

Salem UMC Archives  
**Finding Aid for the**  
*Boards, Organizations, Staff 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 UMC and Robert Appel

Title: Boards, Organizations, Staff Records

Dates: 1930-2018

Quantity: 6.5 linear feet

Language: English

**Historical Note**

Salem United Methodist Church lends a powerful narrative to the rich history of St. Louis, beginning with the story of its founder, Ludwig S. Jacoby. He was born in 1813 to devoutly Jewish parents in the Alt-Strelitz area of Mecklenburg, Germany. Searching for more in his life, Jacoby was baptized into Christianity by a Lutheran pastor in 1835 and immigrated to the United States around 1838. After becoming a Methodist in Cincinnati, Jacoby married a fellow German immigrant, Amalie, a Catholic-turned-Methodist.

The Methodist Church of Cincinnati sent Jacoby to St. Louis as a circuit rider in 1841. Upon arrival, he rented an “old, abandoned Presbyterian mission church” on Seventh and Biddle Streets and began holding worship services. With 22 members, Jacoby’s church became one of the first German Methodist churches west of the Mississippi. In 1842, the little congregation purchased property on Wash Street, near Eleventh Street, and built their new 32’ X 50’ church. Five years later, a much larger, brick church building was erected on that site.

In 1873, the congregation built a new church at the corner of Fifteenth and Wash Streets, which became known as the “Cathedral of German Methodism.” To provide for other neighborhoods, the church began other branches of Methodist Episcopal churches throughout St. Louis during the last half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The home church on Wash and Fifteenth served as the “mother church” for its branch churches as well as its outreaching missions.

The congregation again relocated in 1905, building a new church at Page and Pendleton. The new Salem Methodist Episcopal Church held revival services in addition to its regular worship. The church offered groups such as the singing Salem Glee Club and the Friendship Club, made up of young women who worked in the city. The women who belonged to Salem’s IAM Society provided aid to St. Louis poor and, during WWI, children of Europe.

Yet another new church was built at Kingshighway Boulevard and Cote Brilliante Avenue in 1925. The congregation faced losing their church during the Great Depression of the 1930s and dedicated themselves to saving their place of worship. Each organization within the church fund-raised for the “Building Fund” and the “Save the Sanctuary Fund.” Even the youth joined the effort by putting on a pageant to “Save Old Salem.” Due to the resolve of its members during those hard years, the church prevailed.

In 1958, Salem moved to its current location on the northeast corner of Lindbergh Boulevard and Daniel Boone Expressway (now Highway 40 / I64) in St. Louis County. The congregation first built a chapel for its worship services, which was followed by a series of building-addition projects. Early educational classrooms and a fellowship hall preceded the church’s large sanctuary and office space. The most recent addition, completed in 2005, houses Salem’s multipurpose room / gym and an entire wing of classrooms for Salem’s preschool, Sunday school, and youth activities. In 2016, The Connection, located in south St. Louis, became a valuable addition to Salem. Now boasting large membership, the thriving, mission-oriented Salem United Methodist Church continues its long heritage as a church home for the people of St. Louis, where all are welcome.

Compiled from Robert S. Appel’s *Salem – Congregations of the Faithful: A History of Salem Methodist Church, 1841-1991*.

### **Biographical Sketch**

Robert Appel was born on September 15, 1921 in St. Louis, Missouri. He was raised in St. Louis and joined his parents as members of Salem. Mr. Appel’s parents, George and Irene Appel, were loyal members of Salem, and played a large role in saving the church during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

During World War II, Mr. Appel entered the United States Army in 1942 and served with Company B, 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Third Division as a 30 Caliber light machine gunner. He was wounded in his neck on January 31, 1944 on the Anzio Beachhead, Italy. Mr. Appel was discharged honorably in 1945.

After the war, he returned to the United States and continued his active membership at Salem. He was employed by United Van Lines in the capacity of Personnel Manager (hiring and placement), as well as Advertising and Public Relations Manager for over 25 years. Robert Appel first married Jennie Louise Grant, and the couple had a daughter Robbie (Robbie Louise Rabanus). Mr. Appel’s wed a second time to Lorraine Lemmons. He married once more, to Ms. Shirley Sneed.

Robert Appel was integral in building Salem’s Archives by carefully collecting and saving valuable documents related to the church’s history. He chronicled the church’s history in his book *Salem – Congregations of the Faithful*, and educated Salem’s membership as the longtime “church historian.” Salem is indebted to Mr. Appel for his keen recognition of the importance of Salem’s documented history and material culture, and his dedication to collecting it.

## Scope and Content Notes

### Series 01: Varied material

Includes various documents belonging to a variety of boards and organizations, as well as some information regarding to Salem's staff, 1930-2008.

