



**State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
Tennessee State Library and Archives**

**ELBRIDGE (NEW CHAPEL) UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH  
(ELBRIDGE, TENN.) RECORDS,  
1886-2008**

---

**COLLECTION SUMMARY**

**Creator:**

Elbridge United Methodist Church (Elbridge, Tenn.)

**Inclusive Dates:**

1886-2008

**Scope & Content:**

Composed of Charge Conference records, membership registers, Sunday School records, and treasurer's materials spanning the period 1886-2008. All items, with the exception of one membership register (which is from the Minnick Methodist Episcopal Church, South) and the Sunday School records (which are from the Jackson Hill Methodist Church), relate to the Elbridge United Methodist Church. Elbridge is also known as New Chapel United Methodist Church.

The Charge Conference records (Box 1, v. 1-5) are chronological from 1907-1969, with gaps occurring between 1911-1928 and 1946-1962. Included are details of the meetings of the Elbridge Charge. The Elbridge Charge was in the Dyersburg District, Memphis Conference, of the United Methodist Church. A charge consists of one or more local churches with the same minister. The Charge originally included Elbridge, Zion, Cunningham, and Minnick Methodist churches. Later volumes do not include Minnick. It should be noted that for the 1928-1936 and 1938-1940 volumes, the district is listed as Union City.

The membership registers (Box 1, v. 6-11) span the period 1886-2008 and contain a catalog of church members. Registers of deaths, baptisms, and marriages are also included in some volumes. The last volume (Box 1, v. 11), dated 1898-1943, is a membership register for the Minnick Methodist Episcopal Church, South. This church is listed in the early Charge Conference record volumes as well.

The Sunday School records (Box 1, v. 12) contain a "Complete Sunday School Record Book" for Jackson Hill Methodist Church. A list of attendees and teachers is given for each Sunday as well as the opening song, lesson subjects, and related scriptures. Weather conditions are also recorded. Interesting examples of this can be seen in the entry for June 24, 1917, where the weather is listed simply as "Hot."

The treasurer's materials (Box 1, v. 13-14), dated 1938-1963, relate to all churches in the Elbridge Charge (i.e. Elbridge, Zion, Cunningham, and Minnick). Listings of yearly cash flow as well as collections taken and paid to visiting preachers are included.

**Physical Description/Extent:**

14 volumes

**Accession/Record Group Number:**

Mf. 1950

**Language:**

English

**Permanent Location:**

Mf. 1950 (available only on microfilm)

**Repository:**

Tennessee State Library and Archives, 403 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee, 37243-0312

**Administrative/Biographical History**

1852 Dr. Meredith Carroll donates 10 acres of land to build a church and cemetery.

1885 Church consists of 70 members.

1897 Riding Brothers is contracted to build a new church building. The cost was \$900 for a building "following the lines of a New England Colonial." This church building was named "New Chapel."

- 1902 Membership increases to 277 members.
- 1926 A “watch service” is held on New Year’s Eve. A group of young people, wanting to “ring” in the New Year, accidentally tears down the church bell.
- 1939 April 23. A wood shingle on the roof catches fire. The building is saved but a new roof is required. A tin roof is installed to replace the burned wooden one.
- 1944 Church is wired for electricity.
- 1950 Church interior is remodeled. Two classrooms are added to the front on either side of the stage.
- 1963 Lighted stained glass window depicting Christ in the garden is installed.
- 1964- Memorial stained glass windows are installed. Each window is paid for  
1965 by members of the memorialized family.
- 1965 Central heat and air is installed.
- 1967 Wrought iron sign, donated by the G. W. Hailey family, is erected.
- 1983 Two restrooms are added to the back of the church building.
- 2009 Parsonage owned by Elbridge, Zion, and Cunningham Methodist churches is sold. Elbridge uses the money to paint the inside of the church, install new ceiling fans, and lower the ceiling.
- 2010 June. Church closes as membership has dropped to 17 with only six active members. The church building is deeded to the Elbridge Cemetery Association by the Methodist Conference.
- 2012 Church building relocated to Discovery Park of America in Union City, Tennessee.

