

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Manuscript Collections

<p>Name of collection:</p> <p>Worcester, Mass. Church of the Unity, Records, 1844-1920</p>	<p>Location:</p> <p>Octavo volumes "W" Folio volumes "W" Mss. boxes "W"</p>
<p>Size of collection:</p> <p>8 octavo volumes; 3 folio volumes; 4 mss. boxes</p>	<p>N.U.C.M.C. number:</p> <p>N.A.</p>
<p>Finding aids:</p> <p>For information on the Church of the Unity, see Charles Nutt, <u>History of Worcester and Its People</u> (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1919), vol. 2, pp. 885-86</p>	
<p>Source of collection:</p> <p>Records of baptisms, marriages, etc. the gift of Rev. Charles Brown Elder, 1926; remainder of collection donated after disbandment of the church</p>	
<p>Collection description:</p> <p>The Church of the Unity of Worcester, Mass., was formed in 1845 by members of the First Unitarian Church. The church building was erected on Elm Street and was dedicated in April 1846. The first pastor was Rev. Edward Everett Hale (1822-1909), who administered the church for ten years. In December 1858 Rev. Rush R. Shippen (1828-) was installed as the second pastor. Among the later pastors were Rev. Henry Blanchard (-), Rev. Roland A. Wood (-), and Rev. Charles Brown Elder (-). The church experienced financial difficulties after the turn of the century and united with the First Unitarian Church in 1920.</p> <p>The records of the Church of the Unity include papers concerning the formation of the church, correspondence, committee reports, business records, receipts, bills and accounts, church histories, record books and account books. The correspondence includes business letters by the pastors and various church officers, invitations to religious ceremonies throughout Worcester County, resignations of pastors and church officers, and letters of withdrawal from the parish.</p> <p>There are also parish committee reports, 1849-1904, treasurer's reports, 1847-1907, and other church committee reports. There are subscriptions to support the church, warrants for meetings, pew deeds, and other business records. There is also one box of bills, receipts and accounts. The volumes include a record book of the organization of the church, membership books, account books, a record book of a Unitarian convention, 1853, and, finally, a record book, 1879-1920, with minutes of various committee meetings.</p> <p>See Contents List.</p>	

15 June 1978

WORCESTER, MASS. CHURCH OF THE UNITY

Contents List

Manuscript Boxes:

Box #1 Papers and Correspondence, 1844-1919

- Folder 1 Papers concerning the formation of the parish, 1844-1846, include petitions, committee reports, and some correspondence
- Folder 2 Church correspondence, 1847-1850
- Folder 3 Church correspondence, 1851-1856
- Folder 4 Church correspondence, 1857-1870
- Folder 5 Church correspondence, 1871-1893
- Folder 6 Church correspondence, 1894-1903
- Folder 7 Church correspondence, 1904-1919
- Folder 8 Letters of withdrawal from parish, 1846-1885

Box #2 Committee Reports and Records, 1846-1907

- Folder 1 Parish committee reports, 1849-1874
- Folder 2 Parish committee reports, 1875-1879
- Folder 3 Parish committee reports, 1880-1904
- Folder 4 Treasurers' reports, 1847-1894
- Folder 5 Treasurers' reports, 1895-1907
- Folder 6 Reports of the Sunday School, 1846-1885, include two small attendance record books
- Folder 7 Reports of the Ladies' Charitable Society and the Lend-a-Hand Club, 1888-1903
- Folder 8 Miscellaneous church committee reports, 1853-1903

Box #3 Miscellaneous Church Business Records, 1844-1908

- Folder 1 Subscriptions for support of the church, 1844-1900
- Folder 2 Warrants for church meetings, 1846-1873
- Folder 3 Warrants for church meetings, 1877-1908
- Folder 4 Pew deeds and seating arrangement charts, undated; 1846-1849
- Folder 5 Pew deeds and seating arrangement charts, 1850-1901
- Folder 6 Miscellaneous business records
- Folder 7 Historical sketches and newspaper clippings; a printed sermon of Rush R. Shippen, 1869

Box #4 Receipts, Bills, Accounts, 1845-1901, arranged chronologically

Octavo Volumes:

- #1 Record Book, 1844, with minutes of meetings to organize the Church of the Unity, and reports of the Building Committee, and a loose copy of the act of incorporation (many pages blank)
- #2 Membership Book, 1845-1919, with signatures of members and date of membership
- #3 Membership Book, 1862, with signatures of people desiring membership; includes occupations (many pages blank)
- #4 Record Book, 1853, of the Autumnal Convention of Unitarians in Worcester; includes minutes of committee meetings and lists of members
- #5 Account Book, 1866-1878, with lists of church members and amounts paid to the church

- #6 Account Book, 1873-1879, with lists of names and records of pew rentals
- #7 Account Book, 1892-1893, of church treasurer, Rockwood Hoar (1855-1906)
(many pages blank)
- #8 Record Book, 1905-1916, of Rev. Charles Brown Elder, recording baptisms,
marriages, and funerals during his ministry

Folio Volumes:

- #1 Valuation Lists, 1846-1849, include names of church members with a
description of property and valuations for tax purposes (many pages blank)
- #2 Record Book, 1846-1855, with transactions of pew deeds; includes index
(many pages blank)
- #3 Record Book, 1879-1920, of parish committee meetings. Includes minutes
of meetings, treasurers' reports, and lists of committee members. The
last entries concern the merging of the church with the First Unitarian
Church. Includes loose material