Vermont Quebec Universalist Unitarian Convention
Records, 1881-2014
Doc 721-723

Introduction

This collection contains the papers of the Vermont Quebec Universalist Unitarian Convention (VQUUC) for the period 1881-2014. The collection was donated to the Vermont Historical Society by Stephen Finner, President, and Martha High, Secretary of the Convention in 2009, with additional material donated in 2014. It is housed in four archival boxes and consumes 3.5 linear feet of shelf space.

Institutional Note

The Universalist Convention of Vermont and the Province of Quebec was officially incorporated by the State of Vermont in 1888, though the Vermont Historical Society holds a publication dated 1872 which suggests the union of Vermont and Quebec conventions took place earlier. Previously the convention was known as the Universalist Convention of Vermont, which was formed in 1833. The current name of the convention, the Vermont Quebec Universalist Unitarian Convention, was approved at a meeting held in October, 1937. According to the organization's 1947 constitution, the purpose of the Convention was to assist its member societies in “the promotion of liberal religion and fellowship and the application of the democratic process to all spheres of living.” The VQUUC was also formed to receive, hold, administer and manage property of any kind, nature and description which might come to its care, control, management, custody or ownership by gift, grant, devise, bequest, trust, statute, implication of law or otherwise. The Convention held annual meetings and each member society was entitled to voting delegates. The management of the Convention was by a board of trustees.

Scope and Content Note

The Vermont Quebec Universalist Unitarian Convention records consist of records of the organization between 1881 and 2014. These records are organized into the following five series: I. Correspondence files, II. Subject files, III. People, IV. Towns, V. Ledgers.

Correspondence files contain mostly correspondence of the secretary of the Convention from 1950 to 2007. Letters concern a variety of topics, such as the hiring of ministers, the dissolution of churches throughout the state, attendance at meetings, and the Association of Universalist Women. Some correspondence with specific prominent individuals in this organization is filed separately in its own series.

The series of subject files includes annual reports, constitutions, bylaws, treasurers' reports, and other financial records. Although some miscellaneous papers from as early as 1894 are included, most of the subject files date from the late 1940s to 2005.

A third series contains correspondence with prominent individuals in the organization, including Martin Leinwohl, Joseph Nerod, Edith MacDonald, William Hardin, and Herman Young between 1962 and 1972. The fourth series documents the Universalist Unitarian churches in several different Vermont towns.

The fifth series consists of ledgers of financial records, memberships, and minutes spanning the years 1881 through 1987. Most of the early records of the organization can be found in this series. Some ledgers also document related and allied groups such as the First Universalist Society of Lyndonville, the Young People's Christian Union, the Universalist-Unitarian Women's Association and the Twin State Area Ministry at Ascutney.

Related Collections

The Vermont Historical Society Library holds the papers of Royce "Tim" Pitkin, president of the VQUUC in the 1940s. These papers include some material from his presidency (Doc 365: 7-23).

Inventory

I. Correspondence Files

Doc 721:01	1894-1940s
02	1950-1951, A-D
03	_____, E-H
04	_____, K-R
05	_____, S
06	_____, V-Z
07	1951-1952, A-C
08	_____, D-H
09	_____, J-O
10	_____, P-R
11	_____, S-V
12	_____, W-Z
13	1952-1953, A-B
14	_____, C-F
15	_____, G
16	_____, H-L
17	_____, N-R
18	_____, S
19	_____, T-Z
20	1953-1954, A-B
21	_____, C-F
22	_____, G
23	_____, H-N
24	_____, O-R

25	_____, S
26	_____, T-Z
27	1954-1955, A-G
28	_____, H
29	_____, J-R
30	_____, S-Z
722:01	1956-1957
02	1958-1960, A-G
03	_____, H-Z
04	1962-1963
05	1964-1965
06	1965-1967
07	1968-1969
08	1969-1970
09	1970-1971
10	1976-1981
11	1982-1985
12	1990s
13	2000-2007

II. Subject Files

14	Constitution and by-laws, 1947-1984
15	Annual meeting, 1950-1988
16	_____, 1993-2014
17	Grants to UU churches, 1984-2005
18	Financial statements, 1981-1997
19	Restricted fund information, 1965-1996
20	Trust agreement, 1995
21	Investments, 1979-1980
22	Lost Churches and funds, 1947-1984
23	Powers & Slocum Funds, 1978-1981
24	Special Committee on Future Plans, 1964
25	Treasurer's Reports, 1956-1962
26	Vermont Bank & Trust, 1970
27	Waivers, 1964
28	NH VT District reports and correspondence, 1962-1970
29	Association of Universalist Women, 1953-1964
30	St. Lawrence University Theology School, 1953
31	History
32	Miscellaneous

III. People

Doc 722.1:01	Martin Leinwohl, 1964-1971
02	Joseph Nerod/Edith MacDonald, 1970-1972
03	William Hardin, 1962-1969
04	Herman Young, 1969-1972

IV. Towns

05 Bellows Falls
06 Colchester/Hartland/St. Johnsbury
07 Concord
08 Coventry
09 Derby Line
10 East Montpelier
11 Felchville (Reading)
12 Glover
13 Morrisville
14 North Hatley/Tunbridge
15 Northfield
16 Plainfield
17 Rutland
18 South Strafford
19 South Woodstock
20 Stowe
21 West Burke

V. Ledgers

Doc 723:01 First Universalist Society of Lyndonville, Minutes, 1896-1946
02 _____, Ledger of Accounts, 1896-1902
03 Young People's Christian Union, Massachusetts Meeting Programs, 1895-1909, 1920, 1942
04 _____, Ledger, 1907-1916
05 _____, Constitution & By Laws, 1891
06 _____, Minutes, 1895-1920
07 Book of Accounts, 1881-1916
08 Secretary's Records, 1899-1905
09 Membership, 1893-1945
10 _____, 1911-1946
11 Convention Ledger, 1928-1933
12 Minutes of Annual Convention of the Universalist-Unitarian Women's Association, 1887-1899
13 _____, 1954-1964
14 Membership Record of Twin State Area Ministry at Ascutney, Vermont, 1976-1987
15 Superintendent Records, 1900-1915
16 Financial Records, 1903-1918

Judy Safford
May 2014
VQUUC.doc