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Western Theological Seminary

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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
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


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
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
Dismissal 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
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)
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.