

Michigan Technological University Archives
And
Copper Country Historical Collections

**GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH RECORDS
COLLECTION # MS – 866**

1832-2008

15.93 Cubic Feet

Scope and Content Note:

Grace United Methodist Church was founded in 1854 by Pastor Lewis Earl, who was appointed the pastor of the newly created Portage Lake Mission in 1853 by the Methodist Episcopal Church's Michigan Conference. In 1854 Earl created the first Methodist "class," the most fundamental unit of Methodism in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The Portage Lake Class of 1854, the first organized religious body in Houghton, later evolved into the Grace United Methodist Episcopal Church.

Construction of the first church building began in spring of 1859 just east of the church's present location on the corner of Isle Royale Street and East Montezuma Avenue. Robert Bird was appointed to the Portage Lake Mission that year and had the partially built frame moved to the new lot at the church's current location. In 1890, a new sandstone church building was planned and construction was completed in 1893. On November 24, 1916 a fire broke out in the church building causing extensive damage. Restoration of the church took place with some expansion of the building and was not completed until 1925. Further expansion and improvements began in 1988 and finished in 1991 which included enlargement of the parking lot.

The collection includes a wide variety of records, such as sacramental documents, minutes of committees, church newsletters and bulletins, and materials gathered for church anniversaries and historical publications. The collection also contains records from other Methodist church in Michigan's Upper Peninsula which have closed and/or merged with Grace United Methodist Church, including those at Central Mine, Dollar Bay, Hancock, Hurontown, Trimountain, and Zeba.

Additional historical information is contained in two appendices to this document.

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Record Series 1 – Terry Reynolds’ Church History Files

Terry Reynolds wrote a history of Grace United Methodist Church for its 150th Anniversary in 2004. Materials within this series were organized by Reynolds according to the chapters within this publication with other historical material he utilized appearing after the named chapters.

Box	Fldr	Description	
1	1	Grace United Methodist Church Origins	1832-1859
1	2	Civil War Years	1860-1866
1	3	Marking Time	1866-1888
1	4	Growth and Prosperity	1888-1916
1	5	Struggling for Survival	1916-1930
1	6	Depression, War, Recovery	1930-1960
1	7	Dissension and Discord	1960-1983
1	8	Reconstruction and Renewal	1983-2004
1	9	Bibliography and Notes	
1	10	History Outline	1854-ca. 1990
1	11	Sesquicentennial Reminiscence	
1	12	Historical Images for Sesquicentennial	
2	1	Grace United Methodist Church, General Accounts	
2	2	Other Area Churches	
2	3	Methodism, Origins	
2	4	“Sculptured in Stone: The History of the First United Methodist Church, 1851-1951” by Rowena Revis Jones	1851-1951

Record Series 2 – Grace United Methodist Church History

This series includes a number of histories of Grace United Methodist Church that were written over a period of years by various individuals, as well as several biographies of former pastors.

Box	Fldr	Description	
2	5	Church Histories (1 of 2)	1804-1954
2	6	Church Histories (2 of 2)	1954-1991
2	7	Biographies	ca. 1865-1976
2	8	“Onie’s Letters to the Congregation” by Onni M. Usitalo	1988

Record Series 3 – Anniversaries

Box	Fldr	Description	
28	3	50 th Anniversary	ca. 1909
28	4	75 th Anniversary	ca. 1930
28	5	100 th Anniversary	ca. 1955
28	6	100 th Anniversary Newspaper Clippings	ca. 1955
28	7	“John Wesley” Film Showing – 100 th Anniversary	ca. 1954-1955
28	8	125 th Anniversary	ca. 1979
29	1	125 th Anniversary Newspaper Clippings	ca. 1979
29	2	‘A New Way In’ 125 th Anniversary Project	1979-1980
29	3	150 th Anniversary	ca. 2004
29	4	150 th Anniversary Newspaper Clippings	2004
29	5	Miscellaneous Anniversary Material	ca. 1930-2000

Record Series 4 – Sacramental Records

Subseries 4.1 – Baptisms, Marriages, and Membership

Box	Fldr	Description	
38	3	'Church Record' book	1874-1907
4	1	Baptismal, Marriage, and Membership Record Book	ca. 1913-1948
3	9	Baptismal Records	1886-1934
3	10	Baptismal and Marriage Record Book	1925-1934
3	11	Confirmation Correspondence	1967

Subseries 4.2 – Clippings of Sacramental Events

Box	Fldr	Description	
3	12	Obituaries	ca. 1934-ca. 1937
3	13	Confirmation	2005

Record Series 5 – Membership and Attendance Records

Material within this series includes official membership books, membership cards, and guest books that kept track of members and attendance at services. Directories, memorial books, and Sunday School attendance books are included as they also give evidence of membership within the church. Some entries in the memorial books seem to be recorded from previous books; in these cases the approximate transcription date is used.

