

**Leland T. Carden, Resolution Relating for Creating an Additional Source of Funding
for the Preservation of Closed Church and Conference Related Records**

**Submitted by the Tennessee Conference Commission on Archives and History (TNCAH)
to the 2018 Session of the Tennessee Annual Conference
Meeting at Brentwood UMC, June 13-15, 2018**

RESOLUTION

Whereas, The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church mandates that "In each annual conference there shall be a conference commission on archives and history; whose primary duty shall be to collect, preserve, and make accessible the historically significant records of the conference and its agencies, including data relating to the origin and history of the conference and its antecedents; and to assist local churches in preserving their records, compiling their histories and celebrating their heritage; and, to provide for the permanent safekeeping of the historical records (and artifacts) of all abandoned or discontinued churches in the bounds of the annual conference and its antecedents." (Para. 641, page 485); and

Whereas, the TNCAH budget funded through the conference apportionments for retaining, organizing, and preserving such records and materials of the Annual Conference does not adequately fund the work mandated by The Book of Discipline. This is due to the ever increasing work-load of the commission brought about with the organization and/or closure of every church, as well as with the ordination of every new clergyperson, and licensing of every new local pastor. In addition, funding for basic on-going expenses such as rent and supplies will also continue to rise as time goes by.

Whereas, present funding levels enable the TNCAH to (more or less) stay current on records processing, they do not make it possible to catch up the significant backlog of work that accumulates as materials from churches, district, and conference offices are added to the archives. Nor does it provide the funding needed to adequately research and document the profound history of the Conferences, their clergy and churches, and their impact on both the state and the church.

Therefore, may it be resolved that, to supplement the annual budget obtained thru the conference apportionments, the Tennessee Conference Commission on Archives and History (TNCAH) receive 5% of the proceeds received from the sale price of each closed church property, as a budgetary supplement designated for the purchase of supplies and labor necessary to process the records of the closed church(es), and the expense of collecting, processing, and permanently housing them.

Respectfully submitted on this 10th day of April, 2018, by:

Rev. Leland T. Carden, Chairperson
Tennessee Conference Commission on Archives and History