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W00-1257. Michigan, Grand Rapids. Bethel Reformed Church. Records, 1906-2000. 9.00 linear ft.

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W00-1257. Michigan, Grand Rapids. Bethel Reformed Church.
Records, 1906-2000. 9.00 linear ft.

Abstract

Bethel Reformed Church of Grand Rapids was chartered by Classis Michigan in 1906. The church went through two modest buildings on its site at Coit and Travis streets before building its grander, longtime home, dedicated 1928. In August 2000, the congregation was officially disbanded and the church closed. The collection contains minutes of Consistory, Elders', Congregational, Deacons' and Building Committee meetings. Also included are financial reports, membership lists, transfer credentials and church directories.

Accession No: W00-1257
Provenance: Bethel Reformed Church, Grand Rapids
Donor: Dan Ballast
Photographs: 247 images, 48 negatives (Box 6)
Processed by: David Andrews, November 2001

History

Bethel Reformed Church of Grand Rapids was chartered by Classis Michigan in 1906. The church went through two modest buildings on its site at Coit and Travis streets before building its grander, longtime home, dedicated 1928. The burning of the mortgage in 1948 was an occasion for great rejoicing. In August 2000, the congregation was officially disbanded and the church closed.

Scope and Content

The collection contains minutes of Consistory, Elders', Congregational, Deacons' and Building Committee meetings. The minutes also contain pertinent administrative documents. (Please note that, due to varying binding methods by Bethel administrators, some years may overlap from file to file.) Also included are financial reports, often bound in folders with the minutes. Membership lists and transfer credentials are also represented. Some church directories listed are photo-illustrated.

Container List

Box 1

Abstracts of Title, 1906-1991
Administrative Documents, 1960-1962
Articles of Incorporation, 1907, 1910, 1945, 1949
Building Improvement, 1991
Building Plans, n.d.
Bulletin Inserts

Bethel Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan
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Fellowship Dinners, 2000
Food Pantry, n.d.
General, 1991-2000, n.d.
Bulletins, 1947-1948, 1951-1953, 1956, 1966, 2000
Bylaws, n.d.
Caretaker Regulations, n.d.
Certificate of Appreciation, 1997
Church Directories
 1974
 c. 1975
 1981
 1987
 1991, 1993, 1995-1996
 1992
 1998
 1999
Church Guestbook, 1965-1987
Church Guidelines, 1991
Consistorial Annual Report Forms, 1984-1998
Consistory Concerns, 1985-1988, 1995 (3 folders)
Consistory Manuals, n.d., 1985 (2 folders)
Contribution Envelope Numbers, 1990-1991
Contributions, 1987-1990, 1994-1996 (5 folders)
Correspondence
 General, 1961, 1979-1989 (2 folders)
 Membership Concerns, 1989-1996, 1999 (2 folders)
Crusade for Christ, 1950

Box 2

Dedication Service Programs, 1908-1986
Disbanding the Congregation, 1999-2000
Dismissal/Transfer Certificates
 1947-1981 (scattered)
 1950-1952, 1957-1961
 1962-1999
Elevator, 1992
Filed Membership Correspondence and Administrative Documents, 1958-1980
 (6 folders)
Financial Ledgers (Stored in Box 5)
 1906-1941
 1929-1943
 1942-1957
Financial Reports
 1949-1954
 1959-1963

Bethel Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan
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1981-1986
1992-1997
1998-1999
Fire Restoration, 1994
Elders' Calling Lists, 1999
Guest Survey, n.d.
Guidelines for Weddings, n.d.
Histories
 50th Anniversary, 1956
 75th Anniversary, 1981
 Through the Years with Bethel, 1906-1928, 1928
Hymns and Praise Songs, 1993-1997
Installation Services, 1948, 1961, 1972
Membership Lists, 1987, 1999
Membership Register
 c. 1921-1924 (Stored in Box 5)
 1974-1979
Minutes and Treasurer's Reports, 1961-1971 (11 folders)

Box 3

Minutes
 Building Committee, 1926-1929, 1984
 Congregational
 1969-1982, 1989-1990
 1968-1969, 1972-1975
 1981-1988, 1991-1995, 1998-1999
 Consistory and Elders' Meetings, 1946-1960, 1972-1979 (9 folders)
 Consistory
 1906-1946, (5 folders) (stored in Box 5)
 1955-1985 (8 folders)

Box 4

Minutes (cont.)
 Consistory (cont.)
 1981-1999 (8 folders)
 Deacons' Meetings, 1976-1980
 Elders' Meetings
 1980
 1981
 1982
 1982-1987
 1986-1989
 1988-1990
 1990-1992

Bethel Reformed Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan
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1991-1993

1993-1999

Executive Committee/Pastoral Relations, 1983-1986, 1991, 1996-1997

Missionary Support, 1955-1956, 1960-1962

Mortgage Note, 1957

Music, 1992-1993, 1999-2000

News Clippings, 1948, 1951-1953, 1946

Organ Fund/Car Rentals, 1982-1984

Pastoral Concerns, 1983-1986, 1990-1999 (includes floppy disk)

Pastoral Search, 1979, 1986 (2 folders)

Pledge Card, n.d.

P. O. H. Contact List, n.d.

Responsive Liturgy Readings, n.d.

Rev. Jacob Blaauw, 1947-1949, n.d.

Sermons List, 1997

Shut-ins List, 1985, 1992, n.d.

Special Music, 1994, 1996, n.d.

Sunday School, 1989, 1997, n.d. (2 folders)

Box 5

Financial Ledgers

1906-1941

1929-1943

1942-1957

Consistory Minutes, 1906-1918, 1924-1946 (5 folders)

Membership Register, c. 1921-1924

Box 6

Photographs, 1906-1999

Book and History Outline, n.d. (16 images)

Framed

Mortgage Burning (2 images)

Mounted

Congregation (3 images)

Original Building (1 image)

Pastors (9 images)

Prints, n.d.

Christmas and Summer (42 images, 24 negatives)

Church Functions (89 images, 24 negatives)

Congregation and Building (11 images)

Dinner (26 images)

Plate, commemorative, c. 1948