

On July 11 1854 a group of people of the Unitarian Christian denomination met in Adelaide and resolved to found their own church and seek a suitable minister from England. The Rev. John Crawford Woods BA was selected and arrived on the *Quilto* from London on September 19 1855. Services were initially held by Mr Woods in private houses until October of that year, when the first public service was held near Green's Exchange in King William Street, Adelaide.

Land on city acre 302 in Wakefield Street was acquired on which to build a church, and the foundation stone laid on December 23 1856; the building was formally opened for public worship on July 5 1857. Later a Sunday School building was erected next to the church.

The Unitarian Church did not develop other branch congregations except for a small country following centred in the Shady Grove church at Harben Vale near Hahndorf, in the Adelaide Hills, which was built in 1865, and the Tranmere Church 1932-1956. The Unitarian following was therefore small compared with other denominations; in 1903, however, it is believed about 700 South Australians called themselves Unitarians.

The Wakefield Street church, one of Adelaide's most impressive religious buildings in its day, became dilapidated in the 1960s and a move was made to acquire more convenient premises elsewhere in the city. Eventually land was purchased on Osmond Terrace, Norwood and the Unitarian congregation sold their old church to the Public Service Association for \$87,000. The last service at Wakefield Street was held on February 14 1971.

New church premises, including an adjoining manse for the minister was designed by architect Eric von Schramek in 1970. The stained glass windows and the organ from the old church were incorporated into the interior decoration of the new building. The complex was officially opened on October 3 1971, the anniversary date of the first public Unitarian service in South Australia.

Records of the Adelaide Unitarian Christian Church were deposited in the South Australian Archives in 1972 and 1973 by the Treasurer Mr A.M. Simpson. The balance was deposited in the Mortlock Library in 1990 by the Minister Rev. E. Heller-Wagner

Minutes of general and committee meetings	<u>1</u>
1854-1976. 54 cm	
Volume 1: 1854 – 1858	
Volume 2: 1858 – 1865	
Volume 3: 1865 – 1868	
Volume 4: 1868- 1874	
Volume 5: 1874 – 1887	
Volume 6: 1887 – 1895	
Volume 7: 1895 – 1902	
Volume 8: 1902 – 1910	
Volume 9: 1910 – 1917	
Volume 10: 1917 – 1926	
Volume 11: 1926 – 1937	
Volume 12: 1937 – 1949	
Volume 13: 1949 – 1965	
Volume 14: 1965 – 1971	
Volume 15: 1971 - 1976	
Annual reports	<u>2</u>
1856-1961. 8 cm. Manuscript and printed	
Reports Nos 1 of 1856, 4 – 12 (1859 – 1867), 14 –	
30 (1869 – 1885) 34 – 37 (1889-1892), 39 – 53	
(1894 – 1908), 56 – 59 (1911 – 1914), 61 – 71 (1916	
– 1926), 80 – 85 (1935 – 1940), 94 (1949), 96 – 106	
(1951 – 1961) are in this series. Copies of some	
annual reports are stuck in appropriate places in	
minute books. See also Series 30.	
NO SERIES NUMBER 3 USED	
Correspondence	<u>4</u>
1854–1939, 1955-1971. 30 cm	
A separate envelope of 1961 correspondence	
relates to a new minister for the church.	
Subject files of correspondence	<u>5</u>
1854 – 1901. 13 cm	
Documents on the following subjects have	
apparently been withdrawn from the main series of	
correspondence, about 1884, 1955 and possibly at	
other times: annual meetings; establishment of	
church; library; Melbourne church; Mutual	
Improvement Society; Shady Grove Church; social	
meetings; Sunday School and juvenile Library;	
Sydney church; Wakefield Street building; J.	
Crawford Woods; musical, choir and harmonium	
funds; insurance.	

