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Montclair, N.J., Watchung Congregational Church records, 1903-1982. RG0715

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Congregational Library & Archives

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

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Watchung Congregational Church (Montclair, N.J.)
Title:	Montclair, N.J., Watchung Congregational Church records, 1903-1982.
ID:	RG0715
Date [inclusive]:	1903-1982
Physical Description:	1.44 Cubic Feet (2 boxes)
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	In 1903, the Watchung Congregational Church emerged out of the need for a Congregational church around Watchung, New Jersey. This collection contains records from the church's inception onward including vital statistics, historical information, and administrative records. On March 12, 1974, an electrical fire destroyed the sanctuary building, eventually resulting in a decision to dissolve the Watchung Congregational Church. Most members moved to the Union Congregational Church or the First Congregational Church, both in Montclair. When the property was sold in 1977, the proceeds of the sale went to those two congregations.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item] in the Montclair, N.J., Watchung Congregational Church records, 1903-1982, RG0715. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Information

In 1903, the Watchung Congregational Church emerged out of the need for a Congregational church around Watchung, New Jersey. The first service took place on January 18, 1903, in one of the four classrooms of Watchung School. In 1904 the church acquired a new property to hold services and Sunday School. By December 5th of 1905, the church was admitted into the

association of Congregational Churches. In 1916 the church added to its property a community building which enabled educational, dramatic, and recreational pursuits.

Shortly following a remodel of the church building in 1951, sometime between 1954 and 1965, members voted to become part of the United Church of Christ. After this vote, the diaconate became the single governing board of the church. On March 12, 1974, an electrical fire destroyed the sanctuary building, eventually resulting in a decision to dissolve the Watchung Congregational Church. Most members moved to the Union Congregational Church or the First Congregational Church, both in Montclair. When the property was sold in 1977, the proceeds of the sale went to those two congregations.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains records from the Watchung Congregational Church including vital statistics, historical information, and administrative records.

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Arrangement

The Watchung Congregational Church records have been arranged into the three series listed below. Within each series materials have been arranged first by topic, and then in chronological order by start date.

Series 1: Vital statistics, 1903-1975

Series 2: Administrative records, 1903-1976

Series 3: Historical information, 1934-1982

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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

The original collection was donated in 1977. Additional materials were donated to the Congregational Library & Archives by Timothy Crist in 2024; 2024-45.

Processing Information

Processed by Jenny Giri, November 2025, using DACS Second Edition.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Church buildings.
- Church history.
- Church records and registers.

- Corporate minutes.
- Vital statistics.
- Watchung Congregational Church (Montclair, N.J.)

Collection Inventory

Vital Statistics, 1903-1975

Physical Description: 8 Folders

Physical Description: 2 Volumes

Scope and Contents

This series contains vital statistics and includes records on baptisms, marriages, letters of dismissal, and general registers.

Title/Description	Instances	
Register, 1903-1956	box 1	volume 4
Register, 1954-1965	box 1	volume 5
Register, 1957-1976	box 1	folder 15
Letters of dismissal, 1905-1935	box 2	folder 1
Letters of dismissal, 1935-1949	box 2	folder 2
Letters of dismissal, 1949-1957	box 1	folder 4
Letters of dismissal, 1957-1975	box 1	folder 5
Baptism records, 1934-1940	box 1	folder 6
Marriage records, 1908-1940	box 1	folder 2
Marriage records, 1951-1975	box 1	folder 3

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Administrative records, 1903-1976

Physical Description: 9 Folders

Physical Description: 3 Volumes

Scope and Contents

This series consists of administrative records and includes a copy of the certificate of incorporation, Watchung Congregational Society meeting minutes, clerk's books, and reports.

Title/Description	Instances	
Watchung Congregational Society minutes, 1903-1938	box 1	volume 1

Watchung Congregational Society records, 1904-1911	box 1	folder 19
Clerk's book, 1903-1919	box 1	volume 2
Clerk's book, 1919-1936	box 1	volume 3
Certificate of incorporation, 1904	box 1	folder 1
Minutes and reports, 1939-1976	box 1	folder 11
Annual reports, 1940-1945	box 1	folder 14
Loyalty Sunday fliers, 1950-1960	box 1	folder 17
Brochure for Candidates Considering the Pastorate, 1965	box 1	folder 18
Minutes and reports (1 of 2), 1967-1975	box 1	folder 12
Minutes and reports (2 of 2), 1967-1975	box 1	folder 13
Religious census, 1973	box 1	folder 7

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Historical Information, 1934-1982

Physical Description: 4 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains historical information and includes three historical sketches, and multiple newspaper articles.

Title/Description	Instances	
Photocopies of newspaper clippings, 1934, undated	box 1	folder 9
Photocopies of histories, 1943, 1953	box 1	folder 8
Montclair Times church fire article, 1974	box 1	folder 10
Strength Inherited: Watchung Congregational Church, 1982	box 1	folder 16

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