

*Finding Aid to the **Unity Church Collection***

*Date Range: 1856-2011*

*Compiled by Arielle Nathanson,*

*January 2022*

**Summary**

**Creator:** The Easton Historical Society and Museum

**Title:** Unity Church Collection

**Dates:** 1856-2011

**Extent:** 1.13 linear feet, or 3 full sized Hollinger Boxes and 1 oversized photograph box

**Abstract:** The Unity Church Collection, dates from 1856 to 2011 and contains information on and photographs of the church. Included in this collection are: annual reports, meeting minutes, directories, historical accounts, play programs, worship programs, advertisements, newspaper articles, correspondence and constitution drafts.

**Language:** English

**Administrative Information**

**Acquisition Information:** This collection is the result of various donations of newspapers, photographs and oral histories and as such there is no one source to credit for their acquisition.

**Accruals:** No further accruals are expected, but the collection may be updated as additional relevant materials are located and processed.

**Restrictions on Access:** Collection may only be accessed with the permission of the Easton Historical Society and Museum. Digitized versions of select materials are available through this finding aid and the Easton Historical Society and Museum's website at: [eastonmahistoricalsociety.org](http://eastonmahistoricalsociety.org)

**Conditions Governing Use:** The Unity Church Collection is owned by the Easton Historical Society and Museum. It may be used for research, study and scholarship purposes. Permission to quote, publish or copy these materials requires the permission of the Easton Historical Society and Museum, which can be contacted at: [eastonmahsmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:eastonmahsmuseum@gmail.com) or 508-238-7774.

**Preferred Citation:** Unity Church Collection, 1856-2011, Easton Historical Society and Museum, [item].

**Processing Note:** This collection was fully processed and a finding aid created by Arielle Nathanson. Select materials from this collection were digitized in 2022 and are accessible online. To request virtual access to non digitized materials, please contact the Easton Historical Society and Museum.

### **Biographical Note**

Unity Church was built in 1875 as a gift from Oliver Ames Jr. (1807-1877) to the Unitarian Society of Easton. The architect was John Ames Mitchell (1845-1918), who was his nephew. The building is well known for featuring works, like stained glass windows and wooden carvings by various artisans, including: John LaFarge (1835-1910), Charles J. Connick (1875-1945), Henry Vaughan (1845-1914), Johannes Kirchmayer (1860-1930) and Henry Hobson Richardson (1838-1886). Reverend William Chaffin (1837-1923), a well known figure in Easton history, was the pastor at Unity Church for 50 years, with some of that time spent as pastor emeritus.

### **Scope and Content Note**

The Unity Church Collection, dates from 1856 to 2011 and contains information on and photographs of the church. Included in this collection are: annual reports, meeting minutes, directories, historical accounts, play programs, worship programs, advertisements, newspaper articles, correspondence and constitution drafts. This collection is arranged into 11 series by document genre with subsequent subseries and file levels being organized by alphabetical or chronological order, as will be specified below. Notable materials in this collection include: copies of drafts of the LaFarge stained glass windows, letters written by Reverend William Chaffin, photographs of Reverend William Chaffin and his wife, and sermons by Reverend William Chaffin and Reverend Richard C. Myers.

**Series 1: Advertisements and Fundraising.** The materials in this series date from 1893 to sometime in the recent past. Subseries are arranged by document genre and presented alphabetically. There are no particularly notable materials in this series.

**Series 2: Annual Reports and Financial Papers.** The materials in this series date from 1856 to 1981. Subseries are arranged by document genre and presented alphabetically. There are no particularly notable materials in this series.

**Series 3: Correspondence.** The materials in this series date from 1874 to 2007. Subseries are arranged by creator, recipient or document genre and are presented alphabetically. The most notable materials are the letters to Oliver Ames.

**Series 4: Directories.** The materials in this series date from 1942 to 1978. There are no subseries due to there being few materials. All items are ordered chronologically and there are no notable materials.

