

Collection #
SC2754

FRED CHELAW CLERGYMAN'S LICENSE, 1913

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 folder

COLLECTION
DATES: 1913

PROVENANCE: Archives of DePauw University, Greencastle, IN 46135,
November 2004

RESTRICTIONS: None

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HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION
NUMBER:** 2005.0063

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Western Indiana Christian Conference was founded in 1830 and incorporated at Crawfordsville, Indiana in 1874. Their Articles of Incorporation and Rules of Order were revised and adopted in 1891. The Conference incorporated churches in Sullivan, Greene, Owen, Clay, Vigo, Putnam, Parke, Hendricks, Boone, Montgomery, Benton, Tippecanoe, Fountain, Vermillion, Warren, and Clinton counties. The Conference held the Bible as their only rule of faith and practice, Jesus Christ as the head of the church, and they believed that individuals have a duty to interpret Scripture.

The Conference consisted of a number of churches in western Indiana, including the one mentioned on this certificate – Pleasant View. According to the articles of incorporation, if a man wanted to become a licensed minister he needed to be in good standing and full fellowship with the Christian Church. He had to become licensed through the recommendation of the church of which he was a member and needed to pass an examination on the completion of his first year in the course of study outlined by the Conference. Once the pastor obtained his license he presented it for renewal each year.

The Conference had five officers including a president, vice president, secretary, assistant secretary, and treasurer, and it was governed by a board of trustees and an executive committee. The officers whose names are on this certificate were major figures in the Conference. Reverend R.H. Gott was elected secretary of the organization in 1901. That year he preached the conference sermon, the title of which was “Preachers and Preaching.” W.P Kibbey served as his assistant secretary, and A.W. Cash was the president.

Sources:

Material in the collection

Western Indiana Christian Conference Minutes and Yearbook 1901. Lebanon, IN: Patriot Books and Job Printing Office, 1901. Pamphlet Collection: [BX6755.I62 W45](#)

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains one clergyman’s license certifying Fred Chelaw as a “regularly ordained minister” for the Western Indiana Incorporate Christian Conference in 1913 at Pleasant View, Indiana in Boone County. The certificate states that the license allows Chelaw to “administer ordinances of the church” and to “solemnize marriages.” The license also certifies that “the character of the bearer is good.” Revered A. W. Cash, Revered R.H. Gott, and Reverend W. P. Kibbey signed the license in 1913 and renewed it in 1914, 1915, and 1916.

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CATALOGING INFORMATION

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1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, SC 2754).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.