Pastor Bruce Batchelor-Glader, Host

- The church was chartered in 1798 and led by Rev. John Kobler, who ministered across the same Miami Circuit with Revs. McCormick and Gatch.
- The local village was known as Mercersburg but changed to Newtown in 1800.
- A stone church was built in 1813. Newtown is the oldest Methodist Church in this area located on the same exact site as its current church building.
- The present church building dates to 1867 when it was converted into a two-story structure with the sanctuary on the second floor.
- The “Great Flood” of 1938 resulted in the flood waters of the Little Miami River rising to the ceiling height on the first floor.



Salem Church | Campus of Anderson Hills UMC

6137 Salem Road, Cincinnati, Ohio

Bill Smith, Church Historian

- Salem Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in 1805.
- Francis McCormick left Milford First MEC and purchased property in Anderson Township in the early 1800's.
- "McCormick's Settlement" became known as the Village of Salem.
- McCormick's home was the first Methodist Meeting House for the church.
- A log house was built in 1810 and attracted many Methodist circuit riders including Bishop Francis Asbury.
- A brick structure was built in 1828 and was replaced by the current church building in 1863.
- In 1998, a new building addition was added to the left and rear sides of the 1863 sanctuary.
- Salem Church took out most of the pews and began contemporary worship in the later 1970's.





Five Mile Chapel

6975 Five Mile Road, Cincinnati, Ohio

Steve Bryant, President of Five Mile Chapel Society

- The property for Five Mile Chapel and its adjacent cemetery was donated by Jacob Markley in 1844.
- Five Mile Chapel was the oldest United Brethren in Christ Church in southeastern Hamilton County.
 - Some members moved to Cherry Grove Church of the United Brethren which dates to 1853.
 - Later, others moved to Clough United Brethren which dates to 1864.
- The Chapel closed for Sunday worship in 1963 with many members transferring to Chery Grove EUB and others moving to Anderson Hills UM Church.
- Five Mile Chapel and Cemetery were placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 and they were also designated a United Methodist Historic Site.
- The Five Mile Chapel Society was founded in 1980 to preserve the building. The Society privately operates the site as a wedding chapel.



UMHSO Newly Elected Officers for 2021-2022



**President
Bill Smith**
bsmith1244@cinci.rr.com
(513) 316-1772



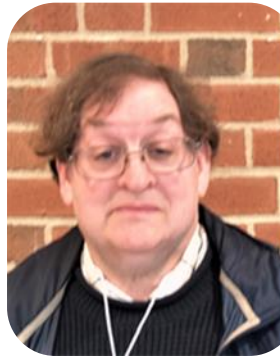
**Vice-President
Rev. P. Wesley George**
P.W.George@hotmail.com
(740) 622-3977



**Recording Secretary
Judy Hotz**
djballoons@fuse.net
(513) 829-7455



**Membership Secretary
Mary Ann Stotts**
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**Treasurer
Greg Johnson**
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**Acting Webmaster
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**At-Large Member
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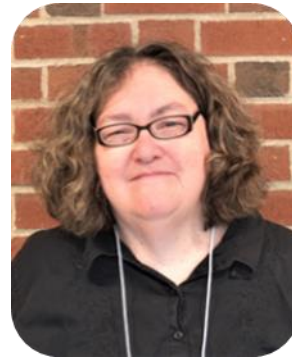


**At-Large Member
Rudy Heath**
heathcr1936@gmail.com
(513) 489-2164

UMHSO *Ex Officio* Members for 2021-2022



**Past President /
East Ohio Commission Archives & History**
Meg Sondey
m.sondey@yahoo.com
(440) 487-7376



**Archivist Ohio United Methodism
Sharon Monigold**
aoum@owu.edu *research/UMC*
samonigo@owu.edu *personal/OWU*



**West Ohio Commission
Archives & History**
Rev. Tom Slack
tslack@columbus.rr.com
(614) 395-2378



**West Ohio Conference
Historian**
Dr. Sarah Brooks Blair
*Retiring January 1, 2022.
No replacement yet.*



**East Ohio Conference
Historian**
Rev. Don Trigg
dlt418@aol.com
(330) 715-5504



Acting Officers for 2020-2021

- ▶ **President: Bill Smith**
- ▶ **Vice President: Vacant**
- ▶ **Recording Secretary: Deb Saito**
- ▶ **Membership Secretary: Mary Ann Stotts**
- ▶ **Treasurer: Charles "Rudy" Heath**
- ▶ **Webmaster: Margaret "Meg" Sondey**
- ▶ **Newsletter Editor: Bill Smith**

