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#### CHURCH RECORDS

#### Introduction

For many years, Connecticut State Library collecting policy included the records of Connecticut churches. The library photostated many records and then either retained the original or the copies for the library. The majority of these records were bound volumes of ecclesiastical society minutes, church meeting records, membership lists and vital records. This record group does not include these volumes in most cases. In 1962, the library discontinued copying all church records. The library continued copying for its own use records containing vital records or ecclesiastical society records prior to 1900 until the early 1980s. Today the extensive microfilming project of the Utah Genealogical Society and the Mormon church has replaced preservation photostating by the Connecticut State Library.

Researchers must use microfilm when available prior to requesting original copies. The guide to church record microfilm is available at the History and Genealogy reference desk. Most materials are located in the Main Vault on Level 2 unless otherwise noted.

Series List

1. New Haven. Baptist Association, 1899.

Statistical returns and annual reports of member churches who participated in the 1899 convention. Alphabetical by member church. 5 inches.

2. Colchester. First Congregational Church, 1852-1932.

a) Sunday School catalogue, 1877; Parish register,
1868-77; Guest book for 226th anniversary and
rededication, 1929; miscellaneous letters, papers
and clippings, c. 1852-1932, collected by Miss
Abby G. Willard.

b) Woman's Board of Missions. Eastern Connecticut Branch. Box 2 Colchester Auxiliary, 1903-09. Records. 2 vols.;

c) The Boy's Mission Band, 1890-1909. Secretary's books. Box 2 3 vols.

5 inches

3. Middletown. Holy Trinity Church, 1818-1837. Box 3
Records kept by the Rev. Samuel F. Jarvic. Photostat.
5 inches.

4. Hamden. Plains Methodist Episcopal Church, 1897-1944. Box 4
Official Board Meetings, 1919-44. Meetings, 1897-1903;
1937-1944. 4 vols. 5 inches.

5. Hartford. Fourth Congregational Church, 1882-1953.

Scrapbooks, pamphlets, circulars, calendars, clippings, sermons, programs, annual reports, minutes and letters. Includes records of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, 1887-1902. See container list at end of register. 3 feet.

Boxes 5-6e

6. Hartford. North Methodist Episcopal Church, 1870-1939.
Church registers, financial records, minutes of meetings of the official board, leaders and stewards, joint board, quarterly conference, Sunday school records, men's club records, ladies aid society minutes, and miscellaneous papers. See container list at the end of the register.

56 vols. 4 feet. 2 inches.

Boxes 7-16

7. Hartford. North Congregational Church, 1823-67; Park
Congregational Church, 1867-1914.¹

Available on microfilm, reels 521-525.²
Consists of reports, accounts, bills, receipts, correspondence, subscriptions, mission collection records; membership applications; papers regarding building repairs, Rev. Horace Bushnell's resignation; and papers regarding the church's bell, clock and organ. Mostly unarranged. Includes the records for the Ecclesiastical Society, 1823-1925. Also includes the Christian Endeavor Society records. Mostly unarranged. 1 foot, 8 inches.

Boxes 17-20

8. Hartford. South Park Methodist Church, 1968-1955.
Registers, financial records, official board meetings, trustees records, quarterly conference reports, Sunday school, ladies aid, church guests, Boys Improvement Club, Asbury Circle of the King's Sons, and Home Mission Circle records. See container list at the end of the register.

5 feet, 10 inches.

Boxes 21-34

9. Groton. Union Baptist Church at Mystic, 1765-1965.

Membership records, minutes, convention records, papers, photographs, manuals and publications. See container list at the end of the register. 1 foot, 8 inches.

Boxes 35-38

10. Hartford. St. Paul's English Evangelical Church, 1906-1939.

Constitution, church council minutes, committee and Sunday school records, and Congregational meeting records.

7 vols. 10 inches.

Boxes 39-40

11. Hartford. Second Church of Christ, 1792-1912.

Available on Microfilm, reels 55 and 529.

Minutes, rules, baptisms, membership lists, blueprints of 2d Congregational Church, North Sunday School Assisting Committee records, 1826-30; South Sunday School records, 1831-1913. 8 vols.

Boxes 41-42

12. East Windsor. First Congregational Church, 1820-1979.

Programs, annual reports, newsclippings, published histories, manuals, songbook, speeches, and genealogical information.

