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Lowell, Mass. Eliot Union Church records, 1830-1969. RG0113

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Congregational Library & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Appleton Street Church (Lowell, Mass.)
Creator:	Eliot Church (Lowell, Mass.)
Creator:	Eliot Union Church (Lowell, Mass.)
Creator:	First Presbyterian Church (Lowell, Mass.)
Creator:	Kirk Street Church (Lowell, Mass.)
Title:	Lowell, Mass. Eliot Union Church records, 1830-1969.
ID:	RG0113
Date [inclusive]:	1830-1969
Physical Description:	5.94 Cubic Feet (8 boxes)
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Appleton Congregational Church in Lowell, Massachusetts was organized in 1830. In 1873 the church building was sold to the First Presbyterian Church and the church moved to a new building along Eliot Street to become the Eliot Street Church. The Kirk Street Church was organized in 1845. In 1919, the Eliot and Kirk Street Churches merged to form the Eliot Union Church. In 1955, the Eliot Union Church merged with the First Presbyterian Church to form the Eliot Presbyterian Church. The collection contains church administrative records, membership records, auxiliary group records, and scrapbooks.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Lowell, Mass. Eliot Union Church records, 1830-1969, RG0113. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Note

The Appleton Congregational Church in Lowell, Massachusetts, also known as the Second Congregational Church, was organized in 1830. The church's meeting house was located along Appleton Street. In 1873 the church building was sold to the First Presbyterian Church and a new church building was constructed at the corner of Eliot and Summer Streets. At this point, the church changed its name to Eliot Church.

The Kirk Street Church, also known as the Fourth Congregational Church, was organized in 1845. The church was initially poor with a fairly young membership. The church building was given to the town of Lowell to make way for a high school in 1916.

The Eliot Church and Kirk Street Church merged in 1919 to form the Eliot Union Church. This church continued to worship at the Eliot Street location. In 1955 the Eliot Union Church merged with the First Presbyterian Church to form the Eliot Presbyterian Church. The old Appleton Street Church was given to the Salvation Army after the merger of First Presbyterian and Eliot Union Church.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains the records of the Eliot Union Church, in Lowell, Massachusetts, as well as the records of the two churches that merged to form the Eliot Union Church: the Eliot Church and the Kirk Street Church. The collection contains church administrative records, such as financial records and meeting minutes, membership records, including baptismal records and marriage records, auxiliary group records, and scrapbooks that document the weekly activities of the church.

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Arrangement

This series has been arranged into the three series listed below. The Kirk Street Church records series has been further divided into three subseries. The collection has generally been arranged into chronological order. Some closely related materials, and materials which begin where a

previous item ended, have been topically grouped together within the chronological order to assist discoverability.

Series 1: Eliot Church records, 1830-1918

Series 2: Kirk Street Church records, 1845-1919

Subseries 1: Administrative records, 1845-1919

Subseries 2: Membership and auxiliary group records, 1845-1919

Subseries 3: Scrapbooks, 1879-1917

Series 3: Eliot Union Church records, 1857-1969

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

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

Conditions Governing 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

Some Kirk Street Church materials were deposited at an undetermined date before 1981. The majority of the collection was donated to the Congregational Library & Archive by the Eliot Presbyterian Church in November, 1991; no accession number.

Processing Information

This collection was initially processed circa 1995. The collection was reprocessed by Zachary Bodnar, February 2024, according to Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Baptismal records.
- Church finance.
- Church membership.
- Church records and registers.
- Marriage records.
- Pews and pew rights.
- Scrapbooks.
- Women -- Societies and clubs.
- Worship programs.
- Eliot Presbyterian Church (Lowell, Mass.)
- Lowell (Mass.) -- Church history.

Collection Inventory

Eliot Church records, 1830-1918

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains the records of the Eliot Church. These records include church records, membership records, records relating to a pastor's Bible class, an address authored by John M. Greene, records for the King's Daughters auxiliary group (continued in the Eliot Union Church records), and a leaflet that describes the value of the church's building.

Title/Description	Instances	
Membership records, 1830-1919	box 1	volume 1
Church records, 1830-1859		

	box 3	volume 1
Membership records, 1853-1914	box 3	volume 2
Church records, 1856-1875	box 1	volume 2
Pastor's Bible class records, 1887-1907	box 1	volume 3
John M. Greene address, 1901	box 1	folder 1
King's Daughters records, 1916-1918	box 1	volume 4
Church value leaflet, undated	box 1	folder 2

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Kirk Street Church records, 1845-1919

Scope and Contents

This series contains the records of the Kirk Street Church. The records include administrative records, such as church records and financial records, membership records, including vital records, Sunday school records, auxiliary group records, and scrapbooks. The scrapbooks document weekly activities at the church.

Administrative records, 1845-1919

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains records related to the administration of the Kirk Street Church and contains both church records and financial records. The church records largely document the administrative history of the church and contain meeting minutes. The financial records document the finances of the church and also include records related to the church building and pews.