Box	Fldr	Description	
5	1	Membership Record Book	1903-1931
5	2	Membership Roll	1917-1971
5	3	Church Service Attendance Notebook	1979-1988
5	4	Church Service Attendance Sheets	1984-1989
5	5	Member Records of Attendance (1 of 2)	1995-1997
5	6	Member Records of Attendance (2 of 2)	1995-1997
6	1	Member Records of Attendance (1 of 2)	2001-2003
6	2	Member Records of Attendance (2 of 2)	2001-2003
6	3	Membership Transfers - Transfers In	1987-1997
6	4	Membership Transfers - Transfers Out	1987-1996
6	5	Membership Transfers - Transfers Out	2004-2009
6	6	Membership Removals	1955-1970
6	7	Membership Removals (1 of 3)	ca. 1946-ca. 1971
7	1	Membership Removals (2 of 3)	ca. 1946-ca. 1971
7	2	Membership Removals (3 of 3)	ca. 1946-ca. 1971
7	3	Church Directories	1979-1988
7	4	Church Directories	1989-1996
7	5	Church Directories	1997-2006
8	1	Pictorial Church Directories	1974-1983

8	2	Pictorial Church Directories	1987-1997
8	3	Pictorial Church Directories	2000-2007
38	4	Memorial Books - 'Record of Memorials'	1953-1988
8	4	Memorial Books - 'Our Memorials'	1972-1981
8	5	Memorial Books - Untitled Memorial Binder	ca. 1950-1988
8	6	Memorial Books - Untitled Memorial Binder	1980-1997
38	5	Memorial Books - Untitled Memorial Book	1989-2007
8	7	Guest Books - 'Our Church Guests'	1954-1958
9	1	Guest Books - 'Our Church Guests'	1958-1963
9	2	Guest Books - 'Guests of Our Church'	1987-1991
9	3	Guest Books - 'Guest Book'	1991-2002
9	4	Guest Books - '150 th Anniversary Guest Book'	July 2004
9	5	Sunday School - 'Sunday School Records'	1937-1954
9	6	Sunday School - 'Members and Friends of Grace Methodist Church: Church School Roster'	1966-1967

Record Series 6 – Administrative Bodies

This series includes material created by the groups responsible for governing Grace United Methodist Church. Some material was originally kept in binders; in these cases the documents are in original order and are referred to as 'notebooks'. All other material is arranged in chronological order.

Subseries 6.1 – Official Board of Grace Church/Administrative Board of Grace United Methodist Church

This series includes material created by the Official Board of Grace Church, which in June of 1969 changed their name to the Administrative Board of Grace United Methodist Church. This change reflected the increased administrative duty and a focus on the clarification, development, and support of the ministry of the congregation. At this time it was also decided that the group would meet quarterly rather than monthly.

Box	Fldr	Description	
39	1	Official Board Meeting Minutes	1911-1916
39	2	Official Board Meeting Minutes	1916-1918
39	3	Official Board Meeting Minutes	1919-1926
39	4	Official Board Meeting Minutes	1926-1931
9	7	Official Board Meeting Minutes	1931-1935
9	8	Official Board Meeting Minutes	1936-1950
10	1	Official Board Meeting Minutes	1950-1961
10	2	Official Board Meeting Minutes	1962-1967
10	3	Official Board Meeting Minutes	1968-May 1969
10	4	Administrative Board Meeting Minutes	June 1969-1979
10	5	Administrative Board Meeting Minutes	1980-1985
11	1	Administrative Board Notebook	1981-1992
11	2	Administrative Board Notebook	1993-1995
11	3	Administrative Board Notebook	1995-2005

Subseries 6.2 – Board of Trustees

Box	Fldr	Description	
11	4	Minute Book	1959-1965
11	5	Trustee Material	1981-1989
12	1	Trustee Notebook	1984-1989
12	2	Trustee Notebook	1984-1992
12	3	Trustee Material	2000-2005

Subseries 6.3 – Education Boards

The Church Sunday School Board was eliminated in the 1980's when the Education Committee is in charge of overseeing Sunday School operations; records of this group can be found in record series 7.

Box	Fldr	Description	
12	4	Church School Board	1929-1938
12	5	Church Sunday School Board	ca. 1945

Subseries 6.4 – Leadership Council

Box	Fldr	Description	
12	6	Leadership Council Manual	2006
12	7	Leadership Council Material	2005-2006

Subseries 6.5 – Council on Ministries

Box	Fldr	Description	
12	8	Council on Ministries Meeting Minutes	1980-1983
12	9	Council on Ministries Notebook (1 of 2)	1969-2003
13	1	Council on Ministries Notebook (2 of 2)	1969-2003

Subseries 6.6 – Copper Country Clergy Council

Box	Fldr	Description	
13	2	Copper Country Clergy Council Meeting Minutes	1975-1976

Record Series 7 – Committees and Groups

Subseries 7.1 – Building Committee

The Building Committee of Grace United Methodist Church has been involved with several projects throughout the history of the Church. However, the majority of the material in this subseries is directly related to the addition that was made to the church during the 1990/1991 building project.

