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Berkeley, CA. Grace North Church records, 1891-2016. RG5473

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English

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Congregational Library & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	North Congregational Church (Berkeley, Calif.)
Creator:	Congregational Church of North Berkeley (Berkeley, Calif.)
Creator:	Grace North Church (Berkeley, Calif.)
Title:	Berkeley, CA. Grace North Church records, 1891-2016.
ID:	RG5473
Date [inclusive]:	1891-2016
Physical Description:	5.31 Cubic Feet (7 boxes)
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The North Grace Church's origins began at a meeting on June 28, 1892 with twenty-four "charter members." The newly formed church, then called the Congregational Church of North Berkeley, was led by Rev. David F. Taylor. The church closed as North Congregational Church in 1992. The church returned in 1995 as Grace North Church and remained open until 2023. This collection contains various records from across Grace North Church and includes topics like vital statistics, church reports and meeting minutes, auxiliary organizations, finances, histories and publications, and church buildings.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Berkeley, CA. Grace North Church records, 1891-2016, RG5473. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Note

The North Grace Church's origins began at a meeting on June 28, 1892, moderated by Rev. J.K. McLean and Rev. E.F. Dinsmore as the scribe. At this meeting, articles of faith and a

covenant were accepted by twenty-six members. Two people would drop shortly after, leaving the new church with twenty-four "charter members." The newly formed church, then called the Congregational Church of North Berkeley, was led by Rev. David F. Taylor. A new church building was dedicated on May 21, 1893, at the southwest corner of Cedar and Oxford Streets.

The Church was officially incorporated in California on September 25, 1895. The church's membership was around 147 members in 1904, twelve years after being formed. The following year, the church building was moved to the rear of the lot and elevated to house Sunday School rooms, pastor's study, and parlor. Out of this Sunday School grew the Chinese branch of North Church which would go on to become Berkeley Chinese Church in 1914.

The now-called North Church steadily moved through the Depression and into the 1940s. On September 7, 1944, the church building was destroyed in a fire. The congregation met at various other locations for a couple of years until a new building was completed on January 16, 1949. Much of the process was led by Rev. Eugene Haynes alongside numerous other members of the community.

In 1960, the North Congregational Church decided to join the United Church of Christ. This membership would last until 1968, when the church joined the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. The church progressed through the 1970s, closing their Sunday School in 1975 due to low attendance. The church's overall membership declined through the 1980s, though benevolent giving continued to be strong. Continued decline in membership led to the church agreeing to close its doors in 1992, giving the land over to the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches.

The closure in 1992 was not the end of the story and in 1995 fourteen former members of the North Congregational Church asked the Grace Institute to join and form a new church which would eventually be called Grace North Church. The Institute was filled with former members of the North Congregational Church and worshipped in the same building. Thus, the legacy of North Congregational Church was taken on by the Grace North Church. They rejoined the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches in June of 1995. This Grace North Church continued to serve the community until it officially closed in 2023.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains various records from across Grace North Church and includes topics like vital statistics, church reports and meeting minutes, auxiliary organizations, finances, histories and publications, and church buildings.

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Arrangement

This collection has been arranged into five series from the Grace North Church. The Church Reports and Meeting Minutes series and the Auxiliary Organizations series have been further divided into subseries. All of the series and subseries have been arranged into chronological order.

Series 1: Vital Statistics, 1891-2016

Series 2: Church Reports and Meeting Minutes, 1892-2010

Sub-series 1: Meeting Minutes, 1892-2010

Sub-series 2: Reports, 1914-2005

Series 3: Auxiliary Organizations, 1899-1955, 1989-1996

Sub-series 1: Ladies' Aid Society, 1899-1924

Sub-series 2: Bay Association, 1921-1955

Sub-series 3: Grace Institute of Religious Learning, 1989-1996

Series 4: Finances, 1937-1973

Series 5: Histories and Publications, 1942-1959, 1990-1998

Series 6: Building and Architecture, 1948-1966, 1995-2010

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Restrictions on Access

Access to this collection is unrestricted and open to the public.

Restrictions on Use

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.

Acquisition Information

Materials were donated to the Congregational Library & Archives by Ric Reed, secretary of North Grace Church in August 2023; 2023-38.

