Temple Baptist Church Collection

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Collection number: B538 Temple Baptist Church, Accession #2019.107.0001-2019.107.0014
Collection repository: Hennepin History Museum
    2303 Third Ave
    Minneapolis, MN 55404
Collection Title: Temple Baptist Church Collection
Dates: 1909-1999
Extent: 14 boxes, 2 flat document boxes, 17.34 linear feet
Creator: Temple Baptist Church
Language of the Material: English

ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY

In the opening years of the twentieth century, facing mounting debts and direct competition for a limited potential membership, two small American Baptist churches in midtown Minneapolis chose to combine into a single institution. On December 30, 1909, Chicago Avenue Baptist and Immanuel Baptist united to form Temple Baptist Church.

Temple Baptist retained Immanuel’s pastor and initially worshipped in the old Immanuel building at 32nd Street and Chicago Avenue, but a larger location was needed. In May 1912 Temple Baptist moved into a new church building at 3100 Columbus Avenue South. The church occupied this Romanesque stucco building until 1999, when Temple Baptist dissolved, sold its building, and united with Calvary Baptist Church. As of January 2020, the former Temple Baptist building is home to La Luz Del Mundo, a Spanish-speaking evangelical church.

From 1912-1914 during the ministry of Reverend Clarence W. Kemper, Temple Baptist reached a membership of 700, it largest. In addition to the church choir and Sunday School, in the 1920s and 1930s Temple Baptist began serving various religious, service, and fellowship groups. These included a popular bible class led by Charles Stone, the Inasmuch Class, a women’s organizations, and the ‘AMC Class’ for young married couples. The church had its own gymnasium and sponsored a Boy Scout troop for local youth.

Beginning in the 1940s and accelerating through the 1950s, Temple Baptist experienced a decline in membership linked to shifting demographics in the Twin Cities and Temple’s inner-city location. While the American Baptist Council recommended that Temple Baptist remain in its current location and increase its efforts at community outreach, an influential group of
Temple members advocated for a new, suburban location. In 1959, during Temple’s 50th anniversary celebrations, the church announced its plans to open a second location.

Land in the southern suburb of Edina was purchased in 1960, and after funding issues and construction delays Temple-Creek Valley Baptist Church opened at 6400 Tracy Avenue on September 17, 1967. With a motto of “One Church Serving in Two Areas,” Temple and Temple-Creek Valley were initially jointly administered. However, Temple-Creek Valley severed ties with its parent church in 1977. Creek Valley Baptist persisted as its own entity through the early 21st century.

In the late 1950s, Temple Baptist Church became racially integrated, and remained committed to maintaining a membership reflective of the community it served. The church also ran a non-denominational preschool for local children. During the 1960s and 1970s, Temple worked on issues related to women’s liberation, racial equality, and youth outreach; a policy of inclusion for LGBT churchgoers followed in the 1980s. Throughout the 1980s and 1990s, the church focused on programs serving local youth and the homeless. Membership continued to decline, and Temple Baptist Church dissolved in 1999. Temple’s members were integrated into the nearby Calvary Baptist Church, mirroring the creation of Temple Baptist exactly 90 years earlier.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Temple Baptist Church collection contains a wide range of documents, photographs, and artifacts. Administrative and governance documents include constitutions, membership documentation, church board minutes, annual reports, and financial records, while materials on the daily activities of the church include minutes and reports from church groups, programs and ephemera from church services and events, newsletters, correspondence, records from individual church members, guest books, scrapbooks, and photographs, as well as a few items of memorabilia and a 35mm film. This series also includes material celebrating Temple Baptist Church’s history: 25th, 50th, and 75th anniversary celebrations, and a church history that was written in the early 1990s. Visual media—photographs, scrapbooks and film—have been grouped in their own series.

The collection is arranged in three series with no sub-series. The series include:

Series 1: Administrative Records, 1909-1996
Series 2: Church Life, 1909-1998
Series 3: Photographs, Scrapbooks and Audiovisual

ACCESS

The collection is open for researchers and has no restrictions. The archive does not have a 35mm film projector, so the 35mm film cannot be played.

