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Washington, D.C. Plymouth Congregational Church records, 1930-1994. RG1440

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Congregational Library & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Plymouth Congregational Church (Washington, D.C.)
Title:	Washington, D.C. Plymouth Congregational Church records, 1930-1994.
ID:	RG1440
Date [inclusive]:	1930-1994
Physical Description:	2.18 Cubic Feet (2 cartons)
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	<p>The origins of the Plymouth Congregational Church start with the Union Bethel A.M.E. Church in Washington, D.C. On May 17th, 114 members of the church gathered in the home of Hannah Davis in order to create a separate organization. The members were not in favor of the church structure of Union Bethel A.M.E., particularly the power of the bishop. The first service was held a month later on June 12, 1881 with pastor William T. Peele presiding. The church has a long and storied history from this point, including in 1963 when the church opened its doors and hosted events for the March on Washington and the Poor People's Campaign. The church would continue to grow and is still active as of July 2021. This collection contains annual reports, order of worship documents, newsletters, and information on various church events such as dedications and installation services.</p>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Washington D.C. Plymouth Congregational Church records, 1930-1994, RG1440. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Information

The origins of the Plymouth Congregational Church start with the Union Bethel A.M.E. Church in Washington, D.C. On May 17th, 114 members of the church gathered in the home of Hannah Davis in order to create a separate organization. The members were not in favor of the church structure of Union Bethel A.M.E., particularly the power of the bishop. The first service was held a month later on June 12, 1881 with pastor William T. Peele presiding.

The church would move around to various locations until 1887, when a new building at 17th and P street was completed. The mortgage for this building would be paid in 1897. In 1921, the Junior and Senior Endeavor Societies were formed. That same year the community raised \$1500 toward a girls' dormitory located in Galangue, Western Africa (now Angola). The church would purchase a parsonage in 1924, located on Hobart Place, NW.

The church started their first newsletter, The Plymouth Monthly, in May 1942 and would continue until June 1958. The church installed memorial windows and dedicated them in May 1943. Service would continue in the original church until October 8, 1961 in favor of a new church located at 5301 North Capitol Street. That new church is still the location Plymouth Congregational Church resides in as of 2021. In 1963, the church opened its doors and hosted events for the March on Washington and the Poor People's Campaign.

The church hosted the 1979 United Church of Christ General Synod. In 1981, the church celebrated the centennial celebration which included numerous events such as a Crusteaun Feast and pageants. Ophelia T. Pinkard would join and establish the church archives in 1982. That same year, a fire would do considerable damage to the Education Building and it would take a year to fully rebuild. The church would continue to grow and is still active as of July 2021.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains annual reports, order of worship documents, newsletters, and information on various church events such as dedications and installation services.

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Arrangement

This collection has been arranged into four series, the third of which has been further arranged into two sub-series. Records in each series and sub-series has been arranged chronologically by start date.

Series 1: Order of worship, 1930-1957, 1982-1986

Series 2: Events, 1941-1942, 1981-1994

Series 3: Communications, June 1942 - May 1994

Sub-series 1: The Plymouth Monthly, June 1942-June 1956

Sub-series 2: The Plymouth Prompter, February 1962-May 1994

Series 4: Annual reports, 1946-1994

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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 by Ophelia T. Pinkard in December 1995; 1995-02.

Processing Information

Processed by William McCarthy, July 2021, using DACS second edition.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Worship programs.
- Endowment reports.
- Religious literature -- Publishing
- Entertainment events -- Religious aspects
- Plymouth Congregational Church (Washington, D.C.)

Bibliography

Sluby, Paul E., ed. "History of Plymouth Congregational Church United Church of Christ Washington D.C.", Washington D.C., 1997.

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Collection Inventory

Order of worship, 1930-1957, 1982-1986

Physical Description: 6 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains order of worship documents.

Title/Description	Instances	
Order of worship, 1930-1957	box 1	folder 40
Order of worship, 1982	box 1	folder 34
Order of worship, 1983	box 1	folder 35
Order of worship, 1984	box 1	folder 36
Order of worship, 1985	box 1	folder 37
Order of worship, 1986	box 1	folder 38

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Events, 1941-1942, 1981-1994

Physical Description: 7 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains documents related to various church events, including dedications, installation services and a homecoming.

Title/Description	Instances	
Dedication of Memorial Windows, 1941-1942	box 1	folder 1
Service of Thanksgiving and Mortgage Burning, September 27, 1981	box 1	folder 3
A Play about Plymouth Congregational Church, 1981	box 1	folder 4
Installation Services, 1981-1985	box 1	folder 5
Annual Church Stewardship Drive, 1988?	box 1	folder 6
First Conference of the Historically African-American Congregational Churches, April 18, 1990	box 1	folder 7
Homecoming 1944, May 1-22, 1994	box 1	folder 8

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Communications, June 1942 - May 1994

Physical Description: 18 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains communication related documents, including two newsletters, the Plymouth Monthly and the Plymouth Prompter.

The Plymouth Monthly, June 1942 - June 1956

Physical Description: 9 Folders

Scope and Contents

This sub-series contains the newsletter the Plymouth Monthly.

Title/Description	Instances	
The Plymouth Monthly, June 1942 - February 1944	box 1	folder 25
The Plymouth Monthly, March 1944 - October 1945	box 1	folder 26
The Plymouth Monthly, November 1945 - April 1948	box 1	folder 27
The Plymouth Monthly, May 1948 - March 1950	box 1	folder 28
The Plymouth Monthly, April 1950 - June 1951	box 1	folder 29
The Plymouth Monthly, October 1951 - December 1952	box 1	folder 30
The Plymouth Monthly, January 1953 - February 1954	box 1	folder 31
The Plymouth Monthly, March 1954 - June 1955	box 1	folder 32
The Plymouth Monthly, October 1955 - June 1956	box 1	folder 33
Survey of Church Membership, December 1945	box 1	folder 2

The Plymouth Prompter, February 1962 - May 1994

Physical Description: 8 Folders

Scope and Contents

This sub-series contains the newsletter the Plymouth Prompter.

Title/Description	Instances	
The Plymouth Prompter, February 1962 - August 1967	box 1	folder 39
The Plymouth Prompter, September 1967 - March 1972	box 2	folder 1
The Plymouth Prompter, April 1972 - August 1974	box 2	folder 2
The Plymouth Prompter, September 1974 - November 1978	box 2	folder 3
The Plymouth Prompter, December 1978 - February 1981	box 2	folder 4
The Plymouth Prompter, March 1981 - July 1982	box 2	folder 5
The Plymouth Prompter, June 1988 - February 1993	box 2	folder 6
The Plymouth Prompter, April 1993 - May 1994	box 2	folder 7

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Annual reports, 1946-1994

Physical Description: 16 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains the churches annual reports.

Title/Description	Instances	
Annual reports, 1946-1949	box 1	folder 9
Annual reports, 1950-1951	box 1	folder 10
Annual reports, 1953-1955	box 1	folder 11
Annual reports, 1956	box 1	folder 12
Annual reports, 1962	box 1	folder 13
Annual reports, 1965-1971	box 1	folder 14
Annual reports, 1972-1977	box 1	folder 15
Annual reports, 1978-1980	box 1	folder 16
Annual reports, 1981-1982	box 1	folder 17
Annual reports, 1983-1984	box 1	folder 18
Annual reports, 1985	box 1	folder 19
Annual reports, 1986-1987	box 1	folder 20
Annual reports, 1988-1989	box 1	folder 21
Annual reports, 1990-1991	box 1	folder 22
Annual reports, 1992	box 1	folder 23
Annual reports, 1993-1994	box 1	folder 24

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