

Inventory of the

First Congregational Church
DeKalb, Illinois

Collection

In the

Regional History Center

RC 17

INTRODUCTION

The First Congregational Church Collection was deposited in the Northern Illinois Regional History Center in March 1973. Additional records were added at later dates.

Property rights in the collection remain with the First Congregational Church, DeKalb, Illinois. Literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 15.75
Number of containers: 29
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 17

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The First Congregational Church in DeKalb was organized by eight founding members in December 1854, following missionary services begun in September of that year by Rev. H.N. Norton. Services were initially held (1854-1888) in a school house located at the corner of Grove and South Second Street. The school house was purchased outright in 1870. With financial support from I.L. Ellwood and J.F. Glidden, a new stone structure was built in 1888 next to the "Old Chapel" which was razed in 1914. A new building fund was begun in 1944 as part of the 90th Anniversary celebration. On July 4, 1954, the first services were held in the new, modern church building on North First Street.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The records in this collection document the growth and development of the First Congregational Church of DeKalb from 1856-1991. The collection contains six series: Administrative Records, Membership, Committees, Building, Church Activities, and Audio-Visual.

The first series, Administrative Records, includes historical information, constitutions and annual reports, church meeting minutes and correspondence, bulletins and the church newsletter. The nearly complete span of weekly church bulletins documents day-to-day activities and concerns.

Series two, Membership, contains church directories, membership lists, and letters of dismission for members transferring their membership to other churches. Also included are guest register books dating 1944-1978.

Committees make up the third series in this collection. The committees are arranged alphabetically and include minutes and correspondence.

The building and refurbishing of the new church is documented in the fourth series. This series dates from 1947-1987 and contains contracts, correspondence, and deeds for the church built in 1954.

Series five, Church Activities, includes material relating to activities and organizations that the church is involved with.

The Audio-Visual series includes two reel-to-reel cassettes with church services from 1965, three 33 1/3 recordings of the church dedication, fourteen architectural drawings dating 1951- 1973, and 165 photographs of church members and the church buildings.

Related collections of the Regional History Center include: DeKalb First Methodist Church Collection (RC 24), St. Paul's Episcopal Church Collection (RC 55), First Lutheran Church, Rockford (RC 83), and Salem Lutheran Church, Sandwich (RC 84).

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Barber, Alice (Whitmore)
Congregationalists
Ellwood, Isaac L.
First Congregational Church (DeKalb, Ill.)
Glidden, Joseph F.
Religion--DeKalb (Ill.)
Whitmore, Alice Barber

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
Series I. Administrative Records		
1	1	Historical Background
	2	Histories, 1984, 2004
	3	History, 1944-1954: Expansion (uncut Draft of ch. 10 of 1984 published history)
	4	Unpublished history (typescript)
	5	90th Anniversary Pageant (script), 1944
	6	Articles of Incorporation, 1947
	7	Constitution and By-laws, 1922-1987
	8-10	Constitution, By-laws, Lists, Minutes, 1856-1922, 3 vols.
	11-15	Annual Reports, 1944-1979, 1981, 1983-1987, 1989-1990
	16	Local Church Report (Yearbook), 1912-1939, 1941-1964
	17	Annual Meeting Minutes, 1963-1987
	18	Annual Financial Meeting Minutes, 1986
	19	Semi-Annual Meeting Minutes, 1986-1987
	20	Congregational Meetings, 1967-1985
	21	Minutes of Meetings (typescript copy), 1854-1888
	22-23	Church Business Meeting Minutes, 1922-1942
2	1-5	Church Business Meeting Minutes, 1943-1960, (1963-1977)
	6	Correspondence concerning 60th Anniversary, November 1914
	7	Correspondence, 1936, 1952
	8-10	Church Correspondence, Howard Nelson, 1947-1968
	11-12	Church Correspondence, 1960-1968
3	1	Church Correspondence, 1969-1977
	2	Correspondence, 1952-1985
	3	Anniversary (120) Correspondence and Minutes, 1974
	4-12	Church Bulletin, (1926-1931, 1934-1950, 1953-1967)
4	1-4	Church Bulletin, 1969-1977, 1979, 1986-1989
	5-8	Newsletter, "The Church Spire," 1961, 1970-1982
5	1-6	Newsletter, "The Church Spire," 1983-1991
Series II. Membership		
5	7	Membership Record Book (typed copy), 1856-1862

