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## **Salisbury, Mass. First Church request for reconciliation, 1746. RG0957**

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English

DACS2 - 2013

Congregational Library & Archives

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## Summary Information

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**Repository:** Congregational Library & Archives  
**Creator:** First Church (Salisbury, Mass.)  
**Title:** Salisbury, Mass. First Church request for reconciliation, 1746.  
**ID:** RG0957  
**Date:** 1746

**Physical Description:** 1 Folder

**Language of the Material:** English

**Abstract:** The First Church in Salisbury was formally gathered in 1638 and the first meeting house was completed in 1640. In 1714 the town voted to maintain two churches and the First Church also became known as the East Church. In 1725 the second meetinghouse was constructed. Beginning in 1802 Methodists were allowed to use the meeting house for worship and in 1833 the Congregationalists voted to join the Methodists and form the East Parish United Methodist Church. In 1834 the third and final meetinghouse was constructed. This collection contains a legal testimonial regarding a conflict between Rev. Caleb Cushing and former parishioner Daniel Worster, who was seeking reconciliation.

### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Salisbury, Mass. First Church request for reconciliation, 1746, RG0957. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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## Historical Note

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The First Church in Salisbury was formally gathered in 1638. In 1640 the town of Salisbury was officially incorporated and construction on the first meeting house was completed. By 1714, a second population center had formed in the western half of the town. As a result the town voted to maintain two churches, each with a settled minister, but also to remain a single parish. The Second Church in Salisbury was gathered in 1718 in what is now the Rocky Hill section of Amesbury. The First Church also became

known as the East Church after 1714. In 1725 the second meeting house was constructed to replace the original 1640 structure. In 1790, the town voted to dismiss the First Church pastor, Edmund Noyes, who was installed in 1751, and unsuccessfully proceeded to invite candidates to fill his position. Noyes refused to recognize his dismissal and continued as pastor at Salisbury until his death in 1809.

After visits by Jesse Lee and Francis Asbury, there was a growing contingent of Methodists within Salisbury during the early nineteenth-century. The Methodists were permitted the use of the second meeting house to worship beginning in 1802. In 1811 the First Methodist Society was formed. In 1833 the Congregationalists voted to unite with the Methodist Society to form the East Parish United Methodist Church. Most members joined the new Methodist Congregation while the remaining affiliated with the Congregational churches in Newburyport. In 1834 the third and final meeting house was built. The East Parish United Methodist Church continues to serve the Salisbury community today.

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection contains a legal testimonial regarding a conflict with Rev. Caleb Cushing, who was the fourth settled minister of the church, ordained in 1698. The document recounts former parishioner Daniel Worster's attempt to seek reconciliation with the church through disciplinary action, and Rev. Cushing's denial of the action based on Worster's lapsed membership.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street  
Boston, MA 02108

[info@14beacon.org](mailto:info@14beacon.org)

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## Acquisition Information

No acquisition information is available for this collection.

## 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

Reprocessed by Zachary Bodnar for ArchivesSpace, June 2019, using DACS Second Edition.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Church discipline.
- Church records and registers.
- New England's Hidden Histories.
- First Church (Salisbury, Mass.)
- Salisbury (Mass.) -- Church history.

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## Technical Requirements

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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

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Pettengill, Francis. "History of the East Parish United Methodist Church." East Parish United Methodist Church. Accessed June 6, 2019. <http://www.eastparishumc.org/our-history>.

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances
Request for reconciliation, 1746 <u>Digital Copies:</u> <b>Digital Copies</b>  This document was digitized as part of the New England's Hidden Histories project. Digital reproductions are <a href="#">available to view online</a> .	box NEHH- folder 13 Small 1