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Brighton, Boston, Mass. Faneuil Congregational Church records, 1884-1984. RG0025

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Congregational Library & Archives

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Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Historical Note	4
Scope and Contents	5
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	6
Controlled Access Headings	7
Collection Inventory	7
History of Faneuil congregational church	7
Organization records	8
Women's association	8
Missionary auxiliary group	9
Pilgrim league	9
Faneuil men's club	9
Administrative records	9
Member records	10
Financial records	11

Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Faneuil Congregational Church (Brighton, Boston, Mass.)
Creator:	Meckel, Aaron N. (Aaron Nathaniel), 1904-
Title:	Brighton, Boston, Mass. Faneuil Congregational Church records, 1884-1984.
ID:	RG0025
Date [inclusive]:	1884-1984
Physical Description:	2.99 Cubic Feet (2 cartons, 2 boxes)
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Faneuil Congregational Church was organized in the Brighton area of Boston, MA from 1903 to 1976. It grew out of the Faneuil Sunday School and built its own church building in 1913. The church closed in 1975 and was officially dissolved in 1976 due to the lack of membership. The collection contains records about the administration and history of Faneuil church and some of the organizations within it. The collection includes correspondence, meeting minutes, constitution and bylaws, annual reports, church registers, membership lists, baptismal records, account ledgers, treasurer's reports, service programs, materials relating to the 50th anniversary of the church, sermons (1937) of minister Aaron N. Meckel, photographs, newspaper clippings, a gavel and publications from or about the church.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Brighton, Boston, Mass. Faneuil Congregational Church records, 1884-1984, RG0025. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Historical Note

The Faneuil Congregational Church was located in the Brighton area of Boston, Mass and existed from 1903 to 1976. The church grew from the Faneuil Sunday School which began in 1877 to serve the children of the Faneuil area so that they did not have to travel to Brighton Congregational Church. The Sunday school began classes at the home of James W. Harvey on Newton Street before moving to a rented room in a store on Brooks Street. In 1900, Faneuil Chapel was built for the school and was dedicated in November of that year. The school continued to operate out of the chapel until 1914 when the new church building was completed, and the chapel was sold to the City of Boston to be used as a public library. In 1941, Faneuil Church repurchased the chapel and moved the school back to that location until the school's closure in 1972 due to a lack of students.

In 1903, the community of Faneuil came together to create their own church separate from Brighton Congregational Church and incorporated the Faneuil Congregational Church of Boston in January 1903. The first service of the church was held at Faneuil Chapel on February 4, 1903. In May 1903, the first permanent pastor, Rev. Andrew H. Mulnix, began serving the church and remained pastor until his resignation in December 1935. In January 1911, the mortgage for the Faneuil Chapel was paid and a service was held to commemorate the burning of the mortgage. The church began plans for a new building after 1911 and construction was completed in December 1913. The mortgage for the new building was paid and burned in January 1924. The church bought and installed a new organ in October 1925 and a new chancel window in November 1930.

The church celebrated its 25th anniversary in February 1928. In 1935, Rev. Mulnix resigned and was replaced in May 1936 by Rev. Aaron N. Meckel who served the church until March 1941. In 1953, Faneuil Church celebrated its 50th anniversary with a special service and other events. In 1969, Rev. Harry W. Mason Jr began serving the church and remained as pastor until its closure. In the 1970s as the membership and budget declined, the church began plans to close. The last service was held on June 29, 1975 and the final annual meeting for the dissolution of Faneuil Congregational Church corporation was held in January 1976 at Brighton Center Church where many members had moved. The materials owned by the church were returned to the original donor, given to the Brighton Historical Society, thrown away, or entrusted to the United Church of Christ. The church building was sold to the Central New England District of the United Pentecostal Church in 1975, while the parish house had been sold previously to Edward P. Long in 1963. Any remaining funds were separated among various charities or given to the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC.

