



**ArchivesSpace**  
a community served by ✦ LYRASIS

## **Richard H. Taylor Papers, 1904, 1912, 1960-2014. MS1283**

---

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on June 13, 2023.  
Description is written in: English.  
DACS2 - 2013

Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street

Suite 200

Boston, MA 02108

Business Number: 617-523-0470

[info@14beacon.org](mailto:info@14beacon.org)

URL: <http://www.CongregationalLibrary.org>

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Historical Note .....	3
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	4
Administrative Information .....	5
Related Materials .....	6
Controlled Access Headings .....	6
Technical Access .....	7
Collection Inventory .....	7
Church Records .....	7
Organizational Records .....	7
Writings .....	8
Correspondences .....	9
Taylor's Papers and Presentations .....	9
Collected Papers of Others .....	11
Sermons .....	11
Research .....	11

---

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository:</b>	Congregational Library & Archives
<b>Creator:</b>	Taylor, Richard H. (Richard Henry)
<b>Title:</b>	Richard H. Taylor Papers, 1904, 1912, 1960-2014.
<b>ID:</b>	MS1283
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1904, 1912, 1960-2014
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3.62 Cubic Feet (3 cartons,1 case)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	Richard H. Taylor was born on October 6, 1943 in Paterson, New Jersey and has served as a pastor of the United Church of Christ at five different congregations from 1968 to 2006. Documents include pastoral and organizational records, correspondences, research materials, writings, and sermons.

### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Richard H. Taylor Papers, 1904, 1912, 1960-2014, MS1283. The Congregational Library and Archives, Boston, MA.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Historical Note

---

Richard H. Taylor was born in Patterson, New Jersey on October 6, 1943. He graduated from Marietta College in 1965 and attended Andover Newton Theological School, which he graduated from in 1969. He was then ordained as a minister in St. Luke's United Church of Christ in Kittanning, PA and served as their pastor from 1968 to 1972. While there, he advocated for issues involving the civil rights movement and the Vietnam War, giving multiple sermons on these topics and prompting reactions from his parish recorded in this collection.

After leaving St. Luke's in Kittanning, Taylor continued his activism and service to the UCC through multiple organizations, particularly in the areas of historical research and LGBT rights. He served as board member of the UCC Historical Council and represented the UCC in

Association for Statisticians of American Religious Bodies. He has also been an active supporter of the Religious Coalition for Marriage Equality in Rhode Island and the LGBT Religious Archives Network.

Throughout his pastoral career, Taylor has also contributed substantially to the historical research and documentation of the United Church of Christ. His work regarding church statistics is particularly significant. His research and papers cover topics such as genealogy, ethnicity and statistical transformations in the church. Much of this work has required extensive surveys and the collection of bibliographies and primary sources now held in this collection.

### **List of Congregations Taylor has led as pastor:**

- 1 St. Luke's United Church of Christ, Kittaning, PA (1968-1972)
- 2 Hindsdale and Middlefield, MA Yoked Parish (1972-1980)
- 3 First Congregational Church of Andover, CT (1980-1987)
- 4 First Congregational Church of Benton Harbor, MI (1987-1999)
- 5 Beneficent Congregational Church of Providence, RI (1999-2006)

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## **Scope and Contents**

---

These personal papers document Taylor's work as a pastor, activist, statistician and historian. Documents include church and organizational records, writings, correspondences, research materials, and sermons.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## **Arrangement**

---

The Richard H. Taylor papers are divided into four series: church records, organizational records, writings, and research. The folders of the church records are arranged chronologically and the organizational records, writings, and research are arranged alphabetically. Writings includes four sub-series: correspondences, Taylor's paper and presentations, the papers of others, and sermons.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Statement

Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street

Suite 200

Boston, MA 02108

Business Number: 617-523-0470

[info@14beacon.org](mailto:info@14beacon.org)

URL: <http://www.CongregationalLibrary.org>

### Conditions Governing Access

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

### Copyright

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 person necessary for their reproduction and publication. Requests for permission to publish material must be discussed with the archivist or librarian.

