

**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

## ***Recommendations to the 2016 Annual Conference***

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1 owner of a number mills in the Asbury area. McCullough was converted by the preaching of Ezekiel Cooper at  
2 Schooley's Mountain in 1786. The Colonel would spend the next fifty-four years in dedicated service to the  
3 Methodist Episcopal Church in Northern New Jersey in both time and money. Bishop Asbury knew of  
4 McCullough's commitment to Methodism long before they would meet in person.

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6 **Whereas** William McCullough was one of the original members of the first Methodist class meeting by whose  
7 house they would meet.

8 **Whereas** McCullough became the driving force to change the name of Hall's Mills to Asbury in order to honor is  
9 good friend and frequent guest.

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11 **Whereas** the McCullough house, with its original kitchen and barn still standing, are the only known surviving  
12 structures where Bishop Asbury preached and taught in Northern New Jersey.

13 **Rationale:** The McCullough House stands as an enduring testament to the commitment and faith of one of  
14 Northern New Jersey's most influential laypersons – Colonel William McCullough. The structures on the  
15 property are one of the few places still in active use as a family home that can boast hosting prominent early  
16 Methodist circuit riders such as Bishop Asbury, Ezekiel Cooper and Martin Boehm. McCullough House became  
17 the fulcrum point for Methodism's success throughout Northwestern New Jersey. It is rare to be able to honor a  
18 dedicated lay person's dwelling whose influence and deeds did much for New Jersey Methodism and whose  
19 buildings remind us that we are direct heirs to the work of Colonel William McCullough for the Methodist cause  
20 during its formative years and well into the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

21 **Therefore be it resolved** that the McCullough House and Barn be recognized as a Greater New Jersey Annual  
22 Conference Historic Site.

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

### **Recommendation**

#### **United Methodist Church of Morristown Historic Site**

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29 **Whereas** the Morristown United Methodist Church's has played a vital role in the spiritual well-being in  
30 Morristown and surrounding areas in Northern New Jersey, served a central role in the Newark Annual  
31 Conference and provided notable leadership in the fields of education and publishing within the larger American  
32 Methodist landscape.

33 **Whereas** Morristown Methodists were first visited by Bishop Francis Asbury and Henry Boehm in 1811 and by  
34 1815, regular class meetings and preaching services were held in the Samuel Bonsell home, Morristown's most  
35 prominent layperson at that time.

36 **Whereas** Morristown Methodist Episcopal Church organized its first permanent society in 1825 and built the  
37 first church structure two years later. The church continued to grow and is remembered for two famous revivals  
38 in 1828 and 1836. Both of these revivals would last for many weeks making Methodism a mainstay in the  
39 bustling town.