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Peoria, Ill. Plymouth Congregational Church records, 1889-1899. RG5586

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Congregational Library & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Plymouth Congregational Church (Peoria, Ill.)
Title:	Peoria, Ill. Plymouth Congregational Church records, 1889-1899.
ID:	RG5586
Date [inclusive]:	1889-1899
Physical Description:	1 Volume
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	In 1869, the First Congregational Church of Peoria established a Sunday School, named the Plymouth Mission. The Plymouth Congregational Church was organized out of the Plymouth Mission on June 2, 1889, with Rev. Charles Clark Harrah as its first minister. In 1896, the church constructed a new brick edifice on the same site. The church dissolved in 1919. This collection contains a single church record volume which documents both vital member records and the minutes of meetings.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Peoria, Ill. Plymouth Congregational Church records, 1889-1899, RG5586. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Note

In 1869, the First Congregational Church of Peoria established a Sunday School, named the Plymouth Mission, at the corner of Fourth and Spencer Streets. The school was successful and by the end of 1888, talk had begun on the establishment of a church. With supporting funds for a church secured, Rev. Charles Clark Harrah was called to become minister of the church. The Plymouth Congregational Church was formally organized on June 2, 1889.

The early years of the church saw multiple ministers called to serve. Rev. David Brainard Spencer was called in 1890, Rev. Stafford William Meeks in 1894, Rev. Frank G. Smith in 1898, and John William Nelson in 1990. In 1896, the church constructed a new brick edifice on the same site as the old site.

The church dissolved in 1919.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains a single church record volume which documents the church's membership, includes baptismal records for infants and adults, and records minutes for the first ten years of the church's existence. A small manuscript celebrating the fifth anniversary of the church is inserted into the volume.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Restrictions on Access

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Restrictions on Use

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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.

Processing Information

This collection was processed by Zachary Bodnar, April 2026, 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.
- Peoria (Ill.) -- Church history.
- Plymouth Congregational Church (Peoria, Ill.)

Bibliography

Bateman, Newton, Paul Selby, and David McCulloch. *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Peoria County*. Chicago and Peoria: Munsell Publishing Company, 1902. <https://genealogytrails.com/ill/peoria/church/EarlyChurches.htm>.

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Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances
Church records, 1889-1899	box Small 9 folder 28