

## THE COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

### **Purpose:**

The Commission is responsible for preserving the historical records of the conference. The Commission also promotes and interprets the conference's history, answers research questions, and supports conference officials in their ministries. The commission is responsible for closed church records as well.

### **Key moments from the previous year:**

The task of collecting and preserving the records of separated congregations has taken up much of the archivist's time this year. Records from over 100 churches have been collected and stored in a digital repository. The archives has continued to answer research requests from local churches and genealogists as well as from conference leaders. In 2023, we answered 213 inquiries. The archives also completed processing the Conference United Women in Faith records, and these are now available to researchers who want to learn more about UWF's ministries through the years. We also worked on additions to the Spartanburg, Greenville, and Marion District charge conference records.

### **Objectives for the coming year:**

In the next year, we will continue to process the records of separating churches and we will continue to provide reference assistance to conference staff, local churches, genealogists, and any other researchers who need to use the conference's records. We hope to make more records available digitally for researchers who are unable to travel to South Carolina. We will also have to bring new commission members into our work. In only ten years, we will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the founding of the South Carolina Conference, so we should begin to think about what that celebration might look like.

### **Action(s) required from the 2024 Annual Conference:**

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

Maintaining the permanently valuable records of the conference is a long-term responsibility and one that will have an ongoing cost. But, the commission on archives and history is enthusiastic about its work.

### **Narrative:**

Archives and History is not just about the past, it's also about the future. Archives preserve the records of the past so that people today can understand our shared history, and we preserve today's records so that people in the future will understand how we live today. We do this not just as a tribute to those who served with us in the past and present, we do it so that we can understand their times and the challenges they faced. Methodists have a great story to share, and understanding that connection between the past, the present, and the future helps us tell that story to our churches and our state.

Respectfully submitted:

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