



Our Future History;

Doing Your Congregational History

ACU's Special Collections

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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



Taking care of your roots helps everything else grow and stay healthy. Learning your story is just as important for growth.

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

- 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