

Inventory of the

Spring Creek United Church of Christ
Rockford, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 287

INTRODUCTION

Pastor Michael O. Simmons, Nancy Houtz, and Steven Tirrell, donated the records of the Spring Creek United Church of Christ to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on November 28, 2007. Additional records were added at later dates.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are not restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 8.5
Number of containers: 14 + 1 volume + 17 oversized folders;
1,319 digital files (625 MB)
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 287

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection contains both paper and electronic documents pertaining to the history of the Spring Creek Congregational Church since its founding by Reverend Richard J. Nielsen in 1960.

The collection includes annual meetings, reports, financial reports, and building development and construction. Numerous church committees are represented, some extensively, through meeting agendas and minutes, and miscellaneous correspondence. Those committees include: Cabinet, Christian Education, Commitment Ministry, Council, Diaconate, Finance Ministry, Growth and Evangelism, Memorial, Mission Board, Music, Nominating, Pastoral Care, Steering, and Worship Ministry.

Other papers in this portion of the collection include newsletters, membership lists, pictorial directories and guest books, photos, press clippings, correspondence, and scrapbook pages documenting church retreats, missionary service, and community outreach. Additional material in the collection includes a church guest book, Vacation Bible School scrapbook pages, and architectural blue prints of the Spring Creek Congregational Church building.

The collection also includes scrapbooks, chronicling the weekly church service bulletins, press clippings about the church and its members, photographs, weddings, and other special services. Documents contained in the scrapbooks range from 1960 until 2010.

Electronic records may be accessed in the Center's reading room.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

On February 1, 1960, Reverend Richard J. Nielsen was sent by the Congregational Church Conference of Illinois to Rockford for the purpose of formulating two new churches. Originally meeting in the various homes of its first members, the churches later moved to local elementary schools. They were named the Woodside Congregational Church and the Spring Creek Congregational Church. The Spring Creek Congregational Church began with a parish of only 16 members. On January 5, 1961, the membership of 63 invited Nielsen to become its permanent pastor. By its one-year anniversary in the spring of that same year, its membership reached 80 members.

The church's tremendous initial growth necessitated plans to construct a church building on a parcel of land owned by the church, located on Spring Creek Road in Rockford. Ground was broken in the summer of 1962, and the newly-constructed, \$95,000.00 building was ready for occupancy by the spring of 1963. The first service in the church's new permanent home was held on Palm Sunday, April 7, 1963. Nielsen left the church in 1964 to pastor a church in Elkhart, IN. He was replaced in the interim by Dr. Charles Cooley. In that same year, the ever-expanding Sunday school prompted the building of an education wing.

Reverend William Bartholomew served as pastor from 1965 until 1973. During Bartholomew's ministry, both the music and sports programs expanded and a ball field was built. Bartholomew continued to be a member of the church and served as Jail Chaplain in the Rockford area for many years. Reverend John P. Jewell served as Associate Pastor from 1969-1971, and was succeeded by the Reverend Daniel Schiefeling, who served as Assistant Minister and then sole minister from 1971-1974. Schiefeling helped to expand the church's youth ministry as well as adult education programs. Chaplain Rex Hanks assisted with sermons during this time as well. In 1973, Peggy Guedet and Scott Ballard served as the church's first missionaries by serving in Bali.

Reverend Walter B. McMullen became Minister in 1974 and served until 1979. During this time the Shepherd plan for the Diaconate began, as did the monthly Presidential Prayer Breakfasts. The Spring Creek Church was led in the interim period of May, 1979 to February, 1980 by Drs. Leslie Kingsbury and Joel Tibbets - while Betty Kingsbury acted as visitation person, and Barbara Ballard handled organization duties.

Reverend Merle Steva led the congregation from 1980 until his retirement on April 30, 1993. During Steva's tenure as Minister, the church resumed two worship services, expanded Sunday school programs, and continued its very active youth, music, and numerous community outreach ministries. Reverend Eric Dale served as interim pastor from 1993 to 1994, at which time Reverend Jack Kraaz was invited to serve as Minister. Kraaz served from 1994-2000, at which time he accepted a position to head up a UCC missions church in Surprise, Arizona.

Reverend Janet Shelter served as Interim Pastor from 2000-2001, at which time the church invited Reverend Michael Simmons to become Pastor.

