



NEJCAH member conferences:

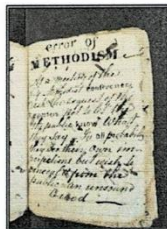
Baltimore-Washington ~ Eastern Pennsylvania ~ Greater New Jersey ~ New England ~ New York ~ Peninsula-Delaware ~ Susquehanna ~ Upper New York ~ West Virginia ~ Western Pennsylvania



Washington Crossing the Delaware



Capt. Thomas Webb



Methodist notes



Old Tennent Church

NEJCAH mid-May 2026 meeting in Princeton, NJ area



Princeton Theological Seminary logo

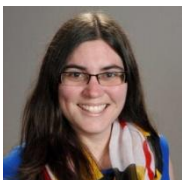
UMC'S NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTIONAL COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

A MINISTRY OF MEMORY

Around NORTHEASTERN JURISDICTION

AWARDS: At the September 18-19, 2025 virtual annual board meeting of the *General Commission on Archives and History (GCAH)*, the **Distinguished Service Award** was presented to the *African American Methodist Heritage Center (AAMHC)* on its 25th anniversary of establishment to help promote and preserve the history of Black Methodists. The General Commission on Archives and History (GCAH) houses AAMHC's holdings. See a video on AAMHC at <https://www.facebook.com/reel/2348147715597696>.

The Board awarded its 2nd annual **Contemporary History Trailblazer Award** to the Rev. Dr. Bonnie J. McCubbin for her historical findings/promotions, such as creative in-person and virtual pilgrimages. She calls herself a "trail-restorer," "drawing attention to the practices that shaped and formed us for

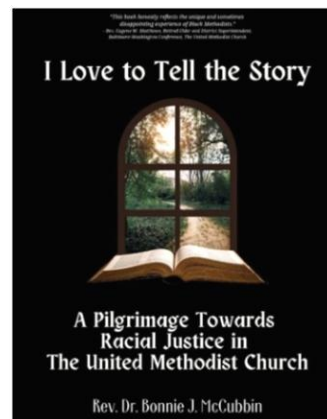


so many generations" so the future can likewise be shaped and formed.

The Rev. Dr. Bonnie McCubbin is Director of Museums and Pilgrimage/Conference Archivist for the **Baltimore-Washington Conference** and pastor of *Historic Old Otterbein United Methodist Church* in Baltimore, MD. Rev. McCubbin is Vice-President of the *Historical Society of the United Methodist Church* and also of the *Northeastern Jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History*.

Pastor Bonnie's new book "*I Love to Tell the Story: A Pilgrimage Towards Racial Justice in The United Methodist Church*" (released on February 2, 2026) grew from personal experiences and a dissertation for a Doctor of Ministry program in Pilgrimage and Spirituality.

"When did you first realize you were Black?" With this question, Rev. Dr. Bonnie McCubbin begins a pilgrimage through one of The United Methodist Church's most significant reckonings.



The United Methodist Church has renewed its **call to dismantle racism**. *I Love to Tell the Story* explores how a denomination that once condemned slavery became divided by segregation through the creation of the **Central Jurisdiction**, and how its dissolution in the 1960s reshaped the church's identity. Drawing on *oral histories and historical research*, McCubbin uncovers the human stories behind institutional change, revealing both courage and complicity. Part of the book can be read at <https://www.amazon.com/Love-Tell-Story-Pilgrimage-Methodist/dp/1966655649> (click *Read Sample*). If you seek wisdom for the church's continuing journey toward justice and want to read more, order where a smaller cut is taken such as <https://tehomcenter.org/books/>.

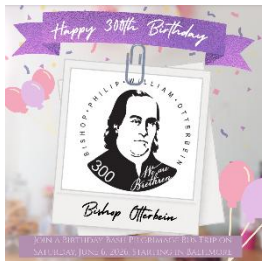
Maine Methodist JUBILEE

The New England Commission on Archives & History and the New England United Methodist Historical Society are celebrating the bicentennial of UMC Heritage Landmark Cox Memorial UMC in Hallowell, Maine with a *Maine Methodist Jubilee April 17 & 18, 2026*. The church is named for Rev. Melville B. Cox, the first American Methodist foreign missionary who served in Liberia. See

<https://coxmemorialumc.org/about/>.

The Maine Methodist Jubilee registration form can be found at <https://neumc-reg.brtapp.com/MEJubilee>.

Bishop Otterbein 300th Birthday Bash Pilgrimage Celebration



2026 marks the 300th Anniversary of Bishop Otterbein's birth on June 3, 1726.

The Baltimore-Washington Conference will mark the occasion with a celebration June 6 & 7, 2026 at Old Otterbein UMC in Baltimore and other Maryland sites.

