# Plains Mennonite Church Collection

Records of the Plains Mennonite congregation, Hatfield Township, Montgomery County, 1812-current.

Finding aid: [Click Here](http://mhep.org/files/inventories/ArchPlainsinventory.pdf)

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plains MC Collection</td>
<td>Box 01 (Early Records)</td>
<td>Folder 01</td>
<td>Plains pulpit Bible, 1763 Saur edition (in safe)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plains MC Collection</td>
<td>Box 01 (Early Records)</td>
<td>Folder 02</td>
<td>Photo copy of oldest deed, 1765 relating to establishment of earliest Plains meetinghouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plains MC Collection</td>
<td>Box 01 (Early Records)</td>
<td>Folder 03</td>
<td>Deeds of John Kindig to “Trustees of the Mennonite Society,” 1851, 1867, 1873 For later deeds, see folder 1-17, and box 7 (“Movie Lots”)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plains MC Collection</td>
<td>Box 01 (Early Records)</td>
<td>Folder 04</td>
<td>“Subscription for the Meetinghouse in Hatfield Township, 1812, A True Transcript” Inside title page is in German script. Folder also contains, “A free translation of German Script Portion of, ‘Subscription for the Meetinghouse in Hatfield Township--a true transcript’”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plains MC Collection</td>
<td>Box 01 (Early Records)</td>
<td>Folder 05</td>
<td>“Plains Congregation, Account book April 1894 to July 1901” Contains handwritten notation that this came from J. C. Clemens manuscript collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plains MC Collection</td>
<td>Box 01 (Early Records)</td>
<td>Folder 06</td>
<td>“Statement of the Building Committee of the Plain Mennonite Church January 22, 1923” Handwriting appears to be that of J. C. Clemens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plains MC Collection</td>
<td>Box 01 (Early Records)</td>
<td>Folder 07</td>
<td>Account Book (hardbound) kept by deacon David M. Cassel, 1902-1942 Gift of Arthur Hackman, deacon, March 8, 1992</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plains MC Collection</td>
<td>Box 01 (Early Records)</td>
<td>Folder 08</td>
<td>Membership record book kept by J.C. Clemens, 1936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plains MC Collection</td>
<td>Box 01 (Early Records)</td>
<td>Folder 09</td>
<td>Small Record Books, 1887-1948 Seven record books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plains MC Collection</td>
<td>Box 01 (Early Records)</td>
<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>Lansdale Gospel Mission, Minutes of Workers’ Meetings, 1936-1940; and 25th Anniversary Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plains MC Collection</td>
<td>Box 01 (Early Records)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Record of the Attendants of the Plain Mennonite Sunday School in Order of Birth (1942-1969) “A Record of the Attendants of the Plain Mennonite Sunday School in Order of Birth – Begun in 1942” (full title). A hardbound record begun by Jonas L. Mininger and kept by a succession of SS superintendents through 1969. Also contains records of the Home Department, Bible School Committee, Disaster Service Committee, Church Bulletin Editors, MYF Sponsors, The Sunday School Library and Librarians, and Young Peoples Bible Meetings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
John and Susanna Evers property deeded to Plain Mennonite Church

"History of the Plain Mennonite Church," undated

Two typewritten pages, "History of the Plain Mennonite Church," undated, no writer given, though it has some J.C. Clemens' handwritten notes. Also, one copy of John E. Lapp's, "History of the Plains Mennonite Church," prepared initially for Bonekemper's History of Hatfield in 1976

Special meetings and programs

A variety of conference meetings and congregational events. Earliest 1932 to 1960s

Congregational Membership Lists

Membership lists for 1951 and 1963. Handwritten, ministerial records of evangelistic meetings, confessions of faith and baptisms, 1937-1963, including the list of baptismal candidates who were the last to be baptized by Bishop Jonas Mininger, April 18, 1937. Mininger died the next day. The handwriting seems to be that of Bishop John E. Lapp

Stories of members (arranged alphabetically)

Included are stories by or about Martha Hendricks Alderfer, Warren H. Alderfer, Ernert R. Clemens, Hanna R Clemens, Jacob C. Clemens, Lois Gunden Clemens, Mildred Landes Clemens, Priscilla Delp (see also Priscilla Delp Collection, MHC), Nelson K. Derstein, Matthew Garber, Eva Godshall Greaser, Susie Nice Freed Heebner, Heebner Family history, Ella Mae Clemens Henning, Torrie Hoover, Jim King, Wayne N. Kratz, John Kurtz Kaufman, David K. Krupp, Sam and Lorraine Kulp, Kevin Landis, Samuel J. Lapp, Aaron and Mamie Metz, Harold W. Miller, Curtis and Martha Mininger, Paul M. Nyce, Joseph Nyce, Erin Odgers and Jacob Chew, Steve and Janet Panning, Abe and Ruth Rittenhouse, Alice Clemmer Rittenhouse, Rittenhouse genealogical chart, Alpheus L. Ruth, Henry Suzuki, Hubert Schwartzentruber, Abe Wambold

