

# INDIANA RELIGIOUS HISTORY ASSOCIATION PROJECT, 1987

## "Documenting Freedom of Worship"

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Collection #  
M 577  
CT 1-430

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Processed by  
Charles Latham  
1 November 1991

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### USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 7 manuscript boxes, 3 cubic-foot boxes, 6 audiotape drawers (12 linear feet)

COLLECTION DATES: September 1987

PROVENANCE: Indiana Religious History Association, P. O. Box 88267, Indianapolis IN 46208

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT: Held by Indiana Historical Society

ALTERNATE FORMATS: Original audiotape, archival tape, user tape

ACCESSION NUMBER: 91.0547X

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### HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Indiana Religious History Association was founded in 1976 under the leadership of Grover L. Hartman. It is a non-denominational group intended "to provide an opportunity for persons working in or interested in religious history to meet periodically, to compare programs, to share new ideas, and to initiate programs and activities furthering the

cause of religious history in Indiana." It charges modest dues. Its membership of about one hundred, and its board, include the major religious groups in Indiana and several smaller ones. Some of its meetings are held in conjunction with meetings of Indiana Historical Society. Others are held separately, and some include tours of houses of worship around the state.

In 1986 the Association noted that 13 July 1987 marked the two-hundredth anniversary of the Northwest Ordinance with its article guaranteeing freedom of worship. It conceived the idea of "Documenting Freedom of Worship" by recording religious services held over the state during one week (the one chosen was 20-26 September 1987). The basic idea of the project was to document the different ways in which the religious freedom guaranteed by the Ordinance was actually being used two hundred years later. Working with Indiana Historical Society, the Association obtained a grant of \$17,120 from the Lilly Endowment.

The project was announced through the media, direct mailing, denominational networks, the Indiana Council of Churches, ministerial associations, and county historians. Over four hundred religious organizations actually participated. Edwin L. Becker, retired professor at Christian Theological Seminary, served as project director.

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## SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection, filling 7 manuscript boxes, 3 cubic-foot boxes, and six audiotape drawers, consists of 425 audiotapes, 5 videocassettes, and programs, all having to do with services conducted between 20 and 27 September 1987 by religious groups of many denominations around the state. The collection is arranged alphabetically by name of congregation.

Box 1 contains, first, a published guide to the collection, with entries indicating the mailing address of each organization, the name of pastor or other participant in the service, the topic and text of the address, the affiliation of the organization, and whether or not other materials are provided. In Folders 2-10 of Box 1 are the information forms submitted with each contribution to the collection. Folders 11-28 of Box 1, and Boxes 2-6, contain printed materials, programs and the like, pertaining to the various services. In Box 7 are videocassettes submitted by six of the congregations.

Boxes 8-10 contain the original tapes taken of each service, arranged by CT (cassette) number as assigned in the published guide.

Two copies were made of each audiotape, one to serve as an archival copy, one as a user copy. These are stored in two separate series with other audiocassettes in the IHS Library collection.

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## BOX LISTING

BOX 1- Collection description; Published guide; Information forms; Other information; CT 001 - 020

BOX 2 CT 021 - 120 Bahai Faith to First Baptist

BOX 3 CT 121 - 210 First Bible to Lewisville

BOX 4 CT 211 - 289 Living Faith to St. Francis Xavier

BOX 5 CT 290 - 365 St. Gabriel to Sunnycrest

BOX 6 CT 366 - 425 Surprise to Zionsville

BOX 7 CT 426 - 431; Videocassettes

BOX 8 Original tapes CT 1 - 162

BOX 9 Original tapes CT 163 - 324

BOX 10 Original tapes CT 325 - 424

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## CATALOGUING INFORMATION

MAIN ENTRY: Indiana Religious History Association

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Indiana Religious History Association

Becker, Edwin L.

United States. Ordinance of 1787

Freedom of religion--Indiana

Religious institutions--Indiana

Religious life

Religious gatherings

Freedom of speech in the church

Sermons, American

Church music--Indiana

Church meetings

Worship

Worship programs

Public worship

Church bulletins

Associations, institutions, etc.--Indiana

Indiana--Religion

Indiana--Religious and ecclesiastical institutions

Indiana--Religious life and customs

Northwest, Old--History--1775-1865

United States. Ordinance of 1787. 1987

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