

Archives and Special Collections

Dickinson College

Carlisle, PA

COLLECTION REGISTER

Name: **Education Fund of the Baltimore Annual Conference** **MC 2016.1**

Material: Papers and Ledgers (1836-2001; bulk, 1852-1880)

Volume: 3.0 linear feet (Boxes 1-6)

Donor: Gordon Fronk (President), on behalf of the Education Fund of the Baltimore Washington Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, 2015

Usage: These materials have been donated without restrictions on usage.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Dickinson College's affiliation with the Methodist Episcopal Church began in March 1833, when the College had ceased operation for nearly one year. Whereas Dickinson boasted a student body of more than one hundred pupils in 1827 and 1828, that number had dwindled to fourteen by 1830. In March of 1832, the College's Board of Trustees voted to close the school for the foreseeable future. At the same time that Dickinson was suffering a decline, the Methodist Episcopal Church was experiencing growth and seeking the validation that would come by association with an institution of higher education. Rev. Edwin Dorsey of the Baltimore Annual Conference approached the Dickinson College Board of Trustees regarding the possibility of his Conference supporting Dickinson. The Dickinson Board was amenable, and the Baltimore Conference moved forward, inviting the Philadelphia Annual Conference to collaborate with them in sponsorship of the College. To finalize the transition, the Methodist Episcopal Church required the standing members of the Dickinson College Board of Trustees to resign. In their stead they voted in new trustees who were associated with the Methodist Church.

The new reconstituted Board of Trustees at Dickinson decided to re-open the College when they had raised \$40,000. They sought to raise the money by sending agents out to the regions of the Baltimore and Philadelphia Annual Conferences to sell subscriptions. Each Conference agent raised well over \$20,000, but none of those funds made their way directly to the college. Instead, the Baltimore and Philadelphia Conferences established a new organizational structure in 1834 to manage the monies collected on behalf of Dickinson; the funds were invested, and returns on those investments were provided to the college. This was the inception of the Education Fund.

The Education Fund played a critical role in the success of the College, especially during the mid-nineteenth century. For thirty years, Dickinson was entirely dependent upon the interest from the Education Fund to support its operations. In subsequent decades Dickinson's Board of Trustees would introduce additional means of raising revenue for the school (e.g. scholarships), but the Education Fund continued to serve as a source of income for the college and its students.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The Education Fund of the Baltimore Annual Conference Collection is arranged into six categories as follows: Governance, Correspondence, Finances, Scholarships, Director of Religious Life, and Miscellaneous Materials. Within each category the material is arranged chronologically. This collection of papers was donated by Gordon Fronk, on behalf of the Education Fund, in 2015.

The Governance section includes two folders. The Charter and Amendments folder includes the formal Charter of the Education Fund of the Baltimore Conference, amendments to the charter, and by-laws for the group. Amendments included in this collection are dated 1975 and 1977. The Minutes, Memos, and Resolutions folder includes a record of some of the general business of the Board of Trustees of the Baltimore Education Fund. Many of the documents in the Governance section are drafts, and some contain marginalia indicating edits to be finalized.

The Correspondence section spans dates from 1852 through 1880. Correspondence largely reflects business between the treasurers of the Education Fund (Isaac Parker Cook and William Daniel) and various Dickinson College officials (presidents Charles Collins and Herman M. Johnson; treasurers William D. Seymour, James W. Marshall, Samuel D. Hillman, and Charles F. Himes). Much of the content in the letters pertains to the financial exchange between the Education Fund and the college. For example, in addition to briefly mentioning receipt of a check, authors of these letters frequently request blank scholarship certificates, share their thoughts on recent commencement activities, and inquire about the Milwaukee investments (with letters from John H. vanDyke). Although the correspondence is overwhelmingly related to financial matters, every now and then there is a glimpse into student life and happenings at Dickinson College. A humorous find comes in the form of a letter written by Dickinson College President, Charles Collins, to the Education Fund Treasurer, Isaac P. Cook, on February 5, 1856. Collins reports that although the matter was finally settled, many students had refused to attend classes after four sophomores were suspended for putting tar on the blackboards, desks, and chairs of a mathematics classroom.

The Finances section encompasses the various financial records of the Education Fund of the Baltimore Annual Conference, including formal financial papers such as ledgers and loans, as well as more informal records, such as drafts of financial reports. Additionally there are receipts for purchases, records of receiving funds (often in the form of letters from treasurers of Dickinson College), and numerous cancelled checks. In 1971, the Education Fund of the Baltimore Annual Conference applied to renew its tax exempt status (which was granted). The tax exemption documents make up the final folder of this category.

