



First Universalist Church Records 00189

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections

Conrad Hall

943 Conrad Road, Room 101

East Lansing , MI 48824

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Summary Information

Repository:	Michigan State University Archives and Historical Collections
Creator:	First Universalist Church (Lansing, Mich.)
Source:	Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing
Title:	First Universalist Church records
ID:	00189
Date [inclusive]:	1852-1971
Physical Description:	2.5 Cubic Feet
Language of the Material:	English .

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information:
"Item title, Collection title, Collection Identifier, Michigan State University Archives & Historical Collections, East Lansing, Michigan."

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Historical Note

The first Universalist church in the United States, located in New Jersey, was created by John Murray in 1770. The Universalist movement spread first along the Atlantic seaboard and then west across the country. Universalists, a liberal sect of Christianity, did not adhere to any one creedal statement; instead they believed in one God and that every religious tradition was based upon one universal truth.

Conflicting dates place the creation of the First Universalist Church of Lansing between 1848 and 1852. The congregation first met in the Michigan Senate Chamber in Lansing until the first Universalist Church was dedicated on October 14, 1863 on Grand Avenue. The location of the Church changed several times; in July 1896 it moved to the northeast corner of Ottawa and Capitol Streets, in 1946 it moved to 831 North Washington, and finally in late September 1957 it merged with the East Lansing Unitarian Fellowship and moved to Allegan Street.

This merger resulted in a name change, Universalist-Unitarian Church of Greater Lansing; then in a 1961 decision made by the Council of Liberal Churches that fused together all Unitarian and Universalist Churches across the nation. To comply with the newly created Unitarian Universalist Association, the Lansing based Church changed its name once again to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing.

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Scope and Contents

The First Universalist Church of Lansing records consist of accounting ledgers from both the church and the church school, annual reports, scrapbooks and newspaper clippings, histories of the church, parish and collection records, and treasurer's reports. The records range in date from the establishment of the church in 1852 to 1971, and include the early years of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing. Among the notable items are a photocopy of the 1852 charter and a scrapbook of histories of the church dating back to 1848.

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Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by subject.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Permission to publish material from this collection must be obtained from University Archives & Historical Collections, Michigan State University.

Conditions Governing Access

Legal Status: Donor(s) have transferred any applicable copyright to Michigan State University but the collection may contain third-party materials for which copyright was not transferred. Copyright restrictions may apply. Property Rights: Michigan State University.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Churches -- Michigan -- Lansing
- Annual reports
- Ledgers (account books)
- Scrapbooks
- Universalist Church (Lansing, Mich.). History
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lansing

Collection Inventory

Records			
Title/Description	Instances		
Accounting Ledgers			
General	box 1		folder
1898-1907	box 1		folder 1
1919-1928	box 1		folder 2
1928-1934	box 1		folder 3
1934-1935	box 3		folder 1

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May 1935-April 1945	box 1	folder 4
1961-1967	box 3	folder 2
Sunday School,, October 1922-October 1938	box 1	folder 5
Annual Report of Reverend G. H. Ashworth (Drafts), circa 1920	box 1	folder 6
Annual Reports, 1921-1930	box 1	folder 7
Board of Trustees Minutes, 1865-1886	box 1	folder 8
Charter (Photocopy), 1852	box 1	folder 9
Church Record, November 1865-January 1908	box 1	folder 10
Church School		
Records	box 1	folder
1921-1938	box 1	folder 11
1941-1956	box 1	folder 12
Report, 1955	box 1	folder 13
Clippings, 1951-1957	box 1	folder 14
Collections Ledger, 1927-1930	box 1	folder 15
Constitution and By-Laws, 1872, 1904, circa 1920	box 1	folder 16
Forum Committee Financial Statement, 1956	box 1	folder 17
Handbook and Directory, circa 1920	box 1	folder 18
Histories, 1848-1948, 1848-1971, undated	box 1	folder 19
The "Ideal" Scrapbook, 1879-1909	box 2	folder 1
Meeting Minutes, 1866-1887	box 2	folder 2
New Members, Deaths, Baptisms, 1928, 1929, 1930	box 2	folder 3
Parish and Church Records		
ca. 1852-ca. 1932	box 2	folder 4
ca. 1866-ca. 1927	box 2	folder 5
Programs for Mass, December 1954, January 1955	box 2	folder 6
Record Book, 1852-1866	box 2	folder 7
Record of Payments by Members, 1951-1957	box 3	folder 3
Record of Universalist Church activity at the Michigan Conference of the Universalist Church Association, 1891-1898	box 2	folder 8
Report, 1931	box 2	folder 9

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Scrapbook, 1927-1940	box 2	folder 10
Treasurer's Report		
October 5, 1914- October 8, 1914	box 2	folder 11
1955-1958	box 2	folder 12
1960-1963	box 2	folder 13
Universalist Missionary Fund 1888-1897 and Universalist State Conventions, Receipts, 1868-1889	box 2	folder 14

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