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Arlington Heights, Ill. Congregational United Church of Christ records, 1959-2024. RG5587

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Congregational Library & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Congregational United Church of Christ (Arlington Heights, Ill.)
Creator:	Congregational Church of Arlington Heights (Ill.)
Title:	Arlington Heights, Ill. Congregational United Church of Christ records, 1959-2024.
ID:	RG5587
Date [inclusive]:	1959-2024
Physical Description:	1.09 Cubic Feet (1 box)
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Congregational Church of Arlington Heights, Illinois, was gathered in 1959. The church was seeded, initially, by the Church Extension Committee of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ. Construction of the church's sole building was completed in 1963. In 1964, the name of the church was changed to the Congregational United Church of Christ. Throughout the church's history, the church was focused on mission work. The church underwent a restructuring process starting in 1998 that was completed in 2000. The church became Open and Affirming in the early 2000s. The church closed in 2024. The collection contains both administrative records and vital membership records and includes a church register and an accompanying index, constitutions, building legal records, membership lists, baptismal records, and marriage records.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Arlington Heights, Ill. Congregational United Church of Christ records, 1959-2024, RG5587. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Note

The Congregational Church of Arlington Heights, Illinois, was gathered in 1959 with Rev. W. Rowland Koch serving as the first minister. The church was seeded, initially, by the Church Extension Committee of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ. Koch moved to Arlington Heights in January of 1959 and began work to gather a church. A steering committee was formed in April and the first service for the church was held on May 3, 1959. Worship was originally held at the Pioneer Park Fieldhouse and then at the South Junior High School until September of 1963 when construction on a church building was completed. In 1964 the name of the church was changed to Congregational United Church of Christ.

During Rev. Koch's pastorate, the church became very involved in mission-based work with the formation of the Missions and Stewardship, Social Action, Women's Fellowship, and Pilgrim Fellowship committees. Some of the mission work included the sponsoring of a Cuban refugee family and the Vietnamese Boat People, the Pleasant Valley Farm venture, and Casa Central in Chicago. Rev. Koch served alone until 1980 when Rev. Nan Conser was hired as an associate pastor. Rev. Koch pulled back from pastoral duties in 1985 due to illness and both he and Rev. Conser retired from the church in 1987.

They were succeeded by Rev. Howard Bowman in 1988. His pastorate ended in 1997 and he followed by Pastor Jeffrey Phillips, an openly gay clergyman. During his short tenure at the church, Pastor Jeffrey proposed a restructuring of the church from committees into Ministry teams. That work was taken up by the Revisioning Committee. In 1999, Rev. David Russel became the minister of the church and the work of the Revisioning Committee was completed in 2000.

The 2000s saw the church's mission work focus on the local community. The church's back property was converted into a community garden and the church held frequent choir concerts open to all. The church also took on the Open and Affirming status in the early 2000s. The church continued to serve the Arlington Heights community until 2024 when it dissolved.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains both administrative records and vital membership records for the Congregational United Church of Christ in Arlington Heights, Illinois. The collection includes a church register and an accompanying index, worship bulletins and programs for special events, constitutions, policy documents, building legal records, membership lists, baptismal records, transfer certificates, and marriage records.

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Arrangement

This collection has been arranged into the two series listed below. Materials within each series have been arranged first by chronological order, by start date, and then by groupings of continuous materials.

Series 1: Administrative records, 1959-2024

Series 2: Membership records, 1959-2023

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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 Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ in December 2024; accession number 2024-46.

Custodial History

Materials in this collection were given to the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ in 2024 following the closure of the church. This information is documented on a piece of correspondence that is stored within the collection's accession folder.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Zachary Bodnar, February 2026, according to the rules of Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Baptismal records.
- Church buildings.
- Church membership.
- Church records and registers.
- Marriage records.
- Necrologies.
- Arlington Heights (Ill.) -- Church history.
- Congregational Church of Arlington Heights (Ill.)
- Congregational United Church of Christ (Arlington Heights, Ill.)

Collection Inventory

Administrative records, 1959-2024

Physical Description: 12 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains records related to the administration of the Congregational United Church of Christ of Arlington Heights, Illinois. The series also contains programs and bulletins for special services and

events in the church's history. This series includes constitutions, policy documents, histories, anniversary-related documents, committee reports, and legal records related to the church building.

Title/Description	Instances	
Special programs and worship bulletins, 1959-2022	box 1	folder 1
Church structure, circa 1960	box 1	folder 2
Histories, 1960-2008	box 1	folder 3
First annual meeting, 1960	box 1	folder 4
Constitutions, 1960, 1964	box 1	folder 29
Policies, 1962, 1991	box 1	folder 5
Building legal records, 1963-2022	box 1	folder 6
Miscellaneous administrative records, 1965	box 1	folder 7
Fact finding committee report, 1967	box 1	folder 8
25th anniversary records, 1985	box 1	folder 9
Final worship service programs, 2024	box 1	folder 11
Church exterior architectural image, undated	box 1	folder 12

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Membership records, 1959-2023

Physical Description: 1 Volume

Physical Description: 17 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains records related to the membership of the Congregational United Church of Christ in Arlington Heights, Illinois. The series includes baptismal records, marriage records, transfer records and certificates, membership lists and related records, and the church's register as well as a 2004 index for the register compiled by church members.

Title/Description	Instances	
Church register, 1959-2024	box 1	volume 1
Charter members, 1959-1960	box 1	folder 13
Book of the covenant, 1959-1999	box 1	folder 14
Book of the covenant, 1999-2020	box 1	folder 15
Child baptism records, 1959-1972	box 1	folder 16
Adult baptism records, 1959-1981	box 1	folder 17
Membership certificates, 1959-1963	box 1	folder 18
Membership certificates, 1963-1969		

	box 1	folder 19
Membership certificates, 1969-1977	box 1	folder 20
Membership certificates, 1977-1986	box 1	folder 21
Marriage records, 1967-1997	box 1	folder 22
Transfer certificates, 1975-1980	box 1	folder 23
Rosemary Ann Kimpel seminary recommendation, 1992	box 1	folder 24
Index of records, 2004	box 1	folder 10
Transfers from church, 2004-2023	box 1	folder 25
Transfers to church, 2006-2019	box 1	folder 26
Membership list labels, 2008	box 1	folder 27
Non-member vital records, 2009-2018	box 1	folder 28

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