

Roberts United Methodist Church Records Finding Aid MS048

Roberts United Methodist Church Records (MS048)

1877-1913



Title Statement

Roberts United Methodist Church Records Finding Aid MS048

Publication Statement

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Profile Description

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Language Usage: Description is written in: English, Latin script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS048

Unit Date

1877-1913

Language

English .

Extent

.41 Cubic Feet 1 box

Repository

Local History and Special Collections Branch, Alexandria Library

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation

[Item identification], Roberts United Methodist Church Records, MS048, Alexandria Library, Local History/Special Collections, Alexandria, Va.

Biographical / Historical

In 1830, African American members of the Trinity Methodist Church decided to form their own congregation. They formed the Methodist Episcopal Church which became more firmly established with the building of a chapel in 1834. This chapel, named the Davis Chapel, after a white minister, was renamed the Roberts Chapel in 1844 giving the congregation its current name. Until the Civil War, white ministers led the church, but after 1866 African Americans have filled the pulpit.

Content Description

The original collection consisted of a variety of record books and other loose materials. The books recorded the attendance at the Sunday School as well as more general church events, such as a list of contributors or the events of the quarterly conferences on the condition of the church. Of particular interest to historians of the church may be the notes of the pastors in the front of the Comprehensive Church Record (folder 6) which record some of the financial and congregational struggles of the church between 1893 to 1905. Genealogists may well want to search the same Record for the names of members during this same period.

Keywords

African Americans -- Virginia -- Alexandria.
Church records and registers. -- Virginia -- Alexandria

Existence and Location of Copies

The records are available on microfilm.

Existence and Location of Originals

Originals are still held at the Roberts United Methodist Church.

Arrangement

The records are divided into two series: I. Sunday School Records, arranged chronologically. II. Other Church Records and Miscellaneous Materials, arranged chronologically.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series I: Sunday School Class Records

Unit Date 1887-1904

Sunday School Classes

Unit Date 1881

Text 1 (Oversize Box)

Container 1 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Attendance Records; Minutes; Register of Officers, Male and Female Scholars, and Teachers; Financial Account; and Historical Account, 1887

Sunday School Classes

Unit Date 1892-09-04-1898-03-27

Text 1 (Oversize Box)

Container 2 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Attendance Records

Sunday School Classes

Unit Date 1893-01-01-1893-12-24

Text 1 (Oversize Box)

Container 3 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Attendance Records and Minutes

Sunday School Classes

Unit Date 1898-11-06-1901-12-29

Text 1 (Oversize Box)

Container 4 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Attendance Records, Part 1 (Pages 1-77)

Sunday School Classes

Unit Date 1902-01-05-1904-06-26

Text 1 (Oversize Box)

Container 5 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Attendance Records, Part 2 (pages 78-117)

Series II: Other Church Records and Miscellaneous Materials

Unit Date 1877-1943

Comprehensive Church Record

Unit Date 1894-1909

Unit Date 1891

Unit Date 1893

Text 1 (Oversize Box)

Container 6 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Includes Historical Records with entries by pastors from 1893, 1891, 1895, 1900, 1905; Pastoral Records (1894-1906), Records of Officers (1899-1901), Probationer's Records (1894-1909), and Members in Full Connection with notes on expulsions, deaths, etc.

Miscellaneous Reports, Financial Documents and Correspondence

Unit Date 1889-1911

Unit Date 1900-1901

Unit Date 1911

Unit Date 1913

Text 1 (Oversize Box)

Container 7 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Includes "Official Roll of 1900-1901"; Reports from the Sunday School, the Epworth League, Junior League, Methodist Brotherhood, and the Ladies' Aid mostly from 1911; Financial Reports from 1913; Letters from 1889 to 1911.

Minutes of the Quarterly Conferences

Unit Date 1909-07-02-1913-03-07

Text 1 (Oversize Box)

Container 8 (folder)

Records of the Epworth League

Unit Date 1911-05-03-1912-01-18

Unit Date 1913-03-07

Text 1 (Oversize Box)

Container 9 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Includes Minutes from May 3, 1911 through January 18, 1912, a letter from the president, G.N. Preston, March 7, 1913 complaining of the inactivity of the group, and a copy of the By-Laws of the District Epworth League.

Contributions of Members

Unit Date 1921-04-1922-03

Text 1 (Oversize Box)

Container 10 (folder)

General

No year appears in this record book. Using a perpetual calendar based on the dates of the Sundays for each month, it appears likely that these contributions came in the years 1921 and 1922. Since the record book itself appeared in 1918 as indicated by the words "1918 Edition" on the cover, it seemed likely that it was used sometime soon after that. The years 1921 and 1922 were the first possible. Other possible years included 1938/1939, 1949/1950, and 1960/1961, but it did not seem likely that the record book dates from those years. Researchers may want to verify this by checking the addresses of the members in city directories or other sources during the years 1921 and 1922.

Songbook

Unit Date 1877

Text 1 (Oversize Box)

Container 11 (folder)

Scope and Contents

"Heavenward"

Songbook and Songsheets

Unit Date 1880

Unit Date 1940

Unit Date 1943

Mixed Materials 1 (Oversize Box)

Container 12 (folder)

Scope and Contents

"Welcome Songs for Sabbath Schools "(1880), "De Gospel Train" (1940), "Hide My Soul "(1943)