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Pueblo, Colo. Christ Congregational Church records, 1955-2023. RG5485

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on May 13, 2024.
Description is written in: English.
DACS 2019.0.3

Congregational Library & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Christ Congregational Church (Pueblo, Colo.)
Title:	Pueblo, Colo. Christ Congregational Church records, 1955-2023.
ID:	RG5485
Date [inclusive]:	1955-2023
Physical Description:	4.06 Cubic Feet (5 boxes)
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	<p>In 1955, Rev. Hoy of the First Congregational Church in Pueblo suggested that the residents of the developing Belmont neighborhood should consider establishing a "liberal" protestant church. The Christ Congregational Church was formally incorporated on February 11, 1957. The church building was designed by Elizabeth Wright Ingraham and Gordon Ingraham and construction was completed on the building in August, 1957. The church's membership rose significantly during the 1960s and dropped during the 1970s. During the 1980s, Pueblo's first female minister, Rev. Karen Sorensen, was installed as pastor of the church. During the 1990s, the church adopted the Open and Affirming designation. The membership declined during the 2000s and eventually dissolved in 2023. This collection contains records related to the administration and community of the church and includes meeting minutes, annual reports, financial and building records, membership records, and newsletters.</p>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Pueblo, Colo. Christ Congregational Church records, 1955-2023, RG5485. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Note

During the 1950s, Pueblo, Colorado, saw a massive 43% increase in its population. In 1955, in the midst of the population boom, Rev. Hoy of the First Congregational Church in Pueblo suggested that the residents of the developing Belmont neighborhood should consider establishing a "liberal" protestant church. In 1956, Rev. William Shafer was called to eventually lead this church. The first church service, held in the basement of the parsonage, the first building constructed for the church, on September 16, 1956. The church was formally incorporated on February 11, 1957 as the Christ Congregational Church.

The church building was designed by Elizabeth Wright Ingraham, the granddaughter of Frank Lloyd Wright, and her husband, Gordon Ingraham. The original design called for a triangular building with three distinct wings, though only the first wing was ever constructed. Construction of the building was completed in August, 1958. The first worship, and dedicatory service, was held in the newly constructed church building on September 14, 1958.

The church's membership rose significantly during the 1960s, to a height of 600 members in 1963. The church community was very active at the time, with three youth groups, a Boy Scouts troop, a couple's club, and the Women's Fellowship. The 1970s saw a downturn in membership. During the 1980s, Pueblo's first female minister, Rev. Karen Sorensen, was installed as pastor of the church. While some members left over the decision to install Sorensen, the church overall saw growth during her ministry. The early 1990s saw a similar situation with the church's eventual decision to adopt the UCC's Open and Affirming designation; while some members left over the decision, other came to join the church owing to its liberal designation.

The late 1990s and 2000s saw the church's membership shrink significantly again, owing in part to changes in Belmont's demographics and controversies that arose around Rev. Sorensen that precipitated her eventual departure from the church. The church continued to serve the Pueblo community as a liberal protestant church until 2023 when the church voted to dissolve.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains the administrative records of the Christ Congregational Church in Pueblo, Colorado, as well as records documenting the church community. The collection includes meeting minutes, annual reports, baptismal records, membership records and directories, financial records, building records and blueprints, photographs, records of events, and newsletters.

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Arrangement

This collection has been arranged into the three series, and three subseries, listed below. Within each series and subseries, materials have been arranged in chronological order and topic, when appropriate.

Series 1: Church records, 1956-2023

Series 2: Financial and building records, 1955-2023

Series 3: Community records, 1956-2022

Subseries 1: Photographic materials, 1956-2014

Subseries 2: Membership records, 1957-2020

Subseries 3: Events and programs, 1957-2022

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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 the Christ Congregational Church in October 2023; 2023-51.

Processing Information

Processed by Zachary Bodnar, May 2024, using Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Baptismal records.
- Church buildings.
- Church finance.
- Church membership.
- Church newsletters.
- Church records and registers.
- Photograph albums.
- Christ Congregational Church (Pueblo, Colo.)

Technical Requirements

A computer with a disk drive is required to directly view digital contents found on compact disks.

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Collection Inventory

Church records, 1956-2023

Physical Description: 46 Folders

Physical Description: 1 Volume

Scope and Contents

This series contains records related to the administrative history of the Christ Congregational Church in Pueblo, Colorado. This series includes church council meeting minutes, annual reports, committee minutes and reports, church histories, letters and communications, and records related to the closure of the church.