**Church Tour
People in Photographs**

Page 2 – Milford First UMC

- Top Right (left to right)
Rudy Heath and Joyce Snell

Page 3 – Armstrong Chapel UMC

- Middle Left (left to right)
Judy Hotz, Rudy Heath, Greg Johnson, and Meg Sondey
- Bottom Left (left to right)
Rudy Heath, Carolyn Mapes, Susan Garrison and Bill Smith
- Bottom Right
Rev. Stephen Hoard
as “Peter Cartwright”

Page 4 – Newtown UMC

- Top Right - Bill Smith

Page 5 – Salem Church @ AHUMC

- Bottom Right - Greg Johnson

Page 6 – Five Mile Chapel

- Bottom Left
Dr. Sarah Brooks Blair



In Memory

Bucyrus UMC Celebrates 200th Anniversary



Rev. Becky Stevens, pastor of the Bucyrus UMC receives a Certificate for their 200th Anniversary from Mary Ann Stotts, Representative of the United Methodist Historical Society of Ohio. The Bucyrus UMC is a merger of three Methodist Churches in Bucyrus, Ohio. (Epworth UMC, First UMC and Grace United Methodist Church). They also are Celebrating 10 years of their merging together into one Methodist Church. Their Celebration was held on Sunday, October 10, 2021.

Connectional News

Kenneth Rowe, Methodist Historian, dies at 84

Rev. Kenneth Rowe was an author, professor, librarian, archivist and bibliographer. He died at the age of 84 on October 8 in New Bern, North Carolina where he was living in retirement.

Rowe’s ministry shifted from parish ministry to academic scholarship early in his career. Key contributions that he will be remembered for include:

- Serving as the driving force to have the United Methodist Archives and History Center at Drew.
- Mentoring numerous divinity students in Methodist history and helping guide dissertations to publication.
- Ensuring marginalized and formerly “silent” voices were included in the historical narrative.
- Writing or co-writing 14 books including, *The Methodist Experience in America*, a comprehensive two-volume account co-authored with Russell E. Richey and Jean Miller Schmidt.

MINUTES
182nd Convocation and Annual Meeting
United Methodist Historical Society of Ohio

October 22-23, 2021
Anderson Hills United Methodist Church
Cincinnati, Ohio

Friday, October 22, 2021

Registration opened at 12:00 pm with attendees choosing one of two offerings for the afternoon: (1) a guided tour of the Underground Railroad Freedom Center Museum in downtown Cincinnati; or (2) a guided tour of Historic Cincinnati Eastside United Methodist Church Sites including: Milford First UMC; Armstrong Chapel UMC; Newtown UMC; Salem Church and Five Mile Chapel. We had 18 participants: 4 for the Freedom Center and 14 for the UMC Church Tour.

Saturday, October 23, 2021

Registration opened at 8 a.m. with a continental breakfast and social hour. There were 20 in attendance. The Convocation was called to order by Acting President Bill Smith at 9:20 a.m. by the ringing of the Anderson Hills UMC historic church bell. Bill welcomed all attendees and introduced AHUMC lead pastor Rev. John Ferguson who offered his welcome and the opening invocation.

Formal Business Meeting #1

An overview of the day's agenda was provided with background given for the necessity of two formal business meetings during the day. Because of the Covid pandemic the 2020 Convocation had to be canceled, hence all officers were serving in "acting" positions requiring the first business meeting agenda-- formally electing the 2020-2021 UMHSO officers.

The slate presented: (1) Bill Smith, President; (2) Vacant, Vice-President; (3) Deb Saito/Judy Hotz, Recording Secretary; (4) Mary Ann Stotts, Membership Secretary; (5) Meg Sondey, Webmaster; (6) Rudy Heath, Treasurer; (6) Sharon Monigold, Archivist of Ohio United Methodism; (7) Meg Sondey, East Ohio Commission on Archives & History; (8) Rev. Tom Slack, West Ohio Commission on Archives & History; Rev. (9) Don Trigg, East Ohio Conference Historian; (10) Dr. Sarah Brooks Blair, West Ohio Conference Historian. Bill presented this slate by a motion resolution; seconded by Beverly Minor. The slate was elected unanimously.

