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Jaffrey, N.H. United Church of Jaffrey records, 1827-1980. RG0106

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English

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Congregational Library & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	East Congregational Church (Jaffrey, N.H.)
Creator:	Federated Church (Jaffrey, N.H.)
Creator:	First Baptist Church (Jaffrey, N.H.)
Creator:	Universalist Church (Jaffrey, N.H.)
Creator:	United Church of Jaffrey (Jaffrey, N.H.)
Title:	Jaffrey, N.H. United Church of Jaffrey records, 1827-1980.
ID:	RG0106
Date [inclusive]:	1827-1980
Physical Description:	1.79 Cubic Feet (3 boxes)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The roots of the United Church of Jaffrey start in 1850 when 23 members of Jaffrey's First Congregational Church established Jaffrey East Orthodox Congregational Church, erecting a meeting-house the same year. The United Church records document the history and life of the church, including reports, meeting minutes, vital statistics, financial information, church bulletins, auxiliary groups, correspondence, and property deeds. Records are fragmentary and incomplete.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Jaffrey, N.H. United Church of Jaffrey records, 1827-1980, RG0106. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Note

The roots of the United Church of Jaffrey start in 1850 when 23 members of Jaffrey's First Congregational Church established Jaffrey East Orthodox Congregational Church, erecting a meeting-house the same year. The church built a parsonage and vestry in 1876. When the town's Universalist

minister, Myron L. Cutler, died in 1930 the members of his church chose to join with East's congregation rather than find a new minister. The members of East also had connections with the Baptist church and still with First Congregational. Further inter-denominational ties were drawn when Jaffrey's Baptist minister, Roger Floyd, left his position in 1949. The small Baptist church chose to close rather than find a new minister; most of the members joined East. At this point, there were equal number of Baptists and Congregationalists, prompting a shift in name and organization. East Orthodox Church became the Federated Church with separate covenants for each denomination. In 1957 the Congregational members of the church voted to become a Covenant member of the New Hampshire Conference of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ. After maintaining membership with both Baptist and UCC denominations, the members decided to withdraw from the Baptist Convention in 1970 to simplify day to day work as well as strengthen the bond as one United Church.

The Federated Church continued services in the old Baptist building, which was larger than the Congregational building. In 1959 the Federated Church dissolved its two components and formed the United Church of Jaffrey. Further building changes started in 1967. The old parish hall and parsonage were in disrepair. The current trend by mid-20th century was for ministers to live in their own house. This, plus the cost of restoration, meant the church chose to tear down the parsonage and old hall and build a new hall in 1970.

Ministers

- **East Congregational Church**
- John Edward Bullard Jewett 1850-1852
- George Washington Adams 1854-1857
- Franklin Dexter Austin 1858-1863
- C.W. Allen 1863-1870
- John C. Gowan 1870-1871
- Darius Newton Goodrich 1872-1874
- W. H. Dowden 1875-1880
- John Calvin Staples 1880-1883
- Ezra Jackson Riggs 1883-1886
- Moses T. Runnells 1886-1889
- Edward I. Ross 1890-1891
- William H. Stuart 1891-1899
- J. Sherman Grove 1899-1903
- Millard Fillmore Hardy 1904-1910
- David Howie 1911-1914
- Charles G. Johnson 1915-1919
- John H. Hoffman 1920-1922
- Ambrose Jenkins 1923
- Bruce W. Cronmiller 1924-1930
- Henry Rees Jones 1930-1933
- G. Gerald Parker 1933-1939
- Levering Reynolds, Jr. 1939-1945
- Richard Stoughton, Jr. 1945-1957
- **Federated Church**
- Byron Higgon 1957-1961

- **United Church**
- Interim Ministers 1961-1963
- Mario Cestaro 1963-1969
- **United Church, UCC**
- Franklin L. Irvine 1969-1972
- Emily B Preston 1972-1993
- Lois Sundeen 1993-1995
- William Beardslee 1995-2007
- J.M. Shepherd 2007-2009
- Teri Motley 2009-2014
- Christopher C Owen 2014-2016
- Mark Koyama 2016-present

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Scope and Contents

The United Church records document the history and life of the church, including reports, meeting minutes, vital statistics, financial information, church bulletins, auxiliary groups, correspondence, and property deeds. Please be sure to read the history of the church and note both Universalist and Baptist church records are included from those extinct congregations. All series records are fragmentary and incomplete.

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Arrangement

The collection has been organized into the five series listed below. Within each series, records have been arranged chronologically.

