

**Congregational Library & Archives**  
 Rhode Island Conference of the United Church of Christ records, 1812-1974.  
 RG0150

## Summary

**Creator:**

Rhode Island and Massachusetts Christian Conference  
 Rhode Island and Connecticut Christian Conference  
 Rhode Island Conference  
 Rhode Island Congregational Conference  
 Rhode Island Home Missionary Society  
 United Church of Christ, Rhode Island Conference  
 Broad Street Christian Church (Providence, Rhode Island)  
 Church of Christ (Providence, Rhode Island)  
 Congregational Church of Christ (Thornton, Rhode Island)  
 Elmwood Congregational Christian Church (Providence, Rhode Island)  
 Elmwood Christian Church (Providence, Rhode Island)  
 Elmwood Temple Congregational Church (Providence, Rhode Island)  
 Free Evangelical Congregational Church, (Providence, Rhode Island)  
 North Congregational Church (Providence, Rhode Island)  
 Pawtuxet Street Christian Church (Providence, Rhode Island)  
 Plymouth Union Congregational Church (Providence, Rhode Island)  
 Union Congregational Church (Providence, Rhode Island)  
 United Congregational Church (East Providence, Rhode Island)  
 Wood River Junction Congregational Church (Richmond, Rhode Island)

**Title:** Rhode Island Conference of the United Church of Christ records, 1812-1974.

**Dates:** 1812; 1827-1974; 1980

**Extent:** 5.05 cubic feet

**Collection ID Number:** RG0150

**Language:** English

**Abstract:** The Rhode Island Conference of the United Church of Christ is the product of over a century of Congregational organizations and churches working together in the area. This collection includes the institutional records (such as minutes, constitutions and by-laws, and treasurer notes) of the Rhode Island Conference of the United Church of Christ and other related entities, as well as records from individual churches.

## Collection History and Status

**Custodial History:** The Rhode Island Conference of the United Church of Christ received the individual church records collections before donating them along with the Conference records to the Congregational Library and Archives in 1984.

**Acquisition Information:** Gifted by the Rhode Island Conference of the United Church of Christ on two separate occasions, circa 1970s and 1984.

**Repository:**

Congregational Library & Archives  
 14 Beacon Street  
 Boston, MA 02108

617-523-0470

<http://www.congregationallibrary.org>

**Accruals:** A portion of this collection had been processed separately and used the unique identifier RG4366, although it was an accrual to this collection. It was included in the re-processing in 2016. No further accruals are expected.

**Processing Information:** Accessioned and processed by Congregational Library Staff in 1984 and 1997. Re-processed by Katie Rice in March 2016 using DACS 2013.

## Accessing and Using the Collection

**Conditions Governing Access:** Access to this collection is unrestricted and open to the public

**Physical Access:** Some items are oversized and require ample surface area to use.

**Copyright:** Items in this collection are subject to U.S. Copyright Law. It is the responsibility of the researcher to determine the copyright status of collection items and to secure any permissions necessary for their reproduction and publication. Requests for permission to publish material must be discussed with the archivist or librarian.

**Preferred Citation:** [Identification of Item] in the Rhode Island Conference of the United Church of Christ records, 1812-1974, RG0150, The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston MA.

## Description

**Historical Note:** The Rhode Island Conference of the United Church of Christ (RICUCC) was incorporated in 1957, at the same time that the United Church of Christ was formed through the unity of the Congregational Church and the Evangelical and Reformed Church. The Conference is the product of over a century of Congregational organizations working together in the area.

The earliest roots of the RICUCC can be traced back to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and the birth of the Rhode Island Home Missionary Society (RIHMS). In the midst of the Great Awakening, pastors Samuel Hopkins and Ezra Stiles wanted to train American slaves as missionaries and send them to Africa to evangelize. To begin this program, they circulated a letter throughout the Congregational community in April 1773 requesting funds to help in this endeavor. Today this is considered the beginning of the RIHMS. The RIHMS began functioning as an auxiliary of the American Home Missionary Society in 1826. Throughout its history it has worked in tandem with the Congregational Church in Rhode Island while remaining a separate entity. It has had widespread success in the Church's missionary work with immigrants and African Americans.

A second important branch of the RICUCC's history is the Rhode Island and Massachusetts Christian Conference (RIMCC). This institution was created in 1835 when the Rhode Island Christian Conference separated from the Massachusetts Christian Conference to form an anti-slavery organization. In 1837 it formally became the Rhode Island and Massachusetts Christian Conference. In 1875 the Rhode Island and Connecticut Christian Conference (founded in 1821 as the Connecticut Christian Conference; it adopted its final name in 1834) merged with the RIMCC.