COPYRIGHT

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responsibility of the researcher to ensure copyright laws are followed. Requests for permission to publish material in this collection should be directed to the Archivist.

RELATED MATERIAL
Additional items on Temple Baptist Church can be found in these other collections:

- Minnesota Historical Society has a Directory of Temple Baptist Church, Serial 791
- Hennepin County Library Special Collection, Digital Collection – Photographs and Newspaper Ads

ACQUISITION
Pictures, slides and receipts were donated by Ruth Kincaid. Other parts of the collection came from an unknown donor.

COLLECTION INVENTORY
Series 1: Administrative Records

Box 1
Box 1 Folder 1 Constitution and By-laws, undated and 1939-1983
Box 1 Folder 2 Advisory Board Minutes, 1910–1917
Box 1 Folder 3 Board of Trustees, 01/1922–04/1933
Box 1 Folder 4 Board of Trustees Notebooks, 10/1928–06/1949
Box 1 Folder 5 Board of Trustees, 09/1941–04/1945
Box 1 Folder 6 Board of Trustees, 05/1945–02/1950
Box 1 Folder 7 Board of Trustees, 05/1952–10/1953
Box 1 Folder 8 Board of Trustees, 11/1953–04/1954
Box 1 Folder 9 Board of Trustees, 05/1954–12/1956
Box 1 Folder 10 Board of Trustees, 01/1957–09/1959
Box 1 Folder 11 Board of Trustees, 10/1959–12/1960
Box 1 Folder 12 Board of Trustees, 01/1961–10/1963
Box 1 Folder 13 Church Cabinet, 05/1951–04/1953
Box 1 Folder 14 Church Cabinet, 05/1953–08/1954
Box 1 Folder 15 Church Cabinet, 09/1954–12/1955
Box 1 Folder 16 Church Cabinet, 1956–1959
Box 1 Folder 17 Church Cabinet, 1960–1966
Box 1 Folder 18 Church Cabinet, 1967–1971
Box 1 Folder 19 Church Business, 1971–1978
Box 1 Folder 20 Church Business, 1995
Box 1 Folder 21 Directory of Church Committee Members, 1938–1945
Box 1 Folder 22 Minnesota Bible Conference Committee, 1951
Box 1 Folder 23 Board of Kingdom Extension, 1953–1955
Box 1 Folder 24 Surveys and Reports on Move to Edina, c. 1950–1973
Box 1 Folder 25 Report to Twin Cities Baptist Union: Community Strategy Study, 1958

Box 2
Box 2 Folder 1 Church Meeting Minutes, 12/1909–11/1919
Box 2 Folder 2 Record Book, 1909–1923
Box 2 Folder 3 Record Book, 1924–1946
Box 2 Folder 4 Record Book, 1946–1966
Box 2 Folder 5 Diaconate, 1926–1928/1948
Box 2 Folder 6 Diaconate, 1929–1939
Box 2 Folder 7 Diaconate, 1939–
Box 2 Folder 8 Diaconate, 1949–1950
Box 2 Folder 9 Diaconate, 1953–1959
Box 2 Folder 10 Diaconate, 1960–1963
Box 2 Folder 11 Diaconate, 1963–1966
Box 2 Folder 12 Diaconate, 1974–1975
Box 2 Folder 13 Diaconate, 1976–1977
Box 2 Folder 14 Diaconate, 1978–1979
Box 2 Folder 15 Diaconate, 1982–1983
Box 2 Folder 16 Diaconate, 1984
Box 2 Folder 17 Diaconate, 1990–1996
Box 2 Folder 18 Diaconate, undated

