

Howard Conn

Minister Emeritus  
Plymouth Congregational Church  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

**HOWARD J. CONN**

born Fresno, California June 19, 1911

Fresno High School , graduated 1928 ; president of student body  
Fresno State College, freshman year, 1928-29

Stanford University, B.A. "with great distinction" 1932

Phi Beta Kappa; captain debate team

Harvard University, 1932-33; graduate student in philosophy

studied with William Ernest Hocking

Yale Divinity School, B.D. 1936, magna cum laude

Union Memorial Church, Glenbrook, Connecticut

Associate Minister, 1936-1941

First Congregational Church, Great Barrington, Massachusetts

Minister, 1941-1944

Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Senior Minister, 1944-1976

Minister Emeritus, 1976 -

Bushnell Congregational Church, Detroit, Michigan

Interim Minister, 1980-1981

First Congregational Church, Beloit, Wisconsin

Interim Minister, 1984-1985

First Congregational Church, Royal Oak, Michigan

Interim Minister, 1985

Plymouth Congregational Church, Lansing, Michigan

Interim Minister, 1986-1987

Ordained June 15, 1936 at Union Memorial Church, Glenbrook, CT  
by Fairfield County Assn of Congl Christian Churches

Honored at Fiftieth Anniversary of Ordination in 1986 by installation  
of stained glass window in Plymouth Church Minneapolis  
to commemorate his thirty-two year ministry there

Chaplain, Annual Meeting American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions  
at Springfield, Massachusetts in October 1944

President, Minnesota Council of Churches, 1952-54

Moderator, Natl Assn of Congl Christian Churches, 1966-67

Director, Minister Life & Casualty Union, 1947-78

Trustee, Carleton College , 1948-72; Emeritus Trustee, 1972-

Member Executive Committee, Board of Home Missions, Congl-Chr. Churches  
1948-1956 ; member Policy & Planning Committee, 1948-1956;  
chairman of committee, 1952-1956

Theological Lecturer, General Council, CC Churches, June 1950

Summer Preacher, National Radio Pulpit, 1955

Final Chaplain, General Council, Congl Christian Churches, 1961

as it dissolved into the United Church of Christ

SERMONS PUT IN FIVE BOXES FOR DEPOSITORIES

- November 26, 1944 -- What Shall We Say To This War's Wounded  
And Bereaved ?
- December 17, 1944 -- Divine Invasion
- February 1, 1945 -- My Christian Faith and Experience  
Installation Paper at Plymouth (2 copies)
- February 11, 1945 -- Christian Citizenship
- April 29, 1945 -- Prayers In Wartime
- November 11, 1945 -- The Tiny Importances of Life
- December 16, 1945 -- Voices in the Wilderness
- April 22, 1945 -- Building a Religion that Satisfies (2 copies)
- January 1946 -- Can Your Conscience Be Your Guide?
- February 1946 -- God Has A Plan For You
- May 1946 -- Love that Stays the Hand of Fate
- June 30, 1946 -- A Faith to Contradict the Times
- September 9, 1945 -- To Whom Shall We Go?
- February 23, 1947 -- Beginning Again In Religion With a Universal  
Perspective
- June 1, 1947 -- The Overflow of a Good Life
- September 11, 1947 -- Speak, Lord
- June 11, 1948 -- Uninjured in the Walk Through Life
- September 26, 1948 -- A Venture Fitting and Worthwhile (2 copies)
- ~~SEPTEMBER~~ 28, 1948 -- Three Marks of a Liberal Christian
- October 17, 1948 -- They Voted for Freedom
- February 27, 1949 -- Is There A Purpose in the Universe?
- May 15, 1949 -- Options on Life
- October 30, 1949 -- The Value of Non-Conformity (2 copies)
- November 30, 1949 -- On the Edge of the Spiritual
- January 8, 1950 -- The World in Flux
- February 3, 1950 -- How Narrow Is the Way?
- June 1950 -- Congregationalism and the Social Gospel (2 copies)
- September 18, 1949 -- A Citadel of Great Ideas
- June 23, 1950 -- The Paradoxes of God (2 copies)  
(One of three Theological Lectures on the Trinity  
given at 1950 General Council; God: HJC;  
Jesus, Fred Hoskins; Holy Spirit, Rutledge Beale  
I was only 14 yrs into ministry at this point)
- November 19, 1950 -- The War we Have To Win
- December 16, 1951 -- Finding What We Seek
- February 17, 1952 -- Have We Anything To Say?
- May 18, 1952 -- The God To Whom We Pray
- September 21, 1952 -- We Were Made For This Hour (2 copies)
- October 12, 1952 -- Gathering Up the Pieces of Ourselves
- October 5, 1952 -- The Bitter Gall of Unity (World-wide Communion)
- Lent 1953 -- Jesus' View of Last Things
- December 13, 1954 -- Learners of God
- December 27, 1953 -- New-Born Bards of the Holy Spirit

