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W92-1059. Illinois, Chicago. Emmanuel Reformed Church.
Records, 1914-1989. 4.50 linear ft.

Abstract

Consistory records, 1944-1986 (incomplete); baptismal records 1919-1986 (incomplete); membership records 1914-1987; church reconstruction 1944-1946; cornerstone contents, 1926, 1945; photographs; and printed materials.

Accession No: W92-1059
Provenance: Emmanuel Reformed Church
Donor: Chicago Classis
Photographs: 25 images (Box 3)
Processed by: Carolyn Nienhuis, July 1995



History

In July 1896, a branch Sunday School was organized by Bethany Reformed Church (Chicago) for people living north of the church. In 1913, a basement building was built and used for the Sunday School. This Sunday School became Emmanuel Reformed Church, which was organized in 1914 with 37 members. They used the basement building for some time, but problems with flooding from rain, improper heating, and lack of space prompted them to buy a chapel which they moved to Emmanuel's property in 1921. The church continued to grow, and in 1926 they laid a cornerstone for a new building, dedicating it in 1927. This building was destroyed by fire on March 9 and 10, 1944. Immediate plans were started for a new building, which was completed in 1946. As the community changed and many families left the area, the church suffered a loss of vision. It was disbanded in June of 1990. Eleven pastors served Emmanuel, the last pastor being Benjamin Johnson, who served from 1981 to 1986.

Scope and Content

The records of Emmanuel Reformed Church, 1914-1989 include minutes, member records, cornerstone contents, financial records, and photographs. The folders are arranged alphabetically.

Please note that the congregational meeting minutes for 1954-1967 are in the back of the book of consistory meeting minutes for 1954-1963. Also, member records are on both pages and cards since each contains information the other does not have. An unusual part of the collection is the contents of two cornerstones. A weakness is the consistory meeting minutes for the early life of the church, from 1914 to 1943, are not included. A strength of this collection is the very complete member records which include information such as birth, death dates, baptismal records, and addresses.

Container List

Box 1

Emmanuel Reformed Church, Chicago, Illinois
W92-1059

Agreement between Owner and Architect, 1944
Anniversaries
 25th, History, 1939
 50th, Program, 1964
Baptism Records, 1919-1986 (scattered)
Booklet, Proposed Church, n.d.
Bulletins, April 23, 1944-May 12, 1946 (scattered)
Christian Service Sheet, n.d.
Church in Transition: A Study, 1987
Church Profile, 1987
Church Reconstruction
 Authorization to Begin Construction, 1945
 Bids, 1944-1945
 Building Committee Minutes, April 22, 1944-June 20, 1946
 Dedication Memories, 1946
 Dedication Services, 1946
 Laying of Corner Stone, 1945
Congregational Meetings
 Agenda, 1944, 1972-1985 (scattered)
 Minutes, 1968-1977
Consistory
 Agenda, 1944, 1972-1985 (scattered)
 Annual Report, 1968-1985
 Duties, n.d., 1977, 1983
 Manual, 1979
 Minutes
 1954-1977 (2 bound volumes)
 1944, 1975, 1977-1986 (1 folder)
Contract, Maudlin, Sidney M., 1974 (copy)
Cornerstone Contents, 1926 (FRAGILE)
 Membership List, n.d.
 Minutes of Congregational Meeting, n.d.
 Proposed New Emmanuel Church, n.d.
 The Leader, July 14, 1926
 Roseland Vicinity News, n.d.
 Photo, Cornerstone, 1926
Cornerstone Contents, 1945 (2 folders) (FRAGILE)
 Anniversary Book, 1939
 Bulletin, April 15, 1945
 Congregational Reports (8), 1945
 Emmanuel Messenger, December 1944
 Programs, Laying of Cornerstone, April 18, 1945
 The Sower, May 1943
 Building Fund Offerings (3 coins), April 16, 1945
 Photographs
 Corner Stone, 1945

Emmanuel Reformed Church, Chicago, Illinois
W92-1059

Family, Rev. Spencer C. De Jong, n.d.
Church Herald, March 23, 1945
The Calumet Index, April 18, 1945
Chicago Daily News, April 18, 1945
South End Reporter, April 18, 1945

Box 2

Deacon's Meeting Minutes
 1967-1979, 1984 (bound volume)
 1979-1986 (1 folder)
Design for Truss, n.d.
Drawing, Proposed Room Additions, 1963
Directories, 1972-1985
Dismission Certificate, 1949-1970
Elder's Meeting
 Agenda, 1981-1986
 Minutes
 1931-1987 (3 bound volumes)
 1977-1981 (1 folder) (scattered)
Emmanuel Brotherhood, Minutes, 1939-1952 (2 bound volumes)
Emmanuel Messenger, April and May 1945
Financial
 Application for Salary and/or Program Aid, 1974, 1976, 1985
 Proposed (Tentative) Budget, 1962-1986
 Summer Program Expenses, 1974, 1978
 Treasurer's Report, 1940-1977 (scattered)
Guest Book, 1977
Member Records, 1914-1987 (pages) (6 folders)

Box 3

Member Records, 1914-1987
 Pages (7 folders)
 Cards (5 folders)
Memorial Fund, n.d. (bound volume)
Memorial Service, August Willard Nydam, 1976
Miscellaneous, n. d., 1968, 1983
Newspaper Articles, 1944-1946
Pastor's Proposal and Reports, 1982-1986
Photographs
 Emmanuel Reformed Church
 Basement Church, circa 1915 (1 image)
 Chapel on 102nd Place, circa 1921 (2 images)
 Church on 102nd Place, circa 1927 (3 images)
 Church after fire, March 1944 (4 images)

**Emmanuel Reformed Church, Chicago, Illinois
W92-1059**

Church Reconstruction, 1945 (13 images)

Group

Unidentified, n.d. (2 images)

Rededication of Sanctuary, n.d.

Regulations for Use of Sanctuary and Banquet Hall, 1986, 1987

Stationary, Emmanuel Reformed Church, n.d.

Survey Responses, n.d.

Transfers, 1971-1989 (scattered)

Oversize (Non-Photographic Media Drawer)

Charter Member List, n.d.