

## North Congregational Church (Haverhill, Mass.) Records, 1859-1979

### Collection Summary

<b>Reference Code:</b>	MRQ, US.
<b>Repository:</b>	Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
<b>Call Number:</b>	MSS 55 (formerly HC4 N86)
<b>Creator:</b>	North Congregational Church (Haverhill, Mass.)
<b>Title:</b>	North Congregational Church Records
<b>Dates:</b>	1859-1979
<b>Size:</b>	3.5 linear feet (12 boxes, 3 flat files)
<b>Language(s):</b>	Collection materials are in English.
<b>Abstract:</b>	The North Congregational Church (Haverhill, Mass.) records document the activities, memberships, financial transactions, pastoral activities, and social activities of the church in the 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> centuries.

### Organizational History

By 1859 the Centre Congregational Church in Haverhill, Massachusetts, had grown significantly and it was decided that a portion of the parish would leave to form a new church in the north of Haverhill. In 1859, 100 former members of the Centre Church formed the North Congregational Church. In 1891 some members of both the North and Centre Congregational Churches joined together to form the Union Congregational Church. The Union Congregational Church dissolved in 1932.

The first building of the North Congregational Church was completed in 1860. In the early twentieth-century, the building was renovated with Tiffany and La Farge memorial windows. In 1929, the North Parish Community Church was formed after the dissolution of the Rockingham Congregational Church in Plaistow, New Hampshire. In 1940, the Centre Congregational Church and North Congregational Church merged to form the First Congregational Church in Haverhill which occupied the North Church building. In 1963, the North Parish Community Church merged into the First Congregational Church; at the same time the First Congregational Church joined the United Church of Christ. In 2010 the 1860 church building was sold and the First Congregational Church was formally dissolved.

## Succession of Ministers (partial list):

Raymond H. Seeley, 1860-1885  
Nehemiah Boynton, 1884-1888  
James W. Bixler, 1889-1891  
George H. Reed, 1891-1898  
James S. Williamson, 1899-1911  
Arthur James Derbyshire, 1911-1917  
William Weston Patton, 1917-1922  
A. Karl Skinner, 1923-1932  
Howard P. Bozarth, 1933-1939  
Benjamin T. Marshal, 1939-1945  
Kendig B. Cully, 1946-1951  
Wesley U. Riedel, 1951-1958  
Dewey A. Peterson, 1959-

## Arrangement

Series 1. Administrative Records, 1859-1948, undated

Series 2. Financial Records, 1886-1954, undated

Series 3. Pastoral Activities, 1860-1959, undated

3.1 Pastors' Papers, 1860-1939, 1943, 1959, undated

3.2 Calendars, 1883-1938, 1954-1957

3.3 Membership, 1859-1939

3.4 Programs, 1879-1959

Series 4. Sunday School, 1869-1909

Series 5. Church Social Activities, 1867-1939, undated

Series 6. Other Material, 1910, 1953-1979, undated

## Scope and Content Note

The North Congregational Church (Haverhill, Mass.) records document the activities, memberships, financial transactions, pastoral activities, and social activities of the church in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The collection has been arranged into six series. Series one contains general administrative records, such as reports, a record book, printed copies of the Covenant, manual, directories, and lists of members. Series two contains annual reports, appeals to the congregants, treasurer's reports, statistics, a pew plan, and other financial records of the church. Series three contains pastors' papers, weekly calendars, membership information such as letters of dismissal and admissions, and programs. Series four consists of records relating to the Sunday School, including record books, programs, and attendance certificates. Series five contains records of the societies or clubs that were part of the church. Series six contains a diagram of the organ console, a guest book, and an application to the Massachusetts Historical Commission to get the church placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## Administrative Information

- Preferred Citation:** [Item Identification], North Congregational Church Records, MSS 55, Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
- Custodial History:** Material was acquired from creator.
- Acquisition Information:** Some church records were placed on deposit or donated by the church, date unknown. Some material was collected by the Haverhill Public Library. The following were gifts from the individuals listed: bound copies of weekly calendars dated 1895, 1899, 1903, 1904, 1905, and 1907 from Leonard W. Smith; a diagram of the church organ console from Mrs. Harris; numerous ephemera from Florence T. Blunt; North Church Young Ladies Sewing Society record book dated 1867-1880 from the estate of George Brooks; the organ recital poster dated 1910 from Hilda Hamks; the North Church Guild calendar for 1904 from Lula Eames; annual report for 1887 from Nellie M. Moore; small "brochure" from Mrs. Chesley T. Bixby; and Christmas and Easter programs from Katherine K. Chase.
- Processing Information:** Processed by Tamara Gaydos, 2021. Revised by Elizabeth Smith, 2024.
- Access Rights:** Collection is open for research.
- Phys. Access Restrictions:** None.
- Tech. Access Restrictions:** None.
- Copyright:** Copyright has not been assigned to the Haverhill Public Library. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Board of Trustees. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Haverhill Public Library as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the researcher.
- Related Collections:** Centre Congregational Church (Haverhill, Mass.) Records, MSS 47. North Parish Church Records, *Call Number*.
- Separated Material:** Some books and serials were separated from the collection and cataloged separately. More records of the North Congregational Church (Haverhill, Mass.) are located at the Congregational Library & Archives in Boston, Mass.
- Conservation Notes:** Photographs were sleeved to protect them. Newspaper clippings were photocopied onto archival quality paper. Paperclips and staples were removed.
- Subjects:** Account books

