ELIOT UNION CHURCH (LOWELL, MASS.)
Records, 1830-1955.
6 linear ft. (5 boxes, 3 v.)
No access restrictions.
RG 113

Congregational Library
14 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108
617-523-0470

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3/13/97
HISTORICAL NOTE

Church organized in 1830; the church took the name of its meeting house location, Appleton Street Church. In 1873 the building was sold to the First Presbyterian Church; the Appleton Street congregation built a new meeting house and took on a new name, Eliot Church, at Eliot and Summer Streets. At Meetinghouse Hill John Eliot built a chapel for preaching to the Native Americans in the 17th century. Fourth Congregational Church was organized in 1845; Fourth Congregational Church took the name of its meeting house location, Kirk Street Church, in 1846. The building was given up in 1916 to make room for a new high school and the members moved in the Central Methodist Episcopal Church. Second (Appleton Street) and Fourth (Kirk Street) Churches joined in 1919 to form Eliot Union Church; this church joined with First Presbyterian in 1955 to form Eliot Presbyterian, using the Eliot property. The Appleton Street property passed on to the Salvation Army ca. 1955.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Church minutes, vital statistics, financials, records of auxiliary organizations, scrapbooks.
Lowell, Massachusetts. Eliot Union Church (Congregational) Records, 1830-1955 5 Records Storage Boxes & 3 Oversize volumes

Eliot Union Church was organized in 1919 by the merger of two Congregational Churches -- Eliot Church and Kirk Street Church.

Second Congregational Church organized in 1830 and took the name of its meeting house location, Appleton Street Church. In 1873 the building was sold to the First Presbyterian Church. The Appleton Street congregation had a new meeting house and name, Eliot Church, at Eliot and Summer Streets. Here at Meetinghouse Hill John Eliot had built a chapel for preaching to the Indians in the 17th century.

Fourth Congregational Church organized in 1845 and took the name of its meeting house location in 1846, Kirk Street Church. The meeting house was given up in 1916 to make way for a new high school. Kirk Street Church merged with Eliot Church to from the Eliot Union Church in 1919.

The First Presbyterian Church (which was still occupying the Appleton Street property) joined with the Eliot Union Church in 1955, becoming the Eliot Presbyterian Church and using the Eliot property. The Appleton Street property passed on to the Salvation Army.

Sources:
Illustrated History of Lowell and Vicinity done by divers hands...
Lowell, MA : Courier-Citizen Company, 1897.

Some of the Kirk Street Church records (3 feet) were deposited with the Congregational library at at undetermined date (prior to 1981). The remaining Kirk Street, Eliot Church and Eliot Union Church records were deposited by deed of gift from the Eliot Presbyterian Church in 1991 and integrated at that time.

The inventory list is arranged by Subgroup, then Series within each Subgroup. Items are numbered consecutively as arranged in Records Storage Boxes.
SUBGROUP I: Eliot Church (Second Church; Appleton Street Church)

Series A. Church Records

Box 1 1. Clerk's Book  
Articles of Faith, Covenant 
Minutes, Annual Meeting 
Membership list  
2. Clerk's Book  
Minutes, Annual Meeting  

Series B. Vital Statistics

3. Register Book  
Memberships  
Baptisms  
Deaths  
4. Membership Roll Book  
as of 1895-1913

Series C. Auxiliaries

5. Sabbath/Sunday School  
Secretary's Minute Book  
6. Pastor's Class/Eliot Bible Class  
Minutes  

Whatever Circle of King's Daughters  
-see- Eliot Union Church

Series D. Printed Material & Memorabilia

7. Greene, Rev. John M.  
The Semi-Centennial Volume of the Eliot Church...1880
8. Address to the Eliot Church, April 25, 1901 (photocopy)  
Happy Wedlock. 1900  

Sketch of building & costs, n.d.
Subgroup II: Kirk Street Church (Fourth Congregational Church)

Series E. Church Records

(Box 1) 9. Clerk's Book 1845-1888
   Confession of Faith, Covenant
   Minutes, Annual Meetings
10. Clerk's Book 1888-1919
    Minutes, Annual Meetings

Series F. Vital Statistics

11. Membership Book 1845-1874
    Baptized Children 1845-1872
12. Register Book 1845-1899
    Memberships 1873-1885
    Baptisms 1873-1899
    Deaths 1873-1885
    alphabetical index at end
Box 2 13. Register Book 1899-1919
    Memberships 1899-1919
    Baptisms 1899-1919
    alphabetical index at end
14. Register Book 1913
    Memberships (scanty list)
    Baptisms 1909-1914

Series G. Financial Records

15. Proprietors Minute Book 1845-1865, 1916
16. Subscription Lists 1845-1881
17. Pew Book 1845-1887
18. Treasurer's Books 1845-1875
    Include Subscriptions & Pew Rents
19. " 1897-1901
20. " 1901-1919

21. Cash Book 1904-1919

Series H. Auxiliaries

Box 3 22. Sabbath School Sermons to Children 1858-1861
23. Sabbath School Superintendent's Book 1869-1871
24. " 1872-1873
25. Sunday School Secretary's Book 1883-1892
26. Sunday School Register 1888
27. " 1889
Subgroup II: Kirk Street Church (Fourth Congregational Church) (cont.)

Series I. Scrapbooks and Pamphlets

(Box 3)  
30. Scrapbook  1879-1886  
31. "  1888-1890  
32. "  1890-1896  
33. "  1896-1898 (Oversize)  
34. "  1898-1900 (Oversize)  
35. "  1900-1902 (Oversize)  

Box 4  
36. "  1903-1904  
37. "  1904-1906  
38. "  1907  
39. "  1908-1909  
40. "  1910  
41. "  1911  
42. "  1912-1913  

Box 5  
43. "  1914-1915  
44. "  1915-1917  

45. Historical sketches, sermons, manuals
Subgroup III: Eliot Union Church

Series J. Church Records

(Box 5) 46. Clerk's Book
Articles of Faith, Covenant, Minutes 1919-1953
47. Church Committee Records. Minutes 1921-1928

Series K. Vital Statistics

48. Register Book
Baptisms & Members includes alphabetical index 1919-1952

Series L. Auxiliaries

Whatsoever Circle of King's Daughters
(Eliot Church & Eliot Union Church)
49. Minutes 1916-1918
50. " 1918-1920
51. " 1920-1922
52. " 1922-1925
53. " 1930-1940
54. Pamphlets & Calendars 1911-1934, with gaps

54. Girl's Service Club. Minutes & Members 1919-1928
55. Girl's Club. " 1928-1929

56. Service League. Minutes & Member List 1950-1955

Series M. Printed Material & Photographs

57. Testimonial to Rev. Joachim Mendes Reis 1945
Newsclip - Rev. John Whitney MacNeill resignation 1949

58. First Presbyterian Church pamphlets
Service of Rededication 1933
75th Anniversary Program 1944
100th Anniversary Program 1969
(as Eliot Presbyterian Church)
In Memoriam. Rev. Robert Court, 1829-1897
Gray, Finley M. Historic Windows n.d.
Glass plates (unidentified) of a church