Box	Fldr	Description	
39	5	Wiring for Grace M. E. Church	1917
13	3	Building Fund Subscription Notebook	1924
13	4	Contracts	1952-1971

13	5	Church Building Condition Report	1966
13	6	Building Committee Notebook (1 of 2)	1966-1968
13	7	Building Committee Notebook (2 of 2)	1966-1968
13	8	Building Committee Material	1967
13	9	Building Fund Letters	1965-1968
13	10	1988 Building Committee Notebook (1 of 2)	1986-1988
14	1	1988 Building Committee Notebook (2 of 2)	1986-1988
40	1	Building Appraisal Records	1988
14	2	Building Committee Meeting Material	1988
14	3	Building Committee Meeting Material	1989
14	4	Building Committee Meeting Material	1990
14	5	Building Committee Meeting Material	1991
15	1	Building Committee Meeting Material	2004-2005
15	2	Pastor's 1990/1991 Building Project Papers	1989-1990
15	3	Pastor's 1990/1991 Building Project Papers	1991-1993
15	4	Survey of Grace United Methodist Church Land	1989-1990
40	2	Asbestos Removal Documentation	1990
40	3	1990/1991 Building Project Documentation	1989-1991
15	5	Correspondence with Contractors	1964-1965
40	4	Correspondence with Contractors	1989-1991
40	5	Church Furnishings and Building Material	1991
15	6	Church Furnishings and Building Material (1 of 2)	2000-2001
15	7	Church Furnishings and Building Material (2 of 2)	2000-2001
40	6	Site Maps and Plans of Church and Surrounding Area	1988-1991

Oversize Folders:

Map Drawer 53 I: Architectural Drawings – Plans for Alteration and Addition to Grace M.E. Church 1917

Map Drawer 53 J: Architectural Drawings and Site Plans 1960s

Map Drawer 53 L: Architectural Drawings 1979

Map Drawer 53 K: Site Plans 1989-1990

Subseries 7.2 – Parsonage Committee

Box	Fldr	Description	
16	1	Parsonage Committee Material	1960-1967

Subseries 7.3 – Long Range Planning Committee

The Long Range Planning Committee was created in 1984 by the Administrative Council and began its activities by conducting a survey of the congregation using Callahan's "12 Keys to an Effective Church". A summary of the group's activities from 1984-1986 exists at the beginning of the second folder within this subseries.

Box	Fldr	Description	
16	2	Long Range Planning Committee Notebook (1 of 2)	1984-1988
16	3	Long Range Planning Committee Notebook (2 of 2)	1984-1988
16	4	Long Range Planning Committee Material	1986-1988

Subseries 7.4 – Task Force on Spatial and Facility Needs (TFSFN)

This subseries consists of three notebooks and two other folders containing material from the Task Force on Spatial and Facility Needs (TFSFN). Material within the notebooks has been kept in original order and some duplication of material, such as meeting agendas and minutes, may be duplicated throughout.

Box	Fldr	Description	
16	5	TFSFN Notebook A (1 of 2)	1988
16	6	TFSFN Notebook A (2 of 2)	1988
16	7	TFSFN Notebook B	1988
17	1	TFSFN Notebook C	1988-1989
17	2	TFSFN Material	1988
17	3	TFSFN Meeting Material, Bob Townsend	1988

Subseries 7.5– Finance Committee

Box	Fldr	Description	
40	7	Finance Committee Subscription and Pledge Records Ledger	1925-1937
17	4	Finance Committee Envelope Purchases	1978-1981
17	5	Finance Committee Notebook 'A'	1981
17	6	Finance Committee Notebook 'B' (1 of 2)	1986-1992
18	1	Finance Committee Notebook 'B' (2 of 2)	1986-1992
18	2	Finance Committee Material	1989

Subseries 7.6 –Relations Committees

Box	Fldr	Description	
18	3	Staff-Parish Relations Committee Notebook (1 of 2)	1977-1998
18	4	Staff-Parish Relations Committee Notebook (2 of 2)	1977-1998
18	5	Pastor-Parish Relations Committee Material	1974-1981

Subseries 7.6 –Education Commission/Committee

The Education Commission is occasionally referred to as the 'Education Committee.'

Box	Fldr	Description	
18	6	Education Commission Material	1968-1969
18	7	Education Commission Notebook 'A'	1981-1992
18	8	Education Commission Notebook 'B'	1993-2007

Subseries 7.6 –Evangelism Committee

Box	Fldr	Description	
18	9	Evangelism Committee Material	1978-1992
18	10	Evangelism Committee Material	1993-1997

Subseries 7.7 –Worship Commission

Box	Fldr	Description	
19	1	Worship Commission Material	1961-1969
19	2	Worship Commission Material	1983-1986
19	3	Worship Commission Notebook (1 of 2)	1969-1994
19	4	Worship Commission Notebook (2 of 2)	1969-1994

