

ELCA Region 3 Archives Report to 2016 Synod Assemblies

Introduction

This year marks the **28th year of the ELCA Region 3 Archives** program. The cooperative arrangement with Luther Seminary continues to work well. Paul Daniels serves as the Region 3 archivist half-time and for Luther Seminary half-time. Luther provides space for the large archives collection while also making available student workers and volunteers from the Friends organization (currently, 8 volunteers work in our office) to stretch the reach of both archives' programs. One of our other benefits includes support from the school's IT office.

Use of the Region 3 Archives

Our presence through our website (www.luthersem.edu/archives) continues to increase both our visibility and our patron use numbers. The site, hosted by Luther Seminary, is regularly updated with new training material for congregations interested in records care as well as providing inventories of the Region 3 Archives collections themselves. The website is our main "front door", attracting more researchers every year. We continue to support our patrons with phone calls, drop-in visits and traditional mail as well.

+The Archives assisted 923 reference patrons in the past year. Sixty-two percent are congregational committees working on scanning projects, anniversary planning, history writing and records care issues. Other significant user groups include synod staff, ELCA church wide personnel and individual students and researchers.

+Daniels worked on-site with all 9 synod offices, gathering permanently valuable office records for retention, including all candidacy records for each synod. He visited each synod office at least 6 times during the year. These visits were coordinated with 32 on-site congregational visits throughout North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota, the Region 3 territory)

+Daniels spoke at 14 adult forums in congregations throughout the Region. The main theme of these talks was the use of memory and story in the life of the congregation, as well as to provide updates on the services available through the Region 3 Archives.

Collection Growth

+The Archives received 430 linear feet of synod records from the 9 offices. These materials included legal, financial, personnel and program files.

+Daniels gathered an additional 224 congregational histories - collection totals 6,725 history files.

+The Archives received 550 biographical pieces on clergy and lay leaders - collection totals 7,330 files.

+An additional 18 congregations scanned their valuable church records through the digitizing program.

Outreach and Education

+Daniels led workshops on congregational archives at 4 Region 3 synod assemblies in 2015. He also presented sessions at 2 fall theological conferences on Region 3 Archives service offerings.

+The Archives distributed an additional 455 copies of "Memory Work: A Guide for Congregational Archives and History" to congregations and individuals. It is also available electronically on the website.

+Daniels continues to promote the Iron Mountain storage space for sensitive types of synodical records, including materials on candidacy, disciplinary action and litigation.

Professional Development

+Daniels remains an active member of several professional organizations, including the Society of American Archivists, the Midwest Archives Conference and the Twin Cities Archives Roundtable.

+Daniels maintains his renewable archival certification in the Academy of Certified Archivists.

+A former board member of the Lutheran Historical Conference, Daniels continues his support of this pan-Lutheran organization of archivists, historians, librarians and students.

***Respectfully submitted, Paul A. Daniels, ELCA Region 3 Archivist and Luther Seminary Archivist,
3.15.16***