## SERMONS PUT IN FIVE BOXES FOR DEPOSITORIES

Fall	1955	--	Has Conversion Any Meaning Today?
Fall	1947	--	The Serious Call and Our Ministry
January	1954	--	What Do We Think We Are Doing In Baptism?
June 18, 1961		--	Recalling The Grand View Twenty-Five Years in the Ministry (2 copies)
October 23, 1961		--	Can We Find Order in a Disordered World?
November 11, 1962		--	Lend Me Your Good Ear !
December 17, 1961		--	The Witness of Men and of Angels
April	1962	--	What It Means To Know Oneself
August	1962	--	How Real Is the Right of Private Judgment?
February 3, 1963		--	The Glory That Transfigures (Sermon at dedication of Plymouth Chapel at Ahmednager College, Ahmednager, India)
January 6, 1963		--	Church Councils: Vatican and Ecumenical
April 23, 1963		--	Resolving the Prides of a Contrite Heart
May 19	1963	--	On the Boundaries of Life
September 15	1963	--	What Parents Should Teach Their Children About Religion
October	1963	--	Congregationalism's Contribution to Christian Unity (3 copies)
January 12, 1964		--	The Church and the Social Order (2 copies)
February 9	1964	--	The Wonder and the Beauty of Worship
April 5	1964	--	A Funny Thing Happened on the Way ---
April 12	1964	--	Who Knows Who Needs Whom?
June 7	1964	--	Should Christ Be Portrayed as a Clown?
November 3	1964	--	The Role of Churchmen and Theologians in the 1964 Presidential Campaign
November 22, 1964		--	Hope -- Stern or Gentle?
January 29	1964	--	When Faith Becomes Song
December 27	1964	--	Traditional Religion and Ultimate Concern (2 copies)
January 24	1965	--	Christian Faith and Modern Culture
March 7	1965	--	A Fire Is Kindled
May 16,	1965	--	In Tune With the Infinite (2 copies)
June 29,	1965	--	The Enduring Significance of our Cong'l Heritage (A commemorative address on the 1865 Boston Church; first Cong'l Lecture in NA Series) (2 copies)
January	1966	--	Ecumenical Outreach a Century Ago (Article in Bulletin of Cong'l Library)
December 26	1965	--	The Christian Stance in an Explosive World
January 9	1966	--	To Draw Upon the Rich Bounty of the Spirit
October 8	1967	--	The House of Atrous & The Human Predicament
June	1967	--	The Seal Of Our Hopes (Moderator's Address at 1967 Annual Meeting of the National Association, at Racine, WI)
February 4	1968	--	Reflections on The Law, Dissent & Revolution
May 5	1968	--	When Troubles Pile on Troubles
September 8	1968	--	You and I, With One Foot Forward
January 26	1969	--	Life Seen From the Depth of Space
March 23	1969	--	The Need To Pray
April 27	1969	--	The Anatomy of Easter

