

## Detroit Conference United Methodist Archives



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# Publications on the Origins of the Methodist Protestant Church, (1784) 1824-1837 (1869) BX8403 .O75

### History Note:

Almost before the adjournment of the 1784 conference which organized the Methodist Episcopal Church in America, some Methodists began to protest against the kind of church government that was established. With every succeeding General Conference these protests gathered volume. The biggest point of contention was the exclusion of laymen from the councils of the church and withholding from them the right of suffrage.

By the 1820s, the reformers began to get better organized. They formed Union Societies to advance the cause and began publishing newsletters such as the *Wesleyan Repository* and the *Mutual Rights of Ministers and Members of the Methodist Episcopal Church*. In November 1827, one hundred delegates representing reformers in seven states gathered in Baltimore. The convention approved a memorial for presentation to the next General Conference, praying for the admission of laymen into the legislative councils of the church.

Not only did the 1828 General Conference refuse to support the proposal, it actually extended the claim for the exclusive rights of ministers to legislate to new levels. As feelings on both side hardened, some pastors began threatening members of Union Societies and those who subscribed to reform publications with possible expulsion from the church and started trials under church law. This led many reformers to consider organizing their own church.

On 12 November 1828, the reformers sent delegates to a conference in Baltimore where they organized "The Association of Methodist Churches." At their first General Conference in 1830, the new organization adopted the name Methodist Protestant Church. This split in American Methodism lasted until the 1939 merger reunited them.

### Scope Note:

This collection contains published newsletters and pamphlets documenting the debate over church governance and the emergence of the Methodist Protestant Church. A strong, but not

complete, set of the *Mutual Rights* newsletter covers the years leading up to the 1827 convention of reformers in Baltimore, the pamphlets document both sides of the debates over church governance, and sets of the *Methodist Correspondent* and the *Methodist Protestant* (initially known as *Mutual Rights and Methodist Protestant*) cover the first few years of the new church.

In addition to the publications in these boxes, the archive has volumes of the *Christian Advocate and Journal* (beginning in 1829) giving the Methodist Episcopal point of view.

**Extent:**

2.9 linear feet (85 items/volumes)

**Access Restrictions:**

The collection is open to research.

**Restrictions on Use:**

Photocopying is handled by the staff and may be limited in certain instances. Before using any material for publication from this collection a formal request for permission to publish is expected and required.

Finding aid created by William H. McNitt, June 2015

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Box 1	<p>1784 - <i>A Form of Discipline for the Ministers, Preachers, and Members of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America</i></p> <p>1824-1827 - <i>The Mutual Rights of the Ministers and Members of the Methodist Episcopal Church</i> (monthly periodical)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>October-December 1824</li><li>January-March 1825</li><li>April-June 1825</li><li>October-November 1825</li><li>February-March 1826</li><li>October-December 1826</li><li>January and March 1827</li><li>April-June 1827</li></ul> <p>1827 - <i>A Brief Review of Doctor Bond's "Appeal to the Methodists"</i> by the Rev. Asa Shinn</p>

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