Also includes some records from the First Ecclesiastical Society, 1940-1947. .25 cubic feet.

| ~ | 13. Kent. St. Andrew's Church. [Protestant Episcopal], 1847-1953.  Historical notes, vital statistics, minutes and miscellaneous records. 8 volumes. 10 inches.   | Boxes<br>43-44<br>oversize<br>volume |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
|   | 14. Kent. Congregational Church, 1939-1823. Church votes, members and vital statistics. 1 vol.  | Box 44                               |
|   | 15. By Multi-congregational published materials   |                                      |
|   | 16. Lisbon. Newent Congregational Church, 1723-1932.  Doctrine, admissions, dismissions, church proceedings, vital statistics, and membership lists; diary of Rev. Levi Nelson, pastor. 6 vols. 5 inches.   | Box 46                               |
|   | 17. Killingly. First Baptist Church at East Killingly.  Copies of membership at church foundation in 1776, compiled by Rev. Ebenezer Loomis and Edwin A. Hill; and copies from church book, 1796 and 1853. 2 vols. 5 inches.  | Box 47                               |
|   | 18. Lyme. First Congregational Church, 1793-18??.  Copy of Lathrop Rockwell's invitation to be gospel minister of Lyme First Society, 1793; First Ecclesiastical Society of Lyme membership certificates; church proceeding notes.  4 items.  | Box 47                               |
|   | 19. Meriden. First Baptist Church, 1786-1852.  Covenant, church meetings, admissions, dismissions, membership lists, baptisms and marriages. [Formerly part of First Baptist Church of Christ in Wallingford.] 2 vols. 5 inches.  | Box 48                               |
|   | 20. Meriden. West Meriden Baptist Society, 1861-1886.  Known as the Main Street Baptist Society after 1881.  Historical notes, organization, constitution, original members, admissions, meetings, transfer of property to Main Street Baptist Church and dissolution of the society in 1886. 1 volume.   | Box 48                               |
|   | 21. Meriden. Main Street Baptist Church, 1861-1936.  Known as the West Meriden Baptist Church prior to 1881.  Organization records, articles of faith, membership lists and proceedings of meetings. 2 vols.  | Box 48                               |
|   | 22. Middlebury. Congregational Church, 1751-1910. <sup>3</sup> Miscellaneous papers relating to church affairs, including donations, complaints, committee reports, letters, church members; records of the Gentlemen's Association and Middlebury Benevolent Society; account of mission donations; Articles of Faith and Covenant; church centennial papers, 1896; manuscript sermons by Rev. Jason Atwater, 1889, and Rev. William J. Avery, 1899. 5 inches. | Box 49                               |

Ci

23. New Haven. First Church of Christ and Ecclesiastical Society, 1639-1937.

Boxes 50-55

Also known as First Congregational Church, First Church, and Center Church of New Haven. Minutes, financial accounts, admissions, dismissions, baptisms, marriages, deaths; records of Rev. Chauncey Whittelsey; subscribers to Washington National monument; records of Nathaniel W. Taylor's pastorate. 2.5 feet.

Box 56

24. New Hartford. South Congregational Church and Ecclesiastical Society, 1834-1923.

Became known as Nepaug Congregational Church in 1926. Articles of Faith, Covenant, and By-laws, admissions and dismissions, membership lists, meetings, 1848-1917. Lists of those who attended 50th and 75th anniversaries in 1898 and 1923, and related papers. Records of deaths and burials in New Hartford by S. Bates, 1849-1922. Historical sketch, constitution of Sabbath School Association and miscellaneous papers of the First Ecclesiastical Society, 1834-1846. 5 inches.

25. New Haven. First Ecclesiastical Society, 1715-1937.

Society meetings, admissions, dismissions, membership lists, committee records, pew deeds, fund histories and miscellaneous documents. 1 foot, 8 inches.

Boxes 57-60 oversize vol.

26. New Haven. Howard Avenue Congregational Church, 1865-1930
Articles of Faith and Covenant; admissions and dismissions;
church meeting reports including some vital records;
material pertaining to 25th and 35th anniversaries of the
church; miscellaneous papers and reports of various church
committees and officials; and records of Young Peoples
Society of Christian Endeavor. 2.5 feet.

