

Title: Boston, MA. Hyde Park. First Congregational Church of Hyde Park, Records.

Creator: First Congregational Church (Hyde Park, Boston, Mass.)

Dates: 1861-2003 (bulk, 1863-1925)

Physical Description: 26 boxes, 37 bound volumes, 22.5 linear feet

Collection number: RG 4923

Access Restrictions: None

Copyright: Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the archivist or librarian

Language: English

Repository: Congregational Library and Archive

14 Beacon Street

Boston, MA 02108

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<http://www.congregationallibrary.org>

Collection processed by Jessica Steytler, September 2012

Abstract: The collection follows First Congregational Church of Hyde Park, a borough of Boston, from its inception in 1863 to 2003. Most of the records are focused between 1863 and 1925. The church closed in 2009.

Acquisition Information: Donated after the church closed in 2009.

Organizational History:

For an in-depth history, see box 22 for William Lewis's work, which covers the years from the formation of the church in 1863 through 1948 and George Owen's resignation. The bulk of the collection is also for that time frame.

Ministers

Hiram Carleton 1862-1864
R. Manning Chipman 1864-1866
Perley B. Davis, 1867-1892
Andrew W. Archibald, 1892-1897
Henry N. Hoyt, 1898-1908
Lucius F. Reed, 1908-1910
George W. Owen, 1911-1948
R. Eugene Gilmore, 1948-1953
Malcolm W. Garland, 1954-1955
Allan R. McAllaster, 1956-1960
Kenneth J. Sanford, 1961-1967
K. S. Jordan 1967-1989
J. M. Smith, 1990-2007

1863: Ecclesiastical council met to establish Congregational church in Hyde Park

1865: Incorporated

1868: First church building erected

1880: Second church (Clarendon) in Hyde Park established

1884: Building expanded

1895: Church incorporated

1910: New church building started

1912: 1st Church gets involved in Hyde Park Council of Churches, a multi-denominational group that focused on temperance, housing issues and improving the community.

1917: Stained glass windows installed in church

1926: Community School of Religious Education organized

1944: Corrine Nordquest, future librarian at the Congregational Library, was hired as Executive Director of the Church School.

1947: Sold the parsonage

1956: Membership changed from Confession of Faith to Confirmation of Faith for children of members.

1961: The church voted on the option to join the United Church of Christ (UCC). While there was a majority vote, it did not get the required two-thirds needed. The church remained unaffiliated, "Schedule II" until 1982.

Scope of Collection:

The collection contains material from Hyde Park First Congregational Church, primarily from 1863-1920s. Records document the regular and annual meetings of the church, society, and corporation; vital statistics; planning and building a new church in 1910; minister files; church group meetings; published material and photographs.

The church originally used index books to store much of their records. Due to the high acidity, they were removed, however the original order that was in them was preserved as often as possible. Sheets of buffered paper have been used to indicate those internal box divisions. These index boxes often had a wide range of dates in them. In those circumstances, general dates were often employed.

Arrangement:

Series 1 – Church and Society Records

This series is arranged first by topic and within that by chronological order. Topics include material pertaining to the regular and annual meetings, society and corporation meetings, executive committee, by-laws, correspondence, and financial information. Most material are in ledgers. There is also a separate section for financial, series 2, when they were independent ledgers or loose papers. The earlier ledgers include vital statistics: baptisms, membership, some marriages, and deaths/dismissals. For more information about membership, see series 3.

Series 2 – Financial Ledgers

These records are very sparse, 1870s-1890s: cash ledgers and pew rents, primarily. For more overall information about the financial status of the church, review the annual reports (1863-1958 available). They are arranged topically.

Series 3 – Vital Statistics/Membership

Records from this series are the most complete from the entire collection, from 1863-2002. Reference to vital statistics is also included in series, particularly in early ledgers. Records include lists of members, baptisms, marriages, deaths, letters of transfer (admission/dismission), and member biographies. Records are arranged topically.

Series 4 – Ministers and Ecclesiastical Councils

The majority of records in this series are from the search or supply committee and ecclesiastical councils. The Supply committees were tasked with finding a replacement minister. The George Owen ledger book is also helpful for those interested in the titles of the sermons he gave; the vital statistics he kept can be cross-referenced with the membership material in series 3. Letters from George Owen to members can also be found in Box 12, Letters, Biographies, and 1910s-1920s.

