

## **C. Benton Kline, Jr. Special Collections & Archives: FAQs**

### *What can I find at the archives?*

- *Presbytery & Congregational Records*

The presbytery and congregational records at Columbia Theological Seminary include both records that were transferred from the Presbyterian Historical Society and records that have been deposited at the seminary since then. The denominations represented are current PC(USA) and former PCUS.

The Columbia Seminary Special Collections and Archives department continues to accept materials on deposit, including records of presbyteries and both active and dissolved congregations. For information about depositing records at Columbia Seminary, [please contact the archivists](#).

A note on access: The policy of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is to restrict access to all official denomination records on deposit that are less than 50 years old. If researchers wish to access these records, we require that they secure written permission from the records' owners. If you believe this restriction will affect your research, please [contact us](#) for further instructions prior to visiting.

- *Presbyterian Women Histories*

The Presbyterian Women History Collection is unique to the C. Benton Kline, Jr. Special Collections & Archives. Presbyterian Women groups have been submitting annual congregational reports since the 1930s, first to Montreat and later to Columbia Theological Seminary. Over 700 congregations are represented in the collection.

- *CTS History & Faculty Publications*

The CTS History & Faculty Publications Collection includes materials pertaining to Columbia Theological Seminary history, books published by Columbia's faculty, selected works by seminary administration and alumni, and the Columbia Series in Reformed Theology.

- *CTS Advanced Degrees Theses and Dissertations*

The CTS Advanced Degree collection includes dissertations, projects, and theses from Columbia's advanced degree programs. More recent theses are available in print and [electronic format](#) through the institutional repository.

- *Rare Books*

The Rare Books collection is composed primarily of titles concerning the history and theology of the Reformed tradition published prior to 1831. Strengths in this collection

include reformed history, theology titles, missionary accounts, the covenanters/dissenters movement, confessions of faith, and sermons.

*How can I deposit congregational or presbytery records?*

- The CTS Special Collections and Archives department continues to accept materials on deposit, including records of active and dissolved congregations. For information about depositing records at Columbia Seminary, [please contact the archivist](#).

The archives at Columbia Seminary follows the guidelines for records creation, retention, and preservation maintained by the Presbyterian Historical Society. More information about conserving and digitizing records that may already be at risk can be found at the [Presbyterian Historical Society](#).

Congregations can apply for Heritage Preservation Grants of up to \$500 [here](#).