Subseries 7.8 –Nominations Commission

Box	Fldr	Description	
19	5	Nominations Committee Material	1941-1961
19	6	Nominations Committee Material	1979-1990

Subseries 7.9 –Committee on Chair Descriptions

Box	Fldr	Description	
19	7	Committee on Chair Descriptions Guidance Notebook	ca. 1996

Subseries 7.10 –Committee on Lay Leadership

Box	Fldr	Description	
19	8	Committee on Lay Leadership	2001

Subseries 7.11 –Mission Committee

Box	Fldr	Description	
19	9	Mission Committee Material	1991-2001

Subseries 7.12–Membership Care Committee

Box	Fldr	Description	
19	10	Membership Care Committee	1993-2007

Subseries 7.13 – Grace United Methodist Youth Groups

Box	Fldr	Description	
20	1	Young People’s Union (bound notebook)	1889-1894
20	2	Methodist Youth Fellowship Ledger	1969
20	3	Grace United Methodist Youth Fellowship Material	1984-1994

Subseries 7.14 – Grace Fellowship

Grace Fellowship was a semi-autonomous campus ministry organization at Grace United Methodist Church that stood in place of a Wesley Foundation. For several political reasons, the Detroit Conference would not give the church control of a Wesley Foundation and provided no funding to Grace Fellowship, though that did not hinder it from becoming a successful organization. In 2007 Grace Fellowship underwent organizational changes, including the

dismissal of the Campus Ministry Coordinator, in order to make it a more integrated part of the Church.

Box	Fldr	Description	
20	4	Grace Fellowship Board Material	1993-1998
20	5	Task Force on Relationship of Grace Fellowship and Grace United Methodist Church Notebook (1 of 2)	2006
20	6	Task Force on Relationship of Grace Fellowship and Grace United Methodist Church Notebook (2 of 2)	2006
20	7	Grace Fellowship 'Current Crisis' Material	2007
20	8	Grace Fellowship 'Current Crisis' Transparencies	2007

Subseries 7.15 – United Methodist Men and Women

Box	Fldr	Description	
21	1	United Methodist Men's Brotherhood	1952-1957
21	2	Ladies Aid Society Book 'A'	1904-1919
21	3	Ladies Aid Society Book 'B'	1919-1924
21	4	Ladies Aid Society Book 'C'	1924-1932
21	5	Women's Home Mission Society	1926-1932
40	1	Women's Society of Christian Service/United Methodist Women Book	1957-1990
21	6	Women's Society of Christian Service/United Methodist Women Material	1954-1970
21	7	United Methodist Women Material	1975-1978
21	8	Women's Society of Christian Service/United Methodist Women Notebook	1957-1991
22	1	United Methodist Women Material	1980-1998
22	2	United Methodist Women Notebook	1984-1985
22	3	United Methodist Women Financial and Charity Donation Records	1984-1998
22	4	United Methodist Women Ledger	1991-1996
22	5	United Methodist Women Notebook	1993
22	6	"The Healing Touch" – Program for United Methodist Women	1994
23	1	'Charis Circle' of United Methodist Women	1985-1996
23	2	'Naomi Circle' of United Methodist Women	1986-1997
23	3	'Ruth Circle' of United Methodist Women	1991-1999
23	4	'Ruth Circle' of United Methodist Women	2000-2004
23	5	'Ruth Circle' of United Methodist Women	2005-2007

Record Series 8 –Church Conferences

Material within this series was presented at annual church conferences and generally includes financial and other documentation from the various groups and committees of Grace United Methodist Church as well as an annual report for the Church.

Box	Fldr	Description	
23	6	Quarterly Conference Record Book	1885-1889
41	2	Report of Payment on Subscriptions for Conference 1920	1920

23	7	Conference Records	1930-1941
23	8	Conference Records	1944-1949
24	1	Conference Records	1950-1959
24	2	Official Quarterly Conference Record Notebook	1951-1954
24	3	Conference Records	1955-1959
24	4	Conference Records	1960-1961
24	5	Conference Records	1962-1963
24	6	Conference Records	1964-1965
25	1	Conference Records	1966-1967
25	2	Conference Records	1968
25	3	Conference Records	1969
25	4	Conference Records	1970-1971
25	5	Conference Records	1972-1973
25	6	Conference Records	1974-1975
26	1	Conference Records	1976
26	2	Conference Records	1977-1978
26	3	Conference Records	1979-1980
26	4	Conference Records	1981-1982
26	5	Conference Records	1983-1984
26	6	Conference Records	1985-1986
26	7	Conference Records	1987-1988
26	8	Conference Records	1989
26	9	Conference Records	1990
26	10	Conference Records	1991
27	1	Conference Records	1992
27	2	Conference Records	1993
27	3	Conference Records	1994
27	4	Conference Records	1995
27	5	Conference Records	1996
27	6	Conference Records	1997
27	7	Conference Records	1998
27	8	Conference Records	1999
27	9	Conference Records	2000
27	10	Finance Statements	2001
27	11	Finance Statements	2002
27	12	Finance Statements	2003
28	1	Finance Statements	2004-2008
28	2	Journal of the Detroit Annual Conference	2006

