

Congregational Library & Archives
 Chicago, Ill. South Congregational Church records, 1871-1933.
 RG5198

Summary

Creator: South Congregational Church (Chicago, Ill.)

Memorial Church (Chicago, Ill.)

Forty Seventh Congregational Church (Chicago, Ill.)

Forestville Congregational Church (Chicago, Ill.)

Title: Chicago, Ill. South Congregational Church records, 1871-1933.

Dates: 1871-1933 (gaps)

Extent: 9 document cases and 4 clamshell boxes (4.6 cubic feet)

Collection ID Number: RG5198

Language: English, some Swedish, some German

Abstract: This collection consists of the records of South Congregational Church. The church was founded originally as Memorial Church of Chicago, Illinois in 1871. The following year, it was changed to Forty Seventh Congregational Church. In 1879, the church officially becomes South Congregational Church. It annexed Forestville Congregational Church in 1909. The collection includes church governance, vital statistics, religious education, and auxiliary groups.

Collection History and Status

Custodial History: Items transferred to the Congregational Library & Archives in 2014 from the Chicago Theological Seminary. Items believed to have been transferred to the Chicago Theological Seminary from South Congregational Church sometime in the mid-1930s.

Repository:

Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street

Boston, MA 02108

617-523-0470

<http://www.congregationallibrary.org>

Processing Information: Processed by Rachel Cohen, November 2014, using DACS Second Edition.

Accessing and Using the Collection

Conditions Governing Access: Access to this collection is unrestricted and open to the public.

Physical Access: Ledger books are fragile.

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 permissions necessary to their reproduction and publication.

Requests for permission to public material must be discussed with the archivist or librarian.

Preferred Citation:

[Identification of item], in the Chicago, Ill. South Congregational Church records, RG5198. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

Description

Historical Note: Memorial Church of Chicago, Illinois was founded in 1871. The name was changed the following year to Forty-Seventh Congregational Church. In 1909, the church was renamed South Congregational Church and moved to its location on the corner of Drexel Boulevard and Fortieth Street. The church's imposing physical structure would appear on the cover of almost every weekly calendar of the church; it was known for its tall bell tower. In 1909, the sixty five members of the Forestville Congregational Church joined with South Congregational.

The church had a very active women's association and foreign missionary society. The missionary society served abroad starting from the nineteenth century. Missionary and church member Cora McCandlish's 1897 manuscript, "A Glimpse of the Sunrise Kingdom" detailed her experiences working as a librarian in Osaka, Japan. The Missionary Society gave aid to various countries in Asia and Central America. South Congregational was accepting of new immigrants, as shown from the Swedish Protocol book from the early twentieth century included in the Auxiliary Groups series. There are also admissions from Germany and Sweden. The documents in this collection end in 1933 but the church remained open for several decades. South Congregational would become predominantly African American in the 1970's. It merged with University Church in 1989. The resulting University Christian Church is still in operation.

Scope of Collection: The South Congregational Church records document the history of the church, including church governance, vital statistics, religious education, and auxiliary groups. Included in the records are correspondence, reports, ledgers, minutes, membership slips, and donation records.

Further Searches

Subject Headings:

- South Congregational Church (Chicago, Ill.)
- Chicago (Ill.) - Church history.
- Congregational churches - Illinois - Chicago.
- Memorial Church (Chicago, Ill.)
- Church Missionary Society.
- Forty Seventh Street Congregational Church (Chicago, Ill.)
- Congregational churches - Relations.
- Forestville Congregational Church (Chicago, Ill.)
- Sunday school

Arrangement: The South Congregational Church records are arranged in four series. The series highlight church governance, vital statistics, religious education, and auxiliary groups. The records are arranged chronologically, generally.

Contents

Series I: Church Governance

Date: 1897-1933, gaps

Extent: 2 document cases, 2 clamshell boxes

Scope of Series: This series includes records of the church through its various iterations from the turn of the nineteenth century to 1933. There are ledgers reporting financials, unification files from the 1909 absorption of Forestville Congregational Church, records from the Pastoral Committee, and governance-related records.

	Date	Box / Folder
Meeting Minutes of the Directory Notebook	1897-1899	B3
Clerk Records Ledger	1899-1918	B1
Pastoral Succession Committee Record Book	1898-1899	B4/E2
Pastoral Committee Records Ledger	1900-1913	B2
Deacons Records	1902-1903, 1907	B4/F3
Clerk Records	1904-1911, 1915	B4/F4
Board of Trustees Reports ledger	1904-1916	B3
Data Entry Record Book	1904-1906	B4/E1
Pastoral Committee Records	1908-1911	B4/F5
Pastoral Change Records	1909	B4/F6
Unification of Forestville and South Congregational Church	1909-1910	B4/F7
Church Meeting Records	1909-1911	B4/F8
Church Society Records	1909-1911, 1914-1915, 1917	B4/F9
Assistant to the Pastor Records	1910, 1914-1915	B4/F10
Financial Records	1911, 1914-1915, 1919	B4/F15
Pastoral Committee Meeting Minutes	1913-1916	B4/F11
Pastoral Committee Meeting Minutes Notebook	1914-1917	B4/F12
Church Contributors List	1916-1920	B4/F14
Clerk Records	1925-1933	B3
Eunice Trumbo Ordination	1930	B4/F13
Deaconess Record	undated	B4/F16

Series II: Vital Statistics

Date: 1871-1930, gaps

Extent: 1 clamshell box, 1 document case

Scope of Series: The Vital Statistics includes documents that show the consistently changing record of the members of the church. Admissions, dismissals, transfers, events by the members, and membership standings are included here.

