

Title:

Charles Clarkson Merrill papers, 1891-1960.

Creator(s):

Merrill, Charles Clarkson, 1872-1961

Dates:

1891-1961

Extent:

4 record storage cartons (4 cubic feet)

Collection ID #:

MS0769

Conditions Governing Access:

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Preferred Citation:

[Identification of item], in the Charles Clarkson Merrill papers, MS0769. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

Language:

English

Processing information:

Re-described by Nick Ver Steegh, November 2014, using DACS Second Edition.

Abstract:

Charles Merrill was a member of the Commission on Ministry from 1927-1934, and the Board of Pastoral Supply from 1934-1943. The collection contains material produced and collected by Charles Merrill during his career in the Congregational church, including his work as a pastor and his advocacy of the United Church of Christ merger.

Description

Historical Note

Charles Clarkson Merrill was born in Marlboro, New Hampshire on March 3rd 1872, attended Yale Divinity School, and was ordained through the Congregational Church of Stubenville, Ohio in 1897. He was pastor there until 1902, then at North Church in Winchendon, Massachusetts from 1902-1911. He became secretary of the Vermont Conference in 1917, of the Illinois Conference in 1922, of the Commission on Missions in 1927, and finally the Congregational Board of Pastoral Supply in 1934, a position he held until his retirement in 1943. He convened, chaired, and was a member of the Committee on Interchurch Relations and Christian Unity from 1946-1958, and a member of the Committee on Denominational History from 1947-1958. He died on April 1st 1961.

Scope of Collection

The Merrill collection contains material produced and collected by Charles Merrill during his career in the Congregational church, including his work as a pastor, his time on the Commission on the Ministry, and his advocacy of the United Church of Christ merger.

Further Searches

Subject Headings

[Merrill, Charles Clarkson, 1872-1961](#)

[Worcester North Conference of Congregational Churches](#)

[Evangelical and Reformed Church.](#)

[United Church of Christ](#)

[Burton, Malcolm K.](#)

[World Council of Churches.](#)

[United Church of Canada](#)

[International Congregational Council](#)

[United Church of Christ. Uniting General Synod](#)

[General Council of the Congregational and Christian Churches of the United States. Commission on the Ministry](#)

[Church committees.](#)

[20th-century America -- Correspondence.](#)

[Congregational churches -- Sermons.](#)

[United Church of Christ -- Litigation](#)

Related Materials

[*American Congregationalism in the 20th century : two outstanding developments*](#) by Charles Merrill (9.3 2067)

[*The fulfillment of Congregationalism*](#) by Charles C. Merrill (9.7.48)

[*Prayer*](#) by Charles C. Merrill (30.4 1002)

[*The state conference : a major development in Congregational history*](#) by Charles C. Merrill (30.9 MER 1946)

[Congregational Christian Churches. Commission on the Missions/Missions Council. Records, 1928-1943, 1956-1962](#) (RG 0056)

[Congregational Board of Pastoral Supply records, 1893-1975.](#) (RG 0693)

[Congregational Christian Historical Society records, 1953-2008.](#) (RG 1187)

Items removed from the collection, held at Congregational Library & Archives

[*Christian unity; its relevance to the community*](#) by Joseph Quinter Miller et al. (18.5.3.50)

Arrangement

The collection is divided into five series: the first contains his sermons and early pastoral work; the second, material related to the Commission on the Ministry; the third, material related to the denominational merger; the fourth, material on the new United Church of Christ; and the fifth, material related to other denominations. Subseries reflect divisions contained in original finding aid, and may or may not be some representation of an original order.

Contents

Series I: Sermons, Publications, Letters to Editors

Date: 1891-1960

Extent: 1 record storage carton

Scope of Series: This series mainly contains work and records from Merrill's early years as a pastor, but includes writings from his entire career. It collects Merrill's sermons, addresses, classes and letters to the editor as well as pamphlets, newsletters, newspapers and newspaper clippings. The folders and their contents are arranged by genre, then primarily chronologically.

	Date	Box/Folder
Sermons	1891-1892	B1/F1
Sermons	1892-1896	B1/F2
Sermons	1897-1901	B1/F3
Sermons	1902	B1/F4
Sermons	1903-1905	B1/F5
Sermons	1906-1908	B1/F6
Sermons	1909-1939	B1/F7
Sermons	1940-1949	B1/F8
Sermons	1950-1955	B1/F9
Sermons	1956-1961	B1/F10
Papers read at Worcester North Association	1899-1909	B1/F11
Papers read at Worcester North Association	1899-1909	B1/F12
Studies	1898-1900	B1/F13
Studies	1901-1930	B1/F14
Studies	1931-1940	B1/F15
Studies	1941-1950	B1/F16
Studies	1951-1960	B1/F17
History of Congregational Christian State conferences	1944-1945	B1/F18
History of Congregationalism	1957-1959	B1/F19
Letters to the Boston Herald and the New York Times	1936-1960	B1/F20
The Vermont Missionary	1917-1918	B1/F21
The Vermont Missionary	1919	B1/F22
The Vermont Missionary	1920-1922	B1/F23
The Pilgrim Outlook	1923-1926	B1/F24

Series II: Commission on the Ministry

Date: 1932-1958

Extent: 2 record storage cartons

Scope of Series: This series contains records related to Merrill work on the Commission on the Ministry. These are primarily correspondence, but also include minutes, memos, studies, handbooks, reports, directories, pamphlets and reports. The correspondence is arranged by correspondent, with some consolidated into alphabetically-arranged folders.