Box 3
Box 3 Folder 1 Policy Statements and Resolutions on egalitarian language, homosexuality, ecology and the environment, AIDS, and freedom of speech, 1982–1988 and undated
Box 3 Folder 2 Installation of New Minister (Reverend Randy Johnson), 1986
Box 3 Folder 3 Budget and Finances, 1912–1929
Box 3 Folder 4 Budget and Finances, 1930–1939
Box 3 Folder 5 Budget and Finance Ledger, 1934–1938
Box 3 Folder 6 Budget and Finances, 1940–1970
Box 3 Folder 7 Loan Agreement, 1915
Box 3 Folder 8 Trustee Reports on Finances, 1916–1923
Box 3 Folder 9 Mortgage Correspondence, 1918–1923
Box 3 Folder 10 Bills and Receipts, 1937–1941, 1 of 2
Box 3 Folder 11 Bills and Receipts, 1937–1941, 2 of 2
Box 3 Folder 12 New Boiler, 1949
Box 3 Folder 13 Insurance Documents, c. 1950–1959
Box 3 Folder 14 Fundraising, c. 1950–1960
Box 3 Folder 15 Fundraising Manual, c. 1960
Box 3 Folder 16 Temple-Creek Valley Finances, 1966–1967
Box 3 Folder 17 Directories, 1915–1947
Box 3 Folder 18 Directories, 1948–1957
Box 3 Folder 19 Directories, 1960–1962
Box 3 Folder 20 Directories, 1967–1969
Box 3 Folder 21 Directories, 1969–1970
Box 3 Folder 22 Directories, 1971–1973
Box 3 Folder 23 Directories, 1974–1978
Box 3 Folder 24 Directories, 1979–1989 and undated

Box 4
41 Annual Reports, 1921–1923
42 Annual Reports, 1923–1925
43 Annual Reports, 1925–1927
44 Annual Reports, 1927–1929
45 Annual Reports, 1929–1931
46 Annual Reports, 1931–1932
47 Annual Reports, 1932–1935
48 Annual Reports, 1935–1938
49 Annual Reports, 1938–1941
410 Annual Reports, 1941–1945
411 Annual Reports, 1945–1947
412 Annual Reports, 1947–1949
413 Annual Reports, 1949–1954
414 Annual Reports, 1954–1959
415 Annual Reports, 1960–1964

**Series 2: Church Life, Members and Correspondence**

**Box 5**

Box 5 Folder 1 Weekly Bulletins, 1917
Box 5 Folder 2 Weekly Bulletins, 1918
Box 5 Folder 3 Weekly Bulletins, 1919
Box 5 Folder 4 Weekly Bulletins, 1920
Box 5 Folder 5 Weekly Bulletins, 1921–1922
Box 5 Folder 6 Weekly Bulletins, 1922–1923
Box 5 Folder 7 Weekly Bulletins, 1923–1924, 1 of 2
Box 5 Folder 8 Weekly Bulletins, 1923–1924, 2 of 2
Box 5 Folder 9 Weekly Bulletins, 1924–1925
Box 5 Folder 10 Weekly Bulletins, 1926–1927
Box 5 Folder 11 Weekly Bulletins, 1927–1928
Box 5 Folder 12 Weekly Bulletins, 1928–1929
Box 5 Folder 13 Weekly Bulletins, 1929–1930
Box 5 Folder 14 Weekly Bulletins, 1930–1931
Box 5 Folder 15 Weekly Bulletins, 1931–1932
Box 5 Folder 16 Weekly Bulletins, 1932–1933
Box 5 Folder 17 Weekly Bulletins, 1947–1949
Box 5 Folder 18 Weekly Bulletins, 1956–1963
Box 5 Folder 19 Weekly Bulletins, 1964
Box 5 Folder 20 Weekly Bulletins, 1965 (Temple Baptist)
Box 5 Folder 21 Weekly Bulletins, 1965 (Temple-Creek Valley)
Box 5 Folder 22 Weekly Bulletins, 1966 (Temple Baptist)
Box 5 Folder 23 Weekly Bulletins, 1966 (Temple-Creek Valley)
**Box 6**