Stories of members, Raymond A. Frankenfield

Included are stories by and about Raymond A. Frankenfield

Stories of members, Walton N. Hackman

Stories by and about Walton N. Hackman, including original notes and letters of Walton Hackman, a student at Eastern Mennonite College, relating to his involvement with the Mississippi Summer Project 1969 in the civil rights movement

Stories of members - student essays

Christopher Dock student research papers about Plains members, including Raymond A. Frankenfield, John and Susanna Evers, "History of Plains Mennonite Church" by Debra Rittenhouse, and "The Future of Music in the Mennonite Church," by Beverly Lapp, Goshen College student

Cemetery

Blueprint of burial plots. Record of burials by D. K. Allebach and J. C. Clemens

Burial permits, 1907-1934

Obituaries, funeral programs, biographies, 1999-current

Historical press clippings

Blueprints for 1960 meetinghouse addition and renovations
Photographs

Primarily of meetinghouses, including on-going construction of 1988-1989 addition. Also, John E. Lapp interview by Richard J. Lichty, circa 1988

200th Anniversary, 1965

Also, notes of John E. Lapp for display for, and interpretation of American Bicentennial, 1976


Includes anniversary committee notes and planning for 225th anniversary and dedication of new addition to meetinghouse; includes VHS recording

250th Anniversary, 2015

Includes anniversary committee minutes and planning for 250th anniversary; questionnaires and interviews with members; recordings of interviews with older members and interim pastor, Paul M. Lederach; printed programs and recordings and transcripts of the June 19-21, 2015 events

Directories

Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws

Congregational Covenant and Vision Statement

Historical Record of Congregational Meetings, 1812-1998

Annual Business Meetings, 1942-1967

Missing 1968-1970

Congregational Meetings, 1971-2011


Franconia Conference Delegate Reports


Financial Notebook –Trustees’ Treasury Account, 1936-1941

Trustees Minutes, 1960-1986

Property Committee Minutes, 1986-2011

Estates and Trusts, 1925 - 1997

Wallace and Emma Derstein House, 1980-1984

Record of the purchase and sale of the Derstein house across from the meetinghouse; Trustee records of Derstein house rentals


Process on how to use the Derstein house for congregational programs

Deeds of Movie Lots

The story of the so-called "movie lots" adjacent to the Plains property and the deeds of purchase by Plains trustees of these lots; includes blueprint of the property and lots
Plains MC Collection  Box 08-10 (Church Council)

Church Council Minutes, 1960-2014
Missing: January, February, April 14, June 10, and July, 1971; July 8, 1981; December 12, 1989

Plains MC Collection  Box 11-13 (Elders)

Elders Minutes, 1982-current (RESTRICTED)
Box 11, Folder 1 includes processing of request for a team of elders from 1980 to 1982 when elders were first elected

Plains MC Collection  Box 14 (Ministers)  Folder 01

Congregational leaders, 1774-2006
A time-line prepared for writing of the congregational history, 2015

Plains MC Collection  Box 14 (Ministers)  Folder 02

Ministerial Planning Committee, January 1966 to June 1972
Minutes of ministerial search committee leading to the call extended to Gerald Studer. Original committee began in 1966, minutes of meetings 1-2, and 3-12 are missing. Folder includes minutes of interim pastoral team in 1971, with John E Lapp, Ross Bender, Arthur Hackman, Richard Lichty, Lee Yoder

Plains MC Collection  Box 14 (Ministers)  Folder 03

Pastoral Services Committee, 1984-1985
Minutes of ministerial search committee leading to the call of Richard Lichty as an associate pastor serving with Gerald Studer. Includes notes on Joyce Hedrick as pastoral intern

Plains MC Collection  Box 14 (Ministers)  Folder 04

Leadership Needs Committee, 1984-1985
Minutes of ministerial search committee leading to the call of Richard Lichty as an associate pastor; Includes notes on Joyce Hedrick as pastoral intern

Plains MC Collection  Box 14 (Ministers)  Folder 05

Search Committee, 1996-1997
Covers ministerial leadership changes from the call of Richard Lichty as lead pastor (1988), of Michael Meneses as co-pastor (1992), and Lorene Derstine as Director Christian Education

