



Archivist's Report for the 2009 Ohio District Convention

The 2006 convention workbook said that the 2003 convention workbook said, “The Archivist-Historian role in the Ohio District is in a period of transition.” This remains the same. Rev. Larry Kudart served faithfully as District Archivist and completed two major projects: Refiling archival material after boxes were handled upside down and working with Rev. Marvin Huggins at the Concordia Historical Institute (CHI) to remove material from the District Archive that is already archived at CHI. Common sense says that a pastor in the Cleveland area with easy access to the District Archives in North Olmsted be considered as Rev. Kudart’s replacement, so here I am. I serve at Unity Lutheran Church in Cleveland and am proud to serve as your archivist. I have been serving since November 2008.

My top priority is to make certain that all of the official records of the district are in order, including files, documents, minutes, etc. Another high priority of mine is to archive materials of historical interest to your congregation—please continue to send your installation bulletins, ordination bulletins, church anniversary bulletins, and historical booklets to the District Archive.

I found a stack of unopened mail and unarchived materials when I began in November and have already archived these materials. My practice is to acknowledge every item I archive with an email message to the sender with the subject *Ohio District Archive acknowledgment*. That way you will know when the materials you submitted are actually archived. Please supply your email address when you send materials to the archive in order that I may send you an *Ohio District Archive acknowledgment*.

My next priority is to operate a functioning archive—to handle requests for access to archived materials and for archival research. Please email these requests to me and I will do what I can to fulfill them, time permitting. My normal schedule is to work at the District Archives one day a month during the first week of the month.

With the guidance and effort of a gentleman with technical skills, I have begun a project to make the archive more functional—to digitize the District Archive and make it available on the Internet. My goal is to have a prototype working in two years. Very few of you have had the pleasure of snooping around the archives. A digitized, Internet-accessible archive will make this possible for many of you.

At a recent funeral reception, another gentleman approached me concerning a set of manuscripts of sermons his grandfather preached. Time permitting, I plan to begin a second side project—to archive selected sermons preached by deceased pastors of our district. I say *selected* because there is limited space in the archives. This would open the archive to a new kind of request—what were pastors preaching in the Ohio District in 1961, 1941, 1931, etc.? I accept manuscripts, notes, or outlines in English, German, Slovak—you name it. Anything I decide not to archive I will offer to return to you.

To repeat the gentle reminder from the 2006 convention workbook, please do not send books, communion ware, stoles, paraments, crosses, or other church memorabilia to the District Archive.

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