

**Santa Barbara, CA. La Mesa Community Church**  
**Records, 1954-2004**  
**RG- 4746**  
**1.6 linear feet, 5 boxes**

Processed November 2005 by Jessica Steytler

**Introduction**

The La Mesa Community Church was established in 1954-5 through the American Home Missionary Society with the help of the Santa Barbara First Church. Unfortunately over the years, attendance dropped dramatically and the church closed in 2004 because of this. Many of the former members of La Mesa returned to First Church and because of this close connection, some of the records of La Mesa remain with the founding church including membership ledgers.

**Scope and Content**

This collection does not have certain aspects of the church's activities recorded. Given its size, the three series below are very basic.

*Series 1: Board minutes, 1955, 1957-2004.* There are also related correspondence and occasionally some financial information.

*Series 2: Church activities, 1954-2004.* This is an alphabetic listing of folders that includes financial and legal records, correspondence, membership, photographs, Sunday bulletins, and so on. Please note as stated in the Introduction, that the traditional membership records one expects with a complete church records accounting does not exist. Genealogists particularly need to contact First Church, Santa Barbara for all statistical information.

*Series 3: Scrapbooks and oversized items.* There are 3 scrapbooks, 2 from the youth groups and both books started within the first year of the church's establishment. The third consists almost entirely of newspaper clippings. All 3 were unbound and are now in folders. Additionally, they are frail and are not good candidates for preservation reformatting.

The oversized material is minor in extent, but is mainly legal documents that were 8 1/2 by 14 inches, rather than 11 inches.

The two paintings of the church are in a separate, custom made folder.

**Folder List**

Series 1: Board Minutes

Box 1

1-6      Board Minutes, Correspondence      1955, 1957-1989

Box 2

1-3 Board Minutes, Correspondence 1990-2004

Series 2: Church activities

4 Appreciation letters and certificates 1988-2004  
5 Board of Home Missions, reports to 1958-1961  
6 Building plans 1955, 1964, no date  
7 By-laws 1961-1981, no date  
Mission statement 1988  
8 Correspondence 1960s-1970s  
9 Correspondence, conference 1985-2004  
10 Correspondence, SHIFCO (Senior Housing  
Inter Faith Corporation) 1969-1971  
11 Directories 1964-1988, 2004  
12 Dissolution of the church 2004

Box 3

1-2 Financial reports 1955-2003  
3 Insurance 2002-2003  
4-7 Membership transfers 1950s-2003  
8-9 Mortgage correspondence, copy of the deed 1957, 1967-1991  
10 Open and Affirming status 1996-1998  
11 Programs  
12 Photographs

Box 4

Sunday bulletin, samples 1958-2004  
Monthly newsletters (kept with that year's  
bulletins) 1964, 1965, 1995-2004

Series 3: Scrap Books and Oversize Items

Box 5

*Scrap books*  
Church-wide 1965-1982, 2003  
Junior High Pilgrim Fellowship with sporadic  
records in separate folder 1955-1959  
Senior High Pilgrim Fellowship 1955-1962  
Newspaper clippings  
Oversized photograph  
*items in legal sized folders:*

Legal documents, building

1955, 1958, 1976

Pastoral contracts

1962-1987

Tax status

1955-1995

Oversize folder

2 paintings of the church