

COMMISSION ON ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Katie Tay, Chairperson

Jennifer Barber, Conference Archivist

Archives & History is responsible for collecting, preserving, and making accessible the historically significant records of the Desert Southwest Conference, its districts, agencies, and committees, as well as predecessor conferences, and closed churches. We encourage and assist the local churches in preserving their records, compiling their histories, and celebrating their heritage.

We invite you to visit our new and improved webpage: www.dscumc.org/archiveshistory.

New items include resources for the local church, a listing of what is available in the Conference Archives, and a new Digital Archive section. We are in the process of digitizing and making available the last 150 years of Conference Journals for our current and 24 predecessor Conferences (that is a *lot* of Journals). You will also find inventories of records of closed churches, historical records of local churches, and personal papers that have been donated and are housed at the Conference Archives. Highlights of the collections are shared on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Archives.History/>

In 2020, the oldest church in the Conference, Prescott UMC celebrated its 150th anniversary with a year-long celebration. Central UMC of Phoenix will be holding a delayed celebration in 2021 in observation of their 150th anniversary. Many of our Conference-wide plans to celebrate 150 years of Methodism in Arizona and 115 years of Methodism in Nevada have been delayed. We recognize that many of us have had to delay, postpone, and/or cancel many things over the last year. One day soon we may gather to celebrate and worship. It is our hope that you as a church are documenting how the last year has, and continues to, affect your congregation. History is just something that happened long ago, and it is important to remember and record what is happening today.

Desert Southwest Conference will host the Western Jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History meeting in Phoenix in February 2022. Everyone is invited to attend. Look for more information this fall.