



ArchivesSpace

Congregational Training School for Women records, 1907-1948.

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In English

DACS2 - 2013

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Congregational Training School for Women (Chicago, Ill.)
Source:	Chicago Theological Seminary
Title:	Congregational Training School for Women records, 1907-1948.
ID:	RG4987
Date [inclusive]:	1907-1948
Physical Description:	2.53 Cubic Feet (1 carton and 4 cases)
Physical Description:	The collection contains letters, pamphlets, bills, photos and a set of 8 books. Two books contain red rot and must be handled carefully.
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Chicago Training School for Women (CTSW) was founded by the combined efforts of Florence Fensham and housed within the Chicago Theological Seminary. Fensham wanted to provide women with an opportunity to receive education and training for professional positions with the Congregational Church. Starting in 1909, the Chicago Training School for Women would continue providing its services until 1926, when women were able to attend the Chicago Theological Seminary. This collection includes bills, dean letters, printed materials, board minutes, reports, records and grades. The collection includes materials from the entire history of the Chicago Training School for Women. It includes monetary documentation, lease and indenture notices, dean correspondents, alumnae letters, student grades, board minutes, and outreach pamphlets.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Congregational Training School for Women records, 1907-1948, RG4987. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Biographical / Historical

The Congregational Training School for Women was founded at Chicago Theological Seminary in 1909 as an opportunity to provide Congregational women with advanced educational training for professional positions within the Congregational Church at the beginning of the twentieth century. The school continued its mission until it was subsumed into Chicago Theological Seminary in 1926. This collection includes course schedules, correspondence, meeting minutes, reports, pamphlets, and alumnae association records.

Students were at least twenty-five years old, and generally from a middle-class, Midwestern background. A stipulation of entrance to the school was that students also possess a strong moral and religious character. Courses were taught under the rubric of religious, social work, and practical coursework. Practical courses included music, public speaking, arts and crafts, physical education, business skills, domestic arts, and foreign languages. Students were trained as professional church workers. The first graduating class included five women – one became a minister of a home missions parish in North Dakota, two became church assistants, one worked at a settlement house, and one took a position with the Congregational Educational Society in Chicago.

Florence Fensham was the first dean, succeeded by Agnes M. Taylor and Margaret M. Taylor, when Dean Fensham passed away unexpectedly in 1912. The Chicago Theological Seminary decided to allow full acceptance of women to its programs in 1926, thereby eliminating the need for a separate institution for women. The Congregational Training School for women was dissolved at that time.

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Content Description

This collection represents the institutional history of the Congregational Training School for Women at the Chicago Theological Seminary. The material focuses on the administrative workings of the school, correspondence between the school, graduates, and partners and alumnae association materials.

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Arrangement

Materials are arranged into four series. Whenever possible, materials are arranged in chronological order. However, in Series II: Dean Correspondence, there are two folders arranged alphabetically. During processing, it was determined these two folders of correspondence were too fragile to be arranged

chronologically. Materials were left in original order in this series. Please see the detailed container listing below for more detail.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Congregational Library & Archives

Revision Description

Finding aid rewritten to include description from 2014 accrual. 4/11/16

Custodial History

Donated by the Chicago Theological Seminary, January 2011.

Processing Information

Accessioned and processed by Cristina Prochilo in 2012. Re-processed by William McCarthy in April 2016.

Content Description

Originally obtained in 2011, additional material became available in 2014.

Conditions Governing Use

No access restrictions

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Zikmund, Barabara Brown, ed. Hidden Histories in the United Church of Christ. New York: United Church Press, 1987. Call Number: 9.8.11

Davis, Ozora Stearns (1866-1931).Chicago Theological Seminary collection, 1896-1933. Collection Number: MS 4974

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Controlled Access Headings

- Women in church work -- History.
- Religious education.
- Women Clergy -- United Church of Christ.
- Women -- Religious life.
- Chicago Theological Seminary

Collection Inventory

Series I: Administrative Records, 1909-1926

Scope and Contents

This series contains historical and administrative materials related to the founding and running of the Congregational Training School for Women. It also includes publicity materials promoting the school.