Bixler, James Wilson  
Boynton, Nehemiah, 1856-1933  
Bozarth, Howard P. (Howard Perry), 1894-  
Centre Congregational Church (Haverhill, Mass.)  
Christian union  
Church buildings  
Church bulletins  
Church finance  
Church history  
Church membership  
Church records and registers  
Church youth groups  
Clergy  
Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)  
Congregationalism  
Derbyshire, James Arthur, 1882-1943  
Haverhill (Mass.) -- Church history  
Marriage records  
Necrologies  
North Congregational Church (Haverhill, Mass.)  
Patton, William Weston, 1889-1959  
Pews and pew rights  
Receipts (Acknowledgments)  
Reed, George Harlow, 1858-  
Seeley, Raymond Hoyt, 1812-1885  
Sermons, American -- 20th century  
Skinner, Azro Karl, 1879-1933  
Sunday schools -- Records  
Williamson, James S., 1860-1932  
Women -- Societies and clubs  
Worship programs

## Collection Inventory

### Series 1: Administrative Records, 1859-1948, undated

This series contains general administrative records, such as reports, a record book, printed copies of the Covenant, manual, directories, and lists of members, arranged chronologically.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
<i>Order of Exercises at the Organization of the North Congregational Church in Haverhill, 1859</i>	1	1
<i>Order of Exercises at the Laying of the Cornerstone, 1859</i>	1	2
<i>Order of Exercises at the Dedication of the North Congregational Church, 1860</i>	1	3
<i>Confession of Faith, Covenant, Standing Rules, and Names of Members of the North Congregational Church, 1861, 1866, 1875</i>	1	4
<i>Manual, 1882</i>	1	5
Directory, 1885 [3 copies]	1	6
Directory, 1892, 1902, 1914 [2 copies each]	1	7
Record book, 1896-1916	9	
Membership lists, 1900-1956	1	8
Form of admission, 1910; Covenant, undated; <i>The Creed and The Confession of Faith</i> , undated	1	9
Standing Rules, 1912	1	10
Annual meeting reports, 1937, 1939	1	11
Centre Congregational Church records after merger with North Church, 1944-1948	1	12
"Organization of the North Congregational Church, 1859," undated	1	13
Plan of pews, undated [1859?]	FFC 5	Dwr 2

**Series 2: Financial Records, 1886-1954, undated**

This series contains annual reports, appeals to the congregants, treasurer's reports, statistics, a pew plan, and other financial records of the church arranged chronologically.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Annual reports, 1886-1887, 1894, 1899-1909	1	14
Appeals, 1913-1917, 1932, 1936	1	15
Treasurer's Report, 1921	1	16
"A Statistical Picture of North Church from 1911 to 1934," 1934	1	17
"Report of the Treasurer of the Trustees of the Ministerial Fund of the North Parish in Haverhill," 1949-1954	1	18

**Series 3: Pastoral Activities, 1860-1959, undated**

This series contains pastors' papers, weekly calendars, membership information such as letters of dismissal and admissions, and programs. It consists of four subseries: 3.1 Pastors' Papers; 3.2 Calendars; 3.3 Membership; and 3.4 Programs.