Saturday, June 6, the day starts at Old Otterbein UMC (112 W. Conway St., Baltimore, MD) for tours of the *Mother Church of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ* that Bishop Philip William Otterbein served for more than 39 years. A lecture on United Brethren history will be given, and the artifacts from the 2023 excavation of *Bishop Otterbein's cottage* will be on display for the first time.

After lunch, board a bus and head out to Western Maryland to visit the **Salem UMC**, the *legacy congregation of the Geeting Meetinghouse* (the oldest United Brethren Congregation) and tour the **original UB Cemetery, Mt. Hebron**. Additional drive-by stops will be included. The cost of the day is \$50. 8:30am-4:30pm.

Sunday, June 7, is "*Otterbein Sunday*," which was held on the first Sunday in June in United Brethren congregations as a *heritage Sunday*. This year, the worship service at Old Otterbein UMC will feature hymns that were found in the last English EUB hymnal before the 1968 merger, scripture read in German, and a procession to Bishop Otterbein's grave to lay flowers. The day will conclude with a German lunch and singing "Happy Birthday," complete with cake. There is no charge for the day, but registration is requested for planning purposes.

Registration will open mid-March. Check <https://www.bwcumc.org/> (Events or News) or <https://www.bwcumc.org/about/history-archives/history/>. Rev. Dr. Bonnie McCubbin (bmccubbin@bwcumc.org), Director of Museums & Pilgrimage, is participating.

President's Message

... by Brand Eaton



Greetings to the constituents of the NEJCAH!

As we approach the 250th anniversary of the United States, what better place for the *Northeastern Jurisdiction Commission on Archives and History* to hold its annual meeting but the great state of New Jersey? So much of our Colonial Era, Revolutionary War, and Early National Period history as a nation transpired where we will meet, tour, and find our minds and hearts enlarged and enriched by the speakers and presenters that will share with us during our meeting this coming May 12-14, 2026.

I confess that I have not been able to be present at every annual meeting during the twenty-five years I have been affiliated with my annual conference Commission on Archives and History. Nevertheless, I want to encourage you to make every effort to be present at the 2026 NEJCAH Annual Meeting if you can and be part of this important time.

The NEJCAH Executive Committee and I are aware that some of you will be

prevented because of a conflict with the session of your annual conference this year meeting on the second week of May. We also realize that *financial support from your CCAH* may no longer substantially underwrite your costs, thus making the decision to attend difficult. There are *limited scholarship funds available from the NEJCAH* for individuals from under-represented ethnic and age groups. *Continuing education funds through your local church* may also offer a source of funding. But, if there is some personal sacrifice involved, please weigh it carefully and consider how your attendance enriches the group experience as a whole and contributes to our life together.

For all of your efforts in the "*Ministry of Memory*" through your local congregations, conference Commissions on Archives and History, and the various other contexts in which your gifts are employed in lifting up the stories of The United Methodist Church and its predecessor denominations, thank you!

And God bless you in your work.

NEJCAH Meeting May 12-14, 2026 in Greater New Jersey Conference

The 2026 annual meeting of the **Northeastern Jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History (NEJCAH)** will be held **Tuesday, May 12 to Thursday, May 14, 2026** in central New Jersey, hosted by the *Greater New Jersey Conference Commission on Archives and History* and (on Tuesday & Thursday) the *Pennington United Methodist Church* (60 Main Street, Pennington, NJ 08534; <https://www.pumcnj.com/>). Sign in at the church (unless just registering for tour).

The overall program theme is: **"Saving the Soul of Our Nation, State, and Church."**

**The Northeastern Jurisdictional
Commission on Archives and History
Annual Meeting May 12 - 14, 2026**

Saving the Soul of Our Nation, State, and Church

Hosted by the Greater New Jersey Conference Commission on Archives and History
and the Pennington United Methodist Church

Registration - Four Different Options:

_____ **\$ 75.00 - Day One only (Faith Forum) - Tuesday, May 12, 2026**
Pennington United Methodist Church, 60 Main St., Pennington, NJ 08534

_____ **\$ 90.00 - Day Two only (Historical Tour) – Wednesday, May 13, 2026**
Bus departs 8:30 a.m. from Courtyard by Marriott Ewing/Princeton,
360 Scotch Road, Ewing, NJ 08628

_____ **\$ 150.00 - All 3 Days (Full NEJCAH Annual Meeting – Will Book Conf. Hotel)**
Tuesday, May 12 to Thursday, May 14, 2026 inclusive
Includes a \$50 rebate for those who book lodging at the conference hotel.

