

# **Guide to the Elmer Ellsworth Higley Papers**

1899-1956



## **ARCHIVES & HISTORY**

General Commission on Archives and History

**THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



## Elmer Ellsworth Higley Papers

1899-1956

0.45 cubic feet

gcch.ms.gcch5895

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.

### Biographical Note

Elmer Ellsworth Higley (1867-1931), American Methodist minister, was born on July 6, 1867 in William County Ohio. His family moved to Crawford County, Pennsylvania where he attended Conneautville High School, the Edinboro Normal School, and Allegheny College. Higley was later called to ministry and served his first appointment in Centerville, Pennsylvania. There, he met his wife Alice C. Dowler and they were married on August 16, 1892. Together they had five children, two of which were twin boys who died during infancy.

Higley attended Drew Theological Seminary and completed his degree at New York University. Later he completed pastorates in Sherman, New York; Kane and Newcastle, Pennsylvania; Grace Church, Denver, Colorado; and Grace Church, Des Moines, Iowa.

He then gained charge of the Department of Indian Work under the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension, and the Woman's Home Missionary Society. Higley was part of a committee that was called to confer with President Coolidge on Native American matters. Through his work, he was recognized as an authority on Indian Life and customs, and was adopted into the Mohawk and Cherokee tribes.

Higley accepted a call at the College Church in Ames, Iowa, and from Iowa he transferred to Park Ridge, Illinois where he gave services and planned Passion Week and Easter. Besides the many poems, songs, cantatas that he wrote, he was also the author of "Homespun Religion" and "The Sterile Soul". On March 22, he was giving a service when he fell unconscious and was taken to Evanston Hospital. On Tuesday, March 24, 1931 he died without regaining consciousness.

### Scope and Content Note

This collection contains church publications, correspondence, images, newspaper clippings, publications, and sermons from Elmer Ellsworth Higley's ministry work.

Most of the information within the documents are from the early 1900s-1951 and are related to his work as a Methodist Episcopal preacher. A majority of the images within this collection are of the churches Higley served.

This collection also contains two of his authored publications, and several newspaper clippings acknowledging Higley's death.

## Arrangement

Material has been arranged in the following manner. The records are arranged by genre and topic.

## Related Material

None

## Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions regarding this collection.

## 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, Elmer Ellsworth Higley Papers, 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*

Churches, Methodist  
Methodism  
Methodist Church  
Preaching, Methodist  
Religion  
Religious education  
Religious writings  
Sermons

### *Geographic Terms*

Illinois  
Iowa

### *Subject Names - Person*

### *Subject Names - Corporate Bodies*

Methodist Church (U.S.)  
Methodist Episcopal Church

### *Genre Terms*

Books  
Calendars  
Certificates  
Church bulletins  
Clippings  
Correspondence

Hymnals  
Photographs  
Postcards  
Sermons

***Occupation Terms***

Minister

***Function Terms***

Minister

## Table of Contents

## Container List

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
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1602-3-8:02	Church Publications	1930-1932
1602-3-8:03	Correspondence	1923
1602-3-8:04	Higher Education: Iowa and Illinois	1913-1956
1602-3-8:05	Images - Collodian and Slide	1907-1927
1602-3-8:06	Maveety	Undated
1602-3-8:07	Miscellaneous	1906
1602-3-8:08	Newspaper Clippings	1923-1951
1602-3-8:09	Publications - Authored Texts	1909-1930
1602-3-8:10	Sermons	Undated