History Projects
for the Local Church

When an anniversary of a church founding, building or other event is approaching, it can be enjoyable and instructive to conduct a project or two to involve members in their church's history. The following are some examples of projects that local United Methodist Churches have had success with in the past.

1. Write or update your history

2. Research and honor the founders of your church, both ministers and laymen

3. Conduct studies in Sunday School or a special topics class on the history or historical issues of the United Methodist Church

4. Conduct an old-style camp meeting on the church grounds or another appropriate site

5. Designate several Sundays during the year for special historical services. These could replicate services from the past in your church or be in a historic United Methodist style

6. Plant a memorial tree or trees on the grounds to recognize a local church anniversary date or people important to your church's history

7. Prepare an exhibit or exhibits in a high visibility location in your church on your church's history

8. Include short articles or historical facts relating to your church's history for the church newsletter

9. Recognize long-time members of your congregation

10. Conduct oral history interviews*

11. Hold an old fashioned hymn sing

12. Use costumed historical characters to celebrate anniversaries of events in your church's history

13. Design a questionnaire that will record the family histories of each member

14. Design and make an anniversary quilt

15. Hold a photography day to digitally scan members' photographs of church activities

16. Invite former ministers to record their memories of your church

17. Take part in local festivals

* For more information, please visit the Archives Web site at www.depauw.edu/library/archives or contact the archives

[Methodist\Histprojects.pdf 5/28/02 4/12/2013]