

Haverhill Union Mission records, 1912-2005

Collection Summary

Reference Code:	MRQ, US. (31479006368624)
Repository:	Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
Call Number:	MSS 27
Creator:	Haverhill Union Mission
Title:	Haverhill Union Mission records
Dates:	1912-2005
Size:	1.04 linear feet of collection (3 boxes)
Language(s):	Collection materials are in English.
Abstract:	The Haverhill Union Mission Records include the constitution and by-laws for the Mission and Auxiliary, as well as operating records of the Haverhill Union Mission Auxiliary, including minutes, reports, membership information, financials, and public relations documents.

Organizational History

The Haverhill Union Mission (HUM) was founded in Haverhill, Massachusetts, by Mrs. William O. (Margaret) Platts in 1912. The mission was focused on providing assistance to the less fortunate or indigent members of the city, specifically women and girls. Working in conjunction with many of Haverhill's Protestant churches, the mission provided a number of services over its history, including providing rescue meetings (church services), temporary affordable housing to men and women, food and clothing for those in need, securing employment opportunities for men and women, entertainment opportunities, assisting women and girls in trouble or without familial support, and long-term rooms for women in difficult situations either for little or no cost to those being served.

The first formal HUM location opened April 5, 1912 at 4 Water Street. As church support and community needs continued to increase, the HUM established a series of short term locations to meet their needs until purchasing its final location at 100 Winter Street, which was dedicated as Bethany House on September 24, 1920. A board led the organization until late 1915 "when the ministers of the Protestant churches, recognizing the work being done by Mrs. Platts and need of such an organization in Haverhill, decided to incorporate..."¹. The first meeting of the

corporation was held on December 11, 1915 and the HUM was formally incorporated with the granting of their charter on February 19, 1916.² The Women's Auxiliary was founded in 1919 with its first president, Mrs. J.O. Ellison, to assist with the work and running of the mission.

The work of the mission throughout its history was to provide services, encouragement, sustenance, clothing and housing to those in need, especially women, girls and children, which continued until the end of the organization in the 1970s. Throughout its existence, the HUM was supported by the work of Bethany House and its superintendent, the board of directors and the Women's Auxiliary. Starting in 1965, the HUM established a series of nonprofit charitable organizations to provide elderly housing opportunities. Bethany House was integrated into one of those charitable organizations, now called Bethany Community Services, and the mission, as a charity, no longer exists.

References:

- 1 – "55 New Members Already Secured by Union Mission." *Haverhill Evening Gazette*. February 23, 1923. P. 16
2 – Ellison's contributions to its history. [Located in collection] dated - April 14, 1953

Scope and Content Note

The Haverhill Union Mission Records include the formal constitution and by-laws of the Haverhill Union Mission circa 1916 and those of the Women's Auxiliary circa 1925, minutes, correspondence, annual reports, written reports for monthly meetings from members of the committees, written reports from the superintendent, listings of delegates and attendance/participation records (1930-1955). Financial information (from 1919 to 1961) is part of the collection, including banking books, financial records in formal journals (2), check book registers (5), as well as receipts, invoices, sales slips, a warrantee, a sales contract, and banking statements covering 1953 to 1960. A small collection of news clippings, many of which were not dated, are also included.

Arrangement

- Series 1. Mission Documents, 1916-1955 (Alphabetical by topic, then chronological)
Series 2. Membership Information, 1919-1960 (Alphabetical)
Series 3. Financials, 1923-1961 (Arranged as loose papers in alphabetical and chronological order, bound registers and journals are arranged at the end of the series)
Series 4. Newspaper Clippings and Public Relations, 1919-2005 (Chronological)

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation:	[Item Identification], Haverhill Union Mission records, 31479006368624, Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
Custodial History:	Unknown.
Acquisition Information:	Unknown.
Processing Information:	Processed by Bridget Cooley, 2015. Updated by Tamara Gaydos, 2021. MSS 26, Haverhill Union Mission clippings was merged into this collection by Elizabeth Smith, 2024.
Access Rights:	Collection is open for research.
Phys. Access Restrictions:	None.
Tech. Access Restrictions:	None.
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Related Collections:	MSS 28, Haverhill Union Mission scrapbooks
Separated Material:	None.
Conservation Notes:	Newspaper clippings have been photocopied on archival quality paper to preserve their recorded information.
Subjects:	Charity and social ministry Church and social problems – Protestant Churches – United States Haverhill (Mass.) Missions and Christian union – History – United States Protestant churches – Missions – United States Protestant women – History – 20 th century Women in the ecumenical movement

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Mission Documents, 1916-1955

This series contains some of the organizational records of the Haverhill Union Mission and Women's Auxiliary, including a constitution and by-laws, organizational records, with meeting minutes, updates to be shared to the members of the auxiliary, annual reports, and other documentation including superintendent and committee reports.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Constitution and By-Laws – Haverhill Union Mission, 1916	1	1
Brochure – Haverhill Union Mission, undated [1916]	1	1A
Constitution and By-Laws – Women's Auxiliary, 1925	1	2
Meeting Attendance, 1936-1948	1	3
Organizational Records, April 1930-March 1935	1	4
Organizational Records, April 1935-March 1940	1	5
Organizational Records, April 1940-March 1946	1	6
Organizational Records, April 1946-March 1951	1	7
Organizational Records, April 1951-March 1955	1	8
Superintendent and Committee Reports, 1934-1936	1	9
Superintendent and Committee Reports, 1945-1949	1	10
Superintendent and Committee Reports, 1950-1951	1	11
The Story of Haverhill Union Mission by Margaret M. Platts, undated	1	11A
Notes on history of Haverhill Union Mission, undated [post 1961]	1	11B

Series 2: Membership Information, 1919-1960

This series consists of membership information via information cards and lists. Many of the information cards also include membership payment history.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Information Cards, 1919-1951	1	12
Delegates, undated	1	13
Member Lists, 1960	1	14

Series 3: Financials, 1923-1961

This series contains the financial information of the Haverhill Union Mission Auxiliary, including a bank book, cancelled checks, receipts and invoices for mission work, check book registers and the treasurer journals

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Bank Book, 1923-1946	2	15
Cancelled Checks, 1954-1956	2	16
Cancelled Checks, 1957-1960	2	17
Deposit Slips, 1954-1956	2	18
Deposit Slips, 1957-1961	2	19
Donation Receipts - CARE, 1936, 1937, 1958	2	20
Invoices and Receipts, 1952-1955	2	21
Invoices and Receipts, 1956-1961	2	22
Warranties and Contracts, 1929-1936	2	23
Check Book Register, 1929-1933	2	24

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Check Book Register, 1933-1938	2	25
Check Book Register, 1938-1943	2	26
Check Book Register, 1943-1948	2	27
Check Book Register, 1948-1954	3	28
Treasurer Journal, 1919-1929	3	29
Treasurer Journal, 1929-1944	3	30

Series 4: Newspaper Clippings and Public Relations, 1912-2005

This series contains a collection of newspaper clippings, many of which are not dated, about the Haverhill Union Mission and Women's Auxiliary.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Clippings, 1912-1917	3	31
Clippings, 1919-1925	3	32
Clippings, 1926-1931	3	33
Clippings, 1931-1935	3	34
Clippings, 1936-1939	3	35
Clippings, 1940-1949	3	36
Clippings, 1950-1959	3	37
Clippings, 1960-2005	3	38
Clippings, undated	3	39