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Weymouth, Mass. Old South Church records, 1723-1905. RG5273

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English

DACS2 - 2013

Congregational Library & Archives

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Summary Information

Repository:	Congregational Library & Archives
Creator:	Old South Union Church (Weymouth, Mass.)
Creator:	Second Church (Weymouth, Mass.)
Title:	Weymouth, Mass. Old South Church records, 1723-1905.
ID:	RG5273
Date [inclusive]:	1723-1905
Physical Description:	0.72 Cubic Feet (3 boxes)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Second Church in Weymouth, also known as the South Church, was gathered in 1723 with James Bayley ordained as the first minister. The first meeting house was constructed in 1722 and the second in 1785. The ordination of a Universalist minister in 1834 resulted in a rift in the church membership with the orthodox members eventually forming the Union Church in 1842. The third meeting house was constructed in 1854. In 1892 the Second Church was incorporated as the Old South Church in Weymouth. In 1918, the Old South Church and Union Church merged to form the Old South Union Church. This collection includes meeting minutes, committee reports, vital records, financial records, and ministerial records.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Weymouth, Mass. Old South Church records, 1723-1905, RG5273. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

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Historical Note

With the resignation of Rev. Peter Thatcher, pastor of the First Church in Weymouth, in 1718, the residents of South Weymouth decided to create a new church closer to their community as the travel to North Weymouth was difficult to impossible depending on the season. In 1722, the South Weymouth community built the first meeting house and in 1723 the Second Church, also known as the South

Church, was gathered following a successful petition to the General Court of Massachusetts. Reverend James Bayley was ordained as the first minister of the Second Church. The second meeting house was constructed in 1785 and in 1788 a silver bell for the church was procured and placed in the belfry. In 1819, a Sunday school was organized in part by the efforts of Rev. William Tyler.

Following the dismissal of Rev. Charles Warren in 1834, a parish committee was formed to search for a new minister. This committee chose Rev. Sylvanus Cobb, a Universalist minister, and the result was an almost immediate split in the church, with the orthodox majority leaving. In 1838, Rev. Wales Lewis was ordained as a compromise minister; however there was no major reconciliation between the two parts of the parish. In 1842 the orthodox members formed as the Union Church, making the split permanent.

In 1854 the third and final meeting house was constructed. A Holbrook organ was installed into the church in 1858. This was later replaced by a Hastings organ in 1903. In 1865, as the story goes, the silver bell cracked while being tolled for the death of Abraham Lincoln. The ball was recast as a new bell shortly there-after. Between 1871 and 1872, the Union Church built a new church building almost directly across the street from the Second Church. In 1873 a vestry was added to the church building. On May 2, 1892, the Second Church was incorporated as the Old South Church of Weymouth.

After years of efforts from members of both churches, the Old South Church and Union Church merged and became the Old South Union Church on November 18, 1918. The Union Church building became the Parish House. The building was torn down in 1963 and the space converted into a parking lot. In 1948, the Old South Union Church voted to become a member of the United Church of Christ, and has remained a part of that denomination since. In 1957, the third meeting house underwent extensive renovations which greatly expanded the space available within the church. The church building was rededicated in 1963.

The Old South Union Church in Weymouth continues to serve the South Weymouth community today.

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Scope and Contents

The records within this collection document the administrative history of the church and the vital records of its members. This collection includes meeting minutes, committee reports, baptismal records, marriage records, membership lists, financial records, and ministerial records.

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Arrangement

This collection has been arranged by topic, first, and then by chronological order by the first date.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Boston, MA 02108

info@14beacon.org

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

Restrictions on Access

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

Restrictions on Use

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Acquisition Information

Permanently loaned to the Congregational Library & Archives, 2014 and 2015, by the Old South Union Church in Weymouth; received in two batches: 2014-120 and 2015-2.

Accruals

Additional accruals are expected for this collection in the form of full-text transcription. There is no anticipated date for this accrual.

Custodial History

The Church records, 1723-1818, the Parish records, 1723-1811, and the Parish records, 1812-1868 were rebound and repaired by the Northeast Document Conservation Center in 1977.

Processing Information

Processed by Zachary Bodnar, September 2018, using DACS Second Edition.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Baptismal records.
- Church discipline.
- Church finance.
- Church membership.
- Church records and registers -- Massachusetts -- Weymouth.
- Deacons -- Congregational churches.
- Installation (clergy).
- Marriage records.
- New England's Hidden Histories.
- Ordination.
- Pews and pew rights.
- Old South Church (Weymouth, Mass.)
- Old South Union Church (Weymouth, Mass.)
- Second Church (Weymouth, Mass.)
- Union Church (Weymouth, Mass.)
- Weymouth (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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Bibliography

Old South Union Congregational Church: 1723-1948. Old South Union Church: Weymouth, 1948. 17.11.1 W54.78 OldSUC

Robinson, Myrtle E. & Kevitt, Chester B. Ed. *Two-Hundred-Fiftieth Anniversary: Old South Union Church.* Old South Union Church: Weymouth, 1973. 17.11.1 W54.78 OldSUC

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Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Instances	
Church records, 1723-1818	box 2	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

This volume of church records includes the original covenant and first signers, records of choices for deacon, baptismal records, communion records, marriage records, membership lists, records of dismissal, meeting minutes, and records of votes.

Church records, 1818-1886	box 1	volume 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

This volume of church records includes a membership list from 1819, records of the ordination of Rev. William Tyler, records of admittance and dismissal, baptismal records,

meeting minutes, records of censure, records relating to the choice of deacons, ordination records, and council minutes.

Parish records, 1723-1811

box 1

volume 3

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

This volume of parish records includes meeting minutes, including records related to ministerial pay, and committee reports.

Parish records, 1812-1868

box 1

volume 4

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

This volume of parish records contains warrants for meetings, meeting minutes, committee reports, including a report of the building committee, pew rental charges and records of pew sales, membership certificates, and membership lists.

Committee report, 1773

box 2

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

This is a report of a committee regarding the building of a school house.

Separated Materials:

Separated Materials

This report was separated from the Parish records, 1723-1811.

Judge's report, 1905

box 2

folder 2

Scope and Contents

This report from a judge indicates that the signature of James Beal on a deed was authentic.

Separated Materials:

Separated Materials

This report was separated from the Parish records, 1723-1811.

Minister's history, undated	box 2	folder 3
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Separated Materials:

Separated Materials

This note was removed from the Parish records, 1723-1811.

Financial records, 1774-1826	box 1	volume 1
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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

This account book contains extensive records on the expenditures and income of the church.

Financial records, 1826-1873	box 3
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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

This account book contains detailed financial records related to the expenditures of the church and its various sources of income. The account book provides great details on who was paid and for what services. The book provides further details related to donations and various subscription drives.

Financial fragment, undated	box 2	folder 4
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Separated Materials:

Separated Materials

This fragment was removed from the Parish records,
1812-1868.