

Recommendation

Franklin-St. John United Methodist Church Historic Site

Whereas Franklin-St. John United Methodist Church has led the way in the spiritual well-being of Newark’s Methodist African American community since 1869-1870, when it was known as St. John Methodist Episcopal Church.

Whereas St. John Methodist Episcopal Church started out as a mission in Newark sometime around 1869 or 1870 and by 1872 had become the first organized African American church under appointment in the Newark Annual Conference (St. John’s did not transfer to the historic Delaware Annual Conference until 1893).

Whereas St. John Methodist Episcopal Church’s first pastor, The Reverend John L. H. Sweres, became the first African American minister admitted to the Newark Annual Conference. Sweres transferred to the Newark Conference from the North-German Annual Conference, where he was admitted on trial in 1871, and he transferred to the historic Lexington Annual Conference in 1873.

Whereas St. John Methodist Episcopal Church quickly planted two other successful African American churches, St. John’s in Orange (1879) and St. Mark’s in Montclair (1881) and, together, St. John and its successive church plants in Orange and Montclair would make up three of the original five African American congregations in the Newark Annual Conference.

Rationale: Franklin-St. John United Methodist Church played an important role in breaking the color barrier in the former Newark Annual Conference. Many future African American Methodist leaders within the denomination would occupy St. John’s pulpit. For 144 years, Franklin-St. John United Methodist Church stands as a testimony to United Methodism’s witness for the people of Newark by serving its African American constituency with holy piety and social justice. The church, through its various pastors, has shaped African American United Methodist leadership to what is it is to this day.

Therefore be it resolved that Franklin-St. John United Methodist Church and the leadership it supplied be recognized by the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference as one of its historic sites.

Respectively Submitted and Presenter of Recommendation: Reverend Bill Wilson, Chair of Commission on Archives and History

Recommendation

Colonel William McCullough House, Warren County, Historic Site

Whereas McCullough House provided shelter for many illustrative early circuit riders such as Bishop Francis Asbury, Martin Boehm, Ezekiel Cooper and others, served as a venue for those circuit riders to preach in and hold quarterly meetings in the barn and was the place where Northwestern New Jersey Methodist laity met who helped create the Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, the first church built solely by Methodists in Northwestern, New Jersey.

Whereas Colonel William McCullough (1759-1840) proved to be one of the most faithful and fruitful Methodist laypersons in Northern New Jersey. McCullough served in the Revolutionary War, where he became close friends with the Generals Washington and Lafayette. Later he served as a state legislator, county judge and