Series 5 – Building

The congregation spent years planning then building a new church in 1910. This series focuses on that event. The church group, New Church Building Society, later Church Building Society: its primary purpose was to raise money for this project. Those minutes can be found in Series 6, box 21.

Series 6 – Church Groups

This series includes Sunday school, youth groups, women's groups, church aid society, and Short-lived committees. Most of the groups kept their records in bound ledgers. The bulk dates are from the 1870s-1910s. The largest representation comes from the youth and women's groups.

Series 7 – Published Material and Photographs

Comprises programs from Sunday services and events, histories of the church, scrapbooks, and photographs. The Sunday bulletins are bound and arranged in chronological order, not in boxes.

Related Material:

Davis, Perley B. Image. davis01

Access Terms:

Church records and registers - Massachusetts - Boston.

Hyde Park (Boston, Mass.)

Hyde Park (Boston, Mass.) -- Churches.

Detailed Description and Container List:**Series 1 – Church and Society Records**

The bulk of the records are between 1863 and the 1950s. The order of the series is driven by format: there are a lot of heavy, oversized ledgers, followed by foldered reports that correspond with the annual meetings. Prudential and Executive Committees' records are all bound ledgers.

There were several "index boxes" that were discarded for preservation purposes, but the contents of those A-Z subject files were kept in their original order and noted. Researchers may wish to set aside extra time to look at these folders

Please note there is one membership book in box 1, as it's oversized.

Box 1

Incorporation document, 1895

Church records, meeting minutes: confession of faith, rules, membership, baptisms, 1861-1878

Church records, meeting minutes, 1878-1889

Church records, meeting minutes, 1890-1905

Box 2

Church records, meeting minutes, 1905-1954

Corporation records, meeting minutes, 1895-1913

Society records, meeting minutes, 1865-1879

Box 3

Society Records, meeting minutes, 1879-1895

Box 4

By-Laws

Annual Reports, 1863-1958 (14 folders)-

These have the actual reports that are referred to in the ledger book minutes at the beginning of this series.

Annual Financial Report, 1893-1940

Church Records, 1908-1920

2 folders- had been in a letter size index box. Includes annual report, committee reports, letters, and installations. Original order kept.

Box 5

Corporation Notes 1910s

2 folders - had been in a letter size index box. Original order kept.

General Correspondence to the Church, 1880-1913

Committee Reports and Correspondence, 1868-1913

Bartlett, Amos. Removal from church, 1899

Correspondence from Church to Members, 1888-1960

Meeting Warrants and Notices, 1880-1916

Mortgages, Deeds, Legal

Box 6

Prudential Committee (Society), 1875-1890

Prudential Committee (Society), 1890-1895

Prudential (Corporation), 1895-1908

Prudential files, 1910s-1920s

2 files – from index box, original order kept

Executive Committee, 1869-1886

Executive Committee, 1886-1896

Box 7

Executive Committee, 1896-1912

Executive Committee, 1912-1935

Executive Committee, 1935-1955

Executive Committee, 1955

Series 2 – Financial Ledgers, 1873-1962 (bulk, 1873-1890s)

The bulk of the records are from the 1870s-1890s. For more information about the financial status of the church, please review the regular and annual meetings in series 1.

Box 8

Treasurer -Accounts, 1873-1895

Treasurer - Cash, 1873-1895

Treasurer - Cash, 1877-1895

Treasurer, 1890-1894

Cash book of collection, 1892-1896

Cash book, 1952-1962

Pew Rents, Deeds, 1876

Pew Rents, Deeds, 1882

Pew Rents, Deeds, 1884

Box 9

Financial Reports and Correspondence, 1880s-1890s

Treasurer Records, 1880s-1890s

Annual Financial Report, 1893-1940

Financial Appeals, 1900s-1910s

Series 3 – Membership / Vital Statistics

Records from this series are the most complete from the entire collection, from 1863-2002. The later into the 20th century, the less material there is. The most valuable part of this series is the individual membership cards in boxes 13-16. The cards list: name, address, admission, birthday, place of birth, parents' names, marriage information, children's names, children's baptismal dates. Not every name will have complete information. Library will not give out address from anyone living. T-Z files are missing.