Processing Information

Collection was processed in January 2024 by Billy McCarthy using DACS Second Edition.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Guest books.
- Women -- Societies and clubs.
- Church records and registers.
- Church finance.
- Church history.
- Church membership.
- Church buildings.
- Christian education.
- Baptismal records.
- Grace North Church (Berkeley, Calif.)
- Congregational Church of North Berkeley (Berkeley, Calif.)
- North Congregational Church (Berkeley, Calif.)
- Berkeley (Calif.) -- Church history.

Bibliography

North Congregational Church: A History of 75 Years. Berkeley: Andlyn Press, 1967.

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Collection Inventory

Vital Statistics, 1891-2016

Physical Description: 19 Items (2 folders, 17 volumes)

Scope and Contents

This series contains the vital statistics from the church and include baptisms, admissions, dismissions, memorials and various guest books.

Title/Description	Instances	
Vital Statistics and Meeting Minutes, 1891-1906	box 1	volume 6
Admissions and Dismissions, 1892-1926	box 7	folder 2
Membership, 1892-1926	box 3	volume 4
Memorial records, 1897, 1948-1971	box 3	folder 7
Vital Statistics and Meeting Minutes, 1907-1914	box 1	volume 7
Vital Statistics and Meeting Minutes, 1915-1926	box 1	volume 8
Vital Statistics and Meeting Minutes, 1927-1945	box 1	volume 9
Guest Book, 1938-1949	box 3	volume 1
Vital Statistics and Meeting Minutes, 1945-1960	box 1	volume 10
Guest Book, 1949-1954	box 1	volume 1
Vital Statistics, 1949-1959	box 3	volume 5
Guest Book, 1954-1960	box 1	volume 2
Vital Statistics and Meeting Minutes, 1960-1968	box 1	volume 11
Guest Book, 1960-1970	box 1	volume 3
Vital Statistics and Meeting Minutes, 1968-1986	box 1	volume 12
Guest Book, 1970-1975	box 1	volume 4
Memorial records, 1971-1991	box 1	volume 5

Guest Book, 2006-2010	box 3	volume 2
Baptismal Register, 2006-2016	box 7	volume 1

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Church Reports and Meeting Minutes, 1892-2010

Physical Description: 38 Items (24 folders, 14 volumes)

Scope and Contents

This series contains church reports, annual reports, and meeting minutes from a variety of different boards and committees.

Meeting Minutes, 1892-2010

Physical Description: 24 Items (11 folders, 13 volumes)

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains meeting minutes from the Board of Trustees, Board of Directors, Mission Society, Advisory Committee, Parish Meetings, and a special meeting on disbanding the North Congregational Church.

Title/Description	Instances	
Board of Trustee minutes, 1892-1895	box 4	folder 1
Board of Directors minutes, 1899-1902	box 2	volume 1
Mission Society records, 1900-1908	box 3	volume 6
Board of Trustees minutes, 1903-1910	box 2	volume 2
Board of Trustees minutes, 1911-1915	box 2	volume 3
Board of Trustees minutes, 1915-1924	box 2	volume 4
Advisory Committee, 1916-1927	box 3	folder 8
Correspondences, 1916-1933	box 7	folder 1
Board of Trustees minutes, 1924-1938	box 2	volume 5
Board of Directors minutes, 1939-1948	box 2	volume 6
Board of Directors minutes, 1949-1956	box 2	volume 7
Board of Directors minutes, 1957-1960	box 2	volume 8
Board of Directors minutes, 1960-1965	box 2	volume 9
Board of Directors minutes, 1966-1968	box 2	volume 10
Board of Directors minutes, 1969-1972	box 2	volume 11
Board of Directors minutes, 1972-1979	box 2	volume 12

Board of Directors minutes, July 1992	box 4	folder 3
Meeting on disbanding North Congregational Church, 1992	box 4	folder 4
Regular meeting minutes, 1997-1999	box 4	folder 5
Regular meeting minutes, 1999	box 4	folder 6
Regular meeting minutes, 2000-2002	box 4	folder 7
Parish meeting minutes, 2006-2010	box 4	folder 8
Quarterly Winter Parish Meeting, January 25, 2009	box 4	folder 9
Trustees meeting minutes, 2009-2010	box 4	folder 10

Reports, 1914-2005

Physical Description: 14 Items (13 folders, 1 volume)

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains church and annual reports, as well as a single report from the 2005 National Association of Congregational Christian Churches meeting held in Kansas City

