

THE BULLETIN

OF THE CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

VOL. 17 NO. 1 | FALL 2023



YEAR IN REVIEW

MICHAEL
WIGGLESWORTH'S
LATER DIARY

EMPOWERING
CHURCHES TO
PRESERVE THEIR
RECORDS

NEHH PROJECT
UPDATES

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The Congregational Library & Archives fosters a deeper understanding of the spiritual, intellectual, cultural, and civic dimensions of the Congregational story and its ongoing relevance to contemporary society by collecting, preserving, and sharing materials and by actively engaging with faith communities, students, scholars, and the general public.

ON THE COVER: Dr. Harriet Ward (left), Sacred Ally Quilt Ministry leader, discusses one of her quilts with visitors during the CLA's June 2023 Textile & Text exhibition.

CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY & ARCHIVES
2022-2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

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The Congregational Library & Archives celebrated our 170th birthday on May 25th. Executive Director Kyle Roberts and CLA staff members celebrated in style with a cake—minus the candles, of course! Protecting our collections always comes first at 14 Beacon.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

What a year it has been! Looking back over the past twelve months, I am proud of all the ways our talented staff, Board of Directors, donors, and supporters have come together to

preserve, interpret, and share the 400+ year history of Congregationalism. I hope you will feel the same as you browse our year-in-review issue of the *Bulletin*.

This year, we experienced significant growth in all facets of our operations. Through the generosity of donors, we acquired important new collections, such as the Jeremy Bangs Collection of Pilgrim Century Books. Virtual and in-person programs introduced thousands of viewers to Congregationalism past, present, and future. Launched in March 2022, our new Digital Archive has brought unprecedented traffic to over one-hundred thousand images and transcriptions generated by the New England's Hidden History program. Building on partnerships with local and national universities, we trained the next generation of librarians and historians through internships and fellowships. We even turned our reading room into an exhibition gallery for a few

days, highlighting the long thread of social justice activism within Congregationalism.

None of this could have been done without the support of donors like you.

The Congregational Library & Archives is an institution 170 years young. Over the coming year we will continue to:

- Respond to the changing landscape of American religion by working with churches to ensure the preservation of their records;
- Highlight the stories of those too long left out of the narrative through programming and collection development;
- Open our doors to students, scholars, church historians, and anyone interested in the role Congregationalism has played in American history; and
- Maintain a sustainable and fiscally responsible financial plan which sets us on a stable foundation for the next 170 years.

Thank you for all the ways you have joined us over the past year—and for your ongoing support in the year to come. We could not do it without you.

Kyle Roberts, Executive Director

FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

In the aftermath of the George Floyd protests in 2020, I spoke with National Association of Evangelicals president Dr. Walter Kim and fellow CLA board member and American religious history scholar Dr. Richard Boles about the roots of segregated churches and communities over a century ago. I discovered, to my surprise, just how relevant and important this seemingly distant history was to our painful and painfully contemporary collective experience.

The circumstances in which we find ourselves today, be they spiritual, political, communal, familial, or relational, haven't been dropped on our doorsteps—they are rooted in the past. The voices and lives found in the archives, stacks, and tomes of the Congregational Library & Archives have much to teach (and heal) us. I invite you to visit our newly renovated facilities, explore our digital archives, or attend one of our amazing programs . . .



and discover much more about Congregationalism past and present.

Richard Elliott, Chair of the Board

Michael Wigglesworth's Later Diary

BRIGID MCEVOY, PROVIDENCE COLLEGE '23

Thanks to the New England's Hidden Histories project, the second volume of Michael Wigglesworth's diary, held by the New England Historic Genealogical Society, is now available online. Michael Wigglesworth (1631-1705) was a seventeenth-century poet and preacher. Born in Yorkshire, England, he emigrated to Connecticut,

As a history major at Providence College, under the supervision of Dr. Adrian Chastain Weimer, I worked for eight months to study the diary and decipher the shorthand passages. The longhand portions are quite legible, and some were transcribed in John Ward Dean's 1871 *Memoir of Rev. Michael Wigglesworth*.¹ Sections of the diary, however, are in shorthand, making them difficult to read. Of Wigglesworth's 36 pages, written from March 1658 through November 1687, eight pages include shorthand sections. He used Thomas Shelton's "Tachygraphy" system, a common method for writing shorthand notes in the seventeenth century. Instead of letters, it relies on strokes for abbreviated writing, with a methodical system for vowel placement, double consonants, and common word symbols.

