

ELIOT UNION CHURCH (LOWELL, MASS.)

Records, 1830-1955.

6 linear ft. (5 boxes, 3 v.)

No access restrictions.

Deposit, 1991.

RG 113

Congregational Library
14 Beacon Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02108
617-523-0470

Request information on copyright from the archivist.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Church organized in 1830; the church took the name of its meeting house location, Appleton Street Church. In 1873 the building was sold to the First Presbyterian Church; the Appleton Street congregation built a new meeting house and took on a new name, Eliot Church, at Eliot and Summer Streets. At Meetinghouse Hill John Eliot built a chapel for preaching to the Native Americans in the 17th century. Fourth Congregational Church was organized in 1845; Fourth Congregational Church took the name of its meeting house location, Kirk Street Church, in 1846. The building was given up in 1916 to make room for a new high school and the members moved in the Central Methodist Episcopal Church. Second (Appleton Street) and Fourth (Kirk Street) Churches joined in 1919 to form Eliot Union Church; this church joined with First Presbyterian in 1955 to form Eliot Presbyterian, using the Eliot property. The Appleton Street property passed on to the Salvation Army ca. 1955.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Church minutes, vital statistics, financials, records of auxiliary organizations, scrapbooks.

Lowell, Massachusetts. Eliot Union Church (Congregational)
Records, 1830-1955
5 Records Storage Boxes & 3 Oversize volumes

Eliot Union Church was organized in 1919 by the merger of two Congregational Churches -- Eliot Church and Kirk Street Church.

Second Congregational Church organized in 1830 and took the name of its meeting house location, Appleton Street Church. In 1873 the building was sold to the First Presbyterian Church. The Appleton Street congregation had a new meeting house and name, Eliot Church, at Eliot and Summer Streets. Here at Meetinghouse Hill John Eliot had built a chapel for preaching to the Indians in the 17th century.

Fourth Congregational Church organized in 1845 and took the name of its meeting house location in 1846, Kirk Street Church. The meeting house was given up in 1916 to make way for a new high school. Kirk Street Church merged with Eliot Church to form the Eliot Union Church in 1919.

The First Presbyterian Church (which was still occupying the Appleton Street property) joined with the Eliot Union Church in 1955, becoming the Eliot Presbyterian Church and using the Eliot property. The Appleton Street property passed on to the Salvation Army.

Sources:

- Illustrated History of Lowell and Vicinity done by divers hands...
Lowell, MA : Courier-Citizen Company, 1897.
- "John Eliot, Indians, Eliot Church" The Lowell Churchman.
Vol 1 #5. July 19, 1940
- Eliot Presbyterian Church. One hundredth anniversary program.
June 15, 1969.

Some of the Kirk Street Church records (3 feet) were deposited with the Congregational library at an undetermined date (prior to 1981). The remaining Kirk Street, Eliot Church and Eliot Union Church records were deposited by deed of gift from the Eliot Presbyterian Church in 1991 and integrated at that time.

The inventory list is arranged by Subgroup, then Series within each Subgroup. Items are numbered consecutively as arranged in Records Storage Boxes.

SUBGROUP I: Eliot Church (Second Church; Appleton Street Church)

Series A. Church Records

- | | | | |
|-------|----|---|-----------|
| Box 1 | 1. | Clerk's Book | 1830-1856 |
| | | Articles of Faith, Covenant
Minutes, Annual Meeting
Membership list | |
| | 2. | Clerk's Book | 1856-1875 |
| | | Minutes, Annual Meeting | |

Series B. Vital Statistics

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|-------|-----------|
| 3. | Register Book | | |
| | Memberships | | 1830-1919 |
| | Baptisms | | 1874-1917 |
| | Deaths | | 1875-1919 |
| 4. | Membership Roll Book | as of | 1895-1913 |

Series C. Auxiliaries

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| 5. | Sabbath/Sunday School | 1875-1914 |
| | Secretary's Minute Book | |
| 6. | Pastor's Class/Eliot Bible Class | 1887-1907 |
| | Minutes | |
| | Whatsoever Circle of King's Daughters | |
| | -see- Eliot Union Church | |

Series D. Printed Material & Memorabilia

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 7. | Greene, Rev. John M. | |
| | The Semi-Centennial Volume of the Eliot Church...1880 | |
| 8. | Address to the Eliot Church, April 25, 1901 (photocopy) | |
| | Happy Wedlock. 1900 | |
| | Sketch of building & costs, n.d. | |

