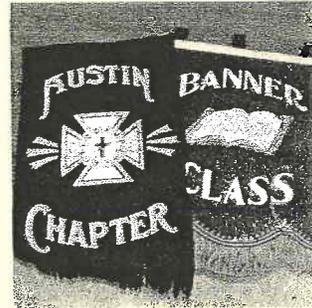


# Conference Archives Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church

## Mission and Scope

The Conference Archives is the agency of the Northern Illinois Conference charged with acquiring and preserving records of enduring value. These records may be generated by local congregations as well as by institutions, commissions and other administrative bodies of the Conference.

The Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church is the contemporary legacy of numerous interdenominational mergers. Its antecedent bodies include annual conferences or jurisdictional areas of the Methodist Church; the Methodist Episcopal Church; the Methodist Protestant Church; the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; the Evangelical United Brethren Church; the Evangelical Church; the Church of the United Brethren in Christ; the United Evangelical Church; and the Evangelical Association. Regional administrative units of these denominations were not coterminous with the boundaries of the present-day Northern Illinois Conference. As such, the holdings of the Conference Archives are expansive in geographical scope and have been drawn from churches and institutions often located well beyond the current area of the Northern Illinois Conference. This is particularly true with regard to records of Scandinavian Methodist congregations and organizations.



Among the Archives' holdings are materials in a variety of formats.

## The Collections

Collections held by the Conference Archives number in the hundreds and support research into the fields of church and local history, genealogy and biography. Holdings include the records of local congregations, most commonly featuring membership rosters and registers of marriages, baptisms and funerals. Other congregational materials include administrative minutes and correspondence, publications, programs, and bulletins, and the records of organizations affiliated with local churches.



Biographical Register of Swedish Methodist Ministers. One of many collections supporting research into church history, biography and genealogy.

Considerable portions of the Conference Archives' holdings include the records of denominational and annual conference commissions, institutions and agencies. Also maintained are official records of conference officers and administrators along with dozens of titles of serial publications and annual journals relating to the Church and its antecedents.

The Conference Archives houses a number of collections of personal manuscripts, largely the correspondence, diaries and sermons of noted members of the clergy. Holdings are available in a variety of formats most commonly including printed and holographic texts, photographs and motion picture film, audio recordings and artifacts.



A selection of periodicals reflecting the diverse heritage of the United Methodist Church.

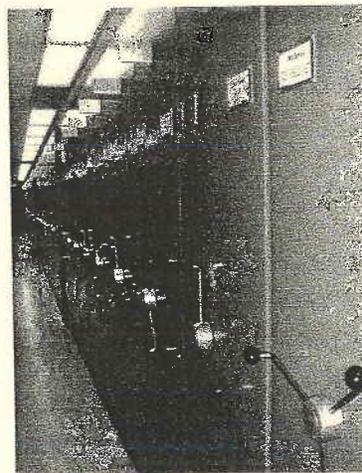
Supplementing these materials are hundreds of published works and reference texts pertaining to the history of the United Methodist Church and constituent components from its past.

### **Acquisitions and Reference**

The Conference Archives seeks to acquire the permanently valuable, non-current records of local churches and agencies of the Northern Illinois Conference and its antecedents. Acquisitions are arranged, cataloged, and stored according to standard and accepted practices of archival and manuscript repositories. Cataloging records from a number of collections held by the Conference Archives have been supplied to the U.S. Library of Congress. These records have been made more widely available to researchers through the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections. Dozens of collections of genealogical significance have been microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU) and may be viewed at the Conference Archives or through the GSU and its system of libraries.

The Conference Archives is housed within the facilities of the United Library at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. Holdings may be consulted through prior appointment. Most collections are open to the general public without restriction. Conference Archives' staff will perform limited reference services on behalf of patrons.

Inquiries pertaining to current holdings or concerning materials for deposit should be addressed to the Northern Illinois Conference Archives, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, 2121 Sheridan Road, Evanston, Illinois, 60201, U.S.A.



Over 500 linear feet of Conference records and manuscripts are housed within moveable shelving units in the United Library at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

“...do the Church a service, for which future  
Methodists will thank you.”

As early as 1863, Alvaro D. Field (1827-1908), pioneer historian of Methodism in northern Illinois, admonished the brethren to record their heritage. Field's work established the local foundation for the collection and preservation of Church records.

## CIRCULAR.

HARVARD, Illinois, April 1863.

DEAR BROTHER:—I have undertaken to gather MEMORIALS of the Rock River Conference. You will greatly oblige me, as well as do the Church a service, for which future Methodists will thank you, if you will aid in this collection by writing out whatever matters you may have knowledge of, as indicated in the items below. You need not care for the form of the writing, if we only get the facts. Write names and dates distinctly. Will not Laymen especially write up Histories of their Societies?

I. 1. The origin of *any* classes in existence before 1840. 2. The origin of *all* Societies that seem to be permanent. 3. Who preached the first Methodist sermon at that place. 4. Who established first regular appointment. 5. Who organized the Class. 6. Leaders' and members' names.

II. 1. When was each Circuit set off. 2. Where were the appointments of each year. 3. Where was preaching held at each place. 4. By what names are the places now called. 5. When the first Church built; who built it; dedication services. 6. What preachers sent out from these places.

III. 2. History of first Rock River Conference in 1840. 2. History of any early and noted Camp Meetings or revivals. 3. History of Secessions.

IV. 1. Your life. 2. Incidents in lives of early pioneers, as John Dew, Smith L. Robinson, H. Crews, J. Sinclair, Wm. See, J. T. Mitchell, J. Clark, S. R. Beggs, Peter H. Borein, Elihu Springer, etc., etc. 3. Send names of any persons who will be likely to give information. 4. Know of any historical articles in secular papers.

\*Especially,.....

Yours,

A. D. FIELD.

Conference Archives  
Northern Illinois Conference  
The United Methodist Church  
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary  
2121 Sheridan Road  
Evanston, Illinois 60201