Wigglesworth is sometimes depicted as a morbid, anxious, or self-obsessed individual. Edmund Morgan, who deciphered the first volume of Wigglesworth's diary in the 1940s, advanced this portrayal.² The first diary volume sheds light on Wigglesworth's early biography, his struggles as a student, and his prayers, but does not give a complete picture. In contrast to earlier depictions, the later diary shows a more mature Wigglesworth delighting in his faith, regularly giving the Lord credit for accomplishments, and striving to preach and write

"for the Lord's sake."³ Wigglesworth's later diary consists largely of prayers, but he also tells the story of his wife's difficult experiences of childbirth and illness and his grief over her death, reflects on his writing process, mentions travel in Bermuda, wrestles

with his own debilitating illness, and celebrates his birthday—a diverse thematic scope. Although frequently ill, he found strength in faith, cared deeply about his family and writing projects, and hoped to guide those around him to find spiritual comfort.

The second volume of Wigglesworth's diary also provides evidence of his writing process. In the early 1660s, Wigglesworth prayed for the Lord's assistance in writing a postscript to his readers. Writing seems to have formed a spiritual practice: in 1669 he noted in shorthand, "the 2nd of October the Lord was with me much for I wrote half the day." Without the Lord's help, he felt he could not write. In addition, he prayed for the Lord to "strengthen" his "hand for the glory of this work." He took his writing seriously, perhaps not for self-aggrandizing reasons, but rather because he considered it the work of the Lord. Whether in public verse or private reflections, Wigglesworth longed to convey theology to a broad audience. On April 3rd, 1670, he wrote that "Jesus Christ invites all hungry and thirsty souls" to "a life of comfort." The later diary shows Wigglesworth's desire as pastor and author to help people find spiritual consolation.⁴

Previous historians have noted the pronounced guilt that is present in Wigglesworth's first diary. Analyzing his poetry, literary historian Jeffrey Hammond has argued that Wigglesworth's sense of guilt was linked to his desire for sanctification or redemption.⁵ For Wigglesworth, acknowledgement of sin led to artistic freedom. In fall 1669, as he was writing *Meat out of the Eater*, he "grieved" for his "Passions w[hi]ch are very headstrong," requested pardon, and then asked for assistance with his composition, later pleading with the Lord (in shorthand) to "accept my poor labor."⁶

Wigglesworth's recognition of his flaws seems to have led to hope that the Lord would guide him in his work. Moreover, Wigglesworth actively prayed for strength from God and forgiveness of his sins because he did not feel that his literary productivity could be isolated from his flawed human condition.⁷ Close reading of his later diary, including the shorthand sections, shows the intricacies of Wigglesworth's inner life and devotion

to God. Expressing guilt was not linked to self-pity or pessimism but was rather a necessary step on Wigglesworth's path toward a clean conscience and literary productivity.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