Subgroup II: Kirk Street Church (Fourth Congregational Church)

Series E. Church Records

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|---------|-----|---|-----------|
| (Box 1) | 9. | Clerk's Book
Confession of Faith, Covenant
Minutes, Annual Meetings | 1845-1888 |
| | 10. | Clerk's Book
Minutes, Annual Meetings | 1888-1919 |

Series F. Vital Statistics

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|-------|-----|---|-------------------------------------|
| | 11. | Membership Book
Baptized Children | 1845-1874
1845-1872 |
| | 12. | Register Book
Memberships
Baptisms
Deaths
alphabetical index at end | 1845-1899
1873-1899
1873-1885 |
| Box 2 | 13. | Register Book
Memberships
Baptisms
alphabetical index at end | 1899-1919
1899-1919 |
| | 14. | Register Book
Memberships (scanty list)
Baptisms | 1913
1909-1914 |

Series G. Financial Records

- | | | | |
|--|-----|--|-----------------|
| | 15. | Proprietors Minute Book | 1845-1865, 1916 |
| | 16. | Subscription Lists | 1845-1881 |
| | 17. | Pew Book | 1845-1887 |
| | 18. | Treasurer's Books
Include Subscriptions & Pew Rents | 1845-1875 |
| | 19. | " " " " | 1897-1901 |
| | 20. | " " " " | 1901-1919 |
| | 21. | Cash Book | 1904-1919 |

Series H. Auxiliaries

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|-------|-----|--|-----------|
| Box 3 | 22. | Sabbath School Sermons to Children | 1858-1861 |
| | 23. | Sabbath School Superintendent's Book | 1869-1871 |
| | 24. | " " " " | 1872-1873 |
| | 25. | Sunday School Secretary's Book | 1883-1892 |
| | 26. | Sunday School Register | 1888 |
| | 27. | " " " " | 1889 |
| | 28. | Young People's Society of Christian
Endeavor. Minutes & Members | 1883-1890 |

Subgroup II: Kirk Street Church (Fourth Congregational Church) (cont.)

Series I. Scrapbooks and Pamphlets

(Box 3)	30.	Scrapbook	1879-1886
	31.	"	1888-1890
	32.	"	1890-1896
	33.	"	1896-1898 (Oversize)
	34.	"	1898-1900 (Oversize)
	35.	"	1900-1902 (Oversize)
Box 4	36.	"	1903-1904
	37.	"	1904-1906
	38.	"	1907
	39.	"	1908-1909
	40.	"	1910
	41.	"	1911
	42.	"	1912-1913
Box 5	43.	"	1914-1915
	44.	"	1915-1917
	45.	Historical sketches, sermons, manuals	

Subgroup III: Eliot Union Church

Series J. Church Records

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|---------|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| (Box 5) | 46. Clerk's Book | 1919-1953 |
| | Articles of Faith, Covenant, Minutes | |
| | 47. Church Committee Records. Minutes | 1921-1928 |

Series K. Vital Statistics

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|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 48. Register Book | 1919-1952 |
| Baptisms & Members | |
| includes alphabetical index | |

Series L. Auxiliaries

- Whatsoever Circle of King's Daughters
(Eliot Church & Eliot Union Church)
- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 49. Minutes | 1916-1918 |
| 50. " | 1918-1920 |
| 51. " | 1920-1922 |
| 52. " | 1922-1925 |
| 53. " | 1930-1940 |
| 54. Pamphlets & Calendars | 1911-1934, with gaps |
| 54. Girl's Service Club. Minutes & Members | 1919-1928 |
| 55. Girl's Club. " " | 1928-1929 |
| 56. Service League. Minutes & Member List | 1950-1955 |

Series M. Printed Material & Photographs

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|---|-----------|
| 57. Testimonial to Rev. Joachim Mendes Reis | 1945 |
| Newsclip - Rev. John Whitney MacNeill resignation | 1949 |
| 58. First Presbyterian Church pamphlets | |
| Service of Rededication | 1933 |
| 75th Anniversary Program | 1944 |
| 100th Anniversary Program | 1969 |
| (as Eliot Presbyterian Church) | |
| In Memoriam. Rev. Robert Court, | 1829-1897 |
| Gray, Finley M. Historic Windows | n.d. |
| Glass plates (unidentified) of a church | |