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## **Somerset, Mass. First Christian Union Church records, 1840-1912. RG5034**

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English

DACS2 - 2013

Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street

Boston, MA 02108

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

URL: <http://www.CongregationalLibrary.org>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Congregational Library & Archives
<b>Creator:</b>	Christian Band of Somerset.
<b>Creator:</b>	First Christian Society (Somerset, Mass.)
<b>Creator:</b>	First Christian Union Church (Somerset, Mass.)
<b>Title:</b>	Somerset, Mass. First Christian Union Church records, 1840-1912.
<b>ID:</b>	RG5034
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1840-1912
<b>Physical Description:</b>	.22 Cubic Feet (1 box)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The First Christian Union Church and Society were formed in the Pottersville, Somerset area as early as 1838 by a "Christian Band" comprising thirty members, though the church was not officially incorporated until 1911. In 1939 the name was changed to the Congregational Christian Church of Somerset Centre. These records consists of three bound volumes, including the earliest record books of the church and society, respectively, and a book of meeting minutes and bylaws of the Ladies' Industrial Association.

### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Somerset, Mass. First Christian Union Church records, 1840-1912, RG5034. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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## Historical Note

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In 1838, a group of thirty, known as the "Christian Band", signed a covenant to organize a church community in the village of Pottersville in Somerset, Massachusetts. The covenant led, in November 1840, to the construction of a meetinghouse. On May 26, 1841, a ceremony was held for the dedication of the new meetinghouse and its acceptance into the Christian denomination. Later that year William

Shurtleff was called to be the first pastor of the religious society known as the First Christian Union Society in Somerset, Massachusetts.

It was not until 1911 that the First Christian Church, as it came to be known, was incorporated under the laws of Massachusetts. In 1939, a vote was taken to change the name to the Congregational Christian Church of Somerset Centre. The church is still active today as the Congregational Christian Church of Somerset and has been a member of the United Church of Christ since 1957.

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection consists of three bound volumes, including the earliest record books and other materials from the First Christian Union Church of Somerset, Massachusetts. The first volume, in chronological order by start date, is a record book for the church and society containing membership information, vital statistics such as baptisms, admissions, dismissions, disciplinary cases, and deaths, as well as meeting minutes pertaining to the selection of church officers and pastors, finances, and a chronicle of church events. The second volume is a record book for the society, containing a copy of the church's covenant and administrative records, including committee assignments and correspondence. The third volume is an administrative record book kept by the Ladies' Industrial Association which includes bylaws and meeting minutes.

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## Arrangement

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Materials have been arranged in chronological order by start date.

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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)

URL: <http://www.CongregationalLibrary.org>

## Restrictions on Access

Access to this collection is unrestricted and open to the public.

## Restrictions on Use

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## Acquisition Information

Materials were loaned to the Congregational Library & Archives by the Congregational Christian Church of Somerset in June 2012; 2012-3.

## 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

Processed and described by Jules Thomson, September 2019, using DACS Second Edition.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Baptismal records.
- Church discipline.
- Church membership.
- Church records and registers.

- Church societies.
- Covenants (Church polity).
- Excommunication.
- Installation (clergy).
- Necrologies.
- New England's Hidden Histories.
- Ordination.
- Women -- Societies and clubs.
- Christian Band of Somerset.
- First Christian Society (Somerset, Mass.)
- First Christian Union Church (Somerset, Mass.)
- Somerset (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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"Somerset, Mass. First Christian Union Church." Somerset, Mass. First Christian Union Church | Congregational Library & Archives, June 4, 2014. <http://congregationallibrary.org/neh/series1/SomersetMAChristianUnion5034>.

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances	
Church records, 1840-1912	box 1	volume 1
<u><a href="#">Digital Copies:</a></u>		

## Digital Copies

These church records were digitized as part of the New England's Hidden Histories project. Digital reproductions are [available to view online](#).

## Scope and Contents

This volume primarily contains records of membership and vital statistics including baptisms, admissions, dismissions, disciplinary cases, and deaths. It also includes church meeting minutes pertaining to the selection of church officers and pastors, and the related finances.

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Church records, 1841-1893

box 1

volume 2

Digital Copies:

## Digital Copies

These church records were digitized as part of the New England's Hidden Histories project. Digital reproductions are [available to view online](#).

## Scope and Contents

This book contains a copy of the church's covenant and the administrative records relating to the meetinghouse, including committee assignments and correspondence.

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Ladies Industrial Association records, 1857-1895

box 1

volume 3

Digital Copies:

## Digital Copies

These church records were digitized as part of the New England's Hidden Histories project. Digital reproductions are [available to view online](#).

## Scope and Contents

This volume contains the records of the Ladies Industrial Association of the First Church, a group which evolved from the former Ladies Union Sewing Society. The organization operated partly as a ladies' auxiliary for the church, as well as a bible study group and social club. Records include a roster of membership, meetings minutes, financial records, and details of sewing and knitting projects.