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Guide to the Baptist Theological Union Records 1863-1999



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Descriptive Summary

Identifier	ICU.SPCL.BTU
Title	Baptist Theological Union. Records
Date	1863-1999
Size	35 linear feet (34 boxes)
Repository	Special Collections Research Center University of Chicago Library 1100 East 57th Street Chicago, Illinois 60637 U.S.A.
Abstract	The Baptist Theological Union was founded to support students interested in the ministry at the University of Chicago. The collection contains minutes and administrative records, correspondence, financial information, and news clippings, documenting the early history of the B.T.U. and the activities of its governing board and committees.

Information on Use

Access

Series III contains administrative and financial records that are restricted for fifty years from the date of creation. The remainder of the collection is open for research.

Citation

When quoting material from this collection, the preferred citation is: Baptist Theological Union. Records, [Box #, Folder #], Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago Library

Historical Note

The Baptist Theological Union was founded to meet the needs of students at the first University of Chicago (1856-1866) who wished to prepare for the ministry. The history of the B.T.U. is closely connected with that of the University of Chicago, not only because of the organic connection in 1892 (with the founding of the Divinity School arising from the B.T.U.'s sister organization, The Baptist Union Theological Seminary), but because many of the same leaders were key to the founding and early histories of both institutions.

E. Nelson Blake, President of the Board of the B.T.U. from 1877 to 1893 was also a major donor to the University, and the first chairman of its Board of Trustees. Edward Goodman and Thomas W. Goodspeed were also active in both institutions. In 1879, William R. Harper became professor of Hebrew and Cognate Languages in the Seminary, teaching there until 1886,

when he left for Yale. Dr. Eri B. Hulbert joined the faculty in 1881. In 1892, he became the first dean of the Divinity School (until 1907).

Since the establishment of the University of Chicago Divinity School, on July 1, 1892, the B.T.U. has continued its existence as a separate organization, overseeing an endowment that provides support to the Divinity School.

Scope Note

The material in this collection has been organized into three series. Series I includes materials documenting the founding and early history of the B.T.U., including its relationship with the University of Chicago. It includes correspondence, financial records, minutes, and reports. Series II documents the operations and governance of the B.T.U. from 1928 through the 1960s, and consists primarily of records relating to the organizations annual meeting and meetings of the Board of Trustees. Series III contains records similar to those in Series II, dating from the 1960s to the 1990s. Access to these records is restricted for fifty years from the date of creation, because they contain materials relating to the financial and personnel affairs of the B.T.U.

The early records of the B.T.U. previously formed parts of the collection “Baptist Theological Union and Baptist Union Theological Seminary. Records.”

Related Resources

Browse finding aids by topic.

University of Chicago. Divinity School. Records

Baptist Union Theological Seminary. Records

Subject Headings

- University of Chicago (1857-1866)
- University of Chicago. Divinity School
- Baptist Theological Union (Chicago, Ill.)
- Baptist Union Theological Seminary (Morgan Park, Ill.)

INVENTORY

Series I: Baptist Theological Seminary, Founding and Early Administration, 1863-1927

Box 1

Folder 1

An Act to Incorporate the Baptist Theological Union, located in Chicago" (1865); By-Laws of the Board of Trustees

Box 1

Folder 2

"Memorandum of the Baptist Theological Union of Chicago." Notes and records taken by G.S. Bailey, Financial and Recording Secretary [1867-75]. Includes B.T.U. Board of Trustees minutes 1867

Box 1

Folder 3

Minutes of the Board of Trustees, 1897-1900 [T.W. Goodspeed, Secy.]

Box 1

Folder 4

Minutes of the Board of Trustees, 1900-1902

Box 1

Folder 5

Minutes of the Board of Trustees, 1902-1904

Box 1

Folder 6

Minutes of the Board of Trustees, 1904-1907

Box 1

Folder 7

Minutes of the Board of Trustees, 1907-1910

Box 1

Folder 8

Minutes of the Board of Trustees, 1902-1910, mimeographed

Box 2

Folder 1

Correspondence, 1870-1874

Box 2

Folder 2

Correspondence of the Board of Trustees of the B.T.U., 1877-1892

Box 2

Folder 3

Correspondence of the Board of Trustees of the B.T.U., March, 1880 – November, 1901

Box 2

Folder 4

Correspondence of the Board of Trustees of the B.T.U., December, 1901

Box 2

Folder 5

Correspondence of the Board of Trustees of the B.T.U., January, 1902 – March, 1912

Box 2

Folder 6

Correspondence of the Board of Trustees of the B.T.U., April, 1912 – November, 1924

Box 2

Folder 7

Annual Reports of the Board of Trustees of the B.T.U., 1871, 1891-1892; 1895-1904

Box 2

Folder 8

Special Committee Reports, circa 1875-1909

Box 2

Folder 8A

Commission to Study the Relations of the B.T.U. and the Scandinavian Theological Seminary at Morgan Park, correspondence, notes and report, 1888-1912