Record Series 9 – Newsletters

Box	Fldr	Description	
29	6	Newsletters	1981-1986
29	7	Newsletters	1997-1998
29	8	Newsletters	1999-2001
30	1	Newsletters	2002-2004
30	2	Newsletters	2005
30	3	Newsletters	2006

30	4	Newsletters	2007
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Record Series 10 –Bulletins

Box	Fldr	Description	
30	5	Bulletins-Undated	
30	6	Bulletins	1925
30	7	Bulletins	1931-1939
30	8	Bulletins	1940-1949
30	9	Bulletins	1950-1955
30	10	Bulletins	1956-1959
30	11	Bulletins	1962-1964
30	12	Bulletins	1965-1969
31	1	Bulletins	1970-1972
31	2	Bulletins	1973-1975
31	3	Bulletins	1976-1979
31	4	Bulletins	1980-1982
31	5	Bulletins	1987-1988
31	6	Bulletins	1997
31	7	Bulletins	1998-1999
31	8	Bulletins	2000-2001
31	9	Bulletins	2002-2003
32	1	Bulletins	2004-2005
32	2	Bulletins	2006-2008

Record Series 11 –Events

Box	Fldr	Description	
41	3	Rummage and Bake Sale Signs	
32	3	Organ Dedication and Related Organ Records	1931-1966
32	4	'Under Our Steeple' Presentation	1969
32	5	Pastoral Exchange	1977
32	6	Consecrations Service	1991
32	7	Consecrations Service Newspaper Clippings	1991
32	8	Parish Enrichment Conference	1992
32	9	Quilt Show	2002
32	10	Miscellaneous Programs and Brochures	ca. 1925-1991

Record Series 12 –Miscellaneous

Box	Fldr	Description	
33	1	Correspondence	1920-1939
33	2	Correspondence	1940-2004
33	3	Legal and Financial Documents	1921-1944
41	4	Legal and Financial Documents	1954-1990
33	4	Holiday Ephemera	ca. 1940-1970
33	5	Records of Payments Book	1925-1937

33	6	Christian Publications	1973-2004
33	7	<i>The Circuit Rider</i> Correspondence	1979-1987
33	8	Disability Awareness	1980
41	5	Charitable Gift Annuity Documentation	1990
34	1	Guidelines for Church Leadership	1993
34	2	Newspaper Clippings	ca. 1940-2005
34	3	Polls and Surveys	
34	4	Historic Sign Application	ca. 2002
34	5	Congressional Record: Proceedings and Debates for the 108 th Congress, Second Session	2004
34	6	Miscellaneous Documents	ca. 1995
43	1	Outstanding Models in Christian Education Award	

Record Series 13 –Media

Subseries 13.1 – Photographs

Box	Fldr	Description	
34	7	Pastoral Exchange Photographs	1977
41	6	United Methodist Women Naomi Circle Scrapbook Photographs	ca. 1985
34	8	Long Range Planning Committee - Photographs	1986-1988
34	9	Consecration Service	1991
34	10	Photographs Used for Anniversary Celebrations (1 of 2)	
34	11	Photographs Used for Anniversary Celebrations (2 of 2)	
35	1	Camp Michigamme	1992-1993
35	2	Camp Michigamme	1993
35	3	Building Exterior	
35	4	Church After New Addition	
35	5	Photographs – Habitat for Humanity	
35	6	Photographs with Contact Information	
35	7	Portraits	
35	8	Confirmation Sunday	1995
35	9	Photographs – Red Bird Mission	
35	10	Miscellaneous Photographs	
35	11	Miscellaneous Photographs	
35	12	Miscellaneous Photographs	
35	13	Miscellaneous Photographs	
36	1	Miscellaneous Photographs	
36	2	Miscellaneous Photographs	
36	3	Miscellaneous Photographs	
36	4	Miscellaneous Photographs	
36	5	Miscellaneous Photographs	
36	6	Miscellaneous Photographs	
43	2	Oversize Photographs	ca. 1950's
43	3	Framed Confirmation Photograph	ca. 1950's
43	4	Framed Congregation Photograph	ca. 1950's

Subseries 13.2 – Negatives

Box	Fldr	Description	
37	1	125 th Anniversary Photographs	ca. 1979
37	2	Miscellaneous Negatives	
37	3	Miscellaneous Negatives	

Subseries 13.3 – 35mm Slides

Box	Fldr	Description	
37	4	Building Committee Report	1966
		'Under Our Steeple' Presentation Slides	1969
37	5	Slides – Egypt and Israel	
37	6	Miscellaneous Slides	1994-1995
37	7	Miscellaneous Slides	
37	8	Miscellaneous Slides	

Subseries 13.4 – VHS

Box	Fldr	Description	
42	1	United Methodist Women VHS Tape	November 11, 1992

Subseries 13.4 – CD ROM

Box	Fldr	Description	
37	9	150 th Anniversary Logo	2005
37	10	CD: GUMC Interview Training - Leadership Council	2005-2006

Subseries 13.4 – Cassette Tapes

Box	Fldr	Description	
42	2	"12 Keys to an Effective Church" 4 audio tapes	
42	3	"12 Keys to an Effective Church" 4 audio tapes (duplicates)	
42	4	Callahan Interviews, 4 audio tapes	
42	5	Consecration Sunday	

Record Series 14 – Other Methodist Churches

The majority of this series is comprised of material from other Methodist churches in Michigan's Copper Country which later merged into Grace United Methodist Church.