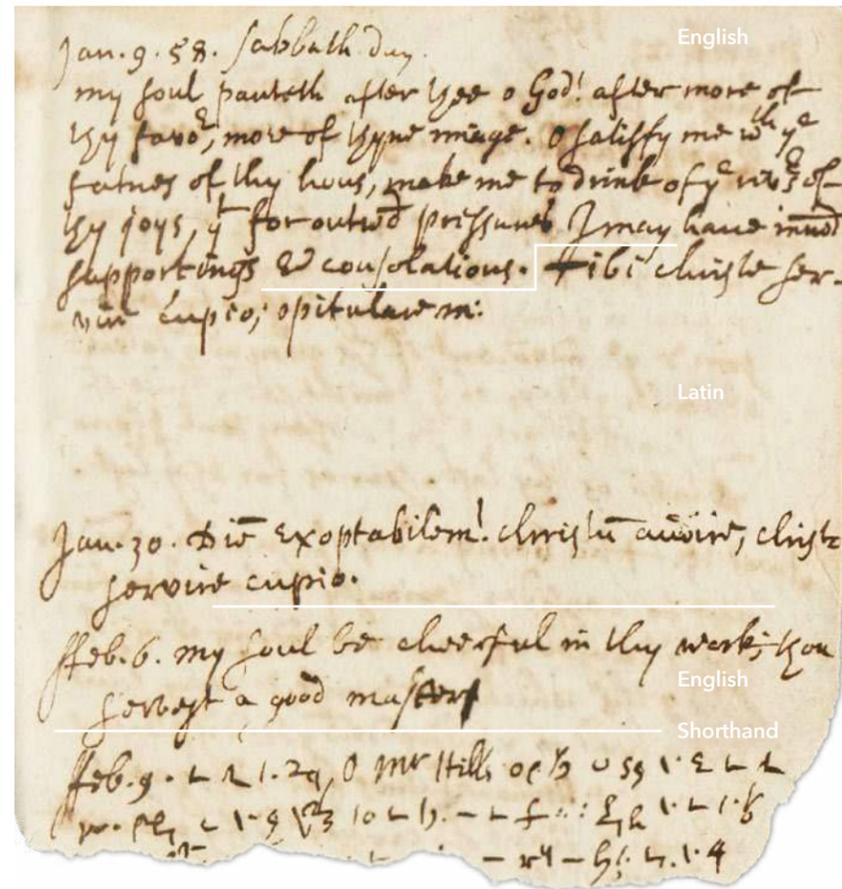


Brigid McEvoy recently graduated from Providence College with a Bachelor of Arts in History and Spanish and minors in Business and Innovation and Latin American Studies.

After graduation, Brigid returned home to New York City to pursue a full-time career in insurance.

NOTES

- 1 John Ward Dean, *Memoir of Rev. Michael Wigglesworth, Author of the Day of Doom* (Albany, NY: Joel Munsell, 1871). Dean calls the second volume a "commonplace book."
- 2 Edmund Morgan, "The Diary of Michael Wigglesworth," *Transactions of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts*, vol. 35 (Boston: Colonial Society of Massachusetts, 1951), 311-444.
- 3 Michael Wigglesworth Notebook, 1658-1763, fol. 22, *Wigglesworth Family Papers* (Mss 71). R Stanton Avery Special Collections Department, New England Historic Genealogical Society, <https://congregationallibrary.quartexcollections.com/Documents/Detail/michael-wigglesworth-notebook-1658-1763/60123>.
- 4 Michael Wigglesworth Notebook, 1658-1763, fols. 33; 35.
- 5 Jeffrey Hammond, "Michael Wigglesworth," in Jeffrey Gray et al., *American Poets and Poetry*, Vol. 2 (Englewood, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2015), 641.
- 6 Michael Wigglesworth Notebook, 1658-1763, fols. 31-33.
- 7 Michael Wigglesworth Notebook, 1658-1763, fol. 11.



Example from Wigglesworth's diary of his writing in English, Latin, and shorthand.

studied and served as Fellow at Harvard College, and then pastored a church in Malden, Massachusetts. He is particularly well-known for his popular poems, *The Day of Doom* and *Meat out of the Eater*. In addition, Wigglesworth was a practicing physician.

Wigglesworth's diary is just one of hundreds of manuscripts from early American Congregational ministers digitized by our New England's Hidden Histories project. Visit congregationallibrary.org/nehh to explore diaries, sermon notes, church record books, and much more.

New Acquisitions Broaden Understanding of the Congregational Story

COLLECTIONS YEAR IN REVIEW

2022-2023 COLLECTIONS HIGHLIGHTS BY THE NUMBERS



1,072

Items Added
to the
Catalog



238

Print Items
Donated to
the CLA



47.36

Cubic Feet
of Material
Processed



41,768

Digital
Archive
Pages Viewed

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS ADDED THIS YEAR:

- Malden, Massachusetts, First Church Records, 1649–2010. (32.7 cubic feet)
- Norwich, Connecticut, Taftville Congregational Church Records, 1867–2023. (21.8 cubic feet)
- Edward A. Powers Papers, 1940–2010. (1.09 cubic feet)
- Rev. Paul Clayton Papers, 1959–1998. (3.76 cubic feet)
- Richard H. Taylor Papers, 1968–2014. (9.81 cubic feet)
- Euclid, Ohio, Hope Congregational Church, 1920–1989. (1.09 cubic feet)

Jeremy Bangs Collection Arrives at 14 Beacon

In 2020, the late Dr. Jeremy Bangs, Director of the American Pilgrim Museum in Leiden, Netherlands, and scholar of Pilgrim and Puritan history, generously offered to donate more than 70 books and engravings from his personal collection to the CLA. After many pandemic-related delays, the materials arrived safely at 14 Beacon in August 2022.