**Scope of Collection:** This collection includes the institutional records such as minutes, constitutions and by-laws, and treasurer notes of the Rhode Island Conference of the United Church of Christ and other related entities, including the Rhode Island Home Missionary Society. It also contains

individual records such as birth and death registries, annual reports, and memorabilia of Rhode Island churches.

## **Further Searches**

### **Subject Headings:**

Broad Street Christian Church (Providence, Rhode Island).  
 Church of Christ (Providence, Rhode Island).  
 Church committees—Congregationalists.  
 Church polity.  
 Church records and registers—Rhode Island.  
 Congregational Brotherhood of Rhode Island.  
 Congregational Church of Christ (Thornton, Rhode Island).  
 Congregational Churches—Rhode Island—Providence.  
 Congregational Conferences/Associations.  
 Congregational Church—finance.  
 Connecticut Christian Conference.  
 Elmwood Congregational Christian Church (Providence, Rhode Island).  
 Elmwood Christian Church (Providence, Rhode Island).  
 Elmwood Temple Congregational Church (Providence, Rhode Island).  
 Free Evangelical Congregational Church, (Providence, Rhode Island).  
 Missions—Societies, etc.  
 North Congregational Church (Providence, Rhode Island).  
 Ordination.  
 Pawtuxet Street Christian Church (Providence, Rhode Island).  
 Plymouth Union Congregational Church (Providence, Rhode Island).  
 Religious Committee of the Providence Tercentenary Committee.  
 Rhode Island Congregational Association.  
 Rhode Island and Connecticut Christian Conference  
 Rhode Island Conference  
 Rhode Island Congregational Conference  
 Rhode Island Home Missionary Society  
 Rhode Island and Massachusetts Christian Conference—Records and correspondence.  
 Rhode Island State Council of Churches.  
 Small churches.  
 United Church of Christ, Rhode Island Conference  
 United Congregational Church (East Providence, Rhode Island).  
 Union Congregational Church (Providence, Rhode Island).  
 Wood River Junction Congregational Church (Richmond, Rhode Island).  
 World War, 1939-1945—Religious Aspects—Protestant Churches.

### **Related Materials:**

#### **By Richard H. Taylor:**

*The Churches of Christ of the Congregational Way in New England* (9.3.246)

*Embracing God's Hospitality: Celebrating Over Ten Years of Ministry Together: the Rhode Island Conference of the United Church of Christ (9.3.299)*

**Items removed from the collection, held at the Congregational Library & Archives:**

Academy Avenue Congregational Church Manual, 1889

75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Booklet of the Armenian Euphrates Evangelical Church

Building Fund Brochure for the Warwick Congregational Church, 1961

*The First Century of Central Congregational Church, 1852-1952* (Providence, RI)

*A Century of Christian Service, 1829-1929 : Pawtucket Congregational Church*

*The Congregationalist in Rhode Island* magazine, Sept. 1940- June 1946

Constitution of the Rhode Island and Massachusetts Christian Conference, 1845 (Printed, 13 copies)

The East Room Christian Almanac, 1875

First Congregational Church of Bristol, RI Manual, 1872

Handbook of the High Street Congregational Church of Providence, RI, 1861

*The History of the Amicable Congregational Church, 1746-1946*

*Reflections : Moosup Valley Church, 1868-1968* (Foster, RI)

Manual of Pilgrim Congregational Church, 1913

*Minutes of the American Christian Convention, Oshawa, Canada, October 11, 12, 13, 1870*

*The Missionary Herald at Home and Abroad : Rhode Island Congregationalist edition* magazine, Sept. 1946-March 1951, with gaps

New England Christian Convention Minutes, 1864-1866, 1869, 1872, 1874, 1878, 1893-1894, 1913

New England Convention Resolutions, 1870

The Pioneer Hymnal, 1952

**Arrangement:** The intellectual arrangement of the collection separates conference records from individual church records. There are three series: conference records, church records, and images. The primary body in the conference series is the Rhode Island and Massachusetts Christian Conference; there are two subseries. The first is affiliated institutions in alphabetical order and the second is the Rhode Island Home Missionary and its affiliate the Rhode Island Congregational Conference.

The church records are listed alphabetically, however, in cases where churches have merged together and both bodies are represented they have been included together; the older institutions are listed first. Physical arrangement groups bound volumes together and folder items together.

