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Guide to the Baptist Ministers' Conference, Chicago Records 1889-1910



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Descriptive Summary

Identifier	ICU.SPCL.BMC
Title	Baptist Ministers' Conference, Chicago. Records
Date	1889-1910
Size	0.75 linear feet (2 boxes)
Repository	Special Collections Research Center University of Chicago Library 1100 East 57th Street Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.
Abstract	The Baptist Ministers' Conference was instrumental in the founding of the University of Chicago in response to John D. Rockefeller's pledge to support the founding of a new of higher education in Chicago. The Records consist of conference minutes from 1889-1909 as well as reports on committee work and social issues.

Information on Use

Access

The collection is open for research.

Citation

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Baptist Ministers' Conference, Chicago. Records, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Historical Note

The group was instrumental in the founding of the University of Chicago. In 1889, seventy delegates from local Chicago Baptist churches assembled in the Grand Pacific Hotel on LaSalle Street. They had been summoned by the Chicago Baptist Ministers' Conference and the Chicago Baptist Social Union in response to John D. Rockefeller's pledge to support the founding of a new of higher education in Chicago. He stated he would contribute \$600,000 toward the first one million dollars in endowment "for a college to be established at Chicago," but only if a sum of \$400,000 in additional funds was pledged by other donors before June 1, 1890. These delegates at the Grand Pacific Hotel embraced Rockefeller's challenge and launched a campaign to raise the needed funds. Once denominational sources had been exhausted and the campaign was still short of its goal, Thomas W. Goodspeed and Frederick T. Gates, the University's two principal fundraisers, turned to the non-Baptist business leaders of Chicago for support. The \$400,000 goal was met and exceeded, and in the process the University acquired a new set of

influential backers - commodity traders, publishers, bankers, manufacturers, and merchants - who would form the core of its support in the years to come.

Scope Note

The Baptist Ministers' Conference Papers consist of conference minutes from 1889-1909 as well reports on committee work and social issues.

Related Resources

The following related resources are located in the Department of Special Collections:

<http://www.lib.uchicago.edu/e/spcl/select.html>

Subject Headings

- Baptist Ministers' Conference, Chicago
- Baptist associations
- Clergy

INVENTORY

Box 1

Folder 1

Minutes, 1889-90

Box 1

Folder 2

Minutes, 1890-95

Box 1

Folder 3

Minutes, 1896-99

Box 1

Folder 4

Minutes, 1899-01

Box 1

Folder 5

Minutes, 1901-06

Box 2

Folder 1

Minutes, 1906-09

Box 2

Folder 2

Miscellaneous, 1909-1910

- Membership list, 1909
- Report; Church Federation Council of Chicago (Includes report of the first Protestant representative to the city Juvenile Court), 1909.
- "An Expression concerning the policy of segregation of vice in the city of Chicago, made by the Baptist Ministers' Conference, December 27, 1909."

- Report on Garment Workers Strike, Industrial Committee of the Churches of Chicago, 1910.
- Agenda, Executive Committee Meeting, 1910.
- Report, Committee on Nominations, 1910.
- Resolutions, West Side vice district; church membership; B.M.C. Constitution; Fredrich D. Grant
- Obituaries, Charles Braithwaite, Edward Goodman.