

Merging Religious Bodies:

Documentary Sources on the History of Ten Nazarene Parent Bodies

Available on 3 reels of 35mm microfilm

Price: \$30 Per Reel • Subject to Change Without Notice

A Guide to the Microfilm Contents

1. Central Evangelical Holiness Association (1890-1896)

A small denomination of independent holiness churches was organized on March 13-14, 1890 at Rock, Massachusetts. It consisted initially of the People's Evangelical Church of Providence, Rhode Island; the Mission Church of Lynn, Massachusetts; the Independent Congregational Church of Rock, Massachusetts; and several other congregations in southeastern New England. The Church in Providence, R.I., which came out of St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church, was the oldest and, in many ways, the leading congregation of the association. During its first year of existence, these congregations were joined by three other New England churches. This group united with the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America in November 1896. In 1907, the

Association of Pentecostal Churches of America and the Church of the Nazarene based in Los Angeles united to form the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene.

Microfilm Contents

- Reports of annual meetings, 1891 (includes Statement of Faith and Purpose), 1892, 1894, 1895, 1896.
- *A History of the Revival of Holiness in St. Paul's M. E. Church, Providence, R. I., 1880-1887*, published by the South Providence Holiness Association, 1887.
- *The Gospel News*, January, April, May, 1885, (publication of St. Paul's M. E. Church, Providence, R. I.)

2. Association of Pentecostal Churches of America (1895-1907)

William Howard Hoople organized the original Association of Pentecostal Churches of America in December 1895. It consisted initially of three holiness congregations in Brooklyn, New York. In November 1896, it merged with the Central Evangelical Holiness Association. The united group adopted the name used originally only for Hoople's wing. The term "Pentecostal" suggests a special emphasis in the denomination's theology of the Holy Spirit, but this denomination should not be confused with later ones springing from the Azusa Street revival, which propagated the practice of glossolalia, or tongues speaking.

The churches of the Association were congregational in polity. Each had its own local church manual or discipline. The Association pursued overseas mission work, entering India in 1898 and the Cape Verde Islands in 1901. In October 1907, the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America united with the Church of the Nazarene, based in Los Angeles, to form the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene. At that time, the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America had 45 congregations and 2,407 members, scattered from Iowa to Nova Scotia.

Microfilm Contents

- Constitution
- Annual meeting minutes, 1897-1907
- Missionary committee materials
Minutes, April 1897-1907
- Minutes of the Executive Committee, April 1898-
March 1904
Reports of missionary work, 1906-1907
Financial records and pledges, 1897-1905
Miscellaneous, 1905-1906
- Local church manuals, disciplines, constitutions,
and articles of faith, 1895-1907
- Miscellaneous documents
- Contribution receipt, membership application,
ordination forms
- Missionary-related publications
Our Missionaries to India, 1897
Pentecostal Mission and Missionaries to India, n.d.
Promotional flyers

3. Church of the Nazarene--Los Angeles (1895-1907)

The Church of the Nazarene in the West began with the organization, in October 1895, of Los Angeles First Church of the Nazarene, under the leadership of Phineas F. Bresee and J. P. Widney, with around 100 charter members. Other congregations were organized in the ensuing years, and the denomination eventually reached from Chicago northwest to Washington State, and southwest to San Diego. It united with the Association of Pentecostal Churches of America in October 1907, forming the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene. At the time of union, the Church of the Nazarene reported 48 congregations and 3,827 members.

Microfilm Contents

- Articles of faith and manuals, 1895-1906
- Annual assembly notes and minutes, 1904-1906
- District Assembly minutes
 - Chicago Central District, 1905-1908
 - Northwest District, 1905-1909, 1911-1913
 - San Francisco District, 1906-1907
- Miscellaneous documents
 - Letterhead; Bresee, Widney: General Superintendents, 189_;
 - Ministerial credentials, 1903, 1905;
 - First promotional paper of the Church of the Nazarene, November 1895

4. Holiness Christian Church, Eastern Pennsylvania Conference

In 1882, three men and two women held street meetings in Philadelphia under the name Heavenly Recruits. The group grew and changed its name to Holiness Christian Association (1894) and later to Holiness Christian Church (1897). C. W. Ruth, presiding elder of the denomination, later became assistant general superintendent of Bresee's branch of the Church of the Nazarene and helped unite the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the Holiness Christian Church with the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene in 1908. Other HCC congregations later joined the present-day Wesleyan Church, while others continue today as The Evangelical Christian Church.