Box 6 Folder 1 History – 25th Anniversary, 1937
Box 6 Folder 2 History – 50th Anniversary, 1959
Box 6 Folder 3 History – 75th Anniversary, 1987
Box 6 Folder 4 History – Research Notes and Timelines, 1976–c. 1990 and undated
Box 6 Folder 5 History – “Thank You for your Service and Support,” c. 1990s
Box 6 Folder 6 History – Temple Baptist Church History Book, c. 1990s, 1 of 2
Box 6 Folder 7 History – Temple Baptist Church History Book, c. 1990s, 2 of 2
Box 6 Folder 8 History – Closing of church and transfer to HHM, 1999–2005 and undated
Box 6 Folder 9 Correspondence, 1910–1919
Box 6 Folder 10 Membership Correspondence, 1909–1920
Box 6 Folder 11 Membership Correspondence, 1921–1927
Box 6 Folder 12 Correspondence, 1920–1929, 1 of 3
Box 6 Folder 13 Correspondence, 1920–1929, 2 of 3
Box 6 Folder 14 Correspondence, 1920–1929, 3 of 3
Box 6 Folder 15 Correspondence, 1940–1950
Box 6 Folder 16 Correspondence, 1951–1952
Box 6 Folder 17 Correspondence, 1953–1956
Box 6 Folder 18 Correspondence, 1957–1958
Box 6 Folder 19 Correspondence, 1959–1970 and undated
Box 6 Folder 20 Membership Lists, 1930–1948
Box 6 Folder 21 Membership Lists, 1949–1951
Box 6 Folder 22 Membership Lists, 1952–1953
Box 6 Folder 23 Membership Lists, 1958–1959
Box 6 Folder 24 Inactive Member Directory, c. 1948–1962
Box 6 Folder 25 Receipt Book for letters of union and dismission, 1962–1973
Box 6 Folder 26 Individual Members, A–F
Box 6 Folder 27 Individual Members, G–P
Box 6 Folder 28 Individual Members, R–Z

**Box 7**

Box 7 Folder 1 Annual Reports, 1965–1968
Box 7 Folder 2 Annual Reports, 1969–1972
Box 7 Folder 3 Annual Reports, 1973–1978
Box 7 Folder 4 Annual Reports, 1979-1988
Box 7 Folder 5 Temple Business, 1981
Box 7 Folder 6 Temple Business, 1982
Box 7 Folder 7 Temple Business, 1983
Box 7 Folder 8 Temple Business, 1984
Box 7 Folder 9 Temple Business, 1985
Box 7 Folder 10 Temple Business, 1986
Box 7 Folder 11 Temple Business, 1987
Box 7 Folder 12 Temple Business, 1988
Box 7 Folder 13 Temple Business, 1989
Box 7 Folder 14 Temple Business, 1990
Box 7 Folder 15 Temple Business, 1991
Box 7 Folder 16 Temple Business, 1992
 Box 7 Folder 17 Temple Business, 1993
Box 7 Folder 18 Temple Business, 1994
Box 7 Folder 19 Temple Tidings, 1931–1949
Box 7 Folder 20 Temple Tidings, 1950–1954
Box 7 Folder 21 Temple Tidings, 1955-1987
Box 7 Folder 22 Temple Tattler, 1942–1945
Box 7 Folder 23 Lamplighter, 1966–1979

Box 8
Box 8 Folder 1 Church Service Programs, 1937–1991
Box 8 Folder 2 Men’s Groups, c. 1930s–1940s
Box 8 Folder 3 Women’s Groups–American Baptist Women, 1959–1978
Box 8 Folder 4 Women’s Groups–Assorted Titles, 1940s–1990s
Box 8 Folder 5 Church Activities, Assorted, c. 1940–1950
Box 8 Folder 6 Camp Lael (Baptist Summer Camp), 1958–1968
Box 8 Folder 7 Regional and National Baptist Publications, 1950–1958
Box 8 Folder 8 Christian Education, Missions and Evangelism (C.E.M.E.) Minutes, 1996–1998
Box 8 Folder 9 Christian Conciliation Service of Minnesota Program, undated
Box 8 Folder 10 Nursery School and Kindergarten, 1940–1970
Box 8 Folder 11 Sunday School, 1952–1960
Box 8 Folder 12 Twin Cities Baptist Sunday School Athletic Association, 1909–1917
Box 8 Folder 13 Gymnasium Association, 1912–1918
Box 8 Folder 14 Temple Baptist Advertisements and Cards/Postcards, undated
Box 8 Folder 15 Church Activities, Assorted
Box 8 Folder 16 Boy Scouts—“Permanent Records of Troop 18,” 1926–1931
Box 8 Folder 17 Boy Scouts–Troop Reports, 1941–1942
Box 8 Folder 18 Boy Scouts–Photo Collage, 1932–1944
Box 8 Folder 19 Boy Scouts–Troop Minutes, 1941
Box 8 Folder 20 Boy Scouts–*The Tomahawk*, 1932–1933
Box 8 Folder 21 Boy Scouts–Publications and Certifications, 1916–c. 1940s
Box 8 Folder 22 Boy Scouts–Troop Records, 1940–1944
Box 8 Folder 23 Boy Scouts–Troop Records Binder