Orlers, Jan Jansz. Beschrijvinge der stad Leyden. Leiden: Henrick Haestens, Jan Orlers, and Jan Maire, 1614.

These books date from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and cover topics from theology, to history, and politics. The map pictured above is from a book written by Jan Orlers, the first historian of Leiden, that contains a proud description of the city; its social, administrative, economic, political, and religious organization in the seventeenth century; and the first known reference to English Separatists—who we know today as Pilgrims.

New Collection Development Policy Offers Donation Guidance

In May 2022, Librarian Sara Trotta and the Library Committee completed a new collection development policy to better align our acquisition choices with our mission and the needs of users. While the CLA continues to collect broadly in the history of Congregationalism, we seek to expand our collections with a focus on:

- Congregational Christian church records;
- Materials from BIPOC and other marginalized authors and communities, particularly those related to missionary work and historically Black congregations;
- Materials from the LGBTQ+ community, particularly related to the Open and Affirming Coalition and other similar movements;
- Records from ecumenical organizations in which Congregationalists have played a role, particularly from the 20th and 21st centuries.

If you have materials that you would like to donate to the CLA, please get in touch at ref@14beacon.org with your questions.

Church Stewardship Initiative Helps Congregations Preserve Their History and Mission

The Congregational Library & Archives launched our Church Stewardship Initiative in 2022 to better support Congregational churches beginning and growing a records management program. According to Archivist Zachary Bodnar, “the Church Stewardship Initiative is about empowering church communities to keep and preserve their own records. We recognize that church communities have a vested interest in keeping their own records and believe these communities are best equipped to become the stewards of those records.”

The CLA’s archivists developed and delivered a series of virtual programs throughout 2022–2023 that covered topics such as beginning an archival management program and choosing the best archivally-safe storage solutions. “The information we are relaying through the Church Stewardship Initiative is important because we recognize that a substantial knowledge gap exists between churches, their collections, and the people tasked with doing



ABOVE: Archivist Zachary Bodnar leads a tour of the archives office at 14 Beacon during our November 2022 Open House.

TOP RIGHT: Archivist Billy McCarthy speaks during the July 2023 Archives Edit workshop.



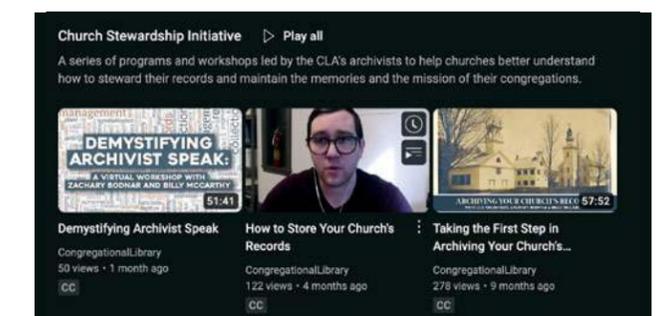
“We recognize that church communities have a vested interest in keeping their own records and believe these communities are best equipped to become the stewards of those records.”

—CLA Archivist Zachary Bodnar

the work—often on a volunteer-only basis,” says Archivist Billy McCarthy. “By creating a series of workshops and seminars, we are filling in that gap with resources that can be used for years to come.”

Plans for developing the Church Stewardship Initiative over the next several years include creating a variety of free print and video resources, in-person workshops, and more—with a focus on empowering church communities to preserve their history, mission, and memory.

The Initiative’s first three virtual programs are available for you to stream any time on the Congregational Library & Archives’ YouTube channel (pictured below) at [youtube.com/@CongregationalLibrary](https://youtube.com/CongregationalLibrary).



2022–2023 Programming Highlights



ABOVE: Programs, like our recent screening and discussion of *It Takes a Village*, shine a light on Congregationalism in the twenty-first century through partnerships with organizations such as the United Church of Christ's Church Building & Loan Fund.

