

ENDICOTT, NEW YORK. UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHURCH RECORDS, 1920-1993

Volume: 3 linear feet

Restrictions: None

Accession No. 1993-12

Gift of Barbara Brundage, November 1993

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

Processed November 1993
by Barbara E. Austen

INTRODUCTION

The Endicott, New York, United Church of Christ closed its doors in 1993. The church clerk contacted the Congregational Library in October 1993 to arrange for the donation of the core records of the church. Some weeding evidently took place before the collection arrived at the library.

HISTORICAL NOTE

A group of interested people formed the Ideal Community Church in Endicott, New York, in May, 1920, and incorporated in November of that year. The first full time minister was Charles Bourner. The church struggled with a small membership and therefore a small budget through a great deal of it's history, being particularly hard hit during the Depression. However the congregation managed to support a full time pastor, a Pilgrim Fellowship, a Woman's Fellowship, two women's circles, and a Sunday School.

On October 19, 1924, the church changed its name to the South Congregational Church, and the following month broke ground for their first sanctuary, having depended on a temporary chapel from the beginning.

The church again changed it's name in 1951 to the United Church of Christ of Greater Endicott, and again in 1962 to the United Church of Endicott. A steady decline in membership led to the dissolution of the church in 1993, after several attempts at mergers with local congregations.

A list of ministers of the church is appended to this report.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The majority of records in this collection appear to have been kept by the church clerk, either due to her position in the church or as the unofficial historian. They have been arranged into series by type of record, and then generally chronologically within each series. Thermofax copies and newspaper clippings have been copied onto alkaline paper and the originals destroyed.

Series A consists of important documents in the church's organization, including copies of the certificate of incorporation, 1921 and of the constitution and by-laws, 1924, as well as certificates for change of name, 1952 and 1964.

The minutes of corporation, council, congregation and annual meetings are arranged in Series B. A gap in these records, from 1954-1959, can be found in the Church Register for 1954-1993, at the end of the volume where minutes can be recorded. The volume covering 1960-1966 was in a scrapbook-like format, with photographs first, a section of clippings, and a section of minutes. The minutes for the years 1972-1974 are very sparse, and for 1975 only the council minutes survive. The records for 1991-1993 include the vote for a merger (failed) and the vote to close the church.

The minutes of the Board of Trustees constitute Series C and cover the years 1964-1968. The Board was an elected body of nine members, three members elected annually for a three-year term. They were primarily concerned with the physical plant of the church and its buildings.

Church Registers, in Series D, consist of vital records of baptisms, marriages, and deaths, members, officers, and occasionally minutes of church meetings, as described above.

Annual reports, typed, mimeographed, and word processed, constitute Series E. They date from 1933-1992, with some gaps (1977-1978, 1983-1985,

1990). The early reports, 1933-1942, mostly consist of pastors' reports

and do not include information from committees or officers.

Loose materials with vital statistics summaries, officer lists, and general correspondence, were organized in Series F as Clerk's Records, 1937-1974. The statistical summaries fill in the gaps in the annual reports for the early years.

Membership Records, 1933-1967, 1993, in Series G, consist of stubs from booklets of membership certificates issued by the church, 1943-1967; stubs from a booklet of dismissal certificates, 1946-1949, 1956-1967, as well as a letter of dismissal, 1943, and a list of members who were issued blanket dismissals when the church closed in 1993; transfer letters and certificates, 1933-1961, arranged alphabetically; and a printed membership directory with photographs, ca. 1970. Series H, Baptismal Records, 1943, 1956-1968, consist of stubs from a booklet of baptismal certificates, and supplement the information in the church registers.

The church published a monthly newsletter, "The People's Voice." There are no complete issue runs. The newsletters, arranged in Series I, date from 1943, 1968-1993, with numerous gaps, particularly in 1976-1977. Some of the issues are mimeographed, some printed, and some are still in "blue line" or paste-up form.

The Women's Fellowship's activities included promoting fellowship, mission, and giving to the needy. Their records consist of volumes of minutes, 1947-1993, a financial report, 1957-1958, and correspondence, 1989-1993. Included in this Series J are the minutes of the Plymouth Class Circle, a small group of women who met monthly for fellowship, and who raised money to support a church project annually.