**CONVOCATION
PHOTOS**



**National Underground
Railroad Freedom Center
Museum**



**Bill Smith, President UMHSO
& Historian, AHUMC**



**Rudy Heath Welcomes
Convocation Attendees**

Presentation #1 - After a short break, Dr. Sarah Brooks-Blair shared “The Story of the Evangelical United Brethren Church.” Her presentation focused on the importance of Ohio in EUB history. Dayton became the center point of the Evangelical Church Publishing House. There was strong German support in the area. The church structure developed very closely to the Methodist church. Union Biblical Seminary was founded in 1871.

Presentation #2 - Bill Smith shared a presentation entitled *How to Plan a Church Anniversary: The AHUMC 200th Year Experience*. He shared many ideas and hints learned from planning the Anderson Hills UMC anniversary in 2020 including: why celebrate church anniversaries; strategic approaches and key principles; and lessons and examples. Some important decisions to consider early on include the logo, publications, banners and pastor photos. Attendees received a handout copy of an article written by Cynthia de Jong entitled, *Take Time to Celebrate: How to Plan for Your Church’s Anniversary*.

Presentation #3 - Sharon Monigold was introduced as the AOUM archivist. She shared needs and policies of the Ohio UMC archive and stressed the importance of churches adhering to the retention schedule of Documents. Attendees received a handout listing the permanent records transferred to the archives at the closing of a church and what is not accepted for archiving. Storage space continues to be a problem as well as possible challenges arising with reorganization of the denomination.

Lunch Break - Box lunches were enjoyed by all as was the opportunity for fellowship.

Presentation #4 - After lunch we were treated to a visit from “Peter Cartwright” an influential member of the Second Great Awakening in the 19th Century United States as reenacted by Rev. Stephen Hoard.

Presentation #5 - Meg Sondey was the presenter for “Ohio Methodist Firsts” trivia game. She gave credit to Sarah Brooks-Blair for the research required to put the questions and answers together. After participating in the game, attendees received a handout listing the questions asked with the correct answer, along with extended historical information. A fun time was had by all, including those of us that did not do too well, but learned some wonderful historical facts.

PRESENTATION PHOTOS



Dr. Sarah Brooks-Blair



Bill Smith



Sharon Monigold



“Peter Cartwright”



Meg Sondey

UMC Historians Show and Tell

1. Ed Duling shared a copy of *The Christian Advocate* newsletter that he had come across in “a random bag of stuff.” This copy was noteworthy in that it contained information about Rev. Hoy and a picture of Mrs. Perry Saito, mother of former recording secretary, Deb Saito.
2. Mary Ann Stotts, Membership Secretary, shared a history plaque which commemorated a special event in Ontario, Ohio. There were two Presbyterian churches in the town with no pastors and a Methodist congregation with a pastor but no building so the Presbyterians gave one of their buildings to the Methodists which became the Ontario Community United Methodist Church; surely an act of true community. Mary Ann challenged all to learn more about their communities.
3. Joyce Snell, historian of Milford First United Methodist Church, shared that the first sermon in Ohio was preached at McCormick’s cabin on Aug. 7, 1798. Francis McCormick was the founder of the church and a close disciple of Francis Asbury. Joyce also served as our guide at Milford First UMC on our tour on Friday.
4. Beverly Minor shared that there was one street in Duluth that had two churches of the same denomination.

Formal Business Meeting #2

Voting Resolutions (*formal wording of the resolutions was included in the welcome packet*)

1. Bill presented the resolution which was seconded by Ed Duling. This was a proposed amendment to the By-Laws to add at least two and no more than four At-Large members to the Executive Board to help facilitate continuity and transitions on the board. This resolution passed unanimously.
2. Bill presented the resolution which was seconded by Joyce Snell. This was a proposed change to UMHSO dues, raising annual dues from \$15/year to \$20/year and Lifetime Membership dues from a one-time \$150/lump sum to \$200/lump sum to go into effect on January 1, 2023. This resolution passed unanimously.
3. Bill presented the resolution which was seconded by Meg Sondey. This was a proposal to amend Article IV, Section 3, Part D to read: “Funds received from Life Memberships at the direction of the donor shall be placed on deposit as Endowment Funds or [as] General Operating Funds”. This resolution passed unanimously.

