

Brooklyn, New York, N.Y. Lewis Avenue Congregational Church records, 1888-1951. RG5500

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Congregational Library & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Lewis Avenue Congregational Church (Brooklyn, New York, N.Y.)
Title:	Brooklyn, New York, N.Y. Lewis Avenue Congregational Church records, 1888-1951.
ID:	RG5500
Date [inclusive]:	1888-1951
Physical Description:	5 Folders
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Grace Congregational Church in Brooklyn, New York, New York, was gathered on December 22, 1877. In 1880, the name was changed to Lewis Avenue Congregational Church. Land for the church was purchased in 1889 and a permanent edifice was completed in 1894. In 1944, the church building was sold to the Cornerstone Baptist Church. The church remained active until 1951 when it was formally dissolved. This collection contains administrative and membership records including meeting minutes, financial records, baptismal records, and correspondence.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Brooklyn, New York, N.Y. Lewis Avenue Congregational Church records, 1888-1951, RG5500. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Note

The Grace Congregational Church in Brooklyn, New York, New York, was gathered on December 22, 1877. Rev. James L. Hall was the first minister of the church. The name of the church was changed to Lewis Avenue Congregational Church in April, 1880. The church rented

space formerly occupied by a Presbyterian congregation at the corner of Lewis Avenue and Monroe Street. In 1888, money was raised to purchase land for the church and in 1889, a lot on a different corner of Lewis Avenue and Monroe Street was purchased. The first service held in the new chapel was in November, 1889. In 1893, the cornerstone for an expanded church edifice was laid and the building was completed by May, 1894. The church's mortgage was paid off in 1908.

In 1944, the congregation sold the church building to the Cornerstone Baptist Church, an historically black congregation which had outgrown its previous location at Gates Avenue and Irving Place. Three quarters of the proceeds from the sale of the church went to the City Association to support its church extension work and the rest remained with the much-diminished Lewis Avenue Congregational Church. The church retained the Miles Memorial, a parish house adjacent to the church building, though it might have also been sold not long after the sale of the church building. The Lewis Avenue Congregational Church existed in some manner until 1951 when the church formally dissolved.

The Cornerstone Baptist Church remains active today in the same church building. In 2020, the Lewis Avenue Congregational Church was added to National Register of Historic Places.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains administrative and membership records for the Lewis Avenue Congregational Church in Brooklyn, New York, New York. The collection includes meeting minutes, annual reports, committee and trustee records, financial records, baptismal records, and some correspondence.

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Arrangement

Materials in this collection have been arranged into chronological order by start date.

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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 New York Conference of the United Church of Christ in 1979; no accession number.

Correspondence file was donated to the Congregational Library & Archives by Margeret L. Domber in May 2024; accession 2024-17.

Custodial History

Materials in this collection, except the correspondence folder, were given to the New York Conference of the United Church of Christ at an unknown time, likely following the church's dissolution. This collection was originally processed as part of the New York Conference records (RG0112) circa 1980.

Processing Information

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

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Controlled Access Headings

- Baptismal records.
- Charitable bequests.
- Church finance.
- Church membership.
- Church records and registers.
- Brooklyn (New York, N.Y.) -- Church history
- Grace Congregational Church (Brooklyn, New York, N.Y.)
- Lewis Avenue Congregational Church (Brooklyn, New York, N.Y.)

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Baptismal records, 1888-1949	box NY 1	folder 5
Membership cards, 1889-1939	box NY 4	
Frances Miles bequest, 1904	box NY 1	folder 6
Correspondence, 1912	box NY 2	folder 18
Annual reports, 1942-1945	box NY 1	folder 7
Corporate and executive committee minutes, 1950-1951	box NY 1	folder 8