May 2012


Western Theological Seminary

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May 24, 2012.

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**Abstract**

Contains the records of Beechwood Reformed Church from 1942-1991. Minutes, charter member records, women’s organizations records, directories, anniversary information, photographs, and audio-visual material.

Accession No.: W92-1046  
Provenance: Beechwood Reformed Church  
Custody Agreement: Beechwood Reformed Church  
Photographs: 155 images (6 in Box 1); 149 slides (Box 2)  
Processed by: Carolyn Nienhuis, March 1993

**History**

Beechwood Reformed Church was organized in 1944 with 114 charter members. Their first building for worship was a chapel, donated by Maplewood Reformed Church. This was placed on their property at 269 Douglas Avenue and enlarged to 24x56 feet. A new church was built and dedication took place on July 8, 1947, and a parsonage built next door to the church in 1951. An educational wing was added to the church in 1954, and another addition was completed in 1972. They recently built a new church at 895 Ottawa Beach Road.

Their first pastor was Reverend John Benes, followed by Elton Van Pernis, Chester Postma, Frank Shearer, Richard VanderKlok and David Breen.

**Scope and Content**

Contains the records of Beechwood Reformed Church from 1942-1991. Minutes of the consistory and early congregational meetings; charter member records; women’s organizations records, which includes minutes of the Women’s Mission and Aid Society and various records of the Guild for Christian Service; directories; anniversary information; photographs and audio-visual material, which includes an 8mm film, slides and a reel to reel tape of the 25th anniversary in 1969. Also, slides of the dedication of the educational wing in 1972. The church membership for 1944-1977 is on microfilm. The folders are arranged alphabetically.

**Container List**

Box 1

Church Records, 1942-1983  
Anniversaries, 1969, 1983  
25th - Program, 1969  
40th - Information, 1952-1983  
Consistory minutes, 1942-1969
Rough draft, 1943-1945 (2 volumes)
Final draft, 1942-1969 (4 volumes)
Consistory and Elders meetings minutes, 1970-1972
Deacon’s meeting minutes, 1948-1958
Directories, 1968-1991 (Scattered) (2 folders)
Guiding Light Class constitution and minutes, 1947-1978 (1 volume)
Guild for Christian Service, 1959-1978
  Attendance Records, 1959-1966
  Constitution and By-laws, 1959
  Minutes, 1959-1969 (2 folders)
  Newsletters, 1967
  Programs, 1964
  Spiritual Life Committee, 1965-1972 (1 volume)
Historical summaries, 1943-1983
Wicks organ, 1964
Women’s Mission and Aid Society, 1956-1959 (1 volume)
Photographs, n.d., 1943
Indians
  Benes, Rev. and Mrs. John, n.d. (1 image)
  Benes, Rev. John family, n.d. (1 image)
  Douma, George and John Overbeek, 1943 (1 image)
Groups
  Corner stone laying ceremony, n.d. (1 image)
  Women’s organization (negative also), n.d. (1 image)
Church building, n.d. (1 image)

Box 2

  8mm film, n.d.
    Placement of cross, Rev. John Benes, early church services, n.d.
Microfilm, 1944-1977
  Membership records (negative), 1944-1977
  Membership records (positive), 1944-1977
Reel to reel tapes, (7” reel), 1969
  Dedication service (?), n.d.
  25th anniversary, 1969
Slides, 1972
  Dedication of educational wing, 1972 (59 slides, 1 tray)
  25th anniversary, 1969 (90 slides, 2 trays)