

K Red Bridge Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Congregation Records, 1879-2016
1361 2 cubic feet (98 folders and oversize)

This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri-Research Center, Kansas City](http://www.mshsociety.org). If you would like more information, please contact us at shsofmo-kc@umsystem.edu.

INTRODUCTION

The records of the Red Bridge Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Congregation, 1879-2016, contain materials documenting the history of this Kansas City, Missouri-based congregation from its early beginnings in the 1910s as Agnes Avenue Mission, to its establishment as Oak Park Christian Church in 1914, to its move and renaming as the Red Bridge Christian Church in 1960-61, and its eventual dissolution in 2015.

DONOR INFORMATION

The records were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Turner Shipman on behalf of the Red Bridge Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Congregation on February 8, 2016. (Accession No. KA2319).

ORGANIZATIONAL SKETCH

The Red Bridge Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Congregation in Kansas City, Missouri, began in the 1910s as the Agnes Avenue Mission in the Oak Park neighborhood. In 1914, it was formally named Oak Park Christian Church, after the purchase of property at 43rd St. and Montgall Avenue.

A special revival was held beginning Sunday, March 18th, 1917, featuring Evangelist William T. Brooks, to raise funds for a new three-story Bible School building addition. Additional renovations to the Oak Park building occurred from the 1930s to the early 1950s.

Changes in the surrounding neighborhood in the 1950s spurred discussion of relocating the church congregation. The decision was made by the board and congregation in the late 1950s to relocate the church to the Red Bridge area. Oak Park Christian Church sold their property at 43rd and Montgall to Friendship Baptist Church, an African-American congregation.

The Oak Park Christian Church was closed and the name formally changed to Red Bridge Christian Church in 1960. The new building in Red Bridge at 108th and McGee (10842 McGee) was dedicated on April 23, 1961.

Suffering membership declines over the 1990s-2000s, the church held its last service and closed on November 30, 2015. The church building was donated to the Kansas City Autism Training Center (KCATC) in early 2016.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The records have been arranged into the following nine (9) series:

Administrative
Annual reports

Board and committee meeting minutes

Correspondence

History

Land sale documents

Title insurance documents

Photographs

Publications

The **Administrative** series contains general information on attendance and giving data in the 2000s, and information pertaining to the national Disciples of Christ Historical Society Archives.

The **Annual reports** series document the annual activities of the church from the 1980s and early 2000s.

The **Board and committee meeting minutes** series show the leadership, decision-making, and community activities, as well as the financial status, of the church from the 1950s to the 1990s.

The **Correspondence** series consists of letters written by church leaders in the 1940s and 1950s.

The **History** series consists of material collected over time by members and leaders. It includes albums and scrapbooks, photographs, chronologies, written material and printed items. Oversize materials have been removed to a flat box stored onsite.

The **Land sale documents** series contains material concerning the church property from the late 1960s to the late 1990s. Oversize materials have been removed to an oversize drawer stored onsite.

The **Title insurance documents** series contains material concerning church property from 1956 to 1959.

The **Photographs** series consists of numerous images documenting the history of the church, its leaders and members, its youth and women's group activities, and its different buildings, among many other topics. Oversize materials have been removed to a flat box stored onsite.

The **Publications** series consists of printed material such as membership directories, pictorial directories, worship service bulletins, newsletters and other materials related to the local church, as well as materials relating to the national Disciples of Christ denomination. Oversize materials have been removed to a flat box stored onsite.

PREFERRED CITATION:

Specific item; box number; folder number; *Red Bridge Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Congregation Records, 1879-2016 (K1361)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Kansas City [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-KC].

