

Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church closed churches records

02

**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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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	Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church closed churches records
Call number	02
Date [inclusive]	1801-2012
Extent	55 linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	<p>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. The Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church collection of closed churches records, 1801-2012, consist of small amounts of records from various closed United Methodist churches (and predecessor denominations, Methodist churches and Methodist Episcopal churches) within the boundaries of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference. The amount of documentation varies by church, but there is less than one linear foot of material for each of the churches included in this collection. The materials consist largely of vital records (birth, marriage, baptism, and death), membership records, trustees' minutes, and Quarterly Conference minutes. Many other types of documents, such as Sunday School records, photographs, event programs, and newspaper clippings, can also be found.</p>

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. The Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference, founded in the 1860s, is one of the oldest in the United Methodist Church. It works in partnership with the appointed members of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference's Commission on Archives and History.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of small amounts of records from various closed United Methodist churches (and predecessor denominations, Methodist churches and Methodist Episcopal churches) 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 church, but there is less than one linear foot of material for each of the churches included in this collection. The materials consist largely of vital records (birth, marriage, baptism, and death), membership records, trustees' minutes, and Quarterly Conference minutes. Many other types of documents, such as Sunday School records, photographs, event programs, and newspaper clippings, can also be found. The collection is organized into three series: I. Files, II. Volumes, and III. Boxes.

Series I. Files includes materials not entered into the official records of the church, but that document its history and activities. There are only one or a few folders dedicated to each church. Included are anniversary publications, newsletters/bulletins, newspaper clippings, and a smattering of photographs, deeds, letters, and other unique documents. A detailed inventory of the contents of the closed church files is available through St. George's United Methodist Church's website: <http://bot.historicstgeorges.vm-host.net/sites/default/files/Philadelphia%20Churches.pdf>.

Series II. Volumes consists mainly of church registers with membership, birth, death, and baptismal records. Some minute books, Sunday School records, and other records are also included. A detailed

inventory exists for this series, featuring basic historical information about each church (start date, end date, location, information about mergers), as well as years covered by each document type. It is available through St. George's United Methodist Church's website: <http://bot.historicstgeorges.vm-host.net/sites/default/files/Church%20Records.pdf>.

Series III. Boxes contains Quarterly Conference records, trustees' minutes, Charge Conference records, finance and property-related documents, and some membership, anniversary, and various other types of materials. Separate inventories of individual churches' records are available on-site. The following churches are represented:

- Bangor, Salem
- Beaver Meadows UMC
- Boyertown, Ebenezer
- Catasauqua, Emanuel EUB
- Cherry Valley Charge
- Cressona UMC (Schuylkill County)
- Drexel Hill, Church of the Covenant UMC
- Erdenheim, St. Mark UMC
- Feltonville UMC
- Havertown Korean
- Middle Smithfield, Brick
- Philadelphia, Abigail Vare
- Philadelphia, Asbury UMC
- Philadelphia, C. C. Hancock
- Philadelphia, Christ
- Philadelphia, Cookman
- Philadelphia, Elmwood UMC
- Philadelphia, Emmanuel EUB
- Philadelphia, Faith UMC
- Philadelphia, Green Street UMC
- Philadelphia, Hedding
- Philadelphia, Lawndale
- Philadelphia, Manship
- Philadelphia, Mantua
- Philadelphia, Memorial
- Philadelphia, Mt. Airy
- Philadelphia, Mt. Pisgah
- Philadelphia, New Market (Front Street)
- Philadelphia, Norwegian-Danish Mission
- Philadelphia, St. Paul's
- Philadelphia, Twelfth Street
- Philadelphia, West Park Avenue
- Philadelphia, Western
- Phoenixville, Bethesda
- Raubsville UMC
- Reading, Covenant

- Reading, Ebenezer
- Sharon Hill UMC
- Snyderstown

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.

Immediate Source of Acquisition Note

The Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church is the
repository for records of member churches when they close.

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.). Eastern Pennsylvania Conference
- United Methodist Church (U.S.)

Geographic Name(s)

- Pennsylvania

Subject(s)

- Church closures
- Methodism
- Methodists