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
	8	Register of Members, 1854-1961
	9	Register of Communicants, 1866-1952
	10	Church Directories, 1893, 1912, 1954, 1963-1966
6	1-2	Church Directories, 1967-1974, 1977-1991
	3-4	Membership Lists, 1921, 1931, 1948-1962
	5	List of New Members, 1960-1967
	6	Membership and Church School Enrollment, 1977
	7	Non-Active List, 1915-1951
	8	Membership Correspondence, 1961-1966
	9	Transfer of Membership, 1961-1970
	10	Letters of Dismission, November 4, 1954-May 22, 1969
	11	Baptismal Record, 1922-1952
	12	Service Honor Roll, 1917-1918
7	1-3	Guest Register Books, 1944-1963, 1967-1978, 3 vols.
Series III. Committees		
8	1	Auditing Committee, 1976
	2	Bus Committee, 1958
	3-10	Church Cabinet Meeting Minutes, 1928-1933, 1942-1966
9	1-5	Church Cabinet Meeting Minutes, (1967-1987)
	6-8	Christian Education, Board of, 1960-1966, 1970-1977, 1983-1987
	9-10	Christian World Mission Committee, 1971-1977
10	1	Church Access Study Committee, 1970-1986
	2	Congregational and Christian Conference of Illinois, 1934, 1939
	3-7	Deacons, Board of, 1966-1969, 1974-1977, 1983-1987
	8	Historical Committee, 1973-1975
	9	Memorial Committee, 1971-1976
		Men's Club:
	10	Historical Background, 1894-1945
	11	Meeting Minutes, 1929-1939, 1945
	12	Treasurer's Record, 1941-1953
11	1	Mission Council, 1970-1981
	2	Music Committee, 1964-1977
	3	Nominating Committee, 1959-1966, 1975, 1976
	4	Organ Committee, 1968-1976