Boxes 61-66 oversize vol.

27. New London. First Church of Christ, 1784-1901.

Correspondence and papers, including Rev. Abel McEwen,
Pastor; Sabbath School records, baptisms; addresses at 250th
anniversary; admissions and dismissions; sermons by William
Patton, Abel McEwen, H.P. Arms, and Edward Woolsey Bacon;
and society account book, 1781-1820. 10 inches.

Boxes 67-68

28. New London County and vicinity. The Six Church Conference, 1862-1913.

Includes member churches from Jewett City, Griswold, Lisbon, Hanover, Preston City, and Plainfield Congregational Churches. 1 vol.

Item 68A

29. North Branford. Zion Church, 1812-1875.

Vestry meetings, baptisms, confirmations and deaths; society records. 2 vols. 5 inches.

Box 69

30. North Haven. St. John's Church [Protestant Episcopal, 1759-1858. Vestry meetings and vital statistics; church meetings; and membership lists and 1910 rate book for the North Haven Episcopal Society Rate Book.

Box 70

| 31. North Stonington. First Baptist Church at Pendleton Hill, 1754-1905.  Church meetings, membership lists, vital statistics, correspondence and miscellaneous papers. 1 foot. 3 is  | Boxes<br>71-73<br>nches.            |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Norwalk. St. Paul's Church [Protestant Episcopal], 1741-19.  Episcopal Society meetings; parish meetings; parish rewith vital statistics; St. Paul's Episcopal Academy rewilliam Cooper Mead's "Journal of Services," 1874-187.  Wardens and Vestry meetings. 1 foot, 3 inches. | egisters 74-764<br>ecords; oversize |
| 33. Norwich. Christ Church, 1746-1901.  Baptisms, marriages and deaths, meetings, subscriptions ale of pews, parish registers, historical notes, tre reports and miscellaneous papers. 2 feet.  |                                     |
| 34. Norwich. First Baptist Church, 1800-1944.  Meetings, Articles of Faith, Covenant, and member lis 7 vols. 1 notebook. 10 inches.   | Boxes<br>ts. 82-83                  |
| 35. Old Lyme. First Ecclesiastical Society and Congregational 1731-1874.  Church meeting minutes, vital statistics, admissions dismissions, confessions and church discipline. 4 vol 5 inches.  | and                                 |
| 36. Orange. Congregational Church, 1804-1929.  Historical notes, membership lists, church meetings, statistics, register of North Milford inhabitants, ad and dismissions, and Orange Ecclesiastical Society ac 6 vols. 10 inches.  | missions                            |
| 37. [Not used]  |                                     |
| 38. Plymouth. St. Mathew's Church [Protestant Episcopal], 1747 Records of the Episcopal Church in Bristol, formerly New Cambridge. Contains baptism records, meetings an membership lists. 3 vols. 5 inches.  | called                              |
| 39. Plymouth. St. Peter's Church [Protestant Episcopal], 1807-Meetings, 1807-1828, including some vital statistics. Records, 1915-1919. Compiled by Rev. Henry Swift, Rec 2 vols.   | Vital                               |
| 40. Preston. Long Society, 1758-1938.  Established ca. 1726 as the East Society in Norwich. Includes minutes, 1758-1936, miscellaneous accounts, memoranda, 1775-1938. 1 vols.  | Box 87                              |
| 41. Shelton. Congregational Church, 1892-1922.  Annual meetings, membership lists, and baptisms. 1 v 5 inches.  | Box 88                              |

offerings, trustees minutes, Sunday school records, Ladies

Benevolent Society, and records of the Epworth League.

Boxes 91-95 oversize vol.

Box 88

Boxes

89-90

45. Stamford. First Congregational Church, 1747-1907.

Minutes of society and church meetings; membership lists, vital statistics, admissions and dismissions, historical sketch, and records of Stamford Sabbath School Society.

5 vols. 10 inches.

Boxes 96-97

46. [Not used]

47. Woodstock. First Congregational Church, 1743-1932.

Society and church meetings, admissions and dismissions vital statistics, historical notes, officers and members, Ladies Benevolent Society records, and miscellaneous papers. 7 vol. 1 foot, 3 inches.

