



# Chain Lake Missionary Baptist Church Records 00190

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

University Archives and Historical Collections

Conrad Hall  
943 Conrad Road, Room 101  
East Lansing , MI 48824  
Business Number: 517-355-2330  
[archives@msu.edu](mailto:archives@msu.edu)  
URL: <http://archives.msu.edu/>

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## Table of Contents

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Summary Information .....	3
Historical Note .....	3
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Administrative Information .....	4
Controlled Access Headings .....	5
Collection Inventory .....	5

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University Archives and Historical Collections
<b>Creator:</b>	Chain Lake Missionary Baptist Church (Cassopolis, Mich.)
<b>Source:</b>	Chain Lake Missionary Baptist Church (Cassopolis, Mich.)
<b>Title:</b>	Chain Lake Missionary Baptist Church records
<b>ID:</b>	00190
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1882-1997
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1 Cubic Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .

### Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: "Item title, Collection title, Collection Identifier, Michigan State University Archives & Historical Collections, East Lansing, Michigan."

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Historical Note

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Chain Lake Missionary Baptist Church is one of the oldest all-African American Baptist churches in the United States.

To avoid the discrimination they faced in predominantly white congregations, all-Black churches arose slowly, first meeting in homes and later building small churches. Chain Lake Missionary Baptist Church was no different. Prayer meetings were held in homes in Cass County, Michigan until an official church was organized in 1838. The first church building, a log cabin on the northwest corner of their current cemetery, was not built until circa 1850. On January 4, 1848, the church was incorporated under the direction of Reverend David Lett.

Three years later, members of the church created the Michigan Anti-Slavery Baptist Association, which included congregations from Battle Creek, Detroit, Kalamazoo and Niles. From 1923-1934, no regular church services were held but a long history of religious revivals

allowed Chain Lake Missionary Baptist Church to continue its existence. Even after a fire in 1966, the Church was rebuilt in 1968 and still stands today.

The Chain Lake Missionary Baptist Church Sunday School was created in 1879 with five teachers and seventy scholars. The church is also home to a library that was created in 1969.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Scope and Contents

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The Chain Lake Missionary Baptist Church records contain meeting minutes, financial reports, parish records, and histories of the parish. Volume 1 contains minutes starting in 1882. It also contains a copy of the 1856 constitution that was included when it was found 1889.. Volume 1 also contains lists of members and references dates of death of the members, with the earliest date mentioned being 1879 and added to the volume as they found the information.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Arrangement

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The materials are arranged alphabetically by subject.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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## Conditions Governing Access

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[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- African American churches
- African American churches -- Michigan
- Baptists -- Michigan
- Letters (correspondence)
- Minutes (administrative records)
- Reports
- Chain Lake Missionary Baptist Church (Cassopolis, Mich.)
- Chain Lake Missionary Baptist Church (Cassopolis, Mich.)

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances	
Financial Report, 1945	box 1	folder 1
<i>Highlights of Our Beginning</i> , Undated	box 1	folder 2
<i>History of Chain Lake Missionary Baptist Church</i> booklets by Boston Dyes and B. Warfiled covering the periods 1834-1948 and 1838-1981 , undated	box 1	folder 3
Letter from Farmer's Mutual Fire Insurance Company, July 14, 1933	box 1	folder 4
Letter from Rev. H. W. Burson, October 21, 1946		

Chain Lake Missionary Baptist Church Records 00190

	box 1	folder 5
Meeting Minutes, 1923, 1960	box 1	folder 6
Paid-Out Reports, 1942-1944, Undated	box 1	folder 7
Programs, 1944-1964	box 1	folder 8
Recommendations for By-laws, Undated	box 1	folder 9
Resignation of Rev. R. L. Shaw, January 16, 1944	box 1	folder 10
Treasurer's Reports, 1941-1945	box 1	folder 11
Volumes		
Parish Records [Births, copy of 1856 Constitution, Deaths with references from 1879, Meeting Minutes, Members list] , 1882-August 1, 1903	box 1	volume 1
Parish Records [Births, Collections, Deaths, Meeting Minutes, New Members] , circa 1884-June 10, 1945	box 1	volume 2
Meeting Minutes, October 14, 1945-July 1, 1961	box 1	volume 3
Meeting Minutes, April 16, 1966-September 20, 1997	box 1	volume 4