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	5
	5	Organ Guild Treasurer Reports, 1926-1938	
	6-7	Minute Books, 1926-1933	
	8	Pastoral Relations Committee, 1972, 1976	
	9	Pulpit Committee (Pastorate Search), 1945	
	10	Refugee Committee, 1981-1985	
	11	Research Committee, 1978	
	12	Stewardship Committee, 1965-1987	
	13	Christian Enlistment Effort, 1969	
	14	Student Work Committee, 1966-1976	
		Trustees, Board of:	
12	1-9	Minutes, 1947-1968	
13	1-4	Minutes, 1969-1970, 1973-1980, 1983-1987	
	5	Manual for Trustees, 1947	
	6	Bonds, (1950-1953)	
	7	Estate and Probate Documents, (1927-1961)	
	8	Ushers, 1960-1971	
	9	Woman's Guild, Women's Fellowship, and Women's Society: Constitutions and Committee Duties, 1957, 1966, 1976, n.d.	
	10	Missionary Society Treasurer's Book, 1897-1933	
14		Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society Meeting:	
	1-3	Minutes, 1895-1933, 4 vols.	
	4	Roll Book, 1908-1928, and Dues, 1929-1933, 1 vol.	
	5	Correspondence, 1917, 1923-1926, 1928, 1930, 1932-1933, n.d.	
	6-7	Women's Society: Minutes, 1911-1927, 2 vol.	
15	1	Minutes, 1927-1938, 1 vol.	
	2	Reports, 1936-1937	
	3	Treasurer's Reports, 1944-1959	
	4	Journal, 1951-1964, 1 vol.	
15		Women's Guild:	
	5	Receipt Book, 1940-1951, 1955-1959, 2 vol.	
	6	Calendar, 1942-1943	
	7-8	Meeting Minutes, 1950-1960	
	9	Yearbooks, 1953, 1957-1960	
16	1	Circle II Meeting Record, 1978-1979	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	6
	2	Circle Six of Women's Guild Meeting Minutes, 1947-1952, 1 vol.	
	3-4	Group Seven of the Congregational Church Meeting Minutes, 1945-1959	
		Women's Fellowship:	
	5-6	Yearbooks, 1961-1986	
	7-12	Meeting Minutes, 1960-1968, 1975-1988	
	13	Committee Reports, 1977-1980, 1985-1986, n.d.	
	14	Spring Spree, 1977-1978	
17	1	Correspondence, 1936-1937, 1957, 1963-1964, 1969, 1974, 1976-1979, 1984-1988, n.d.	
	2	Programs, 1962, 1964-1965, 1967, 1973, 1975-1978, n.d.	
	3	Handbooks, 1968-1969, n.d.	
	4	Cookbook	
	5	Manual for Women's Organizations, n.d.	
	6	Youth Ministry Committee, 1985-1987	
	7	Young Married Couples Club, 1932	
Series IV. Building			
	8	Building Program, 1947-1958	
	9	Church Site, 1948-1953	
	10	Construction, 1953	
	11	Contracts: New Church Construction, 1953-1954	
	12	Specifications and Correspondence, 1953	
	13	Correspondence: Church Construction Bids, 1953	
	14	New Church Architect, 1949-1954	
	15	New Church Furniture, 1953-1955	
	16	New Church Windows, 1953-1954	
	17	Parsonage Purchase and Assessments, 1956-1959	
	18	Purchase of Assistant Minister Parsonage, 1962-1963	
	19	Record of the New Building Project, 1944-1953	
17	20	Sale of Old Parsonage, 1957	
	21	Trust Deed: New Church Construction Loan, 1954	
	22	Warranty Deeds of Church Property	
18	1	Waiver of Lien, 1963-1964	
	2	Correspondence: Building Committee, 1961-1963	
	3	Organ, 1972-1975	
	4	Pew Refinishing, 1965-1968	
	5	Refurbishing, 1963-1976	
	6	Building Contracts, 1963	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
	7	Building Contracts and Correspondence, 1963-1977
	8	Carillons, 1969
	9	Rolfing Fund, 1961-1976
	10	Handicapped Accessibility, 1986-1987
Series V. Church Activities		
	11	17/76 Achievement Fund, 1975-1976
	12	Church Night, 1973-1976
	13	Confirmation, 1984-1986
	14	Congregators, 1970
	15	Fellowship of Christian Athletics, 1973
	16	First Sermon by Donald E. Mayer, May 1, 1977
	17	News Releases, 1976
	18	Pilgrim Fellowship, 1972-1977
	19	Treasurer's Book, 1949-1958, 1 vol.
19	1	Sunday School Record, 1902-1903
	2	Accounts, 1965-1966
	3	Certificates, 1907-1909
	4	Church School, 1963-1977
	5	Thanksgiving Services, 1969-1975
	6-7	United Campus Christian Fellowship, 1945-1968
	8	United Campus Ministries, 1969-1976
	9	Youth Worker, 1972, 1975
Series VI. Audio-Visual		
	2 reel-to-reel cassettes	Church Services, July 11, 1965, August 8, 1965, August 22, 1965, August 29, 1965
		Photographs:
20	1	Church Members, ca. 1912-1915 (13)
	2	Church Members, ca. 1953-1955 (29, 1 neg.)
	3	Original "School House" Church, 1854 (1)
	4	Old Church at 2nd and Grove, ca. 1950 (13, 1 neg.)
	5	New Church Construction, 1953 (90, 6 neg.)
	6	New Church, ca. 1954 (18)
	7	Confirmation Class, 1973 (1)
Oversize	1-3	33 1/3 Recordings Church Dedication Ceremony, October 17, 1954 (3)
Oversize Drawer 20, Folder 4		Architectural Drawings, 1951-1973, n.d., 14 drawings