**Box 9**

Box 9 Folder 1 Fill-a-Gap Class, Secretary’s Records, 1930–1937
Box 9 Folder 2 Inasmuch Class Constitutions, 1960 and undated
Box 9 Folder 3 Inasmuch Class Membership Rolls, 1935–1938
Box 9 Folder 4 Inasmuch Class Minutes and Reports, 1925–1931
Box 9 Folder 5 Inasmuch Class Minutes and Reports, 1931–1933
Box 9 Folder 6 Inasmuch Class Minutes and Reports, 1933–1936
Box 9 Folder 7 Inasmuch Class Minutes and Reports, 1937–1940
Box 9 Folder 8 Inasmuch Class Minutes and Reports, 1940–1946, 1 of 2
Box 9 Folder 9 Inasmuch Class Minutes and Reports, 1940–1946, 2 of 2
Box 9 Folder 10 Inasmuch Class Minutes and Reports, 1946–1951
Box 9 Folder 11 Inasmuch Class Minutes and Reports, 1971–1986
Box 9 Folder 12 Inasmuch Class Correspondence, 1979–1987
Box 9 Folder 13 Inasmuch Class, Collection of Temple Baptist News Clippings, 1963–1984
Box 9 Folder 14 Inasmuch Class, Ephemera from Anniversary Celebrations, 1956–1976
Box 9 Folder 15 Inasmuch Class, Historical Research for 70th Anniversary, 1976
Box 9 Folder Small Box Inasmuch Class Ephemera and Member Directories, 1934–1983 and undated

**Series 3: Photographs, Scrapbooks and Audiovisual**

**Box 10**

Box 10 Book 1 Bible belonging to Leona V. Estabrook, published 1898
Box 10 **Finances, Ledger 1911-1918 (check for restrictions)**
Box 10 Reel of film in metal canister, found with document indicating that the film was related to Temple Baptist’s 25th Anniversary
Box 10 Book 2 Photograph album of Temple Baptist members, blue hardcover, c. 1910–1970
Box 10 Book 3 Scrapbook photo album of A.M.C. Class, carved wood covers, 1934–1961
Box 10 Book 4 Scrapbook of news clippings, tan and rust covers, c. 1984–1997
Box 10 Book 5 Photograph album of Temple Baptist members, white covers, 1935–1983

**Box 11**

Box 11 Book 1 Guest book, 11/1948–03/1954
Box 11 Book 2 Guest book, 03/1954–01/1957
Box 11 Book 3 Guest book, 03/1954–10/1957
Box 11 Book 5 Guest book, 11/1957–01/1963
Box 11 Book 7 Guest book, 05/1968–10/1991
Box 11 Book 8 Guest book, 05/1985–01/1993
Box 11 Folder 1 Photographs and Negatives, assorted dates
Box 11 Book 9 Temple Baptist Hymnal, 1942
Box 11 Book 10 Temple Baptist Hymnal, 1961
Box 11 Photographs, c. 1930–2000

**Box 12**

Box 12 Group 1 Slides, c. 1954–1975, 1 of 2
Box 12 Group 2 Slides, c. 1954–1975, 2 of 2
Box 12 Book 1 Photograph Album, Fill-a-Gap Class, 1930s
Box 12 Photographs, c. 1913–1958

**Box 13**
Large photographs, assorted dates

**Box 14**
Large photographs, drawings, plans, and posters

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