### Accruals

Accruals have been added to this collection in the past and are expected in the future.

### Processing Information

Processed by Jessica Steytler, 2013 using DACS Second Edition. Accruals added and collection re-processed by Sean Ferguson, October, 2015 using DACS Second Edition. Slight updates made in June 2023 by Billy McCarthy.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Related Materials

---

### Related Materials

Congregational and Plan of Union Churches in the Great Lake States (9.3.246 MIL)

The Congregational churches of the West (9.3.246 MIL)

Congregational churches on the Plains (9.3.246 MIL)

Congregations of the German Evangelical Synod of North America and Related Groups (9.3.272 MIL)

Embracing God's hospitality: celebrating over two hundred years of ministry together : the Rhode Island Conference of the United Church of Christ (9.3.299 MIL)

Historical Directory of the Congregational, Christian, and United Church of Christ congregations in Berkshire County, Massachusetts, 1734-1979, including Middlefield (Hampshire County) Massachusetts, and Canaan (Columbia County, New York) (7.10.126 MIL)

Plan of the Union and Congregational Churches of Christ in the Middle Atlantic States (9.3.246 MIL)

Religious congregations & membership in the United States 2000: an enumeration by region, state, and county based on data reported for 140 religious bodies (17.11.0.347 2000 MIL)

Southern Congregational churches (9.3.246 MIL)

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Controlled Access Headings

---

- Church statistics.
- Sermons, American.
- Gay rights -- Religious aspects.

---

## Technical Access

---

USB flash drives require USB port to read and floppy disks require a floppy disk drive to read. Please consult the archivist or librarian for use.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Collection Inventory

---

### Church Records, 1960-2006

Physical Description: 1 Cubic Feet (1 box)

#### Scope of Series

This series contains the personal papers of Taylor as they pertain to the churches he served as pastor as well as the church in Patterson, NJ he attended in his youth. Included are correspondences, bulletins, and newspaper clippings. Subjects represented in the series include correspondences written during Taylor's tenure at St. Luke's Church in Kittaning, PA, which document his civil rights activism and his congregation's responses to it.

Title/Description	Instances	
First Congregational Church of Patterson, NJ, 1960-1990	box 1	folder 1
St. Luke's United Church of Christ, Kittaning, PA, 1968-1972	box 1	folder 2
Hinsdale-Middlefield Yoked Parish, Hinsdale, MA, 1972-1980	box 1	folder 3
First Congregational Church of Andover, CT, 1980-1987	box 1	folder 4
First Congregational Church of Benton Harbor, MI, 1987-1999	box 1	folder 5
Beneficent Congregational Church of Providence, RI, 1999-2006	box 1	folder 6

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

### Organizational Records, 1969-2013

Physical Description: 1 Cubic Feet (1 box)

## Scope of Series

This series contains the personal papers of Taylor relating to the organizations he participated in throughout his career. Included are correspondences, fliers, materials from meetings and statements issued from the organizations. Documents that particularly illustrate his work include the records of the Coalition for Gay Concerns, Religious Coalition for Marriage Equality in Rhode Island and the LGBT Religious Archives Network.

Title/Description	Instances	
Armstrong County, PA Federation of Churches, 1969-1970	box 1	folder 7
The Berkshire Association of the UCC, 1973-1980	box 1	folder 8
Clarion Association of the UCC, 1970-1971	box 1	folder 9
Coalition for Gay Concerns, United Church - General, 1979-2005 (gaps)	box 1	folder 10
Coalition for Gay Concerns, United Church - Mentioning Taylor, 2007-2008	box 1	folder 11
Coalition for Gay Concerns, United Church - Personal Writings, 1980-1985	box 1	folder 12
Historical Commission, United Church of Christ, 1973-1974	box 1	folder 13
Historical Council, United Church of Christ, 1993-2009	box 1	folder 14
LGBT Religious Archives Network, 2003-2006	box 1	folder 15
MA Conference Small Church Task Force, 1970-1980	box 1	folder 16
Rhode Island Religious Coalition for Marriage Equality, 2004-2013	box 1	folder 17
Southwest Association Michigan Conference, 1991	box 1	folder 18
Tolland Association, 1983-1984	box 1	folder 19

