

# INDIANA UNITED METHODIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## NEWSLETTER

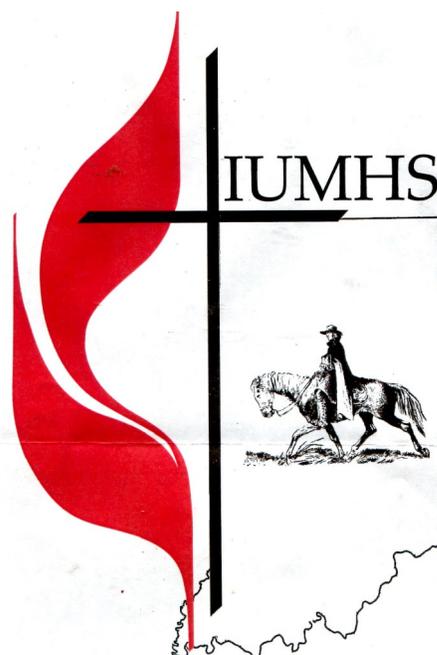
### ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD AT UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS INDIANAPOLIS SATURDAY, APRIL 14

The Indiana United Methodist Historical Society will hold its annual meeting at University Heights UM Church, 4002 Otterbein Drive, Indianapolis, on April 14. The church is located across the street from the University of Indianapolis campus (1400 East Hanna). Registration starts at 9:00. The program will begin at 9:30.

The focus in this year's meeting will be "Fifty Years as a United Methodist Church: In Celebration of the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren Merger." It was in the Spring of 1968 that both the Methodist General Conference and the Evangelical United Brethren Church (EUB) General Conference voted to merge to become the United Methodist Church.

This year's program will feature remembrances of both churches before merger, some of the joys and difficulties of the merger process, and the church as we know it after merger.

In addition there will be afternoon workshops on "Doing Oral History for Your Church" and a short business meeting.



*University Heights United Methodist Church Indianapolis*

### Schedule for the April 14th Annual Meeting Indiana United Methodist Historical Society

University Heights United Methodist Church

- 9:00 A.M. **Registration, coffee, and refreshments**
- 9:30 **Welcome:** Doug Davies
- 9:35 **Worship and Hymn Sing**
- 10:00 **Program:** Reflections on the Methodist EUB Merger. Various speakers with opportunities for questions and sharing
- 12:15 P.M. **Lunch** : Provided as part of registration
- Business Meeting**
- 1:15 **Oral History Workshop:**  
Wes Wilson and Susan Truax.
- 2:45 **Adjournment**
- 3:00 Story and tour of University Heights Church

[Information and Registration on back page](#)

# 2018 CELEBRATING FIFTY YEARS OF UNITED METHODISM

The program at the annual meeting of the Indiana UM Historical Society at University Heights Church in Indianapolis on April 14 will feature five presenters who will share personal experiences about what really happened during and after the 1968 Methodist-EUB merger. The merger itself was made official at a specially called General Conference held in Dallas, Texas on April 23, 1968 (see accompanying photo).

The real work of merger took place after the handshake during the years 1969 to 1972 when new structure was conceived, new leaders selected, annual conferences merged and district lines redrawn. The general agencies of both churches were basically disbanded and new general boards, divisions of general boards, commissions and committees formed. In Indiana five conferences, three Methodist and two EUB, were merged into two conferences in the state.

For some persons this was exciting. While friends were separated by the restructuring because of different district lines, new friendships were being formed. EUB and Methodist churches which had existed side by side for years were now part of the same fellowship.

There were, of course, lots of questions. What about the names of local churches especially when there were in communities two "First Churches." What about our traditions? Would EUBs simply be "swallowed up"? The six presenters at the annual meeting will share their experiences about what it was really like.

Presenters at the meeting will be:

**PHIL KLINGER** - Phil grew up in Kokomo as an EUB and was a fourth generation EUB pastor. He has fond memories of Oakwood Park. He is credited with merging two churches in West Lafayette, one Methodist and one EUB



Phil Klinger

United Methodist Church. This was probably the first EUB-Methodist local church merger after the coming together of the two denominations. Phil also served at Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary and as a district superintendent in the Warsaw District.

**CAROLYN MARSHALL** - Carolyn has for many years been a leader in the South Indiana Conference. She has been a delegate to several General Conferences and has served in on the general church level. He has been active particularly in United Methodist Women and at the present time is executive director of the Lucille Raines (see the article on the home) which was one of the ministries growing out of the merger.