Minute books of the League of Unitarian and other Liberal Christian Women (Adelaide branch) 1914-1953. 7 cm (5 volumes) Volume 1: 28 May 1914 – 24 March 1916 (Committee meetings) A separate printed sheet records the first Annual Report (undated) Volume 2: 27 November 1914 – 25 November 1926. At the back of the volume are the rules of the League and the minutes of a special meeting Volume 3: 28 April 1927 – 28 April 1938 Volume 4: 26 May 1938 – September 1945 Volume 5: October 1945 – September 1953	<u>6</u>
Marriage Registers 1857-1936. 4cm Volume 1: 1857-1873, 1876-1888, 1923-1936 [formerly D5038(Misc)] Volume 2: 1874-1922.	<u>7</u>
Membership register for the Adelaide League of Liberal Christian Women 1912-1953. 2cm. (1 volume) (Dates not continuous)	<u>8</u>
Cash books 1857-1964. 24 cms Volume 1: 1857-1860 Volume 2: 1860-1865 Volume 3: 1865-1883 Volume 4: 1883-1904 Volume 5: 1904-1925 Volume 6: 1925-1945 Volume 7: 1945-1960 Volume 8: 1960-1964 Volume 9: 1964-1975	<u>9</u>
Indentures relating to the acquisition of land for the Adelaide Unitarian Christian Church 1856–1910. 1 cm 1. Indenture of conveyance of land from Charles G. Everard to John Baker, Arthur Hardy, Charles Davies and Edward Montgomerie Martin, 29 November 1856. 2. Draft of indenture of conveyance with history of previous ownership 1838 - 1843 (very faint handwriting). 3. Copy of indenture detailing the sale of land and the building of the Wakefield Street church, 1893, bound as volume.	<u>10</u>

Photographs of the Wakefield Street Unitarian Church, one with an accompanying letter Nd. 2 items	<u>11</u>
Newspaper cuttings from the <u>Register</u> and <u>Advertiser</u> on the Church 17 August 1903, 15 April 1971. 2 items	<u>12</u>
Minutes of the Social Meeting Committee February-April 1870. 0.5cm. (1 volume)	<u>13</u>
Church notes January, 1946. 1 folio.	<u>14</u>
Memorandum 1854. 1 item Records of resolutions passed at the General Meeting 21 August 1854.	<u>15</u>
Abstracts of Minutes of Committee Meetings 1857-1858. 1cm	<u>16</u>
Subscription lists for erection of the Wakefield Street Church 1857-1858. 1cm	<u>17</u>
Lists of annual seat rents and voluntary subscriptions 1857-1904, nd. 6 cm 1. Lists 1857-1874 2. Register of lists of subscribers 1874-1904 (Volume)	<u>18</u>
Plans of seat rents c.1860-1870. 5 items.	<u>19</u>
Subscription list for additions to the Wakefield Street Church c.1864. 1 item	<u>20</u>
Subscription to Sustentation Fund 1857. 1cm	<u>21</u>
Subscription notices 1858, 1861, 1875-1879. 2 cm Printed notices with number of seats required and subscription amounts added by members.	<u>22</u>

Questionnaire returns for church seating ca.1869. 1 cm Printed form with members' answers to seating allocation. Includes a letter from Catherine Helen Spence.	<u>23</u>
Financial statements of building and general fund 1854–1858. 0.5 cm	<u>24</u>
Solicitors' accounts for land transaction 1856–1857. 3 items Gwynne and Lawrence and A. Hardy conveyancing costs for Wakefield Street property purchase.	<u>25</u>
Accounts for completion of the Wakefield Street Church 1857–1858. 10 items	<u>26</u>
Receipt books 1858–1883, 1887. (56 volumes) Pages are mainly stubs only of receipts issued for seat rent and sustentation fund donations.	<u>27</u>
Financial reports and statements 1857–1910. 3.5 cm. Handwritten No report for 1867, 1871, 1881 and 1886. Packet 1: 1857-1887 Packet 2: 1888-1910.	<u>28</u>
Receipts 1857–1861, 1869–1904. 60 cm These include accounts receipted and promissory notes honoured. Four packets contain 1857-1887 receipts, and 18 envelopes for 1887-1904.	<u>29</u>
Annual reports and treasurer's reports 1970-1996. 7 cm Includes financial statements and some related correspondence. Volume 1: 1970 – 1977 Annual reports Volume 2: 1978 – 1982 Annual reports Envelope 1: 1987, 1990 – 1993, 1996 (loose) Annual reports Envelope 2: Treasurer's reports 1984, 1986–1989, 1992, 1994 – 1996	<u>30</u>
Membership lists ca. 1960-1965	<u>31</u>