ADDENDUM

Series I. Administrative Records

21	1	Historical Information (Time Capsule), 1921-1979
	2-3	Annual Reports, 1991-2013
	4	Constitution and By-Laws, 2000, 2004, 2009, 2010, 2012
	5	Congregational Meeting Minutes (Family Night and Business Meetings), 1967-1980
	6	January Congregational Budget (Business) Meeting, (1990-2002)
	7	Fall Congregational Meeting, 1999-2000
	8	Church Correspondence Regarding Stewardship, 1968-1973
	9	Church Letters, 1967-1975
	10-13	General Correspondence, 1951, 1972-1981
22	1-3	General Correspondence, 1982-1983
	4	Moore's Correspondence and Publications, 1986-1990
	5	Secretary's File (Correspondence and News Releases), 1960-1972
	6	Church Secretaries File (Correspondence and Writing Guide), 1990
	7	Church Bulletins, 1981-1982
	8	The Life Line, (College Newsletter), 1980-1982

Series II. Membership

	9	Membership Directories and Correspondence, 1982-1988
23	1	Church Directories, 1975, 1980-1981, 1985, 1992, n.d.
	2-3	Letter of Dismission, 1-289, 1909-1945
	4-7	Baptismal Certificates, Books I-VII, 1945-1958
24	1-4	Baptismal Certificates, Books VIII-XV, 1958-1978
	5	Church Attendance, 1949-1970
	6	Calendars, 1983-1984

Series III. Committees

	7	Church Cabinet, 1978-1984
	8	Christian Education, Board of, 1979-1984
25	1-2	Christian World Mission Committee, 1977-1981, 1983-1984
	3-5	Deacons, Board of, 1980-1981, 1983-1984, 1991-1992

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
	6	Membership Reports, 1983-1986
	7-8	Minutes, 1977-1986
	9	Executive Committee, 1981, 1983
26	1-2	Memorial Committee, 1948-1981
	3	Memorial Gifts, 1945-1976
	4	Ministry in Higher Education Committee, 1976-1981, 1983-1984
	5-7	Music Committee, 1964-1981, 1983-1984
	8	Pastor Search Committee, 1985-1986
27	1	Stewardship Committee, (1946-1980)
	2-5	Trustee, Board of, 1970-1975, 1978-1981, 1983-1984
	6-7	Financial Reports, 1977-1982
28	1	Insurance Proposal, July 3, 1979
	2	Jeanette Dewey Trust Fund, 1937-1944
	3	Loans, 1979
	4	Minutes, 1979-1981
	5	Organ and Music Committee, 1978
	6	Salaries Guidelines, 1978-1979
	7	Women's Fellowship, 1980-1981, 1983-1984, 2005-2008
	8	Youth Ministry Committee, 1980-1981, 1983-1984
	9	150 th Anniversary Committee and Event Booklets, October 17, 2004
Series IV. Building		
28	10	Building Committee, 1947-1971
	11	Specifications of a Two Manual & Pedal Pipe Organ, January 29, 1915
	12	Organ Contract, 1974
	13	Parsonage Tax Exempt Status, 1893
Series V. Church Activities		
	14	Christmas Pageant of the Nativity, 1944
	15-16	Confirmation, 1973-1978, 1980, 1983-1984
	17	Consultation on Church Union (COCU), 1971
29	1	DeKalb County Nursing Home, 1971; Reality House, 1979
	2	Emphasis Questionnaire, 1969
	3	"Listening and Enlisting," 1985
	4	PF (Pilgrim Fellowship), 1979-1980

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	10
	5	Junior High Pilgrim Fellowship, 1982-1983	
	6	Senior High Pilgrim Fellowship, 1982-1983	
	7	News Releases, 1970-1984	
	8	Recreators, 1983	
	9	Church School, 1963, 1967-1975	
	10	Sunday School Lesson Books, n.d., 3 vols.	
	11	Whitmore, Alice Barber, Programs and Cards, Church and Personal Information, 1896-1976	
29	12	Diary (Unidentified Person), 1859-1862	
Series VI. Audio-Visual			
	13-14	Photographs, 1953-1955, n.d. (43)	