

## **Collection Title:** First Christian Church of Chicago Records, 1861-2003, undated

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**Repository:**

The Helsabeck Archives of the Stone-Campbell Movement  
Emmanuel Christian Seminary Library at Milligan  
1 Walker Drive  
Johnson City, TN 37601  
Email: [archives@milligan.edu](mailto:archives@milligan.edu)  
<http://library.milligan.edu/archives/>

**Creator:**

First Christian Church of Chicago

**Title:**

First Christian Church of Chicago Records, 1861-2003, undated

**Collection No.**

HSC0009

**Extent:**

9.2 cubic feet (10 boxes)

**Language:**

English

**Abstract:**

This collection contains the records of First Christian Church of Chicago (formerly Englewood Christian Church). First Christian Church of Chicago dates back to 1885 and at one time included a large congregation of hundreds of members and a large Sunday School program. These records include board meeting minutes and information, Sunday School files, building information, and publications, among other files.

**Administrative History:**

First Christian Church of Chicago dates back to 1885, when ten people formed a church that met in various locations throughout Chicago. In 1887, the church settled in its first building on Eggleston Avenue and called itself Englewood Church of Christ. The Sunday School program, also started in 1885, grew quickly, as the church membership grew to 400 by 1905. In 1905, the church moved to a new building, formerly the Cumberland Presbyterian Church on Stewart Avenue and 66<sup>th</sup> Place, and became Englewood Christian Church. During this time, the Englewood church assisted many other churches in the area who were struggling financially. In 1958, in moving to 79<sup>th</sup> Street (where they are currently located), the church chose First Christian Church of Chicago as their name. First Christian Church did not stay with the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) and are an independent Christian Church. Some ministers of note from over the years include Charles G. Kindred, Burton B. Thurston, and Fred Thompson. Steven Chapman has been the minister since 1996. More information can be found in the History series of this collection.

**Arrangement:**

The records of First Christian Church of Chicago were found in the Helsabeck Archives. Provenance is unclear, but it is possible that the records came to Emmanuel Christian Seminary in the mid-2000s. The records appeared to be somewhat in order, with markers denoting sets, although these were not always

accurate. Katherine Banks, archivist, refoldered the collection and arranged it into eight series: I. Series: History, 1910-1996, undated; II. Series: Leadership, 1885-2003, undated; III. Series: Building, 1925-1972, undated; IV. Series: Classes, 1900-1953, undated; V. Series: Events and Organizations, 1916-1984, undated; VI. Publications, 1927-1987, undated; VII. General Files, 1861-1991, undated; and VIII. Series: Photos, 1936, undated. The Leadership series is further divided into three subseries: 1. Subseries: Board, 1885-2003, undated; 2. Subseries: Financial and Legal, 1923-2002, undated; 3. Subseries: Personnel, 1921-1977, undated. The Classes series is further divided into three series: 1. Subseries: Bible School, 1900-1952, undated; 2. Subseries: Leadership Training, 1921-1953, undated; and 3. Subseries: Teacher Training, 1931-1947, undated. All series and subseries are arranged alphabetically with the exception of the Board and Financial and Legal subseries, which are arranged chronologically.

### **Scope and Content Note:**

The records of First Christian Church of Chicago are arranged into eight series: History, Leadership, Building, Classes, Events and Organizations, Publications, General Files, and Photos. The Leadership series is further divided into three subseries: Board, Financial and Legal, and Personnel. The Classes series is also divided into three subseries: Bible School, Leadership Training, and Teacher Training.

The History series spans 1910 to 1996 and contains undated material. In this series are items relating to anniversary celebrations, visitors to the church over the decades, and history of the congregation.

The Leadership series spans 1885 to 2003 and contains undated material. Within this series are three subseries. The first subseries is the Board subseries, spanning 1885 to 2003 and containing undated material. In this subseries are board meeting minutes and folders relating to committees, elders, and deacons. The second subseries is the Financial and Legal subseries, spanning 1923 to 2002 and containing undated material. This subseries contains items relating to the finances of the church and legal documents, such as by-laws. The final subseries is the Personnel subseries, spanning 1921 to 1977 and containing undated material. This subseries contains files on various employees and leaders within the church.

The Building series spans 1925 to 1972 and contains undated material. In this series are contracts and equipment files, as well as plans and items relating to the S.P.A.C.E. committee.

The Classes series spans 1900 to 1953 and contains undated material. It is further divided into three subseries. The first subseries is Bible School, spanning 1900 to 1952 and containing undated material. It includes class information about the church's robust Sunday School program. The second subseries is the Leadership Training subseries, spanning 1921 to 1953 and containing undated material. The third subseries is the Teacher Training subseries, spanning 1931 to 1947 and including undated material. These two subseries contain information on lessons to be taught.

