

# archives

of the **Dakotas Conference of the United Methodist Church**

The Commission on Archives and History is charged by the United Methodist Book of Discipline to preserve the records of the **Dakotas Conference of the United**

**Methodist Church** and its predecessors within the conference boundaries. For reference purposes, this collection retains records of the general conferences, the disciplines and the general minutes of all the annual conferences.



The Archives and History Library is the depository for the records and other historical materials of the United Methodist Church and predecessor denominations within the boundaries of the Dakotas Conference and predecessor conferences.

## The holdings include:

- records of closed churches, containing rolls of pastors, memberships, baptisms, marriages and sometimes deaths;
- historical files on active and closed local churches;
- minutes/yearbooks/journals of the Dakotas Conference and predecessor conferences;
- publications/newspapers of the Dakotas Conference and predecessor conferences;
- histories of conferences throughout the United States;
- hymnals and gospel songbooks;
- disciplines; and
- local church commemoratives.

## Finding the Archives

The Archives and History Library was established in the Parker United Methodist Conference Center in Mitchell in 1969 by Dr. Matthew D. Smith, former president, dean and 1912 graduate of DWU. Materials known as the Methodist Collection were relocated from the Layne Library at DWU to the Conference Center.



Dr. Matthew D. Smith

In 2002, the Dakotas Conference and Dakota Wesleyan University entered into an agreement to share archives space in the George and Eleanor McGovern Library and Center for Leadership and Public Service. The new McGovern Library opened in October 2006. With the retirement of longtime archivist Pat Breidenbach, the Dakotas Conference Archives and History Library officially moved to the McGovern Library in March 2007.



George and Eleanor McGovern Library and Center for Leadership and Public Service

## FOR MORE INFO

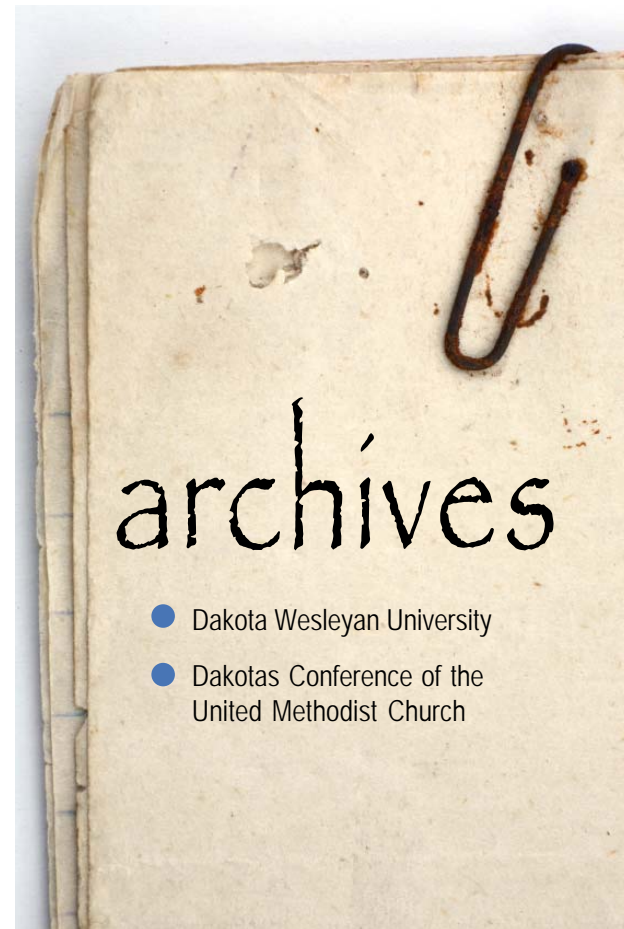
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- Dakota Wesleyan University
- Dakotas Conference of the United Methodist Church



**DAKOTA WESLEYAN**  
**UNIVERSITY**

George and Eleanor McGovern Library and  
Center for Leadership and Public Service

1201 McGovern Ave., Mitchell, SD 57301  
605-995-2134 • www.mcgoverncenter.com

# the history

of Dakota Wesleyan University

In 1883, a small band of Methodist settlers meeting in Dakota Territory secured a charter to found the college that has become Dakota Wesleyan University.

A small, private university located in Mitchell, S.D., DWU aspires to excellence in the liberal arts and professional programs. As the university for the Dakotas Conference of the United Methodist Church, Dakota Wesleyan encourages the dialogue between mind and soul, simultaneously building relationships, developing whole persons, and promoting service to God and humanity.



Merrill Memorial Hall, DWU



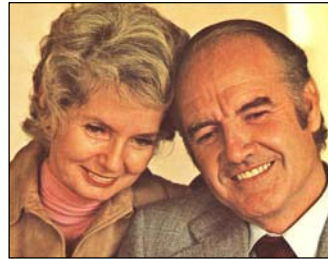
Postcard of Old College Hall, DWU

Check online at  
[www.dwu.edu/library/archives.htm](http://www.dwu.edu/library/archives.htm)  
for more information.

# archives

and Special Collections of DWU

The George and Eleanor McGovern Library at DWU houses the university archives and special collections:



Eleanor and George McGovern

- Sen. Francis H. Case Collection
- Sen. George McGovern Collection
- Jennewein Western Library

The university archives consists of publications, images and memorabilia which preserve DWU's institutional memory.

The Case Collection contains more than 300 linear feet of materials which represent the work of Sen. Case, a 1918 DWU graduate, during his 25-year membership in the U.S. Congress and Senate.



Sen. Francis H. Case

The McGovern Collection consists of an extensive collection of photographs, as well as campaign memorabilia and personal papers of George McGovern, a 1946 DWU graduate and former faculty member.



J. Leonard Jennewein

J. Leonard Jennewein, professor of history and English at DWU from 1953-68, donated the collection known as the Jennewein Western Library, which consists of books, images, audio material, and papers on the history of South Dakota and the Middle Border region.

# the history

of the Dakotas Conference

*The Dakotas Conference of the United Methodist Church was created in June 1994, with the merger of the North Dakota and the South Dakota conferences, which had been separate conferences since their beginnings in the 1880s. The merger meeting was held at Aberdeen, S.D.*

## Methodist Predecessor Conferences

The North Dakota Conference had its beginnings as a mission conference organized in October 1884 at Fargo. The South Dakota Conference had its beginnings on two fronts in 1880: the Black Hills Mission at Deadwood; and the Dakota Mission Conference at Yankton. During the organizations and mergers of conferences in the Dakotas, three branches of the Methodist Episcopal denomination merged in 1939 and dropped Episcopal from the name, which would be only Methodist until 1968.

## Evangelical Predecessor Conferences

In 1884, the Dakota Conference of the Evangelical Association Church was organized for all of Dakota Territory. The conference was divided into separate conferences for North Dakota and South Dakota in 1920. In 1951, the North Dakota and South Dakota conferences met again and reunited as the Dakota Conference of the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

## United Brethren in Christ Work in the Dakotas

United Brethren work in the Dakotas was carried on by conferences headquartered in Iowa and Nebraska. The Evangelical United Brethren and Methodist denominations merged in 1968, creating the present-day United Methodist Church.

For additional information on the Dakotas Conference of the United Methodist Church, go to [www.dakotasumc.org](http://www.dakotasumc.org).