

Congregational Church Collection, 1848-1986

Overview of the Collection

Title	Congregational Church Collection
Dates	1848-1986 (inclusive) 1848 1986 1880-1920 (bulk) 1880 1920
Quantity	1.5 cubic feet (4 document cases, 1 reel microfilm)
Collection Number	Mss 1018
Summary	Ranging in date from 1848 to 1986, the Congregational Church Collection is an artificial collection of records from Congregational churches and related associations in Oregon. The bulk of the collection consists of printed material from various churches, notably the First Congregational Church of Portland and Oregon City's Atkinson Memorial Church. The collection also includes microfilmed records from the First Congregational Church of The Dalles. A limited amount of correspondence, financial records, meeting minutes, and assorted church records forms the remainder of the collection.
Repository	Oregon Historical Society, Davies Family Research Library Davies Family Research Library Oregon Historical Society 1200 SW Park Avenue Portland, OR 97205 Telephone: 503-306-5240 Fax: 503-219-2040 libreference@ohs.org
Access Restrictions	The collection is open to the public.
Languages	English
Sponsor	Funding for encoding this finding aid was provided through a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Historical Note

Sponsored by the American Board for Foreign Missions, Congregational missionaries arrived in what would become the Oregon Territory during the 1830s. The denomination quickly formed many new churches in the region; Reverend J.S. Griffin established the first Congregational Church near Hillsboro in 1842, and by 1852, churches were established in Oregon City, Milwaukie, Portland, and Salem. In addition to ministering to settlers, the church proved important in the development of the educational system in Oregon; Dr. George Atkinson, the long-time minister of the First Congregational Church in Oregon City, helped establish the public school system and Tualatin Academy (later Pacific University). Oregon's Congregational churches had a combined denomination of over 1,000 by 1880 and grew steadily during the 20th century. The Congregational Church merged with the Evangelical and Reformed Churches to form the United Church of Christ in 1957.

Content Description

The records of the Congregational Church Collection were gathered by the Oregon Historical Society from various sources. Ranging in date from 1848 until 1986, the collection consists of the print output, correspondence, meeting minutes, and financial records of individual churches and Congregational associations and conferences in Oregon. Additionally, the collection contains one reel of microfilmed records from the First Congregational Church in The Dalles that features early meeting minutes, church histories, church programs, correspondence, and other church records. A final series of assorted church records includes the marriage record book of pastor P.S. Knight, church certifications, and handwritten notes.

Printed material produced by individual churches from 1880 until 1920 constitutes the bulk of the collection and includes pamphlets, annual reports, booklets, church programs, sermons, and member directories, among other materials. The First Congregational Church of Portland and the First Congregational Church of Oregon City (later Atkinson Memorial Church) created the majority of this portion of the collection. Other noteworthy items are handwritten meeting minutes of early meetings of Congregational associations and churches and correspondence penned by Dr. George Atkinson, known as "the father of Oregon public schools," regarding Plymouth Congregational Church.

Use of the Collection

Restrictions on Use

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Preferred Citation

The Congregational Church Collection, Mss 1018, Oregon Historical Society Research Library

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Folders containing the records of various Oregon Congregational churches and affiliated associations are arranged alphabetically within six series:

- Series A: Printed materials, 1854-1986
- Series B: Correspondence, 1856-1945
- Series C: Meeting minutes, 1848-1921
- Series D: Financial records, 1879-1901
- Series E: Microfilm, 1867-1961
- Series F: Assorted materials, 1850-1914

Acquisition Information

The collection was assembled by the Oregon Historical Society from a variety of sources.