**Series List:**

Series I: Conference Records

Subseries A: Rhode Island and Massachusetts Christian Conference

Subseries B: Affiliated Institutions of the Rhode Island and Massachusetts Christian Conference, Alphabetically:

Congregational Brotherhood of Rhode Island

Connecticut Christian Conference

Council for Social Action of the Congregational and Christian Churches of America  
 Religious Committee of the Providence Tercentary Committee  
 Rhode Island Conference  
 Rhode Island and Connecticut Christian Conference  
 Rhode Island Congregational Association  
 Rhode Island and Massachusetts Christian Benevolent Society  
 Rhode Island and Massachusetts Ministerial Association  
 Rhode Island State Council of Churches  
 Subseries C: Rhode Island Home Missionary Society and Rhode Island Congregational  
 Conference

**Series II: Individual Church Records**

Subseries A: Patuxet Street Christian Church, Providence, RI; Broad Street Christian Church,  
 Providence, RI; Elmwood Temple Congregational Church, Providence, RI; Elmwood Congregational  
 Church, Providence, RI

Subseries B: Church of Christ, Providence, RI

Subseries C: Congregational Church of Christ, Thornton, RI

Subseries D: Elmwood Christian Church, Providence, RI

Subseries E: Free Evangelical Congregational Church, Providence RI

Subseries F: North Congregational Church, Providence, RI

Subseries G: Plymouth Union Congregational Church, Providence RI; Union as Congregational Church,  
 Providence RI

Subseries H: United Congregational Church, East Providence RI

Subseries I: Wood River Junction Congregational Church, Richmond RI

**Series III: Images**

## **Contents**

**Series I: Conference Records**

**Date:** 1837-1980; bulk 1840-1930

**Extent:** 6 boxes, 1 folder

**Scope of Series:** The Conference Records series includes the minutes and correspondence of the Rhode Island and Massachusetts Christian Conference, which comprises the bulk of the collection. Subseries include scattered records of some its affiliated institutions and the minutes, treasury notes, and correspondence of the Rhode Island Home Missionary Society and its affiliated body of the Rhode Island Congregational Conference.

**Arrangement:**

Subseries A: Rhode Island and Massachusetts Christian Conference

Subseries B: Affiliated Institutions of the Rhode Island and Massachusetts Christian Conference,  
 Alphabetically

Congregational Brotherhood of Rhode Island

Connecticut Christian Conference

Council for Social Action of the Congregational and Christian Churches of America

Religious Committee of the Providence Tercentary Committee

Rhode Island Conference

Rhode Island and Connecticut Christian Conference

Rhode Island Congregational Association

Rhode Island and Massachusetts Christian Benevolent Society  
 Rhode Island and Massachusetts Ministerial Association  
 Rhode Island State Council of Churches

Subseries C: Rhode Island Home Missionary Society and Rhode Island Congregational Conference

<b>Subseries A: Rhode Island and Massachusetts Christian Conference</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 7/Folder</b>
Minutes and correspondence	1835-1859	B7/F1
Minutes, standing rules, and member lists	1843-1874	B7/F2
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 1 /Folder</b>
Minutes and constitution	1843-1874	B1
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 7/ Folder</b>
Minutes	1864-1876	B7/F3
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 4/Folder</b>
Minutes	1875-1905	B4
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 7/Folder</b>
Minutes	1877-1887	B7/F4
Minutes	1888-1894	B7/F5
Minutes	1895-1905	B7/F6
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 3</b>
Minutes, by-laws	1905-1913	B3
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 7/Folder</b>
Minutes	1912-1930	B7/F7
Executive board minutes	1886-1897	B7/F8
Executive board minutes	1897-1905	B7/F9
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 3</b>
Executive board minutes, by-laws	1905-1929	B3
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 7/Folder</b>
Records, including minutes	1928-1933	B7/F10
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Item 11 - Oversize folder</b>
Blank ordination certificates	1800s	oversized folder
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 7/Folder</b>
Printed constitutions, minutes, and by-laws	1845-1912 w/gaps	B7/F11
Printed programs, session of 1890 and 1891	1890-1891	B7/F12
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 3</b>
Constitution and by-laws	1913-1927	B3
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 9/Folder</b>
Quarterly bulletin	1907-1925	B9/F2
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 7/Folder</b>

