Our Future History;
Doing Your Congregational History

**September 21, 2014**

A Shared Story: A workshop for church leaders on why and how to document and celebrate congregational history, whether the church is 150 or 1 year old.

**September 22, 2014**

What It Might Look Like: A workshop for church leaders on why and how to document and celebrate congregational history, whether the church is 150 or 1 year old.

**September 23, 2014**

And the Words Became Flesh, Paper and Digital Files: A workshop for church leaders on why and how to document and celebrate congregational history, whether the church is 150 or 1 year old.
Time well spent...

Doing Your Congregational History, Part 1: A Shared Story

Introductions

- Carisse: our emphasis is on DOING your congregational history: why, how, when
- Question: Whose congregation is approaching an anniversary?
- Carisse: Your congregation has a story
  - Illustration: homemade pickles vs factory-made pickles
- Carisse: That story deserves to be told
  - It can help new members adjust and feel at home
  - It strengthens intergenerational bonds
  - It fits into the larger story of what God is doing
- *Congregational records can be lost in a matter of minutes!*
- Donald: Matthew’s finding himself in the Coffman archives
- Q&A

Doing Your Congregational History, Part 2: What It Might Look Like

- Carisse: Discovery -- how is your congregation’s story kept?
  - Printed: Directories, new member notebooks, cookbooks, bulletins
  - Files in Offices: minutes of meetings, financial records
  - Audio-Visual: Photographs, audio and video recordings
  - Electronic: Website, emails to groups
  - Human memory: Stories, family stewards
- Carisse: Timing: look for congregational records at risk points

Taking care of your roots helps everything else grow and stay healthy. Learning your story is just as important for growth.
- Construction, renovation, and repair
- Staff changes
- Anniversaries
- Routine replacement of equipment
- Donald: records retention plan, security, tools, migration
- Q&A

**Doing Your Congregational History, Part 3: Words Become Flesh, Paper, and Digital Files**

Donald: how do we get it all in a place that is secure?

Carisse: Events and occasions which recover stories

Q&A