

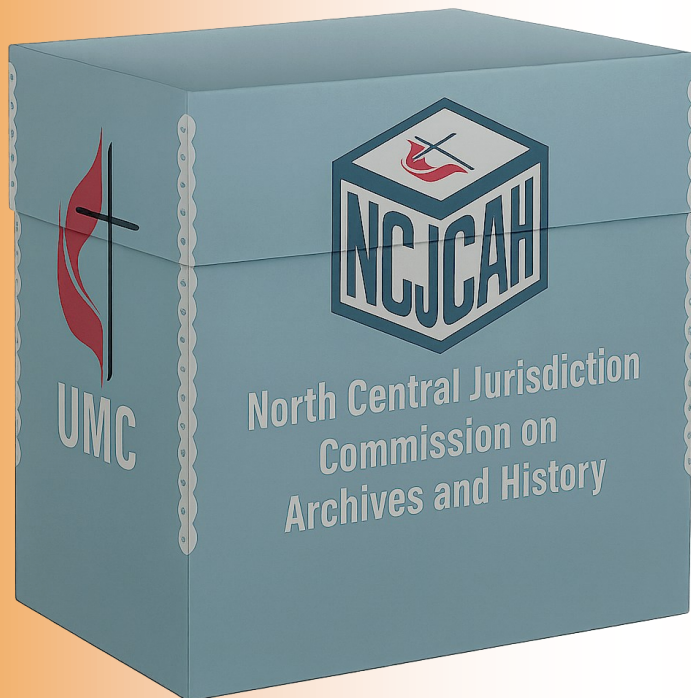
SAVE THE DATES.....

October 5-8, 2026

**Annual Convocation
North Central Jurisdiction Commission
on Archives & History
of The United Methodist Church**

**Dubuque, Iowa (our primary accommodation
will be the Shalom Spirituality Center)**

**Jointly sponsored by 4 Annual Conferences
(Iowa, Northern Illinois, Wisconsin, and
Minnesota).**



2026 Convocation

Topic to be explored:

***Sprung Forth From the
Northwest Ordinance and
Louisiana Purchase:
Emergent Methodism in
the Upper Mississippi
River Basin***

**For more information and description
of the plans see [www.umcnic.org/
historyarchives](http://www.umcnic.org/historyarchives)**

2026 Annual Convocation

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North Central Jurisdiction Commission on Archives & History of the United Methodist Church

In the organizational structure of the Church's Ministry of Memory (from the General Commission on Archives and History to the local church), the annual Convocation is the place (since the 1970's) where Annual Conference Commissions on Archives and History report on status, progress, and issues. An opportunity to expand on the Conference Historical Reports, these records of your Commission and Archives are held in the Jurisdictional Archives at DePauw University in Indiana (giving us another repository to maintain the record of our activities).

The Convocation gives us the opportunity, in both formal and informal settings, as people involved in Commissions and Archives across the North Central Jurisdiction to support one another, share ideas and resources, and get to know one another face-to-face.

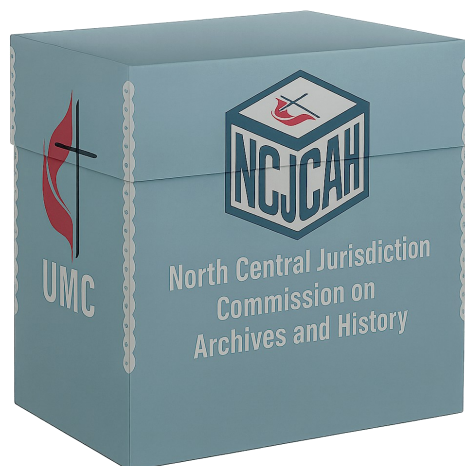
The Convocation will explore things "Methodist" on the ground where they happened. In this regard, the 2026 Convocation, "*Sprung Forth From the Northwest Ordinance and Louisiana Purchase: Emergent Methodism in the Upper Mississippi River Basin*" will examine the beginnings of Methodism in a unique area that was both united (and divided) by the Mississippi. Situated in the "driftless region," a portion of the Midwest untouched by the glaciers of the last Ice Age, this is a land of wooded hills and valleys (which we hope will be stunning in Autumn foliage).

To illustrate Methodist history in the region embraced by four Annual Conferences, visits are planned in Iowa (St. Luke's UMC Dubuque, oldest church in the Iowa Conference, with its Tiffany windows), in Illinois (Galena UMC, home church of Ulysses and Julia Grant), and Wisconsin (Platteville, Mineral Point, and Linden UMC, a church built by Cornish miners in the lead mining region who patterned their chapel after their home chapels in Cornwall). We will also hear about early Methodism in Minnesota.

On the final day, we will visit the award-winning National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, including a one-hour boat tour on the Mississippi itself. While the program is still under construction, it can only get more exciting from here.

The Committee looks forward to seeing you in Dubuque next October! Planning committee:

Thelma Boeder, Jonathan Cooney, Carla Evers, Heidi Heller, Carol Noren, Dale Schoening, Marilyn Steenwyk, Daniel Swinson, Richard Wang, Cate Whitcomb, Melanie Young, Steven Zekoff



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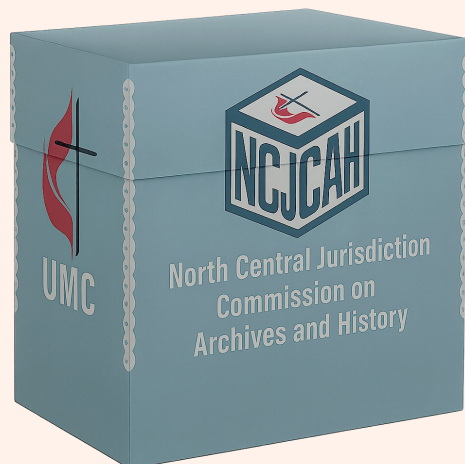
This is the first of several updates/teasers about the upcoming NCJCAH 2026 Convocation. Future issues will present information about Iowa (St. Luke's UMC Dubuque), Minnesota (a description of their presentation), Illinois (Galena), and perhaps others.

When the Methodist Episcopal Rock River Conference was established separate from the Illinois Conference its preaching points included those in the Wisconsin Territory until 1848 and Wisconsin statehood. The Convocation travel day will include stops at three congregations which grew out of those early gatherings in the lead mining region of SW Wisconsin. The initial work in the 19th Century was part of the Galena Circuit.

Platteville was the site of the second session of the Rock River Conference in 1841. Our visit will include lunch in its 20th Century facility and a presentation by James Hibbard, Archivist at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. Mr. Hibbard will be talking about incidents of slavery in the region despite it being prohibited by the Northwest Ordinance. The history includes ownership of slaves by early pastor James T. Mitchell whose wife had received two slave girls as a wedding present.

The second Wisconsin stop will be **Mineral Point**, which takes claim for erecting the first Protestant building in the state. The earliest religious services in the area were held in the cabin of a pioneer miner-preacher in 1828. The architecture of the 1871 stone building will be enjoyed during this stop.

The **Linden** UMC is a national historic place. Cornish miners who settled the community built the chapel, complete with raised pulpit, in 1851. When the seating needed expansion a gallery was added in 1870, supported by Doric pillars. Its family-style pews with swing doors remain. The architecture reflects that of Methodist houses of worship the miners had known in the British Isles.



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