There are also biography files, which were the basis of the individual member cards. The earliest files, 1910s-1920s, include correspondence from members, minister, and frequently have obituaries of members who had recently died. The original order of all those files has been kept: rough alphabetical order for a span of years.

The Admission and Dismissal files contain letters requesting admission or transfer to another church. They are extensive and left in the order they were kept in, either chronologic or alphabetic. Researchers are recommended to review the membership index cards to narrow down their search if they have a specific person in mind. Significant time should be allotted for any of the files in box 11.

Box 10

- Marriages, Deaths, 1948-1976
- Roll Book Ledger, 1863-1896
- Roll Book Ledger, 1896-1921
- Roll Book Ledger, 1921-1935
- Roll Book Ledger, 1936-2002
- Membership, 1954-1987 (Ledger in box 1: oversized)
- Admissions and Dismissals, 1935-2003

Box 11

Admissions

1860-1900	1902	N-Z , 1863-1913
1894	1903	A-D, 1910-1940
1895	1904	E-K, 1910-1940
1896	1905	L-Q, 1910-1940
1897-1898	1906-1907	R-Z, 1910-1940
1899-1900	A-E, 1863-1913	
1901	F-M, 1863-1913	

Dismissals

1869-1871	1883-1884	D-H, 1870-1930
1872-1874	1885	I-O, 1870-1930
1875-1876	1886	P-U, 1870-1930
1877	1887	V-Z, 1870-1930
1878	1888	A-C, 1930-1970
1879	1889	D-G, 1930-1970
1880	1890-1891	H-J, 1930-1970
1881	1892	K-Q, 1930-1970
1882	A-C, 1870-1930	S-Z, 1930-1970

Box 12

- Letters, Biographies – A-D, 1910s-1920s
- Letters, Biographies – E-L, 1910s-1920s

Letters, Biographies – M-Z, 1910s-1920s
Letters, Biographies - A-C, 1930s
Letters, Biographies – D-H, 1930s
Letters, Biographies – I-O, 1930s
Letters, Biographies – P-S, 1930s
Letters, Biographies – T-Z, 1930s
Letters, Biographies – A-D, 1950s
Letters, Biographies – E-H, 1950s
Letters, Biographies – I-O, 1950s
Letters, Biographies – P-Z, 1950s
Letters, Biographies – A-F, 1953-1959
Letters, Biographies – G-M, 1953-1959
Letters, Biographies – N-Z, 1953-1959
Membership Applications, 1978-1999
Membership lists, 1930s-1940s
Membership lists, 1950s-1990s
Baptismal records, alpha list, 1970s-2001
Membership publicity
Membership secretary's records, 1920s-1930s
Manuals and Member Directories (2)
Correspondence, 1911
Correspondence, responses to circular letters, requests for dismissals, 1880s-1890s
List of servicemen (WW II?)
Vaughn, C.P. – discipline? 1889
Funeral Certificates
Boxes 13-16
Membership cards
Box 13
Members, A-Z
Past Members, A-C
Box 14
Past Members, D-H
Box 15
Past Members, I-O
Box 16
Past Members, P-S

Series 4 – Ministers and Ecclesiastical Councils

The majority of records in this series are from the search or supply committee and ecclesiastical councils. The Supply committees were tasked with finding a replacement minister. The George Owen ledger book is also helpful for those interested in the titles of the sermons he gave; the vital statistics he

kept can be cross-referenced with the membership material in series 3. Letters from George Owen to members can also be found in Box 12, Letters, Biographies, 1910s-1920s.

Box 17

Supply Committee – Andrew Archibald, 1892

Supply Committee – Henry Hoyt (2 folders), 1897

Supply Committee – Rev. Lucius Reed, 1908

Supply Committee – George Owen (3 folders), 1910

Rev. Davis 25th Anniversary Committee, 1892

Owen, George W. – Programs, New Year letters to congregation, 1911-1948

Owen, George – Ledger Book of Sermons, Deaths, Baptisms, Marriages, Occasional Membership, 1930-1946

Installation Programs

Ministers, general information and correspondence: mostly general letters to congregation and about ministers' departure/arrival.

