



GUIDE TO RECORDS ON CHURCH LIFE AND NATURE

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English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

FIRST EDITION

Carl Christian Reindorf Archives and Special Collection Unit

P. O. Box 76, Akropong - Akuapem

Accra

archives@aci.edu.gh

URL: <https://ccra.aci.edu.gh/>

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Summary Information

Repository: Carl Christian Reindorf Archives and Special Collection Unit

Title: Records on Church Life and Nurture

ID: GH.ACIG.PCG.03

ID [aspace_uri]: /repositories/2/resources/11

Date [inclusive]: 1935-2012

Physical Description: 13.44 Linear feet

Language of the Material: English

General Physical Description note: :32 Boxes

Abstract:

This collection contains records on the Department of Church Life and Nature in the Presbyterian Church of Ghana (1935 – 2012). The records were generated through the regular activities of the Department of Church Life and Nature. The collection consist of Women’s Ministry records, Men’s Ministry records, Evangelism and Worship records, Youth Ministry records, Hymns and Songs records and Regulations, Practice and Procedure records. It also includes records on Ministry, Training, Scholarship and Counseling.

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Preferred

Citation note: [Description and date of item], [Box and folder number], Records on Church Life and Nature, 1935-2012, Johannes Zimmerman Library, Carl Christian Reindorf Archives and Special collection Section, Akrofi - Christaller Institute of Theology, Mission and Culture.

Biographical/Historical note

The Presbyterian Church of Ghana is a product of three main missionary movements, namely: the Evangelical Missionary Society, Basel, Switzerland, commonly known as the Basel Mission; the Moravian Church, Jamaica in West Indies and also the United Free Church of Scotland. The Evangelical Missionary Society, Basel, which was founded in 1815, sent missionaries to the then Gold Coast colony in 1828 at the request of the King of Denmark.

They landed at Osu (Christiansborg), which was then controlled by the Danes, on 18th December 1828. After fifteen years of evangelisation, no single convert was won. Many of the missionaries sent, died. In 1843, a new beginning was made at Akropong Akuapem with the arrival of the Moravian Christians from Jamaica. These Jamaicans were brought because of their African descent which was deemed to enable them to withstand the tropical climatic conditions which had decimated the ranks of the early white missionaries and also to convince the indigenous people that Africans could become Christians. With the active support of devoted African Christians the small Christian community grew and exerted its influence in many communities. The Basel Evangelical Mission Church of the Gold Coast spread from Accra to Akuapem, Krobo, Akyem, Kwahu, Asante, Brong and northwards to Yendi.

By the close of the nineteenth century the Church could boast of a membership of about thirty-three thousand (33,000) baptised members. The products of the Seminary in Akropong, founded in 1848, constituted the elite corps of the missionary enterprise. These noble armies of trained teacher/catechists were and continue to be the pathfinders and pioneers in sustained missionary work in the Presbyterian Church of Ghana. Statistics of the first Synod of the Church held at Akropong-Akuapem in August 1918 indicated that the Church was then organized around eleven (11) central stations comprising two hundred (200) town and village Congregations under the supervision of thirty (30) African pastors and a host of teacher-catechists. The central stations were: Osu (Christiansborg), Abokobi, Aburi, Akropong, Anum, Odumase (Krobo), Nsaba, Begoro, Kyebi, Abetifi and Kumasi.

The Basel Mission Church contributed to, and in some cases pioneered the agricultural, medical, commercial and educational development of the country. Through the Basel Trading Company, the Basel Mission Church engaged in the development of the palm oil trade which preceded the development of cocoa as a cash crop and a major foreign exchange earner. It introduced cocoa into the Gold Coast on an experimental basis. A moratorium on personnel and funding from overseas was imposed on the Church with the repatriation of the German workers of the Basel Mission in the then Gold Coast colony during the First World War. The courageous army of African pastors, Catechists and Presbyters assumed direct leadership of the Church. The crisis created by the forced exodus of German missionaries during the First World War was effectively managed until the Scottish missionaries, led by the Rev. Dr. A. W. Wilkie, were invited by the British colonial authority to fill the leadership vacuum. The main stations, the boarding schools and seminaries were being managed by the Basel missionaries. Before the Rev. G. Zurchur, the General Superintendent of the Basel Mission left the Gold Coast during the repatriation; he placed each pastor in charge of a District and set up a standing ecclesiastical authority composed of African pastors and elders at Akropong in August, 1918.

