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Repository citation: Western Theological Seminary, "W02-1266. Michigan, Coopersville. Coopersville Reformed Church. Records, 1854-1992. 10.50 linear ft." (2012). *Collection Registers and Abstracts*. Paper 245.

https://digitalcommons.hope.edu/collection_registers/245

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W02-1266. Michigan, Coopersville. Coopersville Reformed Church. Records, 1854-1992. 10.50 linear ft.



Abstract

Coopersville Reformed Church (also went by the names Polkton and Eastmanville) was organized in 1854, but dates its history to 1846. Ministers included Rev. Jacob Vander Meulen and Rev. James Huysoon. Collection includes a complete set of bulletins from 1970-1992 and the minutes of the consistory dating back to 1854 (some of the early minutes were destroyed by fire, but the collection is complete from 1914-1984); church directories published between 1957 and 2001, including several pictorial directories; church newsletter *Echoes, Courier, and Love Link*, 1962-1999; photographs of the church and parsonage, pastors and missionaries, and of the 100th Anniversary celebration in 1954; and other materials from the 125th anniversary in 1979; Sunday School records from 1900-1973; minutes of the various women's groups dating back to 1894; records of the Young Peoples Society from 1911-1926 are also a part of this collection.

Accession No: W02-1266
Provenance: Coopersville Reformed Church
Donor: Custody agreement
Photographs: 62 images (Box 6)
Processed by: Leon Witteveen, June 2002

History

The Coopersville Reformed Church was organized in 1854. In the early years it also went by the names Polkton and Eastmanville. The history of the church dates back to 1846 when a few families of immigrants came to this area. Services were held in their homes until a small log structure was set-aside as a house of worship.

In 1854, a request was sent to the Classis of Holland for organization. On May 10, a church of 21 members was organized. In 1862, steps were taken to obtain a minister. Rev. Jacob Vander Meulen accepted a call on terms that he would also be pastor of a Congregational Church in Eastmanville. This joint pastorship was unsatisfactory and lasted only one year.

A frame church was built in 1866. Rev. James Huysoon was called to be the pastor. A parsonage was built. Membership continued to grow. In 1883, the building was moved to its present location. The building burned a year later. The church was rebuilt, and then destroyed again by fire in 1928. The present structure was built and dedicated on March 6, 1929. The church grew from the original 21 members to 628 in 1979 when the church celebrated its 125th anniversary.

Scope and Content

The Coopersville Reformed Church collection contains a complete set of bulletins from 1970-1992 and the minutes of the consistory dating back to 1854. However, some of the early minutes were destroyed by fire. The collection is complete from 1914-1984. Also included is a

Coopersville Reformed Church, Coopersville, Michigan
W02-1266

set of church directories published between 1957 and 2001, including several pictorial directories.

The church newsletter was begun in 1962, and was known by three different names through the years – *Echoes*, *Courier*, and *Love Link*. The set is complete to 1999. Photographs of the church and parsonage, pastors and missionaries, and of the 100th Anniversary celebration in 1954 include a total of 62 images. Also included are a program and other materials from the 125th anniversary in 1979.

Sunday School records from 1900-1973, minutes of the various women's groups dating back to 1894, and the records of the Young Peoples Society from 1911-1926 are also a part of this collection.

Some of the early minutes and records are in Dutch.

Container List

Box 1

Birthday Calendar, 1976
Bulletins, 1970-1982 (13 folders)

Box 2

Bulletins, 1983-1992 (10 folders)

Box 3

Consistory Records

Baptismal Records, 1866-1989 (Dutch)
Congregational Meeting Notes, 1911
Correspondence and Receipts, 1904-1905
Financial Reports
 1865-1892 (Dutch)
 1892-1908 (Dutch)
 Ledger, 1928-1936
Membership Records
 1854-1921 (Dutch)
 1953-1960
Minutes
 1854-1898 (3 folders) (Dutch)
 1914-1968 (7 folders)

Box 4

Consistory Records (cont.)

Minutes
 1969-1984 (8 folders) (Bound Volumes)

Coopersville Reformed Church, Coopersville, Michigan
W02-1266

Box 5

Directories

1957, 1961, 1968-1982, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1991, 1993-2001
Pictorial, 1973, 1979, 1986, 1990, 1994

Dutch Hymnal, n.d.

Filmstrip, "The Story of the Christian Church," n.d.

Liturgy and Psalter of R.C.A., 1912

Missionary Monthly, December 1941

Newsletters

Echoes, 1962-1974 (5 folders)

Love Link, 1975-1989 (2 folders)

Box 6

Newsletters (cont.)

Love Link, 1990-1992

Courier, 1993-1994

Love Link, 1994-1999 (3 folders)

Photographs

Church and Parsonage, 1913, 1919, 1920, 1954 (8 images)

Pastors and Missionaries, n.d., 1950, 1955, 1956, 1957 (19 images)

Pictorial Directory, 1973 (8 images)

100th Anniversary, 1954 (27 images)

Special Services

Programs, Installation Services of Rev. Theodore Lindman, 1982, and Rev. Bruce
Van Dusseldorp, 1985

125th Anniversary Celebration, 1979

Sunday School Records, 1900-1943, 1926-1945, 1942-1963, 1962-1974, 1972-1973 (8
folders)

Women's Ministries

The Guild, Minutes, 1945-1953

Ladies Aid Society

Financial Records, 1923-1960 (2 folders)

Minutes, 1915-1926

Ladies Adult Bible Class, Minutes, 1917-1923

Box 7

Women's Ministries (cont.)

Ladies Mission Circle, Minutes, 1930-1947

Women's League for Service

**Coopersville Reformed Church, Coopersville, Michigan
W02-1266**

Minutes, 1934-1939, 1955-1960 (2 folders)

Treasurer's Reports, 1936-1960 (2 folders)

Women's Missionary Society

Correspondence and Notes, 1940-1942

History, 1888-1938

Minutes

1894-1927 (Dutch) (5 folders)

1935-1942 (Dutch)

1943-1950 (3 folders)

Young People's Society

Minutes, 1914-1926

Records, 1911-1916