

FINDING AID

Records of the Moravian Church of Uhrichsville, Ohio 1874-1994

4 boxes

History of the Church

The Moravian Church of Uhrichsville was organized as a congregation on October 25, 1874 and commenced worship with Brother J. Mortimer Levering as its pastor. Land was purchased for the site of a church, but the building was not actually built until several years later, with the dedication of the church held on November 10, 1878. As with other Moravian churches in the vicinity of Tuscarawas Valley, Ohio, the Uhrichsville church experienced a difficult and rocky start due to the area being extremely poor and suffering through an economic depression. The congregation continued to grow in size despite this obstacle, but it was difficult work making ends at meet and the congregation was at risk for some time with the threat of disbanding. In 1879 the Board of Church Extension investigated and convinced the neighboring congregations of Gnadenhuetten and Sharon to give funds to Uhrichsville to avoid closure. This resulted in encouraging the Uhrichsville congregation in continuing with their endeavor to worship now that their chance of retaining the church appeared secure. By 1882 the town of Uhrichsville was out of its economic depression and was rapidly growing. The congregation and church of Uhrichsville is still in operation today.

Archival History

There was no accession file for this collection. The records were organized by Sarah Kepner, student at Moravian College, 2007.

Scope and content:

The papers are various records that range from the very beginning of the church's existence up to recent years (1874 to 1993). The majority of the collection is made up of diaries and minute books detailing the church services as well as various groups organized by the church, such as the Ladies Aid Society, Missionary Society, Christian Education Committee, Comenian Bible School, etc. There are balance books, accounts and ledgers for these same groups also spanning the years mentioned previously. Some of the minute books and account books are combined into one volume. There are also annual reports from the late 1800s-1940 and budgets for the decades of the 1950s and 1960s. In addition to these records, there is also a personal diary of a Pastor J. Kaiser kept during the years 1900-1902.

System of Arrangement

The records are arranged by church group and then by type of document.

Language

English.

Physical characteristics

Nearly all in good condition, except for some of the bindings from the earlier years, which have disintegrated and are very fragile.

Related units of description

The church registers from this congregation (1875-1979) are in the collection of church registers: ChReg 127-130.

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1. Church services & operations

Congregation Diaries

- 1 1878-1896
- 2 1901-1910
- 3 1910-1917
- 4 1917-1926
- 5 1928-1954
- 6 1955-1977

Church Council Minutes

- 7 1874-1926
- 8 1948-1983

Church Register

- 9 1893

Church Accounts and Ledgers

- 10 1875-1900
- 11 1940-1948

Annual Reports

- 12 1874-1909
- 13 1910-1949

Diary of Pastor J. Kaiser

- 14 1900-1902

Benevolent Budgets

- 15 1955-1963
- 16 1964-1969

2. Ladies Aid Society

Minute Books & Accounts combined

- 17 1933-1945
- 18 1945-1946
- 19 1946-1949
- 20 1950-1956
- 21 1956-1959

3. Missionary Society

Day Book/Journal

- 22 1868-1914

Ledger

23 1868-1914

4. Christian Education Committee

Minute Book & Accounts combined

24 1959-1972

5. Board of Trustees

Minute books

25 1910-1916

26 1951-1954

27 1954-1956

28 1957-1970

29 1971-1979

6. Senior Christian Endeavor

Constitution/Minute Book

30 no date

7. Junior Christian Endeavor

Constitution/Minute Book

31 1955

8. Board of Elders

Minute Book

32 1978-1994

9. Comenian Bible Class

Minute Books

33 1937-1942

34 1945-1961

10. Alumni Association (Ohio Branch)

Minute Book

35 1912-1926

11. Miscellaneous

Church Constitution and Decree

(including Letter from Rev. Richard L. Williams to "Schwarze" concerning Church Constitution, 1944)

36 1877