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Creator: Redford Avenue Presbyterian Church (Detroit, Mich.)
Title: Redford Presbyterian Church records.
Inclusive dates: 1906-2009
Extent: 13 linear feet (in 16 boxes), 3 oversize volumes, and 1 oversize item
Call number: 2009250 Ba 2

Language: Material is in English
Acquisition: The records of the church (donor no. 3245) came to the library in July 2009.
Accruals: No additions to the records are expected.
Access: The record group is open without restriction.
Photographs: Photographs located in box 1 and scattered throughout the scrapbooks.
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Processed By: Thomas E. Powers, October 2009

Abstract

Detroit, Michigan Presbyterian Church; organizational records, publications, baptismal and membership records, scrapbooks, files of the women's organization

History

Redford Avenue Presbyterian Church was established in March 1906 by a small congregation that served what was then known as Sand Hill in Detroit. Four men, Allen M. Bosworth, Dr. Samuel J. Holcomb, David N. Reid and William J. Stringer made up a committee to place the request before the Detroit Presbytery. They were advised that meetings should be held, with the congregation to be organized later. A meeting was held in the Masonic hall and these four men were named as a finance committee. About \$2500 was raised and Mr. and Mrs. Allen Bosworth gave three lots to be used as a church site. Construction began and the cornerstone was laid on August 20, 1905. The first church building was dedicated on December 31st, 1905.

On February 2nd, 1906, the articles of incorporation were signed by the four men of the original committee along with Emery Becker, F. L. DeNio, Chas. A. Lahser, John M. Paulger, Chas. H. Philbrick, Eugene Smith, L. N. Tupper and Alonzo P. Woodruff. On March 4th, 1906 the church was accepted by the Presbytery and organized with thirty-nine charter members. It was served by supply ministers until October 22nd, 1906, when the Rev. J. Archie McKee of East Jordan was called as minister.

The church was known as the First Presbyterian Church of Redford until 1926, when the name was changed to Redford Avenue Presbyterian Church. The church's membership grew rapidly, and as a result, in 1929, a separate addition was built to accommodate the larger congregation. Unfortunately, in 1945 the sanctuary was completely destroyed by a fire. However, this tragedy provided an important opportunity for the congregation and community to work together to rebuild the church, and by 1954, a new sanctuary, educational wing and fellowship hall was constructed. By the late 1960s, the membership had grown to more than 3,600 people. Beginning in the 1970s, membership would begin to decline. Eventually, in 2009, with fewer members to pay the bills and with the expense of maintaining their aging facility, the membership voted to consolidate with Southfield Presbyterian Church.

Scope and Content Note

The records have been arranged into the following series: Administrative and Topical Files; Board of Deacons, Reports and Directories; Women's Organizations; Schooner Mariners; Publications; Baptismal Records; Membership Records; and Scrapbooks.

Box No. Description

Administrative and Topical Files

Box 1

History and Background Information
Anniversaries
 75th, 1981
 100th, 2006
Church building
 Architect's drawings for new building (not accepted)
 Minutes of Planning Committee, Architect's Committee,
 Furnishings Committee for new additions, 1957-1960
Commission on Christian Education, 1957-1962
Congregational and Corporation By-Laws
Cornerstone laying, 1954
Demographic survey (area profile), 1994

Box 16

Demographic charts, 1967 (see also oversize chart)

Box 1

Homecoming Celebration, 1987-2004
Kinderkirk
Merger proposal, 1994
Pastoral Nominating Committee: Call of Calvin W. Didier, 1964
Program Committee and Related
Riddering (Albert A.) Tribute
Strategic Planning Task Force and related, 1989-1993
Miscellaneous
Photographs of church social events (1 folder and 2 albums)

Board of Deacons

Box 2

Minutes of meetings, 1952-1980, 1997, and 1999 (9 folders)
Secretary's record books containing combination of minutes of
 deacons, trustees, and annual meetings
 1963-1966
 1966-1968
 1995-1996

Reports and Directories

Annual Reports, 1950, 1952-2008 (3 expandable folders)

Box 3

Membership Directories, 1964-2007 (with some gaps)
Yearbook 1958 of Annual Congregation – Corporation Meeting, Jan.
 26, 1959

Women's Organizations

Woman's Union
 Board minutes, 1906-1943 (6 volumes and 1 folder) (The Redford
 Woman's Association was formed in 1943)

Box No. Description

Women's Organizations (cont.)

Woman's Association

Box 3 (cont.)

Constitution and By-Laws

Minutes

1947-1948

1950

Box 4

1957-1958

1959-1961

1962-1963

1972-1976

1977

1978

1981-1982

1982

1982-1983

Annual Reports, 1949-1988

Yearbooks, 1956-1995

Budgets, 1957-1970s

Presbyterian Women in the Redford Presbyterian Church (PWRPC)

Minutes and financial material, 1997-2004

Miscellaneous: Annual reports, constitution, and yearbooks

Women's Missionary Society

Minute book, 1921-1925

Minute book, 1925-1931

Annual Programs, 1920s-1930s

Miscellaneous

Woman's group meetings, 1922-1925

Dorcas Society minute book, 1894-1898

Combined records: Fellowship Bible Class, 1935-1942 and New

Life Movement, 1949-1950

Box 5

Priscilla Circle

Women's Circles membership lists

Installation service programs

Mother-Daughter banquets (2 folders)

Comic fashion show

Correspondence and miscellaneous

Photographs of church fundraiser

Schooner Mariners

Constitution

Program flyers

Secretary's notebook

Membership lists

Minutes and related material, 1992-1995

Madrigal Feast, 1995

Boar's Head Festival

Miscellaneous

Box No. Description

Publications

Newsletters

Box 5 (cont.)

1937-1945 (4 volumes)

Box 6

1945-1948 (2 volumes)

1961, 1963-1968, 1972

1973-1997 (7 folders)

Weekly bulletins

1937-1951 (1 expandable folder)

Box 7

1957-1966 (1 expandable folder)

1967-1973 (1 expandable folder)

1974-1977 (1 expandable folder)

Box 8

1978-1979

1980 and 1982

1983, 1985-1986

1992-2009 (scattered dates)

Baptismal records

Box 9

1952 (1 volume)

1968-1969

1969-1974 (1 volume)

1975-1985 (1 volume)

Stubs from baptismal records, 1940s-1980s

Membership records

Box 10

Certificates of dismissals and transferals

Box 11

Church treasurer account book listing names and amounts pledged and received

1916-1919

Out. Vol.

1919-1924 (Out. Vol. no. 1)

Box 11

1924-1934

Boxes 12-14

Card file with name and address of members (past and to date)

Box No. Description

Scrapbooks

Women's Association

Box 15

1906-1942

1930-1965

1958-1981

Out. Vol.

1980-1992 (scattered dates) (Out. Vol. no. 2)

Schooner Mariners

1954-1989 (Out. Vol. no. 3)

Box 15

1960-1976