

# Guide to the Centenary Committee Minutes 1865-1868



# DREW



## Centenary Committee Minutes

1865-1868

0.49 cubic feet

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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 Centenary Committee was created by action of the 1860 General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church to spearhead the upcoming 1866 Centennial of American Methodism celebration. By 1864, General Conference appointed an additional committee on the centenary and adopted its recommendation that the official celebration should begin on the first Tuesday in October 1866. Fund-raising foci included raising monies for both connectional and local distribution needs. A part of this mandate included raising at least two million dollars for the Centenary Fund in order to retire various institutional and agencies' debts. Not only did the drive reach this goal, it exceeded it by nearly seven million dollars. Many of the existing northern Methodist educational institutions were saved leaving enough monies left over to start new institutions including Drew Theological Seminary, Centenary College Institute and Centenary Biblical Institute for African-American pastors.

It would be remiss to think that finances were the only reason for the Centenary Committee to exist. The primary goal centered on the spiritual improvement of church members by reviewing God's past actions throughout the denomination. Annual conferences were to give a memorial services to mark the anniversary starting in January 1866. Abel Stevens wrote a history to commemorate Methodism's one hundred anniversary. All in all the Centenary Committee's success is a testament to the general church's response to their unique heritage in American church history.

### Scope Note

The collection contains minutes from the Centenary Committee's meetings from 1865 to 1868. Also, there is an undated pamphlet from a detractor entitled, "The State of Methodism" which discusses the spiritual decline of the denomination.

### Arrangement

Material has been arranged in the following manner. Material is arranged by record type.

### Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions regarding this collection. Copyright still owned by Drew. Permissions to publish must be directed to Drew.

### Restrictions on Use

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## **Preferred Citation**

When citing material from this collection please use the following format: Direct reference to the item or its file folder, Methodist Episcopal Church Centenary Committee Minutes, Drew University Methodist Collection, Madison, New Jersey. Do not make use of the items call number as that is not a stable descriptor.

## **Index Terms**

### ***Subject Topics***

Church anniversaries  
Church history-19th century

### ***Subject Geographic***

United States

### ***Genre***

Minutes  
Pamphlets

### ***Subject - Corporate Names***

Methodist Episcopal Church

## Container List

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
2128-7-4:1	State of Methodism, The	Undated
2128-7-4:2	Minutes of The Committee on The Centenary of Methodism - February 22-25	1865
2128-7-4:3	Methodist Episcopal Church Minutes of the Central Centenary Committee - April 14, 1865 - September 18, 1868	1865-1868