Box	Fldr	Description	
2	9	Central Mine Methodist Episcopal Church	ca. 1938-1981
2	10	Dollar Bay Methodist Episcopal Church	ca. 1890-1920
2	11	First Methodist Episcopal Church of Hancock	1930-1974
3	1	Hurontown Methodist Church - Church History	1961

38	1	Hurontown Methodist Church - Disbursements Ledger	1926-1970
38	2	Hurontown Methodist Church - Church Groups	1948-1965
3	2	Hurontown Methodist Church - Administrative Records (1 of 2)	1961-1971
3	3	Hurontown Methodist Church - Administrative Records (2 of 2)	1961-1971
3	4	Hurontown Methodist Church - Merger Records	1969-1974
3	5	Metropolitan Methodist Episcopal Church of Detroit	1937-1943
3	6	Prospect Methodist Church of Bristol, Connecticut	Dec. 1960
3	7	Trimountain Methodist Episcopal Church	1901-1909
3	8	Zeba Methodist Indian Mission of L'Anse	

APPENDIX A – Organizational History

Grace United Methodist Church was founded in 1854 by Pastor Lewis Earl, who was appointed the pastor of the newly created Portage Lake Mission in 1853 by the Methodist Episcopal Church's Michigan Conference. In 1854 Earl created the first Methodist "class," the most fundamental unit of Methodism in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The Portage Lake Class of 1854, the first organized religious body in Houghton, later evolved into the Grace United Methodist Episcopal Church.

The Portage Lake Class was served by appointees to the Portage Lake Mission until 1860. A Board of Trustees, a group that deals with property issues, was created in 1856, and a Building Committee was formed in 1857, evidence that members began making plans for a permanent church structure. Up until this time church members had likely gathered in their homes or in a multi-functional school house that offered space to church groups on a first come, first served basis.

A lot was donated for the church building by James Pryor, son of founding members Joseph and Elizabeth Pryor. The lot was just east of the church's present location on the corner of Isle Royale Street and East Montezuma Avenue. Construction of the wooden church began in the spring of 1859 and continued into the fall. It was during this time that pastor Robert Bird was appointed to the Portage Lake Mission. Upon his arrival Bird insisted that construction on the donated lot cease and the church be built on a corner lot. This would presumably give the new church greater exposure and accessibility. The donated lot was sold for \$200 and the present location on the corner of Isle Royal Street and East Montezuma Avenue was purchased for \$250. The partially built frame of the church was moved to the new lot and construction was completed in 1859, when it was dedicated.

Bird only remained in Houghton for one year, leaving to become the presiding elder of the Methodist Church's Lake Superior district. David B. Tracy was named his successor, but refused the appointment. His refusal was likely related to the extreme isolation of Houghton, which was virtually closed to the outside world during the winter months. William Brown, a temporary replacement, served until 1861 when William Fox was chosen. It was the policy of the Methodist Church during this time period to move pastors to a new location every year, except in certain circumstances where one was allowed to stay for two or three years. Fox was granted a two year appointment, and after that Grace was served continuously with pastors.

Fox's arrival in Houghton in 1861 also marks the point at which the Portage Lake Class becomes known as Grace Methodist Episcopal Church. Grace became known in its early years as 'Mother Church' because of its role in creating new churches. Members of Grace were critical in the establishment of both the Hurontown Methodist Church and Hancock's First Methodist Church in 1861.

By 1866 Grace had grown from its original twelve members to between fifty and seventy members. Official membership grew slowly after this as becoming a full-fledged member of a Methodist Church was an involved process that not all church-goers went through. The

congregation was no doubt more numerous than the official membership reveals, since over one hundred children attended Grace's Sunday School Program in 1865.

By the time Calvin M. Thompson arrived as pastor of Grace Church in 1888 the gap in religious education between Sunday School and programs offered to adults was of major concern for the Methodist community. In 1889 Thompson founded a 'Young Peoples Union' to solve this problem. The organization was followed by the creation of the Epworth League, which was the Methodist Church's national response to the same problem. With the help of the fundraising efforts of the Epworth League, Grace M. E. Church was able to purchase their first organ.