Boxes 98-100

48. Hartford. Immanuel Congregational Church, 1885-1899.

Farmington Ave. church that succeeded the Pearl St. church merged with the Park Congregational Church to become Immanuel Congregational Church.

Electrotype copies of Immanuel Congregational Church materials and printed materials related to Pearl St. Congregational Church and Farmington Ave. Congregational Church. 2 folders.

Items 100a & b

49. Killingly. Attawaugan Methodist Episcopal Church, 1893-1937.

Treasurer's reports and accounts; reports of pastor and various committees; meeting minutes; Constitution and By-laws of Attawaugan Sunday School. 10 inches.

Boxes 101-102

50. East Windsor. St. John's Church [Protestant Episcopal] at
Warehouse Point, 1796-1915.
Scrapbook, account books, sermons, subscriptions, Sunday
school records, treasurer's records, committee appointments,
correspondence, deeds, personal papers, reports, and
resolutions. See container list at end of register.
1 foot, 4 inches.

Boxes 103-106

51. Norwich. First Congregational Church, 1699-1928.5
Gravestone inscriptions; Norwich First Society records including necrologies, committee records, proceedings and

Boxes 107-110

Boxes

111-118

votes; Ladies Home Missionary Society of First Congregational Church records; Lathrop Memorial Missionary Society records; sermons; receipt books, baptism certificates, attendance certificates; correspondence, deeds, admission and dismission records, First Society records, meeting house records, missionary records, orders to pay, pamphlets, Separates files, treasurer's reports, relief and aid society records, and cemetery records. 1.25 feet. See container list at end of register.

- 52. Killingly. Danielson Methodist Church, 1842-1950.

  Board records, admissions and dismissions, vital records, registers, class records, membership lists, trustees records, financial records, Sunday school records, mission societies, pastor's records, and anniversary celebrations. 3.30 feet. See container list at the end of register.
- 53. Universalist Church in the U.S. Connecticut., 1832-1948.

  Convention records and executive committee meetings, Southern

  Association of Universalists of Connecticut, Hartford County

  Association, news clippings, constitutions, articles,

  pamphlets, lists, map, and programs. 1.60 feet. See container

  list at the end of register.
- 54. Middletown. First Baptist Church, 1795-1926.

  Records including church meetings, members lists, deaths, trustees meetings, financial records, Sunday School records, Young Women's Class, Philathea Class Circle, Boy Scouts of America records. 2 feet. See container list at the end of register.
- 55. Plymouth. First Congregational Church, 1736-1904.6

  Documents relate to the history of the Northbury Society and include early petitions, deeds, meeting minutes, member lists, and accounts; also includes papers of early ministers beginning with Rev. Samuel Todd. An itemized list is included the records. 5 inches.
- 56. Preston. St. James Church [Protestant Episcopal] at Poquetanuck, Box 128 1836-1895.7

  Bills, receipts, correspondence and other papers relating to church business.
- 57. Roxbury. Congregational Church, 1743-1863.8

  Church discipline cases, 1764-1831; admissions and dismissions, 1799-1863; miscellaneous documents concerning church and ministerial affairs, 1743-1826. See also records in classified archives, on microfilm, and RG 70:74.

  5 inches.
- 58. East Lyme. Flanders Baptist Church, 1926-1950.9

  Church Treasurer's Books, 1926-1945; Sunday School Records
  including Financial Secretary's Books, 1948-1950; Treasurer's
  Book, 1931-1932; and Record Books, 1927-1932. 21 vols. 1.25
  feet. See container list at end of register.

59. Hartford. Windsor Avenue Congregational Church, 1866-1936, 1943. 10 Subscriber lists to the Wooster St. Chapel, 1866; early organizational records, manuals and handbooks, ministers' files, Sunday School and committee records, resolutions, parish house records, incorporation records, mortgage agreement, and written history. Itemized list in Box 133. 10 inches. See container list at end of register.

Boxes 133-134

60. Hartford. First Methodist Church, 1823-1882. 11

Available on microfilm, reels 508 and 509.

Sunday School and Trustees' Records. 11 vols. 10 inches.

See container list at end of register.

Boxes 135-136

61. Rocky Hill. Congregational Church, 1908, 1927, 1952.<sup>12</sup>
Restoration plans for pulpit and paneling, n.d. (oversize); anniversary and bicentennial programs and pamphlets, 1908, 1927, 1952; photographs of church, n.d. 2 inches.