No early records of the Holiness Christian Church were known to have survived until the H. G. Trumbauer papers surfaced in 1982. Trumbauer was the principal leader in the Pennsylvania Conference's union with the Pentecostal Nazarenes. Trumbauer's

papers include documents related to official actions of the Holiness Christian Church, Trumbauer's diary recording many of the church's activities, and other documents related to the church. The diary covers the years 1871-1929, well beyond Trumbauer's years in the Holiness Christian Church.

Microfilm Contents

- Official activities, 1900-1908
- H. G. Trumbauer Diary, 1871-1929
- Miscellaneous documents
 - Ministerial credentials
 - Campmeeting handbills
 - Newspaper clippings
 - History of the Washington-Philadelphia District

5. New Testament Church of Christ (1894-1905)

In 1894, R. L. Harris organized the New Testament Church of Christ at Milan, Tennessee. When he died a few months later, his widow, Mary Lee Harris (later Mary Lee Cagle), became the primary leader. The church spread to Texas and Arkansas. Its representatives met in November 1904 at Rising Star, Texas, with delegates from the Independent Holiness Church, a small Texas denomination, to unite the two groups. At Pilot Point, Texas, on October 13, 1908, the Holiness Church of Christ united with the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene. The church initially used the name "Church of

Christ," rather than the longer "New Testament Church of Christ" by which they are now known.

Microfilm Contents

- Manuals, 1900-1903
- Minutes, 1897-1905, 1905-1907
- Excerpts from the diary of Mrs. R. B. Mitchum
- Historical sketch of the New Testament Church of Christ by R. B. Mitchum, July 9, 1894
- Publications:
 - Fannie McDowell Hunter, *Women Preachers*, 1905.
 - Annie May Fisher, *Woman's Right to Preach*, n.d.

6. Holiness Church of Christ (1904-1908)

In 1904, representatives of the Independent Holiness Church and the New Testament Church of Christ met at Rising Star, Texas, and formulated a statement of doctrine, a basis of union between the two groups, and adopted the name Holiness Church of Christ. The following year, this union was fully consummated at the first delegated meeting of the new denomination. This group established its headquarters at Pilot Point, Texas. It founded a Bible-training school and a home for unwed mothers in Pilot Point, along with rescue missions in the downtown areas of larger towns. The Church had missionaries in Japan, Mexico, China, India, and Africa. On October 13, 1908, the Holiness Church

of Christ united with the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene, retaining the name of the latter. This date was later designated by the Church of the Nazarene as the official founding date of the denomination. At the time of the union, the Holiness Church of Christ claimed 2,307 members in 92 churches reaching from Georgia to New Mexico, though concentrated in Texas, Arkansas, and Tennessee.

Microfilm Contents

- Manuals, 1904-1906
- Yearbooks and minutes, 1905-1907
- Ministerial ordination papers, 1905, 1906

7. Holiness Association of Texas (1899-1910)

This holiness group was organized at Peniel, near Greenville, Texas, in November 1899. It attracted members of mainline denominations who were ostracized because of their holiness testimonies. The Association discouraged its members from separating from their churches and resisted any movement toward a separate holiness denomination. Even so, it soon began licensing its own ministers, established an impressive college, and published its own paper. Although many Association members were reluctant to declare their independence from the older churches, others were members of the independent church movement represented by the Holiness

Church of Christ (Charles E. Jones, *A Guide to the Study of the Holiness Movement*, p. 227). In 1908, so many members of the Holiness Association of Texas joined the Nazarenes that by November 1910 the organization disbanded. Its college, paper, and orphanage went to the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene.