_____ **\$ 200.00* - All 3 Days (Full NEJCAH Annual Meeting – Not Booking Conf. Hotel)**
Tuesday, May 12 to Thursday, May 14, 2026 inclusive
Discounted price for registrations received before April 11, 2026.
****Registration after April 11th reverts to the full rate of \$250.00.***

\$ _____ Total Enclosed

Make check payable to: Greater New Jersey Conference
Write “Archives and History – NEJCAH2026” in the memo line

Name _____ Annual Conference _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____ Email _____

Personal Concerns: dietary restrictions, food allergies, mobility, transportation from/to airport, etc.

We will offer limited, complimentary, transportation from the Trenton-Mercer Airport and the AMTRAC Station in nearby Trenton, New Jersey if you make us aware of your need and travel plans in advance during registration.

Scholarship Application - Northeastern Jurisdictional Commission on Archives & History

Scholarships are for registration fees ONLY. You (or your conference) are responsible for travel and lodging costs, as applicable. Please note that filling out the application does NOT guarantee that you will be awarded a scholarship. We have limited funds and will prioritize first-time attendees and/or those who are underrepresented or unrepresented in our traditional meetings, including, but not limited to BIPOC persons and/or those under 40 years of age.

Applications are kept confidential and you will be notified of your status after the Scholarship Application Deadline, but prior to the registration deadline each year.

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Annual Conference: _____

Local Church: _____

Clergy Laity

Have you attended a NEJCAH Annual Meeting before? Yes No

If yes, how many times? _____

Are you a member of your Conference Commission on Archives and History (CCAH) or Historical Society?

Yes No

Do you identify as BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, Person of Color)? Yes No

Are you age 40 or younger? Yes No

Have you asked your church or conference to assist in funding your trip? If so, what was their response? As clergy, can you use continuing education funds?

What do you hope to learn from the conference? What will you contribute to the group?

How do you plan to share what you learn when you return home?

Is there additional information or extenuating circumstances that you would like the *NEJCAH Executive Team* to know about?

*Thank you for your application. Please **email** it to nejarchiveshistory@gmail.com by the deadline listed in the NEJCAH Bulletin each year. For 2026, the deadline is March 15.*

**QUICK INFORMATION ON MAY 12-14,
2026 NEJCAH MEETING**



Meals – *Breakfasts* are not included. *Dinners* on Tuesday and Wednesday are included, along with *Thursday's boxed lunch and breaks* at the church on Tuesday & Thursday.

Participants **need to bring money for Wednesday's tour lunch** at a New Jersey diner which is on their own. Coffee shops will also be sometimes available.

Day One – Tuesday afternoon, May 12, 2026 - Faith Forum: Striving to End the Sin of Racism in Church and State: Contemporary and Historical Methodist Perspectives

- **Opening Worship** with preacher **Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi**, Resident Bishop, EPA & GNJ Episcopal Area
- Keynote speaker **Bishop Ernest S. Lyght**, Northeastern Jurisdiction (Retired) on **"My Personal Memories of the Delaware Conference of the Central Jurisdiction: What the Black Church gained and lost during integration, and what gifts it gave to the wider Church"**
- Keynote speaker **Rupert A. Hall, Jr. JD**, CEO and Founder of Hope For The City Foundation in Trenton, NJ on: **"Economic Justice in Church and Society"**
- **Archives Workshop** led by **Kevin Dusenberry**, Digital Archivist, General Commission on Archives and History and Archivist, GNJ Commission on Archives and History
- after Dinner, **NEJCAH Business Meeting** (includes conference reports) & **General Commission on Archives and History (GCAH) Report**

Day Two - Wednesday, May 13, 2026 – Historical Tour: Saving the Soul of Our Nation and State

The bus loads and unloads at *Courtyard by Marriot Ewing/Princeton* (see registration form for location) – The coach is scheduled to leave at 8:30 a.m. and return about 9:00 p.m. Besides drive-bys, the tour includes stops at:

- **Washington's Crossing State Park**
- **Turning Point UMC** (successor to the Green Street MEC), Trenton, NJ
- **Route 1 Diner** in Lawrenceville, NJ for Lunch on Your Own (<https://www.route1diner.com/>)
- **Princeton Theological Seminary** with tours of the Library and Archives
- **Historic Tenant Church** tour, Freehold, NJ
- **Monmouth Battlefield State Park**, Freehold, NJ
- **Meadow Lakes**, East Windsor, NJ (<https://meadowlakesonline.org/>) with **Dinner** and **Keynote** address by the **Rev. Dr. Kevin Newburg**, Ph.D., Associate Teaching Professor in the History of Christianity and Methodist Studies, The Theological School, Drew University, Madison, NJ on **"Captain Webb's Ministry in Central New Jersey and the Growth of the Methodist Episcopal Church"**

Day Three – Thursday morning, May 14, 2026: Closing of NEJCAH Annual Meeting

- Continuation of NEJCAH Business Meeting
- **Closing Worship** (includes memorial remembrance) followed by **Bag Lunch and Departure**

=====

A 15-page color flyer on the May NEJCAH meeting was emailed on January 20 to persons for whom the Editor has a current email. If you want a (or another) copy, email nancy_e_rutenber@yahoo.com.

