

Salem UMC Archives  
**Finding Aid for the**  
*Conference Records*

**Descriptive Summary**

Repository: Salem United Methodist Church Archives, 1200 S. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, Missouri 63131. Phone: (314) 991-0546. Email: [eterryhistory@gmail.com](mailto:eterryhistory@gmail.com) Website: <http://www.salemstlouis.com>

Creator: Salem, and conferences in which Salem was a member

Title: Conference Records

Dates: 1913-2010

Quantity: 3 linear feet

Language: English

**Historical Note**

John Wesley first called Methodist preachers together in 1744 for a conference in London. When the Methodist movement spread to America, the preachers gathered for the first time in Philadelphia in 1773. During the Revolutionary War between England and the American colonies, many Anglican pastors returned home to England, causing a clergy shortage in the new nation. When the Methodists gathered for the Christmas Conference in 1784 at Lovely Lane Chapel in Baltimore, Maryland, they formed a new church, The Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1892, the Methodist Episcopal Church preachers decided to meet every four years, a practice that continues today.

Shortly after the Christmas Conference, Jacob Albright set out to spread Methodism to the German-speaking people of Pennsylvania. In 1803, those Methodist class meetings met in a conference where they ordained Albright to lead them. In the years that followed, they would name themselves the Evangelical Association, and would continue to hold conferences to lead the new church.

At about the same time, another group of German-speaking Pennsylvanians gathered under the leadership of William Otterbein and Martin Boehm. At their conference in 1800, they ordained bishops and organized themselves into a new church called Church of the United Brethren in Christ, and agreed to meet in annual "General Conferences." Soon they would also move to a quadrennial (once every four years) cycle. The Evangelical Association and United Brethren in Christ would form the Evangelical United Brethren in 1946. Then in 1968, they would join with The Methodist Church—formed through a series of splits and unions of The Methodist Episcopal Church—to become The United Methodist Church.

Methodism in Missouri began with a sermon in the summer of 1798 by John Clark. In 1806 John Travis was assigned to the "Missourie" circuit. Thus, the history of Methodism in Missouri began.

*Salem's Conference timeline*

1816: Missouri Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church which was formed  
 1841-1844: Missouri Conference, MEC - German Mission District  
 1845-1856: Illinois Conference, MEC - German Districts  
 1857-1863: Southern Illinois Conference, MEC - St. Louis German District  
 1864-1879: Southwestern German Conference, MEC - St. Louis District  
 1880-1925: St. Louis German Conference, MEC - St. Louis District  
 1925-1931: St. Louis Conference, MEC  
 1932-1938: Missouri Conference, MEC  
 1939-1961: St. Louis Conference, MC  
 1962-1967: Missouri East Conference, MC  
 1968-2002: Missouri East Conference, UMC  
 2003- Missouri Conference, UMC

*Charge Conference:* The charge conference is the unit that connects the local church to the general church. The conference should meet at least annually to review and evaluate the total mission and ministry of the church and to adopt new goals. The district superintendent presides at that meeting, or he/she appoints another elder to preside. The conference receives reports from the church staff, all local church organizations and Volunteer-in-Mission teams. The group may also recommend candidates for the ordained ministry. The Charge Conference establishes the budget and the sets the compensation for the pastor and other staff members appointed by the bishop. The conference also elects leaders based on nominations by the Committee on Lay Leadership. The Charge Conference is composed of the Church Council, but to encourage broader participating, the charge conference may be convened as a Church Conference in which all professing members have the right to vote. 14 The Charge Conference will elect a lay leader who will meet regularly with the pastor to discuss the church and needs for ministry. The Charge Conference also elects lay members of the annual conference.

*General Conference:* General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church. It meets once every four years and revises The Book of Discipline (church law) and Social Principles, and also adopts resolutions on current moral, social, public policy and economic issues. It also approves plans and budgets for churchwide programs for the next four years.

Citation:

Iovino, Joe and Dale Patterson, "Why the United Methodist General Conference? History and Highlights," United Methodist Church, accessed 10-15-2021 AET, <http://ee.umc.org/who-we-are/why-united-methodist-general-conference-history-and-highlights>

"History of the United Methodist Church," United Methodist Men, accessed 10-15-2021 AET, <https://www.gcumm.org/>

### **Scope and Content Notes**

Series 01: *Charge* conference records include financial records, church maintenance records, and documentation regarding organizations within Salem compiled for meetings attended solely by Salem's leaders. *Church* conference records include financial records, church maintenance records, and documentation regarding organizations within Salem compiled for meetings attended by Salem's leaders and membership.

Series 02: Programs and notes regarding meetings of the Saint Louis Annual Conference, of which Salem was a member.

Series 03: Programs for the St. Louis Conference of Methodist Episcopal Churches, of which Salem was a member.

Series 04: Programs for Missouri Annual Conference and Missouri West and East Annual Conference, each of which Salem was a member.

### **Administrative Information**

#### **Source of Collection**

Salem United Methodist Church, and the conferences in which Salem was a member.

#### **Accruals**

Salem's Archives will continue to accrue conference reports.

#### **Processing Information**

Compiled by Elizabeth Terry, 2009-2012

### **Restrictions**

#### **Access Restrictions**

There is no restricted material in this collection.

#### **Use Restrictions**

Users of the collection must read and abide by the Rules for the Use of Salem UMC Archives Materials.

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### **Collection Contents**

#### **Series 01: Charge conference and church conference reports**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>
1	1969-1973 Charge conference reports 1974 Charge conference reports

1987 Charge conference reports  
 1989 Charge conference reports  
 1990 Charge conference reports  
 1991 Charge conference reports  
 1992 Charge conference reports  
 1993 Charge conference reports  
 1994 Charge conference reports  
 1995 Charge conference reports  
 1997 Charge conference reports  
 1999 Charge conference reports  
 2000 Charge conference reports  
 2006 Charge conference reports

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>
2	1996, 2001-2006 Church conference reports 2006 Church conference reports 2007 Church conference reports 2007-2010 Church conference reports

**Series 02: Saint Louis Annual Conference**

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>
3	1956: program for June 1956 St. Louis Annual Conference meeting 1958: workbook and notes for the 1958 St. Louis Annual Conference meeting

**Series 03: St. Louis Conference of Methodist Episcopal Churches**

**Series 04: Missouri Annual Conference,  
 Missouri West and East Annual Conference**

<u>Box</u>	
4	Programs for conference meetings, 1913-1969, 1975. Minutes for some conference meetings, 1913-1969, 1975. "Fellowship in Song": a 1963 songbook for Methodist youth.