

**Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies (Fresno)  
Record Group A100**

**Conference minutes and related material, 1878-[ongoing].**

2.92 linear ft.

24 sound tape cassettes

1 filmstrip program with sound tape cassette audio program

1 slide program with sound tape cassette audio program and typewritten script

**Historical note**

The General Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches was organized at York County, Nebraska, 18-21 October 1879. The first Mennonite Brethren had come to the United States from Russia in 1874; they gathered for their first general meeting on 28 September to 1 October 1878 at Hamilton County, Nebraska. This first meeting is considered to be an unofficial one, and the 1879 sessions are counted as the original meetings of the General Conference.

Mennonite Brethren churches in North America met only as a General Conference from 1879 until 1909. In that year the churches decided to divide themselves into districts. The Central, Southern and Northern (Canadian) district conferences met for the first time in 1910; the Pacific District Conference held its first sessions in 1912. The district conferences met on an annual basis, while the General Conference has met triennially since 1909.

Originally called the General Conference of the Mennonite Brethren Church of North America, the conference changed its name slightly in 1963 when it pluralized "churches" and dropped the designation "of North America."

**Scope and content note**

This record group includes published conference yearbooks, 1883-1993; handwritten and typewritten minutes of the 1878-1882 sessions; typewritten English translations of conference sessions, 1879-1939; material from conventions not published in conference minute books, 1943-1981; sound tape cassette recordings, 1978-1981; slides, 1975-1981; filmstrips from conventions, 1975; artifacts from the 1960 convention; and a certified amendment to the articles of incorporation changing the name of the conference in 1964.

**Organization and arrangement**

This record group is arranged chronologically by type of record.

**Language note**

All minutes from 1878 to 1939 are in German with typewritten English translations.

**Restrictions on access**

This record group contains no restricted material.

**Citation guidelines**

Published conference minute books should be cited according to the information found on their title pages; for all other records cite as: General Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches Convention Records, Center for Mennonite Brethren Studies, Fresno, Cal.

**(A100: Conference minutes and related materials)**

**Contents list**

Box 1

Published conference minute books and unpublished written material from conventions, 1878-1978

Box 2

Published conference minute books and unpublished written material from conventions, 1981-1990

Typewritten translations of yearbooks, 1878-1939

Commemorative ribbon from Centennial Conference, 1960

Articles of Incorporation Amendment, 1964

Box 3

Sound tape cassette recordings of conference sessions, 1978, 1981

Filmstrip program with sound tape cassette audio program, 1975

Slide program with sound tape cassette audio program and typewritten script, 1981

Photographs

Slides, 1975, 1981