HISTORICAL NOTE

The rural community of Greenfield, located in southern New Hampshire, was incorporated in 1791. The following year, residents organized a Congregational church, known as the Church of Christ. In 1799, they called their first minister, Timothy Clark. The church was not without strife, and in 1822 an large number of members withdrew to form their own church, a branch of the Peterborough Presbyterian Church. Twelve years later, in 1834, the two congregations mended their differences and joined as the Evangelical Church. Not all of the members were pleased with the merger, and those who refused to join in 1834 organized the First Congregational Church in 1839, which met in the "Old Meeting House" on the green. Eventually the second floor of the meeting house was renovated for use by the church; the sanctuary is still used by the church today. In 1864, the Evangelical and Congregational Churches began meeting together; a merger between these two churches occurred in 1867. The resulting Union Congregational Church (officially the Congregational Church, Inc.), has continued to the present, and deposited its records with the Congregational Library in November 1992.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The records of the Union Congregational Church primarily consist of volumes of church minutes, representing the various organizations that preceded the current church, as well as annual reports from 1959 to the present. These materials are divided into two series, and then arranged chronologically. In Series A, Minutes, the earliest two volumes encompass the records of the Church of Christ, 1791-1834. These records include the confession of faith and signers; the church covenant; membership records; baptisms, deaths, and marriages; financial records; and minutes.

The records of the Evangelical Church of Christ date from 1833 when the Presbyterians and Congregationalists voted to merge, to 1867, the date of the final merger with the First Congregational Church. This volume consists of minutes, membership records, and baptisms.

The First Congregational Church records, 1839-1860, consist of the confession of faith, covenant, and signers; membership records; baptisms; and minutes. The records of the Union Congregational Church encompass three volumes of minutes, 1867-1969, and by-laws, 1977, 1985, and annual reports, 1958-1991, which are organized in Series B. The volumes of minutes include treasurer's records, membership records, baptisms, marriages, deaths, and church officers. The years 1956-1969 are unbound records. The by-laws and annual reports are typescripts. As these represent the only copies known by the minister to exist, they were copied on acid-free paper, and the originals returned to the church for their files.

The minutes, from 1791 to 1965, have been microfilmed. A positive copy is available at the Congregational Library. The negative and duplicate positives were sent to the Union Congregational Church in Greenfield for their own collection and for donation to local historical societies and libraries.
DESCRIPTION

Series A. Minutes, 1791-1969

Volume 1. Church of Christ records, 1791-1822
Volume 2. Congregational Church (Church of Christ) records, 1823-1834
Volume 3. Evangelical Church of Christ records, 1833-1867
Volume 4. Congregational Church records, 1839-1860
Volume 5. Union Congregational Church records, 1867-1912
Volume 6. " " " business meeting minutes, 1885-1898
Volume 7. " " " records, 1913-1946
Volume 8. " " " register, 1946-1957
Folder 1. " " " records, 1956-1969