The Events and Organizations series spans 1916 to 1984 and includes undated material. This series contains information on various events in the church's history as well as organizations associated with the church, such as the Boy Scouts, Christian Action, Lake Region Christian Assembly, and Women's Fellowship.

The Publications series spans 1927 to 1987 and includes undated material. In this series are various publications put out by the church over the years, as well as subscription information.

The General Files series spans 1861 to 1991 and includes undated material. Files that did not fit into other categories but are related to the church in some way are included into this series.

The Photos series includes photos from 1936, but many are undated. These are photos relating to the church.

## **Administrative Information**

### **Acquisition Information**

Accession 2023-001

Note: There was no accession year available when this collection was processed, therefore the year when processing started is used for the accession record.

### **Access Restrictions:**

Collection is open for research.

The archivist reserves the right to determine on a case-by-case basis if certain folders within the collection that have been requested for viewing cannot be made available due to various restriction compliance, including but not limited to student information, private personal information, and organizational information of a restricted nature.

### **Preferred Citation**

[Item], First Christian Church of Chicago Records, Collection HSC0009, The Helsabeck Archives of the Stone-Campbell Movement, Emmanuel Christian Seminary at Milligan Library, Johnson City, TN.

### **Processing Information**

Processed by Katherine N. Banks

Completed in 2023.

Some duplicates, broader Stone-Campbell Movement-related publications, and out-of-scope books were removed from the collection.

### **Folder List**

#### **Box 1**

#### **I. Series: History, 1910-1996, undated**

Anniversary Booklets, 1933-1940

Correspondence – Anniversary, 1917-1940

Fiftieth Anniversary, 1935

Golden Jubilee, 1910-1935, undated

Historical Overview of the Englewood Church of Christ (First Christian Church), undated

History, 1915-1935, undated

Membership, 1932

Membership Directory, 1952

Publicity – Anniversary, 1940

Visitors (Registry), 1933-1938, undated

Visitors Register, 1948

Visitors – Registry, 1953

Visitor Cards, 1969-1974

Visitor Cards, 1975-1996

Visitor Rolls, 1984-1990

#### **II. Series: Leadership, 1885-2003, undated**

##### **1. Subseries: Board, 1885-2003, undated**

Minutes of Official Board of Church, 1885-1891

Board Minutes, 1892-1893

Deacons, 1904-1910

Music Committee, 1906-1943

Deacons, 1911  
Elders, 1915-1922

**Box 2**

Executive Committee, 1923-1930, undated  
Nominating Committee Chairman, 1923-1959, undated  
Deacons, 1925-1930  
Finance Committee, 1927-1931  
Minutes of Church Business Meetings, 1927-1932  
Collections Committee, 1928-1931  
Program Committee, 1929-1931, undated  
Visitation, 1929-1931, undated  
Deacons, 1930-1932  
Executive Committee Correspondence, 1930-1931, undated  
Lists Committee, 1931, undated  
Stewardship, 1932-1934, undated  
Visitation, 1932, undated  
Deacons, 1933  
Deacons, 1934-1935  
Joint Elders and Deacons, 1934-1947, undated  
Deaconess, 1936-1939  
Deacons, 1936-1967  
Board of Deacons Records, H.O. Cord Secretary, 1938-1939  
Deacons, 1938-1939  
Elders, 1938-1942, undated  
Reorganization, 1938-1977  
Deacons, 1941  
Deacons, 1942-1945  
Elders, 1942  
Elders, 1943  
Elders, 1944  
Elders, 1945  
Deacons, 1946-1949  
Elders, 1946  
Deacons, 1947-1948  
Elders, 1947  
Elders, 1948  
Elders – Materials Discussed at Meeting, 1949

**Box 3**

Missions Endorsed by Elders, 1949  
Fall Mobilization, 1949-1950  
Elders, 1950-1951  
Meeting Minutes, 1966  
Meeting Minutes, 1967  
Deacons Minutes, 1968  
Meeting Minutes, 1968  
Pulpit Committee, 1968-1970, undated  
Deacons Minutes, 1969  
History of Deacons Meetings, 1969  
Deacons Minutes – Secretary, 1970  
Secretary Deacons Minutes, 1971  
Minutes for Deacons Meeting, Secretaries Copy, 1972

Deacons Minutes – Secretary, 1973  
Deacons Minutes – Secretary, 1974  
Minutes Year of 1975, 1975  
Deacons Minutes, 1978-1982, undated  
Worship Committee, 1981-1995  
Leadership Team, 1988-1994, undated  
Leadership Team, 2001-2002  
Leadership Team, 2001-2003

