

## RESOLUTION

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### RESOLUTION ON HISTORICAL SITE AND HERITAGE LANDMARK RECOGNITION COX MEMORIAL CHAPEL, HIGHLAND PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, DALLAS, TEXAS

**FROM:** Commission on Archives and History

**WHEREAS**, it is beneficial to consider and honor our common history and communal effort to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to present and future generations in effective and engaging forms; and

**WHEREAS**, the General Commission on Archives and History of the UMC is charged by the General Conference of the UMC with the tasks of recognizing historic Methodist historic sites and structures; and

**WHEREAS**, the General Commission on Archives and History of the UMC has implemented a program to recognize United Methodist Historic Sites and United Methodist Heritage Landmarks; and

**WHEREAS**, paragraph 1712.a of *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2016* provides:

*Historic Sites are buildings, locations, or structures which are specifically related to a significant event, development, or personality in the history of an Annual, Central, or Jurisdictional Conference (or its antecedents). Historic Sites are designated by formal action of the Annual, Central, or Jurisdictional Conference within whose regions the site is located. Such designation shall first be considered and reviewed by the respective Commission on Archives and History (or equivalent); and*

**WHEREAS**, paragraph 1712.a of *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2016* further provides:

*After action by the Annual, Central, or Jurisdictional Conference to designate a building, structure, or location as an Historic Site, the president or chairperson of the Commission on Archives and History (or equivalent) shall advise the General Commission on Archives and History of the action taken and provide such documentation as may be required; and*

**WHEREAS**, paragraph 1712.c of *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2016* provides:

*All nominations for the designation of buildings, locations, and structures as United Methodist heritage landmarks shall be made by the annual, central, or jurisdictional conference commission on archives and history (or equivalent) within whose regions they are located; and*

**WHEREAS**, the Commission on Archives and History of the North Texas Conference has determined that in 1970 and 1971, the Cox Memorial Chapel of Highland Park UMC, Dallas, Texas, was the site of the development of liturgical practices which were published and used throughout the United Methodist Church. These practices, then labeled “contemporary worship” reflecting their intention of engaging a new generation of disaffected Christians, have since become the backbone of liturgical worship within the UMC; and

**WHEREAS**, the experimentation at Cox Memorial Chapel was led by James F. White and Rev. Grady Hardin, professors at the Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University (SMU), situated adjacent to Highland Park UMC. In the spirit of the times, the experimentation by Professors White and

Hardin was open to and relied upon the laity of Highland Park UMC and in the SMU community to develop a liturgy which reflected a “work of the people;” and

**WHEREAS**, Professor White embodied the results of the liturgical experimentation in Cox Memorial Chapel in his book *New Forms of Worship* (1971). From that source, the liturgy entitled “A Service of Word and Table I” in *The United Methodist Hymnal* (1989) was developed; and

**WHEREAS**, scholars have since recognized the importance of the liturgical experimentation at Cox Memorial Chapel, most recently in Dr. R. Matthew Siglar’s “James F. White, Grady Hardin and Methodist ‘Contemporary’ Worship: The 11:00 a.m. Cox Chapel Service at Highland Park,” in *Essays on the History of Contemporary Praise and Worship* (Wipf and Stock Publishers, 2020), edited by Lester Ruth; and

**WHEREAS**, the designation of Cox Memorial Chapel as a United Methodist History Site and as a United Methodist Heritage Landmark does not impose restrictions upon the use, modification or removal of the Chapel; and

**WHEREAS**, the Church Council of Highland Park UMC, a church in the Metro District of the North Texas Conference of the UMC, has approved this resolution on December 12, 2022, and will, with the Commission on Archives and History of the North Texas Conference, complete the application process prescribed by the General Commission on Archives and History for registration of Cox Memorial Chapel as a United Methodist Historic Site and as a United Methodist Heritage Landmark upon the adoption of this resolution by the North Texas Conference; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commission on Archives and History of the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church has approved this resolution on January 26, 2023, and supports the application of Highland Park UMC for registration of Cox Memorial Chapel as a United Methodist Historic Site and will nominate Cox Memorial Chapel as a United Methodist Heritage Landmark, subject to approval of this resolution by the North Texas Conference.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church designates Cox Memorial Chapel at Highland Park UMC, Dallas, Texas, as a Methodist Historic Site; and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the North Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church agrees with the nomination of Cox Memorial Chapel at Highland Park UMC, Dallas, Texas, as a Methodist Heritage Landmark; and it is

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Commission on Archives and History of the North Texas Conference is hereby directed to advise the General Commission on Archives and History of the action here taken and provide such documentation as may be required in order to seek designation of Cox Memorial Chapel of Highland Park UMC as a United Methodist Heritage Landmark.