**Series 5: History.** The materials in this series date from 1975 to sometime in the recent past. Subseries are arranged by subject, creator or document genre and ordered alphabetically. The most notable item is an account of Reverend William Chaffin's personal history.

**Series 6: Photographs.** The materials in this series are undated. Subseries and files are arranged by subject or photographic angle. All materials are presented alphabetically. Notable materials include photographs of: the LaFarge stained glass windows, the parsonage and the interior of the church.

**Series 7: Plays.** The materials in this series date from 1927 to 1928. There are no subseries due to the few materials present. All items are ordered alphabetically by title and there are no particularly notable items.

**Series 8: Programs.** The materials in this series date from 1892 to sometime in the more recent past. Subseries are arranged by program type and file groupings by specific occasion. All materials are presented alphabetically. Notable materials include programs for the installation services of various ministers, as well as for Christmas and New Years.

**Series 9: Newspaper Articles.** The materials in this series date from 1875 to sometime in more recent years. Subseries are arranged by dated versus undated articles and by subject. All materials are ordered alphabetically. There are no particularly notable materials in this series.

**Series 10: Sermons.** The materials in this series date from 1873 to 1973. Subseries are arranged by creator and ordered alphabetically. The most notable item is a copy of the sermon written by Reverend William Chaffin in memory of Oakes Ames.

**Series 11: Miscellaneous.** The materials in this series date from 1975 to 2007. There are no subseries. Materials are ordered by date where it can be found. The most notable item is a magazine article about the LaFarge windows featured in the quarterly edition of Stained Glass.

### **Series Outline**

The Unity Church Collection is arranged into 11 series with multiple subseries and file groupings. The arrangement is as follows:

