THE GENERAL COMMISSION ON
ARCHIVES & HISTORY

The purpose of the commission shall be to promote and care for the historical interests of The United Methodist Church at every level.
—From The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church

REASONS TO CONNECT WITH GCAH

• Guidelines to manage local church and annual conference printed and digital records.

• Research Assistance with biographical data about past ministers and spouses and other genealogical inquiries.

• Trusted Advice on archival supplies, software programs, and storage to ensure local church and annual conference records are safe, secure, and well organized.

• Amazing Historical Images, engravings, and photos from the UM and antecedent church eras of mission and ministry.

• Information and Inspiration via Facebook posts and tweets highlight significant figures, events, and places in denominational history.

• Support for the Next Generation of United Methodist History Scholars with annual research and writing awards.

• Recognition and Support for Sacred Places with the UMC’s Historic Site and Heritage Landmark program.

• See for Yourself by touring GCAH’s state-of-the-art facility housing more than 2 miles of United Methodist archival records. Confirmation classes and youth, adult, men’s, and women’s groups are all welcome!

Consider a Donation! GCAH does a great deal with a small budget. Friends’ and supporters’ gifts are invaluable to sustain this ministry.

DID YOU KNOW?
GGAH uses less than 1% of the UMC’s budget to process and care for precious records that equal the height of a 19-story building each year.
Organized in 1968, the General Commission on Archives and History (GCAH) is a general agency of The United Methodist Church.

WHAT WE DO
By preserving and promoting the past, GCAH helps the UMC engage the present and envision the future. GCAH serves as the denomination’s storytellers and history detectives. As the keepers of the church’s records, GCAH provides historical context and insight to help denominational leadership at all levels in the visioning, planning, and programming of the UMC. The outreach of GCAH’s ministry of memory is achieved in several ways.

We offer research services, publications, workshops, and other programs to local churches and annual conferences. The Commission maintains vital relationships with the Jurisdictional and Central Conference Commissions on Archives and History, the World Methodist Historical Society, the Historical Society of the UMC, the African American Methodist Heritage Center, the Committee for the Study of Hispanic/Latino UMC History, and the World Methodist Council.

Methodist History, the official historical journal of the UMC, is published by GCAH quarterly. The 64-page peer-reviewed publication seeks to provide the latest research on the historical life and work of the church. Find subscription forms for the printed and digital editions and access to back issues at www.gcah.org.

THE UNITED METHODIST ARCHIVES & HISTORY CENTER
Opened in 1982, the Archives & History Center contains a spacious archival vault, library, museum, and the administrative offices of GCAH. The Center houses a large collection of books, documents, records, photographs, and artifacts related to UM history.

ARCHIVES
• General agency and Council of Bishops records
• Conference journals from across the global connection
• Individuals’ papers
• Historical denominational documents
• Important collections pertaining to women and ethnic minorities
• TV, film, and radio programs
• Missionary photo collections—100,000+ images

LIBRARY
• Joint collections of GCAH and Drew University

• One of the largest collections of Methodist materials in the world kept on site
• Manuscripts of John Wesley and 18th-century Evangelical Revival associates
• Extensive publications relating to early American Methodist, Evangelical, and United Brethren churches
• Important collections related to women and ethnic minorities
• Open to pastors, laypeople, students of all ages, scholars, historians, and genealogists

READING ROOM
• Comfortable work space and microform reader/scanners
• Additional scanning services provided by GCAH staff

MUSEUM
• Historical treasures of United Methodism
• Historically themed exhibits
• Open to confirmation and church school classes, women’s and men’s organizations, and other church and community groups