Records generated by pastoral search committees constitute Series K. The materials encompass correspondence with prospective ministers, 1934, 1944, 1948, 1972; and the "complete" records of a search undertaken in 1977-1978 which ended in the calling of Rev. Bruce and Jan Chandler.

The financial records of the Memorial Fund, 1967-1991, constitute Series L, while a study "Preparing lay leadership . . . to decide for or against local church merger." by Drew University doctoral candidate Howard E. Hanson in 1981 is arranged in Series M.

Mortgage records from 1921-1983 are organized in Series N. The mortgages themselves are arranged first, dating from 1921-1980, followed by correspondence about the financing, dating from 1928-1930, 1947-1953, 1982-1983.

Historical Materials are arranged in Series O. These include notes on the church's history compiled by at least two separate people, n.d.; a printed history, 1965; an audio tape of the 50th Anniversary celebration in 1970; a program and photographs from a US Bicentennial service in 1968; and a series of scrapbooks, 1924-1981. The scrapbooks contain a great deal of original material as well as newspaper clippings, and were attached to the "magnetic" pages of photo albums. All but two of the scrapbooks were disassembled in order to preserve the original material. Each scrapbook was photocopied to document the original order. Then the materials were removed from the pages, newspaper clippings photocopied onto alkaline paper, photographs interleaved with alkaline paper, and all arranged in folders, maintaining the original order as much as possible. The first folder for each scrapbook contains the copied original order, while the second folder contains the actual items. The two volumes not disassembled still had enough adhesive to make removal of items nearly impossible without causing damage. Should the adhesive loosen, the original items should be removed. Original order photocopies are in the collection file.

The last items in the historical materials series are newspaper clippings,

1956-1958, which have been copied onto alkaline paper, and a mounted black and white photograph of the church interior, ca. 1935, which is stored in oversize storage.

- Series A. Organizational Records, 1921-1964. 4 items.
- Series B. Minutes of Corporation, Council, congregation and annual meetings, 1920-1993. 4 inches.
- Series C. Board of Trustee Minutes, 1964-1968. 1 volume.
- Series D. Church Registers, 1920-1993. 4 volumes.
- Series E. Annual Reports, 1933-1992. 4 inches.
- Series F. Clerk's Records, 1937-1974. Statistical summaries, correspondence. $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.
- Series G. Membership Records, 1943-1967, 1993. Membership certificates, dismissal, transfer, directory of members. $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
- Series H. Baptismal Records, 1943, 1956-1968. $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.
- Series I. Newsletter, 1943, 1968-1993. 4 inches.
- Series J. Women's Fellowship Records, 1947-1993. 5 inches.
- Series K. Pastoral Search Records, 1934-1978. $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.
- Series L. Memorial Fund Records, 1967-1991. 1 inch.
- Series M. Church Study, 1981. 2 inches.
- Series N. Mortgage Papers, 1921-1983. 1 inch.
- Series O. Historical Materials, 1924-1981. Notes on church history, audio tape of 50th Anniversary, program and photographs of Bicentennial service, scrapbooks, clippings, photograph. $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Box 1

Series A. Organizational Records, 1921-1964

- Folder 1. Certificate of incorporation (copy), 1921
- " 2. Constitution and by-laws (copy), 1924
- " 3. Certificate for change of name, 1952, 1964

Series B. Minutes of Corporation, Council, Congregation and Annual Meetings, 1920-1993

- Folder 1. 1920-1935
- Volume 1. 1937-1953
- Folder 2. 1959, 1968, 1969
- " 3. 1960-1966
- " 4. 1970-1975
- " 5. 1976-1979
- " 6. 1980-1986
- " 7. 1987-1990
- " 8. 1991-1993