## PRINTED SERMONS OF HOWARD CONN

February 9	1969	-- A Rumor of Angels
June 22	1969	-- Greater Works Than These
June	1956	-- Reflections on Twenty Years in the Ministry (2 copies)
May 10	1970	-- To Find A Common Hope (2 copies)
May 31	1970	-- Bright Colors in a Gray World
June 23	1970	-- Tomorrow's Dimensions in Today's Churches (2 copies)
September 27	1970	-- Modern Man's Self-Image
December 20,	1970	-- We Too Have Seen His Star
January 10	1971	-- Victorious Spirits Trapped by Frustrations
January 31	1971	-- While the Magic Disappears, the Mystery Remains
March 28,	1971	-- He Overcomes Our Alienation
May 9	1971	-- Not All Things Change
May 23	1971	-- Tell Them About Trust
December 5	1971	-- The Resources To Get Us Through
May 13	1973	-- Life's Values In A Troubled Society
January 9	1972	-- The Berrigans & Billy Graham As Religious Models
September 28	1958	-- A Vitalized Life in a Pressurized Society
June 19	1960	-- Establishing Ourselves In A Divine Purpose
September 25	1966	-- Is There Room for Atheists Within the Church?
October 12	1958	-- What Constitutes Being a Christian?
May 24	1959	-- Concerns of the Responsible Christian
October 16	1960	-- When the Church Is More Than the Church
April 1	1956	-- The Life That Has No End
July 25	1976	-- A Mystic Reverence for the Unmeasurable
October 19, 1958		-- The Universality of <del>Human</del> the Most Private
May 17	1959	-- Historical & Mystical Elements in Christian Faith
July 18	1976	-- Questions that Faith Asks
April 18	1976	-- Jesus the Christ: The Parable of God
February 14, 7	1960	-- The Heart That Loves Its Creator
July 27	1958	-- The Conquest of Inner Space
December	1957	-- The Gift that Never Diminishes
April 5	1959	-- Step Out Into the Morning
April 24	1974	-- New Seeds for Sowing
March 31	1975	-- Abounding in Hope
November 17	1974	-- Monotheistic Faith
June 1	1975	-- Uniting East & West in a Universal Faith
January 5	1975	-- Landmarks in a Spiritual Pilgrimage
February 3,	1974	-- Where the Wind Blows
April 14,	1974	-- Disbelieved for Joy
October 13	1974	-- They Sought a Country
		-- With One Sound of the Heart
Easter	1972	-- He Opened the Door to Life
March 12	1972	-- How Jesus Dealt with People: He Cared for Them
May 14	1972	-- The Faith Behind the Freedom
July 2	1972	-- The Honor of Our Country
December 24	1972	-- In the Fullness of Time
April 29, 1973	1973	-- What the Religious Life Affirms
January 18	1973	-- A Faith Nurtured by Puzzlements
May 13	1973	-- Life's Values in a Troubled Society
July 22	1973	-- Living a Philosophical Life in a Secular Society

- 1980- 1981 -- Complete set of sermons while Interim Minister  
at Bushnell Congregational Church, Detroit, Michigan
- November 4, 1984 -- The Development of Congregational Thought  
From Puritan Times
- August 1980 -- Retirement Booklet from Plymouth Church (2 copies)
- April 1982 -- Twin Cities Magazine reprint on Plymouth Church  
and ministry of Howard Conn
- 1985 -- Article in The Congregationalist on Prayer Healing
- November 1982 -- Two Chapel Talks at Yale Divinity School
- June 15 1986 -- Learning Along Life's Way  
(Sermon on 50th Anniversary of Ordination)
- June 15 1986 -- Folder on Howard Conn Window at Plymouth  
dedicated on 50th Anniversary of Ordination
- January 1985 -- The Search for the Historical Jesus
- March 21 1982 -- The Wondrous Ambiguity of Our Existence
- November 18 1984 -- Covenants and Affirmations
- August 11, 1985 -- The Language of the Heart
- March 1944 -- A Lenten Journey with Dante
- January 11 1976 -- Fit for the Uses of Eternity
- May 5, 1974 -- The Strength of Tenderness
- August 29 1976 -- Program with photos, Dr. Conn's Last Sunday
- June 15 1986 -- Program and color photo of Stained Glass Window  
dedicated to ministry of Dr. Conn
- July 5 1968 -- Christianity Today article: There's A Better Way  
Than CCU (2 copies)

BOOKS by Howard Conn

- 1949 -- Symbolism in Stone and Glass
- 1954 -- The Hope that Sets Men Free
- 1962 -- The Dilemma of Congregationalism (3 copies)
- 1966 -- Carl Jung and Modern Man's Search for a Soul
- 1967 -- Teilhard de Chardin and the Phenomenon of Man
- 1970 -- The Pilgrim Spirit in the Age of Aquinas
- 1971 -- The Life and Thought of Nicolai Berdyaev
- 1972 -- Paul Tillich: Our Human Predicament in its Eternal  
Dimension
- 1973 -- Abraham Heschel: Lyric Adventurer in Biblical Faith
- 1975 -- Plato: The World's Most Influential Thinker

## ADDITIONAL ITEMS

- Annual sermon on events of moral and religious significance, 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944, 1948, 1949, 1953, 1954, 1956, 1962, 1963
- 1950 -- Service of dedication for the Chapel of Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis, MINN.  
(two separate programs; two copies of one program)
- 1957 -- Centennial record, April 28, 1957. (Plymouth Congregational Church, 1857-1957)
- 1964 -- An appreciation of Howard Conn on his twentieth Anniversary as Senior Minister of Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis, MINN.
- Christian conscience; a plea from some members within a congregation (petition to end war in Vietnam)
- Notice of "Dr. Howard Conn annual fall lecture-sermon series"