*The Right Hand of Fellowship. Dallas, Texas, April 23, 1968. Bishop Reuben H Mueller representing the EUB Church (He was from Indiana and Indiana's first bishop following merger) and Lloyd C. Wicke representing the Methodist Church seal the merger with a hand shake.*

**JACOB WILLIAMS** - Jacob is presently serving as pastor of the Aldersgate UM Church in Fort Wayne. He is a former district superintendent. Jacob grew up in Trinity UM Church in Muncie, a church at one time part of the (segregated) Lexington Conference. His father J.C. Williams, was a well-known figure in the North (Methodist) conference.



*Jacob Williams*

**HERB CASSEL** - Herb has a unique perspective by which to speak to the importance of the Methodist-EUB merger as it related to Indiana Central College (now University of Indianapolis). Herb grew up in Pennsylvania as a part of the Congregational Evangelical Church, a group that chose not to enter the merger of the Evangelical Association and the Evangelical Church in 1922. He came to Indiana Central as a professor of philosophy about the time of the merger, became a United Methodist and experienced how the merger helped the college. Herb is also a past president of the South Indiana United Methodist Historical Society and past chairman of the Commission on Archives and History.

**RILEY CASE** - Riley grew up in the Indiana North Conference of the Methodist Church and spent many years at Epworth Forest and at Camp Adventure. He was living in Elkhart where at merger resulted in 16 full-time United Methodist pastors in one community of 43,000. He also served as a district superintendent and is on the board of the Indiana UM Historical Society.

**MERGER MEMORIES** - “My father was an EUB pastor. He used to joke about the Methodists, like: ‘If you don’t like it, go to the Methodist Church’ It was his joke because he knew that the two denominations were so similar it made no real difference. After the merger the joke had to end. When the merger occurred he told me the EUB seminary students would all become Elders in the new church, without extra courses, but the Methodist seminary students were going to have to take extra courses. He said it worked out for the EUBers. The next class of seminary students all had to take the same number of courses.

“When I married, my wife and I became Quakers and I felt the call to become a Quaker pastor. Quakers have lower church services than even the Methodists. I used to attend events and joke that I could dress casual like a Quaker, or dress up a bit and “dress Methodist.” Now that I am a Methodist pastor it is a joke with my wife if she thinks I haven’t dressed enough for the event she says, ‘I think you should dress Methodist for this.’”

Eric Robinson, pastor, St. Peter’s UMC, Evansville

## LUCILLE RAINES RESIDENCE— A PRODUCT OF THE METHODIST-EUB MERGER



The Methodist women before merger had a ministry Esther Hall, a home away from home for young women coming to the city for school or jobs. By the late 1960s, however, times had changed and a different kind of ministry made more sense. Thus, when women’s organizations of the five conferences in Indiana gathered to see what they could do together they conceived of a new ministry committed to addiction recovery.

As a result the United Methodists can be proud of the Lucille Raines operating under the slogan: “Reclaiming Lives—Committed to Addiction Recovery.” The ministry is owned and operated by the United Methodist Women of Indiana. The executive director is Carolyn Marshall.

## LOCAL CHURCH HISTORIANS' SCHOOL PROVING TO BE A PACESETTER IN UNITED METHODISM

For the second time in three years the Indiana Annual Conference has hosted a continuing education course for local church historians. Enrollment for the first course was limited to Hoosiers but in the Fall of 2017 the course was expanded to include participants from across United Methodism.

The course consisted of twelve weekly sessions and was conducted by email. Each lesson was accompanied by recommended activities which participants could apply in their own local churches. The course was self-paced and there were no entrance requirements, class meetings, examinations, rigid deadlines, or fees. The course was called the Local Church Historians' School, the term "school" suggesting the studies were to be taken seriously, with projects and study involved.

A total of 504 persons, including historians, archivists, and other leaders and officers from an estimated 419 churches signed up for the first two offerings. All the Jurisdictions and 31 Annual Conference were represented, including Alaska. In addition two foreign registrants joined. A Presbyterian even slipped in by a side door. Closer to home, 244 Indiana United Methodists registered for one event or the other.

