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Providence, R.I. Elmwood Christian Church records, 1834-1955. RG5545

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Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street

Suite 200

Boston, MA 02108

Business Number: 617-523-0470

info@14beacon.org

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

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Elmwood Christian Church (Providence, R.I.)
Creator:	Broad Street Christian Church (Providence, R.I.)
Creator:	Elmwood Temple Congregational Church (Providence, R.I.)
Title:	Providence, R.I. Elmwood Christian Church records, 1834-1955.
ID:	RG5545
Date [inclusive]:	1834-1955
Physical Description:	0.88 Cubic Feet (2 boxes)
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	A Christian Connection church was gathered in 1834 in Providence, Rhode Island, and by 1871 it was known as the Broad Street Christian Church. The Elmwood Congregational Church was first gathered in 1851 and in 1895 it was reformed as the Elmwood Temple Congregational Church in Providence. In 1912, the two churches merged to form the Elmwood Christian Church. The church closed in 1955. This collection includes vital membership records, church records and meeting minutes, legal documents, and programs.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Providence, R.I. Elmwood Christian Church records, 1834-1955., RG5545. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Note

A Christian Connection church was gathered in 1834 in Providence, Rhode Island. By 1841, the church had a building on Pawtuxet street and was known as the Pawtuxet Street Christian

Church. Around 1871, the church moved to a new building on Broad Street and was thereafter known as the Broad Street Christian Church.

The Elmwood Temple, built along Elmwood Avenue, was gathered in 1851 in Cranston, Rhode Island, before moving a short distance North to Providence in 1854. The church reformed as the Elmwood Temple Congregational Church in 1895 and joined the Rhode Island Conference at that time.

In 1912, the Broad Street Christian Church and the Elmwood Temple Congregational Church merged to form the Elmwood Christian Church. The Broad Street church building was sold and the money was used to build a new church building along Elmwood Avenue. The new building was an English Tudor Revival-style building designed by local architect Gorham Henshaw and construction on the building was completed in 1915. At first, the Elmwood Christian Church was solely a part of the Christian denomination, but by 1934, after the 1931 merger of the Christian and Congregational denominations, the church identified itself as "Congregational-Christian." The church closed between 1954 and 1955. The building has remained a church ever since, first serving as a home to a Presbyterian congregation, then as a home for the Providence Assembly of God, and now as the home for the Impact Center Providence church.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains the records of Elmwood Christian Church, In Providence, Rhode Island, and the two churches that merged to form it: The Broad Street Christian Church and the Elmwood Temple Congregational Church. The collection includes vital membership records, church records and meeting minutes, legal documents, a pew plan, programs, images, and clippings.

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Arrangement

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

Series 1: Broad Street Christian Church records, 1834-1882

Series 2: Elmwood Temple Congregational Church records, 1865-1912

Series 3: Elmwood Christian Church records, 1912-1955

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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

Materials were donated to the Congregational Library & Archives by the Rhode Island Conference of the United Church of Christ in April 1984 and February 2025; 2025-04.

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.
- Pews and pew rights.
- Broad Street Christian Church (Providence, R.I.)
- Elmwood Christian Church (Providence, R.I.)
- Elmwood Temple Congregational Church (Providence, R.I.)
- Providence (R.I.) -- Church history.

Collection Inventory

Broad Street Christian Church records, 1834-1882

Physical Description: 1 Volume

Physical Description: 5 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains records related to the Broad Street Christian Church and includes vital membership records, church records, a pew plan, legal records, and programs.

Title/Description	Instances	
Church records, 1834-1882	box 1	volume 1
Committee minutes, 1841	box 2	folder 1
Pew plan, 1841	box 2	folder 2
Mortgage deed, 1871-1884	box 2	folder 3
Pamphlets, programs, and clippings, 1889-1912, 1941	box 2	folder 4
Membership roll, 1898	box 2	folder 5

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Elmwood Temple Congregational Church records, 1865-1912

Physical Description: 1 Volume

Physical Description: 1 Folder

Scope and Contents

This series contains a membership roll for the Elmwood Temple Congregational Church, a 1865 sketch of the exterior of the "Elmwood Temple", legal records, annual reports, programs, and images.

Title/Description**Instances**

Elmwood Temple sketch, circa 1865

Scope and Contents

This sketch of the exterior of the "Elmwood Temple" was produced by Sarah Elizabeth Arnold (1849-1913) circa 1865.

Legal records, 1895	box 1	folder 1
Sunday school library catalog, 1895	box 1	folder 2
Financial reports, 1895, 1900	box 1	folder 3
Membership roll, 1895-1912	box 1	volume 2
Annual reports, 1896-1907	box 2	folder 16
Programs, clippings, and images, 1898-1906	box 1	folder 4

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Elmwood Christian Church records, 1912-1955

Physical Description: 2 Volumes

Physical Description: 10 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains records related to the Elmwood Christian Church. The series contains vital membership records, church administrative records, the church's charter, and programs.

Title/Description**Instances**

Constitution and by-laws, 1912	box 2	folder 6
Merger documents, 1912-1913	box 2	folder 7
Programs, 1913-1919	box 2	folder 8
Charter, 1913, 1930	box 2	folder 9
Member register, 1925-1949	box 1	volume 3
Pilgrim Fellowship records, 1945-1951	box 2	folder 10
Needs survey, 1948	box 2	folder 11
Church records, 1948-1951	box 2	folder 12
Member register, 1949-1954	box 2	volume 1

Programs and clippings, 1949-1955	box 2	folder 13
Rhode Island city church survey, 1950	box 2	folder 14
Church records, 1951-1955	box 2	folder 15

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