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# **Massachusetts Convention of Congregational Ministers records, 1749-2008. RG0767**

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English

DACS2 - 2013

Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street

Boston, MA 02108

[info@14beacon.org](mailto:info@14beacon.org)

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

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## Table of Contents

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Summary Information .....	3
Historical Note .....	3
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	5
Administrative Information .....	5
Controlled Access Headings .....	6
Technical Requirements .....	6
Collection Inventory .....	7
Administrative records .....	7
Financial records .....	9

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Congregational Library & Archives
<b>Creator:</b>	Hale, Edward Everett, 1822-1909
<b>Creator:</b>	Massachusetts Convention of Congregational Ministers.
<b>Creator:</b>	Wintersteen, Prescott Browning
<b>Creator - trc:</b>	Worthley, Harold Field
<b>Title:</b>	Massachusetts Convention of Congregational Ministers records, 1749-2008.
<b>ID:</b>	RG0767
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1749-2008
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.57 Cubic Feet (2 boxes, 2 reels)
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Massachusetts Convention of Congregational Ministers began between 1692-94 when ministers in Massachusetts Bay met to consider contemporary issues facing their parishes. By the middle of the 20th-century, the convention became a center of religious dialogue for Massachusetts Congregational minister. The records contain meeting minutes, correspondence, reports, financial statements, photographs, and publications.

### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], in the Massachusetts Convention of Congregational Ministers records, 1749-2008, RG0767. The Congregational Library & Archives, Boston, MA.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Historical Note

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The following is an extract from *The History of the Massachusetts Convention of Congregational Ministers* drafted by Joseph Bassett, the scribe of the Convention, in 2008:

"The Massachusetts Convention of Congregational Ministers as we know it began between 1692-94 when ministers in Massachusetts Bay met to consider issues afoot in the land... By 1721 the Convention met to hear a Convention sermon in May followed by a dinner with members of the Great and General Court popularly known as The Feast of Moses and Aaron. In 1949 Professor George Williams ardently pled that the MCCM not fold its tent since it was the only Massachusetts clergy configuration not to split in the Unitarian controversy.

"Since 1973 a pattern of addressing topics theological, pastoral, and international [had] emerged in the Massachusetts Convention. The Spring Convention [was] held alternatively in the UUA (unitarian Universalist Association) and UCC (United Church of Christ) churches with the Convention preacher being from the side other than the host.

"In 1984 the Convention began to sponsor a two day Karl Barth Seminar of Pastors in mid or late June. In the morning a visiting teacher would lead discussion of forty or so pages in the Church Dogmatics. In the afternoon an ecumenical document would be received and discussed.

"Given the many solid sermons preached at the Convention, in 2005 the Convention Archivist began to hold a sermon seminar sometime following the spring Convention to study a past sermon in order to learn the shape of the ministry in Massachusetts for more than three centuries.

"The Convention [was] responsive for distributing the income from the Judah Monis Fund and a modest Convention fund for widows and orphans of Congregational Ministers.

"Programs and publicity [were] the responsibility of officers elected at the spring Convention; a Moderator, Scribe, Treasurer, two Directors from the UUA and two from the UCC with four additional advisers."

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection contains the administrative and financial records of the Massachusetts Convention of Congregational Ministers. Included within the collection are meeting minutes, records of votes, correspondence, memoranda, financial statements, invitations, clippings, speeches, photographs, and publications.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Arrangement

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This collection has been arranged into two series. Within each series, records have been largely arranged in chronological order, by start date, and additionally by topic.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Congregational Library & Archives

14 Beacon Street  
Boston, MA 02108

[info@14beacon.org](mailto:info@14beacon.org)

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

### Revision Description

Zachary Bodnar: Minor revisions to the arrangement, changed description of microfilm records, minor edits to the historical note, addition of one new subject heading. 2019-07-12

### 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.

Digital Reproductions are protected by copyright and/or related rights. You are free to use the Digital Reproductions in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. In addition, no permission is required from the Congregational Library & Archives for educational uses. For other uses, you need to obtain permission from the Congregational Library & Archives. For additional information regarding copyright, please consult the Congregational Library & Archives' [Digital Collections Copyright & Use](#) policy.

## Acquisition Information

Materials were donated to the Congregational Library & Archives by Harold Worthley in 1974. Additional material were added to the collection in 2012 through a donation by Joseph Bassett. Transcriptions added to the collection in 2018 by a donation from the Worthley estate. Reporting Committee survey added to the collection in November 2018 by a donation from LaVonne E. Pippin; Accession 2018-38.

## 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 Alice Dodds in 2004. Reprocessed by Jessica Steytler, January 2013, and additional materials added to the collection. Additional processing and new description by Zachary Bodnar, September 2018, using DACS Second Edition.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Associations, institutions, etc.
- Charities -- Massachusetts.
- Charity -- Religious aspects.
- Clergy conferences.
- Conference proceedings.
- Ministers -- United States -- Massachusetts.
- New England's Hidden Histories.
- Congregational Charitable Society
- Massachusetts Convention of Congregational Ministers.
- Minister's Club (Boston, Mass.)