A NEJCAH meeting registration form – (or apply via online link) - and NEJCAH scholarship application follow.

NEJCAH MAY 12-14 ANNUAL MEETING

To register by mail, send a copy of the completed NEJCAH 2026 registration to:

**Rev. Donald DeGroat, Registrar
PO Box 25, Long Pond, PA 18334**

To register and pay online, click on the link below or copy & paste into browser: <https://www.shelbygiving.com/App/Form/e8975f9b-7a0e-4ee7-8dob-835b16134516>

If you have any questions, please call Don at 570-646-9298 or email him at: dfdegroat4@aol.com.

Lodging: Lodging is your own choice. However, GNJ strongly recommends that you use the conference hotel. **They have a block of rooms at the Courtyard by Marriot Ewing/Princeton**, 360 Scotch Road, Ewing, NJ 08628, just minutes to the meeting location at Pennington United Methodist Church. This is desirable since **New Jersey rush hours** on the Rt. 1 corridor near Trenton and Princeton are **typically measured in hours per mile** rather than miles per hour.

The rooms are available at the *discount rate* of \$134.00 per night, plus tax, for three nights with arrival on Monday, May 11, 2026 and departure on Thursday, May 14, 2026. **The discount rate is extremely reasonable for the New Jersey and Princeton markets** (as normal rate is \$179/night for mid-week reservations). **The last day to book a room at the discount rate is Saturday, April 11, 2026.**

Please book your lodging directly with the *Courtyard Marriott Ewing Princeton* by calling the hotel at 1-844-631-0595 or register online at GNJCAH's Marriott reservation link: <https://app.marriott.com/reslink?id=1767626564787&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

**A Warm Welcome Awaits You
in New Jersey!**

**NEJCAH BULLETIN NOTES
PLEASE UPDATE CONTACTS**

The Bulletin's *mailed* newsletter is printed in black and white. Those who have a current email on file normally receive an *electronic version* in color, as well as some other materials.

Please share corrections in address and email with the Editor.

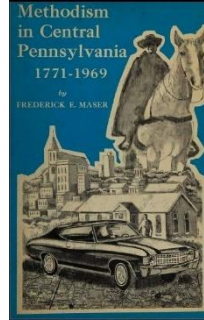
NEJCAH Officers elected 5/2024

President: Brand Eaton (SUS), beaton@susumc.org; Vice-President: Bonnie McCubbin (BW), bmcubbin@bwcumc.org;
 Secretary: Matthew Loyer (SUS), mloyer@susumc.org; Treasurer: Phil Lawton (PD), plawton302@gmail.com;
 Archivist: Barb Duffin (PD), barratts@aol.com; Bulletin Editor/s: Nancy Rutenber (UNY), nancy_e_rutenber@yahoo.com;
 Past President: Earle Baker (PD), enbaker54@gmail.com; At Large: Donald DeGroat (GNJ), dfdegroat4@aol.com
 & Rubert Hall (GNJ), rupert.hall@comcast.net & Kun Chon 'K.C.' Lee (PD), sichurnjoo@gmail.com

Subscription requests and address changes should be sent to the Editor. Include (prior) address, full zip code and any email.

Susquehanna Conference UMC Historical Society has sometimes used the slogan "Telling the Story into the Future." Their first online-only issue of The Chronicle, which can be seen at <https://umarch.lycoming.edu/chronicles/2025/THE%20CHRONICLE%2025.html>, is dedicated to the Rev. Dr. Charles F. Berkheimer who was the historian of the Central Pennsylvania Conference of

the Methodist Church until his death in 1968. Frederick E. Maser completed Berkheimer's centennial history which was published 1971 as *Methodism in Central Pennsylvania 1771 – 1969*.



May NEJCAH MEETING REMINDERS

To register and pay GNJ online, click on the link below or copy & paste into browser: <https://www.shelbygiving.com/App/Form/e8975f9b-7a0e-4ee7-8dob-835b16134516>

Please book your lodging directly with the Courtyard Marriott Ewing Princeton by calling the hotel at 1-844-631-0595 or register online at GNJCAH's Marriott reservation link: <https://app.marriott.com/reslink?id=1767626564787&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

NEJCAH Bulletin

Winter/Spring 2026, #196

UMC Historic Sites

<http://gcqh.org/directories/register-of-united-methodist-historic-sites>

(RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED)

PRSRST STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #220
Albany, NY

Newsletter Editor
Nancy Rutenber
 18 Briarwood Ter.
 Albany, NY 12203-5309
nancy_e_rutenber@yahoo.com