**Box 4**

**2. Subseries: Financial and Legal, 1923-2002, undated**

Financial Reports, 1923-1951, undated  
Legal Documents, 1924-1993, undated  
Financial Report, 1940-1941  
Financial Report, 1942-1943  
Financial Report, 1944-1945  
Financial Report, 1946-1948  
Finance Community, 1949-1951  
Financial Report, 1949-1951  
Financial Report, 1952-1953  
By-Laws, 1962-1964  
Financial Acknowledgement Letters, 1964-1977  
Crown Campaign, 1967-1983, undated  
Giving Campaign, 1970-1971, undated  
Chicago Title and Trust – Church Tax, 1971  
Report of Trust Fund Account, 1971  
Trinity Missionary Baptist Church, 1971  
1972 Tax – Cullerton’s Office, 1972, undated  
1973 Church Tax Report File, 1973  
1974 Tax, 1974  
Louise Rapp Estate – FCC, 1975-1976  
By-Laws, 1979  
Account of Lila Lewis to First Christian Church, 1984  
Long Range Planning, 1989, undated  
Financial, 1995-2002, undated

**3. Subseries: Personnel, 1921-1977, undated**

Church Organist, 1977  
Kindred, C. G., 1925-1949, undated  
Kindred, 1930-1949, undated  
Kindred’s First Sermon, 1971  
Morris, W.W., 1937-1950  
Old Applications Received for New Custodian, 1968  
Pulpit Supply, 1941-1947, undated  
O.A. Rosboro, 1921-1922, undated  
Schaefer, 1928-1940, undated  
Shaw, W.F., 1927-1932, undated  
E.C. Slaughter, 1931-1934  
Stickell – “Modernistic Tendencies In Bible School Literature,” undated  
Thurston, Burton B., 1948-1953  
Wilhelm, Carl, 1921-1925

**Box 5****III. Series: Building, 1925-1972, undated**

Building Campaign, 1927-1931, undated  
Building Correspondence, 1967  
Building Plans, 1928, undated  
Building Plans – New Church, 1925-1937, undated  
Chrysler Air Conditioning, 1972  
Equipment – Guarantees and Service Contracts, 1960-1972, undated  
Fiberglass Baptistry, 1971  
Operation Forward, 1957-1960, undated  
Sidewalk File, 1970-1971  
S.P.A.C.E. Committee – Miscellaneous Items, 1964-1966, undated  
S.P.A.C.E. Contracts, 1967  
S.P.A.C.E. Meeting Minutes, 1962-1966  
S.P.A.C.E. Reports, 1964-1968  
Specifications for the Addition to First Christian Church, 1967

**IV. Series: Classes, 1900-1953, undated****1. Subseries: Bible School, 1900-1952, undated**

Attendance Reports, 1911-1930  
Banquets, 1922-1952, undated  
Classes 15, 17, 1931-1939, undated  
Class 21, 1921-1947, undated  
Class 22, 23, 24, 25, 1906-1947, undated  
Class 40, 1915-1916  
Class 43, 1900-1951

**Box 6**

Class Rolls, 1949, undated  
Cover of Historical Record, undated  
Crusader Bible Class, 1948-1951, undated  
List of Materials, undated  
Membership, 1950, undated  
Miscellaneous, 1924-1950  
Record Book – Financial Secretary Class “43,” 1914-1925  
Teachers and Officers, 1946-1951, undated  
Young People’s Department, 1932-1948, undated

**2. Subseries: Leadership Training, 1921-1953, undated**

General Information, 1921-1947  
Genesis-Deuteronomy, undated  
Leadership Training (1948-1963), 1952-1953, undated

**3. Subseries: Teacher Training, 1931-1947, undated**

General Lessons: Archaeology, 1933-1935  
General Lessons: Baptism, 1933  
General Lessons: Bible, undated  
General Lessons: Church Since Pentecost, 1933  
General Lessons: Communion, 1933  
General Lessons: General Leadership, 1933  
General Lessons: Home Missions, 1933  
General Lessons: Meaning of Church Membership, 1933  
General Lessons: Psychiatry: A Social Science, undated

