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Livonia, Mich. Pilgrim United Church of Christ records, 1913-1980. RG5544

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Congregational Library & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Pilgrim United Church of Christ (Livonia, Mich.)
Creator:	Brewster Congregational Church (Detroit, Mich.)
Creator:	Brewster Pilgrim Congregational Church (Detroit, Mich.)
Title:	Livonia, Mich. Pilgrim United Church of Christ records, 1913-1980.
ID:	RG5544
Date [inclusive]:	1913-1980
Physical Description:	0.85 Cubic Feet (3 boxes)
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Brewster Congregational Church in Detroit, Michigan, was gathered in 1894. It merged with the Pilgrim Congregational Church in 1924 to form the Brewster Pilgrim Congregational Church. The church moved to Livonia, Michigan, in 1957 and reformed as the Pilgrim Congregational Church. By 1969, the church was renamed to Pilgrim United Church of Christ. The church dissolved in 1979. This collection contains, primarily, vital records, such a membership records, marriage records, and baptismal records, as well as a smaller amount of administrative records.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Livonia, Mich. Pilgrim United Church of Christ records, 1913-1980, RG5544. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Note

The Brewster Congregational Church in Detroit, Michigan, was gathered in 1894. In 1924, the Brewster Congregational Church merged with the Pilgrim Congregational Church, gathered in 1915, to form the Brewster Pilgrim Congregational Church. In 1957, the Brewster Pilgrim Congregational Church partnered with the Mount Hope Congregational Church, gathered 1889, to form the Pilgrim Congregational Church of Greater Detroit. This combined entity sold the Brewster Pilgrim Congregational Church building in 1957 and purchased a new building in Livonia, Michigan, which became the home of the newly reformed Pilgrim Congregational Church.

The exact relationship between Mount Hope Congregational Church and the Pilgrim Congregational Church after 1958 is unclear; the churches seem to have operated independently after this point. The Mount Hope Congregational Church moved to Livonia in 1964 and continues to serve the community today. The Pilgrim Congregational Church joined the United Church of Christ and between 1967 and 1969, the church was renamed to Pilgrim United Church of Christ. In 1969, the church federated with the Livonia Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The Pilgrim United Church of Christ dissolved in 1979; in 1980 the church building was sold to the Livonia Christian Church.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains the records of the Pilgrim United Church of Christ, Livonia, Michigan, and its various predecessor churches. The majority of this collection is vital records, such as Baptismal records, Marriage records, and membership records. The collection also contains some administrative records, including meeting minutes, correspondence, and legal records.

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Arrangement

Materials in this collection have been arranged into the three series listed below. Materials within each series have been arranged in chronological order by start date.

Series 1: Brewster Congregational Church records, 1913-1925

Series 2: Brewster Pilgrim Congregational Church records, 1922-1957

Series 3: Pilgrim United Church of Christ 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

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

Acquisition Information

Materials were donated to the Congregational Library & Archives by the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society in March 2021; accession 2021-04.

The contents of the "Ministerial search documents, 1958" folder were originally found in the Detroit, MI: Brewster Congregational Church. (1907) local church history file (17.11.1 D48.5 B7) and transferred to the archives in April, 2025.

Processing Information

Processed by Zachary Bodnar, April 2025, according to the rules of Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Baptismal records.
- Church membership.
- Church records and registers.
- Marriage records.
- Brewster Congregational Church (Detroit, Mich.)
- Brewster Pilgrim Congregational Church (Detroit, Mich.)
- Detroit (Mich.) -- Church history.
- Livonia (Mich.) -- Church history.
- Mount Hope Congregational Church (Livonia, Mich.)
- Pilgrim United Church of Christ (Livonia, Mich.)

Collection Inventory

Brewster Congregational Church records, 1913-1925

Physical Description: 1 Volume

Physical Description: 2 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains vital records related to the Brewster Congregational Church. The series includes marriage records, baptismal records, and membership records.

Title/Description	Instances	
Church register, 1913-1924	box 2	volume 1
Marriage register, 1922-1925	box 2	folder 1
Baptismal records, 1922-1925	box 2	folder 2

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Brewster Pilgrim Congregational Church records, 1922-1957

Physical Description: 8 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains vital records related to the Brewster Pilgrim Congregational Church. The series includes baptismal records, marriage records, membership records, a memorial scrapbook, and a church magazine.

Title/Description	Instances	
Baptismal records, 1922-1936	box 2	folder 3
Memorial scrapbook, 1926	box 2	folder 4
Marriage register, 1926-1938	box 2	folder 5
Baptismal records, 1932-1939	box 3	folder 1
Baptismal records, 1936-1952	box 3	folder 2
Brewster Pilgrim Messenger magazine, 1938	box 3	folder 3
Membership transfers, 1953-1957	box 3	folder 4
Dismissions, 1954-1956	box 3	folder 5

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Pilgrim United Church of Christ records, 1956-1980

Physical Description: 1 Volume

Physical Description: 8 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains records related to the Pilgrim United Church of Christ, which had previously been known as the Pilgrim Congregational Church and formed out of the Brewster-Pilgrim Congregational Church. The Series contains membership records, church records and communications, clippings, and directories.

Title/Description	Instances	
Dismissions, 1956-1970	box 1	folder 6
Membership records, 1957-1967	box 3	folder 6
Ministerial search documents, 1958	box 3	folder 7

Scope and Contents

This folder contains a document titled "The Story of Pilgrim Congregational Church of Greater Detroit" and filled questionnaire from the Congregational board of Pastoral Supply.

Church records, 1958-1980	box 1	folder 1
Church register, 1960-1965	box 1	volume 1
Membership records, 1960-1978	box 1	folder 2

Clippings, 1961-1970, undated	box 1	folder 3
Pilgrim Progress newsletter, 1962-1978	box 1	folder 4
Directories, 1963-1977	box 1	folder 5

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