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Writings, 1970-2014

Physical Description: 1 Cubic Feet (2 boxes)

### Scope of Series

This series contains Taylor's papers and presentations as well as his correspondences not relating to the churches and organizations he has served or his research. The collected writings of others are also contained within this series as well as some of his sermons. Among the materials are correspondences regarding some of Taylor's personal projects, the finished copies of his works and in some cases materials relating to their publication. Of note are the letters relating to his return of a bible to the Stockbridge Native American Tribe, several historical papers on ethnicity and genealogy in the United Christian Church, and "Discerning the Work of God," an autobiographical sketch of Taylor's faith life.



**Arrangement**

This series is divided into four sub-series: Correspondences; Taylor's Papers and Presentations; Collected Papers of Others; and Sermons. Correspondences, Taylor's Papers and Presentations, and Collected Papers of Others are arranged alphabetically. Sermons are arranged Chronologically.

**Correspondences, 1970-1979, 1990-2013**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Armstrong County Historical Museum, creation of, 1970	box 1	folder 20
Congregational Library acquisition recommendations, 2006	box 1	folder 21
Congregational Library Conferences and General Associations section exploration, 2006	box 1	folder 22
Correspondences, 1973-1979, 1992	box 1	folder 23
Correspondences, 2000, 2006, 2010	box 1	folder 24
Garland, Betsy Aldrich, Taylor's ordination endorsement of, 2007	box 1	folder 25
Kennebunkport, MN South Congregational Church, Hal Worthly's research of, 2007	box 1	folder 26
Knapp, Rev. Frederick Joseph, Margi McKenna's genealogy research of, 1990-1991	box 1	folder 27
Hall, Russell correspondence, circa 2001	box 1	folder 28
Powell, Nancy correspondence, 2001	box 1	folder 29
Rhode Island Conference, determining the age of, 2008	box 1	folder 30
Rhode Island Conference, polity issues of, 2008	box 1	folder 31
Stockbridge Tribe bible, returning to Tribe, 1977-1979	box 1	folder 32
Wood, Robert correspondences, 2005	box 1	folder 33
Yearbook of United Church of Christ, review of, 2011-2013	box 1	folder 34

**Taylor's Papers and Presentations, 1974-2012**

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Award Presentation for Russell Schmidt and related materials, 1999	box 1	folder 35
Celebrating the 300th anniversary of German Presence in the United States, 2010	box 1	folder 36
Christian Churches – Former Ohio Conference Area, 1995	box 1	folder 37
Christian Church Priorities, Theology and Principles in the Christian Connection, 1985	box 1	folder 38

Congregational Christian Historical Society Praters, 2006, 2009	box 1	folder 39
Commentary on Pacific Islander Churches, 2002	box 1	folder 40
Comparative New churches Paper, PowerPoint, circa 2010	box 1	folder 41
Directory of the Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, 1980	box 1	folder 42
Directory of the Judiciaries of the (German) Reformed Church in the United States, 1980	box 1	folder 43
Discerning the Work of God: A Case Study, 2004	box 1	folder 44
The Early Development of Illinois Congregationalism, 1997	box 1	folder 45
The Genealogy of the UCC in a New Century, 2002	box 1	folder 46
German Churches and the German Heritage in the formative bodies of the UCC lecture materials, 2000	box 1	folder 47
The German Reformed Church in Armstrong. PA, 1997	box 1	folder 48
Growth on the Edges, Decline in the Center; The Society of Friends as an Example of Religious Change in Old Line American Protestant Communities, 2010	box 1	folder 49
An Historical and Statistical Overview of the Wisconsin Conference of the UCC, 2004	box 1	folder 50
An Historical and Statistical Overview of the Wisconsin Conference Paper and Correspondences, 2002-2004	box 1	folder 51
Historical Directory of Berkshire Correspondence Materials, 1978	box 1	folder 52
Historical Directory of Berkshire Publication Materials, 1977-1978	box 1	folder 53
A History of the Christian Connection in Vermont, 1977	box 1	folder 54
Jonathan Edwards: Seclusion at Wintenburg, 1974	box 1	folder 55
Midwest Congregational Christian Fellowship (CCCC) Maps and Charts, 2000	box 1	folder 56
The Missionary Society of Connecticut: Polity, Promise, Problems, 2011	box 1	folder 57
The New United Church of Christ, circa 2010	box 1	folder 58
The Palatinate to America Lecture Materials, 1999-2000	box 1	folder 59
Penn West Reminiscences, 2012	box 1	folder 60
The Plan of Union in Michigan, 1992	box 1	folder 61
Rescuing the Paganizing and Perishing Plantations: The Puritan Case Against Rhode Island, 2012	box 1	folder 62

