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Brockton, Mass. South Congregational Church records, 1835-1979. RG5394

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English

DACS2 - 2013

Congregational Library & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Hope Chapel (Brockton, Mass.)
Creator:	South Congregational Church (Campello, Brockton, Mass.)
Title:	Brockton, Mass. South Congregational Church records, 1835-1979.
ID:	RG5394
Date [inclusive]:	1835-1979
Physical Description:	1.79 Cubic Feet (3 boxes)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	<p>In 1836 a significant portion of the members of the First Parish Congregational Church withdrew their membership to form the South Congregational Church in Plain Village, now Campello, Brockton. The first meeting house was constructed in 1836 and The South Congregational Church of North Bridgewater was formally gathered on January 3, 1837 with Rev. John Dwight as the first minister. On May 23, 1853, the first meeting house was destroyed by fire; the second meeting house was constructed a year later. The South Congregational Church in Brockton merged with the First Parish Congregational Church, Porter Congregational Church, and Waldo Congregational Church to form the Christ Congregational Church in 1980. This collection contains the records of the South Congregational Church in Brockton and includes the surviving administrative, fiscal, legal, and vital membership records of the church.</p>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Brockton, Mass. South Congregational Church records, 1835-1979, RG5394. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Note

In the early 1830s the area of North Bridgewater, now Brockton, called Plain Village, now Campello, was growing rapidly. The inhabitants of Plain Village had to travel about a mile and a half to attend service at the First Parish Congregational Church. In response to this long travel distance, it was decided that Plain Village should support a new church. In 1836 a significant portion of the members of the First Parish Congregational Church withdrew their membership to form the South Congregational Church. Construction on the first meeting house was begun on July 4, 1836 and the building was dedicated on December 29, 1836. The South Congregational Church of North Bridgewater was formally gathered on January 3, 1837. The Rev. John Dwight became the first minister of the church in 1837.

On May 23, 1853, the first meeting house was destroyed in a major fire which consumed a total of 11 buildings. A new building was erected the following year and the dedication of the second meeting house took place on September 21, 1854. The spire, which originally stood at 185 feet, was blown over in a wind storm in 1857. The spire was replaced and reduced so that it only stood at 135 feet. In 1892 the Hope Chapel was constructed and dedicated about a mile from South Church. The chapel remained active until 1906 and was then sold. In 1896 Memorial Hall was constructed and attached to the church; the Sunday school and many of the church groups met regularly in the hall. Memorial Hall was refurbished and rededicated in 1936 as part of the centennial celebrations of the church. The church was incorporated under Massachusetts law in 1901.

The South Congregational Church in Brockton served the Campello community until 1980 when it merged with the First Parish Congregational Church, Porter Congregational Church, and Waldo Congregational Church to form the Christ Congregational Church. The second meeting, which stood at the corner of Main and South Street, no longer stands.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains the records of the South Congregational Church in Brockton. The collection contains the administrative, fiscal, and legal records of the church. Included within the collection are the records of the church and parish, vital membership records, financial records, building and pew records, and various legal documents.

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Arrangement

Materials have been arranged into the two series listed below. Within each series, materials have been arranged in chronological order, by start date, primarily, and by topic secondarily.

Series 1: Church and Parish records, 1836-1979

Series 2: Financial and legal records, 1835-1941

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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

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 donated to the Congregational Library & Archives by the South Congregational Church in 1980. Materials were separated out of RG0037 in March, 2019; Accession 2019-03.

Processing Information

Originally processed by Sandra Sudak in 1990. Additional descriptions by Jessica Steytler in 2002 and 2006. Fully reprocessed and redescribed by Zachary Bodnar, March 2019, using DACS Second Edition.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

In 1980, the First Parish Congregational, South Congregational, Porter Congregational, and Waldo Congregational Churches merged into a single entity, the Christ Congregational Church. The records of all four churches are held at the Congregational Library & Archives:

Brockton, Mass. First Parish Congregational Church records, 1738-1980.

Brockton, Mass. Porter Congregational Church, 1800-1979.

Brockton, Mass. Waldo Congregational Church, 1896-1980.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Baptismal records.
- Church bells.
- Church finance.
- Church membership.
- Church records and registers.
- Marriage records.
- Pews and pew rights.
- Brockton (Mass.) -- Church history.
- Campello (Brockton, Mass.) -- Church history.
- Hope Chapel (Brockton, Mass.)
- North Bridgewater (Mass.) -- Church history.
- Plain Village (Mass.) -- Church history.
- South Congregational Church (Campello, Brockton, Mass.)

Bibliography

100th Anniversary of the Building of the Present Edifice. Brockton: South Congregational Church, 1954.
17.11.1 B78.33 ChrCC

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Collection Inventory

Church and parish records, 1836-1979

Physical Description: 20 Files (10 volumes, 10 folders)

Scope and Contents

This series contains records related to the administration of the church and parish society, as well as the vital records of church members and church services of order. Also included in this series are the records of the Hope Chapel, a short lived outreach church.

Title/Description	Instances	
Parish records, 1836-1906	box 1	volume 1
Parish records, 1906-1917	box 1	volume 2
Church communications, 1836-1838	box 1	folder 1
Clippings, 1836-1914	box 1	folder 2
Dedications and anniversary programs, 1836-1954	box 2	folder 1
Church records, 1837-1889	box 1	volume 3
Church records, 1837-1918	box 1	volume 4
Church records, 1890-1901	box 1	volume 5
Church records, 1914-1937	box 1	volume 6
Catalogue of members, 1837-1897	box 2	volume 1
Catalogue of members, 1837-1897	box 2	volume 2
Membership list, 1842-1917	box 2	volume 3
Membership lists, 1866-1906	box 2	folder 2
Miscellaneous events and church memorabilia, 1887-1894, undated	box 2	folder 3
Hope Chapel records, 1902-1904	box 1	volume 7
Annual reports, 1907, 1962-1965		

	box 2	folder 4
Historical sketches and research, circa 1936-1941	box 3	folder 3
Annual reports, 1966-1971	box 2	folder 5
Annual reports, 1972-1979	box 2	folder 6
Self-study report, 1971	box 2	folder 7

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Financial and legal records, 1835-1941

Physical Description: 13 Files (7 volumes, 6 folders)

Scope and Contents

This series contains records relating to the fiscal and legal operation of the South Congregational Church. This series contains treasurer's reports, pew deeds and subscriptions, insurance policies, and building related purchases.

Title/Description	Instances	
Pew subscriptions and account book, 1835-1869	box 3	volume 1
Deeds, 1836, 1874-1918	box 1	folder 3
Treasurer's book, 1837-1904	box 3	volume 2
Treasurer's book, 1905-1915	box 3	volume 3
Treasurer's reports, 1910-1917	box 1	volume 8
Purchase of bell, 1853	box 3	folder 1
Insurance policies, 1853-1854	box 1	folder 4
Pew subscriptions, 1854-1867	box 3	volume 4
Parish collections, 1877-1878	box 3	volume 5
Certificates of incorporation, 1901-1918	box 3	folder 2
Organ fund, undated	box 3	volume 6
List of treasures, undated	box 3	folder 4
Pew payments, undated	box 3	folder 5

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