The Faneuil church was home to multiple organizations throughout its lifetime. The Women's Association began in November 1901 and remained heavily involved in the church operation until its dissolution in 1976. The Pilgrim League began in 1924 for the business women and young mothers of the church and merged with the Women's Association in 1932. The Men's club began in or before 1926 and existed until 1975 when the church closed.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

The collection contains records for the Faneuil Congregational Church for its entire lifetime of 1903-1976, with some earlier records from the Faneuil Sunday School and some later financial records. The collection includes volumes of meeting minutes, treasurer's account books, receipt ledger books, and church registers. It also includes folders of correspondence, annual reports, treasury reports, meeting minutes, service programs, publications, member lists, baptismal records, bylaws and constitutions, legal precedings, financial records, newspaper clippings, member dismissal forms, photographs, minister sermons, and histories. The collection also includes a film reel of the church's 50th anniversary, a gavel, and a box of member contact cards. The records are from or about the church itself, its members, or the organizations within it.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in five series, one of which has four sub-series. The series and the records within them are arranged chronologically by start date.

Series 1: History of Faneuil congregational church, 1884-1969

Series 2: Organization records, 1901-1975

Subseries 1: Women's association, 1901-1975

Subseries 2: Missionary auxiliary group, 1914-1932

Subseries 3: Pilgrim league, 1924-1932

Subseries 4: Faneuil men's club, 1927-1975

Series 3: Administrative records, 1903-1975

Series 4: Member records, 1903-1976

Series 5: Financial records, 1934-1984

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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

Originally deposited 24 October 1975 with the Congregational Christian Historical Society, Boston, Mass. by Roy B. Stewart, clerk, and Rev. Harry W. Mason Jr, on behalf of the church. Converted to Gift 3 December 1985 by Metropolitan Boston Association of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Processing Information

Originally processed 1990. Reprocessed by Madison Bellew, 2023 using DACS.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Baptismal records.
- Church anniversaries.
- Church closures
- Church finance.
- Church management.
- Church membership.
- Church records and registers.
- Women -- Societies and clubs.
- Faneuil Congregational Church (Brighton, Boston, Mass.)
- Brighton (Boston, Mass.) -- Church history.

Collection Inventory

History of Faneuil congregational church, 1884-1969

Physical Description: 6 Folders

Physical Description: 1 Reels

Physical Description: 1 Object

Scope and Contents

This series contains records relating to the history of Faneuil Congregational Church from the start of the Faneuil Sunday School to the close of the church. It includes photographs, correspondence, publications, service programs, sermons, newspaper clippings, member lists, reports, a film reel for the church's 50th anniversary, and a gavel.

Title/Description	Instances	
Photographs, circa 1880-1953	box 2	folder 9
Programs, publications, and mailings, 1884-1960	box 1	folder 12
Records of 50th anniversary, 1900-1954	box 2	folder 10
Gavel, 1903	box 1	Item 1
Newspaper clippings, 1913-1951	box 2	folder 11
Correspondence on changing pastors, 1935-1969	box 1	folder 13
Aaron N. Meckel's sermons, 1937-1939	box 2	folder 12
Film of 50th anniversary, 1953	box 1	reel 1

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Organization records, 1901-1975

Physical Description: 9 Volumes

Physical Description: 5 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains records from or about various organizations within Faneuil Congregational Church including the Women's Association, the Pilgrim League, the Men's Club, and the Missionary Auxiliary Group. The majority of the records are for the Women's Association. The series includes nine volumes of treasurer's account books and meeting minutes; and five folders of annual reports, meeting minutes, member lists, bylaws, and correspondence for the organizations.

Women's association, 1901-1975

Physical Description: 7 Volumes

Physical Description: 3 Folders

Scope and Contents

This sub-series contains records for the Women's Association of Faneuil Congregational Church. It includes seven volumes of treasurer's account books and meeting minutes; and three folders of meeting minutes, annual reports, and bylaws for the association.

Title/Description	Instances	
Treasurer's account book, 1901-1908	box 1	volume 3
Record book, 1901-1909	box 1	volume 4
<u>Related Materials:</u> Related Materials		
Loose papers were removed and placed in the folder labeled Papers from record book, 1901-1909, 1901.		
Papers from record book, 1901-1909, 1901	box 1	folder 10
<u>Related Materials:</u> Related Materials		
The papers were removed from the volume labeled Record book, 1901-1909.		
Annual reports, 1901-1953	box 2	folder 6
Treasurer's account book, 1908-1913	box 1	volume 5
Treasurer's account book, 1914-1940	box 1	volume 6
Meeting minutes, 1922-1938	box 2	volume 5
Meeting minutes, 1938-1950	box 2	volume 6

Meeting minutes, 1949-1962	box 2	volume 7
Meeting minutes, 1963-1975	box 1	folder 11

Missionary auxiliary group, 1914-1932

Physical Description: 1 Volume

Scope and Contents

This series contains records for the Missionary Auxiliary Group at Faneuil Congregational Church. It includes one volume of a treasurer's account book.