#### **List of Pastors**

1884-1885 S. L. Jewell  
 1885-1886 H. B. Owens  
 1886-1887 Andrew J. Wheeler  
 1887-1888 R. Y. Blackwell  
 1888-1889 B. Medlin  
 1889-1890 B. F. Peebles

1890-1891 G. W. Evans  
1891-1892 J. S. Renshaw  
1892-1895 S. B. Love  
1895-1896 D. M. Evans  
1896-1899 R. L. Norman  
1899-1903 J. B. Winsett  
1903-1905 R. S. Harrison  
1905-1906 J. Tom Alexander  
1906-1909 C. E. Norman  
1909-1910 C. A. Waterfield  
1910-1912 W. H. Collins  
1912-1914 E. J. W. Peters  
1914-1915 W. A. Banks  
1915-1917 C. A. Riggs  
1917-1919 J. T. Banks  
1919-1921 T. N. Wilkes  
1921-1923 B. A. Walker  
1923-1925 B. D. Cairn  
1925-1926 W. S. Lockman  
1926-1927 C. D. Hilliard  
1927-1928 W. A. Lampkin  
1928-1931 J. B. Mackey  
1931-1933 W. K. Lovett  
1933-1935 O. H. Boatwright  
1935-1936 R. E. Hickman  
1936-1937 A. T. Hurley  
1937-1939 J. E. Hopper  
1939-1941 W. A. Baker  
1941-June 1942 S. B. Jones  
June-November 1942 M. M. Gurley  
November 1942-1946 W. L. Hill  
1946-1947 J. P. Murphy  
1947-1949 W. T. M. Jones  
1949-1951 R. E. Street  
1951-1954 S. B. Morrison  
1954-1956 W. H. Harpole  
1956-1960 F. R. Bell  
1960-1961 F. L. Clement  
1961-1964 L. E. King  
1964-1967 J. D. Featherston  
1967-1968 Tom Jowers  
1968-1970 Vernice Scarborough  
1970-1971 Charles Morris  
1971-1974 Donnie Harden  
1974-1975 Ricky Pinkston  
1975-1979 Lawrence Russ

1979-1986 William Larry Tubb  
1986-1998 Bobby Dale Mills  
1998-2001 Thomas O. Perkins  
2002 Robert Craig  
Walter Asher

Source: Information in the biographical note was gleaned from "New Chapel Methodist Church: Through The Years, 1852-2010."

## **Organization/Arrangement of Materials**

Arrangement is alphabetical by type of record.

## **Conditions of Access and Use**

### **Restrictions on Access:**

None

### **Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:**

While the Tennessee State Library and Archives houses an item, it does not necessarily hold the copyright on the item, nor may it be able to determine if the item is still protected under current copyright law. Users are solely responsible for determining the existence of such instances and for obtaining any other permissions and paying associated fees that may be necessary for the intended use.

## **Index Terms**

### **Corporate Names/Organizations/Government Bodies:**

Cunningham United Methodist Church (Obion, Tenn.) -- History --  
Sources

Dyersburg United Methodist District -- History -- Sources

Elbridge United Methodist Church (Elbridge, Tenn.) -- History --  
Sources

Jackson Hill Methodist Church (Hornbeak, Tenn.) -- History -- Sources

Memphis United Methodist Conference -- History -- Sources

Minnick Methodist Episcopal Church, South (Minnick, Tenn.) -- History  
-- Sources

Obion United Methodist District -- History -- Sources

Zion United Methodist Church (Obion, Tenn.) -- History -- Sources

### **Subjects:**

Methodists -- History -- Tennessee -- Sources

**Document Types:**

Membership lists  
Minute books

**Acquisition and Appraisal****Provenance and Acquisition:**

Records loaned to the Tennessee State Library and Archives by Janice Carver of Obion, Tennessee, on March 13, 2013. They were microfilmed and returned to the owner.

**Processing and Administrative Information****Preferred Citation:**

Elbridge (New Chapel) United Methodist Church Records (Elbridge, Tenn.), 1886-2008, Tennessee State Library and Archives

**Processing Information:**

Completed by Lori D. Lockhart in March 2013.

**Existence and Location of Originals:**

Held privately.

**Electronic Location and Access:**

<http://www.tennessee.gov/tsla/history/manuscripts/findingaids/mf1950.pdf>

## DETAILED COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

---

### CONTAINER LIST

<b>Contents/Item Title</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Volume</b>
Charge Conference records	1907-1911	1	1
Charge Conference records	1928-1936	1	2
Charge Conference records	1938-1940	1	3
Charge Conference records	1940-1946	1	4
Charge Conference records	1962-1969	1	5
Membership register	1886-1914	1	6
Membership register	1914-1972	1	7
Membership register	1933-1940	1	8
Membership register	1944-1972	1	9
Membership register	1965-2008	1	10
Membership register -- Minnick Methodist Episcopal Church, South	1898-1943	1	11
Sunday School records -- Jackson Hill Methodist Church	1908-1927	1	12
Treasurer's records	1938-1941	1	13
Treasurer's records	1943-1963	1	14