Correspondence	1843	B7/F13
Correspondence	1844	B7/F14
Correspondence	1845	B7/F15
Correspondence	1846	B7/F16
Correspondence	1847	B7/F17
Correspondence	1848	B7/F18
Correspondence	1849-1850	B7/F19
Correspondence	1850	B7/F20
Correspondence	1851	B7/F21
Correspondence	1852	B7/F22
Correspondence of recess from session 1852 to session 1853	1852-1853	B7/F23
Executive board correspondence	1853	B7/F24
Correspondence of churches and certificates of delegates	1853	B7/F25
Correspondence	1854	B7/F26
Correspondence	1855	B7/F27
Correspondence	1856	B7/F28
Loose correspondence	1854; 1863-1864	B7/F29
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 9/ Folder</b>
Loose correspondence	Circa 1877	B9/F1
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 7/Folder</b>
Correspondence	1938	B7/F30
Petition to license E.S. Greenleaf	1898	B7/F31
<b>Subseries B: Affiliated Institutions</b>		
<b>Congregational Brotherhood of Rhode Island</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 5</b>
Secretary's Book (minutes, constitution, historical overview)	1910-1912	B5
<b>Connecticut Christian Conference</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 4</b>
Minutes	1827-1866	B4
<b>Council for Social Action of the Congregational and Christian Churches of America</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 9/Folder</b>
Conscientious objectors correspondence and brochures; case of Arnold, Kenneth; correspondence of Reverend Schmalz, Alfred	1936-1946 w/gaps	B9/F3
<b>Religious Committee of the Providence Tercentary Committee</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 7/Folder</b>
Religion in Rhode Island pamphlet	1936	B7/F32
<b>Rhode Island Conference</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>B9/Folder</b>
Face of religion news clippings	1965-1980	B9/F4
<b>Rhode Island and Connecticut Christian Conference:</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 4</b>
Minutes	1867-1875	B4
<b>Rhode Island Congregational Association</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 5</b>

Minutes	1908-1928	B5
<b>Rhode Island and Massachusetts Christian Benevolent Society</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 7/Folder</b>
Printed minutes and constitution	1893	B7/F33
<b>Rhode Island and Massachusetts Ministerial Association</b>		
Minutes and treasury notes	1876-1897	B7/F34
<b>Rhode Island State Council of Churches</b>		
Newsletter, letter	1953	B7/F37
<b>Subseries C: Rhode Island Home Missionary Society and the Rhode Island Congregational Conference</b>		
<b>Rhode Island Home Missionary Society</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 1</b>
Treasurer's records	1839-1904	B1
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 4</b>
Constitution and minutes	1876-1930	B4
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 7/Folder</b>
McClelland, T. Calvin, historical address	1903	B7/F36
Report of Greeks in Providence	1904	B7/F37
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 5</b>
Record of trust after transfer of property to RI Congregational Conference	1913-1930	B5
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 7/Folder</b>
Notes of final meeting	1930	B7/F39
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 9/Folder</b>
Huntsman, John F., presidential address	undated	B9/F5
<b>Rhode Island Congregational Conference</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 3</b>
Constitution, members	1839; 1863-1950	B3
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 7/Folder</b>
Constitution, with Rhode Island Home Missionary Society	1912	B7/F38
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 1</b>
Minutes, members, and by-laws	1912-1936	B1
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 7/Folder</b>
"Young Adults" correspondence, brochures, announcements	1948-1954 w/gaps	B7/F40

### Series II: Individual Church Records

**Date:** 1812-1970, bulk 1890-1955

**Extent:** 7 boxes, 1 separate bound volume

**Scope of Series:** Various records of Congregational churches in Rhode Island and includes minutes; registries; memorabilia; and correspondence.

**Arrangement:**

Subseries A: Pawtuxet Street Christian Church, Providence, RI; Broad Street Christian Church, Providence, RI; Elmwood Temple Congregational Church, Providence, RI; Elmwood Congregational Church, Providence, RI



Subseries B: Church of Christ, Providence, RI

Subseries C: Congregational Church of Christ, Thornton, RI

Subseries D: Elmwood Christian Church, Providence, RI

Subseries E: Free Evangelical Congregational Church, Providence RI

Subseries F: North Congregational Church, Providence, RI

Subseries G: Plymouth Union Congregational Church, Providence RI; Union as Congregational Church, Providence RI