In 2005, the church undertook another major construction project, which included the construction of a new sanctuary, narthex, additional office space, bathrooms, and the re-paving of the parking lot. The cost of the project was \$1,200,000.00. At the time of this most recent major construction, the Spring Creek Congregational Church, who had been a part of the United Church of Christ since 1957, became recognized officially as the Spring Creek United Church of Christ. This was evidenced by their new outside marquis, church bulletins, and the church website bearing their new name. In November of 2007, the congregation voted to become the Rockford area's first Open and Affirming (ONA) church. As of 2008, Reverend Simmons continued as Pastor. Joanne Buss served as Associate Pastor from 2004-2007. In July, 2008, the church reported approximately 275 members, and continued their very active ministries in the areas of commitment, fellowship, shepherding, building and grounds, music, and worship. They also continued to reach out to the Rockford community, sponsor mission work, and offer support to charitable organizations throughout the United States and the entire world.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Congregationalists
Rockford (Ill.)
Spring Creek Congregational Church
Spring Creek United Church of Christ
United Church of Christ

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	
1	1	Historical Information, 1960-2007	
	2	"A History and Growth of Congregationalism in Rockford, Illinois," Linda J. Anderson, Submitted for Honors Work in the Department of History, Illinois Wesleyan University, 1969	
	3	Annual Financial Meetings, (January 26, 1975-1988)	
	4	Annual Financial Reports, (January 24, 1989-January 25, 2000)	
	5	Annual Meeting, (1966-1978)	
	6	Annual Meeting Minutes, (1982-1994), Annual Financial Meeting Minutes, (1989-1992)	
	7-9	Annual Reports, (1974-1999), 2010-2011	
	2	1	Board of Christian Education, 1965, November 2, no date Building and Grounds Ministry:
2		Meeting Minutes, (January 21, 1997-November 14, 2000)	
3		Building Committee, Welton Ballard, Chairman, History, Correspondence, Photos, Specifications, and Notes, 1961-1963	
4		Specifications of Materials and Labor for Complete Construction, May 23, 1962, Addendums, June 6, 1962, June 7, 1962, June 25, 1962, and Specifications of Material and Labor for Complete Construction, March 24, 1965	
5		Construction Photos of New Addition, March 17, 2005	
6-8		Cabinet Meeting Minutes, (January 20, 1970-December 13, 1994)	
9		Christian Education Ministry Meeting Minutes, (January 14, 1997-January 11, 2000)	
10		Commitments Committee Charitable Suggestions, 2002 Commitment Ministry:	
11		Agendas and Minutes, (June 4, 1996-December 5, 2000)	
12		Community Letters and Correspondence, (December 1997-June, 2001)	
13		Reports and Correspondence, (1984-1999), no date	
3		1	Council Meeting Agendas and Minutes, (January 21, 1997-December 19, 2000), no date

