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South Boston, Boston, Mass. Phillips Church records, 1823-2003. RG1228

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Congregational Library & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository: Congregational Library & Archives

Creator: Phillips Church (South Boston, Boston, Mass.)

Creator: Evangelical Congregational Church (South Boston, Boston, Mass.)

Title: South Boston, Boston, Mass. Phillips Church records, 1823-2003.

ID: RG1228

Date [inclusive]: 1823-2003

Physical Description: 2.25 Cubic Feet (3 boxes; 1 oversized file folder)

Language of the Material: English .

Abstract: Phillips Church was founded on December 10, 1823, under the name of "The Evangelical Congregational Church of South Boston" by an Ecclesiastical council of thirteen original members. Services were held in Union Hall on Fourth Street, between B and C Streets, until March 9, 1924, when a small brick church was erected at the corner of Broadway and A street. On March 25, 1834, the church was incorporated. It was named after the first mayor of Boston, John Phillips. A larger wooden church was built in 1836 at the same location on Broadway and A Street. Services were held there until the building was sold in 1858. A new building was erected on Broadway, near Dorchester Street, and the first service was held on November 5, 1858. In 1879, the Church's location on Broadway underwent extensive renovations, and the new edifice was rededicated on December 10. The Phillips Church joined with Conservative Congregational Christian Conference (CCCC) in 1960. The Phillips Church was dissolved circa 2003. The Phillips Church Records collection includes bound volumes of church records, administrative and financial documents, and two scrapbooks containing promotional materials such as programs, correspondence, news clippings, and yearbooks.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the South Boston, Boston, Mass. Phillips Church records, 1823-2003, RG1228. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Note

Phillips Church was founded on December 10, 1823, under the name of "The Evangelical Congregational Church of South Boston" by an Ecclesiastical council of thirteen members. The council consisted of three pastors and ten delegates of the Old South, Park Street, and Union Churches of Boston, the First Church of Charlestown, and the Second Church of Dorchester. Rev. Prince Hawes of Glastonbury, Connecticut was appointed as the church's first pastor and served the church from 1824-1827.

During the Summer of 1823, services were held in Union Hall on Fourth Street, between B and C Streets. The church worshipped there until March 9, 1824, when a small brick church was erected at the corner of Broadway and A street with the financial help of other local churches. The property was held by twelve trustees, four each from Park Street, Old South, and Union Churches.

On March 25, 1834, the Phillips Church Society was incorporated. The name was adopted because it was believed that A Street would soon be renamed Phillips Street, after the first mayor of Boston, John Phillips. The change was never affected, but the church's name remained.

In 1836, a larger wooden church was built at the same location on Broadway and A Street. There was considerable growth of services and membership after relocating to Broadway and A Street. However, on June 13, 1845, the church dismissed fifty-seven members to form the Payson Church. Later, on July 10, 1857, the church dismissed seventy-two members to form the Church of Unity. These churches were later unified into the E Street Church. A Phillips Church member council was formed to discuss the issue of decreasing membership and ultimately decided against dissolution due to the loyalty of existing members. The Broadway and A Street building was sold in 1858. The last service at this location was on July 27, 1958. A new building was erected on Broadway, near Dorchester Street, and the first services were held on November 5, 1858. In 1879, the Church's location on Broadway underwent extensive renovations and the new edifice was rededicated on December 10.

The Phillips Church joined with Conservative Congregational Christian Conference (CCCC) in 1960. The Phillips Church was dissolved circa 2003.

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Scope and Contents

This collection focusses on administrative and promotional topics. Administrative records include by-laws, statements of faith, correspondence, meeting minutes, recommendations, disciplinary records, membership lists and resignations, treasurer's records, pew deeds, IRS exemption information, title reports, financial records, budget reports, and audits. Promotional materials include a history of Phillips Church, and two scrapbooks containing programs, correspondence, news clippings, concert posters, holiday service notices, conference and lecture announcements, calendars, yearbooks, and business cards.

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Arrangement

The Phillips Church records have been arranged into the two series listed below. Records in each series have been arranged chronologically by date created. When appropriate, similar and continuous materials have been grouped together.