**Series 1: Advertisements and Fundraising, 1893-Undated**

Subseries 1.1: Advertisements, 1893-1962

Subseries 1.2: Fundraising, 2009-Undated

Subseries 1.3: Invitations, 2011-Undated

**Series 2: Annual Reports and Financial Papers, 1856-1981**

Subseries 2.1: Annual Reports, 1874-1937

Subseries 2.2: Annual Reports, 1971-1981

Subseries 2.3: Constitution Drafts, 1940

Subseries 2.4: Miscellaneous Financials, 1856-1976

**Series 3: Correspondence, 1874-2007**

Subseries 3.1: Letters to Oliver Ames, 1874-1875

Subseries 3.2: Newsletters, 1957-1969

Subseries 3.3: Reverend William Chaffin Creator, 1882-1919

Subseries 3.4: Miscellaneous, 1874-2007

**Series 4: Directories, 1942-1978****Series 5: History, 1975-Undated**

Subseries 5.1: Academic Reports, 1975-1991

Subseries 5.2: Reverend William Chaffin History, Undated

Subseries 5.3: Various Historical Accounts, Undated

Subseries 5.4: Miscellaneous, Undated

**Series 6: Photographs, Undated**

Subseries 6.1: Interior, Undated

*File Grouping 6.1.1: Pulpit, Undated*

*File Grouping 6.1.2: Stained Glass Windows, Undated*

Subseries 6.2: Long Shots of Church, Undated

Subseries 6.3: Parsonage, Undated

Subseries 6.4: People, Undated

*File Grouping 6.4.1: The Chaffins, Undated*

*File Grouping 6.4.2: Miscellaneous, Undated*

Subseries 6.5: Unity Church, Undated

*File Grouping 6.5.1: Exterior, Undated*

*File Grouping 6.5.2: Head On Shot, Undated*

*File Grouping 6.5.3: Side View A, Undated*

*File Grouping 6.5.4: Side View B, Undated*

**Series 7: Plays, 1927-1928****Series 8: Programs, 1892-Undated**

Subseries 8.1: Concert Series, 1979-1980

Subseries 8.2: Religious Education, 1896-Undated

Subseries 8.3: Special Occasions, 1926-2009

*File Grouping 8.3.1: Funerals, 1978-2009*

*File Grouping 8.3.2: Installation Services, 1926-1974*

*File Grouping 8.3.3: Special Occasions, 1975-2007*

*File Grouping 8.3.4: Miscellaneous, Undated*

Subseries 8.4: Miscellaneous, 1892-Undated

### **Series 9: Newspaper Articles, 1875-Undated**

Subseries 9.1: Dated, 1875-2011

Subseries 9.2: Christmas, Undated

Subseries 9.3: Concerts, Undated

Subseries 9.4: Obituaries, Undated

Subseries 9.5: Stained Glass Windows, Undated

Subseries 9.6: Miscellaneous, Undated

### **Series 10: Sermons, 1873-1973**

Subseries 10.1: Reverend Richard C. Myers, 1972-1973

Subseries 10.2: Reverend William L. Chaffin, 1873-1910

### **Series 11: Miscellaneous, 1975-2007**

### **Related Materials**

Select materials from this series have been digitized. All materials are available upon request or at the Easton Historical Society and Museum's webpage:

<https://www.eastonmahistoricalsociety.org/#/>.

Researchers may also be interested in the Easton Churches Collection and Reverend William Ladd Chaffin Collection, both of which can be accessed through the Easton Historical Society and Museum's webpage.

### **Container List**

#### **Series 1: Advertisements and Fundraising, 1893-Undated**

Box	Folder	Description
1	1	Advertisements, 1893-1962
1	2	Fundraising, 2009-Undated
1	3	Invitations, 2011-Undated

#### **Series 2: Annual Reports and Financial Papers, 1856-1981**

Box	Folder	Description
1	4	Annual Reports, 1874-1937

1	5	Annual Reports, 1971-1981
2	6	Constitution Drafts, 1940
2	7	Miscellaneous Financials, 1856-1976

### **Series 3: Correspondence, 1874-2007**

Box	Folder	Description
2	8	Reverend William Chaffin Creator, 1882-1919
2	9	Letters to Oliver Ames, 1874-1875
2	10	Newsletters, 1957-1969
2	11	Miscellaneous, 1874-2007

### **Series 4: Directories, 1942-1978**

Box	Folder	Description
2	12	Directories, 1942-1978

### **Series 5: History, 1975-Undated**

Box	Folder	Description
2	13	Academic Reports, 1975-1991
2	14	Reverend William Chaffin History, Undated
2	15	Various Historical Accounts, Undated
2	16	Miscellaneous, Undated

### **Series 6: Photographs, Undated**

Box	Folder	Description
Oversized 1	17	Pulpit, Undated
Oversized 1	18	Stained Glass Windows, Undated

Oversized 1	19	Long Shots of Church, Undated
Oversized 1	20	Parsonage, Undated
Oversized 1	21	The Chaffins, Undated
Oversized 1	22	Miscellaneous, Undated
Oversized 1	23	Exterior, Undated
Oversized 1	24	Head On Shot, Undated
Oversized 1	25	Side View A, Undated
Oversized 1	26	Side View B, Undated

### **Series 7: Plays, 1927-1928**

Box	Folder	Description
2	27	Plays, 1927-1928

### **Series 8: Programs, 1892-Undated**

Box	Folder	Description
2	28	Concert Series, 1979-1980
2	29	Religious Education, 1896-Undated
2	30	Funerals, 1978-2009
2	31	Installation Services, 1926-1974
2	32	Special Occasions, 1975-2007
2	33	Miscellaneous Special Occasions, Undated
2	34	Miscellaneous, 1892-Undated

### **Series 9: Newspaper Articles, 1875-Undated**

Box	Folder	Description
2	35	Dated, 1875-2011

3	36	Christmas, Undated
3	37	Concerts, Undated
3	38	Obituaries, Undated
3	39	Stained Glass Windows, Undated
3	40	Miscellaneous, Undated

**Series 10: Sermons, 1873-1973**

Box	Folder	Description
3	41	Reverend Richard C. Myers, 1972-1973
3	42	Reverend William L. Chaffin, 1873-1910

**Series 11: Miscellaneous, 1975-2007**

Box	Folder	Description
3	43	Miscellaneous, 1975-2007