

MS-620: First United Church of Christ Records

Collection Number: MS-620

Title: First United Church of Christ Records

Dates: 1946-1984

Creator: First United Church of Christ (Dayton, Ohio)

Summary/Abstract:

This collection contains membership data and attendance records of the First United Church of Christ, which was located in the Walnut Hills neighborhood.

Quantity/Physical Description: 0.42 linear foot

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 material in this collection.

Restrictions on Use:

Copyright restrictions may apply. Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

Preferred Citation:

[Description of item, Date, Box #, Folder #], MS-620, First United Church of Christ 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 a separate church.

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/ms620.pdf>. It is also available in the OhioLINK Finding Aid Repository at <http://ead.ohiolink.edu/xtf-ead/>.

Related Material:

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

[MS-619: Walnut Hills Christian Church/First Christian Church Records.](#)

Notes:

Material that was originally contained in a three-ring binder (ledger) was removed from the binder and separated into folders. The folders were filled and labelled as “Ledger section,” followed by the titles from the binder’s original dividers. The original order of materials in the binder was preserved.

Processed by:

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

Arrangement:

The collection is arranged in chronological order. Material contained in a three-ring binder were placed in separate folders, but were kept in the original order.

Biographical/Historical Note:

In 1957, the United Church of Christ was founded through a merger of the Congregational Christian Church (founded in 1931 by a merger between the Christian Church and Congregational Church) with the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Data about Dayton’s First United Church of Christ has been difficult to find. However, it does appear to have been located in the Walnut Hills neighborhood, on the west side of Edgar Avenue between Gunckel and Wayne. It seems to be connected to the Walnut Hills Christian Church and First Christian Church (see MS-619), which operated earlier near the same location, and there is some overlap of members between records of all these congregations. Based on the addresses in the membership records, many members appear to have been residents of either Walnut Hills neighborhood or the Oregon District. Ministers of the congregation included Rev. Ray Sturch, Rev. Fausey, Rev. Welch, and Rev. Fandt.

Scope and Content Note:

The records in this collection document the membership and activities of Dayton’s First United Church of Christ. The collection features a guestbook, two membership record books, and a ledger containing records about Sunday school attendance and church offerings.

The Church Register and Record book, which begins circa 1955, features an alphabetical list of members’ names, a sheet recording active members’ names and birthdays, and a record for one marriage. Some of the names in this book appear in records from the Walnut Hills Christian Church/First Christian Church (MS-619).

The ledger documents weekly attendance for the various Sunday school classes offered for children, teenagers, and adults. General attendance records cover 1957-1978, and records for specific classes date from 1960-1978. The ledger also includes financial data about general funds and weekly offerings from 1956-1978. Additionally, the ledger contains annual summaries of

enrollment and offerings statistics from 1946-1977. These annual reports include historical attendance and offerings records covering 1932-1945.

The guestbook from the church's 1978 sesquicentennial includes the names and addresses of church attendees. Attendees came from Dayton, from surrounding areas in Ohio, as well as from out-of-state. Some members recorded their roles within the church.

The Church Membership Record book, from circa 1980, includes an alphabetical name list and the record for a 1980 marriage.

Subject Terms

Organizations/Corporate Names

First United Church of Christ (Dayton, Ohio) -- History

First Congregational Christian Church (Dayton, Ohio) -- History

Places

Dayton (Ohio) -- Church history

Dayton (Ohio) -- Religion

Subjects (General)

Church records and registers -- Ohio

Collection Inventory

Box	File	Description	Date
1	1	Church Register and Record (Membership List) (volume)	circa 1955-1984
1	2	Ledger section: Weekly Church School Report	1979-1982
1	3	Ledger section: Record of Attendance—Teachers and Officers	1960-1968
1	4	Ledger section: Record of Attendance—Adults	1960-1978
1	5	Ledger section: Record of Attendance—Young Peoples Department	1960-1978
1	6	Ledger section: Record of Attendance—Junior High/Intermediate Department	1960-1978
1	7	Ledger section: Record of Attendance—Junior Department	1960-1978
1	8	Ledger section: Record of Attendance—Children’s Department	1960-1978
1	9	Ledger section: Record of Attendance—Visitors	1960-1971
1	10	Ledger section: Record of Attendance—Church School Totals	1960-1975
1	11	Ledger section: Average Attendance	1957-1969
1	12	Ledger section: Offering—Regular Fund	1960-1976
1	13	Ledger section: Regular Fund Balance	1956-1971
1	14	Ledger section: Enrollment	1957-1964
1	15	Ledger section: Attendance and Offerings Summaries	1946-1977
1	16	First United Church of Christ’s sesquicentennial Guest Book	October 1978
1	17	Church Membership Record (volume)	circa 1980
1	18	List of Active Members (from back of 1955-1984 volume)	1982