LEFT: Dr. Jaimie Crumley (center, left) and Dr. Richard Boles (center, right) lead a Grad Student Workshop in Researching Native and Black History in New England's Hidden Histories at 14 Beacon in March 2023.



Dr. Harriet Ward (left) and Rev. Mark Koyama (right), leaders of the Sacred Ally Quilt Ministry, speak during the Conversation with the Sacred Allies event that was moderated by Jennifer Swope, Curator of Textiles at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (center), during our Textile & Text exhibition in June 2023.



NEHH Transcription Director Helen Gelinas speaks about transcribing early New England church records during the CLA's Open House in November 2022.

Congregational Library & Archives Expands Program Offerings

Our 2022–2023 programming season was filled with opportunities to hear scholars, community leaders, historians, students, archivists, ministers, and activists share fascinating stories from all four centuries of the Congregational story.

From Cornelia's Dayton's talk on John Peters and Phillis Wheatley Peters, to Sara Georgini's discussion of the religious lives of three generations of John Adams' family, to Margaret Bendroth's introduction to twentieth-century Congregational church women, and our discussion with historians and leaders of the Afro-Christian tradition, this season's virtual programs introduced attendees from across the United States and around the world to a diverse cast of characters who make up the complex tapestry of Congregationalism, past and present.

If you missed one of our virtual programs this year, we encourage you to visit the Congregational Library & Archives' YouTube channel at youtube.com/@CongregationalLibrary where you can watch more than twenty full-length program videos that have been uploaded over the past year.

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 X (formerly Twitter) @CongreLib
 YouTube @CongregationalLibrary
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Dr. Ryan Tobler, NERFC Research Fellow, presents a lunch talk on his work with the CLA's collections in July 2023.

In person programs, workshops, and presentations returned to 14 Beacon this year, showcasing the breadth and diversity of the Congregational story. In March 2023, CLA Board member, Dr. Richard Boles, led a Graduate Student Workshop in Research Methods with Dr. Jaimie Crumley, Research Fellow at Old North Illuminated in Boston, on eighteenth- and nineteenth-century African Americans and Native Americans. On Juneteenth, we opened our three-day *Textile & Text* exhibition, which included a conversation with

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 Sign up for our newsletter at congregationalibrary.org/newsletter to hear about our latest news and upcoming events.

two leaders of the Sacred Ally Quilt Ministry, Rev. Mark Koyama and Dr. Harriet Ward, on shared threads of resistance and activism that can be traced through Congregational and American history. Lunchtime lectures gave a chance for scholars to talk about works in progress.

Whether you're interested in attending a research fellow's lunch talk, a workshop about research or archival practice, or spending time with other members of the CLA community at our Open House, we hope to welcome you to 14 Beacon soon.

SUPPORT THE CLA
 Donating is easy through our online portal. Learn more at: congregationalibrary.org/donate

New Grant Funding and Leadership Enable NEHH to Share More Early New England Stories

NEHH YEAR IN REVIEW

2022-2023 NEHH HIGHLIGHTS BY THE NUMBERS

FIVE MOST ACCESSED NEHH COLLECTIONS

- 1 Sarah Good Testimony from Salem Witch Trials
- 2 Church Records, 1762–1862, First Parish Church in Dover, NH
- 3 Salem Witch Trials Examination Documents
- 4 Bennington, VT, First Congregational Church
- 5 Boston, MA, Old South Church



5,035

Manuscript Pages Uploaded



1,741

Manuscript Pages Transcribed

NEWLY ADDED MANUSCRIPTS

- Hingham, Massachusetts, First Church Records, 1685–1806 (808 images)
- Boston, Massachusetts, First Church Records, 1690–1825 (945 images)
- Boston, Massachusetts, Second Church Records, 1650–1815 (2,257 images)
- Nathaniel Gookin Sermon Notes, 1683 (46 images)

New NEHH Project Director

During the pandemic, we were awarded our third National Endowment for the Humanities: Humanities Collections and Reference Resources grant totaling \$289,300 for three years. This grant supports our work to collect, transcribe, archive, and digitize seventeenth- and eighteenth-century church records from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Maine.