Series 1: First Baptist Church Records, 1827-1964

Series 2: East Congregational Church Records, 1849-1968

Series 3: First Universalist Society Records, 1875-1939

Series 4: Federated Church Records, 1949-1959

Series 5: United Church Records, 1956-1980

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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

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Acquisition Information

Permanently loaned to the Congregational Library & Archives by The United Church of Jaffrey, June 1991; Acc# 1992-1.

Processing Information

Re-processed by Zachary Bodnar, August 2017, using DACS Second Edition.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Cutter, Daniel B. *History of the town of Jaffrey New Hampshire, from the date of the Masonian Charter to the present time, 1749-1880*, Concord NH: Republican Press Association. 1881. (T J18.4C)

Gerould, Samuel L. *The Congregational and Presbyterian Churches and Ministers of New Hampshire Connected With the General Association*. Lebanon NH : H.E. Waite & Co. 1900. (9.3.67 (2))

Lawrence, Robert F. *The New Hampshire Churches: comprising histories of the Congregational and Presbyterian churches in the state.* . . Claremont Manufacturing Co. 1856. (9.3.36)

Livingston, W.W. and DeBevoise, G.H. *Seventy Years of Cheshire Conference*. Keene NH : Darling & Co. 1897. (9.6.37(1))

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Controlled Access Headings

- Church membership.
- Church newsletters.
- Church records and registers.
- Church societies.
- Christian union.
- Clergy -- Appointment, call, and election.
- Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.).
- Unitarian controversy.
- East Congregational Church (Jaffrey, N.H.)
- Federated Church (Jaffrey, N.H.)
- First Baptist Church (Jaffrey, N.H.)
- Jaffrey (N.H.) -- Church history.
- United Church of Jaffrey (Jaffrey, N.H.)
- Universalist Church (Jaffrey, N.H.)

Bibliography

The United Church of Jaffrey, UCC. Celebrating 150 Years 1850-2000. Jaffrey: United Church of Jaffrey, U.C.C., 2000

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Collection Inventory

First Baptist Church records, 1827-1964

Physical Description: 11 Files

Historical Note

The first meeting of the First Baptist Church in Jaffrey met on January 28, 1814. In 1823 the First Baptist Church & Society was formed and incorporated. After Rev. Roger Floyd departed in 1949, the Baptists voted to join in federation with the East Congregational Church, forming The Federated Church in Jeffrey. In 1959, after a decade of separate worship, the Congregationalists and Baptists joined fully and formed the United Church of Jaffrey.

Scope and Contents

This series includes records from the extinct First Baptist Church in Jaffrey, NH. Types of records include: meeting minutes for several church societies; annual reports; letters of dismissal; membership lists; property deeds.

Title/Description	Instances	
Real estate deeds, 1827-1953	box 1	folder 13
Baptist Female Benevolent Working Society minutes, 1844-1870	box 1	folder 9
Cheerful Workers minutes, 1878-1880	box 1	folder 10
Charity Square minutes, 1883-1887	box 1	folder 6
Charity Square minutes, 1888-1898	box 1	folder 7
Charity Square minutes, 1898-1934	box 1	folder 8
Gold Gatherers minutes, 1895-1897	box 1	folder 11
Women's Foreign Mission Society minutes, 1897-1920	box 1	folder 12
First Baptist Church, 1946-1959	box 1	folder 3
Warrants, annual meeting minutes, reports, 1949-1958	box 1	folder 5
Yearly reports and conventions, 1949-1964	box 1	folder 4

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East Congregational Church records, 1849-1968

Physical Description: 17 Files

Historical Note

In 1850, 23 members of Jaffrey's First Congregational Church requested letters of dismissal to begin a new Church in the increasingly populous eastern part of the town. That same year the East Congregational Church was built. 1876 saw an expansion of the church's property with the addition of a parsonage and vestry. In 1949, the Congregational and Baptist churches joined in Federation becoming the Federated Church of Jaffrey.

Scope and Contents

This series includes records from the East Jaffrey Congregational Church in Jaffrey, NH. Types of records include: meeting minutes for several church societies; vital statistics; treasurer's records; correspondence; news clippings; property deeds; church letters; church histories; 1 photograph.