Secretary's correspondence 1964–1973. 5 cm Volume 1: 1964 – 1967 Volume 2: 1968 – 1973	<u>32</u>
Treasurer's correspondence 1956–1981. 9 cm Volume 1: 1956 – 1959 Volume 2: 1970 – 1971 Volume 3: 1972 – 1973 Volume 4: 1974 – 1976 Volume 5: 1977 - 1981	<u>33</u>
Correspondence relating to insurance matters ca.1959–1974. 0.5 cm	<u>34</u>
Subject files of correspondence 1968–1973. 9 cm Subject files with the following titles: File 1: Plans to pull down Wakefield Street church and build Meeting House at Norwood. File 2: Move to Norwood, Incorporation etc. File 3: Norwood Meeting House – move and building. File 4: Donations towards building the Norwood Meeting House. File 5: Furnishing church and manse, Norwood – storage of windows, organ etc.	<u>35</u>
Trust deeds and associated papers 1857-1964. 1 cm 1. A deed of 1857 on vellum, records the constitution of the Adelaide Unitarian Church by indenture of trust, with a handwritten abstract (1a). 2. A deed (on paper) shows the amendments of 1910. 3. Papers relating to Declaration of Trust, 1882 – 1906, with caveats and a plan of Part Town Acre 302, and accompanying correspondence, 1941 & 1962 4. Declaration of Trust relating to a legacy under the will of Alfred Simpson, 1894. The 1962 deed relates to the Rules of the church, with a Foreword, and the 1964 deed is amendments to this deed.	<u>36</u>
Rules and constitution of the Adelaide Unitarian Church ca.1970–1975. 0.5 cm. Processed typescript.	<u>37</u>

Sunday School library catalogue 1893, ca. 1976. 0.5 cm The 1893 catalogue is a printed booklet arranged alphabetically by title. The 1976 list is arranged alphabetically by author and seems to have been prepared prior to disposal of the library collection.	<u>38</u>
Resolution and rules of the Adelaide Unitarian Funeral Society ca. 1973. 3 items	<u>39</u>
Orders of service 1905–1989. 0.5 cm These include special services held at the Wakefield Street Unitarian Church, jubilees, anniversary celebrations, installation of new ministers, and informal worship in other places.	<u>40</u>
Sunday School 'Cradle Roll' 1938–1944. 1 item. A list of 32 children's names and birth dates on a scroll with wooden end rods.	<u>41</u>
Correspondence relating to the Australian Assembly of Unitarian & Liberal Christian Churches 1966–1985. 1.5 cm	<u>42</u>
Sermons and lectures by Rev. J. C. Woods 1858, 1864. 1 cm. Printed	<u>43</u>
Prayer book used by Rev. J. C. Woods 1869. 1 cm	<u>44</u>
Posters for lectures given by Rev. J. C. Woods ca.1865–1870. 2 items.	<u>45</u>
Sermon given by a Miss Turner 1875. 0.5 cm. Manuscript "On the basis of belief", given in Adelaide, 19 September 1875.	<u>46</u>
Religious verse 1898, 1912. 3 items. Manuscript	<u>47</u>
Sermons by Rev. Joseph Calrow Means 1858–1876. 1.5 cm. Printed, published in London.	<u>48</u>

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- Newspaper The Inquirer 49
1879. 0.5 cm. Printed
Sub-titled: "A religious, political and literary newspaper and record of reverent free thought."
Published in London, issue no. 1912 of February 15, 1879. Pages 98-99 have article on Rev. J.C. Means who died 6 February 1879.
- Abstract: "Worship-Street Sunday School Jubilee, London 1868. 1 item. Printed
Single sheet used as sewn paper packet containing Rev. J.C. Means' sermon. 50
- Magazine: The Unitarian World 51
1903. 0.5cm. Printed
Sub-titled: "A monthly magazine of liberal religious thought and work". Published in England, Vol.11, No.15, March 1903. Pages.44-46 have an article "Unitarianism in South Australia" by Rev. J. Reid, M.A.
- Notes on the Shady Grove Unitarian Church 52
1924-1974. 0.5cm
Includes details of first service 1865, newspaper articles, order of centenary service 1965, and cemetery regulations.
Note: in the Printed Collection **Z/289.194232/S524** is a copy of SHADY GROVE: Tadmor in the Wilderness, a history of Shady Grove Unitarian Church by Duffield, D.W., Duffield, J.C., Giles, W.R. and Jones, D.F., published in 1989.
- Minute books of Mutual Improvement Society 53
1865-1874. 2.5cm. 2 volumes
Volume 1: 1865-1869. Includes subscriptions paid by members 1866-1867, and names of men who delivered lectures and became Honorary members of the Society.
Volume 2: 1871-1874. Includes list of members and subscribers to Magazine, roll of members and printed notice.
- General Ledgers 54
1864-1936. 6.5 cm. 2 volumes
Volume 1: 1864 - 1899
Volume 2: 1900 - 1936