Title/Description	Instances	
Miscellaneous communications, 1956-1998	box 1	folder 1
Church register, 1957-1969	box 1	volume 1
<u>Separated Materials:</u>		
Separated Materials		
Some loose materials were removed from this register and placed in the folder titled "Membership updates, 1969-1970" for the purposes of preservation.		
Church history, 1957-1980	box 1	folder 44
Board of trustees minutes, 1957-1960	box 1	folder 3
Board of trustees minutes, 1980-1983	box 1	folder 4
Annual reports, 1958-1970	box 1	folder 5
Annual reports, 1971-1986	box 1	folder 6
Annual reports, 1987-2021	box 1	folder 7
Stewardship committee records, 1960-1982	box 1	folder 8
UCC yearbook reports, 1960-1983	box 1	folder 9
Church histories, 1964-1979, 2001, undated	box 1	folder 45
Constitutions and bylaws, circa 1964-2006	box 1	folder 10
Diaconate records, 1965-2009	box 1	folder 11
Meetings and reports, 1965-1974	box 1	folder 12
Historian's files, 1966-2014	box 3	folder 1
Search committee records, 1981-1992	box 1	folder 13
Church policies, 1994	box 1	folder 14

Minutes and reports, 2000	box 1	folder 15
Minutes and reports, 2001	box 1	folder 16
Minutes and reports, 2002	box 1	folder 17
Minutes and reports, 2003	box 1	folder 18
Minutes and reports, 2004	box 1	folder 19
Minutes and reports, 2005	box 1	folder 20
Minutes and reports, 2006	box 1	folder 21
Minutes and reports, 2007	box 1	folder 22
Minutes and reports, 2008	box 1	folder 23
Minutes and reports, 2009	box 1	folder 24
Minutes and reports, 2010	box 1	folder 25
Minutes and reports, 2011	box 1	folder 26
Minutes and reports, 2012	box 1	folder 27
Minutes and reports, 2013	box 1	folder 28
Minutes and reports, 2014	box 1	folder 29
Minutes and reports, 2015	box 1	folder 30
Minutes and reports, 2016	box 1	folder 31
Minutes and reports, 2018	box 1	folder 32
Minutes and reports, 2019	box 1	folder 33
Minutes and reports, 2020	box 1	folder 34
Minutes and reports, 2021	box 1	folder 35
Miscellaneous communications, 2004-2014	box 1	folder 2
Shared ministry committee minutes, 2010-2014	box 1	folder 36
Councils, boards, and committees list, 2011	box 1	folder 37
Worship council records, 2015	box 1	folder 38
Communications committee records, 2015-2016	box 1	folder 39
Criminal incidents, 2015-2017	box 1	folder 40
Church dissolution and disbursement, 2023	box 1	folder 41
Superintendent duties list, undated	box 1	folder 42
Church goals, undated	box 1	folder 43

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Financial and building records, 1955-2023

Physical Description: 22 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains records related to the finances and property of the Christ Congregational Church in Pueblo, Colorado. This series includes financial records, legal property documents, records related to memorials, records related to the sale of property, blueprints and records related to construction and renovations, and capital campaign records.

Title/Description	Instances	
Deeds and ordinances (copies), 1955-1965	box 3	folder 2
Acquisition of property documents, 1955-1965	box 3	folder 3
Building plans and specifications, 1957-1958, 1992	box 3	folder 4
Church building insurance correspondence, 1957-1959	box 1	folder 46
Legal records (some copies), 1957-2007	box 1	folder 47
Pew construction, 1967	box 1	folder 48
Sale of church land, 1967-1980	box 3	folder 5
Building expansion, 1968	box 1	folder 49
Blueprints, plans, drawings, 1973, undated	folder 4	
Mortgage and property valuation records, 1973-1981	box 3	folder 6
Parsonage sale, 1979	box 3	folder 7
Solar shed construction, 1981-1983	box 3	folder 8
Financial reports, 1981-1984	box 1	folder 50
Church maintenance calendars, 1987, undated	box 1	folder 51
Miscellaneous financial records, 1991-2015	box 1	folder 52
Capital campaign planning inquires, 1992-1997	box 2	folder 17
Playground drawings, 1992	box 3	folder 9
Legal property documents, 2004-2009	box 1	folder 53
ADA accessibility project, 2010-2014	box 3	folder 10
Memorial donations, 2012-2013	box 1	folder 54
Church and financial records, 2021-2023	box 1	folder 55
Memorials, undated	box 1	folder 56
Memorial contributions, undated	box 1	folder 57

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Community records, 1956-2022

Physical Description: 54 Folders

Physical Description: 5 Volumes

Physical Description: 3 Compact Disks

Scope and Contents

This series contains records related to the members and community of the Christ Congregational Church in Pueblo, Colorado. This series includes photographs, membership records, such as vital records and member directories, and records related to community events and programs held by the church.

