

Bethel Evangelical United Brethren Church records

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Summary Information

Repository	Albion College Archives and Special Collections
Creator	Bethel Evangelical United Brethren Church (Bethel, Mich.).
Title	Bethel Evangelical United Brethren Church records
Date [inclusive]	1857-1966
Extent	0.1 Linear feet 3 volumes
Language	English

Language of Materials note The material is in English.

Preferred Citation note

[Item], [Folder], [Box], [Collection Number and Title], Archives and Special Collections, Stockwell-Mudd Library, Albion College. Albion, MI.

Biographical/Historical note

The **Bethel Church of the United Brethren in Christ church** began in 1857 under Rev. J.N. Martin. Church meetings were held at the Block School house. These meeting were quickly met with opposition from the non-Christian group in the community and soon resulted in the conversion of several persons. The Bethel Church was formally organized in January of 1859, by Rev. R.J. Martin and started with forty-six members.

Church meetings continued at the Block School house for another ten years as membership increased. As a result, it was now popular belief that a dedicated place of worship was needed. A space of half an acre was procured for a price of fifty dollars. Construction of a church building began in 1867. The church had the capacity to sit three hundred people and was completed in the summer of 1868 at a cost of \$1,800. A bell was procured after construction and placed in the belfry. It was dedicated by Bishop Weaver of Dayton, Ohio in August of 1868. The church was an appointment of the Branch circuit and belonged to the North Ohio Annual Conference for several years. A Sabbath school was organized in the spring of 1858, which kept up its organization until 1966.

In December of 1877, Rev. G.W. Hill withdrew from the church for holding views that did not accord with established doctrine. He was tried for his views by the North Ohio Annual Conference and was his name was later erased from the conference roll for non-conformity. There was a divison in the United Brethen Church and the Bethel church remained in possession of the radical group. In 1899 the liberal sect of the Church constructed a new church edifice under the leadership of Rev. J.W. Martin.

Around 1902 the Bethel church was transferred to the Michigan Conference. The Bethel and Stokes Chapel United Brethen Churches were placed in the Montgomery charge. In the 1946 merger of the Evangelical Church and the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, the church was renamed the Bethel Evangelical United Brethen Church. On April 16, 1969 the Bethel congregation voted to adopt the plans of discontinuance submitted by the Annual Conference.

List of Pastors

1858-60: Richard J. Martin 1860-61: Andrew Zuver 1861-62: J.W. Martin 1862-63: Bernard 1863-64: R.J. Martin 1864-65: Andrew Miller 1865-66: Josph Brown 1866-67: C. Crossland 1867-68: D. Bender 1868-69: J.K. Livihart 1869-70: J. Johnston 1870-71: J.W. Redman 1871-72: J. Johnston 1872-73: R.J. Martin 1873-74: B.M. McLouth 1874-77: G.W. Hill 1877-78: J.R. Kester 1878: L.M. Neims 1878-79: J. Waldorf 1879-81: J.S. Tedrow 1881-82: W.H. Clay 1882-83: J.B. Shatto 1883-85: S.J. Colgan 1885-86: O.W. Crawford 1886-87: C.W. Bohart 1887-89: A.R. Laudy (Division of Churches) 1889-90: F.O. Fink 1890-91: Levi ? 1891-92: W.J. Coder 1892: A.J. Berry 1892-?: J.H. Wagoner 189.-?: D.C. Sheldon 1898-99: John P. Heights 1899-1900: J.W. Martin 1900-02: C.P. Hofskins 1902-03: Oscar Martin 1903-06: Theo Swank 1907-08: E.E. Rhodes 1908-09: C.C. Flashman 1909-10: Watkins 1910-11: Dobbins 1911-12: Randolph 1912-14: J.M. Daborn 1914-16: S.A. Rhodes 1916-17: R.P. Geyer 1917-19: J.E. Edwards 1919-20: T.J. Liebold 1920-21: ? 1921-22: R.C. Russell 1922-26: J.E. Longenbaugh 1926-27: E.A. Long 1927-28: J.A. Shingledecker 1928-35: E.A. Long 1935-39: Chas F. Moger 1939-40:

J.E. Barr 1940-46: R.E. Uhrig 1946-52: G.A. Ward 1952-54: H.A. Gunyan 1954-58: L.R. Smith 1958-59:
Raymond ? 1959-61: Jack ? 1961-63: David ? 1963-65: Harold J. Slater 1966-69: Hallofeter 1969: Taylor

Scope and Contents note

The **Bethel Evangelical United Brethren Church records** contain membership records, Council of Administration minutes, and Ladies Aid meeting minutes. The membership records date from 1857-1966. The meeting minutes span 1948-1969.

Arrangement note

The records arranged chronologically.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Albion College Archives and Special Collections 2013 July

Conditions Governing Access note

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use note

The literary rights to this collection are assumed to rest with the person(s) responsible for the production of the particular items within the collection, or with their heirs or assigns. Researchers bear full legal responsibility for acquisition to publish from any part of said collection per Title 17, United States Code. The Albion College Archives and Special Collections Department may reserve the right to intervene as intermediary at its own discretion.

Collection Inventory

	Box
Membership register 1857-1966	1
Council of Administration meeting minutes 1948-1969	1
Ladies Aid Society meeting minutes 1953-1959	1