Bank account passbooks 1899–1942. 0.5 cm 1. Church organ fund 1899 – 1901 2. Unitarian Optimists Society 1939-1942	<u>55</u>
Subscribers' Ledger 1917–1973. 9.5 cm Volume 1: 1917 – 1935 Volume 2: 1936 – 1961 Volume 3: 1962 – 1973	<u>56</u>
Tenancy agreements and plan of land 1946-1988. 1.5 cm. 1. Agreement with F. G. Simmons of Dulwich to lease the house at Trevelyan Street, Wayville, 1946, with certificate of exclusion. 2. Agreement to lease land on Town Acre 302, Wakefield Street to A. S. Tillett, 1950. 3. Agreement to lease land on Town Acre 302, Wakefield Street to A. S. Tillett, 1957. 4. Agreement between the church and the Minister of Works (Public Buildings Dept.) to lease the land on corner of Wakefield Street and Victoria Place, Adelaide as per attached plan, from 15 March 1967 to 31 March 1969. 5. Agreement between the Rev. Eric Heller-Wagner and the Adelaide church for him to occupy the house in Alfred Street, Norwood, 1988.	<u>57</u>
Papers relating to new chancel 1901. 0.5 cm Accounts for payment, including from architect Alfred Barham Black.	<u>58</u>
Contract for sale of land 1970. 0.5 cm Contract to sell to the Public Service Association of SA Inc. the land and church building in Wakefield Street, Adelaide, excluding certain furniture and fittings in the building named in the document, 6 November 1970.	<u>59</u>

- Architectural plans for proposed additions to Wayville premises
1969. 0.5 cm
Woods Bagot Laybourne Smith & Irwin plans for proposed additions to the property at 7 Trevelyan Street, Wayville, 1969. A meeting hall was proposed to be added to the minister's residence, linked by a gallery. (This did not eventuate, and the meeting house was built in Osmond Terrace, Norwood.) 3 plans: floor plan, elevation view and redevelopment of the manse. 60
- Specification for building work at Wayville premises
1961. 0.5 cm
Minor alterations and repairs and painting the manse at 7 Trevelyan Street, Wayville; specification by Woods Bagot Laybourne-Smith & Irwin. Includes 2 letters from the architects. 61
- Reception and Conference Fund subscriptions
1904. 0.5 cm
Fund organised for visit of Rev. C. Hargrove to Adelaide. 62
- Insurance policy for church property
1900. 0.5 cm
Policy with Colonial Mutual Insurance Co. Ltd. for 800 pounds. 63
- Tranmere Unitarian Christian Church: minute book of congregation
1932-1956. 2 cm. 1 volume & 1 envelope
The Tranmere church began in 1932. Land in Burnside Road owned by the congregation was sold in 1956, when the church disbanded. Includes loose papers of correspondence from 1956 from Ernest W. Harris, solicitor, winding up accounts and sale of land 64
- Tranmere Unitarian Christian Church: financial records
1932-1945. 1 cm
Receipts & Expenditure book, 2 pass books and collection record book 1931-1940. 65
- Tranmere Unitarian Christian Church: Trust deed of Tranmere Unitarian Congregation
1935. 0.5 cm. OUTSIZE (small cabinet)
Formation of the congregation and ownership of land on Allotments 7 & 8, Blocks A & B of Section 301, Hd. of Adelaide (then known as Halton Gardens). 66

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- Wakefield Street Unitarian Church: miscellaneous printed material. 67
1880-1935. 1 cm. Printed
Comprises 36 individual items including circulars, notices, programmes, report, elevations of the church building, etc.
[Formerly V 1352]
- Manuscript sermon 'Religious Progress' No. 99 based on text from I Corinthians XIII verse 11, written by either Francis Duffield or Frederick Smith. Found among group of Smith papers purchased from dealer. Next to title is 'Mt. B.' [Mount Barker?]. Sewn into booklet also used for drawing by some other person. Five small pieces of paper with bible text references, with one having the name Francis Duffield Esq JP, Mount Barker written on verso. 68

Church calendars
1937 – 1961. 5 cm. Printed
Transferred to printed collection: South Australiana Per 288.9423 U58C

The Pictorial Collection has photographs of the Wakefield Street Unitarian Christian Church in the City Acre 302 album.