

Guide to the Mississippi Episcopal Area Records 1982-2000



ARCHIVES & HISTORY

General Commission on Archives and History

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Guide to the Mississippi Episcopal Area Records

1982-2000

2.88 cubic feet

gcah.rg.8889

The purpose of this finding aid is to help you understand the nature of this collection and to assist you in the retrieval of material from this collection. The following pages contain a brief biographical history of the person, or persons, who created or collected these papers, followed by a general description of the collection in the scope and content note. If more detailed information is warranted then series descriptions also appear. The container listing appears last and is the listing of material in each box, or container, of this collection. To request material you need to turn to the container listing section. It is essentially a listing of file folders, or artifact items, in the collection. Each folder, or item, has a call number associated with it. Each folder also lists the inclusive dates of the material in the folder. On the material request form list both the call number and the folder, or item, title. Use a different line for each folder, or item, requested. When your request sheet is complete, or full, bring it to the archivist and the material will be retrieved.

History Note

The records of the Mississippi Episcopal Area reflect the administrative life of the bishop in charge. Bishops are elected to this special ministry through the Jurisdictional Conference from a pool of clergy elders eligible for the office as determined by their respective annual conferences. Episcopal assignments are determined by the Jurisdictional Committee on Episcopacy in consultation with the College of Bishops. Each Bishop assumes her or his post on the first day of September following the Jurisdictional meeting. A bishop cannot serve in an area where the person's latest annual conference membership was held.

Bishops are set apart as a separate ministry to oversee and supervise the districts and parishes within their appointed geographic area. The denomination authorizes these ministers to guard the faith, order, liturgy, doctrine and discipline of the general church. District superintendents are appointed by the bishop to help administer the denominational directives in specific geographic areas. Bishops ordain, consecrate, commission and appoint the clergy to specific churches and ministries under their immediate charge. Bishops are also expected to serve the larger church through the general agencies, boards and commissions. They are in many ways the faces of the denomination when General Conference is no longer in session.

Scope and Content Note

The Mississippi Episcopal Area Records contain the working files of Bishop Marshall (Jack) Leroy Meadors episcopal tenure from 1992 to 2000. The diverse records range from day to day operations to episcopal responsibilities within and beyond the Mississippi Annual Conference. Meadors' records illustrate a balanced leadership style with reasonable piety and social concerns on every level of denominational responsibility.

Correspondence makes up the bulk record type in this collection. The content of the correspondence has a wide range. There are many letters expressing thanks to the bishop for attending church or civic functions as well as support for various individuals. Church issues related to individual churches, and polity or social justice reveals the day-by-day work of the bishop when handling topics of local, national or international foci. Homosexuality and is one of the key contested issues that reveals a deep divide in positions amongst church congregations and membership typical of the 1990s amplified by regional cultural norms and mores. Pastoral appointments conflict in letters reflect the joy and frustrations of both clergy and laity. The negative letters reveal frustration over lack of church growth, theological divisions and personality conflicts. Yet there are other topics such healthcare, hunger as manifested in the Amos

Network, higher education in the form of scholarship donations and the Black College Fund, Millennium Fund for Mission which focused on church building projects, Mississippi gambling laws as evidenced by Meadors' letters to politicians on both state and federal levels. He wrote many of these same political leaders on other social just issues as well

Meadors chaired the Council of Bishops Task Force on Children and Poverty. Poverty and the subsequent social problems associated with it that was an issue Meadors took personally. Both in the general correspondence and office files illustrated the project's scope and role Meadors played in the Council's fight against children's related poverty.

The office files also contain information on tobacco, ministerial duties, agendas, finances, reports, minutes, newsletters all dealing with various aspects of a bishop's professional responsibilities.

Arrangement

Material has been arranged in the following manner. basic

MARSHALL LEROY MEADORS.

Related Material

Records of the Council of Bishops

Records of the Kansas Episcopal Area

Records of the World Division of the General Board of Global Ministries

Subject Files Series Records

Records of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women

Access Restrictions

Denominational agency journals, reports and committee minutes are open to the public unless they have been closed in accordance with requirements specified in the Discipline. Denominational agency staff office records are closed for twenty-five (25) years after creation. Personnel records are closed for at least 75 years. Appeals can be made to the General Commission on Archives and History, P. O. Box 127, Madison, NJ 07940.

Use Access

Detailed use restrictions relating to our collections can be requested from the office of the archivist at the General Commission on Archives and History. 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.

Preferred Citation

When citing material from this collection please use the following format: Direct reference to the item or its file folder, Mississippi Episcopal Area Records, United Methodist Church Archives - GCAH, Madison, New Jersey. Do not make use of the item's call number as that is not a stable descriptor.

Index Terms

Subject Terms

Church and social problems

Church work with children



Episcopacy
Health facilities
Homosexuality
Itinerancy (Church polity)-Methodist Church
Politics
Social ethics
Social justice
Tobacco

Geographic Terms

Mississippi

Genre Terms

Agendas
Correspondence
Financial records
Minutes
Newsletters

Added Names - Persons

Cochran, Thad
Ferris, Grey F.
Lott, Trent, 1941-
Still, Mary Lynn
Taylor, Gary "Gene" Eugene, 1953-

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Container List

Marshall LeRoy Meadors

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