Subseries H: United Congregational Church, East Providence RI

Subseries I: Wood River Junction Congregational Church, Richmond RI

	Date	Box 9/Folder
<b>Subseries A: Pawtuxet Street Christian Church, Providence, RI</b>		
Committee minutes, manuscript, floor plan	1841	B9/F6
<b>Broad Street Christian Church, Providence, RI</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 6</b>
Register and minutes	1834-1882	B6
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 9/Folder</b>
Mortgage deed	1871	B9/F7
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 7/Folder</b>
Memorabilia	1898-1941	B7/F41
Merger documents with Elmwood Temple Congregational Church	1912	B7/F42
<b>Elmwood Temple Congregational Church, Providence RI</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 5</b>
Membership roll	1912	B5
<b>Elmwood Congregational Christian Church, Providence, RI</b>		
Church registry (births, baptisms, marriages, deaths)	1925-1949	B5
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 2</b>
Church registry (births, baptisms, marriages, deaths)	1909-1954 (bulk is 1949-1954)	B2
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 3</b>
Pilgrim Fellowship minutes, treasury notes, and memorabilia	1945-1950	B3
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 7/Folder</b>
Survey for Rhode Island Council of Churches	1950	B7/F45
Minutes, annual reports, treasurer reports, and member lists (unbound)	1948-1951	B7/F43
Minutes, annual reports, treasurer reports, and member lists (unbound)	1951-1955	B7/F44
<b>Subseries B: Church of Christ, Providence RI</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Item 10</b>

Records	1812-1815 (scanty)	Item 10 bound volume
<b>Subseries C: Congregational Church of Christ, Thornton, RI</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box</b>
Register	1889-1915	B6
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 5</b>
Minutes	1889-1918	B5
<b>Subseries D: Elmwood Christian Church, Providence RI</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 7/Folder</b>
Memorabilia	1910-1955	B7/F46
Charter, constitution and by-laws, amendment to charter	1912-1930	B7/F47
<b>Subseries E: Free Evangelical Congregational Church, Providence RI</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 6</b>
Register	1843-1943 w/ gaps	B6
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 2</b>
Register	1943-1950	B2
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 9/Folder</b>
By-laws, merger agreement	1915-1950	B9/F8
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 7/Folder</b>
Correspondence	1956-1974	B7/F48
<b>Subseries F: North Congregational Church, Providence, RI</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 6</b>
By-laws and minutes	1895-1905	B6
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 5</b>
Letters of dismissal	1904-1919	B5
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 9/Folder</b>
Minutes, reports, letters, disputes	1909-1911	B9/F9
<b>Subseries G: Plymouth Union Congregational Church, Providence RI</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 8/Folder</b>
Memorabilia of Union Congregational Church, unbound (1 of 3 binders assembled by the Reverend J. Wesley Pierce in 1979)	1870-1932	B8/F1
Memorabilia of Plymouth Congregational Church, unbound (2 of 3 binders assembled by the Reverend J. Wesley Pierce in 1979)	1871-1903	B8/F2
Memorabilia of Plymouth Union Church, unbound (3 of 3 binders assembled by the Reverend J. Wesley Pierce in 1979)	1903-1928	B8/F3

<b>Union Congregational Church, Providence RI</b>		
25 <sup>th</sup> anniversary brochure	1896	B8/F4
<b>Subseries H: United Congregational Church, East Providence RI</b>		
Quarterly meeting reports, revised constitution, correspondence, unbound (1 of 2)	1969-1970	B8/F5
Quarterly meeting reports, revised constitution, correspondence, unbound (2 of 2)	1966-1970	B8/F6
Quarterly meeting reports, disposal of property	1970	B8/F7
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 2</b>
Records	1889-1933 w/gaps	B2
Pilgrim church register	1889-1970 w/gaps	B2
<b>Subseries I: Wood River Junction Congregational Church, Richmond RI</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 5</b>
Minutes	1895- 1911	B5
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 6</b>
Treasurer accounts	1895-1932	B6
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 5</b>
Clerk's records and minutes	1932-1935	B5
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Box 8/Folder</b>
Handwritten minutes, 1933; Mrs. Root's funeral; undated/unknown source lists of names	1933, unknown	B8/F8

### Series III: Images

**Date:** undated

**Extent:** 1 folder

**Scope of Series:** There are six black and white photographs (11 x 14) of Congregational Churches in Providence, Rhode Island, which were taken at an unknown date by an anonymous creator.

There is also a pencil sketch of the Elmwood Temple Congregational Church (12 x 18) by Sarah Elizabeth Arnold.

**Arrangement:** Due to their large size, all images are held together.

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Item 11 Oversize Folder</b>
Beneficent Congregational Church	undated	oversized folder
Westminster Congregational Church	undated	oversized folder
Union Congregational Church	undated	oversized folder

Central Congregational Church	undated	oversized folder
First Congregational Church (Unitarian)	undated	oversized folder
Unknown church	undated	oversized folder
Sketch of Elmwood Temple Congregational Church by Sarah Elizabeth Arnold	circa 1865	oversized folder