Box 2

Folder 9-10

Early Reports of the B.T.U. at the time of Union with University of Chicago, 1891-1908

Box 2

Folder 11

Agreements between the Baptist Theological Union and the University of Chicago, 1904-1908

Box 2

Folder 12

Commission on the Affairs of the Divinity School of the University of Chicago; Preliminary Report, 1908

Box 2

Folder 13

Reports of Committees on Relation between the B.T.U. and the University of Chicago, undated

Box 3

Folder 1

Contributors, undated

Box 3

Folder 2

"Memorandum of names of subscribers and amounts of subscriptions and donations for support and endowment of theological chair of N. Colver, DD. and successors, undated

Box 3

Folder 3

Treasurer's book, 1863-1870

Box 3

Folder 4

Treasurer's book, 1866

Box 3

Folder 5

Treasurer's book of the Ladies Baptist Education Society, 1867

Box 3

Folder 6

Subscriptions of the Second Baptist Church of Chicago to the Theological Seminary Building, 1868

Box 3

Folder 7

Subscriptions for a Theological Building, 2 vol., 1868

Box 3

Folder 8

Contributions, circa 1869-1872

Box 4

Folder 1

Treasurer's book, 1873

Box 4

Folder 2

Treasurer's book, 1875

Box 4

Folder 2A

G. A. Bailey, financial claims against the B.T.U., circa 1880

Box 4

Folder 3

Subscriptions to the \$100,000 endowment fund, circa 1882

Box 4

Folder 4

Treasurer's book, 1884-1893

Box 4

Folder 5

Treasurer's book, 1891

Box 4

Folder 6

Treasurer's book, 1900

Box 4

Folder 7

Financial Statements, 1885-1901

Box 4

Folder 8

Financial Statements, 1901-1924

Box 4

Folder 9

Annual Reports of the Treasurer, 1884-1924

Box 5

Folder 1

Accountant's and Auditor's Reports, 1885-1910

Box 5

Folder 2

Notes and reports on debts and investments, 1902-1912

Box 5

Folder 3

Real estate holdings, including Baptist Hospital, 1902-1922

Box 5

Folder 4

Treasurer, State of Illinois vs. the B.T.U., legal records 1897-1901

Box 5

Folder 5

Ledger, 1895-1905

Box 5

Folder 6

Scrapbook, News Clippings, April, 1876 – April, 1892

Box 5

Folder 7

Scrapbook, News Clippings, April, 1892 – March, 1904

Box 5

Folder 8

Scrapbook, News Clippings, March, 1904 – March, 1907

Box 6

Minutes, 1914-1927

Includes minutes of annual meeting, Board of Trustees, and committees

Box 7

Minutes, 1917-1927

Includes minutes of annual meeting, Board of Trustees, and committees

Box 8

Historical volume, Records, v. 1, 1863-1899

Includes manuscript constitution, minutes of annual meeting, Board of Trustees, and committees

Box 9

Historical volume, Records, v. 2, 1899-1917

Includes minutes of annual meeting, Board of Trustees, and committees

Box 10

Historical volume, Records, 1863-1875

Includes manuscript constitution, minutes of annual meetings, Board of Trustees, and committees, duplicates records in Box 8

Box 11

Historical volume, Letters, 1913-1927

Includes carbon copies of outgoing correspondence of Secretary

Box 12

Historical volume, Records, 1891

Includes agreement between B.T.U. and University of Chicago, letters from John D. Rockefeller

Series II: Board of Trustees and Administrative Records, 1928-1962

Box 13

Folder 1

Correspondence and administrative records, 1941-1953

Box 13

Folder 2

Correspondence and administrative records, 1956-1958

Box 13

Folder 3

Correspondence and administrative records, 1958-1962

Box 13

Folder 4

Correspondence and administrative records, 1963-1966

Box 13

Folder 5

Annual meeting, notes and related documents, 1953-1958

Box 13

Folder 6

Annual meeting, notes and related documents, 1959-1960

Box 13

Folder 7

Annual meeting, notes and related documents, 1960-1961

Box 14

Folder 1

Annual meeting, notes and related documents, 1961-1962

Box 14

Folder 2

Annual meeting, notes and related documents, 1961-1963

Box 14

Folder 3

Annual meeting, notes and related documents, 1963-1964

Box 15

Minutes, 1928-1946

Includes minutes of annual meeting, Board of Trustees, and committees

Box 16

Minutes, 1928-1946

Includes minutes of annual meeting, Board of Trustees, and committees, duplicates records in Box 15