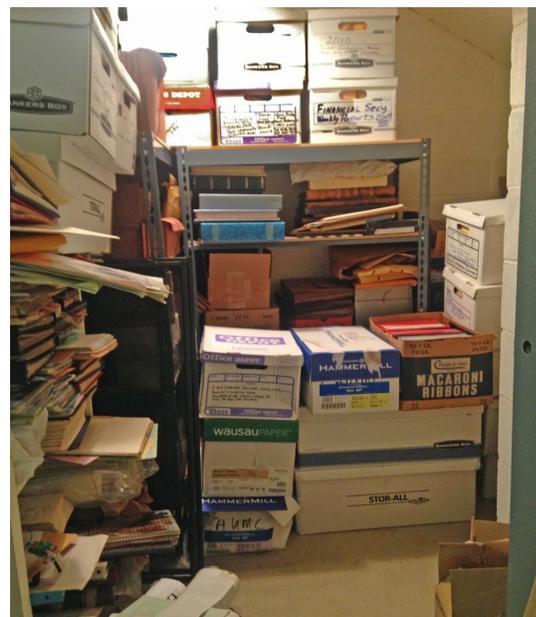
At the present time eighty-two persons have reported completing all 12 steps and those most of those not yet finished have pledged to continue working on it. Plans for future offerings have not yet been announced but those who wish to be kept informed about such plans may furnish their names and email address to the director, Richard Stowe, at [rastowe@mstar.net](mailto:rastowe@mstar.net).

Thanks to the director Richard Stowe, the Indiana Conference Commission on Archives and History, chair Dr. Donald Findlay, and the project team: Arlen Packard, Jim Hensley and Lori Gibson for this project.

### Heritage Sunday

Historians, archivists, persons who have been inspired by the great acts of God in your local church. Plan to celebrate Heritage Sunday, May 20, 2018, with testimonies, displays, and remembrances. And when you do send us a picture.

[rbcase1@gmail.com](mailto:rbcase1@gmail.com)



# THE MERGER AND CAMPING IN INDIANA UNITED METHODISM

*By Riley B. Case*

One of the trickiest problems growing out of the EUB—Methodist merger in 1968 was in sorting out and combining the youth camping programs of five different annual conferences. Some background:

The grandparent of present church camping was the frontier camp meeting. What is called the Second Great Awakening or Western Revival was launched at Cane Ridge, Kentucky, in 1801, where a great outdoor revival attracted 20,000 people. Because of the time and place the camp meeting came to Indiana with the first circuit riders. Camp meetings in the years 1810-1835 usually were held in conjunction with the fourth quarterly conference when all the people of the circuit would gather to conduct business under the direction of the presiding elder. Because some came from a distance they would stay overnight or for several nights, and, thus, the situation was right for the camp meeting.

These were wildly successful since they attracted many more people than just the people attending the quarter conference. Francis Asbury reported in 1809 that 17 camp meetings had been held in Indiana that year. Between 1810 and 1850 when the population of Indiana grew by 3924% the Methodist membership grew from 755 to 70,032 or 9137%.

By the 1850s the camp meeting was going through a transition. The earliest camp meetings were held in some church member's woods or grove of trees. Methodists, however, were ready for something better. Thus districts began to secure grounds where a "tabernacle" could be built (people who glorify outdoor meetings sometimes forget about dust, mud, mosquitos, cold, and heat). The United Brethren founded Maple Grove near Huntingburg in 1847. Santa Claus was started by German Methodists in 1852, Beech Grove (later Deputy) in 1848, Acton (Indianapolis district) in 1848, Silver Heights in 1888, Battle Ground in 1851. By the 1870s most of the ME districts in Indiana either owned or sponsored camp grounds: LaGrange (Goshen District); Bunker Hill



(Logansport District), the Muncie District, the Richmond District the Anderson District; Indiana Creek in Switzerland County, Buck Creek near Corydon, New Lebanon which served the Vincennes District. Battle Ground's tabernacle could seat 2,500.

By the 1870s persons with Christian education interests sought to redirect the emphasis on revivalism at the camp grounds. Chautauqua was started. In the early 1900s the Methodist Board of Education developed the Institute Plan, more a summer assembly than a camp meeting with classes and activities.

Meanwhile the Evangelical Church had a premier outdoor program of its own. Oakwood Park was founded in 1894 as a grounds for camp meetings. Soon the conference youth (Branch Young Peoples' Alliance) were seeing it as their own grounds. The popular Summer School of Education was in early years headed by Reuben Mueller (Indiana's first bishop after merger). It became such a popular location that after the UB-Evangelical merger in 1946 it hosted the EUB annual conferences.