Some Musing on our Ecumenical History, 1980	box 1	folder 63
The Southern Conference and the "decline" of Christian Churches, 2006	box 1	folder 64
"Voices from the Valley: a small church speaks to the world.", 1997	box 1	folder 65
Thunder on the Mountain Top (A History of Religion in Berkshire County), 1976	box 1	folder 66
The UCC: An Historical Analysis at the Turn of the Century, 2002	box 1	folder 67
The Yankee New England Churches: The German Roots and Relatives paper and materials, 2000	box 1	folder 68

### Collected Papers of Others, 1979-2014

Title/Description	Instances	
Collected material written by others, 1979, 2000,-2010, 2014	box 1	folder 69
Robert Wood Biography (1 of 2), 2003	box 1	folder 70
Robert Wood Biography (2 of 2), 2003	box 1	folder 71

### Sermons, 1999-2006

Title/Description	Instances	
Index to sermons, 1999-2006	box 2	folder 1
Sermons, 1999-2000	box 2	folder 2
Sermons, 2001	box 2	folder 3
Sermons, 2002	box 2	folder 4
Sermons, 2003	box 2	folder 5
Sermons, 2004	box 2	folder 6
Sermons, 2005-2006	box 2	folder 7

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

### Research, 1904, 1912, 1969-2014

Physical Description: 1 Cubic Feet (3 boxes)

Technical Access:

#### Technical Access

USB flash drives require USB port to read and floppy disks require a floppy disk drive to read. Please consult the archivist or librarian for use.

## Scope of Series

This series contains the research material Taylor has accumulated throughout his career as a historian. Included are correspondences relating to research, surveys, statistics on churches, bibliographies, and historical pamphlets and photographs as well as two Rhode Island Street Directories from 1904 and 1912. Scrapbooks, floppy disks, USB flash drives and index cards are also contained within this series. Representative of the series are extensive correspondences and surveys relating to dual and federated churches as well as research relating to his publications on U.S. regions such as the South, Mid Atlantic and Great Plains.

Title/Description	Instances	
Black Churches and the United Church of Christ data and correspondences, 2008	box 2	folder 8
Christian Churches by Status, undated	box 2	folder 9
Church Histories articles and pamphlets, 1970-1990	box 2	folder 10
Church Histories articles and pamphlets, 1970-1990	box 2	folder 11
Church Histories scrapbook, circa 1970	box 4	
Church Histories scrapbook, 1970	box 4	
Church Histories scrapbook, 1971	box 4	
Church lists from United Church of Christ by date of organization, 1970	box 2	folder 12
Corrections to "Religious Congregation and Membership Study", 1975	box 2	folder 37
Reports on three groups not participating in 1980 ASARB study, 1980	box 2	folder 38
Conference Record – status of, lists, 1984, 1992, 1996	box 2	folder 13
Denominational Statistics by County for Ethnic and Minority Churches, 2002	box 2	folder 14
Denominational Statistics by County for Ethnic and Minority UCC Churches, 2002	box 4	folder 1
Dual and Federated Churches – correspondences on ethnic congregations, 2002	box 2	folder 15
Dual and Federated Churches – Mid Atlantic survey responses, 2002	box 2	folder 16
Dual and Federated Churches - National survey responses, 1998	box 2	folder 17
Dual and Federated Churches – Southern survey responses, circa 2003	box 2	folder 18
Great Lakes and Mid Atlantic research, 2001-2010	box 2	folder 19
Great Planes book research (1 of 3), undated	box 2	folder 20
Great Planes book research (2 of 3), undated	box 2	folder 21