Series 1: Administrative records, 1823-2003

Series 2: Promotional materials, 1826-1928

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Restrictions on Access

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

Restrictions on Use

Items in this collection are subject to U.S. Copyright Law. It is the responsibility of the researcher to determine the copyright status of collection items and to secure any permissions necessary for their reproduction and publication. Requests for permission to publish material must be discussed with the archivist or librarian.

Acquisition Information

Materials were acquired by the Congregational Library & Archives prior to August 1963. The Phillips Congregational Church donated two photographs in May 1997. A further acquisition of materials was likely deposited in 2003.

Processing Information

An inventory was created by Lisa Plato in 1997. The collection was processed by Jess Steytler in 2008. The collection was re-processed by Randall Seder in October 2025.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Church correspondence.
- Church discipline.
- Church finance.
- Church management.
- Church membership.
- Church records and registers.
- Pews and pew rights.
- Scrapbooks.
- Evangelical Congregational Church (South Boston, Boston, Mass.)
- Phillips Church (South Boston, Boston, Mass.)
- South Boston (Boston, Mass.) -- Church history

Bibliography

Articles of Faith and Form of Covenant, adopted by the Phillips Church in South Boston. Together with the Names of The Members. "Formation." Kidder and Wright, 1841. 17.11.1 B65.5 PhiCC.

Articles of Faith and Form of Covenant, adopted by the Phillips Church of South Boston, Together with The Names of The Members. "History of Phillips Church." Wright & Potter, Printers, 1860. 17.11.1 B65.5 PhiCC.

Manual of the Phillips Church, Boston. "Historical Sketch." Alfred Mudge & Sons, Printers, 1882. 17.11.1 B65.5 PhiCC.

Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of Phillips Congregational Church, South Boston, Mass. "Historical Address" and "Anniversary Sermon." 1898. 17.11.1 B65.5 PhiCC.

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Collection Inventory

Administrative records, 1823-2003

Physical Description: 8 Volumes

Physical Description: 13 Folders

Scope and Contents

The administrative records series contains church records, by-laws, statements of faith, correspondence, meeting minutes, recommendations, disciplinary records, membership lists and resignations, treasurer's records, pew deeds, IRS exemption information, financial records, budget reports, and audits.

Title/Description	Instances	
Church records, 1823-1842	box 1	volume 1
Church records, 1843-1860	box 1	volume 2
Church records, 1860-1878	box 1	volume 3
Church records, 1878-1892	box 1	volume 4
Church records, 1892-1911	box 1	volume 5
List of subscribers, 1858-1866	box 1	folder 1
Pew deed map, 1859	folder 5	
Pew deeds, 1859-1880		

	box 1	volume 6
Treasurer's records, 1860-1890	box 1	volume 7
Treasurer's records, 1882-1888	box 1	volume 8
Miscellaneous church records, 1891	box 1	folder 2
Financial records, 1954, 1981-2003	box 1	folder 3
IRS exemption information, 1966, 1983	box 1	folder 4
Disciplinary records, 1982	box 1	folder 5
Meeting minutes, recommendations, 1982, 1997	box 1	folder 6
Membership lists, 1983-1985	box 1	folder 7
Financial records, budget reports, audits, 1991-1998	box 1	folder 8
Church records correspondence, 1996-1998	box 1	folder 9
By-laws, statements of faith, 1997	box 1	folder 10
Membership resignations, 1997-1998	box 1	folder 11
Title report, 1998	box 1	folder 12

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Promotional materials, 1826-1928

Physical Description: 2 Volumes

Physical Description: 1 Folder

Scope and Contents

The Promotional materials series contains a history of Phillips Church and two scrapbooks containing programs, correspondence, news clippings, concert posters, holiday service notices, conference and lecture announcements, calendars, yearbooks, and business cards.

Title/Description	Instances	
Scrapbook, 1826-1905	box 2	
Scrapbook, 1906-1913	box 3	
History of Phillips Church, 1928	box 1	folder 13

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