

New York Annual Conference
Commission on Archives and History

Activities Report for 2021-22

The New York CAH has been busy despite COVID restrictions.

In 2020 we hosted a workshop led by professional storytellers Sheila Arnold and Donald Davis. Although the planned live workshop was modified due to COVID, the virtual version of the workshop was a great success; Sheila and Donald presented moving and thought-provoking stories, which included stories and discussions reflecting experiences with racism... A video recording of the entire workshop was produced, and in 2021 the CAH will build on this by having the video recording professionally edited to a shorter version that can be distributed for adult education and other purposes. In 2021 the CAH will also work on a guide to historic sites within our Conference. Rather than a printed booklet, CAH will focus on producing a virtual online resource of historic sites that can be modified and built upon in the future. CAH has also refined the focus of this project to emphasize historic places that tell the stories of the Black, Hispanic and Asian churches and congregations in the conference.

In 2022, we propose to build on the work we did in 2020 and 2021 by presenting a half-day version of the storytelling workshop featuring nationally renowned storyteller Bil Lepp (www.leppstorytelling.com). Storytelling helps listeners stand in the shoes of others and we plan to present a program that will address racism and help attendees to learn how to use the power of story to fight racism.

Bil Lepp has agreed to do an in-person storytelling workshop for \$3,000, and we plan to record and edit the workshop for educational distribution at a cost of \$3000, for a total of \$6000. Alternatively, if at that time we need to present the workshop via Zoom, Bil has agreed to present for \$1500, with additional costs of \$2000 for webinar technical support from the video company plus \$2500 for editing for educational distribution after the workshop, for a total of \$6000.

In 2022 the CAH will also continue to build on the virtual historic sites resource initiated in 2021, adding additional sites and ensuring that this resource documents the wide diversity of our Annual Conference. Historic sites may include places such as First Spanish UMC in Manhattan, which was occupied twice by the Young Lords in the late 1960s; the historic Black churches Salem UMC and St. Mark's UMC in Harlem; Washington Square UMC in Manhattan, known as the "Peace Church"; and the Korean Methodist Church and Institute, the first Korean Methodist church on the eastern seaboard. In particular we want to highlight the African American and LGBTQI communities, with emphasis on the contributions of diverse clergy and laity in our region.