Plains MC Collection  Box 14 (Ministers)  Folder 05A

Search Committee, Alban Institute Consultation, 1996

Plains MC Collection  Box 14 (Ministers)  Folder 06

Pastoral and staff transitions, 1998-

Plains MC Collection  Box 14 (Ministers)  Folder 07

Pastoral Sabbatical Leave Policy and Experiences, 1982-2014

Plains MC Collection  Box 14 (Ministers)  Folder 08

John E. Lapp pastoral materials
Transcript of 1982 interview by Dwight Roth

Plains MC Collection  Box 14 (Ministers)  Folder 09

Henry Paul Yoder pastoral materials

Plains MC Collection  Box 14 (Ministers)  Folder 10

Eric (Rick) Alderfer pastoral materials
Youth pastor, 1987-1989

Plains MC Collection  Box 14 (Ministers)  Folder 11

Pastoral letters and reports

Plains MC Collection  Box 14A (Ministers)  Folder 01

Gerald C Studer pastoral materials

Plains MC Collection  Box 14A (Ministers)  Folder 02

Richard J. Lichty pastoral materials

Plains MC Collection  Box 14A (Ministers)  Folder 03

Michael A. Meneses pastoral materials
Includes Physis consultation assessments--Hubert Schwartzentruber; Maribeth Longacre.

Pastoral Reviews (RESTRICTED)

Ministerial Aid Fund, 1954-1965

Finance Committee and Reports, 1974-2011

Missing reports 1994-2001

Mennonite Education Plan

Originally "Brotherhood Plan", for children in local Christian schools

Mennonite Scholarship Fund

For students attending Anabaptist-related colleges

Building Fund and Construction Records, 1959-1960

Building Fund, 1989-1992

Set of 28 Class Record Books for 1942 (not in a folder)

Young Peoples Bible Meeting Record Book, 1946-1959 (not in a folder)

Plains Sunday School History by Ernest R. Clemens

Sunday School Library, 1941

Plains Literary Society, 1940s

Minute Book of the SS Workers Meetings, 1941-1958

SS Workers Meetings, 1968-1970

Annual Sunday School Reports, 1941-1986 (incomplete)


Examples of Sunday School Superintendents Record, 1943 and 1963

Sunday School Class Lists, 1961-1970

Young Peoples Bible Meeting, By Laws and Financial Records, 1946

Young Peoples Bible Meeting Records Ofr Leaders, 1960-1966

Young Peoples Bible Meeting Correspondence, 1963-1965

MYF (Mennonite Youth Fellowship)

Scattered records from 1962-1989


Scattered records after 1993

Junior Church 1978-1980

Scattered records after 1993
Leaders guide written by Plains members

Plains was one of 15 congregations churchwide to participate in creating and testing new models of education

Box 17 (Christian Ed Cabinet) Folder 09: Wholistic Health Committee, 1992-1993

Box 17 (Christian Ed Cabinet) Folder 10: Child Protection Policy, 2007


Box 18 (WMSA, etc.) Folder 01: WMSA (Women's Mission and Service Association) Minutes and Programs, 1963-2003
Six notebooks, loose in box

Box 18 (WMSA, etc.) Folder 02: WMSA Cooking Recipes, 1964, 1967, 2003

Box 18 (WMSA, etc.) Folder 03: GMSA (Girls’ Mission and Service Association), 1977-1978

Box 18 (WMSA, etc.) Folder 04: Music Committee, 1968, 1981-1992

Box 18 (WMSA, etc.) Folder 05: Worship Committee, 1998, 2002-2011

Box 19 (Outreach/Mission) Folder 01-02: Hospitality/Fellowship Committee, 2002-current

Box 19 (Outreach/Mission) Folder 03: Outreach Team Minutes, 1991-1994; 2002-2011

Box 19 (Outreach/Mission) Folder 04: Summer Bible School (scattered records)

Box 19 (Outreach/Mission) Folder 05: Plains in Mission, A Variety of Outreach

Box 19 (Outreach/Mission) Folder 06: Vietnamese Fellowship, 1990s

Box 19 (Outreach/Mission) Folder 07: Plains Park, 2004-current

Box 19 (Outreach/Mission) Folder 08: Peace Proclamation Ministry in India, 2012-current

Box 19 (Outreach/Mission) Folder 09: Jubilee Fund, 2010-current

Box 19 (Outreach/Mission) Folder 10: Brochures -- Anniversaries and Special Programs

Box 19A (Outreach/Mission) Folder 01: Posters and Flyers, 2010-current

Box 20 (Outreach/Mission) Folder 02: Childcare, “Latchkey” and KenCrest Programs, 1970-2003

Box 21 (Bulletins) Folder 01: Hatfield-Lansdale Religious Survey, 1960

Box 21 (Bulletins) Folder 02: Church Bulletins, 1995-current

Box 22 (Audio) Folder 01: Church bulletins, 1952-1994 (bound volumes, loose on shelf)

Box 23 (Oversize) Folder 01: Audio Recordings
Selected cassette tapes of worship services; also a few reel tapes from 1960s

Oversize Items