	Date	Box / Folder
Recommendations and Transfers	1890, 1898, 1908-1911	B6/F1
Absentee List	1900, 1902, 1904, 1910	B6/F2
Dismissal Slips	1904-1911	B5/E1
Dismissal Slips	1912, 1914-1917, 1930	B5/E2
Dismissals and Transfers	1906-1907, 1909-1911	B6/F3
Dismissals and Transfers	1914-1917	B6/F4
Baptisms and Deaths	1907, 1910-1911, 1914, 1916, 1929	B6/F5

Membership List	undated	B6/F6
Membership List	1910	B6/F7
Correspondence	1910-1911, 1915	B6/F8
Admissions	1889, 1905, 1909-1911	B6/F9
Admissions	1913-1916	B6/F10
Membership Registry	1871-1913	B5
Sign in Book	1921	B5
Forestville Congregational Church Clerk Records	1904-1909	B5

Series III: Religious Education

Date: 1883-1928

Extent: 1 clamshell box, 2 document cases

Scope of Series: The Religious Education series shows the importance of the education of the youth in the life of the church. Included are the yearly record books of the Sunday school, pledges from the students, financials from the Sunday school, and records from the Bible Study groups.

	Date	Box / Folder
Sunday School Secretary Record Book	1897-1904	B7
Sunday School Record Book	1910-1916	B9
Vacation School Record Book	1927	B7
Sunday School Tally Book	1913-1921	B9
Education Donation Book	1909-1928	B7
Sunday School Benevolence Fund Book	1926	B8
Sunday School Roster Book	1919	B8
Sunday School Record Book	1894	B8
Sunday School Record Book	1895	B8
Sunday School Record Book	1892	B8
Sunday School Record Book	1897	B8
Children's Dues	1896-1898	B7
Sunday School New Scholars Notebook	1915-1920	B8
Sunday School Record Book	1910	B7
Young People's Bible Class Pledge Book	1901, 1904	B8
Sunday school Financials	1908-1910, 1914-1916	B8/F1
Sunday School Record Book	1912	B9
Bible Class Record Book	1883-1900	B9
Young People's Bible Study Group Record Book	undated	B9

Series IV: Auxiliary Groups

Date: 1871-1921

Extent: 4 document cases

Scope of Series: This series contains the records of various organizations within the church. The Women's Associations, through their various names and times, were extremely active and

thoroughly documented their efforts. This series holds records of the foreign missionary society, the church newspaper *The Lookout*, and the Literary Club among other organizations.

	Date	Box / Folder
Minutes of the Ladies' Society	1871-1881	B13
Sewing Society Record Book	1873-1883	B10
Foreign Missionary Society Ledger	1881-1888	B11
Secretary's Reports of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society	1894	B11
Secretary's Reports of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society	1900	B11
Women's Association Dues Ledger	1890-1906	B10
Ladies' Benevolence Society Ledger	1883-1895	B11
Ladies' Benevolence Society/ Women's Association Record Book	1895-1899	B11
Ladies' Benevolence Society, First Edition	1886-1892	B10/E1
Men's Club Ledger	1896-1897	B12
Minutes of the Men's League	1911	B13
Christian Endeavor Society Ledger	1896-1902	B10
Manuscript of Mission	1897	B10/F2
Missionary Study Circle Minutes	1905-1907	B11
Women's Association Meeting Minutes Book	1904-1908	B11
Ladies Literary Club Ledger	1904-1909	B10
Swedish Protocol Book	1904-1910	B10
The Lookout Records	1907-1908, 1910	B10/F3
Literary Club Records	1907-1908, 1911, 1913-1914	B10/F4
Minutes of the Literary Club Ledger	1899-1904	B13
Minutes of the Literary Club Ledger	1909-1914	B12
Minutes of the Literary Club Ledger	1914-1921	B12
Mother's Club Records	1910	B10/F5
Tri-C Club Records	1910	B10/F6
Young Ladies' Missionary Society Records	1910-1911	B10/F7
Christian Endeavor Society Records	1910-1911, 1913-1914	B10/F8
Emclopea Club Records	1913-1916	B10/F9
Fidelta Club Records	1913-1916	B10/F10
Missionary Guild Records	1913-1916	B10/F11
Eunicea Club Records	1914, 1916	B10/F2
Minutes of the Workers' Council Book	1914-1916	B12
Women's Association Records	1893-1894, 1908-1909, undated	B10/F13
Women's Association Member Dues	1896-1905	B12
Minutes of the Women's Association	1899-1904	B13
Minutes of the Women's Association	1908-1911	B13
Women's Association Records	1914-1918	B10/F14
Women's Association Meeting Minutes Ledger	1911-1915	B11

Boy Scouts Records	1915-1916	B10/F15
Minutes of the Missionary Band Ledger	1880-1886	B12
Mission Band Records	1907, 1913, undated	B10/F16
Economics Club Records	undated	B10/F17
Bazaar Records	undated	B10/F18