The Synod which was summoned at the instance of Rev. Dr. Wilkie marked the beginning of a radical break from the Basel Mission centrally controlled model of Church administration and governance to the more democratic participatory polity of the Reformed Tradition. Since the establishment of the Basel mission outpost in the Gold Coast in 1828 the life and work of the Church had been governed by Regulations issued by the Basel Mission Committee in Basel (see "Die Ordnung"). The adoption of the Reformed polity set in motion a chequered history of the development of the Reformed Presbyterian tradition which found its visible expression in the naming of the Church, in 1926 at the Abetifi Synod, THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE GOLD COAST. The first Synod at Akropong appointed the first African leadership of the Church: Rev. Peter Hall, Moderator, and Rev. N.T. Clerk, Synod Clerk. "Courts" of the Church were established. In 1929 the Regulations, Practice and Procedure

(R.P.P) was completely revised to reflect the new polity, which was a break from the framework set in "Die Ordnung" of the Basel Mission.

In 1930 the Synod Committee was legally recognized as legal trustees of the Church responsible for property of the Church. In 1950 the posts of the General Manager of Schools and the Treasurer of the Church were taken over by indigenes. Thus from 1918 the Church started to be self-governing and by 1950 it had attained complete independence. After the independence of Ghana in March 1957 the Church became "The Presbyterian Church of Ghana".

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Presbyterian Church of Ghana Constitution, (2016). Waterville Publishing House, Accra - Ghana.

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Arrangement note

The records are arranged in 9 series, two of them have been further arranged in sub-series. The series and sub-series arrangement of the records are as follows:

SERIES A, WOMEN'S MINISTRY RECORDS, 1965 – 2000.

SERIES B, RECORDS, ON OTHER MINISTRIES 1956 – 2002.

SERIES C, MEN'S MINISTRY RECORDS 1980 – 1998.

SERIES D, EVANGELISM AND WORSHIP, 1948 – 1995.

SERIES E, HYMNS AND SONGS, 1978 – 2001.

SERIES F, CHURCH LIFE AND NATURE DEPARTMENT RECORDS, 2000 – 2006.

SERIES G, REGULATIONS, PRACTICE AND PROCEDURE, 1953 – 1996.

SERIES H, YOUTH MINISTRY RECORDS, 1956 – 2012:

Sub-series 1, National Youth Council Records, 1963 – 2002;

Sub-series 2, Synod Records, 1978 – 2000;

Subseries 3, General Administrative Records – Youth Ministry, 1966 – 2008;

Sub-series 4, Presbyterian Students Union Records, 1982 – 1998;

Sub-series 5, Boys Brigade Records, 1959 – 2001;

Sub-series 6, Youth Resource Centre Records, 1996- 2007;

Sub-series 7, Young People Guild Records, 1962 – 1997;

Sub-series 8, PREYSA Records, 1992 – 2012;

Sub-series 9, General Youth Hand Books,1956 – 2002;

Sub-series 10, National Youth Council Hand Books, 1997 – 2000;

Sub-series 11, Committee on Youth council Hand Books, 2003 – 2007;

Sub-series 12, PREYSA Hand Books, 1992 – 2012;

Sub-series 13, Youth Resource Centre Hand Books,1996;

Sub-series 14, NUPSG Hand Books, 1998 – 2003;

Sub-series 15, Young People Guild Hand Books, 1987 - 2011.

SERIES I, MINISTRY, TRAINING, SCHOLARSHIP AND COUNSELLING RECORDS, 1935 – 2006:

Sub-series 1, Trinity Theological Seminary Records,1974 – 2005;

Sub-series 2, Abetifi Seminary- Abetifi Ramseyer Centre,1963 – 1990;

Sub-series 3, Scholarship Committee Records,1935 – 1999;

Sub-series 4, Pastors Conferences and Courses,1979 – 2004;

Sub-series 5, Akrofi- Christaller Institute,1982 – 2006;

Sub-series 6, Complaints and Arbitrations, 1996 – 1997.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Accra

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open to researchers by appointment. However, some personal records will not be released to searchers unless advance written approval is given by the Presbyterian Church of Ghana. Please contact the Archives and Special Collection Section at + 233 508084780 (archive@aci.edu.gh) for access.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was donated by the Presbyterian Church of Ghana.

