

2026 Annual Convocation

October 5-8, 2026

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

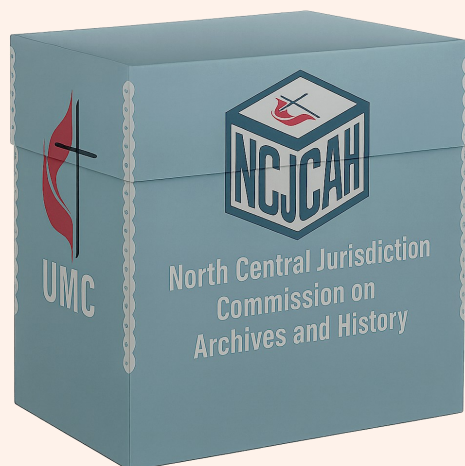
This is the first of several updates/teasers about the upcoming NCJCAH 2026 Convocation. Future issues will present information about Iowa (St. Luke's UMC Dubuque), Minnesota (a description of their presentation), Illinois (Galena), and perhaps others.

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.



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