### Series 02: Robert Appel's notes

Includes a variety of meeting notes, speech notes, and documents from the various boards and organizations that Robert Appel was involved in at Salem, 1940s-1990s.

## 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, meeting notes, staff papers, and related materials.

### Processing Information

Compiled by Elizabeth Terry, 2009-2022

## 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.

Users of the collection who wish to use items from this collection, in whole or in part, in any form of publication (as defined in the form) must sign and submit to the Salem UMC Archives a hard copy of the notification of Intent to Quote from or Publish Salem UMC Archives Materials form.

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## Collection Contents

### Series 01: Varied material

#### Box

1

#### Folder

Official Board, 1950s – *folder 1*

Notes, meeting minutes, and committee reports

Official Board, 1950s – *folder 2*

Notes, meeting minutes, and committee reports  
 Official Board, 1960s  
 Notes, meeting minutes, and committee reports  
 Sunday School Board, 1940s  
 Notes and meeting minutes; financial notes  
 Sunday School Board, 1950s  
 Reports of the Church School Treasurer  
 Salem Brotherhood, 1930s and 1940s – folder 1  
 Membership rolls, meeting minutes, notes, etc.  
 Salem Brotherhood, 1930s and 1940s – folder 2  
 Membership rolls, meeting minutes, notes, etc.  
 Salem Brotherhood, 1940s  
 Membership rolls, meeting minutes, notes, etc.  
 Board of Christian Social Relations, 1950s  
 Notes, letters, Board Constitution, etc.

Box

2

Folder

Wesleyan Service Guild, 1940-1949. *Folder 1*  
 Meeting minutes, notes, etc.  
 Wesleyan Service Guild, 1940-1949. *Folder 2*  
 Meeting minutes, notes, etc.  
 Wesleyan Circle, 1970s  
 Notes, meeting minutes, programs, etc.  
 Wesleyan Circle, 1977-1978  
 Membership rolls, meeting minutes, notes, etc.  
 Wesleyan Circle, 1978-1980  
 Meeting minutes, notes, etc.  
 Women's Foreign Missions, 1936-1940  
 Reports, notes, ledger, etc.  
 Salem Methodist Men (Salem Men's Club), 1953  
 Letters, by-laws, and handbook  
 Women's Society of Christian Service  
 Notes, address lists, organizational report of 1961  
 Church organization and/or structure, 1988-1992  
 Job descriptions for internal teams and committees; policies, etc.

Box

3

Folder

Administrative Board, 1983-1984. *Folder 1*  
 Meeting notes, budget and member information, reports, etc.  
 Administrative Board, 1983-1984. *Folder 2*  
 Meeting notes, budget and member information, reports, etc.  
 Memorial Committee, 2000-2003  
 Lists of memorial donations, committee meeting notes, etc.  
 United Methodist Women, 2000  
 Directory, which includes committee memberships and guidelines,  
 events, and policies

Administrative Council, March 2006-September 2007  
 Meeting notes, member information, reports, etc.  
 Administrative Council, January 2008-September 2008  
 Meeting notes, member information, reports, etc.  
 Preschool Board, 2007  
 Meeting minutes  
 Evangelism Team, 2006-2008  
 Meeting minutes  
 Hospitality Team, 2008  
 Meeting minutes  
 Lay Personnel Committee, 2006  
 Meeting minutes  
 Lay Leadership, 2005 and 2008  
 Team meeting minutes, October 8, 2005  
 Leadership training attendee list, January 2008  
 Christian Education, 2006  
 Team report, July 9, 2006  
 Mission Team, 2006  
 Team report, July 16, 2006  
 Staff Parish Relations Team, 2006-2008  
 Members list, meeting notes  
 Congregational Care, 2007  
 Meeting and subcommittee meeting notes  
 Worship Team, 2006-2008  
 Meeting minutes  
 Family Ministries, 2006  
 Meeting minutes, August 13, 2006  
 Children's Ministries, 2006-2008  
 Meeting notes  
 Staff job descriptions, 1969  
 Staff job descriptions  
 Greg Robirds personal notes, 1994  
 Greg Robirds: Salem's Director of Youth Ministries, 2002-2014  
 These are notes of appreciation for Greg Robirds as he was leaving  
 his position as youth leader in San Antonio for a position in  
 Houston. He was set to marry his fiancée, Diane.

