Brockton, Mass. Porter Congregational Church, 1800-1979. RG5395

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on March 18, 2019.

English
DACS2 - 2013

Congregational Library & Archives
14 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108
info@14beacon.org
URL: http://www.CongregationalLibrary.org
Table of Contents

Summary Information ......................................................................................................................................... 3
Historical Note ........................................................................................................................................... 4
Scope and Contents ................................................................................................................................... 4
Arrangement ............................................................................................................................................... 5
Administrative Information ........................................................................................................................ 5
Related Materials ....................................................................................................................................... 6
Controlled Access Headings ...................................................................................................................... 6
Bibliography ............................................................................................................................................... 7
Collection Inventory ............................................................................................................................... 7
  Church and society records ..................................................................................................................... 7
  Financial and building records .............................................................................................................. 8
  Church committee and group records ................................................................................................. 9
  Ministerial records and church services ............................................................................................. 10
Summary Information

Repository: Congregational Library & Archives
Creator: Porter Congregational Church (Montello, Brockton, Mass.)
ID: RG5395
Date [inclusive]: 1800-1979
Physical Description: 2.01 Cubic Feet (4 boxes)
Language of the Material: English
Abstract: The Porter Evangelical Church in North Bridgewater, later the Porter Congregational Church in Brockton, was established in 1850 by members who left the First Parish Congregational Church over ecclesiastical differences. The church purchased a building just north of the First Parish Congregational Church in 1851 and the building was further renovated in 1883, 1925, and 1950. The Wendell Avenue Church and Waldo Congregational Church were both formed out of area missions administered by the Porter Church. In 1980, the Porter Congregational Church merged with the First Parish Congregational Church, South Congregational Church, and Waldo Congregational Church to form the Christ Congregational Church in Brockton.

This collection contains the administrative, financial, historical, and ministerial records of the Porter Congregational Church, as well as the records of many church groups. Included in the collection are vital membership records, church and society records, committee and group records, and correspondence.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Brockton, Mass. Porter Congregational Church, 1800-1979, RG5395. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

^ Return to Table of Contents
During the 1840s, Rev. Paul Couch, minister at the First Parish Congregational Church in North Bridgewater, began to liberalize some of the more traditional teachings and traditions of the church. In response, some members of the church called for Rev. Couch to resign. Over the course of two years between 1948 and 1950, members of the liberal and orthodox wings of the church debated over Rev. Couche's position. Ultimately Rev. Couch did not resign and his continued service was maintained by the church. In response, approximately 70 names of persons interested in forming a new church were collected on February 12, 1850. An ecclesiastical council was called for March 6 and from that meeting the Porter Evangelical Church was formally gathered. John F. Norton was installed as the first minister of the church and stayed for a year. In 1852, Charles L. Mills was installed as pastor.

The newly formed congregation initially met at Tyler Cobb's Hall; their first meeting was held on March 10, 1850. In order to purchase land for a church, the Porter Society was formed on March 20, 1850. In 1851 the society purchased and renovated an old building on Main Street just north of the First Parish Congregational Church. In 1869 the top of the church spire was destroyed during a wind storm. The steeple was repaired in 1883 while the church itself underwent a major renovation and expansion project.

The Church Work Committee was formed in 1885. Its initial function was to assist the pastor and provide help to the Porter Church's parishioners. However that mission quickly expanded to include the management of Brockton area missions to provide sanctuary spaces for poor and disenfranchised citizens in the north-east of Brockton. Out of that mission both the Wendell Avenue Church, which began as the Wendell Avenue Chapel, and the Waldo Congregational Church, which began as the Montello Mission, were established in the mid-1890s.

At some point in the mid-1910s, the church name changed to The Porter Congregational Church. The church building was again renovated in 1925 as part of planned anniversary activities. The renovation also included the construction of a new steeple. The renovations also included the construction of a multi-purpose recreational building behind the church. There were further renovations completed in 1950 as part of the centennial celebrations. In 1980, the Porter Congregational Church merged with the First Parish Congregational Church, South Congregational Church, and Waldo Congregational Church to form the Christ Congregational Church in Brockton. The Porter Congregational Church building is now the headquarters for the Keys of The Kingdom Tabernacle of Prayer For All People, International.

This collection contains the administrative, financial, historical, and ministerial records of the Porter Congregational Church, as well as the records of many church groups. The records also provide valuable context for the creation of the church out of a doctrinal dispute with the First Parish Congregational Church.
Church. Included in the records are record books of the church and parish, vital member records, financial records, records relating to the construction of the church, records of various church groups and the Sunday school, orders of worship, and ministerial correspondence.

**Arrangement**

This collection has been arranged into the four series listed below. Within each series, materials have been arranged, primarily, in chronological order by start date, and secondarily, by topic.

**Series 1:** Church and society records, 1847-1979

**Series 2:** Financial and building records, 1800-1960

**Series 3:** Church committee and group records, 1850-1923

**Series 4:** Ministerial records and church services, 1800-1950

**Administrative Information**

**Publication Statement**

Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street
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**

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 Porter Congregational Church in 1980. Materials were separated out of RG0037 in March, 2019; Accession 2019-04.