Photographic materials, 1956-2014

Physical Description: 14 Folders

Physical Description: 5 Volumes

Physical Description: 3 Compact Disks

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains photographs, and other types of photographic materials, related to the community and members of the Christ Congregational Church in Pueblo, Colorado.

Title/Description	Instances	
Scrapbook vol 1, 1956-1966, 2003	box 4	volume 2
Scrapbook vol 2, 1958-1982	box 4	volume 3
Scrapbook vol 3, 1973-1983	box 4	volume 4
Scrapbook, 1979-1981	box 4	volume 1
Photographs, 1980, undated	box 2	folder 34
Scrapbook, 1983-1987, 2008-2009	box 4	volume 5
Photograph album (part 1), circa 1980s	box 2	folder 35
Photograph album (part 2), circa 1980s	box 2	folder 36
Photograph album, circa 1985-1990	box 2	folder 37
Photograph album, circa 1990s	box 2	folder 38
Photograph album, circa 1990-1995	box 5	folder 4
Unorganized photographs, 1990-2009, undated	box 5	folder 1
Operation paintbrush photographs, 1998	box 2	folder 39
Construction photographs, 2003	box 2	folder 40
Celebrate! photographs, 2005-2010	box 5	Compact Disk 1
RoMoCo summer camp promo, 2011		

	box 5	Compact Disk 2
Small church conference pictures, 2012	box 5	Compact Disk 3
Event photographs, 2013, undated	box 1	folder 58
Membership collages, 2013, undated	folder 3	
Unorganized photographs, circa 2014, undated	box 5	folder 2
Family photographs and biographies, undated	box 2	folder 41
Madrigal pride images, undated	box 1	folder 59
John Mareucchio image, undated	box 5	folder 3

Membership records, 1957-2020

Physical Description: 12 Folders

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains records related to the membership of the Christ Congregational Church in Pueblo, Colorado. This subseries includes membership lists and directories, baptismal records, transfer letters, surveys and results, and profiles about the church.

Title/Description	Instances	
Baptismal records, 1957-1977	box 2	folder 10
Church profiles, 1961-1981	box 2	folder 11
Membership status, 1965-1970	box 2	folder 12
Membership updates, 1969-1970	box 2	folder 13
<u>Separated Materials:</u>		
Separated Materials		
These materials were removed from the back of the "Church register, 1957-1969" for preservation purposes.		
Member directories, 1971-2006	box 2	folder 14
Transfer letters, 1991-1996, 2023	box 3	folder 14
Membership lists, 2008-2020	box 2	folder 20
Parish profile survey results, 2009	box 2	folder 21
Jeannine Lamb transfer letter, 2010	box 2	folder 22
New member orientation packet, 2017	box 2	folder 28
Church survey, undated	box 2	folder 30
Church brochure, undated	box 2	folder 32

Events and programs, 1957-2022

Physical Description: 28 Folders

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains records related to events, programs, and various happenings held by the community of the Christ Congregational Church in Pueblo, Colorado. The subseries includes programs, planning documents for events, examples of materials disbursed at events, and records related to various projects undertaken by the church community.

Title/Description	Instances	
Newsletters, 1957-1959	box 2	folder 1
Newsletters, 1960-1962	box 2	folder 2
Newsletters, 1963-1964	box 3	folder 11
Newsletters, 1965-1968	box 3	folder 12
Newsletters, 1969-1977	box 3	folder 13
Newsletters, 1978-1984	box 2	folder 3
Newsletters, 1985-1989	box 2	folder 4
Undated newsletters, circa 1986-1992	box 2	folder 5
Newletters, 1990-1993	box 2	folder 6
Newletters, 1994-2000	box 2	folder 7
Newletters, 2001-2005	box 2	folder 8
Newsletters, 2006-2010	box 2	folder 9
Chrismon ornaments explainer, 1975	box 2	folder 15
Certificates, 1988, 2021-2022	box 2	folder 16
Clippings, 1991-2015	box 3	folder 16
Open and affirming clippings, 1996, 2001	box 3	folder 17
50th anniversary card, 2006	box 2	folder 18
Peppersauce Bottoms project, 2006-2007	box 3	folder 15
Bible study materials, 2007-2014	box 2	folder 19
Empowering the Small Church conference communications, 2011-2012	box 2	folder 23
Empowering the Small Church conference planning, 2012	box 2	folder 24
Empower the Small Church conference materials, 2012	box 2	folder 25
Madrigal dinner, 2013	box 2	folder 26
Non-event fundraiser, 2015	box 2	folder 27

Transgender day of remembrance program, 2017	box 2	folder 29
Christmas family worship, undated	box 2	folder 31
Pastoral column drafts, undated	box 2	folder 33
Brochure printing files, undated	box 3	folder 18

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