Guide to the Baptist Theological Union Records 1863-1999

© 2016 University of Chicago Library
Table of Contents

Descriptive Summary 3
Information on Use 3
Access 3
Citation 3
Historical Note 3
Scope Note 4
Related Resources 4
Subject Headings 4
INVENTORY 4
Series I: Baptist Theological Seminary, Founding and Early Administration, 1863-1927 8
Series II: Board of Trustees and Administrative Records, 1928-1962 8
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 organization's 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
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

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
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