

2024 MMSC UCC Heritage Covenanted Ministry Report

The Heritage Covenanted Ministry (CM) is charged with assisting the Missouri Mid-South Conference and its local churches and other UCC entities in connecting with their historical roots in the United Church of Christ and its predecessor denominations, as well as honoring certain milestone anniversaries of our clergy and churches.

Heritage CM Activities of the Past Year

An ongoing focus of Heritage CM has been recognizing churches and clergy with significant anniversaries each year. Normally, these honorees would be recognized at the Conference Annual Gathering. Due to the on-line only nature of this year's Conference Annual Gathering, there is no in-person presentation to the body as a whole. Therefore, the Heritage CM will recognize all five 50-year honorees in each of the Fall Association meetings. Brief biographies, including photos, of the honorees can be found in the CAG materials online.

This year we honor five pastors who are celebrating their 50th anniversary of ordination:

- Brian Crousore
- Anton Jacobs
- Karen Redman
- Steven Redman
- Ann Asper Wilson

The Conference does not have any churches that have reached a milestone anniversary (defined as number of years divisible by 25) this year. An honorable mention is Immanuel UCC, Holstein, which celebrated its 185th anniversary this summer.

We grieve the loss of and give thanks for the ministries of the following clergy members who have passed on this year:

- Joan C. Dippel
- Mary Ruth Harris
- Ellen Harriet Hiatt
- Brian Q. Newcomb
- Deborah J. Pope

The Heritage CM stays informed of the activities of UCC Historical Council, the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, its archives at Lancaster Seminary, and the Evangelical Archives at Eden Seminary. We endeavor to preserve and share the history of our churches and related organizations.

At the request of Heritage CM, Scott Holl, the Eden Seminary Archivist, has written a helpful booklet for congregations called "Records Management and Archival Preservation in the Congregation". It has four parts: "Managing Records", "Historical Archives in the Congregation", "Preservation Practices" and "Institutional Archives". Copies will be emailed to congregations upon request to Joy Dressel at Jdressel1659@gmail.com.

As churches change their relationships with their buildings, it is good to know that the Archives at Eden Theological Seminary is available as a home for important church records. It offers a secure, organized, climate-controlled home for important archives from all MMSC churches.

We are participating in the Camp Connections project of the Creating Communities Ministry by archiving the camp memories that have been submitted by campers of years past and 2024 Camp MoVal campers.

Heritage CM Plans for the Future

We are willing to help any churches that might be considering closing with some congregational “estate planning” to preserve their histories and celebrate their legacies.

If you have an interest in joining the Heritage CM, contact one of the members listed below. We have daytime meetings via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Dressel, Chair of Heritage Covenanted Ministry

Heritage CM Members during the Past Year

Joy Dressel, Chair and Liaison to Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society

Michael Boddy, Consultant and Liaison to Eden Archives

Steve Buchholz

Marie Haupt

Scott Holl, Eden Archivist and Liaison to UCC Historical Council

Jeanne Lischer, Vice Chair

Dale Parson

Gary Schulte, Historical Secretary, through 8/2024

William Schwab, Recording Secretary