

Church of the Covenant Methodist Church records

47

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

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| Repository | Historical Society of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church |
| Creator | Church of the Covenant Methodist Church (Philadelphia, Pa.) |
| Title | Church of the Covenant Methodist Church records |
| Call number | 47 |
| Date | 1834-1945, 1995 |
| Extent | 2.75 linear feet |
| General Physical Description note | 2 boxes, 12 volumes, 3 folders |
| Language | English |
| Abstract | <p>Salem Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1835, and re-located to Lombard and Juniper Streets in 1841. It merged with Western Methodist Episcopal Church to form Methodist Episcopal Church of the Covenant in 1894, located at 18th and Spruce Streets. Church of the Covenant Methodist Church was discontinued in 1945. Most of the Church of the Covenant Methodist Church records, 1834-1945 and 1995, are Salem Methodist Episcopal Church registers and minutes (First Leaders, trustees, and Quarterly Conference). Records from Western Methodist Episcopal Church and Church of the Covenant Methodist Church are also present.</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.).

Salem Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1835. It was located at Salem and 13th Streets, then was rebuilt at Lombard and Juniper Streets in 1841. It merged with Western Methodist Episcopal Church (founded in 1834; located on 20th Street below Walnut Street) to form Methodist Episcopal Church of the Covenant in 1894, located at 18th and Spruce Streets. Church of the Covenant Methodist Church was discontinued in 1945.

In 1954, the Church of the Covenant building was remodeled for the use of Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel, a recently organized Jewish congregation. Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel still uses this building as of 2014.

Scope and Contents

Most of this collection is records from Salem Methodist Episcopal Church, but smaller amounts of material from its successor, Church of the Covenant, and Western Methodist Episcopal Church, with which it merged, are also present. The Salem Methodist Episcopal Church records include: church registers, 1835-1895; class records, 1835-1851; First Leaders minutes, 1834-1895; trustees minutes, 1835-1893; Quarterly Conference records, 1835-1876; member and probationer records, 1835-1876; and a sale agreement, 1841. Later records from the Church of the Covenant consist of trustees minutes, 1893-1941; Quarterly Conference minutes, 1876-1913; and a membership register (members, marriages, baptisms), 1895-1945. There are also two volumes from Western Methodist Episcopal Church with members (1835-1882), marriages (1834-1865, 1865-1882), and baptisms (1834-1865, 1865-1881). A small amount of records relating to Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel, which now uses the former Church of the Covenant building, are also 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)

- Church of the Covenant Methodist Church (Philadelphia, Pa.)
- Salem M.E. Church (Philadelphia, Pa.)
- United Methodist Church (U.S.)
- Western Methodist Episcopal Church (Philadelphia, Pa.)

Geographic Name(s)

- Philadelphia (Pa.)

Subject(s)

- City churches
- Methodism
- Methodists

Collection Inventory

| | Box | Folder |
|---|-----|--------|
| Members Received and Removed by Certificate, Salem, 1835-1876. | 1 | 1 |
| Record of Probationers, Salem, 1835-1875. | 1 | 2 |
| Agreement of Sale, Salem, 1841. | 1 | 3 |
| Trustee Minutes, Salem, 1893-1895. | 1 | 4 |
| Trustee Minutes, Salem, 1895-1896. | 1 | 5 |
| Trustee Minutes, Salem, 1902-1911. | 1 | 6 |
| Quarterly Conference Minutes, Salem, 1911, 1913. | 1 | 7 |
| Quarterly Conference Minutes, Salem, 1876-1894. | 2 | 1 |
| Trustee Minutes, Church of the Covenant and Salem Memorial Chapel, 1916-1923. | 2 | 2 |

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| Trustee Minutes, Church of the Covenant and Salem Memorial Chapel, 1924-1941. | 2 | 3 |
| Trustee Minutes, Church of the Covenant and Salem Memorial Chapel, 1900-1916. | 2 | 4 |
| | Box | Folder |
| Register, Salem, 1853-1875. | 78 | 1 |
| Register, Salem, 1875-1884. | 78 | 2 |
| Register, Salem, 1884-1895. | 78 | 3 |
| Register, Salem, 1835-1875. | 78 | 4 |
| Class records, Salem, 1835-1851. | 78 | 5 |
| First Leaders minute book, Salem, 1834-1895. | 34 | 1 |
| Trustees minutes, Salem, 1835-1847. | 34 | 2 |
| Quarterly conference, Salem, 1835-1876. | 34 | 3 |

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|--|----|---|
| Trustees minutes, Salem, 1848-1893. | 34 | 4 |
| Church register (members, marriages, baptisms), Western 1834-1865. | 82 | 1 |
| Church register (members, marriages, baptisms), Western 1865-1881. | 82 | 2 |
| Church register (members, marriages, baptisms), Covenant, 1895-1945. | 66 | 1 |

| | | Box | Fold |
|----------------------------|--|-----|------|
| Salem history file. | | 1 | |

Salem History File Scope and Contents note

Constitution, Constitution of Female Provident Society 1869, Annual Record (1884, 1885, 1886, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1892, 1893) Invitation to 50th Anniversary 1887, In Memoriam Book for Rev. Izer 1903, 1896 directory

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| Covenant history file. | | 2 | |
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Covenant History File Scope and Contents note

Historical Address 1928; Salem M.E. Church Annual Record 1892, 1913, 1915; Papers relating to the building of the church (1896, 1897, 1920); Picture of church; About Temple Beth Zion - Beth Israel; Correspondence Re: Beth Zion Synagogue- 1995; Shabbat Shalom from Temple Beth Zion=Beth Israel

Western history file.

3

Western History File Scope and Contents note

Programme - Grand Musical 1877