Box

4

Folder

Board of Trustees, 1960s, *Folder 1*  
 Various documents  
 Board of Trustees, 1960s, *Folder 2*  
 Various documents  
 Board of Trustees, 1960s, *Folder 3*  
 Various documents  
 Board of Trustees, 1960s, *Folder 4*  
 Various documents

Board of Trustees, 1963  
 Various documents, including list of members

Board of Trustees, 1967-1970  
 Various documents

Board of Trustees, 1988  
 Meeting minutes

Board of Trustees, 1986-1990  
 Various documents

Board of Trustees, 2001  
 Accountant's report

Board of Trustees, 2003-2008  
 Meeting minutes and supplementary documents

Box  
 6

Folder

UMW Installation material  
 United Methodist Women & the Discipline notes  
 Plan of Action to Getting Young Women Involved  
 Ceremonies: Rites and Services  
 Installation Services: From the Water's Edge  
 Installation Services: Hope for a Brighter Future

UMW Installation of Officers 2004  
 Notes related to event

UMW Installation of Officers 2010  
 Notes related to event

UMW meeting notes 2008  
 Notes related to November 4, 2008 meeting  
 Notes related to August 12, 2008 meeting  
 Notes related to May 6, 2008 meeting  
 Notes related to April 1, 2008 meeting  
 Notes related to March 4, 2008 meeting  
 Notes related to February 5, 2008 meeting  
 Notes related to January 9, 2008 meeting

UMW meeting notes 2009  
 Notes related to November 3, 2009 meeting  
 Notes related to October 6, 2009 meeting  
 Notes related to September 1, 2009 meeting  
 Notes related to August 4, 2009 meeting  
 Notes related to May 5, 2009 meeting  
 Notes related to April 7, 2009 meeting  
 Notes related to March 3, 2009 meeting  
 Notes related to February 3, 2009 meeting

UMW meeting notes 2008-2009  
 Notes related to January 6, 2009 meeting  
 Notes related to December 2, 2008 meeting  
 Financial reports

Administrative Council & ministry meeting notes 2010  
 Notes related to July 11, 2010 meeting  
 Notes related to May 13, 2010 meeting  
 Notes related to Capital Fund meeting  
 Notes related to Children's Ministry meetings

Building Team notes 2002  
 Long Range Planning Team meeting minutes, June 29, 2002  
 Long Range Planning Team meeting minutes, September 14, 2002  
 Long Range Planning Team Leadership meeting notes,  
 September 15, 2002  
 Long Range Planning meeting minutes, October 5, 2002  
 Planning notes, feedback, correspondence, etc.  
 Long Range Planning Team meeting minutes, November 24, 2002  
 Long Range Planning Team meeting minutes, December 8, 2002  
 Capital campaign planning notes, feedback, etc.

Building Team notes 2003  
 Capital campaign planning notes, feedback, etc.  
 Architectural plans, ideas, notes, etc.  
 List of names comprising Architectural Working Group  
 Long Range Planning Team meeting minutes, January 11, 2003  
 Long Range Planning Team meeting minutes, January 25, 2003  
 Long Range Planning Team meeting minutes, February 9, 2003  
 Space Utilization Committee meeting notes, March 15, 2003  
 Long Range Planning meeting minutes, July 27, 2003  
 Long Range Planning meeting minutes, August 10, 2003  
 Finance notes  
 Salem Architectural Group meeting notes, September 3, 2003  
 Salem Architectural Group meeting notes, September 13, 2003  
 Building Committee meeting minutes, October 19, 2003  
 Building Committee meeting minutes, November 9, 2003  
 Salem Building Committee meeting notes, November 23, 2003  
*Salem-in-Ladue United Methodist Church Communications Plan,  
 November 23, 2003*

## Series 02: Robert Appel's notes

| <u>Box</u> | <u>Folder</u>  |
|------------|--|
| 5          | Lay Witness Mission, 1977 <i>Folder 1</i><br>Various documents |
|            | Lay Witness Mission, 1977 <i>Folder 2</i><br>Various documents |
|            | Church Board Meeting, 1978<br>Budget information               |
|            | Finance Commission, 1980-1982<br>Various documents             |
|            | Council of Ministries, 1977-1982                               |

Various documents  
 Administrative Board, 1980-1982 *Folder 1*  
 Various documents  
 Administrative Board, 1980-1982 *Folder 2*  
 Various documents  
 Administrative Board, 1980-1982 *Folder 3*  
 Various documents  
 Methodist Intermediate Basketball League, 1947-1948  
 Various documents  
 Men's Club  
 "Seashell" talk  
 Wesleyan Service Guild  
 Amateur Night – emcee notes

Item

8

Oversized items:

- 1) United Methodist Reporter  
 St. Louis North Star Edition  
 May 21, 1982
- 2) South County Journal  
 December 29, 1987  
 "Traveling Salesman" (Rev. Ed Watkins, Jr.)