



Pelham, N.Y. Community Church of the Pelhams records, 1913-1961. RG5615

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Congregational Library & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Community Church of the Pelhams (Pelham, N.Y.)
Creator:	Congregational Church of the Pelhams (Pelham, N.Y.)
Title:	Pelham, N.Y. Community Church of the Pelhams records, 1913-1961.
ID:	RG5615
Date [inclusive]:	1913-1961
Physical Description:	4 Folders
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Congregational Church of the Pelhams in Pelham, New York, was gathered in 1919 or 1921 as a sort of successor church to the Trinity Congregational Church in the Bronx. Rev. William Milton Hess, who was pastor of the Trinity Congregational Church, was the first pastor of the church. In the 1940s, members of other nearby protestant churches joined with the church, prompting the church to be renamed as The Community Church of the Pelhams. The church continues to serve the Pelham community today. This collection This collection primarily contains financial records, reports, and correspondence related to the early years of the church.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Pelham, N.Y. Congregational Church of the Pelhams records, 1913-1961, RG5615. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Note

The Congregational Church of the Pelhams in Pelham, New York, was gathered in 1919 or 1921 as a sort of successor church to the Trinity Congregational Church in the Bronx. Land for

the church was purchased in 1919 and the first service in the still under construction church was held on December 11, 1921. Rev. William Milton Hess, who was pastor of the Trinity Congregational Church, was the first pastor of the church. The cornerstone of the Trinity Congregational Church was laid as a part of church's construction in 1922. Other materials from the Trinity Congregational Church, such as pews and the baptismal font, were also installed in the Congregational Church of the Pelhams.

Rev. William Hess resigned in 1931. Between 1934 and 1935, an organ was installed in the church and the church's chapel, kitchen, and Sunday School rooms were expanded and improved. The church suffered significant flooding in 1942. In the 1940s, members of other nearby protestant churches joined with the church, prompting the church to be renamed as The Community Church of the Pelhams in 1947. It was also during this time that the church gained its nickname, "the friendly church." After the formation of the United Church of Christ in 1957, the Community Church of the Pelhams joined with the denomination. The church continues to serve the Pelham community today, though efforts to sell the church building, owing to declining membership and rising maintenance costs, have been undertaken.

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Scope and Contents

This collection primarily contains financial records, reports, and correspondence related to the early years of the Congregational Church of the Pelhams in Pelham, New York. This collection also includes annual reports and some church statistics.

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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. Annual reports were an internal transfer from the library to the archives, September 2026.

Custodial History

Materials in this collection 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. Annual reports were initially catalogued as library materials; there is no information on when these annual reports arrived at the Congregational Library & Archives.

Processing Information

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

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Controlled Access Headings

- Church buildings.
- Church finance.
- Church records and registers.
- Community Church of the Pelhams (Pelham, N.Y.)
- Congregational Church of the Pelhams (Pelham, N.Y.)
- Pelham (N.Y.) -- Church history
- Trinity Congregational Church (Bronx, New York, N.Y.)

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Building and financial difficulties, 1913-1934	box NY 1	folder 25
Reports and church statistics, 1930-1932	box NY 1	folder 26
Miscellaneous correspondence, 1931-1932	box NY 1	folder 27
Financial records and correspondence, 1932-1933	box NY 1	folder 28
Annual reports, 1952-1961	box NY 2	folder 19