

Grace United Methodist Church records

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Finding aid prepared by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories using data provided by the Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Last updated on February 03, 2015.

Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church

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Summary Information

Repository	Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church
Creator	Grace United Methodist Church (Catasauqua, Pa.)
Title	Grace United Methodist Church records
Call number	24
Date [inclusive]	1843-2007
Extent	3 linear feet
General Physical Description note	5 boxes, 9 volumes, 1 folder
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The cornerstone for Grace Methodist Episcopal Church in Catasauqua, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania was laid in 1859. Emmanuel Evangelical United Brethren Church merged into the congregation in 1966. Grace United Methodist Church was discontinued in 2007. The Grace United Methodist Church records, 1843-2007, include minutes of the administrative board, church council, Charge Conference, and Quarterly Conference; birth, marriage, death, and membership records; and various other documents including church histories, deeds, photographs, and publications.</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.).

Methodists existed in Catasauqua, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania as early as 1845. Regular preaching services were established in 1855, and in 1859, a lot was purchased and the cornerstone was laid for Grace Methodist Episcopal Church at Front Street above Walnut. The building was sold in 1890, and the congregation moved to 5th Street above Walnut. Emmanuel Evangelical United Brethren Church merged into the congregation in 1966. Grace United Methodist Church was discontinued in 2007.

Bibliography:

Mushrush, Robert. "Brief History of the Church." *Catasauqua Dispatch* October 29, 1959 (section 1.6). Clipping found in collection.

Scope and Contents

This collection, dating from 1843 to 2007, includes minutes of the administrative board, church council, Charge Conference, and Quarterly Conference; birth, marriage, death, and membership records; and various other documents including church histories, deeds, photographs, and publications. A folder-level inventory for the collection is available.

Administrative Information

Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church

Finding aid prepared by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories using data provided by the Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church.

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.

Existence and Location of Copies

Some church records at the Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church, particularly membership and vital records, are available in digital form through Ancestry.com or on microfilm at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and/or the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials Note

Emmanuel Evangelical United Brethren Church records can be found in the Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church: Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church closed churches records.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Grace United Methodist Church (Catasauqua, Pa.)
- United Methodist Church (U.S.)

Geographic Name(s)

- Catasauqua (Pa. : Borough)
- Lehigh County (Pa.)

Subject(s)

- Methodism
- Methodists

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Deed (1852).	1	1
Dedication of New Building (1890).	1	2
100th Anniversary (1959).	1	3
Anniversary Celebration (1990).	1	4
Discontinuance (September 30, 2007).	1	5
Bulletins.	1	6
Photographs.	1	7
Pastors.	1	8
Yearbooks (1930, 1931).	1	9

Andrew Rigeline Estate.	1	10
Baptisms (1994-2000).	1	11
Marriage Licenses (1974, 1991, 1997-2000).	1	12
Deaths (1985, 1993-2000).	1	13
Administrative Council Minutes (2001-2007).	2	1
Administrative Council Minutes (1994-1998).	2	2
Administrative Council Minutes (1990-1993).	2	3
Administrative Board Minutes (1987-1989).	2	4
Administrative Board Minutes (1982-1986).	2	5
Administrative Board Minutes (1975-1981).	2	6

Administrative Board Minutes (1965, 1967-68).	2	7
Charge Conference Records (2001-2006).	2	8
Charge Conference Records (1992-2000).	2	9
Charge Conference Records (1987-1991).	2	10
Charge Conference Records (1981-1986).	2	11
Charge Conference Records (1974-1980).	2	12
Charge/Quarterly Conf. Records (1965-1972).	2	13
Budget Records (1970-84, 1986-87, 1989-93, 1997, 1999, 2006).	2	14
Official Board Minutes, 1940-1950.	3	1
Official Board Minutes, 1950-1954.	3	2

Administrative Board & Charge Conference Minutes, 1991.	3	3
Administrative Board & Charge Conference Minutes, 1992.	3	4
Administrative Board & Charge Conference Minutes, 1993.	3	5
Administrative Board & Charge Conference Minutes, 1994.	3	6
Administrative Board & Charge Conference Minutes, 1995.	3	7
Administrative Board & Charge Conference Minutes, 1996.	3	8
Administrative Board & Charge Conference Minutes, 1997.	3	9
Church Council Minutes, 1998.	3	10
Church Council Minutes, 1999.	3	11
Church Council Minutes, 2000.	3	12

Church Council Minutes, 2001.	4	1
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Church Council Minutes, 2002.	4	2
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Quarterly Conference Minutes, 1866-1885.	4	3
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Quarterly Conference Minutes, 1885-1888.	4	4
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Quarterly Conference Minutes, 1889-1893.	4	5
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Quarterly Conference Minutes, 1893-1896.	4	6
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Quarterly Conference Minutes, 1897-1900.	4	7
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Quarterly Conference Minutes, 1901-1904.	4	8
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Quarterly Conference Minutes, 1905-1908.	4	9
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Quarterly Conference Minutes, 1909-1912.	5	1
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Quarterly Conference Minutes, 1913-1916.	5	2	
Quarterly Conference Minutes, 1932-1945.	5	3	
Quarterly Conference Minutes, 1950-1959.	5	4	
Quarterly Conference Minutes, 1960-1966.	5	5	
Quarterly Conference Minutes, 1961-1966.	5	6	
Quarterly Conference Minutes, 1962-1971.	5	7	
		Box	Fold
Probationers, 1865-1939; Members, 1843-1952; 1881-1889, 1952-1965; Members (Emmanuel), 1886-1965; Baptisms, 1866-1966; Marriages, 1867-1963; Members, 1864-1881, 1889-1951.		1-9	
		Box	Fold
History file - Church Records (1867-1965) and Historical Record (1897).		1	