In about 1890 Grace's congregation began making plans for a new sandstone church building, which was designed by William T. Pryor, descendant of charter church members Elizabeth and Joseph Pryor. Pryor was assisted by A. C. Lane, Michigan's state geologist and faculty member of Houghton's Michigan College of Mines. Sandstone was donated from Jacobsville quarries. Construction was completed in 1893 and featured not only a basement, which had been absent in the wooden structure, but also a boiler room and rooms for Sunday School, a kitchen, and space for socializing. The church also had frescoes covering its walls that were considered quite impressive.

Grace M. E. Church fell on hard times after the completion of the sandstone church; a depression in 1893 left the congregation struggling to pay off its debt. Church membership had begun to grow in the years directly proceeding, but then dipped. However, last payment of the debt was paid by 1902, around which point membership rose again. By 1915 Grace had grown to 225 official members, which may be attributed to the relaxation of rules related to full church membership.

On November 24, 1916 a fire broke out in the church building. The organ, kitchen, and furnace room were destroyed, but many of the pews, the stained glass windows, and the floor remained intact. Numerous community churches and groups offered their support and space during Grace's time of need, and the congregation decided to rent the hall of a Masonic Temple for \$10 per week until the church could be rebuilt.

Many members of Grace felt that a new church should be built, one that could better accommodate the space needed for Sunday School, which at this time was increasing in importance within the Methodist Church. However, even after extensive planning and the purchase of a plot nearby, the new church was never constructed; World War I began and the cost of material and labor skyrocketed. The congregation eventually decided to restore and expand the old sandstone church. Because of financial hardship, restoration and construction was not completed until 1925. By 1929, Grace's 75th Anniversary, all construction debt was paid.

After a short period of prosperity following the completion of the church, Grace once again fell on hard times when the Great Depression struck. Despite the uncertainty of the 1930s the congregation was able to secure enough pledges from the congregation for the purchase of a new organ. After much difficulty paying the debt, final payment was made in February of 1937.

With the onset of World War II Grace Church's outreach to college students and youth expanded. In 1942, then pastor Gernsey Gorton secured a Wesley Foundation for the Michigan College of Mining and Technology. The Wesley Foundation had for several decades served as a formal student-oriented religious presence on college campuses. Pastors appointed to Grace also served as directors of the Wesley Foundation for several years, and while initially there was not a separate building for the Wesley Foundation, the Detroit Conference did appoint a Board of Trustees and provide funding for programs and equipment.

By the mid to late 1950s membership had swelled to over 400, and by 1956 pastor Ken Callis began the tradition of holding two services, as the sanctuary could hold 275 at most. The large increase can be at least partially attributed to the growth of Michigan Tech during this period. The congregation once again began to consider expanding the church and purchased a house on the east side of Grace Church in 1955. The house was demolished and signs intended to attract new members were erected along the highway. Today this spot is the church's "Memorial Garden." Improvements were also made to the parsonage on Agate Street, which had been owned since 1908.

In 1961 a second property adjacent to Grace, on the south side of the church, was purchased and used for additional Sunday School classes. It was also hoped that this would provide the opportunity for further expansion to the church if the need arose. In 1965 a Long-Range Study Committee was organized by pastor David Church to discern if such an expansion was necessary. While the Committee found that the church sanctuary was still adequate, many other issues were examined. More space was needed for Sunday School and there was a need for easier access to the church for the elderly and disabled. In response to this, the recently purchased house was demolished in anticipation for a new education building.

In 1966, examining the combined cost of a new Sunday School space and the continued upkeep of the sandstone church, many believed that abandoning the historic church and rebuilding would be the best decision. In 1967 four acres were purchased on the corner of Sharon and Garnet Streets in Houghton for the relocation of the entire church. However, this new church was never erected. Even though a majority of the congregation approved of the Building Committee's recommendation to relocate, a significant minority fought against it, either because they did not want to move locations, or did not like the proposed location. This, combined with a conflict over legal control of property between the Detroit Board and the Wesley Foundation Board, caused support for the building project to disintegrate.

In 1968 Grace Methodist Episcopal Church became Grace United Methodist Church, but in reality the congregation was anything but united. A strained relationship existed between the congregation and pastor Carter W. Preston, who many believed was told by the Detroit Conference to remain aloof from members involved in the Wesley Foundation, who also happened to be key members of Grace as a whole. Indeed, many at the church harbored resentment toward the Detroit Conference for penalizing the church after not being given control over the Wesley Foundation at Michigan Tech.

By 1969 it had been decided that money would be put into upkeep of the sandstone church instead of into a fund for a new building. As maintenance had been neglected in anticipation of

relocating to a new structure, there was much work to be done on the historic church. In 1971 the property on Sharon and Garnet Street was sold. Though a tense atmosphere existed at Grace during this period, the congregation was able to make several key improvements, including the addition of a fire escape, the construction of a 'cry room' at the back of the sanctuary, and the dedication of a new pipe organ. 1969 also saw Hurontown Methodist Church merge with Grace United Methodist Church due to declining membership. Those left largely welcomed the change.