To manage this ongoing work, the Congregational Library & Archives welcomed Dr. Tricia Peone as the new NEHH Project Director in November 2022. Dr. Peone came to the CLA from Historic New England, where she had most recently served as a Research Scholar on their Recovering New England's Voices project. Dr. Peone's scholarship focuses on early modern magic and witchcraft, and she shares the CLA's passion for expanding the stories told about early New England communities.

NEHH Transcribers Give Voice to the Past

It takes a team of dedicated volunteers, like Linda Gard, to transcribe hundreds of pages of NEHH documents each year. Here's why Linda believes this work is so important:



"My heart skips a beat or two when emails come with attached pages of an 18th century minister's diary, or account of an Ecclesiastical Council, or humble relation of faith. One document I transcribed during Covid detailed a pastor's anguished decision to have his children inoculated against smallpox. He wanted to set a good example but struggled to set aside his fear. Hidden Histories give witness to the cataclysmic earthquakes, political turmoil, and deadly storms of their time, as well as to the quiet confessions of daily joy and sorrow. These yellowed pages give voice to real people whose lives matter and are consequential to our own."

Interested in becoming a volunteer transcriber? Contact NEHH Transcription Director Helen Gelinias to find out more at hgelinas@14beacon.org.



Students and Scholars Return to 14 Beacon

As a vibrant intellectual hub for the study of Congregationalism, the Congregational Library & Archives is pleased to welcome scholars and students from across the country to work with our unique collections. Each year, graduate students from Boston-area universities join us to work as interns, and researchers travel to 14 Beacon to work on a diverse array of projects. Through these collaborations, CLA staff members share their knowledge and expertise with the next generation of library and archives professionals, and scholars expand and enrich our understanding of the Congregational story through their work. Read on to learn more about the students and scholars who joined us over the past year.



KAREN CLAUSEN-BROWN, SIMMONS UNIVERSITY worked as an intern with CLA Archivist Zachary Bodnar during the fall 2022 semester to process a recently acquired collection of records from the Hillsborough Centre Congregational Society in Hillsborough, New Hampshire. During her time with us, Karen constructed a finding aid for the collection and

led a webinar event on archival processing, which is now available on our YouTube channel. After she graduates, Karen plans to become an archivist or special collections librarian.



G MCFARLAND, SIMMONS UNIVERSITY worked with CLA Archivist Zachary Bodnar during the spring 2023 semester to process the records of Christ Church Evangelical in Boston, Massachusetts, and the Wollaston Congregational Church in Quincy, Massachusetts, creating finding aids for both collections as part of her work. G says that her internship experience

at 14 Beacon helped her, "as an aspiring community archivist, to better understand the relationship between records and congregation."



GRETA GAFFIN, BOSTON UNIVERSITY Masters of Divinity student sought out an internship with the CLA in the spring 2023 semester because of her deep interest in history and religion. Greta worked with CLA Librarian Sara Trotta to create an inventory of the CLA's Church History collection, which includes the library's local church history files, containing valuable and rare

histories from Congregational churches across the country.

2022-2023 CLA RESEARCH FELLOWS

AMERICAN CONGREGATIONAL ASSOCIATION-BOSTON ATHENAEUM FELLOWSHIP

Christopher Walton (PhD Candidate, Southern Methodist University), "At Home in War: Religion in the Connecticut River Valley during the American Revolution."

NEW ENGLAND REGIONAL FELLOWSHIP CONSORTIUM (NERFC) RESEARCH FELLOWS

Dr. Edward Andrews (Providence College), "Newport Gardner's Anthem: Composing Slavery and Freedom in Early America."

Dr. Barry Huff (Principia College), "Slavery, Suffrage, and Science: Mary Baker Eddy and Biblical Interpretation in Nineteenth-Century New England."

Kayleigh Whitman (PhD Candidate, Vanderbilt University), "Faith in the World Community: Sue Bailey Thurman and Black Women's World Reconstruction, 1920–1950."

CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY & ARCHIVES RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP AWARDEE

Rev. Dr. Kazimierz Bem (First Church, Marlborough, MA), "Anarchists, Communists, and Women: Congregational Missions to Polish Immigrants in Twentieth-Century America."