Title/Description	Instances	
Deeds, 1849-1968	box 1	folder 21
Register of vital statistics, 1875-1958	box 1	folder 14
Society minutes, standing committee reports, 1882-1949	box 1	folder 16
Loose papers and minutes, 1884-1946	box 1	folder 15
50th anniversary history, 1899	box 1	folder 25
Manuscript histories, 1899-1903	box 1	folder 26
Junior Christian Endeavor minutes, 1902-1903	box 1	folder 23
Junior Christian Endeavor minutes, 1904-1909	box 1	folder 24
Memorial funds, bank book, and wills, 1903-1975	box 1	folder 22
Documentation and receipts for church name change, 1919-1951	box 1	folder 20
Repair fund ledgers, 1930-1940	box 1	folder 19
News clippings from The Recorder, 1934-1937	box 1	folder 28
Monthly church letter, 1934-1939	box 1	folder 27
Treasurer's ledger, 1934-1941	box 1	folder 17
George Gerald Parker papers, 1935-1939	box 1	folder 29
Special funds and endowment lists, 1935-1958	box 1	folder 18
Edward I. Ross photograph, undated	box 1	folder 30

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First Universalist Society records, 1875-1939

Physical Description: 2 Files

Historical Note

The First Universalist Society of Jaffrey was started in 1822 and the Society was incorporated as a religious corporate body in 1875. The death of Rev. Myron L. Cutler in 1930, after serving his church for 43 years, became the impetus for the small congregation to close permanently with many of its members joining East Congregational Church and smaller numbers joining both the Baptist Church and First Church.

Scope and Contents

This series includes records from the extinct First Universalist Society in Jaffrey, NH. Types of records include: yearbooks; annual meeting reports; trustees reports; treasurer's and collector's reports; sales receipts; church histories.

Title/Description	Instances	
First Universalist Society records, 1901-1939	box 1	folder 1
First Universalist Society records, 1875-1938	box 1	folder 2

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Federated Church records, 1949-1959

Physical Description: 8 Files

Historical Note

The Federated Church of Jaffrey formed in 1949 after the First Baptist Church and the East Jaffrey Congregational Church joined in federation. The two denominations maintained separate worship and Covenants with the New Hampshire Baptist Convention and New Hampshire Conference of Congregational-Christian Churches. Worship was held at the Federated Church while the Baptist Church at Charity Square became the new Parish Hall and center of church-related activities. In 1959, at the recommendation of the Rev. Richard Stoughton, Jr., the two member churches of the Federated Church dissolved and together formed the United Church of Jaffrey.

Scope and Contents

This series includes records from the Federated Church in Jaffrey, NH. Types of records include: meeting minutes for several church societies; annual meeting minutes; church correspondence; Sunday calendars; religious histories; sermon.

Title/Description	Instances	
Articles of agreement, amendments, and incorporation, 1949-1958	box 1	folder 32
Federated guild minutes, 1950-1955	box 2	folder 36
Annual meetings, 1951-1959	box 1	folder 33
The Spire, 1953-1958	box 2	folder 37
Historical items, 1956-1958	box 2	folder 38
Ministerial search correspondence, 1957	box 1	folder 34

Federated church records, 1957-1959	box 1	folder 31
Deacons/deaconesses meeting minutes, 1958	box 2	folder 35

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United Church records, 1956-1980

Physical Description: 17 Files

Historical Note

The United Church of Jaffrey formed out of the Federated Church in 1959, when the East Congregational Church and First Baptist Church dissolved to form into a single church body. The United Church of Jaffrey is a member of the United Church of Christ and continues to serve its community today.

Scope and Contents

This series includes records from The United Church in Jaffrey, NH. Types of records include: meeting minutes for several church societies; annual meeting minutes; deeds; building records; news clippings; newsletters; membership lists; constitution.

Title/Description	Instances	
Newsletters, bulletins, and newspaper clippings, 1956-1976	box 3	folder 55
Proposals to unite, constitution, and by-laws, 1958-1970	box 2	folder 43
Deeds, 1959	box 3	folder 53
Register of vital statistics, 1959-1963	box 2	folder 39
Vital statistics, 1959-1979	box 2	folder 41
Vital statistics, 1962-1969	box 2	folder 40
Annual meetings, 1959-1963	box 2	folder 44
Annual meetings, 1964-1971	box 2	folder 45
Annual meetings, 1972-1976	box 3	folder 46
Children's choir awards, 1960-1961	box 3	folder 54
Building alterations, programs and news clippings, 1960-1970	box 3	folder 51
Parish house specifications, 1970	box 3	folder 52
Membership directories, 1962-1978	box 2	folder 42
Council minutes, 1968-1971	box 3	folder 47
Council minutes, 1972-1973	box 3	folder 48
Council minutes, 1974-1978	box 3	folder 49
Council minutes, 1979-1980	box 3	folder 50

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