The Scholarships category simply contains scholarship certificates. There is one certificate from 1836 (very soon after Dickinson College became affiliated with the Methodist Church), but the majority of the certificates date from the 1850s when the sale of scholarships comprised a special fund-raising initiative. Several of the certificates have notes on the back of them explaining that the owner was either cancelling his subscription pledge or else selling the certificate to someone else, having been unable to make payments.

The Director of Religious Life folder offers a glimpse into the relationship between the Methodist Church and Dickinson College early in the twenty-first century. Throughout 2000 and 2001 conversations were held about using proceeds from the Education Fund to support a Methodist-affiliated chaplain as the Director of Religious Life at the college. This category includes drafts of job descriptions, some correspondence, and a resume of the top candidate for the position.

The Miscellaneous Materials include a diversity of items pertaining to the Education Fund. Of particular note is a "Report of Dickinson College and the Methodist Episcopal Church" from a 1909 meeting that summarizes the history of Dickinson College's Methodist affiliation.

COLLECTION INVENTORY

BOX 1 - MC 2016.1

GOVERNANCE

- Folder 01) Charter and Amendments – undated-1977
- Folder 02) Minutes, Memos, and Resolutions – 1852-1867

CORRESPONDENCE

- Folder 03) 1852
- Folder 04) 1853
- Folder 05) 1854
- Folder 06) 1855
- Folder 07) 1856
- Folder 08) 1858
- Folder 09) 1859
- Folder 10) 1860
- Folder 11) 1861
- Folder 12) 1862
- Folder 13) 1863
- Folder 14) 1864
- Folder 15) 1865
- Folder 16) 1866
- Folder 17) 1867
- Folder 18) 1868
- Folder 19) 1869
- Folder 20) 1870

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CORRESPONDENCE (cont.)

- Folder 01) 1871
- Folder 02) 1872
- Folder 03) 1873
- Folder 04) 1879
- Folder 05) 1880
- Folder 06) Undated

FINANCES

Mortgages and Notarized Loans

- Folder 07) 1855-1891

Receipts

- Folder 08) 1852-1855
- Folder 09) 1856-1859
- Folder 10) 1860-1868
- Folder 11) 1869-1871
- Folder 12) 1872-1873, 1879-1880, 1929-1930

BOX 2 - MC 2016.1 (cont.)

FINANCES (cont.)

Financial Reports

Folder 13) 1846-1867
Folder 14) 1868-1880
Folder 15) Undated

BOX 3 - MC 2016.1

FINANCES (cont.)

Ledgers

Folder 01) Loans, Stocks, and Bonds – 1835-1867
Folder 02) Scholarships – 1852-1853
Folder 03) Bills Payable – 1854-1856
Folder 04) Bank Records – 1855-1856
Folder 05) Scholarships – 1856
Folder 06) General Finances – 1855-1867

BOX 4 - MC 2016.1

FINANCES (cont.)

Ledgers (cont.)

Folder 01) General Finances – 1867-1895
Folder 02) Treasurer's Reports – 1891-1917
Folder 03) Rental Properties – 1891-1918

BOX 5 - MC 2016.1

FINANCES (cont.)

Ledgers (cont.)

Folder 01) Cash Book – 1913-1918
Folder 02) General Finances – 1918-1958
Folder 03) Cash Book – 1918-1935
Folder 04) General Finances – 1918-1978
Folder 05) General Finance – 1932-1947
Folder 06) General Finance – 1947-1980

BOX 6 - MC 2016.1

FINANCES (cont.)

Ledgers (cont.)

Folder 01) Adjustments – 1959-1986
Folder 02) Stocks – c1970-c1990
Folder 03) General Finance – 1981-1999

Tax Exemption Renewal

Folder 04) 1971, 1976-1977

BOX 6 - MC 2016.1 (cont.)

SCHOLARSHIPS

Folder 05) 1836, 1852
Folder 06) 1853-1854
Folder 07) 1855-1857, 1861, 1866, and undated

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS LIFE

Folder 08) 2000-2001

MISCELLANEOUS MATERIALS

Folder 09) Undated, 1903, 1909

This collection register was prepared by Caly McCarthy, May 2016.