General Lessons: Psychology of Teaching, 1933  
 General Lessons: Purpose of the Bible, undated  
 General Lessons: Reformation, 1933  
 General Lessons: Religion in Art, 1933  
 Old Testament: Books of History, undated  
 Old Testament: Books of Poetry, undated  
 Old Testament: Charts – O.T. History, Judges – 1080-164 B.C., undated  
 Old Testament: Kings of Judah and Israel, undated  
 Old Testament: Major and Minor Prophets, 1933  
 Old Testament: O.T. Divisions, undated  
 Old Testament: Pentateuch, undated  
 Old Testament: Malachi to Matthew, undated  
 New Testament: Acts, 1933-1947  
 New Testament: Christ, 1933, undated  
 New Testament: Ephesians, undated  
 New Testament: Galatians, 1936, undated  
 New Testament: General Letters, 1933  
 New Testament: Gospel of the Cross, undated  
 New Testament: Gospels, 1933  
 New Testament: Matthew, undated  
 New Testament: Paul, undated  
 New Testament: Philippians – Study of B.B.F. 1, undated  
 New Testament: Romans, undated  
 New Testament: Special Letters, 1933  
 New Testament: Sub-Apostolic Age, undated  
 Scrapbook of News Articles on Teaching, circa 1931  
 Social Life of Bible Class, 1933  
 Teacher Training I, II, III, undated

**V. Series: Events and Organizations, 1916-1984, undated**

Boy Scouts, 1932-1934, undated  
 Chicago Bible Society, 1933, undated  
 Chicago City Missionary Society, 1920-1938, undated  
 Chicago Disciples Union, 1937  
 Chicago District Evangelistic Association, 1922-1952, undated

**Box 7**

Christian Action, 1934-1943, undated  
 Christian Action (Clippings), 1934-1939, undated  
 Christian Endeavor, 1931-1952, undated  
 Conferences 1944, 1944, undated  
 Disciples Divinity House, 1943, undated  
 Emergency Million, 1928-1945, undated  
 Evangelism – Local, 1948-1951, undated  
 Fall Fellowship Chicago Area, 1949, undated  
 Funeral Services, 1931-1938  
 Lake Region Christian Assembly, 1933-1950, undated  
 Lake Region Christian Assembly Conferences, 1930-1935, undated  
 Lake Region Christian Assembly Conferences, 1937-1939  
 Lake Region Christian Assembly Conferences, 1940-1941  
 Lake Region Christian Assembly Conferences, 1942-1944  
 Miscellaneous Programs, 1920-1952, undated

Miscellaneous Programs, 1925-1953, undated  
Missionary Conferences, 1916-1953  
Music and Music Festivals, 1922-1953, undated

**Box 8**

Women's Council, 1946-1948, undated  
Women's Fellowship, 1946-1950, undated  
Women's Fellowship, 1967-1984  
Women's Fellowship – Treasurer, 1963-1966  
Women's Work, 1943-1947, undated  
YMCA, 1930-1951, undated  
Young People's Work, 1923-1933, undated

**VI. Publications, 1927-1987, undated**

Bible School News, 1949-1950, undated  
Calendars, 1948  
Calendars, 1949  
Calendars, 1950  
Calendars, 1951  
Calendars, 1952  
The Centurion, 1934-1937  
The Centurion, 1940-1943  
Centurion, 1942-1943  
The Christian Visitor, 1930-1931, undated  
Duration Sheet, 1936-1946, undated  
The Englewood Christian, 1948-1950  
The Englewood Christian, 1951-1952  
The Englewood Christian, 1953  
The First Christian Messenger, 1970-1987  
Monthly Paper, 1927-1942, undated  
Prayer Meeting, 1947-1952  
Subscriptions, 1931, undated  
TELL, 1951-1953, undated  
The Weekly, 1967-1968

**VII. General Files, 1861-1991, undated**

Area Churches, 1925-1933, undated  
Articles, 1971-1997, undated  
Ashland Church, 1926-1939  
Austin Boulevard Christian Church, 1950  
Bain, John (Charles Kindred, Minister), 1933-1934, undated  
Certificates, 1934  
Chicago City, 1933-1939, undated  
Correspondence, 1948-1972, undated  
Correspondence, 1971-1980  
Christian Hour, 1946-1947, undated  
F.C.C. Disciples, 1990-1991  
Englewood Christian Bowling League, 1948  
Eureka College, 1924-1939, undated  
Maywood – First Christian Church, 1944-1949, undated  
Morgan Park Christian Church, undated  
Pension Fund, 1930-1942, undated



Publicity, 1913-1931, undated  
Quotations and Correspondence, 1972  
Story of the Churches, 1940, undated  
Times of the Gentiles, 1912-1936, undated  
Tri-City Amusement Company, 1931-1936  
Walker, Dean E., 1971, undated  
World Exposition, 1861-1940

**Box 10**

**VIII. Series: Photos, 1936, undated**  
Photos, 1936, undated