UMC HISTORIANS SHOW & TELL



Ed Duling
The Christian Advocate



Joyce Snell
Milford First on Friday Tour



Beverly Minor
Churches in Duluth

4. Bill presented Rev. P. Wesley George as a candidate for vice-president for the 2021-22 Executive Board seconded by Paula Stewart. The nomination was accepted unanimously as was the entire slate of 2021-2022 officers. (See page 7 to meet the new officers).

Installation of New Officers and Closing

Sharon Monigold led the elected officer slate through the installation service.

Our time together closed with the awarding of numerous door prizes and reminders to fill out the evaluation form before leaving.

Mary Ann welcomed new life members: Angela Finney, Greg Johnson and Christy Culver.

A certificate of congratulations was presented to Nottingham UMC in recognition of their 200th anniversary.

Sue Culver won the drawing for a free 2022 membership.

The Convocation was adjourned at 3:15 p.m. with prayers for safe travels home for all attendees.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Hotz, Recording Secretary

United Methodist Heritage Sunday

May 23, 2022

The United Methodist Church celebrates Heritage Sunday on Aldersgate Day (May 24) or the preceding Sunday.

The day provides an opportunity for reflection on heritage, celebration of where the Church has been, how the Church understands itself as it shapes us today, and the meaning of Christian conferencing.

Heritage Sunday calls the Church to remember the past by committing itself to the continuing call of God.

Heritage Sunday is featured each year in the February-March issue of *Interpreter* (the denomination's program journal). However, conference Commissions on Archives and History have the major responsibility for promoting this special day in local churches.

More Information

<http://gcah.org/resources/heritage-sunday>

CONVOCATION ATTENDEES



Rev. Elizabeth Brown
Beverly Minor
Rev. Paula Stewart



Cristy & Sue Culver



Bill Smith and Judy Hotz
Preparing Packets
for Convocation

UMHSO LIFE MEMBERS

*Deceased

1. Rev. Millard W. Mead (Jan. 2019)*
by Galion St. Mark UMC
2. Norma Coe Anderson
3. Mrs. Mary Miller (Feb. 2001)*
4. Louise Morrison (Oct. 2014)*
5. Mary Beard (Feb. 2010)*
6. Rev. Marvin D. Bean (Feb. 2016)*
7. Mrs. Willard A. Shaw (April 2012)*
8. William Drown (April 2017)*
9. Rev. Fred Gaston (March 2004)*
10. George H. Theuer (July 2004)*
11. Dr. William Creasy
12. Gladys Nicholas
13. Dr. Paul Boase (Dec. 2000)*
14. Carol Ann Beck (Nov. 2008)*
15. Harriette Snoga (Aug. 2008)*
16. Robert L. George
17. Susan J. Cohen (Jan. 2003)*
18. James Callihan
19. Ruth Craig (Sept. 2015)*
20. Louis Risser (Jan. 2020)*
21. Jennie B. Lepley-Newton
22. Detterman Log Church - UMC Heritage Landmark
(Bishop John Seybert/ Flat Rock Cluster)
By Seybert Museum
23. Church of the Master UMC, Westerville, OH
By Mary Bigham
24. Hanby House – UMC Heritage Landmark
By Mary Bigham
25. Dr. Roy Rauschenberg (Feb. 2011)*
26. Beverly M. Miner
27. Mary E. Ramser
28. David W. Einsel, Jr. (Oct. 2006)*
29. Mary Fraser-Moots (Nov. 2010)*
30. Phillip K. Moots (April 2007)*
31. Rev. John W. Beers
By West Ohio Commission on Archives & History
32. Rev. Millard J. Miller, D.D. (Aug. 2011)*
By Westerville Historical Society
33. Martha Sprout
34. Richard W. Rash (April 2002)*
By Ebenezer Zane Cabin
35. Maurice Blue (June 2002)*
By Ebenezer Zane Cabin
36. Rev. Terry G. Washburn
37. Dr. Allan W. Hall (June 2014)*
38. Rev. Don Trigg
By East Ohio Commission on Archives & History
39. Arden Welch
40. Ellen Roth (June 2016)*
41. Mary Mortimer
By Ebenezer Zane Cabin Committee
42. Dicey Ann Carter-Crain
43. Ann S. Miller
44. Katherine B. Fuller
45. Rev. Lowell Peterson
By West Ohio Commission on Archives & History
46. Joanne Miller
47. Betsy Fletcher (Dec. 2010)
48. Bellpoint United Methodist Church
49. Rev. Harley Roston
50. Jim Barbee (March 2018)*
By West Ohio Commission on Archives & History
51. Sandra Beard
52. Dr. Robert C. Bowman, Jr.
53. Malinda L. "Mindy" Klawitter
54. Dr. Janet Rice McCoy
55. Ann Dallas Budd
56. Dr. Sarah Brooks Blair
57. Sandra Nihiser
58. Charles Rudy Heath II
59. Carol Holliger
By UMHSO Executive Committee
60. Gretchen Herron Wilson
61. Jennifer L. Neff
62. Irma Wolf
63. Eloise Toth - By West Salem UMC
64. Dr. Ed Duling
65. Mary Ann Stotts - By Ontario UMC
66. Mark Ramser
67. Betsy L. Bowen
68. Janet W. Harlamert
69. William L. Smith
70. Margaret "Meg" Sondey
71. Deborah A. Saito
72. Angela Finney (Class of 2021)
73. Greg Johnson (Class of 2021)
74. Christy Culver (Class of 2021)