Related Materials

The majority of First Congregational Church of Portland materials are designated Coll 597, Oregon Historical Society Research Library.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series A: Printed materials, 1854-1986

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
1/1	Atkinson Memorial Church (First Congregational Church, Oregon City) Church bulletins, clippings, pamphlet with building plans, pastoral record for Reverend George Rockwood, programs, souvenir booklet, and speech	1884-1930; undated
1/2	Congregational Association of Oregon--programs	1889-1908
1/3	Congregational Club of Oregon--invitation	1895
1/4	Congregational Conference of Oregon--proceedings, programs, and a report	1910-1900
1/5	Congregational Council--souvenir booklet	1898
1/6	East Willamette Association of Congregational Churches--programs	1898-1912
1/7	First Congregational Church, Albany--church bulletin and programs	1901-1910
1/8	First Congregational Church, Corvallis Annual report, absence letter for members, business card, catalog with member list and clippings, church notice, invitations, letter of dismissal, list of church members, and programs	1886-1889
1/9	First Congregational Church, Eugene--event program	1911

Container(s)	Description	Dates
1/10	First Congregational Church, Forest Grove--newsletter and programs	1898-1934
1/11	First Congregational Church, [Lake] Oswego--constitution and bylaws	1890
Box		
1	First Congregational Church, Portland	1854-1983; undated
Box/Folder		
1/12	Program and ticket	1850-1879
1/13	Assorted printed materials Annual report and directories, church manual, constitution and bylaws, proceedings, program, and published sermon	1880-1889
1/14	Assorted printed materials Church directory and annual report, calendars, invitation, manual, newsletter, pamphlets, pastoral letter, and programs	1890-1900
1/15	Assorted printed materials Annual report and directories, calendar with directory, church membership booklet, event calendars, history of church music, invitation, programs, and bound volume with printed calendars and programs	1900-1905
1/16	Church manual, calendar, directory, invitation, and programs	1906-1909
2/1	Calendar, directory, programs, and quarterly reports	1910-1913
2/2	Budget, newsletters, and programs	1914-1918
2/3	Flyer, manual and directory, membership roll, pamphlet, and programs	1920-1983
2/4	Event calendars, invitation, pamphlets, programs, and published sermon	undated
2/5	First Congregational Church, Salem--church history, programs, and a resolution	1883-1944

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2/6	First Congregational Church, The Dalles--pamphlet with building plans and program [1867?]	1936
2/7	First Congregational Church, Walla Walla--program	1986
2/8	Fort Street Church--pastoral letter	1886
2/9	General Association of Congregational Churches and Ministers--programs	1896-1907
2/10	Hassalo Street Congregational Church--annual report, directories, invitation, and program	1893-1910
2/11	Highland Congregational Church--programs	undated
2/12	Mid-Columbia Association of Congregational Churches--programs	1888-1904
2/13	Mississippi Avenue Congregational Church--collection card	undated
2/14	Oregon State Association of Congregational Churches and Ministers--program	1900
2/15	Pacific Coast Congress of Congregational Churches--essay, flyer, history, and programs	1888-1911
2/16	Pendleton Congregational Church--invitation and information card	1889
2/17	Pilgrim Congregational Church Cast list, invitation, petition, and programs, undated	1909-1937
2/18	Portland Association of Congregational Churches--programs	1897-1915
2/19	Portland Association of Congregational Churches and Ministers--programs	1898-1908
2/20	Riverside Congregational Church--program	1912
2/21	Sunnyside Congregational Church--invitation to event and program	1914; 1932

Container(s)	Description	Dates
2/22	West Willamette Association of Congregational Churches and Ministers--constitution and programs	1897-1910
2/23	Willamette Association of Congregational Ministers and Churches--constitution, essay, and programs	1886-1895
2/24	Willsburg Congregational Church--invitation to event	undated
2/25	Women's Board of the Pacific, 1893-1909--programs	undated
2/26	Unidentified churches, 1869-1919--clippings, flyer, and programs	undated
2/27	Unidentified church organizations--church bulletins	1916

Series B: Correspondence, 1856-1945

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
2/28	Congregational Association of Oregon	1894
2/29	Congregational Conference of Oregon	1945
2/30	Congregational Home Missionary Society	undated
2/31	First Congregational Church, Portland	1856
2/32	Plymouth Congregational Church	1887
2/33	Portland Association of Congregational Churches	1899
2/34	Portland Association of Congregational Churches and Ministers	1897-1898
2/35	Unidentified churches	1887-1901

