

MS-619: Walnut Hills Christian Church/First Christian Church Records

Collection Number: MS-619

Title: Walnut Hills Christian Church/First Christian Church Records

Dates: 1908-1957

Creator: Walnut Hills Christian Church (Dayton, Ohio)
First Christian Church (Dayton, Ohio)

Summary/Abstract:

The collection contains four record books and a 16-millimeter film, that document membership, activities, and meetings in Dayton's First Christian Church and the related Walnut Hills Christian Church.

Quantity/Physical Description: 0.63 linear feet

Language(s): English

Repository:

Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092

Restrictions on Access:

There are no restrictions on accessing paper-based material in this collection. Access to original audiovisual media is restricted due to preservation concerns, and only reference copies of original audio and video materials can be accessed in the reading room. Items without reference copies can be digitized at the request of a patron for the cost of creating a digital copy. Please provide us **at least two weeks advance notice** if you would like to request an audio or video reference copy. Call (937) 775-2092 or e-mail us at library-archives-ref@wright.edu. Use of digitized content is subject to conditions governing use.

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Preferred Citation:

[Description of item, Date, Box #, Folder #], MS-619, Walnut Hills Christian Church/First Christian Church Records, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

Acquisition:

This collection was donated to Special Collections and Archives, Wright State University Libraries, by Judith E. Humphreys of St. John's United Church of Christ in November 2017.

Custodial History:

The objects in this collection were received as part of the records of St. John's United Church of Christ (MS-612), but are records from separate churches.

Other Finding Aid:

The finding aid is available on the Special Collections & Archives, Wright State University Libraries web site at <https://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms619.pdf>. It is also available in the OhioLINK Finding Aid Repository at <http://ead.ohiolink.edu/xtf-ead/>.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

The collection contains a reel of 16-millimeter film, which requires special equipment and digitization prior to access.

Related Material:

[MS 612: St. John's United Church of Christ Records.](#)

[MS 620: First United Church of Christ Records.](#)

Processed by:

Finding aid written according to DACS standards by Megan O'Connor, October 2019.

Arrangement:

The collection is arranged chronologically.

Biographical/Historical Note:

The Walnut Hills Christian Church was founded in 1907 by young, married members in a Sunday School at Dayton's First Christian Church. Walnut Hills' first service was held in July 1907 in a rented store room on South Wayne Avenue in Dayton. The church was formally established in April 1908, when 27 members signed the church covenant. A dedicated church building was constructed in 1911, and replaced sometime after 1922. In 1930, the Walnut Hills Christian Church and the First Christian Church merged, according to the 1937 Works Progress Administration work "Churches in Dayton" on Dayton History Books Online.

Nationally, the Christian Church merged with the Congregational Church in 1931, forming the Congregational Christian Church. Walnut Hills Christian Church appears to have been part of this merger based on the Church name recorded in its 1932-1957 membership record book. In 1957, the Congregational Christian Church merged with the Evangelical and Reformed Church to form the United Church of Christ. The Walnut Hills Church appears to have participated in this merger as well, as there is some overlap of members between records in this collection and in records for the First United Church of Christ (MS-620).

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains four record books and a 16-millimeter film that document membership, activities, and meetings in Dayton's First Christian Church and the related Walnut Hills Christian Church. Materials in this collection date between 1908 and 1957.

The Walnut Hills Christian Church and First Christian Church membership records are written in pre-printed volumes designed to contain data about the church, its members, and its governance. Pages designed for membership information include spaces for the members' names, addresses, and occupations, details about their baptisms and marriages, and the dates and reasons they joined and left the church. The volumes' printers include suggested instructions for use, which can be used to interpret the data in the records.

Walnut Hills Christian Church's 1908-1917 membership record contains a historical note about the church, including a transcription of the church's covenant. It also contains a church membership roll from circa 1909, as well as several revised rolls. Some names are recorded in the membership record section. Meeting minutes and some newspaper clippings appear in the final section of the book.

The 1909-1927 membership record includes information and newspaper clippings about church events, including a description of the church's Rally Day. Names in the Membership Record section appear to be recorded chronologically based on when an individual joined the church. Meeting minutes from 1918-1924 include decisions like the 1922 effort to construct a new church building.

The First Christian Church's 1928-29 membership record contains an index of names, as well as a membership record supplemented by lists of non-resident and inactive members. The last new member joined the church in 1929, but members' statuses were updated until 1937.

Walnut Hills Christian Church's 1932-1957 membership record contains an index of names, a membership record, and a record of baptisms for 1938 onward. Some individuals appearing in this book also appear in records for the First United Church of Christ (MS-620).

The 16-millimeter film documents the 1929 Rally Day held by Walnut Hills Christian Church.

Subject Terms

Organizations/Corporate Names

Walnut Hills Christian Church (Dayton, Ohio)

First Christian Church (Dayton, Ohio)

Places

Dayton (Ohio) -- Church history

Dayton (Ohio) -- Religion

Subjects (General)

Church records and registers -- Ohio

Material Types

Minutes (administrative records)

Black-and-white films (visual works)

Collection Inventory

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Walnut Hills Christian Church Membership Record	1908-1917
1	2	Walnut Hills Christian Church Membership Record	1909-1927
1	3	First Christian Church Membership Record	1923-1937
1	4	First Congregational Christian (Walnut Hills) Church Membership Record	1932-1957
2	1	16-millimeter film labelled "Rally day 1929: Walnut Hills Christian Sunday School"	1929