

Falls 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	Falls United Methodist Church (Philadelphia, Pa.)
Title	Falls United Methodist Church records
Call number	32
Date [inclusive]	1851-2009
Extent	3 linear feet
General Physical Description note	5 boxes, 8 volumes, 1 folder
Language	English
Abstract	<p>Falls of Schuylkill Methodist Episcopal Church in what is now the East Falls neighborhood of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was officially established in 1855, although the congregation was on a circuit with Manayunk and Fairmount as early as 1837. In 2005, known as Falls United Methodist Church and located at 3576 Indian Queen Lane, the church was discontinued. The Falls United Methodist Church records, 1851-2009, include a large amount of meeting minutes and vital and membership records, and a small amount of other records relating to the property, nursery school, church history, chorus, and other topics.</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.).

In 1837, Methodist Episcopal class and worship meetings were first held in the area that is now the East Falls neighborhood of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The organization was added to the circuit with Manayunk and Fairmount. In 1855, the Falls of Schuylkill Methodist Episcopal Church was officially organized and the first board of stewards was appointed. Later, the church became part of the Ridge Group Ministry, a non-profit corporation consisting of five United Methodist churches in the Roxborough, Manayunk and East Falls areas. Falls United Methodist Church, located at 3576 Indian Queen Lane, was discontinued in 2005.

Scope and Contents

The collection includes a large amount of administrative board, Charge Conference, and Trustee minutes; birth, marriage, death, and membership records (1857-1871, 1872-1886, 1886-1907, 1908-1912, 1912-1923, 1923-1953, 1950-1974, 1974-2000); and a small amount of other records relating to the property, nursery school, church history, chorus, and other topics. At least one blueprint is present in the collection. 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.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- Falls United Methodist Church (Philadelphia, Pa.)
- United Methodist Church (U.S.)

Geographic Name(s)

- Philadelphia (Pa.)

Subject(s)

- City churches
- Methodism
- Methodists

Collection Inventory

	Box	Folder
Trustee Minutes, 1913-1918.	1	1
Official Board Minutes, 1934-1966.	1	2
Constitution of the Sabbath School, 1870s.	1	3
Blueprints, 1941.	1	4
Plan of Lot, 1982.	1	5
Administrative Board Minutes, 1968-1969.	2	1
Administrative Board Minutes, 1970-1975.	2	2
Administrative Board Minutes, 1980-1985.	2	3
Administrative Council Minutes, 1993.	2	4

Charge Conference Minutes, 1953-1958.	2	5
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Charge Conference Minutes, 1959-1966.	2	6
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Charge Conference Minutes, 1967-1971.	2	7
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Council on Ministries Minutes, 1968-1970.	2	8
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Quarterly Conference Minutes, 1901-1904.	2	9
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Charge Conference Records, 1994, 1996, 1998.	2	10
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Constitution, n.d.	3	1
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Appraisals: Property, Windows, 1992, 1993.	3	2
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Deed and other property documents. 1877.	3	3
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Membership Directories, 1951, 1955, 1975, 1977.	3	4
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East Falls Nursery School Association: Report to Falls Methodist Church on Summer Nursery School, 1969.	3	5
Celebration of Renovation of the Sanctuary, 1944.	3	6
Anniversary Programs, 1922-1972.	3	7
Membership Correspondence, 1993-1998.	3	8
Falls Methodist Male Chorus, 1952, 1953.	3	9
Bulletins, n.d., Holy Week 1935, 19 Mar 1944, 1 Jan 1968.	3	10
Miscellaneous Programs, n.d., 1970.	3	11
History Notes, n.d.	3	12
Photograph, Tom Thumb Wedding, 1946.	3	13
Official Board Minutes, 1904-1913.	4	1

Official Board Minutes, 1914-1934.	4	2
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Official Board Minutes, 1966-1968.	4	3
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Trustee Minutes, 1851-1872.	4	4
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Trustee Minutes, 1876-1891.	4	5
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Trustee Minutes, 1892-1913.	5	1
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Quarterly Conference Minutes, 1872-1894.	5	2
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Quarterly Conference Minutes, 1894-1897.	5	3
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Quarterly Conference Minutes, 1898-1901.	5	4
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Quarterly Conference Minutes, 1905-1908, 1910.	5	5
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Quarterly Conference Minutes, 1911-1913.	5	6
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Quarterly Conference Minutes, 1913-1917.	5	7	
Annual Budget, 1998.	5	8	
		Box	Fold
Church records, 1953-1974.		1	
Church records, 1912-1923.		2	
Church records, 1978-1998.		3	
Church records, 1923-1963 (with church history).		4	
Church records, 1886-1907.		5	
Church records, 1908-1912.		6	
Church records, 1857-1871.		7	
Church records, 1866, 1872-1886.		8	

	Box	Fold
History file.	1	

History File Scope and Contents note

100 Years of Methodism 1937; Inventory of Documents 2000; History-Mar. 1967 (Letter); Correspondence Re: Donation 2009; Membership Certificate-Oct. 1923 (Lewis Eastburn); Directories (1926, 1928); Bulletins (Apr., May, June 1923, Feb., Apr., May, June, July, Aug., Sept., Oct. 1924, Apr., May, June, Aug. 1925, Apr., May June, July Aug., Sept., Oct. 1926, Apr. 1927, Apr. 1928)