Box 137

62. Hartford. Grace Church, 1892-1925.<sup>13</sup>
Grace Chapel Rectory Fund records, 1892-1894; St. Martha's Guild meeting minutes, 1924-1935; Altar Guild of St. Hilda by-laws, minutes, and member lists, 1930-1934; Sunday School reports, 1923-1925; Girls Friendly Society meeting minutes and members lists, 1909-1913; Chapter of Saint Agnes records, 1914-1929; Burnam Athletic Association records, 1894. 10 vols. 5 inches.

Box 138

Records of Sunday Schools and various societies affiliated with the Congregational and First Baptist Churches in Chester that merged in 1941 to form the United Church of Chester. Includes Female Praying and Benevolent Society, 1814-1843; Congregational Sunday School Records, 1819-1834; Temperance Society records, 1828-1858; Ladies Benevolent Society, 1853-1909; Women's Baptist Missionary Society, 1874-1911; Women's Home Missionary Society, 1900-1919; Baptist Sunday School, 1873-1899; Fourth Ecclesiastical Society of Saybrook, November 12, 1822 fund subscription list; "Sketches of Chester Sunday School," by Edward C. Hungerford, 1892; "Manual of the Congregational Church in Chester, Conn.," 1871 and 1889; "Historical Sketch of the Congregational Church of Chester, Conn," by Amos Sheffield Chesebrough et al, 1892. 8 vols., 3 items. 5 inches.

Box 139

64. Stafford. Methodist Episcopal Church of Stafford Springs, 1858-1949.

Records of various organizations including the Men's Club, 1929-1940; Sunday School, 1899-1944 Treasurer, 1858-1949; Trustees, 1858-1949; Woman's Female Missionary Society, 1923-1940; and Woman's Home Missionary Society, 1890-1940. 1.25 feet. See separate container list at end of register.

Boxes 140-142

65. Hartford. Immanuel Congregational Church, 1891-1982. 15
Scrapbooks. 49 vols. 12 feet. See separate container list at end of register.

Main 2

| į        | 66. | Hartford. Asylum Hill Congregational Church, 1865-1918. 16 Scrapbooks. 14 vols. 5 feet. See separate container list at end of register.  | Main 3<br>Boxes<br>143-153 |
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|          | 67. | South Killingly. Congregational Church, 1745-1832.17 Transcript of original records25 feet.  | Main 2                     |
|          | 68. | Fair Haven. First Congregational Church, 1830-1978. Records. Positive microfilm. 3 reels .25 feet.   | Main 2                     |
|          | 69. | Hartford. Park Congregational Church, 1885-1914. 19 Scrapbooks including the Society of Christian Endeavor: Vol. 1, 1885-1905; Vol. 2, 1907; Vol. 3, 1909-1910; Vol. 4, 1910-1912; Vol. 5, 1912-1914. 5 vols. 1 foot.  | Main 2                     |
|          | 70. | Hartford. Pearl Street and Farmington Avenue Congregational Churches, 1851-1935. Scrapbooks. Vol 1., 1851-1888; Vol 2., 1857, 1874-1927, 1935. 2 vols25 foot   | Main 2                     |
|          | 71. | Hebron. Gilead Eccleasiastical Society and Congregational<br>Church, n.d. <sup>20</sup><br>Fragment of typewritten history. See also classified archives<br>974.62 H35:G2c e10 foot.   | Main 2                     |
| <b>}</b> | 72. | Middlebury. Middlebury Congregational Church, 1915-1975. Photocopies of church records. See also RG 70:22 and classified archives 974.2 M562c r. 4 vols.   | Main 2                     |
|          |     | Winchester. Winchester Center Congregational Church, 1809-1858.  Available on microfilm or photostat copy 974.62 W721c rm.  Handwritten records of Rev. Frederick Marsh. 1 item.  Original journal has Pages not diplicated on the photostatic of microfilm copy, Researcher new request or microfilm.  Roxbury. Roxbury Congregational Church, 1889-1922. | Main 2                     |
|          | 74. | Roxbury Roxbury Congregational Church, 1889-1922.  Records including lists of Deacons, Church Delegates, members and members removed, marriages, summary charities and expenses account, statistics by year, church meeting minutes, ephemera from the bicentennial in 1944. See also classified archives and microfilm collection for other records as well as RG 70:57   | Main 2                     |
|          |     | Canterbury. First Congregational Church and First Ecclesiastical Society, 1711-1940. <sup>21</sup> First Ecclesiastical Society, 1769-1883.  Records, vol 2. <sup>22</sup> First Congregational Church, 1711-1940.  Records, vol 1, 1711-1842, 1900; vol 2, 1837-1896, 1911; vol 3, 1896-1940.  4 vols. See also microfilmed church records reel no. 90 and the Church Records slip index.   | Main 2                     |
|          | 76. | the Church Records slip index.  Sinsbury First Church Records - 2 Vols, 1682-1929 - ACC. 20  | 05-014 01567               |

