

## South Carolina Conference Historical Society

The history of South Carolina United Methodism was once compared as “diverse as the pattern of color the sun casts through the stain glass window on the pews and floors of a hundred churches on any given Sunday morning throughout” the Palmetto State. These words from Rev. Dr. A. V. Huff, Jr’s., introduction to the 1985 *A History of South Carolina United Methodism* captures a beautiful word picture of the story of the people called Methodist in South Carolina. This story is entrusted to us today.

The South Carolina Conference Historical Society seeks to celebrate, study, and preserve the rich history of Methodism in the South Carolina Conference, as well as its predecessor conferences. The Historical Society is a volunteer membership organization that works with the Conference Commission on Archives and History to promote historical preservation and awareness. It sponsors programs relating to the history of local churches as well as Methodism generally. It also seeks to support the work of archival preservation at the conference and local church levels.

The Historical Society believes its ultimate purpose is to serve as a “ministry of memory” for the Christian church as reflected in the Methodist tradition. We believe the preservation and study of history reminds us of the roots of our faith and unites us in the love of Christ through common bonds. We also recognize that the study of history is important because it teaches us how the church has functioned in the past within the contours of culture and society, providing valuable lessons for today.

The Reverend Dr. A. V. Huff, Jr., our conference historian, completed work on the listing of the South Carolina Methodist Historical Trail sites, bringing the total to forty-four sites in twenty geographical areas throughout South Carolina. Feel free to pick up a copy of the trail during our annual conference at our table and find the nearest trail marker in your area for your next adventure. We continue to contribute a column in *The South Carolina United Methodist Advocate*, publish *The Mark*, our Society newsletter, and help churches celebrate milestones in their history.

Two resources for congregations to use for teaching on South Carolina’s United Methodist History comes from two members of the Conference Society. The books are “From the Vault,” by Dr. R. Phillip Stone, the Conference Archivist, and “Recollections: Stories from My Life in the Ministry,” by the Reverend Dr. Roger M. Gramling. Both are available from the Advocate Press as well as Amazon.com. Both provide helpful insights into the history of the South Carolina Conference and its predecessor conferences.

The Historical Society elected new officers during their meeting on November 1, 2025. The Reverend Joseph D. Kovas was elected president. The Reverend Meredith M. Dark was elected vice president. The Rev. Roger M. Gramling was elected as secretary-treasurer. We are also grateful for the continued support of Dr. A. V. Huff, Jr. who serves as the editor of *The Mark*.

Rev. Joseph D. Kovas, President