Title/Description	Instances	
Treasurer's book, 1914-1932	box 1	volume 8

Pilgrim league, 1924-1932

Physical Description: 1 Volume

Physical Description: 1 Folder

Scope and Contents

This series contains records for the Pilgrim League at Faneuil Congregational Church. It includes one volume of meeting minutes and bylaws; and one folder of annual reports for the organization. The Pilgrim League merged into the Women's Association of Faneuil Congregational Church in 1932.

Title/Description	Instances	
Record book, 1924-1925	box 1	volume 7
Annual reports, 1924-1932	box 2	folder 7

Faneuil men's club, 1927-1975

Physical Description: 1 Folder

Scope and Contents

This sub-series contains records for the Men's Club of Faneuil Congregational Church. It includes one folder of meeting minutes, member lists, correspondence, and bylaws for the organization.

Title/Description	Instances	
Men's club records, 1927-1975	box 2	folder 8

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative records, 1903-1975

Physical Description: 4 Volumes

Physical Description: 4 Folders

Scope and Contents

The administrative records were created throughout the lifetime of Faneuil church from 1903-1975. The records include four volumes of meeting minutes with some related papers inserted, and four folders with annual reports, correspondence, meeting minutes, publications, and church laws all relating to the running and administration of Faneuil Church.

Title/Description	Instances	
Record book no 1, 1903-1914	box 2	volume 1
Laws of government, 1907-1967	box 2	folder 1
Record book no 2, 1914-1931	box 2	volume 2
Record book no 3, 1931-1935	box 2	volume 3
Record book no 4, 1935-1949	box 2	volume 4
Annual reports, 1941-1975	box 1	folder 4
Distribution and sale of church property, 1972-1975	box 2	folder 2
Records for dissolution of Faneuil church, 1974-1975	box 1	folder 5

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Member records, 1903-1976

Physical Description: 2 Volumes

Physical Description: 6 Folders

Physical Description: 1 Box

Scope and Contents

This series includes vital statistics for the members of Faneuil Congregational Church. It includes two volumes of church registers; three folders of correspondence, mailing lists, officer lists, member lists, and letters of dismissal forms; three folders of information cards for members and baptisms; and one box of member contact cards.

Title/Description	Instances	
Member card list, undated	box 4	
Church register, 1903-1976	box 1	volume 1
Membership files, 1909-1976	box 1	folder 3
Church register, 1914-1976	box 1	volume 2
Member lists, 1935-1939	box 2	folder 5
Baptismal records, M-Z, 1937-1976	box 1	folder 2
Baptismal records, A-L, 1937-1976	box 1	folder 1
Letters of dismissal, 1957-1976	box 1	folder 8

Mailing lists, 1975

box 1

folder 9

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Financial records, 1934-1984

Physical Description: 4 FoldersPhysical Description: 3 Volumes

Scope and Contents

The series contains financial records for Faneuil Church from 1934 to 1984. It includes three volumes of receipt or account ledgers for the church, and four folders with correspondence, treasurer's reports, legal precedings, and newspaper clippings. Due to delays in court relating to an estate that included a bequest to Faneuil Congregational Church, the financial records continue past the closure of the church.

Title/Description	Instances	
Receipt and disbursement ledger, 1934-1969	box 3	volume 1
Account ledger, 1948-1964	box 3	volume 2
Bequests to Faneuil Congregational Church, 1948-1984	box 2	folder 3
Treasurer's reports, 1950-1976	box 2	folder 4
Correspondence for parish house mortgage, 1963-1968	box 1	folder 6
Account ledger, 1965-1975	box 3	volume 3
Land damage claim, 1968	box 1	folder 7

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)