

THANK YOU NOTES



Stories of Connectional Giving

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Black History in the Iowa United Methodist Church

Between the Rivers, written by John A. Nye, tells the history of the United Methodist Church in Iowa. The book recounts the growth of Iowa's African American population following the Civil War.

The author writes that our history "is a story of gradual movement from the common racial viewpoints of the early nineteenth century to a willingness, among the church membership as a whole, to recognize that people of all races have common human needs and rights. Prejudice has always been present, but voices have always been calling for mutual acceptance of

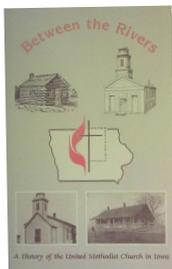
all persons as children of God."

The Burns United Methodist Church in Des Moines has a special place in Iowa history. It was the first African American congregation in the state. Named for Francis Burns, the first black bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, it was founded in 1866 as the Black Methodist Episcopal Church. The church building was first listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

The Iowa Commission on Archives and History plans to publish an updated version of *Between the Rivers* in 2016 — with the support of appropriations — to remember and celebrate our connectional heritage.



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