 $<sup>^{1}</sup>$ In 1914, Park Congregational Church joined with the Farmington Ave. Congregational Church to form Immanuel Congregational Church.

<sup>2</sup>The contents of boxes 17 and 18 are available on microfilm, Church Records reels 521-526. Box 19 includes printed catalogues of the congregation for various years. Some are available on the previously cited microfilm.

<sup>3</sup>For other Middlebury Congregational Church Records, see RG 70:72 and 974.2 M562c r Main Vault.

4Contents note for all volumes is in vol. 1 in box 74.

<sup>5</sup>Seven volumes of records of the Norwich First Congregational Church are catalogued as: 974,62 N841c r.

6351 documents in the collection purchased from Blanchfield, Feb 1, 1926.

<sup>7</sup>The church gave these documents in 1941.

<sup>8</sup>The church deposited these papers with the State Archives on December 13, 1931.

<sup>9</sup>The State Library received these columes on April 27, 1951 from Ross Gordon Grave, Waterford, CT.

10 Miss Grace Culver, Church Historian, donate the records, May 27, 1958.

<sup>11</sup>Rev. Lloyd F. Worley deposited the records on December 24, 1954.

12 The Library received the records in 1952-1953 from Mr. Sigmund Adler, Clerk.

<sup>13</sup>Dr. Nelson R. Burr of West Hartford deposited the records with the State Library in 1938 and 1939.

<sup>14</sup>Mrs. Ralph B. Monroe, Clerk, Chester, CT deposited these records with the State Library on June 10, 1954.

<sup>15</sup>Vols. 1-17,17a-44 Transferred from the general stacks to the Archives in November 1981. Vols. 45 & 46 given to the State Archives by Richard Griffis on Oct 14, 1982 and Dec 20, 1983 respectively. Vols. 38a & b transferred from the general collection to the Archives in Feb. 1985.

<sup>16</sup>Formerly classified as 974.62/H 252 ca P. The State Archivist transferred these volumes from the stacks to RG 70 on June 15, 1983.

<sup>17</sup>Prepared by Angela Hawkins Fitcher and donated to the State Libraryt in September 1983.

<sup>18</sup>F. Jeannette Simpson donated the fim to the State Library in September 1983.

<sup>19</sup>Leverett Belknap donated the records to the State Library in 1935. Formerly Classified as 974.62 H252ci sc. The State Archivist transferred them to RG

70 in February 1985.

<sup>20</sup>Mrs. R.E. Foote donated the document on January 26, 1985.

<sup>21</sup>Donated by Mr. Craig Harwood, Board of Trustees member, on July 18, 1991.

 $^{22}$ Members have not found the first volume and believe it was either destroyed or in some unknown person's possession.

## Other Guides and Indexes

A card catalogue listing the majority of the church records and printed materials is available in M H and G. A published list of the official church records, List of Church Records on Deposit at Connecticut State Library as of June 1, 1970, is available in the library on request.

### Reference Restrictions

None.

#### Related Materials

The "Church Records Index" containing the vital records in selected church records is available in ## H and G in both bound volumes by church and an index containing all the indexed material for Connecticut.

The Works Progress Administration's Historical Records Survey compiled a detailed description of church records in Connecticut. Inventories for Lutheran and Protestant Episcopal churches were published, as well as a Guide to vital statistics in the church records of Connecticut (New Haven, 1942, Connecticut Historical Records Survey). Nearly completed draft inventories for Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian church records, together with survey reports and related papers are in Record Group 33.