The arrival of pastor James McLaurin, a Calumet native, in 1970 saw the beginning of a healing period within the church. McLaurin, in addition to building bridges among those in the congregation who had been divided over the building project, also made an effort to reconnect Grace with its Cornish heritage. In 1976 he even participated in a pastoral exchange with Cornish pastor Derek Polgrean. McLaurin and his family journeyed to Polgrean's church in St. Austell, Cornwall and Polgrean and his family served at Grace.

Pastor Alan George came to Grace in 1976 in time for the 125th anniversary celebration, for which he helped plan a building project to commemorate the occasion. The congregation decided to construct an entrance to the church that would make it accessible to those with mobility issues. However, the changes required to make the "New Way In" possible once again created a tense atmosphere within the church. Many left Grace permanently and membership reached a low that had not been seen since the 1916 fire. However, George remained at Grace until 1987 and was able to grow membership slowly until his departure.

In 1987 another Long Range Planning Committee was formed to assess the adequacy of the facilities at Grace. A Task Force on Spatial and Facility Needs was then created to pursue the problems identified by the Committee. Not wanting to repeat the mistakes of the past, chair of the Task Force, Jeryl Manchester, insured that the congregation was kept up-to-date with every step of the process. The Task Force extensively investigated options to both stay at the current location, or to relocate. After much deliberation, it was decided in 1988 to expand the existing church.

Though raising the funds that were required to improve and expand the sandstone church proved difficult, the project continued. Adjacent land was purchased for the creation of a parking lot with the help of the city of Houghton. The city needed additional parking for a nearby library and elderly housing facilities and offered labor and materials, and also rerouted Isle Royale Street, in exchange for use of portions of the lot. Construction of the addition to the church proved much more expensive than anticipated, but was completed and consecrated on June 30th, 1991.

Following these improvements Grace was able to host many more events than in the past. Membership grew and a successful Methodist ministry to students at Michigan Tech grew along with the rest of the church. Though little funding was received from the Detroit Conference for campus activities after the power struggle over the Wesley Foundation, students enjoyed the use of a house, the "Blue House," next to the church that had been purchased in the event of further expansion. In 1992 a campus ministry coordinator was hired and the organization became known as Grace Fellowship.

When Tom Anderson became pastor of Grace in 1995 he focused his energies on improving and expanding ministries. His approach was to incorporate a modern feel to the church, but he also wanted to bring back the caring emphasis that had been present in the early, small “classes” of the Methodist Church. For a contemporary feel Anderson added a Wednesday evening service that featured the “Amazing Grace Praise Band,” and also focused his efforts on small Bible study groups.

APPENDIX B – Grace United Methodist Church Pastors

The following is a comprehensive list of Grace United Methodist Church pastors from 1854 to present:

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|--------------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------|
| • Lewis Earl | 1854-1855 | • W. R. Fruit | 1904-1909 |
| • R. T. Richard | 1855-1856 | • A. B. Sutcliff | 1909-1910 |
| • James R. Noble | 1856-1857 | • H. C. Shaw | 1910-1912 |
| • A. J. Black | 1857-1859 | • J. R. Rankin | 1912-1915 |
| • Robert Bird | 1859-1960 | • Grant Perkins | 1915-1916 |
| • William Brown | 1860-1861 | • G. G. Gillette | 1916-1919 |
| • William Fox | 1861-1863 | • John E. Lewin | 1919-1925 |
| • Geo. S. Betts | 1863-1864 | • R. R. Feuell | 1925-1930 |
| • John A. Baughman | 1864-1866 | • Gernsey F. Gorton | 1930-1934 |
| • B. S. Taylor | 1866-1869 | • Arthur E. Smith | 1934-1940 |
| • D. O. Hall | 1869-1872 | • Everett K. Seymour | 1940-1942 |
| • Joseph Grazer | 1872-1875 | • Frederick C. Vosburg | 1942-1944 |
| • John Sweet | 1875-1878 | • W. Cardwell Prout | 1944-1950 |
| • J. W. Johnson | 1878-1880 | • James R. Balfour | 1950-1954 |
| • B. S. Taylor | 1880-1881 | • Kenneth R. Callis | 1954-1959 |
| • William Cook | 1881-1883 | • Paul I. Greer | 1959-1962 |
| • L. E. Lennox | 1883-1885 | • David E. Church | 1962-1968 |
| • W. E. Biglow | 1885-1888 | • Carter W. Preston | 1968-1972 |
| • C. M. Thompson | 1888-1893 | • James H. McLaurin | 1972-1978 |
| • E. W. Frazee | 1893-1894 | • Derek Polgrean* | 1976-1977 |
| • W. C. Hicks | 1894-1896 | • Alan R. George | 1978-1987 |
| • H. H. Culver | 1896-1897 | • Ronald K. Fulton | 1987-1988 |
| • D. H. Glass | 1897-1899 | • David R. Strobe | 1988-1995 |
| • L. N. Moon | 1899-1902 | • Thomas C. Anderson | 1995-2008? |
| • Ames Maywood | 1902-1904 | • David Goudie | 2009?-Present |

* Pulpit Exchange