Processing Information


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:


Controlled Access Headings

- Baptismal records.
- Church bells.
- Church finance.
- Church group work.
- Church libraries.
- Church membership.
• Church records and registers.
• Installation (clergy).
• Pews and pew rights.
• Sunday school music.
• Sunday schools -- Records.
• Women -- Societies and clubs.
• Brockton (Mass.) -- Church history.
• Porter Congregational Church (Montello, Brockton, Mass.)
• Montello (Brockton, Mass.) -- Church history.
• North Bridgewater (Mass.) -- Church history.
• Waldo Congregational Church (Brockton, Mass.)
• Wendell Avenue Congregational Church (Brockton, Mass.)

Bibliography

The book of the Chronicles of the Porter Congregational Church on the occasion of the One-Hundredth Anniversary 1950. Brockton: 1950. 17.11.1 B78.33 ChrCC

Collection Inventory

Church and society records, 1847-1979

Physical Description: 21 Files (8 volumes, 13 folders)

Scope and Contents

This series contains the administrative records of both the church and parish, as well as vital membership records. Included in the series are record books for the church and parish that contain meeting minutes, records of votes, and membership records. Also included in the series are the records of the standing committee, annual reports, historical sketches, clippings, and records related to the genesis of the Porter Congregational Church.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Separation documents, 1847-1848</td>
<td>box 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church and parish records, 1850-1860</td>
<td>box 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photostat church records, 1850-1861</td>
<td>box 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>folder 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church records, 1850-1886, 1850-1929</td>
<td>box 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>volume 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church records, 1886-1906</td>
<td>box 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>volume 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Society records, 1850-1875</td>
<td>box 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>volume 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Financial and building records, 1800-1960

Physical Description: 11 Files (1 volume, 10 folders)

Scope and Contents

This series contains records relating to the finances of the church as well as the records relating to construction and maintenance of the church building. Included in the series are financial ledgers, pew records, architectural drawings, and in-depth accounts of the money spent and collected to build the church building.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Memorial gifts, 1800-1950</td>
<td>box 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pew deeds, 1827-1851</td>
<td>box 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer's book, 1850-1877</td>
<td>box 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building committee records, 1850-1852</td>
<td>box 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction account book, 1850</td>
<td>box 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction bills and receipts, 1850-1851</td>
<td>box 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Account of contributions, 1850-1852</td>
<td>box 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of bell, 1850-1854</td>
<td>box 4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Return to Table of Contents*
### Church committee and group records, 1850-1923

**Physical Description:** 20 Files (13 volumes, 7 folders)

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains the operational records of church groups and non-governing church committees. Also included in the series are records relating to the church's Sunday school.

**Title/Description** | **Instances**
--- | ---
Society for Parish Affairs and Business, 1850 | box 3, folder 9
Porter Female Association records, 1850-1885 | box 1, volume 10
Ladies Benevolent Society records, 1886-1900 | box 1, volume 11
Woman's Missionary Society records, 1874-1880 | box 1, volume 18
Woman's Missionary Society records, 1880-1887 | box 1, volume 19
Woman's Missionary Society records, 1887-1891 | box 2, volume 1
Woman's Missionary Society records, 1891-1899 | box 2, volume 2
Woman's Missionary Society records, 1894-1904 | box 2, volume 3
Constitution and by-laws of the Sunday school, 1877 | box 4, folder 8
Young People's Society record book, 1878-1884 | box 1, volume 12
Young People's Society, 1882-1891 | box 3, folder 10
Adult Department certificate, 1884 | box 3, folder 11
Church Work Committee financial records, 1887-1892 | box 1, volume 13
Church Work Committee financial records, 1893-1915 | box 1, volume 14
Church work committee reports and receipts, 1893-1918 | box 3, folder 12
Records of the Church Work Committee, 1893-1904 | box 1, volume 15
Records of the Church Work Committee, 1904-1914 | box 1, volume 16
Records of the Church Work Committee, 1914-1923 | box 1, volume 17
Sunday school library catalogue, undated | box 3, folder 13
Lessons in Sacred Music for Sabbath Schools, undated | box 3, folder 14
Ministerial records and church services, 1800-1950

Physical Description: 11 Folders

Scope and Contents

This series contains records relating to ministers, the installation of ministers, and special church services. Included in the series are orders of worship for special anniversaries, dedications, and installations, correspondence with potential interim pastors, obituary poems, and a hymn manuscript.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leach family papers and photographs, 1800, 1804</td>
<td>box 3 folder 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obituary poems, 1831-1834, 1855</td>
<td>box 3 folder 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packard family legal and financial records, 1838-1842</td>
<td>box 4 folder 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministerial correspondence, 1850-1852</td>
<td>box 3 folder 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulpit supply, 1850-1854, 1868-1869</td>
<td>box 3 folder 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dedication services, 1851-1924</td>
<td>box 3 folder 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation services, 1852-1948</td>
<td>box 4 folder 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Howard correspondence, 1871-1872</td>
<td>box 3 folder 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orders of worship, 1874-1950</td>
<td>box 3 folder 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Z. T. Sullivan photograph, 1880</td>
<td>box 3 folder 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hymn composed by Dan Huntington, undated</td>
<td>box 3 folder 23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

^ Return to Table of Contents