Title/Description	Instances	
Fundraising Notes and Bills, 1909-1912	box 1	folder 4
Financial Matters, 1919-1921	box 1	folder 2
Grades, 1919-1924	box 1	folder 3
Grade Book Binder, 1919-1928	box 4	volume 1
Printing Comapanes, 1919-1920	box 1	folder 1
Paid Bills, 1920-1925	box 1	folder 5
Paid Bills 2	box 1	folder 6
Field Representative	box 1	folder 7
Miss Lucy Rogers	box 1	folder 8
Mrs. Davies	box 1	folder 9
Edna Lowe	box 1	folder 10
Winona Douglas	box 1	folder 11

George Swain	box 1	folder 12
Board Meetings	box 1	folder 13
Congregationalist Women League Binder	box 5	volume 3
Managers Minutes' Binder	box 4	volume 2
Board Resolutions	box 1	folder 14
Binder of Board Minutes	box 4	volume 3
Removal to South Side	box 1	folder 15
Dean Reports	box 1	folder 16
Congregational League of Church Assistants	box 1	folder 17
Receipts	box 1	folder 18
Minutes and Expense	box 1	folder 19
Members and Minutes	box 1	folder 20
Guestbook	box 5	volume 2
By - Laws	box 3	folder 1
Lease, 1922	box 3	folder 2
Trust Deed, 1925	box 3	folder 3
Deed, 1923	box 3	folder 4
Building Expansion, undated	box 3	folder 5
Indenture, 1923-1926	box 3	folder 6
State Recognition, 1910	box 3	folder 7

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Series II: Dean Correspondents, (bulk) 1941

Title/Description	Instances	
Deans and Former Students, 1918-1920	box 1	folder 21
Founding Papers, 1907-1910	box 1	folder 22
Florence Fensham, 1909-1912	box 1	folder 23
Florence Fensham Death, 1912-1948	box 1	folder 24
Agnes Taylor Correspondents, 1914-1920	box 1	folder 25
Agnes Taylor 2, 1914-1920	box 1	folder 26
Agnes Taylor 3, 1914-1920	box 1	folder 27
Agnes Taylor 4, 1914-1920	box 1	folder 28

Death of Agnes Taylor, 1913-1920	box 1	folder 29
Margaret Taylor Correspondents, 1920-1926	box 1	folder 30
Margaret Taylor 2, 1920-1926	box 1	folder 31
Margaret Taylor 3, 1920-1926	box 1	folder 32
Margaret Taylor Correspondents: Ozora Davis and J.W.P. Davies, 1918-1921	box 1	folder 33

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Series III: Student Records, (bulk)

Title/Description	Instances	
Applications and Recommendations, 1913-1916	box 1	folder 34
Applications and Recommendations, 1917	box 1	folder 35
Applications and Recommendations, 1917	box 1	folder 36
Applications and Recommendations, 1918	box 2	folder 1
Applications and Recommendations, 1918	box 2	folder 2
Applications and Recommendations, 1919	box 2	folder 3
Applications and Recommendations, 1919	box 2	folder 4
Applications and Recommendations, 1920	box 2	folder 5
Applications and Recommendations, 1921-1923	box 2	folder 6
Coursework and Programs, 1920-1926	box 2	folder 7
Schedules, 1920-1926	box 2	folder 8
Student Courses and Outline, 1920-1926	box 2	folder 9
Register of Students and Courses, (bulk)	box 4	volume 4
Alumnae Work and Testimonials, (bulk)	box 2	folder 10
Alumnae Book, (bulk)	box 5	volume 1
Helen Fraser and Alumnae Program, (bulk)	box 2	folder 11

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Series IV: Printed Materials, (bulk)

Title/Description	Instances	
Pictures, undated	box 2	folder 12
Pamphlets and Publicity, 1910-1927	box 2	folder 13

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