Series C: Meeting minutes, 1848-1921

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
3/1	Congregational Conference of Oregon	1921
3/2	Congregational Missionary Society of Portland and Vicinity--bound volume; includes handwritten history of Oregon and the Congregational Church	1894
3/3-4	First Congregational Church, Portland--two bound volumes	1851-1888
3/5	Oregon Association of the Congregational and Presbyterian Brethren--bound volume	1848-1857
3/6	Oregon Home Missionary Society	1872
3/7	Pilgrim Congregational Church	1911
4/1	Portland Local Association of Congregational Churches and Ministers--bound volume; includes Constitution	1897-1899

Series D: Financial records, 1879-1901

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
4/2	Congregational Home Missionary Society--cancelled checks	1893-1894
4/3	First Congregational Church, Corvallis--train fare receipt	1885
4/4	General Association of Congregational Churches and Ministers--receipt	1879
4/5	Oregon Home Missionary Society--receipts	1893-1895
4/6	Portland Association of Congregational Churches and Ministers--receipt	1901
4/7	Plymouth Congregational Church--receipts	1894; undated

Series E: Microfilm, 1867-1961

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Reel		
1	First Congregational Church, The Dalles Pastor list, programs, church histories, baptismal covenant, biographies of William Tenney and E.S. Joslyn, essays by William Tenney and E.S. Joslyn, articles of governance, clippings, meeting minutes, leaflets, annual reports, member and officer lists, and correspondence	1867-1961

Series F: Assorted materials, 1850-1914

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box/Folder		
4/8	First Congregational Church, Portland--subscription pledge record and bound volume of church records	1850-1884
4/9	First Congregational Church, Salem--bound volume with marriage records of P.S. Knight	1865-1914
4/10	Oregon State Association of Congregational Churches and Ministers--Congregational College resolutions	undated
4/11	Portland Association of Congregational Churches and Ministers-- certifications	1897-1899
4/12	Tualatin Academy (Pacific University)--handwritten notes	undated
4/13	Unidentified churches--library catalog	undated
4/14	Unidentified church organizations--certification, resolution, and handwritten notes	1896; undated

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Church history--Oregon
 Congregational churches--Education--Oregon
 Congregational churches--Oregon--Biography
 Congregational Church--Oregon
 Congregational Church--Oregon--Portland
 Congregational Church--Oregon--Salem

Congregationalists--Oregon

Personal Names :

Atkinson, G.H. (George Henry), 1819-1889

Himes, George H., 1844-1940

Joslyn, Erastus S.

Knight, Plutarch Stewart

Tenney, William Alfred, 1827-1914

Corporate Names :

Atkinson Memorial Church (Oregon City, Or.)

Congregational Missionary Society of Portland and Vicinity (Or.)

First Congregational Church (Corvallis, Or.)

First Congregational Church (Oregon City, Or.)

First Congregational Church (Salem, Or.)

First Congregational Church (The Dalles, Or.)

First Congregational Church of Portland (Or.)

(creator)

Hassalo Street Congregational Church (Portland, Or.)

Oregon Association of the Congregational and Presbyterian Brethren (Or.)

Oregon Home Missionary Society (Or.)

Pacific Coast Congress of Congregational Churches

Pacific University

Plymouth Congregational Church (Portland, Or.)

Portland Local Association of Congregational Churches and Ministers (Portland, Or.)

Tualatin Academy

Willamette Association of Congregational Ministers and Churches (Or.)

Geographical Names :

Corvallis (Or.)--History

Dalles (Or.)--History

Eugene (Or.)--History

Forest Grove (Or.)--History

Lake Oswego (Or.)--History

Oregon City (Or.)--History

Portland (Or.)--History

Salem (Or.)--History

Form or Genre Terms :

Annual reports

Booklets

Business cards

Church bulletins

Clippings

Constitutions

Financial records

Invitations

Leaflets

Letters (correspondence)

Microfilm

Newsletters

Pamphlets

Proceedings

Programs

Resolutions

Sermons
Speeches

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