

Creating Community Archives for Wallingford United Methodist Church



Members photo
1940s



Members photo
2018

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Background

Wallingford United Methodist Church (WUMC) is a local Seattle congregation founded in 1912

They built their current building in the Wallingford neighborhood in 1938



In 1984 WUMC became one of the first ten Reconciling Congregations, a national network of United Methodist congregations open and affirming of LGBTQ+ persons

This puts them in conflict with the doctrines of their parent denomination

After the international conference in February 2019, discussions about a denominational schism are underway



There has been little consistent records or archives management, and a schism could cause them to lose access to relevant denominational resources

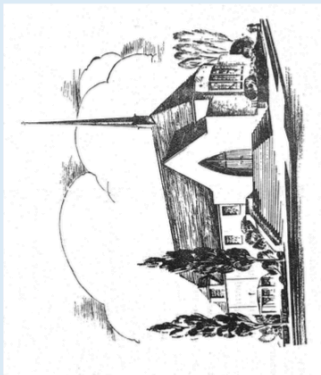
Dozens of bankers boxes are kept in the attic without inventory or preservation management

The congregation is interested in their history, but does not have the tools to develop the archives

Project

Process 20 boxes of documents by arranging and describing in chronological order, as decided by community leaders

Materials include records of the congregation, as well as member-created programs which seek to live their faith through political and social actions



Sketch of building, 1938

Create the finding aid in order to allow members and the public access to the records

Leaders hope to post this information online and create policies for public access to parts of the collection



Sanctuary with choir ca. 1940s

Offer recommendations on records management and preservation to ensure the archives are kept by the church for years to come



Celebration of Communion ca. 2008

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