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## Chicago, Ill. Iglesia Nueva Esperanza records, 1875-2007. RG5344

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This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on May 19, 2026.  
Description is written in: English.  
DACS 2019.0.3

Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street

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

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Congregational Library & Archives
<b>Creator:</b>	Iglesia Nueva Esperanza (Chicago, Ill.)
<b>Creator:</b>	Lawndale Congregational Church (Chicago, Ill.)
<b>Creator:</b>	Millard Avenue Congregational Church (Chicago, Ill.)
<b>Title:</b>	Chicago, Ill. Iglesia Nueva Esperanza records, 1875-2007.
<b>ID:</b>	RG5344
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1875-2007
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3.63 Cubic Feet (6 boxes)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Lawndale Congregational Church was formed in 1880. A church building was constructed in 1883. In 1889, the church changed its name to Millard Avenue Congregational Church. A significant fire damaged the church building in 1924. The church underwent renovations following the fire and again in 1934. Demographic shifts caused the church's membership to drop in the 1950s and 1960s. During the 1970s, the church became majority Hispanic and services and publications became bilingual. The church changed its name again in 1996 to Iglesia Nueva Esperanza. The church likely closed around 1999 or 2000. This collection includes meeting minutes and other church records, records of auxiliary groups, especially women's groups, runs of newsletters, event programs, vital membership records, and programmatic files.

### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Chicago, Ill. Iglesia Nueva Esperanza records, 1875-2007, RG5344. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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## Historical Note

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In 1879, some families in the relatively sparsely populated area of Lawndale banded together to form an "Independent Ecclesiastical Society" and the following year they called a council to form the Lawndale Congregational Church. Construction on a church building at the intersection of 23rd and Central Park Avenue was completed in 1883. In 1889, the church changed its name to Millard Avenue Congregational Church.

On Christmas day, 1922, the church suffered a fire centered in the Sunday School rooms. The church was repaired and expanded following the fire. In 1934, the church once again underwent extensive renovations and refurbishing after it was discovered that the roof and foundation needed repair.

The Lawndale neighborhoods experienced significant white flight and disinvestment during the 1950s and 1960s. As a result, the Millard Avenue Congregational Church's membership declined and the church experienced financial hardship. In the 1970s, the church entered into a "Churches in Transition" covenant with the Community Renewal Society and Chicago Metropolitan Association. At the same time, the church was becoming predominantly Hispanic and began offering bilingual services and publications.

By the mid-1990s, the church changed its name to Iglesia Nueva Esperanza, and New Hope Church, in English. The church likely closed around 1999 or 2000; at the very least, the church last appears in the 1999 UCC yearbook. There are at least two churches in Chicago open today with the name Nueva Esperanza, however, it is unclear if either of these churches are successors or just similarly named.

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection contains administrative records that document the operations of the Iglesia Nueva Esperanza, as well as records from auxiliary group, membership records and programmatic records which document the activities of the church and its members, and church publications. This collection includes meeting minutes for multiple administrative groups, financial records, women's club records, church newsletters, event programs, vital membership records, programmatic files, and service bulletins for special events and holidays.

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## Arrangement

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

**Series 1:** Church auxiliary records, 1875-1956

**Series 2:** Administrative records, 1879-1997

**Series 3:** Publications, 1890-1960

**Series 4:** Church membership and programs, 1911-1996

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### Revision Description

Additional materials added to the collection. 2026-05-19

### 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 Chicago Theological Seminary in 2014; accession number 2014-124. Additional 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

Some materials in this collection were given to the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ, likely around the time of the church's dissolution. There is no further documentation on how the materials arrived at the Illinois Conference.

## Processing Information

The initial collection was processed by Billy McCarthy, 2017. This collection was reprocessed by Zachary Bodnar, January 2026, according to the rules of Describing Archives: A Content Standard.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Baptismal records.
- Church finance.
- Church newsletters.
- Church records and registers.
- Marriage records.
- Necrologies.
- Women in church work.
- Women -- Societies and clubs.
- Worship programs.
- Chicago (Ill.) -- Church history.
- Community Renewal Society (Chicago, Ill.)
- Iglesia Nueva Esperanza (Chicago, Ill.)
- Lawndale Congregational Church (Chicago, Ill.)
- Millard Avenue Congregational Church (Chicago, Ill.)

