

Inventory of the

Unitarian Fellowship
DeKalb, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 13

INTRODUCTION

The Unitarian Fellowship, DeKalb, Illinois, donated its records to the University Archives in the 1960's. J. Joseph Bauxer, University Archivist, transferred the collection to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center in June 1978.

Property rights in the collection are held by the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: .5
Number of containers: 1 box
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 13

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Unitarian Fellowship of DeKalb Collection documents the history of a liberal religious society from 1961-1971. Unfortunately, records providing information on the society's first months of existence in 1960 are missing from the collection. Nevertheless, a complete set of minutes (1961-1971) comprehensively details the concern of the Unitarians with educating the community about their beliefs and promoting a strong, dedicated membership. Newsletters, correspondence, treasurer's reports, and religious education reports relate supplementary data about Unitarian programs dealing with social problems and juvenile religious instruction (1961-1971). Informative sets of committee lists and building records document the construction of the new society meeting hall in the 1960's. Several fellowship papers dealing with contemporary issues such as militarism and racism are included in the collection along with national universalist publications on the aims of liberal religious organizations in North America. The records are of extraordinary quality for research on the beliefs and functions of liberal religious societies.

Researchers should note the related church collections held by the Regional History Center: First Congregational Church of DeKalb (RC 17); DeKalb First United Methodist Church (RC 24); St. Paul's Episcopal Church of DeKalb (RC 55); First Lutheran Church of Rockford (RC 83); Salem Lutheran Church of Sandwich (RC 84); and Trinity Lutheran Church of Mt. Morris (RC 104).

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Jack Peterson, Mason Myers, Jeannette Murray, Gail Anderson, and Galen Meling organized the Unitarian Fellowship of DeKalb in March 1960. Several months later this first board of directors secured a charter. Initially, the fellowship met in Jefferson School on North First Street. After five years of growth, the Unitarian Fellowship constructed its own building at

the corner of Hillcrest and Garden Streets and dedicated it in 1966. The Unitarian Fellowship, a liberal religious organization, believes in certain values of freedom of faith and a united world. During Sunday meetings, members evaluate their beliefs based on Biblical evidences of truth. Each meeting has a speaker or program designed to promote the intellectual development of the participants. The major topics discussed at business meetings are the religious education of children and the problems of fair housing and racism. In addition, the Fellowship sponsors social events such as pot-luck dinners, picnics, and parties. Although membership declined after 1971, the Unitarian Fellowship still is active in the DeKalb community today.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

DeKalb, Religion
Unitarians
Unitarian Fellowship

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	By-Laws and Ammendments, (1961-1967)
	2-4	Minutes, (January 1961-May 1971)
	5	Correspondence, (1960-1969)
	6	Treasurer's Reports, (1961-1971)
	7	Membership Lists, 1961-1969
	8	Officer and Committee Lists, (1960-1970)
	9	Committee Reports, (1961-1967)
	10-11	Newsletters, (February 1961-May 1971)
	12	Building Information, n.d.
	13	Religious Education, (1960-1971)
	14	Unitarian Position Papers, n.d.
	15	Denominational Publications, (1960-1970)