Title/Description	Instances	
Church records, 1845-1888	box 2	volume 1
Church records, 1888-1919	box 2	volume 2
Financial records, 1845-1875	box 2	volume 6
Financial records, 1876-1901	box 2	volume 7
Financial records, 1901-1919	box 2	volume 8
Subscriptions and collections, 1845-1881	box 2	volume 4
Pew records, 1845-1887	box 2	volume 5
Proprietors records, 1845-1865, 1916	box 2	volume 3
Sermon notes, 1858-1861	box 1	volume 9
Thirtieth anniversary sermon, 1875	box 1	folder 3
Manual, 1888	box 1	folder 4

Service programs, 1899-1919	box 1	folder 5
Cash book, 1904-1919	box 2	volume 9
Letter to mayor, 1916	box 1	folder 6

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Membership and auxiliary group records, 1845-1919

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains records related to the membership, and member activities, of the Kirk Street Church. This subseries also contains records related to the Kirk Street Sunday school and Christian Endeavour auxiliary group. The membership records contain marriage records, baptismal records, and records of admission and dismission. The Sunday school records contain information about students as well as records about the administration of the Sunday school. The Christian Endeavour records contain the meeting minutes for the group.

Title/Description	Instances	
Membership and baptismal records, 1845-1874	box 1	volume 5
Membership records, 1845-1911	box 1	volume 6
Membership records, 1857-1914	box 1	volume 7
Membership records, 1899-1919	box 1	volume 8
Sunday school records, 1869-1871	box 1	volume 10
Sunday school records, 1872-1873	box 1	volume 11
Sunday school records, 1875-1914	box 1	volume 12
Sunday school records, 1883-1890	box 1	volume 13
Sunday school register, 1888-1889	box 1	volume 14
Sunday school register, 1889-1890	box 1	volume 15
Christian Endeavor records, 1883-1890	box 1	volume 16

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Scrapbooks, 1879-1917

Scope and Contents

This subseries contains scrapbooks created by the Kirk Street Church. These scrapbooks document the near weekly activities and happenings at the church. The scrapbooks primarily contain newspaper clippings and Sunday service programs. The scrapbooks also contain various ephemera created for various programs, events, and gatherings held at the church.

Title/Description	Instances	
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Scrapbook, 1879-1886	box 6	volume 1
Scrapbook, 1888-1890	box 6	volume 3
Scrapbook, 1890-1896	box 6	volume 5
Scrapbook, 1896-1898	box 8	volume 2
Scrapbook, 1898-1900	box 8	volume 1
Scrapbook, 1900-1902	box 8	volume 3
Scrapbook, 1903-1904	box 7	volume 3
Scrapbook, 1904-1906	box 5	volume 2
Scrapbook, 1907	box 6	volume 2
Scrapbook, 1908-1909	box 6	volume 4
Scrapbook, 1910	box 5	volume 3
Scrapbook, 1911	box 5	volume 4
Scrapbook, 1912-1913	box 7	volume 4
Scrapbook, 1914-1915	box 7	volume 5
Scrapbook, 1915-1917	box 7	volume 6

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Eliot Union Church records, 1857-1969

Scope and Contents

This series contains the records of the Eliot Union Church. The records largely start in 1919, when the Eliot and Kirk Street churches merged, but a few record books begin prior to the merger. The membership records, in particular, appear to contain copies of earlier records. This series contains church and administrative records, membership records, auxiliary group records, as well as miscellaneous ephemera.

Title/Description	Instances	
Membership records, 1857-1952	box 4	volume 1
First Presbyterian Church materials, 1897-1969	box 4	folder 1

Scope and Contents

This folder contains ephemera related to the First Presbyterian Church in Lowell. The First Presbyterian Church and Eliot Union Church merged in 1956. The folder contains two photographs in glass of the church's exterior, a 1933 service of dedication

program, a seventy-fifth anniversary program, a one hundredth anniversary program, an in memoriam for Rev. Robert Court, and an explainer, with photographs, for the "Historic Windows" of the church.

King's Daughters programs, 1911-1937	box 1	folder 8
King's Daughters records, 1918-1920	box 4	volume 2
King's Daughters records, 1920-1922	box 4	volume 3
King's Daughters records, 1922-1925	box 5	volume 1
King's Daughters records, 1930-1940	box 4	volume 4
Church records, 1919-1953	box 7	volume 1

Separated Materials:

Separated Materials

The "Miscellaneous church records, 1931-1954" were removed from this volume for preservation purposes. The item was removed from the back of the book.

Girls Service Club records, 1919-1928	box 4	volume 5
Girls Service Club records, 1928-1929	box 4	volume 6
Church committee records, 1921-1928	box 7	volume 2

Separated Materials:

Separated Materials

The "Poems, undated" were removed from this volume for preservation purposes. The item was removed from page 55.

Miscellaneous church records, 1931-1954	box 7	folder 1
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Separated Materials:

Separated Materials

Materials in this folder were removed from the "Church records, 1919-1953" for preservation purposes. This item was found in the very back of that record book.

Joachim M. Reis testimonial, 1945	box 7	folder 2
John W. MacNeil resignation clipping, 1949	box 7	folder 3
Eliot Service League records, 1950-1955	box 1	folder 7
Historical sketch and window history, undated	box 1	folder 9
Poems, undated	box 5	folder 1

Separated Materials:

Separated Materials

Materials in this folder were removed from the "Committee records, 1921-1928" for preservation purposes. This item was found on page 55 of that record book.

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