

Somerville, MA

Broadway Winter Hill Congregational Church

Records, ca. 1864-2004

RG 4674

7 linear feet

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History of the Church

The Broadway Winter Hill Congregational Church started off in 1864 with the name Winter Hill Orthodox Congregational Church. Founding leaders in the church included Rev. E. Porter Dyer, Samuel F. Rugg, Samuel Oakman, Benjamin W. Eldridge, Joseph P. Williams, and John W. Atwood. The records note 26 “constituting members.”

The Reverend William H. Pierson, pastor from 1872-1881, was greatly influenced by a Unitarian beliefs. In early 1881, these beliefs triggered a schism in the congregation. There were a number of pastors that lead the newly formed Broadway Congregational Church, while Charles L. Noyes guided the (original) Winter Hill Congregational Church/Society. In 1918, the two churches reunited under the Rev. Noyes, who remained pastor until 1922. The church has remained like thusly unified ever since.

Name Changes

1863-1866 Winter Hill Orthodox Congregational Church

1866-1881 Broadway Orthodox Congregational Church of Winter Hill

1881-1918 Schism

1883-1918 Broadway Orthodox Congregational Church of Winter Hill became Winter Hill Congregational Church

1883-1918 Broadway Church became Broadway Congregational Church

1918-2004 Broadway Winter Hill Congregational Church

Pastors

1863-1866 E. Porter Dyer, Acting Pastor

1866-1868 E.P. Marvin, Acting Pastor

1868-1870 Samuel H. Virgin, first Pastor

1871 no pastor

1872-1881 William H. Pierson

Broadway Congregational Church Pastors During Schism

1881 A.H. Quint, Acting Pastor

1884-1889 Lewis V. Price

1889-1891 Charles E. Andrews

1891-1893 Joseph F. Loverling, Supply Pastor

1894-1905 Horace H. Leavitt

1905-1912 Robert W. Beers

1912-1918 George L. Parker

Winter Hill Congregational Church Pastor During Schism

1882-1918 Charles L. Noyes

Broadway Winter Hill Church Pastors

1918-1922 Charles L. Noyes

1922-1925 Albert Buckner Coe

1925-1936 Klein K. Haddaway

1937-1973 William T. Howe

1973-1989 Jacob Merrill

1990 J.J. Gunther III, Interim Pastor

1991-2000 L.J. Knight, Pastor

2001 J.J. Gunther III, Associate Pastor

2001-2004 Russell Kent, Pastor

Scope and Content Note

The Rev. Russell Kent contacted the Congregational Library in 2002; he was concerned about the church's older records and he wanted to make sure that nothing was lost or destroyed accidentally. The church kept its active records until it closed in 2004. The types of materials within the collection include church meetings, membership records, pastor's records and reports, financial and building records, clubs, societies, Sunday school, and historical records.

The church's records: annual meetings and such, are steady until 1977, then there is a large gap until the final days of the church from 2000-2004. These last records are not complete. The most valuable part of Series 2 is a set of minister's reports which span from 1925 to 1968. The financial records are consistent up to 1999, after which point, they are less complete or missing. Membership lists do not extend past 1977 and baptisms not beyond 1984. The social and charitable organizations, particularly the Woman's Union, are well represented from the earliest

years up to the 1960s, with a particular boom in all groups in the 1930s. Researchers should be sure to look at the historical sketches in Series 5.

Description

Series 1. Church Records. This set of records contains reports from church council meetings, annual meetings, by-laws, statements of faith, covenants, constitutions, membership, correspondence, and some committees: executive, nominating, and personnel. The ledgers and folders are arranged in ascending chronological order. During the schism years, the records from the separate churches are kept together as often as possible.

Series 2I. Minister Records. These records can be divided into two sections. First are reports given at annual meetings (1920s and 1930s) during Rev. Haddaway's and Rev. Klein's tenures. Supplementary folders belong to Charles Noyes and Albert Coe. The second half contains records of the search for a new pastor in 1990-1991, which resulted in Linda Knight's call to the church.

Series 3. Financial and Building Records. The majority of this series are treasurer's reports. The folders are arranged in clusters: benevolence reports, treasurer's reports, and financial ledgers, all in ascending chronological order. Older financial records and ledgers that are summarized in treasurer's reports, insurance records, and recent legacies.

Series 4. Clubs and Societies, Sunday School. The dominant group represented in this series is the Woman's Union. The Library chose to keep the Woman's Union annual reports over their minute ledgers when possible. Other groups in this series are the Men's Union, youth groups, and Serviceman's Committee. The Serviceman's Committee was organized to assist soldiers in World War II.

Series 5. Historian Files. This series has notable programs (from new minister installments, anniversaries, and special events), histories of the church, sermons and speeches, and records for historic landmarks. There are a few photographs, but there are only a few individuals identified. There are also a sample of Sunday service programs.