FOLDER LIST

- f. 1 Administrative
 - f. 1 Administrative, attendance and giving, archives, 2004-2014
- f. 2-4 Annual reports,
 - f. 2 Annual reports, 1989, 2004-2006
 - f. 3-4 Annual reports, 2001-2003
- f. 5-19 Board and committees meeting minutes, 1950s-1990s
 - f. 5 Board and committee meeting minutes, 1950s
 - f. 6-8 Board and committee meeting minutes, church relocation, 1950s-1960s
 - f. 9-10 Board and committee meeting minutes, 1960s, 1970s
 - f. 11 Board and committee meeting minutes, coordinating committee, 1970-1971
 - f. 12 Board and committees, general board, 1970-1971
 - f. 13 Board and committees, congregational meeting, 1970-1971
 - f. 14 Board and committees, executive committee, 1970-1971
 - f. 15 Board and committees, coordinating committee, 1971-1972
 - f. 16 Board and committees, general board, 1971-1972
 - f. 17 Board and committees, special congregational meeting, 1971-1972
 - f. 18 Board and committees, meeting minutes, 1980s
 - f. 19 Board and committees, executive board, land sale documents, 1997-1998
- f. 20 Correspondence, 1940s-1950s
- f. 21-42 History
 - f. 21-31 Album compiled by Marjorie Hornig, 1930s-1980s
(See also Photographs series)
 - f. 32 Chronologies, 1912-2016
 - f. 33 Congregational history, various, 1912-2016
 - f. 34 40th anniversary celebration, December 1999
 - f. 35 Homecoming booklet, 1984
 - f. 36 Members, deaths, ca. 1940s-2000s
 - f. 37-39 Oak Park Christian Church, building fund, fundraising cards, laying cornerstone, 1916-1917, (oversize)
 - f. 40 Oak Park Church Life newsletter, re: groundbreaking, Nov. 27, 1959
 - f. 41 Document, Origin and Development of Red Bridge Christian Church, calligraphy on fine paper, Apr. 23, 1961, (oversize)
 - f. 42 Scrapbook documenting move to new building, 1950s-1960s, (oversize)
- f. 43-44 Land sale documents, 1967-1999, (oversize)
- f. 45 Title insurance documents, 1956-1959
- f. 46-60 Photographs, ca. 1910s-2010s
 - f. 46 Photographs, postcards, ca. 1910s-1960s
 - f. 47-49 Photographs, ca. 1930s-1960s

- f. 50 Photographs, ca. 1950s-1970s
- f. 51 Photographs, ca. 1980s-2010s
- f. 52 Photographs, 2000s-2010s
- f. 53-55 Photographs removed from Marjorie Hornig album, other loose photos, 1930s-1950s
- f. 56-58 Photo album (dismantled for preservation purposes), Silver Anniversary, Sept. 30, 1984
- f. 59-60 Photo album (dismantled for preservation purposes), Homecoming and celebration, Sept. 28, 1986
- f. 61-98 Publications, ca. 1879-2010s
 - f. 61 Advent Devotional, 2004
 - f. 62-67 Bulletins, worship services, 1938, 1970s, 1990s, 2000s
 - f. 68-69 Christian Standard newspaper, Cincinnati, Oh., Mar. 17, 1917; Jul. 26, 1930, (oversize)
 - f. 70-71 The Congregation and Leaders, 1980s
 - f. 72 Fifty Golden Years, 1879-1929, Christian Woman's Missionary Society in Missouri, ca. 1929 [Oak Park Christian Church Library]
 - f. 73 The Front Rank newspaper, St. Louis, Mo., Mar. 4, 1917, (oversize)
 - f. 74 Invitation to join, 1984
 - f. 75-85 Membership directories, 1932, 1950s-2010s
 - f. 86 Membership directories, Christian Women's Fellowship, 2006-2007
 - f. 87 Missionary Intelligencer (1917); World Call (1930) (Photocopies only of title page and table of contents pages, for reference.)
 - f. 88 Newsletter, The Bridge, Dec. 3, 1973
 - f. 89 Newsletter, The Oak Park Christian, 1934-1937
 - f. 90 Newsletter, Red Bridge Christian News, 1980s-2010s
 - f. 91 Pamphlet, One Year in the Trenches, City Missions Committee, Kansas City, Mo. and Kansas City, Ks., 1917
 - f. 92-95 Pictorial Directories, 1970s-2000s
 - f. 96 Remembering 50 Years Together, and related corresp., 2011
 - f. 97 Reprinted article on Disciples of Christ, Saturday Evening Post, May-June 1984
 - f. 98 Souvenir Album, City Evangelization, Christian Churches of Greater Kansas City, [Mo.], 1915

LOCATION NOTE

The collection is stored offsite and will need to be retrieved before viewing. Oversize materials have been removed to a flat box or oversize drawer stored onsite.

SUBJECTS

Architecture—Missouri—Kansas City
Disciples of Christ—History
Disciples of Christ—Missouri

Kansas City (Mo.)—Religious life and customs
Photographs
Missouri—Kansas City

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