## Collection Inventory

### Church auxiliary records, 1875-1956

Physical Description: 8 Volumes

Physical Description: 6 Folders

Physical Description: 43 Items

#### Scope and Contents

This series contains records from church auxiliary groups. The majority of the records are from various iterations of the church's woman's groups, however, there are also records from the Friendship Circle and the Christian Endeavor group.

Title/Description	Instances	
Ladies aid society records, 1875-1879	box 1	volume 10
Ladies benevolent society financial records, 1901-1920	box 1	volume 11
Millard Avenue woman's club directories, 1902-1954	box 3	Item 1-42
Woman's club realia, 1907, 1929	box 1	folder 1
Christian Endeavor Society records, 1909-1923	box 4	volume 2
Women's fellowship records, 1922-1949	box 1	folder 2
Mothers' circle minutes, 1924-1927	box 3	volume 1
Ladies guild financial records, 1926, 1930-1936	box 1	volume 12
Ladies guild records, 1929-1932	box 3	folder 2
Ladies guild records, 1933-1936	box 1	volume 14
Past presidents of the woman's club records, 1935-1941	box 1	volume 13
Friendship circle financial records, 1940-1946	box 1	volume 15
Friendship circle records, 1942-1946	box 1	folder 3
Women's fellowship information book, 1948-1952	box 3	volume 2
Woman's club monthly bulletin, 1954-1956	box 1	folder 4
Woman's club constitution, undated	box 3	folder 1

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### Administrative records, 1879-1997

Physical Description: 14 Volumes

Physical Description: 26 Folders**Scope and Contents**

This series contains records related broadly to the administration of the church and operation of the church's physical space. This series include church records, trustee records, council records, ledgers and other financial records, property and tax related records, meeting minutes, and governance documents. Church records volumes often contain both administrative records and membership records.

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Society records, 1879-1912	box 4	volume 1
Trustees records, 1891-1899	box 1	volume 1
Reports, 1891, 1915-1921	box 5	folder 1
Ledger, 1900-1941	box 1	volume 2
Clerks records, 1909-1915	box 5	folder 2
Financial records, 1912-1914	box 1	volume 3
Board of trustees records, 1912-1930	box 2	folder 1-2
Society records, 1914-1922	box 4	volume 3
<u>Separated Materials:</u>		
<b>Separated Materials</b>		
Loose materials in this volume were removed and placed in the folder labeled "Miscellaneous society records, 1917-1923." This was done primarily for the long-term preservation of those materials.		
Miscellaneous society records, 1917-1923	box 2	folder 3
<u>Separated Materials:</u>		
<b>Separated Materials</b>		
Materials in this folder were removed from the volume titled "Society records, 1914-1922." This was done to support the long-term preservation of these materials.		
Church records, 1919-1940	box 1	volume 4
Church records, 1919-2007	box 1	volume 5
Financial records, 1932-1942	box 5	volume 1
Building committee records, 1934	box 1	volume 6
By-law revisions, 1936	box 2	folder 22
Financial records, 1936-1950	box 4	volume 4
Board of trustees records, 1937-1946	box 2	folder 4
Church council meeting minutes, 1941-1954	box 1	volume 7
Board of trustees records, 1946-1950	box 2	folder 5

