

SOUTH CAROLINA CONFERENCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Purpose:

To encourage the preservation and appreciation of the history of Methodism in South Carolina by promoting the study of Methodist history through articles, programs, projects, and resources. To serve as a “ministry of memory” helping the church to remember how God has worked through the Wesleyan Movement.

Key moments from the previous year:

The Society continued to develop the South Carolina Methodist Historic Trail Project under the leadership of the Conference Historian, the Reverend Dr. A.V. Huff, Jr. Five members of the Society attended the 2023 Annual Meeting of the SEJ Historical Society in July at Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina which focused on Methodism and the Civil Rights Movement. The annual meeting was held on October 21, 2023, at Spartanburg Methodist College with presentations by the Reverend Timothy C. Drum, College Chaplain, and Dr. R. Phillip Stone, Conference Archivist, related to the founding of the College under the leadership of the Reverend Dr. David E. Camak. The Officers were re-elected for 2024-2025. The Society provided an exhibit table at the 2023 Session of the Annual Conference. Two editions of the Society’s newsletter, The Mark, were produced and distributed during the year in addition to the monthly column in The Advocate written by the Society’s officers.

Objectives for the coming year:

The Society hopes to continue and possibly complete the development of the South Carolina Methodist Historic Trail during 2024. The Society will continue to respond to inquiries and research questions and continue to provide material for the monthly column in The Advocate. Several members of the Society are expected to provide leadership for the 2024 Annual Meeting of the SEJ Historical Society in September at Lake Junaluska. The Society will continue the publication of its newsletter.

Action(s) required from the 2024 Annual Conference:

If you take away nothing from this report, know this:

The Conference Historical Society is active and welcomes new members. It continues to receive and respond to inquiries from across the conference and beyond related to the history of Methodism in South Carolina. A regular presence is provided through its monthly column in The Advocate, its newsletter, and its page on the conference website.

Narrative:

The Reverend Dr. A. V. Huff, Jr., serves as South Carolina’s representative on the SEJ Commission on Archives and History along with the Reverend Dr. Roger M. Gramling, who is President of the SEJ Historical Society. The Reverend Meredith M. Dark, President of the Conference Historical Society, was elected during 2023 to serve as an “At-Large” Member of the Executive Committee of the SEJ Historical Society. The Reverend Franklin B. Buie stepped down during 2023 after many years of faithful service to the SEJ Historical Society, most recently as its Membership Secretary.

Respectfully submitted:

The Reverend Meredith M. Dark, President
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South Carolina Conference Historical Society Executive Committee:

The Reverend Meredith M. Dark, President; The Reverend Joseph D. Kovas, Vice President
The Reverend Dr. Roger M. Gramling, Secretary-Treasurer; The Reverend Dr. A.V. Huff, Jr., Editor, The Mark; The Reverend Luther H. Rickenbaker, III, Chairperson, Conference Commission on Archives and History