

## **2025 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. In previous years, these honorees were recognized in a presentation at the Conference Annual Gathering. With the shorter, one-day Conference Annual Gathering, there is no in-person presentation to the body as a whole. The Heritage CM is recognizing the honorees in each of the Fall Association meetings, when possible, and an anniversary display will be set up for viewing at the Conference Annual Gathering at William Woods University. Anniversary church and agency histories and brief biographies, including photos, of the honorees can also be found in the CAG materials online.

This year we honor two pastors who are celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination.

- Robert Hicks (SLA)
- Samuel Roethemeyer (EA)

Two churches have significant anniversaries.

- St John UCC, Emma, MO (WA) is celebrating 175 years of service.
- St. Peter's UCC, Owensville, MO (EA) postponed their celebration a year and is now celebrating 150 years of service.

Two of our institutions have significant anniversaries.

- Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves, MO (SLA) has been committed to theological education and the church's mission of service for 175 years.
- Cape Albeon Retirement Community in Valley Park, MO (SLA), at age 25, is the most recent version of what Louis Nollau started in 1886 as the Good Samaritan Hospital.

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

- Ronald Williams
- Sally Ketterer
- Frederick "Fred" Kruse
- Felicia Scott
- Hale Schroer
- Ivan Horn
- Robert "Bob" Cantrell
- John "J.C." Dollar

The Heritage CM stays informed of the activities of UCC Historical Council, the E&R Library and Archives in Lancaster, 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 the 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.

### **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 for the Past Year**

Joy Dressel, Chair and Liaison to the E&R Library and Archives  
Michael Boddy, Consultant and Liaison to Eden Archives  
Steve Buchholz  
Marie Haupt  
Scott Holl, Eden Archivist and Liaison to UCC Historical Council  
Donne Kendrick Philips  
Jeanne Lischer, Vice Chair  
Dale Parson  
William Schwab, Recording Secretary