Deacon's board records, 1946-1971	box 5	volume 2
Board of trustees records, 1953-1959	box 2	folder 6
Church records, 1954-1967	box 1	volume 8
Financial records, 1955-1959	box 6	folder 1
Reports, 1957-1958, 1995	box 6	folder 2
Miscellaneous reports, 1958-1994	box 2	folder 26
Janitor instructions, circa 1960	box 2	folder 27
Board of trustees records, 1960-1965	box 2	folder 7
Church records, 1967-1981	box 1	volume 9
Miscellaneous reports, communications, and church records, 1970-1979	box 2	folder 8
Every Member Canvass committee records, 1972-1978	box 2	folder 9
Property tax exemption, 1972-1990	box 2	folder 10
Renovation proposals and estimates, 1974-1975	box 2	folder 11
Board of trustees correspondence, 1974-1976	box 2	folder 12
Deacon, pastoral, council, and trustee records, 1983-1985	box 2	folder 13
Lawndale Avenue property purchase loan records, 1990	box 2	folder 14
Grant mortgage, 1990	box 6	folder 7
Miscellaneous meeting minutes, 1990-1996	box 2	folder 15
Mortgage foreclosure legal records, circa 1993	box 5	folder 3
Miscellaneous financial records, 1995-1997	box 2	folder 16
Miscellaneous records, undated	box 2	folder 46
Constitution, undated	box 2	folder 47
Statement of faith, undated	box 2	folder 48
Floor plans, undated	box 5	folder 4
Inventories, undated	box 6	folder 10

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## Publications, 1890-1960

Physical Description: 8 Folders

## Scope and Contents

This series contains print materials published by and for the church and its community. The majority of the records in this series are newsletters however the series also contains directories and a church manual.

Title/Description	Instances	
Church manual, 1890	box 2	folder 17
Millard Ave. Congregational Herald, 1923-1930	box 1	folder 5
Directories, 1926-1928	box 2	folder 19
Millard Outlook, 1932-1933	box 1	folder 6
Millard Outlook, 1938-1940	box 1	folder 7
Millard Outlook, 1941-1942	box 2	folder 52
Millard Outlook, 1943-1947	box 2	folder 53
The Outlook, 1957-1960	box 2	folder 54

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## Church membership and programs, 1911-1996

Physical Description: 2 Volumes

Physical Description: 27 Folders

### Scope and Contents

This series contains records related to the church's membership as well as programs the church both ran and participated in. This series includes church histories, membership records, such as baptismal records, event and service programs, youth program records, photographs, and guest books.

Title/Description	Instances	
Church history, circa 1911, 1934-1978	box 2	folder 18
Guest book, 1934-1952	box 1	volume 16
Pastor report, 1934	box 2	folder 20
Anniversary celebrations, 1934-1993	box 2	folder 21
Histories, 1942, 1979	box 2	folder 23
Baptism records, 1944-1947	box 2	folder 24
Miscellaneous correspondence, 1956, 1965-1996	box 2	folder 25
Baptismal records, 1962-1988	box 6	folder 3
Marriage records, 1967-1984	box 6	folder 4
Membership certificates, 1968-1979	box 6	folder 5

Churches in transitions covenant, 1971-1980	box 2	folder 28
Music program, 1974-1976	box 2	folder 29
Pastoral reports, 1977-1981	box 2	folder 30
Membership records, 1978-1979	box 2	folder 31
Summer youth program photo album, 1978-1979	box 2	folder 32
Guest book, 1979-1980	box 1	volume 17
Casa de la Cultura "Millard" records, 1979-1980	box 2	folder 33
Youth party photographs, 1979-1980	box 2	folder 34
Programs and activities photo album, 1980	box 2	folder 35
Christmas children lists, 1982-1983, undated	box 2	folder 36
Thanksgiving services, 1983-1989	box 2	folder 37
Miscellaneous membership records, 1984-1985	box 2	folder 38
Christmas season programs, 1984-1991	box 2	folder 39
Miscellaneous Sunday programs, 1985-1988	box 2	folder 40
Church and community project, 1987	box 2	folder 41
Certificate of thanks, 1988	box 6	folder 6
Little Village Resource Center lease, 1988-1990	box 2	folder 42
Certificates, 1988, 1993	box 2	folder 43
Board of Metropolitan Mission records, 1989	box 2	folder 44
Miscellaneous programs and flyers, 1994-1996	box 2	folder 45
TV Christmas Story script, undated	box 2	folder 49
Ceremony of ordinations, undated	box 2	folder 50
Miscellaneous photographic materials, undated	box 2	folder 51
Member directory, undated	box 6	folder 8
Histories, undated	box 6	folder 9

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