Donor Generosity Transforms Facilities and Grows Collections

2022 Open House Welcomes Friends and Supporters Back to 14 Beacon

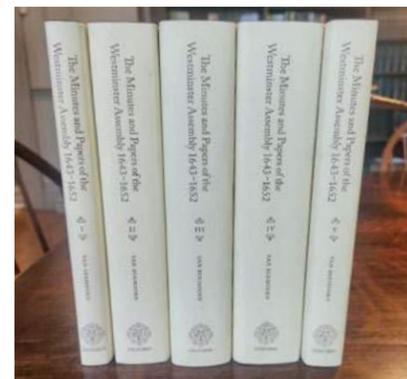
In November 2022, we hosted an Open House to welcome supporters back into our beautifully renovated space, visit with our staff, and engage with our collections once again. This was truly a celebration, and we are grateful to our donors who contributed generously to the capital campaign that funded the transformation of our administrative offices, archival processing spaces, and the reconditioning of our visitor service areas.

More than 80 people spent the evening enjoying a variety of experiences: from trying their hand at transcribing early American manuscript documents, to touring the stacks, learning about archival processing, viewing some of the library's treasures, and hearing from Executive Director Kyle Roberts and several members of our Board.



CLA Board Chair Rich Elliott (front, right) speaks during the Rev. T. Thomas Boates, Jr. Conference Room Dedication Ceremony during the November 2022 Open House.

A particular highlight was the dedication of the Rev. T. Thomas Boates, Jr. Conference Room. Serving as a Chair of the Congregational Library & Archives' Board of Directors from 1997–2005, Rev. T. Thomas Boates, Jr. was a dedicated supporter of the CLA and our mission. As part of the capital campaign to raise funds for the renovation, Ellen Boates Clark, Rev. Boates' daughter and a former Board member, made a donation to name our conference room after her father. At the Open House, Ellen, her husband, and her niece and nephew were in attendance to hear remarks from CLA Board Chair Rich Elliott, Board Member Rev. Dr. Nancy Taylor, and Executive Director Kyle Roberts, to honor Rev. Boates' achievements and commitment to preserving Congregational history.



The Minutes and Papers of the Westminster Assembly five-volume set, acquired with donor contributions in 2022.

Donors Raise Funds to Acquire the *Minutes and Papers of the Westminster Assembly*

As part of the Congregational Library & Archives' commemoration of the 375th anniversary of the Westminster Confession of Faith, a group of generous donors provided funds for the CLA to acquire *The Minutes and Papers of the Westminster Assembly, 1643-1653*, edited by Dr. Chad Van Dixhoorn, a critical, five-volume resource containing new insights into the thinking of the ministers and theologians who spent over a decade drafting these enduring statements of faith.

Thanks to these donors, researchers, ministers, and anyone interested in Congregational history who visits our reading room at 14 Beacon can now study our 1647 first edition copy of the Westminster Confession alongside the rich reference material provided in Van Dixhoorn's *Minutes and Papers*.

American Congregational Association Statement of Activities

From April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023

OPERATING REVENUES

Contributions and Grants	\$138,430
In-Kind Contributions	26,188
Endowment Assets appropriated for operations	1,561,596
Other Income	7,620
Net Assets released from restrictions	7,026
Total Revenue and other support	1,740,860

OPERATING EXPENDITURES

Occupancy	504,078
Employee Compensation and Related	421,240
Professional Fees	403,998
Depreciation	117,604
Program Costs	82,106
Program: Digitalization	19,738
Books, binding and periodicals	37,028
Interest	24,966
Insurance	40,038
Office	39,696
Total Expenditures	1,690,492

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES **50,368**

NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Investment gains (losses), net	(2,193,984)
Endowment Assets appropriated for operations	(1,561,596)
Total Non-Operating Activities	(3,755,580)

NET ASSETS, BEGINNING **31,197,959**

NET ASSETS, ENDING **27,492,747**

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS **(3,705,212)**

DONOR ROLL

FELLOWS (\$5,000 AND ABOVE)

First Church, UCC *Malden, MA*
Mount Vernon Congregational
Church, UCC *Boston, MA*
United Church Funds

SPONSORS (\$1,000 TO \$4,999)

