

C Missouri East Conference, United Methodist Church, Records, 1836-1984
3727 6.5 linear feet, 2 rolls microfilm, 2 audio cassettes

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MICROFILM

INTRODUCTION

The records of the Missouri East Conference of the United Methodist Church also include records of districts and individual churches. The records consist of annual reports, minutes, financial and historical information, information on church-related institutions and organizations, ministerial candidate information, and histories of individual churches. Materials from antecedent conferences and other Missouri conferences can also be found in the records.

DONOR INFORMATION

The Missouri East Conference, United Methodist Church, Records, were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri during the years 1979 through 1986 by various donors. A complete list is in the information folder for this collection.

ORGANIZATIONAL SKETCH

The Methodist Church came to Missouri in 1798 with the first Methodist preacher, John Clark. In 1805 Joseph Oglesby was appointed by Bishop Asbury to seek out prospects for Methodist work in Missouri. Two circuits were formed in 1806 and the Missouri Conference was organized in 1816. By 1826 Missouri was divided into fifteen circuits.

The issue of slavery helped to split the church at the General Conference of 1844 into the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Earlier, many blacks had left the church and formed the African Methodist Episcopal Church and the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church. Another split had led to the formation of the Methodist Protestant Church.

The split between the northern and southern branches of the church was not healed until 1939. At this time the Methodist Protestant Church also reunited with the other two. In 1968 the Methodist Church united with the Evangelical United Brethren to form the United Methodist Church.

The United Methodist Church in Missouri had been divided into two conferences, the East and the West, with eight districts in the West Conference and seven districts in the East Conference. The conferences later merged to form one Missouri Conference.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The bulk of this collection dates from the twentieth century, with scattered material dating from the previous century. Included are materials from the St. Louis Conference (1896-1961), as well as some from the Central West Conference and the Missouri West Conference.

In addition to documenting the business of the conference and the districts, the collection provides information on Methodist-supported educational institutions and social service agencies, ministerial candidates, and prominent clergy and lay members. The series on churches includes historical information, photographs and some church records.

See also collection 3308 Missouri East Conference, United Methodist Church, Records, 1800-1972, and collection 3595 Missouri East Conference, United Methodist Church, Records, 1850-1977.

The records are arranged into ten series: **St. Louis Conference; Missouri East Conference; Commission on Archives and History; Institutions and Organizations; Districts; Board of Ministerial Training; Biographies and Writings; Churches; Central West Conference and Missouri West Conferences;** and **Audio Cassettes.**

The records in the **St. Louis Conference** series, 1896-1973, relate to an antecedent conference of the Missouri East Conference. Included are minutes of meetings, committee reports, financial reports, ordination service programs, newsletters, Board of Education year-books, minutes of St. Louis Methodist ministers meetings, and photographs of conference meetings in 1896, 1898, 1913, and 1919.

The **Missouri East Conference** series, 1961-1981, documents the formation of the Missouri East Conference and the formation of the United Methodist Church (1968); and includes annual conference workbooks containing committee and board reports, financial reports, programs of annual conference meetings, and worship services; and directories.

Materials compiled by and related to the activities of the **Commission on Archives and History**, 1910-1984, includes information on the national commission, correspondence, minutes of meetings, directories of members, *Historian's Digest* newsletter, photographs of historic Missouri Methodist sites, and other materials on the history of Missouri Methodism. The **Institutions and Organizations** series is comprised of material from Methodist schools, nursing homes, and other organizations. The **Districts** series is comprised of newsletters and journals of annual conferences.

The **Board of Ministerial Training** series consists of materials on the training of Methodist ministers at, mainly, Southern Methodist University's Perkins School of Theology and Central Methodist College. Correspondence which cites programs of ministerial candidates, actions of the board, and candidates' ordinations; information on qualifications and requirements for entering the ministry; applications for exemption from selective service; and records of ministerial candidates consisting of applications, related correspondence, transcripts, and some photographs are in this series. Board correspondence is arranged chronologically, and the ministers' records are arranged alphabetically by surname.

The **Biographies and Writings**, including some sermons, are arranged alphabetically by name. The **Churches** series contains histories, photographs, worship service programs, records, and directories of United Methodist churches in the Missouri East Conference. Two audio cassettes of a service at Old McKendree Chapel in Cape Girardeau County in 1966 are described at the end of this inventory.

The **Central West Conference and Missouri West Conference** series is made up of the journals of the annual meetings of these conferences.

The **Audio Cassettes** series contains two recordings from a service at Old McKendree Chapel, Cape Girardeau County, in 1966.

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- f. 21-25 St. Louis Methodist Ministers meetings, 1946-1954

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Churches Series

f. 237	"Characteristics of Methodist Ministers and Churches in Missouri, 1961," by Alan K. Waltz.
f. 238	"Methodism in Four Small Cities in Missouri, 1961," by Alan K. Waltz. (Carthage, Jefferson City, Moberly, and Poplar Bluff)
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- f. 253 Caruthersville
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- f. 258 Dent and Grundy Counties. "Methodism in Two Counties in Missouri, 1962," by Roy A. Sturn.
- f. 259 DeSoto-Florissant
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Central West Conference and Missouri West Conference Series

f. 312 Central West Conference, Methodist Church, Journal of Annual Sessions, 1965-1966.
Roll 1 Central West Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, Journal of Annual Sessions, 1921-1937.
Roll 2 Central West Conference, Methodist Church, Journal of Annual Sessions, 1940-1966.
f. 313-317 Missouri West Conference, United Methodist Church, 1968-1969, 1972, 1975, 1980. Annual conference workbooks and information on ministers.

Audio Cassettes Series

a.c. 1-2 Service at Old McKendree Chapel, Cape Girardeau County, on 18 September 1966.
a.c. 1 Side 1: "Hear My Prayer," sung by choir of Grace Methodist Church, Cape Girardeau; tribute to Fred Naeter and W.H. Wagner by Rush M. Limbaugh; and report of curator, H.R. Tate.
Side 2: Introduction of speaker by J.C. Montgomery Jr. and sermon by Frank C. Tucker, "Stately Mansions of the Soul."
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