Title/Description	Instances	
Church reports, 1914-1919	box 7	folder 5
Church reports, 1920-1922	box 7	folder 6
Church reports, 1923-1927	box 7	folder 7
Church reports, 1928-1930	box 7	folder 8
Church reports, 1931-1932	box 7	folder 9
Annual Report, 1944	box 4	folder 2
Annual Report, 1949-1950	box 3	folder 1
Annual Report, 1950-1959	box 3	volume 3
Annual Report, 1960-1964	box 3	folder 2
Annual Report, 1965-1970	box 3	folder 3
Annual Report, 1971-1976	box 3	folder 4
Annual Report, 1977-1983	box 3	folder 5
Annual Report, 1984-1990	box 3	folder 6
Report from Kansas City NACCC meeting, June 26, 2005	box 3	folder 15

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Auxiliary Organizations, 1899-1955, 1989-1996

Physical Description: 7 Items (4 folders, 3 volumes)

Scope and Contents

This series contains records for several auxiliary organizations of the Grace North Church, such as the Ladies' Aid Society, the Bay Association, and the Grace Institute of Religious Learning.

Ladies' Aid Society, 1899-1924

Physical Description: 2 Items (2 volumes)

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains meeting minutes and finances for the Ladies' Aid Society for the Grace North Church.

Title/Description	Instances	
Ladies' Aid Meeting Minutes, 1899-1907	box 3	volume 7
Ladies' Aid Society finances, 1911-1924	box 3	volume 8

Bay Association, 1921-1955

Physical Description: 1 Item (1 volume)

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains meeting minutes for the Bay Association of the Grace North Church.

Title/Description	Instances	
Bay Association meeting minutes, 1921-1955	box 2	volume 13

Grace Institute of Religious Learning, 1989-1996

Physical Description: 4 Items (4 folders)

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains the finances, bylaws, exemption applications, and the records of Rev. Richard Mapplebeckpalmer.

Title/Description	Instances	
Grace Institute of Religious Learning finance reports and budget, 1989-1994	box 4	folder 19
Grace Institute of Religious Learning bylaws, 1991	box 4	folder 20
Grace Institute of Religious Learning exemption application, 1994	box 4	folder 21
Grace Institute of Religious Learning records of Rev. Richard Mapplebeckpalmer, 1996	box 3	folder 16

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Finances, 1937-1973

Physical Description: 5 Items (5 volumes)

Scope and Contents

This series contains financial ledgers from the church.

Title/Description	Instances	
Financial Ledger, 1937-1944	box 6	volume 1
Financial Ledger, 1944-1950	box 6	volume 2
Financial Ledger, 1950-1956	box 6	volume 3
Financial Ledger, 1967-1971	box 5	volume 2
Financial Ledger, 1972-1973	box 5	volume 3

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Histories and Publications, 1942-1959, 1990-1998

Physical Description: 9 Items (8 folders, 1 volumes)

Scope and Contents

This series contains various histories and publications from the Grace North Church and includes a scrapbook and three volumes of the North Star.

Title/Description	Instances	
Scrapbook, 1942-1949	box 5	volume 1
North Star Volume 8, 1956	box 3	folder 12
North Star Volume 9, 1957	box 3	folder 13
North Star Volume 11, 1959	box 3	folder 14
History of Grace North Church with Exhibits, 1990-1998	box 4	folder 15
Formation of North Grace Church, 1992-1996	box 3	folder 17
Celebrating the Centenary, 1992	box 4	folder 16
Last 25 Years of the North Congregational Church, 1992	box 4	folder 17
Brief histories of the church, undated	box 4	folder 18

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Building and Architecture, 1948-1966, 1995-2010

Physical Description: 9 Items (9 folders)

Scope and Contents

This series contains records related to the various building and architecture of the Grace North Church, including information on church sales, lease agreements, landmark status, and building loans.

Title/Description	Instances	
Congregational Church Building Society loans, 1948-1966	box 7	folder 3
Correspondence on Returning Title to North Grace Church, 1995	box 4	folder 11
Lease Agreements with National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, 1995-2001	box 4	folder 12
Application for Landmark Status, December 6, 1998	box 4	folder 13
Landmark Status Application, 1998	box 4	folder 14
Sale of Church Building (1 of 4), 2009-2010	box 3	folder 9
Sale of Church Building (2 of 4), 2009-2010	box 3	folder 10
Sale of Church Building (3 of 4), 2009-2010	box 3	folder 11
Sale of Church Building (4 of 4), 2009-2010	box 7	folder 4

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