Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church Board of Managers Minutes, 1819-1906; and Board of Foreign Missions Minutes, 1907-1916



Guide to the Scholarly Resources
Microfilm Edition

From the Holdings of the General Commission on Archives and History, the United Methodist Church



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Introduction

The Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in New York on April 5, 1819, and became an official agency of the church by General Conference Action in 1820. The original purpose of the organization was "to enable the several annual conferences more effectively to extend their missionary labors throughout the United States and elsewhere."

The Missionary Society administered its work during most of its existence through a Board of Managers and its Corresponding Secretaries, subject to the General Missionary Committee, which met annually to make appropriations and to establish policy. The board had its headquarters in New York City.

In 1907 the Missionary Society, which had promoted both foreign and domestic missions, was replaced in a reorganization of the church's benevolence agencies. A new Board of Foreign Missions undertook the Administration of Foreign Missions, and a Consolidated Board of Home Missions and Church Extension assumed direction of domestic missions. The Board of Managers remained intact through this major reorganization until 1916 when a major internal reorganization changed its administrative function and its frequency of meetings from monthly to annually.

For a discussion of the overall growth and development of mission work around the world and a summary of the geographic regions of the world where mission work was daily influenced by the month-by-month decisions of the Board of Managers, see the article by Nolan B. Harmon, entitled "Missions, and Organized Methodist Missionary Work." *Encyclopedia of World Methodism*, Volume II, prepared and edited under the supervision of The

World Methodist Council and The Commission on Archives and History, published by The United Methodist Publishing House, 1974, pages 1635-1640.

The handwritten and transcript minutes of the Board of Managers are a part of the holdings of the Archives Division of the Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church. They are arranged and photographed in chronological order.

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