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Reading, Mass. Second Church of Christ records, 1720-1806. RG5021

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English

DACS2 - 2013

Congregational Library & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Putnam, Daniel, 1696-1759
Creator:	Second Church in Reading (North Reading, Mass.)
Creator:	Stone, Eliab, 1737-1822
Title:	Reading, Mass. Second Church of Christ records, 1720-1806.
ID:	RG5021
Date [inclusive]:	1720-1806
Physical Description:	1 Folder
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Second Church of Christ in Reading was gathered on June 29, 1720 with 39 founding members. The first pastor was Rev. Daniel Putnam who served until his death on June 20, 1759. He was followed by Rev. Eliab Stone who became the pastor in 1761 and also served until his death in 1822. Religious disagreements led to a split during the 1830s and in 1892 the Congregationalists and Methodists merged to form the Union Congregational Church of North Reading, which continues to serve the community today. The record book contains vital statistics, meeting minutes, and disciplinary records.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Reading, Mass. Second Church of Christ records, 1720-1806, RG5021. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Note

The town of Reading was originally settled in 1639 as an offshoot of nearby Lynn, and incorporated as a town of its own in 1644 with a church gathered the following year. By 1713, the northern part of the town had grown large enough that its residents successfully petitioned to become a separate precinct encompassing the area north of the Ipswich River. The first meeting-house was constructed in 1717 and

the Second Church of Christ in Reading was gathered on June 29, 1720 with 39 founding members. A call to serve was extended to the Rev. Daniel Putnam, a Harvard Graduate who, at 23, accepted the call. He served as pastor until his death on June 20, 1759.

A second meeting house was constructed on the site of the first in 1752. In 1761, Rev. Eliab Stone, another Harvard graduate, was given the opportunity to become the pastor of the North Parish. He too served until his death in 1822. The third meeting house was constructed in 1829.

Religious turmoil reached the North Parish during the 1830s in the form of increasing disagreements between the Orthodox and Universalist traditions. In 1836, the Orthodox members of the church withdrew and constructed a new church. This split was one of many within the greater Reading community at the time. Beginning around 1875, the Methodist Church in North Reading began meeting on the second floor of the Second Parish's meeting house. In 1892, the two parishes merged to form the Union Congregational Church of North Reading.

On July 16, 1923, the church was officially incorporated and the bodies of the church and society were merged into one organization. The Union Church voted to join the United Church of Christ during the earlier part of the 1960s. The church continues to serve the community today as the North Reading Union Congregational Church.

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Scope and Contents

This collection consists of a single record book. The records in this volume were kept by the church's first minister, Rev. Daniel Putnam, and his successor, Rev. Eliab Stone. Included are vital records of membership, baptisms, marriages, and disciplinary matters, as well as meeting minutes and the church's covenants from 1720 and 1781.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Restrictions on Access

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Acquisition Information

Materials permanently loaned to the Congregational Library & Archives by the North Reading Historical & Antiquarian Society, North Reading, Massachusetts; Accession: 2011-59.

Accruals

Additional accruals are expected for this collection in the form of full-text transcription. There is no anticipated date for this accrual.

Processing Information

Originally processed in 2010 by Jessica Steytler. Re-processed by Zachary Bodnar, June 2018, using DACS Second Edition.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Baptism and church membership.
- Baptismal records.
- Church discipline.
- Church records and registers -- Massachusetts -- Reading.

- Covenants.
- Marriage records.
- New England's Hidden Histories.
- North Reading (Mass.) -- Church history.
- Reading (Mass.) -- Church history.
- Second Church in Reading (North Reading, Mass.)

Technical Requirements

To access digital user's copies via online-interface, a java-enabled web browser is required. Internet Explorer 8.x and later, Firefox 5.x and later, Opera 12 and later, Safari 5.x and later, or any version of Google Chrome are recommended.

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Bibliography

Parker, Margaret. "Historical Sketch." In *Two Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary Program: Union Congregational Church North Reading, Massachusetts*. Edited by the 250th Anniversary Committee, 6-8. North Reading, 1970. 17.11.1 N81.72 UniCC

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Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances
Church book, 1720-1806	box NEHH- folder 24 Small 1
<u>Digital Copies:</u> Digital Copies	
This record book was digitized as part of the New England's Hidden Histories project. Digital reproductions are available to view online .	