

Using Genealogy and Church History to Reconnect with Our “Cousins”

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Documenter:

Group Participants:

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Why is This Important to Us?

Historical records provide:

- Way of passing on faith of the church.
- Advantage of having tradition to maintain and strengthen faith.
- Know about the struggles of congregation and members and strengthen faith.
- Keeps record of traditions.
- Know struggles and faith helps us to know that our ancestors stood firm in their faith.
- Helps us make a connection to others.
- Where we've been is an indication of where we are going.
- All the turmoil and struggles to tell children (have family stories to tell)
- Also stories of splits.
- Sometimes history may be negative but it is true (or should be).

Assets on Which to Build

- ◆ Older members should tell the stories.
- ◆ Retired Pastors
- ◆ George Bruening
- ◆ Known records and other records someone needs to identify.

Other Discussion of Significance

- ◆ There was considerable discussion about cemeteries.
- ◆ Core: “Adopt a Cemetery”
- ◆ Alma has a perpetual fund in LCEF for cemetery maintenance.
- ◆ One church sold parsonage to provide funds from the interest to maintain cemetery, when church closed.
- ◆ Directories at cemeteries are very helpful.

Other Discussion of Significance (cont.)

- ◆ Funds for care of private cemeteries?
- ◆ JoAnn Shepmann asked who would be buried in a church cemetery. With plots in Wichita being so costly, they are being overrun with requests for burials. Shouldn't the District have some guidelines?
- ◆ There are neat stories and interesting stories that should be recorded and kept.
- ◆ Holy Cross has an archive committee.

Recommendations

- ◆ Pictures should be documented.
- ◆ Notify congregations of what should be sent to district.
- ◆ Provide training to congregation on what to keep, how long to keep, where to keep it, and what to send on to others.
- ◆ The history of the Kansas District should be made/updated and distributed.
- ◆ Also keep history of St. John/Winfield, schools, LLL, LWML, Walther League.
- ◆ To congregations and district: copies should be made of vital records. Don't display or use originals, use copies. Develop policies/guidelines about cemeteries.