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Medway, Mass. First Church of Christ records, 1730-1876. RG0927

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English

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Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street

Suite 200

Boston, MA 02108

info@14beacon.org

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

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	First Church of Christ (Medway, Mass.)
Title:	Medway, Mass. First Church of Christ records, 1730-1876.
ID:	RG0927
Date [inclusive]:	1730-1876
Physical Description:	0.22 Cubic Feet (1 box)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	Originally named Boggastow in Nipmuck Territory, then part of Medfield, Medway was settled in 1657 when an increasing number of colonists settled the land west of the Charles River. Medway was incorporated on October 25, 1713 and the decision to immediately build its own church was made at town meeting on November 23, 1713. The Church of Christ, later known as First Church of Christ, was organized on October 7, 1714. The section known as East Medway separated in 1885 to form the town of Millis; First Church of Christ Medway is physically located in modern day Millis, Massachusetts. This collection contains the early records of the church, including meeting minutes, sermons, disciplinary records, and ecclesiastical council proceedings.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Medway, Mass. First Church of Christ records, 1730-1876, RG0927. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Note

Originally named Boggastow in Nipmuck Territory, then part of Medfield, Medway was settled in 1657 when an increasing number of colonists settled the land west of the Charles River. The settlement grew enough that by 1712 the Massachusetts General Court was petitioned to create a separate town; Medway

was incorporated on October 25, 1713 and the decision to immediately build its own church was made at town meeting on November 23, 1713.

Until the church's construction was finished, services were held by Reverend David Deming at Peter Adams's house. The Church of Christ, later known as First Church of Christ, was organized on October 7, 1714. A subscription, led by Jonathan Plimpton, raised a noon house in 1730. In 1749 the first meetinghouse burned. In 1748 Medway divided into eastern and western precincts with First Church of Christ in the eastern precinct and Second Church organizing in 1750 in the western precinct. A large undevelopable tract of land known as The Black Swamp divided the two. The section known as East Medway separated in 1885 to form the town of Millis; First Church of Christ Medway is physically located in modern day Millis, Massachusetts.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains the records of the First Church of Christ formerly in Medway, Massachusetts, though the earliest records are no longer extant. This collection contains the early records of the church, including meeting minutes, sermons, a relation, disciplinary records, ministerial wages, and ecclesiastical council proceedings.

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Arrangement

This collection has been arranged by material type.

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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.

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Acquisition Information

No acquisition information is available for this collection.

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

Originally processed by Cristina Prochilo, September, 2015 using DACS Second Edition. Additional processing by Zachary Bodnar, June 2018.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Church discipline.
- Church records and registers.
- Covenants (Church polity).
- Excommunication.

- Sermons, American -- Early works to 1800.
- First Church of Christ (Medway, Mass.)
- Medway (Mass.) -- Church history.

Technical Requirements

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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Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Sermons, 1766-1781	box 1	folder 1

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

Sermons, Job: 21-27 and Timothy: 2.1, were written in multiple hands and delivered on a variety of dates and locations.

Church records, 1730-1796	box 1	folder 2
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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

These records contain meeting house expenses (including a subscription for the construction of a noon house meet on the Sabbath), the confession of faith of James Peniman, correspondence, and records discussing ministerial salary.

Disciplinary cases, 1743-1808

Digital Copies:

box 1

folder 3

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

These records are about disciplinary cases in Medway during this period. During the colonial period, the local church often functioned as the legal authority in matters of morality. Punishment in such cases usually consisted of censure — a temporary restriction from attending services and participating in church business — until the guilty party made a formal confession or request for forgiveness. Of particular notes is the case of David Pond of Wrentham who struck a pitch, created a disturbance was excommunicated from his church, and requested admission to First Church in Medway.

Church manuscript records, 1876

box 1

volume 1

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

Volume transcribed in 1876 from earlier records, approximately 1772. The volume contains the Articles of Covenant and numerous empty pages.