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Pittsburgh, Pa. Smithfield Evangelical Protestant Church records, 1907-1935. RG5349

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English

DACS2 - 2013

Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street

Boston, MA 02108

URL: <http://www.CongregationalLibrary.org>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Smithfield Evangelical Protestant Church (Pittsburgh, Pa.)
Title:	Pittsburgh, Pa. Smithfield Evangelical Protestant Church records, 1907-1935.
ID:	RG5349
Date [inclusive]:	1907-1935
Physical Description:	.35 Cubic Feet (1 case)
Language of the Material:	German
Language of the Material:	German, translations in English.
Abstract:	<p>The Smithfield German Evangelical Protestant church was founded in Pittsburgh in 1782. At that time Pittsburgh was only a hamlet on the frontier. Twenty five years earlier no village was there at all, only Fort Duquesne, a French military outpost. In 1782 the German church had organized and found a place to meet, a log cabin that it rented, but it had no minister. So the congregation sent a letter to the German Reformed Synod in eastern Pennsylvania, saying, in effect, "Please send us a preacher." The man who was sent was named Johann Wilhelm Weber. As the German church grew to about 200 members, it needed a larger and more dignified edifice. So, in 1815, under Schnee's leadership, the original building was torn down and a new structure of brick was constructed on the same site. It seated about 200, with a gallery holding 20. Three years later Schnee resigned and moved back East, leaving the church greatly strengthened. The Evangelical Protestant Church joined the Congregational fellowship as a separate, nongeographical conference, functioning like the Calvin (Hungarian) Synod in the United Church of Christ. In 1962 the church joined the UCC and merged with Slavonic Congregational to form Smithfield Congregational United. The volumes contain meeting minutes and church vital statistics.</p>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Pittsburgh, Pa. Smithfield Evangelical Protestant Church records, 1907-1935, RG5349. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Note

The Smithfield German Evangelical Protestant church was founded in Pittsburgh in 1782. At that time Pittsburgh was only a hamlet on the frontier. Twenty five years earlier no village was there at all, only Fort Duquesne, a French military outpost. In 1782 the German church had organized and found a place to meet, a log cabin that it rented, but it had no minister. So the congregation sent a letter to the German Reformed Synod in eastern Pennsylvania, saying, in effect, "Please send us a preacher." The man who was sent was named Johann Wilhelm Weber. As the German church grew to about 200 members, it needed a larger and more dignified edifice. So, in 1815, under Schnee's leadership, the original building was torn down and a new structure of brick was constructed on the same site. It seated about 200, with a gallery holding 20. Three years later Schnee resigned and moved back East, leaving the church greatly strengthened. The Evangelical Protestant Church joined the Congregational fellowship as a separate, nongeographical conference, functioning like the Calvin (Hungarian) Synod in the United Church of Christ. In 1962 the church joined the UCC and merged with Slavonic Congregational to form Smithfield Congregational United.

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Scope and Contents

The volumes contain meeting minutes and church vital statistics.

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged chronologically.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Restrictions on Access

Access to this collection is unrestricted and open to the public.

Restrictions on Use

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Received from Chicago Theological Seminary in 2014, Acc# 2014-124.

Custodial History

Items originally held by the Chicago Theological Seminary Library.

Processing Information

Processed by William McCarthy, July 2017, using DACS Second Edition. Re-processed by William McCarthy in July 2018.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Church records and registers.
- Smithfield (Pa.) -- church history

- Smithfield Evangelical Protestant Church (Pittsburgh, Pa.)

Bibliography

Taylor, Richard H. *Congregational and Plan of Union Churches in the Great Lakes States*. Providence, RI: R.H. Taylor, 2009. 9.3.246

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Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Record Book, 1907-1918 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1907-1918	box 1	volume 3
Record Book, 1909-1931 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1909-1931	box 1	volume 1
Record Book, 1917-1933 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1917-1933	box 1	volume 2
Record Book, 1918-1935 <u>Date [inclusive]:</u> 1918-1935	box 1	volume 4