Processing Information

The finding aid was prepared with kind support of Professor Philip T. Laryea, Professor Mrs. Gillian Mary Bediako, Clement Okai and Vella Ngaina. Entry into the Archivists' Toolkit was by Reuben Saah.

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Controlled Access Headings

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- Church youth groups
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- NUPSG Natinal Vice President
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Report on task group on leadership development, 1989

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Ashanti Presbytery Reports, 1990

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Women and the law series: Intestate Succession, 1991

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What the Bible wants the youth to know, 1992

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Report of my internship in the Presbyterian Church of Ghana, 1994

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Ga Presbyterian Junior Fellowship, 1995

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Christ Presbyterian Church - Darkuman, 1996

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Elevation of Prestea Sub - District to District status, 1996

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Osu Junior Youth Choir Handbook, 1996

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History, Mission and Achievements, 1996

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A Publication of the Akuapem Presbytery youth department, 1997

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Madina Immanuel Bible Study and Prayer Group silver jubilee handbook, 1997

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Ga Presbytery Junior Youth Fellowship handbook (2 copies), 1997

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Men's Fellowship annual national delegates conference handbook, 1998

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National Youth Policy handbook (3 copies), 1999

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National Youth Council Youth Workers Manual (10 copies), undated

box 104 a

Youth Council programme and message for the youth and Students week celebration (4 copies), 1997

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National Youth Council programme and message for youth and students week celebration, 1998

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National Youth Desk, Youth Guide (2 copies), 1998
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National Youth Council, youth week (10 copies), 1999
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Programme and message for youth and students week celebration (5 copies), 2000
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SUB-SERIES 11: Committee on Youth Council Handbooks, 2003-2007

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SUB-SERIES 12: PREYSA Handbooks, 1992-2012

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Presbyterian Youth and Students Assembly (17 copies), 1997

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Programmes and messages for youth and students week celebration (2 copies), 1998

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Presbyterian Youth and Students Assembly (7 copies), 2002

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Department of church life and nature committee (2 copies), 2012

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SUB-SERIES 13: Youth Resource Centre Handbooks, 1996

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Commissioning and dedication (14 copies), 1996

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SUB-SERIES 14: NUPSG Handbooks, 1998-2003

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Golden Jubilee Conference, 1988

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51st Annual National Delegates conference (3 copies), 1989
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17th Presbyterial Annual Delegates Conference, 1989
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Scheme of work for Presbyterian Young People Guild, 1989
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Young People Guild Constitution and Rules (5 copies), 1989
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52nd Annual National Delegates Conference (5 copies), 1990
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Young People's Guild Ashanti Presbytery Conference, 1990
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Scheme of work for Presbyterian Young People's Guild, 1990
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53rd Annual National Delegates Conference, 1991
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2nd Annual District Conference, 1992
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5th Annual Conference Teshie District, 1993
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55th Annual National Delegates conference (12 copies), 1993
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24th Annual Presbyterial Conference, 1996
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Presbyterian Youth and Students Assembly and 59th Annual National Delegates Conference (10 copies), 1996

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Presbyterian Youth and Students Assembly and 59th Annual National Delegates Conference, 1997

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25th Annual Delegates; Silver Jubilee anniversary celebration, 1997

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Financial reports for the year ended 31st December 1997 and 31st May 1998 and budget proposal for 1998/99 (10 copies), 1998

box 107 a

60th Annual National Delegates Conference (5 copies), 1998

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Financial reports for the year ended 31st May 1999 and budget proposal for the respective ensuing years (3 copies), 1999

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61st Annual National Delegates Conference (3 copies), 1999

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Programme and message for youth and students week celebration (3 copies), 2000

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66nd Annual National Delegates Conference (7 copies), 2000

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62nd Annual Delegates Conference, 2000

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13th Annual Delegates Conference, 2001

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63rd Annual National Delegates Conference (7 copies), 2001

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Training in Theology (SC. 04/1), 1980-1984

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Scholarship Committee (PCG/ADM/02/XIV), 1981-1987

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Special Ministerial Training Note Book, 1984

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Tamale Ecumenical Training Centre (PCG/ADM/011/XII), 1985-1986

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