Great Planes book research (3 of 3), undated	box 2	folder 22
Hinsdale and Middlefield Church Study, 1975-1980	box 2	folder 23
Illinois photographs, circa 2005	box 2	folder 24
Independent Church Study, 1990	box 2	folder 25
Local New England Associations – explanatory sheet enclosed, 2014	box 4	
Middle Atlantic book research, undated	box 2	folder 26
New England book notes, metadata, 1981	box 2	folder 27
Patricia F. Scott's Congregational Church Histories Chenago County, New York, 2002-2005	box 2	folder 28
Providence, Rhode Island street directories, 1904, 1912	box 2	folder 29
Reconciling Ethnic Listings Report, 2002	box 2	folder 30
Religious Congregational Membership Study correspondences, 1990-1991	box 2	folder 31
Religious Congregational Membership Study data, 2000	box 2	folder 32
Research on floppy disks (container 1 of 5), undated	box 4	

Technical Access:**Technical Access**

Floppy disks require a floppy disk drive to read. Please consult the archivist or librarian for use.

Research on floppy disks (container 2 of 5), undated	box 4
--	-------

Technical Access:**Technical Access**

Floppy disks require a floppy disk drive to read. Please consult the archivist or librarian for use.

Research on floppy disks (container 3 of 5), undated	box 4
--	-------

Technical Access:**Technical Access**

Floppy disks require a floppy disk drive to read. Please consult the archivist or librarian for use.

Research on floppy disks (container 4 of 5), undated	box 4
--	-------

Technical Access:**Technical Access**

Floppy disks require a floppy disk drive to read. Please consult the archivist or librarian for use.

Research on floppy disks (container 5 of 5), undated
--

Technical Access: box 4

**Technical Access**

Floppy disks require a floppy disk drive to read. Please consult the archivist or librarian for use.

---

Research on USB flash drives (container 2 of 5), undated box 4

Technical Access:

**Technical Access**

USB flash drives require USB port to read. Please consult the archivist or librarian for use.

---

Rhode Island church pictures and histories, 2004-2014	box 2	folder 33
---	-------	-----------

---

Rhode Island Statistical and Pastoral Survey of Congregational and Christian Churches Index of Churches, 2006	box 4	
---	-------	--

---

Rhode Island Statistical and Pastoral Survey of Congregational and Christian Churches Index of Pastors, 2006	box 4	
--	-------	--

---

Rhode Island Statistical and Pastoral Survey of Congregational and Christian Churches (1 of 3), 2006	box 2	folder 34
--	-------	-----------

---

Rhode Island Statistical and Pastoral Survey of Congregational and Christian Churches (2 of 3), 2006	box 2	folder 35
--	-------	-----------

---

Rhode Island Statistical and Pastoral Survey of Congregational and Christian Churches (3 of 3), 2006	box 2	folder 36
--	-------	-----------

---

Southern Book - correspondences regarding errata, 1995	box 3	folder 1
--	-------	----------

---

Southern Book - correspondences with editors, 1994	box 3	folder 2
--	-------	----------

---

Southern Book - correspondences with historical societies, 1994	box 3	folder 3
---	-------	----------

---

Southern Book - correspondences with historical societies, 1994	box 3	folder 4
---	-------	----------

---

Strict Congregational convention bibliography, 2001	box 3	folder 5
---	-------	----------

---

Yearbook of United Church of Christ 1978 printout, 1978	box 3	folder 6
---	-------	----------

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)