Box 17

Minutes, 1931-1944

Includes minutes of annual meeting, Board of Trustees, and committees

Box 18

Minutes, 1932-1946

Includes minutes of annual meeting, Board of Trustees, and committees

Box 19

Minutes, 1943-1954

Includes minutes of annual meeting, Board of Trustees, and committees

Box 20

Minutes, 1947-1954

Includes minutes of annual meeting, Board of Trustees, and committees

Box 21

Minutes, 1947-1956

Includes minutes of annual meeting, Board of Trustees, and committees

Box 22

Minutes, 1954-1958

Includes minutes of annual meeting, Board of Trustees, and committees

Box 23

Minutes, 1957-1960

Includes minutes of annual meeting, Board of Trustees, and committees

Box 24

Minutes, 1954-1957, 1958-1962

Includes minutes of annual meeting, Board of Trustees, and committees

Box 25

Minutes, 1958-1962

Includes minutes of annual meeting, Board of Trustees, and committees

Series III: Restricted Records, 1963-1999

The records in this series are restricted for fifty years from the date of creation.

Box 26

Minutes, 1963-1969

Includes minutes of annual meeting, Board of Trustees, and committees

Box 27

Minutes, 1969-1980

Includes minutes of annual meeting, Board of Trustees, and committees

Box 28

Minutes, 1980-1990

Includes minutes of annual meeting, Board of Trustees, and committees

Box 29

Folder 1

Annual Meeting Minutes, 1964-1966

Box 29

Folder 2

Annual Meeting Minutes, 1965-1967

Box 29

Folder 3

Administrative records, 1967-1969

Box 29

Folder 4

Annual Meeting Minutes, 1967-1968

Box 29

Folder 5

Administrative records, 1969-1971

Box 29

Folder 6

Trustees Meeting, October, 1971

Box 29

Folder 7

Trustees Meeting, April 19, 1972

Box 29

Folder 8

Administrative records, 1971-1972

Box 30

Folder 1

Administrative records, 1973-1974

Box 30

Folder 2

Financial Report, 1973

Box 30

Folder 3

Annual meeting and Board of Trustees, October 18, 1972

Box 30

Folder 4

Annual meeting and Board of Trustees, April 18, 1973

Box 30

Folder 5

Annual meeting and Board of Trustees, October 17, 1973

Box 30

Folder 6

Annual meeting and Board of Trustees, April 17, 1974

Box 30

Folder 7

Annual meeting and Board of Trustees, October 16, 1974

Box 30

Folder 8

Administrative records, 1974-1975

Box 30

Folder 9

Annual meeting and Board of Trustees, October 15, 1975

Box 30

Folder 10

Annual meeting and Board of Trustees, April 16, 1975

Box 30

Folder 11

Administrative records, 1975-1976

Box 31

Folder 1

Annual meeting and Board of Trustees, October 20, 1976

Box 31

Folder 2

Annual meeting and Board of Trustees, April 14, 1976

Box 31

Folder 3

Annual meeting and Board of Trustees, April 13, 1977

Box 31

Folder 4

Annual meeting and Board of Trustees, April 12, 1970

Box 31

Folder 5

Administrative records, 1977-1979

Box 31

Folder 6

Financial statements and records, 1976

Box 31

Folder 7

Financial statements and records, 1974

Box 31

Folder 8

Financial statements and records, 1977

Box 31

Folder 9

Annual meeting and Board of Trustees, October 19, 1977

Box 31

Folder 10

Administrative records, 1977-1978

Box 31

Folder 11

Administrative records, 1978-1981

Box 32

Folder 1

Administrative records, 1978-1980

Box 32

Folder 2

Dean's Report to BTU, 1970-1973

Box 32

Folder 3

Dean's Report to BTU, 1974-1979

Box 32

Folder 4

Administrative records, 1980-1982

Box 32
Folder 5
Administrative records, 1982-1983

Box 32
Folder 6
Administrative records, 1983-1984

Box 32
Folder 7
Administrative records, 1985-1986

Box 32
Folder 8
Administrative records, 1984

Box 33
Folder 1
Administrative records, 1986-1987

Box 33
Folder 2
Administrative records, 1987-1988

Box 33
Folder 3
Administrative records, 1988-1989

Box 33
Folder 4
Administrative records, 1989-1990

Box 33
Folder 5
Administrative records, 1990-1991

Box 33
Folder 6
Administrative records, 1991-1992

Box 34
Folder 1
Administrative records, 1992-1993

Box 34
Folder 2
Administrative records, 1993-1994

Box 34
Folder 3
Everett J. Tarbox, 1993-1995

Box 34
Folder 4
Administrative records, 1994-1995

Box 34
Folder 5
Administrative records, 1995-1996

Box 34

Folder 6

Administrative records, 1995-1997

Box 34

Folder 7

Annual meeting and Board of Trustees, April 18, 1996

Box 34

Folder 8

Annual meeting and Board of Trustees, April 7, 1998

Box 34

Folder 9

Annual meeting and Board of Trustees, November 4, 1998

Box 34

Folder 10

BTU Trustees Biographies, 1983-1998

Box 34

Folder 11

Annual meeting and Board of Trustees, April 21, 1999