Folder List

Series 1. Church Records Ledgers-

Box 1 - Oversize documents

Broadway Orthodox Church, Records, Membership	1864-1907
Notice of Special Meeting, Broadway Orthodox	1865
Noyes, Charles L. Retirement Agreement	1922
Church Blessing	

Box 2

Broadway Orthodox Church, Records	1864-1873
Broadway Orthodox Society, Meetings, Constitution	1869-1883
Winter Hill Church, Polity and Membership	1883-1905
Winter Hill Church, Polity, Business, and Annual Meetings	1883-1905

Box 3

Winter Hill Society, Polity, Members, Meetings	1883-1906
Winter Hill Church, Polity, Membership, Special and Annual Meetings	1906-1918

Box 4

Winter Hill Church, Meeting Minutes	1906-1918
Broadway, Polity, Membership Signatures	1893-1906
Broadway, Standing Committee	1904-1912

Box 5

Broadway, Business Meetings	1905-1918
Broadway, Membership	1907-1918

Box 6

Broadway, Standing Committee	1912-1918
Broadway Winter Hill, Church Council	1954-1967
Broadway Winter Hill, Membership	1939-1972
Broadway Winter Hill, Membership	1927-1977
Broadway Winter Hill, Marriages	1927-1977
Broadway Winter Hill, Baptisms	1919-1984

Series 1, Church Records, folders

Box 7

1 Records, Broadway Orthodox Church	1864-1870
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2 By-Laws and Amendments Confessions of Faith,	n.d., 1969, 1970, 1991
3 Broadway Church Church Council, Broadway	n.d.
4 Church Council, Broadway	ca. 1882
5-6 Church Council	1918-1969
7-11 Church Meetings	1918-1968
Box 8	
12-15 Annual/Church Meetings and Special Meetings	1909-1977
15a. Meeting Minutes	2000-2004
16-19 Executive Committee	1932-1966
Box 9	
20 Correspondence, Winter Hill Church	1910-1918
21 Correspondence	1922-1956, 1962-1975, 2002
22 Deacon Reports	
23-26 Membership letters of admission, dismissal	1890s-1960s
Box 10	
27-30 Membership letters of admission, dismissal	1890s-1960s
Box 11	
31-32 Marriage Certificates	1881-1921
33 Membership Committee	1907-1925
34 Nominating Committee	1915-1966
35 Personnel	1988-1994

Series 2. Minister Records

Box 12	
1 Noyes, Charles	ca. 1924
2 Coe, Albert	1922-1925
3 Minister's Report. Haddaway, Klein	1925-1936
4 Minister's Report. Howe. William T.	1938-1968
5 Merrill, Jacob F. Obituary	1991
6-9 Search Committee [New Minister]	1990-1991

Series 3. Financial

Box 13	
1 Treasurer's and Auditor's Reports	1906-1919
2 Financial	1918
3 Invested Funds, Interest Account	1919-1927
4 Benevolence Reports	1925-1967
5 Renovations	1940
6 Historic Preservation	1968, 1990-1996

7-9 Treasurer's and Auditor's Reports	1922-1986
Box 14	
10-13 Financial Ledgers	1988-1991
14 Pledges	1991, 1992, 1996
15-21 Financial Ledgers	1992-1996
22 Land Title, Clearance Defaulted	1996
23-25 Financial Ledgers	1997-1999
26 Energy Conservation	1999
Box 15	
27 Bequests	1957, 1975, 1987-1991,1999
28-9 Anderson, Peter, Legacy	1999
30-1 Financial Statements (temporary- destroy after FY 2005)	1999
32 Minister's expenses (temporary til 2005)	1999
33 Building Assessment, Feasibility Study	1999, 2002
34 Treasurer's Resignation Letter	2000
35 Bank, Investment Statements (temporary?)	2000-2001
36 Insurance	2001-2004
37 Communal building logistics and maintenance	2002-2003
38 Legal Documents: Church Dissolution	2004
39 Legal Documents: BWHCC vs. Freedom Ministries	2004

Series 4. Clubs and Societies

Ladies Sewing Society and Woman's Union - Ledgers

Box 16	
1-2 Ladies Sewing Society -	1867-1899
3-6 Woman's Union -	1918-1938
Box 17	
7-9 Woman's Union -	1938-1984
10-11 Letters (Folders)	1906-1964
Charity and Missions - Ledgers	
Box 18	
12-13 Woman's Home Mission	1890-1910
14-15 Charities Aid	1918-1970
16 Junior Church Aid	1927-1936
Box 19	
17 Junior Church Aid	1920-1936
Charity and Missions - Folders	

18 Church Aid	1920-1932 (gaps)
19 Junior Church Aid	1922-1930 (gaps)
20 Charities Aid	1920s-1930s, 1972
21 Missions	1906-1939
Youth Groups,	
22 Winter Hill Youthful Helpers	1896-1899
23 Young People's Society,	1906, 1920-1935
24 Christian Endeavor	1938-1952
25 Youth Groups	1952-1975
Sunday School	
26 Sunday School	1867-1880
27	1896-1901
28	1902-1957
Box 20	
29	1959-1966
Adult Groups	
30 Daughters of the Covenant	1906, 1917, 1919
31 Keys Group	1938-1967 (gaps)
32 Knights of King Arthur/ Queens of Avalon	1938-1945
33 Wachusett Club	1916
34 Walter Colburn Club	1924
35 Men's Union, Winter Hill/Broadway Winter Hill	1915-1930
36 Servicemen's Committee	1944-1946
37 Servicemen's Committee, Record of Servicemen	1944-1946
Series 5. Historian	
Box 21	
1 Church Bulletin	1964-1966, 1990 (gaps)
2 Guest Sign in	1976-1991
3 Histories of the Church	multiple dates
4 Noyes, C.L. Laying the Cornerstone	1925
5 Photographs	n.d., 1980s
6 Programs, Anniversaries	multiple dates
7 Programs, Special Events	multiple dates
8 Speeches and Sermons	
9-11 Sunday Programs	early 20th century, 1945-1992
12 World War II Honor Roll	