New Lifetime Members for 2021



UMHSO MEMORIALS

Emmeline Miller - By Westerville Historical Society

Merrill E. Nelson - By Clenzo B. Fox

Mary McCarron - By Mary Ann Stotts

Neff-Noll-Sanzenbacher Families - By Jennifer L. Neff

Rev. Edward Barnes Brewster & Helen Page Brewster – By Dr. Janet Rice McCoy

Rev. William Nesbitt Brewster & Elizabeth Fisher Brewster - By Dr. Janet Rice McCoy

Essie Giffin - By Mary Ann Stotts

Rev. Perry and Mrs. Fumi Saito - By Deb Saito



Dues to Increase in 2023

By unanimous action, the members attending the 182nd Convocation and Annual Meeting decided to raise UMHSO membership dues effective January 1, 2023.

Annual dues will increase from \$15/year to \$20/year. Lifetime Membership dues will increase from a one-time \$150/lump sum to a \$200/lump sum.

A second motion also passed at the meeting allowing new Lifetime Members to decide if their dues would be used for the society's endowment or general operating funds.

Consider becoming a Lifetime Member or purchasing a Memorial before the end of 2022. Contact Membership Secretary Mary Ann Stotts for details at ma215stotts@gmail.com or 3901 Park Avenue West | Mansfield, Ohio 44903.

Dr. Sarah Brooks Blair retired on January 1, 2002. Dr. Blair taught church history at United Theological Seminary in Dayton. Her expertise is 19th century American religious history with a focus on Methodism. She has also served as the historian for the West Ohio Conference which included being an Ex officio member of the UMHSO.

Mary Ann Stotts (right) thanked Dr. Blair (left) for her service and presented a small token of appreciation on behalf of the UMHSO Executive Committee.



Website: <http://www.umhso.org/>

**Archives of Ohio United Methodism
Ohio Wesleyan University
Beeghly Library
43 Rowland Avenue
Delaware, OH 43015**

Return Service Requested

**United Methodist Historical Society of Ohio
Newsletter - Fall 2021**

See you at the 183rd UMHSO Convocation on October 15, 2022 at Powell UMC!



Tour of Five Mile Chapel on Friday, October 22, 2021 (left to right)
Front Row: Mary Ann Stotts, Sarah Blair, Meg Sondey, Beverly Minor and Judy Holtz
Back Row: Bill Smith, Sharon Monigold, Greg Johnson, Joyce Snell,
Susan Garrison, Carolyn Mapes and Rudy Heath