Sermons

Ecclesiastical Council Invitations, 1894-1907

Ecclesiastical Council Correspondence, A-F, 1880s-1930s

Ecclesiastical Council Correspondence, G-O, 1880s-1930s

Ecclesiastical Council Correspondence, P-S, 1880s-1930s

Ecclesiastical Council Correspondence, T-Z, 1880s-1930s

Series 5 – Building

The congregation spent years planning then building a new church in 1910. This series focuses on that event. The church group, New Church Building Society, later Church Building Society: its primary purpose was to raise money for this project. Those minutes can be found in Series 6, box 21.

Box 18

New Church plans, 1908 – was in index box, original order maintained (1 of 2)

New Church plans, 1908 – was in index box, original order maintained (2 of 2)

New Church Records, Building Committee meeting minutes, 1906-1909

New Church Records, 1906-1911 – was in index box, original order maintained (1 of 2)

New Church Records, 1906-1911 – was in index box, original order maintained (2 of 2)

Building and Grounds Correspondence, 1912

Building and Room Dedications, 1883-1911

Series 6 - Church Groups

This series includes Sunday School, youth groups, women's groups, church aid society, and short-lived committees. Most of the groups kept their records in bound ledgers. The bulk dates are from the 1870s-1910s. The largest representation comes from the youth and women's groups.

Sunday School

Correspondence, 1894-1900

Programs, 1880s-1920s; 1970s

Rally Day, 1880s-1920s

Anniversaries, 1871-1931

Historical Sketch, 1911

Letters to teachers, meetings, 1890s-1900s

Box 19

Superintendent's Pocket Record Books, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1898

Class Registers, 1889; 1890-1892

Catalogue of the library, 1868, 1879

Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor - YPSCE

Record Book – Meeting Minutes, 1884-1889

Record Book – Meeting Minutes, 1889-1898

Record Book – Meeting Minutes, 1898-1905

Members, 1891-1895

Members, 1895-1902

Members, 1902-1903

Lookout Committee, 1889-1891

Lookout Committee, 1891-1895

Finance and Executive, 1887-1898

By-laws, constitution, programs (envelope)

Junior Society Christian Endeavor

Meeting Minutes, Record Books, 1892-1895

Meeting Minutes, Record Books, 1896-1899

Meeting Minutes, Record Books, 1900-1902

Treasurer Book, 1889-1897

Box 20

Junior Auxiliary to the Woman's Board

Record Book, 1894-1903

Auxiliary to the Woman's Board, 1872-1882

Auxiliary to the Woman's Board, 1882-1888

Auxiliary to the Woman's Board, 1889-1895

Auxiliary to the Woman's Board, 1896-1902

Auxiliary to the Woman's Board, 1903-1918

Sketch of the Hyde Park Auxiliary of Suffolk Branch of the Woman's Board of Missions by Mrs. Noyes, 1913

Woman's Home Mission Union, Meeting Minutes, 1885-1893

Woman's Home Mission Union, Meeting Minutes, 1893-1911

Woman's Home Mission Union, Meeting Minutes, 1911-1918

Woman's Home Mission Union, Annual Reports, 1885-1896

Woman's Home Mission Union, Annual Reports, 1896-1917

Church Aid Society, 1920s

Box 21

Heart and Hand Society, 1877-1884

Maternal Association, 1889-1893
Maternal Association, 1893-1898
Maternal Association, 1898-1906
New Church Aid Society, 1905-1915
New Church Aid Society, 1916-1925
Church Aid Society, 1925-1930
Social Committee, 1900-1924
Committee on Military Affairs, 1917-1919
Fairmont Circle, 1951

Series 7 – Published Material and Photographs

Comprises programs from Sunday services and events, histories of the church, scrapbooks, and photographs. The Sunday bulletins are bound and arranged in chronological order, not in boxes.

Box 22

Programs

Men's Groups, Women's Groups – Programs and Events
Sunday Service Programs (Special)
Union Services
Event Programs
Musical Concerts- Programs

History

History: Annals of the First Congregational Church by William W. Lewis, 1860-1949
Historical – About the Church
75th anniversary photograph album presented to George Owen, 1938
Loose photographs

Box 23

Photographs and scrapbooks
Scrapbook 1900-1911
News clippings (VERY fragile) 1924-1927

Box 24

Oversize, unbound scrapbook, 1921-1926

Box 25

Oversize, unbound scrapbook, 1937-1943

Box 26

Unbound Bulletins, Pre 1915

(no boxes) Weekly Bulletins- 1897-1900, 1915-1976; missing bound copies of 1956, 1957, 1974