Epworth League was founded in 1889 in the ME Church. By 1895 Epworth League could claim 1,250,000 members nationwide. The first state Epworth League Institute was held at Oakwood in 1916. The same year the national gathering was held at Battleground and attracted the largest Epworth League rally in the world. The Epworth League Institutes in Indiana during the 1920s regularly attracted more than 1,000 youth.

*(continued next page)*



*Epworth Forest. In the 1930s district assemblies drew 1,000*

Epworth Forest was founded in 1924 and immediately became a magnet in the North Indiana ME church for all kinds of activity. The first conference Institute in 1924 drew 1334 registrants. When the registrants reached 1,900 the decision was made to move to multiple institutes sponsored by districts. Other programs were added—the camp meeting, laboratory schools, camps for youth, the assembly (Womens' Society School of Missions), YoPeMiCa (Young People's Missionary Camp), and choir school. Leaders of the programs were often some of the leading pastors and lay people of the conference. The first institutes were for all ages, but gradually they developed age-appropriate programming. Throughout the 1940s, 50s, and 60s, the main emphasis at Epworth Forest was the Senior High Institute. Mr. George Fenstermacher, grandfather of Ed and Mark Fenstermacher, was the full-director of the program in those years.

The merger brought a number of challenges. First, the number of properties. The North Indiana Methodists contributed three properties to the merger: Epworth Forest (which included the Island Camp for elementary children), Epworth Heights (Camp Adventure for junior highs) and Epworth Hills, property to be developed for elementary children. Northwest conference contributed Battle Ground (senior high youth) and Pine Creek. South Indiana had Santa Claus and Rivervale. EUB North offered Oakwood and Lakeside and Asherwood. South Indiana EUBs contributed IndeMoSo. There were too many properties. Some would have to be sold. But which ones?

Secondly, the condition of the properties. The North Indiana Methodists had in the early 1960s raised and spent 1.3 million dollars to make Epworth Forest, Epworth Heights and Epworth Hills one of the finest church camp facilities in the denomination. Nearby Oakwood Park was for EUBs not only the center for youth programming but for many of the programs of the EUBs, including the sessions of the annual conference.



Rivervale Auditorium 1950s



Thirdly, the philosophy of the camping programs varied greatly. Camps for the EUBs were conference planned and administered. The North Methodist Conference thrived under district programming. EUB camps emphasized real camping. The Institute approach emphasized classes and preaching. The re-drawing of district lines meant that some churches were placed in districts which related to an entirely different set of church camps.

In some ways the fears were justified. North Indiana had regularly registered 3,000 senior high youth in six districts. In the first year after merger ten districts registered 2402. Orin Manifold, in his history of Epworth Forest, explained: lack of tradition in churches brought into the merger, lack of district cohesiveness, and diminishing support from superintendents.

The merger, however, brought new opportunities and new camp offerings: bicycle camps, sports camps, a Bible Conference, a camp for the deaf, and other specialized camps.

The camp program still flourishes in its various forms and still ranks among the finest in the United Methodist connection.



Battleground tabernacle 1907

# Indiana United Methodist Historical Society

## 2018 Membership and Event Registration

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (please – very helpful) \_\_\_\_\_  Check if Church Historian

Church You Attend \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Check if  (1) Individual  (2) Family  Congregation i

Please Note: If you are not a life member, your annual membership fee is now due and should accompany this form.

- |                          |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| New                      | Renewal                  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Individual For One Year _____ @ \$20 _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Family for One Year _____ @ \$30 _____       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Congregation for One Year _____ @ \$50 _____ |

Subtotal for Membership \_\_\_\_\_

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### REGISTRATION FOR ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON, 9am-3pm, APRIL 14st University Heights United Methodist Church 3200 Otterbein , Indianapolis)

Members registering for ANNUAL MEETING \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Non-members registering for ANNUAL MEETING \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30 \_\_\_\_\_

Subtotal for ANNUAL MEET-

ING \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional DONATION to help IUMHS accomplish its Mission (thank you)  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_ INFO: Doug Davies, IUMHS Presi-  
dent, 765-669-2144

Please make your check payable to “Indiana United Methodist Historical Society”  
and mail it with a copy of this form by the deadline of March 20 to Donald Bren-  
neman, 4110 Starkey Drive, Marion, IN 46953

Has your church observed an anniversary or celebrated some special occasion? Or does it have an interesting history? Or do you have other suggestions for our newsletter? if you have a story or a suggestion for the newsletter contact Riley Case, 4663 S 600 E, Kokomo, IN, 46902, 765/628-0540 rbcase1@gmail.com

**Indiana United Methodist Historical Society**

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