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National Association of
Congregational Christian Churches
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SUSTAINERS (\$100 TO \$499)

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Jeffery S. Atwater
Susannah C. Baker
Barnstable Association, UCC
Joseph Bassett
Ross Beales, Jr.
Margaret L. Bendroth
Black River-St. Lawrence Association,
UCC
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Roger A. Burke
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Church of Christ *New Haven, CT*
Ashley Cleere
Columbia Congregational Church,
UCC *Columbia, CT*
Conservative Congregational
Christian Conference
Philip Currier
William M. Edrington
Richard W. Elliott
Norman and Barbara Erlendson
Elaine Fernald
Mary R. Ferris
First Church, UCC *Marlborough, MA*
First Congregational Church, UCC
Hanover, MA
First Congregational Church, UCC
Lebanon, NH
Members of the First Congregational
Church, UCC *Natick, MA*
First Congregational Church, UCC
Williamsburg, MA
First Congregational Society of
Gilmanton *Gilmanton, NH*
Brett L. Freiburger
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Laura Hamby
Hancock United Church of Christ,
UCC *Lexington, MA*
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Rebecca and Harold Jacques
Robert Kalayjian
Yvette S. Kirby

Thomas Knoles
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With new staff, board members, and leadership, the CLA focused on engaging friends, supporters, and donors in FY23. Revamping our annual fund to re-engage with donors, submitting grants to support capital and programmatic needs, and revising our communications strategy to ensure promotion of our programs began almost immediately upon Executive Director, Kyle Roberts' arrival in September 2022.

Working closely with the Board of Directors Development Committee, Roberts and Communications Manager, Lauren Lemley, saw their efforts result in a significant increase in fundraising totals over the past three years.

We are delighted to highlight the institutions and individuals who contributed to the Congregational Library & Archives over the past year and look forward to adding many new names to this list in the year to come!



Save the Date for These Fall & Winter Programs

Phillis Wheatley and the Black Congregational Calvinist Tradition: A Virtual Discussion with Steven Harris

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19TH
1-2 PM EST

Join us for an important discussion of Phillis Wheatley Peters as a theological thinker within the Black Calvinist tradition with Steven Harris, in honor of the 250th anniversary of the publication of *Wheatley Peters' Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*.

Wheatley Peters has rightfully garnered popular and academic interest for her work as a Black poet writing in eighteenth-century Boston. Curiously absent from consideration, however, has been exploration of Wheatley Peters' contribution to Black theology. Putting Wheatley Peters into conversation with other Black Congregationalists in the Calvinist tradition, such as Jupiter Hammon and Lemuel Haynes, reveals in important and interesting ways how she was thinking theologically to make sense of her identity.

Invisible Agents: Witchcraft in Congregational Church Records

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2023
1-2 PM EST

A haunted house, an unusual illness, the intervention of a minister—each could lead to an accusation of witchcraft in early New England. Today, people typically think of the Salem witch trials and little else when the history of witchcraft is mentioned. In fact, the belief in magic, witchcraft, ghosts, and other invisible agents of Satan continued to impact congregations beyond Salem well into the eighteenth century.

Join Tricia Peone, Project Director for New England's Hidden Histories at the CLA, as she explores two lesser-known cases of witchcraft that took place in Massachusetts and New Hampshire in the decades after Salem. Drawing from examples in Congregational church records, she will discuss how people determined whether or not witchcraft was the cause of their problems and how they dealt with this continuing threat to their communities.

Christmas with the Congregationalists: A Collections Tour with Kyle Roberts

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023
5-7 PM EST

Celebrate the season by joining us at 14 Beacon Street for an in-person collections viewing of materials related to Christmas with Executive Director Kyle Roberts.

Christmas was not always a widely celebrated holiday by Congregationalists. The Massachusetts Bay General Court banned the observance of the holiday in 1659 and ministers, such as Cotton Mather, spoke out against yuletide reveling. Congregational practices started to look more familiar by the nineteenth century, as congregations put on Christmas plays and publishing houses, like the Pilgrim Press, printed holiday gift books featuring loveable characters such as Winky the Christmas Cat.

See these holiday-themed treasures from the collections, share your own stories about how Congregationalists celebrate Christmas, and get into the holiday spirit.