

R **First United Methodist Church (Rolla, Mo.).**
570 **Records, 1899-1969.**
 Five volumes and eight folders.

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

These are historical records of the First United Methodist Church of Rolla, Missouri. Included are a general history of the church, membership rolls and vital records, and records of the Official Board and Quarterly Conferences.

The Methodist Episcopal Church, or “Northern” wing of Methodism, came to Rolla in the form of circuit riders soon after the founding of the town in the late 1850s. During the Civil War, with the help of Union troops quartered in the community, an official congregation was formed and a brick church was built on the southwest corner of Main and Ninth streets, on land donated by Edmund Ward Bishop. By the turn of the century, this church had outlasted and absorbed the town’s “Southern” Methodist congregation. Unfortunately, the early church records for both groups have been lost.

This collection begins with “Volume 1,” a “centennial” (1861-1961) history of Methodism in Rolla written by Clair V. and Bonita H. Mann, and updated by Winona Roberts in 1976. This history provides a basic account of the founding and achievements of the congregation.

The earliest records preserved here are in “Volume 2,” a general record book that includes membership and vital (baptisms, marriages, etc.) records from late 1899 to the early 1920s. “Volume 3” continues these records to the middle 1940s. “Volume 4” is a “Membership Roll” in loose-leaf format, filed alphabetically by surname in family groups. This volume appears to have been maintained into the 1960s.

“Volume 5” is a record book for the “Friendly Sunday School Class,” 1943-1952.

The administrative records of the church are contained in eight folders. Folders 1 through 5 are minutes and associated papers of the monthly meetings of the Official Board from its establishment in 1943 through 1969. The Official Board, made up of stewards and members of administrative and program committees, was the principal governing body of the local church. Folders 6 through 8 contain the records of the Quarterly Conference from 1944 through 1969. The Quarterly Conference was the official reporting body of the congregation to the larger connec-tional structure of Methodism, of which the most immediate was the local District and its Super-intendent. Generally here only the fourth, and most important, Quarterly Conference record has been preserved. This “annual report” summarized the membership statistics, financial records, and all church activities for the previous twelve months.

Shelf List

These are historical records of the First United Methodist Church of Rolla, Missouri. Included are a general history of the church, membership rolls and vital records, and records of the Official Board and Quarterly Conferences.

Section 1: Church History.

Volume 1: "The Centennial of Methodism in Rolla, Missouri, 1861-1961; Centennial Post-script, the First United Methodist Church, Rolla, Missouri, 23 May 1976"

Section 2: Membership and Vital Records.

Volume 2: "Ideal Church Record, for the Methodist Episcopal Church," 1899-1922.

Volume 3: "Official Church Record; Membership Record; Book 3," 1924-1944.

Volume 4: "Membership Roll," loose-leaf format, ca. 1940s-1960s.

Section 3: Sunday School Records.

Volume 5: "Friendly Sunday School Class," record book, 1943-1952.

Section 4: Administrative Records.

Folder 1: Official Board, 1943-1951.

Folder 2: Official Board, 1954-1957.

Folder 3: Official Board, 1958-1960.

Folder 4: Official Board, 1961-1965.

Folder 5: Official Board, 1966-1969.

Folder 6: Quarterly Conference, 1944-1959.

Folder 7: Quarterly Conference, 1959-1965.

Folder 8: Quarterly Conference, 1966-1969.

r648 26 February 1996 First United Methodist Church (Rolla, Mo.) Loaned for

Index Cards

Church records and registers—Missouri—Phelps County

Church records on microfilm

Donnan, David M.

First United Methodist Church (Rolla, Mo.)—Records and correspondence

Liquor Ad Crusade

Mann, Bonita H.

Mann, Clair V., (Clair Victor), 1884-1974

Methodist Episcopal Church—Missouri—Phelps County

Methodists—Missouri—Phelps County

Phelps County (Mo.)

Registers of births, etc.—Missouri—Phelps County

Roberts, Winona C.

Rolla (Mo.)

Sunday schools—Missouri—Phelps County

Sunday schools—Records

United Methodist Church (U.S.)—Missouri—Phelps County