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	5
3	2	Diaconate Meeting Minutes and Treasurer's Reports, (November 16, 1976-December 22, 1983)	
	3	Diaconate Survey Committee Letter, May 11, 1987	
	4	Finance Ministry Meeting Minutes and Financial Reports, (February 11, 1997-November, 2000)	
	5	Financial Reports, Board and Committee Notes, Miscellaneous Papers, 1984, no date	
	6	Growth and Evangelism, 1997-2000	
		Memorials Committee:	
	7	Minutes and Notes, (1979-1995), no date	
	8	Miscellaneous Purchases, Programs, Policies, and Notes, (1987-1999), no date	
	9	Notes and Correspondence, (1963-1974), no date	
	10	Reports, (1971, 1990-1994), no date	
		Memorials Fund:	
	11	Miscellaneous Correspondence, (1979-1999), no date	
	12	Reports, (1987-1994), and Treasurer's Reports, 1992	
	13	Memorials Unlisted Gifts List, 1967-1988	
		Mission:	
	14	Board Minutes, (November 27, 1984-March 21, 1995)	
	15	Treasurer's Reports, (1984-February, 1996)	
	16	Music Committee Meeting Minutes, Correspondence, and Budget Items, (1967-1977, no date)	
4	1	Nominating Committee, 1982	
	2	Pastoral Care, February 13, 1997-December 7, 2000	
	3	Steering Committee Minutes, (April 13, 1960-January 5, 1961), and Miscellaneous Correspondence, (1961-1974), no date	
	4	Worship Ministry Meeting Minutes, (January 7, 1997-November 14, 2000)	
	5	Women's Fellowship - Collections Coffee, October 19, no date	
	6-7	Newsletters, February 21, 1973-June 19, 1974	
	8	Membership Lists and Information, (1961-1983, no date)	
	9	Pictorial Directories, 1969, 1985	
	10	Guest Book from 15 th Anniversary, January 11, 1976	
	11	Listing of Ushers, 1995-1998, and Usher Duties, no date	
	12	Bulletin, October 11, 1981	
	13	Christian Marriage Enrichment Retreat, September 20-22, 1974	
	14	Ministry Retreat, June 1, 1996	
	15	Theology of Stewardship, May, 1994, no date	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	6
4	16	Mission Opportunities, (2000-2002)	
	17	Heifer Project International, (1991-2001)	
	18	Easter Service Photo in Rockford Register Star, Monday, April 9, 1985	
	19	Proposal, Church Building Construction Protestant Christian, Church in Bali, "Bethlehem" Untal-Untal Congregation, April, 1999	
	20	Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ, 1999, 2000	
	21	Press Clippings, 1973, 1983, 1984, no date	
	22	Tower Hill Retreat Pictures, 1984	
	23	Vacation Bible School Scrap Book, 1993	
	24	Noah's Ark Money and Supplies Collection Scrap Book Page, 2000, and Support for Mountain Top Mission in Haiti Student Sponsors' Photos, no date	
5		Scrapbooks: 1963-1972 1967 1968 1970-1971 1973-1977 1977-1978	
6		Scrapbooks: 1978-1980 1979 1981 1995-1999 2000-2002	
7		Scrapbooks: 1960-1962 1980-1989	
Oversize	1 Volume	Scrapbook, 1969	
Oversize Drawer 21	1	Guest Book, 1961-1967	
	2	Vacation Bible School Scrapbook Pages, 2001	
	3-4	Rockford Urban Ministries Trifold Displays of Miscellaneous Photos, 1998-2006	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	7
Oversize			
Drawer 22	1	Site Plans and Topographical Maps, 1961 (7)	
	2	A. Rayner Eastman Revised Scheme #3, January 8, 1962 (1), Education Building Addition, March 24, 1965 (1), Plat of Survey, Duane F. Lillie, Civil Engineer and Surveyor, March 30, 1967 (1), Fellowship Hall Addition Blueprints, Odling Construction and Arnold Lundgren, Plat of Survey, 1987 (6), Saavedra Gehlhausen Architects Site Plans and Floor Plans 1 and 2, November 22, 2003 (4) Saavedra and Gehlhausen Demolition Plan, 2005 (3) Floor Plan #1 Blueprint, no date (1) Floor Plan #2 Blueprint, no date (1)	
	3	A. Reyner Eastman Original Plans, Complete, May 23, 1962 (16)	
	4	Floor Plans and Mechanical, May 23, 1962 (4) Fellowship Hall (a.k.a. Fireside Room) Addition, Building Plans, 1986-1987 (5)	
	5	A. Reyner Eastman Architects Complete Set, 1962 (16)	
	6	Original Building Plan Blueprints, c. 1962 (13), Addition, 1965 (5)	
	7	Educational Building Addition, March 24, 1965 (5)	
	8	Education Wind Addition, 1965 (5)	
	9	Patio Court Construction, Preliminary Concept, September 8, 1976 (7)	
	10	Fellowship Hall (a.k.a. Fireside Room) Addition, 1985-1987, Sign, 1985 (1), Building Plans (2), Foundation Plans, 1987 (5)	
	11	Fellowship Addition Second Floor, May 11, 1987 (11)	
	12	Saavedra Gehlhausen Architects, 2005, Parking Lot and Grounds (2), Demolition Plan (2)	
	13	Saavedra Gehlhausen Architects Addition to and Remodeling of Spring Creek United Church of Christ, March 15, 2005 (35)	

ADDENDUM

8	1	List of Pastors, 1960-2007
	2	Thanksgiving, 1962-1964 (11 photographs)
	3	Member List, 1964
	4	Nielsen's Resignation Letter, 1964
	5	Educational Wing Opening, 1965
	6	Constitution, 1967, no date

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
8	7	Church History, 1970
	8	Certificate of Appreciation, 1984-1986
	9	Newspapers, (1984-1987) no date
	10	Book of Prayers, Spring 2003
	11	History Digitization Record, 2006
	12	Christmas Cards and Letters, 2006
	13	Pastor Simmon's Sabbatical Journal, 2008
	14	Newsletters, May 2010-June 2011
	15	50 th Anniversary Event Guide, 2011
	16	50 th Anniversary Program Booklet, 2011
	17	Bulletins, (2011)
		Photographs and Visual Materials:
9	1	Pastor Photographs, 1960-1979
	2	Choirs, 1960's
	3	Congregation Members, 1960's
	4	New Building, 1962
	5	Children's Choir, 1965, no date
	6	Educational Wing Groundbreaking, 1965
	7	Church Groups and Christmas, 1966
	8	Unidentified Photographs, 1970's
	9	Day Camp, 1978
	10	Chili Shindig, 1987
	11	Exercise Group, 1995
	12	Exercise Group, 1999
	13	Staff Photographs, 2001
	14	Women's Banquet, 2001
	15	Grounds, 2002
	16	Confirmation, 2002
	17	Sunday School Adult Education, 2002
	18	Bug Safari, 2002
	19	Building and Grounds Log Jam, 2002
	20	Paint-A-Thon, 2002
	21	Christmas, 2002
	22	Soup Kitchen Crew, 2002
	23	Blessing of Bears, 2003
	24	Scenic 150 Bike Tour, 2003
	25	Smith (Fred) Farewell, 2003
	26	Thanksgiving, 2003
	27	Christmas, 2001, 2003
	28	Bible Study, 2004
	29	Women's Banquet, 2004
	30	Confirmation, 2004

