

**Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania
Conference of the United Methodist Church
collection of Methodist organizations records**

05

**Finding aid prepared by Celia Caust-Ellenbogen and Sarah
Leu through the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden
Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories.**

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Table of Contents

Summary Information.....	3
Biography/History.....	4
Scope and Contents.....	4
Administrative Information.....	6
Controlled Access Headings.....	7

Summary Information

Repository	Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church
Creator	Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church
Title	Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church collection of Methodist organizations records
Call number	05
Date	circa 1820-1975
Extent	15 linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	<p>Methodism is a protestant Christian faith based in the teachings of John Wesley (1703-1791), who preached "practical divinity," emphasis on Christian living, and putting faith and love into action. The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1784 in the United States. After a series of divisions and unifications over the centuries, the modern United Methodist Church (U.S.) was formed in 1968. The Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church collection of Methodist organizations records, circa 1820-1975, consists of small amounts of records from various Methodist organizations within the boundaries of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church, roughly ranging from Philadelphia to Harrisburg. The amount of documentation varies by organization, but there is less than one linear foot of material for each of the organizations included in this collection. Minute books, newsletters, property-related records, financial</p>

documents, and several other types of materials, including some audio recordings and photographs, can be found.

Biography/History

Methodism is a protestant Christian faith based in the teachings of John Wesley (1703-1791), who preached "practical divinity," emphasis on Christian living, and putting faith and love into action. The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1784 in Baltimore, Maryland with Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke as its first bishops and held its first general conference in 1792. In May of 1939, the Methodist Episcopal Church; the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; and the Methodist Protestant Church united to form the Methodist Church (U.S.). In 1946 the Church of the United Brethren in Christ (New constitution) and the Evangelical Church united to form the Evangelical United Brethren Church. In 1968 the Methodist Church (U.S.) and the Evangelical United Brethren Church united, forming the United Methodist Church (U.S.).

The territory of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church (U.S.) covers sixteen counties in the southeastern quarter of the state of Pennsylvania, roughly from Philadelphia to Harrisburg.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of small amounts of records from various Methodist organizations within the boundaries of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church, roughly ranging from Philadelphia to Harrisburg. The amount of documentation varies by organization, but there is less than one linear foot of material for each of the organizations included in this collection. Minute books, newsletters, property-related records, financial documents, and several other types of materials, including some audio recordings and photographs, can be found.

Organizations represented in this collection include:

- Association of Methodist Historical Societies
- Board of Lay Activities
- Board of Ministerial Training and Qualifications, circa 1950-1956
- Cabinet of South District Epworth League, 1908-1924
- Centennial Celebration of the Organization of the Methodist Episcopal Church, 1884
- Centennial Funds of the Methodist Episcopal Church

- Chester Valley M.E. Ministerial Association, 1888-1898
- City Evangelization and Church Extension Union of Reading and Vicinity, 1908-1915
- Commission for the Bicentennial of the Birth of John Wesley, 1903
- Commission on Collegetown Methodist Youth
- Conference Deaconess Board, 1905-1968
- District conference minutes
- Eastern Conference, Evangelical United Brethren, 1963-1969
- Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Needlework Circle
- Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, Ministers Wives
- Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, School of Christian Mission
- Education Fund of the Philadelphia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church
- Garden Spot Commission
- Garden Spot Epworth League Institute
- Garden Spot Institute for Methodist Youth
- Haverford Institute for Methodist Youth
- Historical Society of the Philadelphia Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church
- Home Missionary Society
- Lancaster County Methodist Ministerium, 1924-1942
- Laymen's Library for Methodist Ministers, 1921-1929
- M.E. Ministerial Association of Schuylkill County, 1875-1888
- Methodist Episcopal Home for the Aged
- Methodist Episcopal Hospital in the City of Philadelphia
- Methodist Episcopal Orphanage
- Methodist Ministers Association of the Anthracite Region, 1927-1944
- Methodist Radio Society of Philadelphia and New Jersey Methodist Conferences
- Methodist Service Center, 1943-1946
- Methodist Social Union
- Millersville Epworth League Institute
- Ministerial Fellowships of Northeast Philadelphia
- Ministers Wives Association, 1911-1954
- North District Epworth League / Youth Fellowship
- Northwest and West Districts Laymen Association
- Oral history audiocassette tapes
- Philadelphia Annual Conference Stewards, 1819-1856
- Philadelphia Board of Church Extensions
- Philadelphia Collegiate Institute for Girls, 1896-1962
- Philadelphia Conference Board of Missions, 1965-1971
- Philadelphia Conference Education Society, 1880-1973
- Philadelphia Conference Tract Society, 1853-1938
- Philadelphia Local Preachers Association, 1884-1926
- Philadelphia Methodist Publication Association, 1852-1853
- Portia Society, 1897-1913
- Prohibition League, Philadelphia Conference
- Rural Church Institute
- Social Service Commission

- South Philadelphia District, 1877-1880
 - Sunday School Union
 - United Methodist Social Union
 - United Methodist Women
 - Uniting Conference, 1939
 - Various Quarterly Conferences minute books
 - Wesley Institute of Methodist Youth
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Administrative Information

Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church
Finding aid prepared by Celia Caust-Ellenbogen and Sarah Leu through the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories.

Sponsor

This preliminary finding aid was created as part of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories. The HCI-PSAR project was made possible by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Access Restrictions

Contact Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church for information about accessing this collection.

Processing Information Note

Summary descriptive information on this collection was compiled in 2012-2014 as part of a project conducted by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania to make better known and more accessible the largely hidden collections of small, primarily volunteer run repositories in the Philadelphia area. The Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories (HCI-PSAR) was funded by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

This is a preliminary finding aid. No physical processing, rehousing, reorganizing, or folder listing was accomplished during the HCI-PSAR project.

In some cases, more detailed inventories or finding aids may be available on-site at the repository where this collection is held; please contact Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church directly for more information.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- United Methodist Church (U.S.)

Geographic Name(s)

- Pennsylvania

Subject(s)

- Charities
- Christian education
- Church group work with youth
- Methodism
- Methodist Church--Clergy
- Methodists
- Missions