Subseries 1: Commissions on the Ministry

	Date	Box/Folder
Commission on the ministry	1936-1945, 1953, 1958	B1/F25
Commission on the ministry, correspondence, miscellaneous	1938-1940	B1/F26
Commission on the ministry, correspondence, Frederick L. Fagley	1938-1940	B1/F27
Commission on the ministry, correspondence, Fred L. Hall	1938-1940	B1/F28
Commission on the ministry, correspondence, Hugh Hartshorne	1938-1940	B2/F1
Commission on the ministry, correspondence, Douglas Horton	1938-1940	B2/F2
Commission on the ministry, correspondence, Harold G. Jones	1938-1940	B2/F3
Commission on the ministry, correspondence, expenses	1938-1940	B2/F4
Commission on the ministry, correspondence, placement	1938-1940	B2/F5
Commission on the ministry, correspondence, sources committee	1938-1940	B2/F6
Commission on the ministry, correspondence, salaries	1938-1940	B2/F7
Commission on the ministry, correspondence, standards	1938-1940	B2/F8
Commission on the ministry, correspondence A-F	1938-1940	B2/F9
Commission on the ministry, correspondence G-Q	1938-1940	B2/F10
Commission on the ministry, correspondence R-W	1938-1940	B2/F11

Commission on the ministry, correspondence, general	1938-1943	B2/F12
Commission on the ministry, correspondence, bills	1940-1943	B2/F13
Commission on the ministry, correspondence A-F	1940-1943	B2/F14
Commission on the ministry, correspondence G, H and I	1940-1943	B2/F15
Commission on the ministry, correspondence J, K, L and M-Z	1940-1943	B2/F16

Subseries 2: Missions

	Date	Box/Folder
Layman's foreign mission inquiry meeting proceedings	1932	B2/F17
Commission on missions and the layman's foreign mission inquiry	1933-1934	B2/F18

Series III: Merger

Date: 1938-1961

Extent: 3 record storage cartons

Scope of Series: This series contains records relating to Merrill's role in the 1957 merger between the Evangelical and Reformed denomination and the Congregational Christian denomination. It includes correspondence, minutes, newspaper clippings, plans, notes, memos, programs, pamphlets, reports, newsletters, telegraphs, magazines, court decisions, bylaws, constitutions, maps and booklets. It is organized into 14 subseries, usually relating to Merrill's work with a specific Congregational committee or conference.

Subseries 1: Interim Committee on Church Unity

	Date	Box/Folder
Interim committee on church unity	1952-1954	B2/F19

Subseries 2: Conference on Church Union

	Date	Box/Folder
Conference on church union	1950-1953	B2/F20
Conference on church union, including minutes	1951-1953	B2/F21
Conference on church union	1951-1955	B2/F22

Subseries 3: Association for a United Church

	Date	Box/Folder
Association for a united church	1947-1953	B2/F23

Subseries 4: Faith and Order Conference

	Date	Box/Folder
Faith and order conference	1957	B2/F24

Subseries 5: Greenwich Plan

	Date	Box/Folder
Greenwich plan, correspondence	1953-1959	B2/F25
Greenwich plan, documents	1958-1959	B2/F26
Church union, articles and reports	1938, 1940, 1952	B2/F27
Church union, articles and reports	1940, 1956- 1957	B2/F28

Subseries 6: Congregational and Christian Union

	Date	Box/Folder
Congregational church and Christian church union of 1931, Southworth lecture	1951	B2/F29

Subseries 7: Congregational Christian Church and Evangelical and Reformed Church Union Proponents' Correspondence

	Date	Box/Folder
Merger correspondence, Minton, Reed, Lampé to Bradshaw, Walton and Pope	1945-1949	B2/F30

Subseries 8: Congregational Christian Church and Evangelical and Reformed Church Union Proponents' Documents

	Date	Box/Folder
Merger correspondence and documents, Harold S. Davis	1946-1948	B2/F31
Merger correspondence	1946-1952	B2/F32
Merger correspondence	1948-1949, 1952	B2/F33
Merger correspondence and literature	1948-1949	B2/F34
Merger correspondence	1948-1956	B2/F35
Merger correspondence	1953-1955	B2/F36
Plan of union drafts	1950-1954	B2/F37

Subseries 9: Congregational Christian Church and Evangelical and Reformed Church Union Opponents' Documents

	Date	Box/Folder
Malcolm K. Burton's book	1952-1953	B3/F1
Malcolm K. Burton	1946-1956	B3/F2
Malcolm K. Burton	1945-1949	B3/F3
Merger opponents' documents	1947-1949	B3/F4
Merger opponents' documents	1948, 1953- 1956	B3/F5