Microfilm Contents

- Yearbooks, 1903-1907
- *Texas Holiness Banner*, October 1899-May 1900

8. Pentecostal Mission (1898-1915)

In 1898 Rev. J. O. McClurkan and a few other leaders called a meeting of the holiness people of Tennessee and adjacent states that was held in Nashville. This convention organized the Pentecostal Alliance, known later as the Pentecostal Mission. Originally it was related closely to the Christian and Missionary Alliance, but by 1901 it was pulling away and becoming independent. The evangelistic efforts of this group brought together bands and congregations of holiness people across the South. By 1903, the Pentecostal Mission had 23 congregations. On February 13, 1915, this body merged with the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene, retaining the name of the latter.

Microfilm Contents

- Charter of Incorporation and Bylaws
- Minutes and reports, 1898-1915

Minutes of the Pentecostal Alliance/Mission, John T. Benson, Jr., editor, 1898-1906
 Minutes of the Pentecostal Mission, October 1907-February 1915 arranged chronologically by John T. Benson, Jr., 1984
 Reports and minutes related to the merger, 1914, 1915
 Miscellaneous minutes

- Miscellaneous documents
 - McClurkan-Bresee correspondence, 1907
 - Pentecostal Mission Publishing Company catalog, n.d.
 - Pentecostal Mission missionary application Ordination credential, n.d.
 - How to Keep Sanctified*, J. O. McClurkan, 1903
 - Open Air Meetings and How to Conduct Them*, J. O. McClurkan, n.d.
 - Pentecostal Mission Training Home for Girls*, 1913

9. Pentecostal Church of Scotland (1909-1915)

This group originated in Scotland, largely through the influence of Rev. George Sharpe. Sharpe, who for over 13 years had pastored in the Methodist Episcopal Church, became minister in September 1905 of the Parkhead Congregational Church in Glasgow. Conflict developed between Sharpe and a group of parishioners over his preaching of entire sanctification. Eventually, he was dismissed by the congregation. Several members of the Parkhead Congregational Church left with Sharpe, and they organized the Parkhead Pentecostal Church. The first services of this new church, with 80 charter members, began on September 30, 1906. The Pentecostal Church of Scotland organized in May 1909. In November 1915, the Pentecostal Church of Scotland united with the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene.

Microfilm Contents

- Minutes and reports of the Pentecostal Church of Scotland, May 1909-November 1915
- Miscellaneous documents

10. Laymen's Holiness Association (1917-1922)

This body was created by a group of Methodist laymen, who organized in July 1917 at the Jamestown, North Dakota, holiness camp meeting. Rev. J. G. Morrison was elected field evangelist and, in 1919, president of the organization. Over 20 other evangelists and workers were also engaged in a widespread program of holiness evangelism and camp meeting promotion. In 1922, under the leadership of Morrison and many of these ministers, more than 1,000 people from the Laymen's Holiness Association united with the Church of the Nazarene.

Microfilm Contents

- Constitution, Bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, 1917-1925
- Minutes and reports, 1917-1921
- Holiness Laymen Publishing Company materials

- "Pentecostal Church of Scotland, First Annual Assembly" in *Nazarene Messenger*, June 17, 1909
- "Minutes of the Sixth Annual Assembly," April 9-13, 1914, printed
- E. F. Walker, "The Pentecostal Assembly at Glasgow," April 13, 1914
- "Meeting of Provisional Committee," October 2, 1914
- "Meeting of Provisional Committee," October 6, 1914
- Parkhead Pentecostal Church, records
- Church Board, minutes, October 18, 1906-December 25, 1918
- Reports, 1907, 1908
- Sunday School Board, minutes, October 23, 1906-March 13, 1937
- George Sharpe, *Short Historical Sketch of the Church of the Nazarene in the British Isles*, n.d., 66 pp.

- Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, 1920
- List of stockholders, n.d., and stock certificates, 1922
- Mortgage documents, 1920
- Minutes and reports of the Board of Trustees, 1920-1923
- Evangelists' reports, 1919-1922
- Ira Hammer's LHA history
- Miscellaneous documents
- J. G. Morrison correspondence and articles
- General LHA Correspondence
- "The Redeemed" song
- Program of the annual meeting, 1920
- Clippings, n.d.
- Historical notes by Nellie M. Hoffman, n.d.
- Letterheads

To order, contact the Archives Manager at:

Nazarene Archives
6401 The Paseo
Kansas City, MO 64131
(816) 333-7000 ext. 2437
archives@nazarene.org