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## Technical Requirements

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In order to access microfilm records, a microfilm reader is required.

In order to access Microsoft Word documents stored on compact disk, a computer with a disk drive and Microsoft Word 2003, or later version, is required.

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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Collection Inventory

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### Administrative records, 1749-2008

#### Scope and Contents

This series contains the administrative records of the Massachusetts Convention of Congregational Ministers. Included in the materials are meeting minutes, committee reports, official correspondence, addresses to the convention, and historical notes.

Title/Description	Instances
Convention records, 1749-1789	box 1      volume 1

#### Digital Copies:

#### Digital Copies

These convention 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 contains the earliest proceedings of the Convention. Included within the volume are meeting minutes, records of votes, and records of collection.

#### Restrictions on Access:

#### Restrictions on Access

Only the positive microfilm reel is available for patron use; the negative reel is restricted for preservation purposes.

#### Scope and Contents

This microfilm reel contains photographic representations of the earliest record book of convention records dating from 1749-1789.

#### Restrictions on Access:

## Restrictions on Access

Due to preservation concerns, the compact disk and the Microsoft Word documents are not available to library patrons. PDF copies of the transcriptions, however, are available upon request.

## Scope and Contents

These transcriptions, created by Hal Worthley, are electronic Microsoft Word documents stored on a compact disk. The transcriptions are for the five volumes of convention records dating from 1749-1928.

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Convention records, 1789-1815	box 1	volume 2
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### Digital Copies:

### Digital Copies

These convention 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 contains the proceedings of the Convention. Included within the volume are meeting minutes, records of votes, lists of members present, and records of collection.

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Convention records, 1816-1838	box 1	volume 3
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### Digital Copies:

### Digital Copies

These convention 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 contains the proceedings of the Convention. Included within the volume are meeting minutes, records of votes, rules for the Convention and records of collection.

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Convention records, 1839-1879	box 1	volume 4
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Convention records, 1880-1928	box 1	volume 5
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Convention records, 1948-1953	box 1	folder 1
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Convention records, 1954-1958	box 1	folder 2
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Convention records, 1959-1963	box 1	folder 3
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Convention records, 1964-1968	box 1	folder 4
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Convention records, 1969-1973	box 1	folder 5
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Convention records, 1974-1976	box 1	folder 6
Convention records, 1977-1980	box 1	folder 7
Convention records, 1981-1982	box 1	folder 8
Convention records, 1983	box 1	folder 9
Convention records, 1984	box 1	folder 10
Convention records, 1985	box 1	folder 11
Convention records, 1986	box 1	folder 12
Convention records, 1987	box 1	folder 13
Convention records, 1988-1989	box 1	folder 14
Convention records, 1990	box 1	folder 15
Convention records, 1991-1992	box 1	folder 16
Convention records, 1993	box 1	folder 17
Convention records, 1994	box 1	folder 18
Convention records, 1995	box 1	folder 19
Convention records, 1996	box 1	folder 20
Convention records, 1997	box 1	folder 21
Convention records, 1998	box 1	folder 22
Convention records, 1999-2000	box 1	folder 23
Convention records, 2001	box 1	folder 24
Convention records, 2002	box 1	folder 25
Convention records, 2003-2005	box 1	folder 26
Reporting Committee survey, 1843	box 1	folder 31
Addresses, 1891, 1972	box 1	folder 30
Barth seminar topic lists, 1985-2001	box 1	folder 27
History of the Massachusetts Convention of Congregational Ministers, 2008	box 1	folder 28
Committee report on fasting, undated	box 1	folder 29

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Financial records, 1800-1921

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains the financial records of the Massachusetts Convention of Congregational Ministers, and related financial records. Included in the materials are ledgers, records of gifts, and fund records.

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Congregational Charitable Society finances, 1800-1827	box 2	folder 1
Committee of Inquiry into the Congregation Charitable Society, 1830	box 2	folder 2
Ledger of payments, 1839-1903	box 2	volume 1
Ledger of payments, 1860-1881, 1921	box 2	volume 2
Ledger of payments, 1872-1906	box 2	volume 3
Gifts and bequests, 1874-1883, undated	box 2	folder 3
Fund raising brochures, 1890-1893	box 2	folder 4
Society for the Promotion of Theological Education finances, 1893-1902	box 2	folder 5
Unitarian fund, 1901	box 2	folder 6
Judah Monis fund, 1902-1904	box 2	folder 7
Massachusetts Convention of Congregational Ministers financial records, 1905-1918	box 2	folder 8
Evangelical Missionary Society ledger, 1909-1913	box 2	volume 4

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)