



Congregational
Library & Archives
History Matters

A photograph of a library interior. The room features large, multi-paned arched windows that look out onto green trees. The walls are a warm, light brown color. In the foreground, there is a dark wooden table with several wooden chairs around it. Two ornate chandeliers with multiple white globe lights are mounted on the walls. The overall atmosphere is bright and historical.

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



THE AMERICAN CONGREGATIONAL ASSOCIATION
THE CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

I AM HONORED TO BEGIN MY TENURE as Interim Executive Director at this extraordinary moment. With summer having arrived in Boston as we joyfully welcome visitors after a long hiatus, it is a time of hope and renewed energy.

A bit about me: I am an experienced non-profit executive and have had the privilege of serving on numerous boards of directors. Most recently, I worked as the Interim Executive Director at Beyond Conflict, a global organization whose mission is to understand and address the causes and consequences of conflict.

In 2018 and 2019, I worked as the Interim Executive Director at Old South Association, the organization that owned Old South Meeting House. In that role, I helped orchestrate the creation of Revolutionary Spaces, the entity established in January 2020 upon the merger of Old South Association and The Bostonian Society, which managed the Old State House. As you might expect, I am looking forward to learning more about the Library's collection of papers from Old South Meeting House.

As the daughter and sister of librarians, I already feel right at home at 14 Beacon Street. I look forward to working with and meeting you in the weeks and months ahead.

Martha Walz
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JULY 2021

FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

As we emerge slowly from COVID-19's year plus of hibernation, we are looking around to assess the damage. The toll has been severe. Lives have been lost. Organizations and businesses have been shaken to the core, some irretrievably so. I am pleased to announce that the Congregational Library & Archives has not only survived the pandemic, but it is emerging as energetic and vital as it was before the pandemic.

In fact, just a few weeks ago, I was amazed to find the Congregational Library & Archives featured in my Google feed. In an article titled "How an old diary is shedding light on smallpox outbreaks from the 1700s," AP and NBC News highlighted the staff's insights into the manuscript diary of Ebenezer Storer, 1749–64, one of the diaries



CLA has digitized for inclusion in New England's Hidden Histories. Like a Timex, CLA may have taken a licking, but it keeps on ticking.

That it does so is hardly unexpected to anyone who understands our archives. The shelves of the CLA are rich with stories, testimonies, sermons, letters, and other accounts of how Congregationalists and their fellow citizens have weathered every kind of storm—from literal storms like Hurricane Carol to outbreaks, plagues, wars, even a molasses flood.

Enduring is what we do; so, to those familiar with the indomitable spirit and grit of our forefathers and foremothers, it should come as no surprise to note that during the pandemic shutdown, our library staff, archivists, and historians were far from idle.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to express my deep gratitude for their dedication and perseverance since our lives were transformed in March 2020.

It feels nothing short of miraculous that on June 7, our Board of Directors met at 14 Beacon Street for the first time in fifteen months for our annual meeting. We discussed upcoming plans and programs. We took a tour of the CLA's new state-of-the-art, recently renovated space, and we saw each other smile! How refreshing and encouraging it was to be back in such a special place. And while book and manuscript lovers will perpetually delight in the teeming stacks at 14 Beacon Street, we also celebrate the staff's ongoing and radical work of transforming words on paper into searchable metadata that allows anyone around the globe to access the Library's treasures.

While the Congregational Library & Archives has weathered the storm of COVID-19 and continues to be an active, thriving library and archives, like organizations and nonprofits worldwide, it has not escaped unscathed. And so, we appeal to you for your support and participation.

We want to share the amazing scholarship emerging from our collections, such as *Dividing the Faith: The Rise of Segregated Churches in the Early American North*, by new board member Richard J. Boles, or the many new entries and recently produced finding guide for materials relating to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in *New England's Hidden Histories*, or upcoming discussions on the anniversary of the first Thanksgiving. Please join with us now as we shout it from the rooftops, "History Matters," today and evermore.

Richard Elliott

BOARD CHAIR

JULY 2021

Annual Report:

April 1, 2019 -- March 31, 2020

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**We couldn't do
 our work without you!**

**Our donors and members prove that
 History Matters.**

Thank you.

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets

For the Year Ended March 31, 2020

OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Revenue & Other Support

Contributions and Grants	\$201,395
Other Income	\$7,220
Endowment Assets Used for Operations	\$1,320,000
Total Revenue & Other Support	\$1,528,615

Expenses

Program	\$1,331,974
Management & General Fundraising	\$121,469
Total Expenses	\$1,516,365

Changes in Net Assets from Operating Activities

\$12,250

NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Capital Campaign	\$441,262
Investment Losses, Net	(\$1,323,717)
Endowment Assets Used for Operations	(\$1,320,000)
Total Non-Operating Activities	(\$2,202,455)

Changes in Net Assets

(\$2,190,205)

NET ASSETS - BEGINNING

\$26,777,749

NET ASSETS - ENDING

\$24,587,544



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