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
9	31	Kids Club, 2004
	32	Scenic 150 Bike Tour, 2004-2005
	33	Paint-A-Thon, 2004
	34	Women's Retreat, 2004
	35	Thanksgiving, 2004
	36	January Retreat, 2005
	37	New Building, 2005
	38	Stover (Viola) Birthday, 2005
	39	Women's Banquet, 2005
	40	Pork Chop Fellowship, 2005
	41	Kids Club, 2005
	42	Summer Exp, 2005
	43	Anniversary, 2005
	44	Rally Day, 2005
	45	Women's Retreat, 2005
	46	Exercise Group, 2005
	47	Unidentified Photographs, 2005
	48	Unidentified Photographs, 2006
	49	Confirmation, 2008
	50	Book Presentation (2 CDs,), 2010-2011
	51	"Michael's Last Service (DVD)," March 25, 2012
	52	Confirmation Class at Emmanuel's Soup Kitchen, no date
	53	Kid's Club, no date
	54	Steeple, no date
	55	Pastor Mike, no date
	56	Identified Photographs, no date, 1994
	57	Unidentified Photographs, no date
10		Thanksgiving Scrapbook, 1961-1962 Scrapbook, 1960-1961
11		Scrapbook, 1963-1965
12	1	Scrapbook, 1985, 1987
	2-3	Scrapbook, 1980-2005
	4	Scrapbook, 2001-2002
	5-6	Scrapbook, 2003-2005
	7-12	Scrapbook, 2006-2011
		<u>ADDENDUM</u>
13	1	Annual Reports, 1991-1994, 2002-2006
	2	Annual Reports, 2007-2013

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	10
13	3	Annual Financial Reports, 1993-1994	
	4	By-Laws, 2009	
	5-6	50th Anniversary Cards Addressed to Future Members, 2011	
		Council Records:	
	7-9	2001-2003	
	10-15	2007-2013	
	16	Bulletins, January-June 2012	
	17	Bulletins, July-December 2012	
	18-25	"Comments", 2006-2013	
	26	Depositions, 1980-1993	
	27	Directory, 2007-2008	
	28	Fathers' Day Mass Booklet, 2013	
	29	CD, Digital Archives SCUCC, 2008-2014	
	30	Celebrating The Installation Of Pastor Ivan Schoen Program, Feb 17, 2013	
	31	Memorial Program Larry H. Bolduc, 2013	
	32	Spring Creek Sampler II, Cookbook, 1981	
	33	Photographs of Old Spring Creek Sign, 2011	
	34	Promotional Materials, 2010-2014	
		<u>ADDENDUM</u>	
	35	UCC History and Program, 1974	
	36	Constitution and By-Laws, May 1984	
	37	Annual Reports, 2014-2015	
	38	Church Meetings and Agendas, 2011-2014	
	39-40	Bulletins, 2013-2017	
14	1	Correspondence, 1982-2014	
	2	Devotionals, Women's Resource Team, 1991-1992	
	3	Financial Records, 1988, 1998	
	4	Funeral and Wedding Ceremonies, 2012-2017	
	5	Clippings, 2012- 2015	
	6	Newsletters, January 2012- June 2015	
	7	Photographs, No Date	
	8	Schermer Pecans Correspondence, 1991-1997	
	9	Story of Pilgrims Event, November 1964	
	10	Women's Christian Fellowship Guild (WCFG) Constitution and By-Laws, 1982-1997	
	11	WCFG Annual Reports, 1982-1997	
	12	WCFG Board Meeting Minutes, 1989-2002	
	13	WCFG Board Members and Officers, 1990-2013	
	14	WCFG Finances, 1994, 2001	
	15	WCFG Programs, 1991-1997	
	16	WCFG Interests and Participation Survey, September 1997	