Merger opponents' documents, J. Francis Peck	1955-1956	B3/F6
Merger opponents' documents	1954-1956	B3/F7
Merger opponents' documents	1956-1961	B3/F8
The Free Lance	1951-1956	B3/F9

Subseries 10: Congregational Christian Church and Evangelical and Reformed Church Union Miscellaneous Correspondence and Documents

	Date	Box/Folder
Merger miscellaneous, various historical documents	1943-1949	B3/F10
Merger miscellaneous documents, including "Basis of Union"	1943-1956	B3/F11
Merger miscellaneous, mostly correspondence	1943-1957	B3/F12
Merger miscellaneous, mostly correspondence	1957-1960	B3/F13
Merger miscellaneous	1947-1956	B3/F14
Merger miscellaneous, documents and comments	1947-1955	B3/F15
Merger miscellaneous, data and documents	1949, 1954-1955	B3/F16
Merger miscellaneous, Charles C. Merrill's notes	1953-1954	B3/F17

Subseries 11: Congregational Christian Church and Evangelical and Reformed Church Union Committees

	Date	Box/Folder
Commission on interchurch relations and Christian unity, minutes, etc.	1948-1958	B3/F18
Commission on interchurch relations and Christian unity, correspondence	1951-1959	B3/F19
Commission on interchurch relations and Christian unity, Ms. Robert Reneker	1957-1958	B3/F20
Commission on interchurch relations and Christian unity, J. Hall Kellogg	1957-1958	B3/F21

Committee on free church polity and unity, minutes, etc.	1950-1954	B3/F22
Committee on free church polity and unity, studies, etc.	1950-1954	B3/F23
Committee on free church polity and unity, mostly correspondence	1954	B3/F24
Information committee of the executive committee of the general council	1955-1956	B3/F25
Information committee of the Massachusetts conference	1945-1957	B3/F26
Information committee of the Massachusetts conference	1957-1961	B3/F27
Committee on free church polity and unity, correspondence	1951-1953	B3/F28
Committee on free church polity and unity, correspondence	1953-1955	B3/F29
Committee for the continuation of Congregational Christian churches of the United States	1949-1951, 1955-1956	B3/F30
The Congregational Christian Churches	1949-1955	B3/F31
Constitution committee	1957-1961	B3/F32

Subseries 12: Congregational Christian Church and Evangelical and Reformed Church Union Court Papers and Legal Matters

	Date	Box/Folder
Steinbrink decision and court's decision of December 3, 1953	1949-1951, 1953	B4/F1
Steinbrink decision and court's decision of December 3, 1953	undated	B4/F2
Massachusetts conference appeal fund	1948-1952	B4/F3
Information consulting group	1954-1956	B4/F4
Loren T. Wood and Loren N. Wood	1954, 1958	B4/F5

Subseries 13: Congregational Christian Church and Evangelical and Reformed Church Union General Council Meetings

	Date	Box/Folder
General council meeting, Oberlin	1948	B4/F6

General council meeting, Cleveland	1950	B4/F7
General council meeting, Omaha	1956	B4/F8
General council meetings, Cleveland, uniting synod	1957	B4/F9

Subseries 14: Evangelical and Reformed Church

	Date	Box/Folder
Evangelical and reformed	1944-1958	B4/F10
Evangelical and reformed, minutes	1946-1951	B4/F11
Evangelical and reformed, correspondence	1955-1960	B4/F12

Series IV: United Church of Christ

Date: 1948-1960

Extent: 1 record storage carton

Scope of Series: This series contains Merrill's documents relating to the then newly-formed United Church of Christ. These include minutes, correspondence, memos, proposals, notes, programs, pamphlets, brochures, bylaws, reports and booklets. They are organized chronologically.

	Date	Box/Folder
United Church of Christ	1948-1960	B4/F13
United Church of Christ	1960	B4/F14
United Church of Christ, uniting general synod, Cleveland	1957	B4/F15
United Church of Christ, second general synod, Oberlin	1959	B4/F16
United Church of Christ, general synod	1960	B4/F17
United Church of Christ, general synod	1960	B4/F18
United Church of Christ, constitution	1959-1960	B4/F19

Series V: Other Religious Groups

Date: 1922-1961

Extent: 1 record storage carton

Scope of Series: This series contains information collected by Merrill on denominations outside the United States, as well as relevant correspondence. It includes booklets, newspapers, correspondence and maps. It is organized by subject.

	Date	Box/Folder
International Congregational council	1938, 1953	B4/F20
Congregational church in England	1922, 1944, 1950-1951	B4/F21
World Council of Churches, advisory commission	1954	B4/F22
World Council of Churches, faith and order commission	1952, 1954, 1956, 1958	B4/F23
World Council of Churches, miscellaneous	1951-1952, 1961	B4/F24
United Church of Canada	1950, 1953	B4/F25
United Church of South India	1942, 1948, 1949, 1951, 1953	B4/F26
Disciples of Christ	1948, 1952, 1954, 1957, 1959	B4/F27