Series C. Board of Trustee Minutes, 1964-1968

- Volume 1. 1964-1968

Series D. Church Registers, 1920-1993

- Volume 1. 1920-1933
- " 2. 1922-1934
- " 3. 1934-1953
- " 4. 1954-1993

Series E. Annual Reports, 1933-1992

- Folder 1. 1933-1942
- " 2. 1958-1964
- " 3. 1965-1972
- " 4. 1973-1976, 1979
- " 5. 1981-1982, 1986-1989, 1991-1992

Series F. Clerks' Records, 1937-1989

- Folder 1. Reports, officer lists, committee report
- " 2. Correspondence, 1942-1947

Box 2

Series G. Membership Records, 1933-1967, ca. 1970, 1993

- Folder 1-2. Membership certificate stubs, 1943-1967
- " 3-4. Dismission letters and certificate stubs, 1943-1949, 1956-1957, 1993
- " 5-8. Letters and certificates of transfer, 1933-1961
- " 9. Members directory, ca. 1970

Series H. Baptismal Records, 1943, 1956-1968

- Folder 1-2. Certificate stubs, 1943, 1956-1968

Box 2 (cont.)

Series I. Church Newsletter, 1943, 1968-1993

- Folder 1. 1943, 1968-1969
- " 2. 1971-1972
- " 3. 1973
- " 4. 1974

Box 3

- " 5. 1975
- " 6. 1976, April 1977
- " 7. 1978-1979
- " 8. 1980-1981
- " 9. 1992-1993

Series J. Women's Fellowship Records, 1947-1993

- Volume 1. Minutes, 1947-1950
- " 2. " 1951-1953
- " 3. " 1953-1955
- " 4. " 1965-1972
- Folder 1. Correspondence and programs from front cover of volume 4
- " 2. Minutes, correspondence, 1972-1974
- Volume 5. Minutes, 1984-1989
- " 6. " 1989-1992
- Folder 3. " 1989-1993
- Volume 7. Financial report, 1957-1958
- Folder 4. Financial statements, 1988-1991
- " 5. Correspondence, 1989-1993

Box 4

- Volume 8. Plymouth Class minutes, 1954-1956
- " 9. " " " 1956-1959
- " 10. " " " 1960-1965
- " 11. " " " 1966-1971

Series K. Pastoral Search Records, 1934-1978

- Folder 1. Correspondence with prospects, 1934, 1944, 1948, 1972
- " 2. Search committee records, 1977-1978. "Rev. Bruce Chandler and Jan Chandler called."

Series L. Memorial Fund, 1967-1991

- Volume 1. Record of donations, 1967-1911

Series M. Study of Lay Leadership, 1981

- Folder 1. Project, 1981

Box 5

Series N. Mortgage Records, 1921-1983

- Folder 1-2. Mortgage agreements, 1921-1980
- " 3-4. Correspondence, 1928-1930, 1947-1953, 1982-1983

Box 5 (cont.)

Series O. Historical Materials, 1924-1989

Folder	1.	Notes on church history, n.d.
"	2.	Notes on church history (from binder), n.d.
"	3.	Printed history, 1965
"	4.	Audio tape of 50th Anniversary celebration
"	5.	Program and photographs, Bicentennial service
"	6-7.	Scrapbook, 1924-1948
"	8-9.	" 1948
Volume	1.	" 1949-1956

Box 6

Folder	10-11.	"	1956-1962
"	12-13.	"	1963-1978
Volume	2.	"	1972-1981
Folder	14.	Loose material from covers of volume 2	
"	15.	Clippings, 1956-1958	
"	16.	Photo of church interior, ca. 1935	

Ministers of the United Church of Christ, Endicott, NY

Charles Bourner	1920-1921
John B. Hanna	1921-1922
H. C. Geckle	1922-1923
Charles A. Paille	1924-1928
Darrell Westlake	1928-1934
Royston S. Cuddy	1934-1942
William W. Schumaker	1943-1945 (interim)
Clarence Gould	1945-1948
Dtanley Chedister	1949-1955
Worden J. Updyke	1956-1968
William J. Heinrich, Jr.	1969-1970
Leon W. Bouton	1971-1972 (interim)
Donal L. Wayland	1972-1977
Bruce and Jan Chandler	1978-1980
Ernest Steffanson	1981-1988
Daniel Wright	1988-1993