**Subseries 3.1: Pastors' Papers, 1860-1939, 1943, 1959, undated**

This subseries contains correspondence, installation programs, sermons, photographs, newspaper clippings, and other records of nine ministers who served in the church, arranged chronologically.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
<i>Minutes of the Essex North Conference of Churches, 1871;</i> <i>Order of Exercises at the Semi-Annual Meeting of Essex North Conference, 1886</i>	2	1
Letters to congregants, 1882, 1903-1918, 1935-1939, undated	2	2
"Brochures," undated [before 1885]	2	3
<i>Order of Morning Worship in the North Church, undated</i>	2	4
<b>Raymond Holt Seeley</b> , <i>Order of exercises at the installation, 1860; autograph, 1862; letter, 1874; news clippings/obituaries, 1885; genealogy, undated</i>	2	5
<b>Raymond Holt Seeley</b> , Handwritten sermons, undated	10	
<b>Raymond Holt Seeley</b> , Handwritten sermons, undated	2	6

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
<b>Nehemiah Boynton</b> , <i>Order of exercises at the installation</i> , undated [1884]; news clippings, 1893, 1897, 1919-1933	2	7
<b>James Wilson Bixler</b> , <i>Ordination and Installation</i> , 1889; news clippings, 1889-1891	2	8
<b>George Harlow Reed</b> , <i>Installation</i> , 1891; news clippings, 1891-1898, 1939; In Memoriam Mrs. George Harlow Reed, 1906; biography, undated	2	9
<b>James S. Williamson</b> , <i>Installation</i> , 1899; news clipping, 1932	2	10
<b>Arthur James Derbyshire</b> , record of search and acceptance, 1911; news clippings, 1911-1917, 1943	2	11
<b>William Weston Patton</b> , <i>Order of Service at the Installation</i> , 1917; news clippings, 1917-1938, 1959	2	12
<b>A. Karl Skinner</b> , <i>Installation</i> , 1924; Christmas letter, 1927; news clippings, 1928-1933; Memorial Service program, 1933; Christmas card, undated; photograph, undated	2	13
<b>Howard P. Bozarth</b> , <i>Order of Service at the Installation</i> , 1933; news clippings, 1933-1939; typed sermon, undated	2	14

### **Subseries 3.2: Calendars, 1883-1938, 1954-1957**

This subseries contains weekly calendars of church services and activities arranged chronologically.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Calendars, 1883, 1892-1894	2	15
Calendars [bound], 1895	2	16
Calendars, 1896-1898	2	17
Calendars [bound], 1899	2	18
Calendars, 1900-1902	2	19
Calendars [bound], 1903	2	20
Calendars [bound], 1904	3	1
Guild Quote of the Day calendar, 1904	3	2
Calendars [bound], 1905-1906	3	3
Calendars [bound], 1907	3	4
Calendars, 1908-1909	3	5
Calendars, 1910-1911	3	6
Calendars, 1912	3	7
Calendars, 1913	3	8

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Calendars, 1914	4	1
Calendars, 1915	4	2
Calendars, 1916	4	3
Calendars, 1917	4	4
Calendars, 1918	4	5
Calendars, 1919	4	6
Calendars, 1920	4	7
Calendars, 1921	4	8
Calendars, 1922	5	1
Calendars, 1923	5	2
Calendars, 1924	5	3
Calendars, 1925	5	4
Calendars, 1926	5	5
Calendars, 1927	5	6
Calendars, 1928	6	1
Calendars, 1929	6	2
Calendars, 1930-1938	6	3
First Congregational Church calendars, Sept. 1954- Summer 1955	5	7
First Congregational Church calendars, Sept. 1955- Summer 1956	7	1
First Congregational Church calendars, Sept. 1956- Summer 1957	7	2

**Subseries 3.3: Membership, 1859-1939**

This subseries contains an admission book, a receipt book recording congregants asking to be dismissed from the church so that they may join another congregation and a list of marriages, funerals, and infant baptisms. It has been arranged chronologically.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Admission book, 1859-1932	11	
Letter of dismissal receipt book, 1912-1916	7	3
Lists of marriages, funerals, and infant baptisms, 1927-1939	7	4

**Subseries 3.4: Programs, 1879-1959**

This subseries contains programs from services and special events, arranged chronologically.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
20 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary invitation and program, 1879	7	5
Vesper services programs, 1884, 1887, 1892-1902, 1931, undated	7	6
Christmas programs, 1887-1909	7	7
Easter programs, 1888-1910, 1921	7	8
Children's Day programs, 1893-1906	7	9
Ordination of Arthur Sumner Burrill, 1896	7	10
50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary invitation, programs, description, 1909	7	11
Organ recital poster and program, 1911	6	4
75 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary program, 1934	7	12
Centennial Banquet program, 1959	7	13

**Series 4: Sunday School, 1869-1909**

This series contains records relating to the Sunday School at the North Congregational Church. It includes record books, programs, and attendance certificates, arranged chronologically.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Superintendent record book, 1869-1870	7	14
Record book, 1877-1879	8	1
Attendance certificates, 1877-1883	8	2
Programs, 1877-1896	8	3
Attendance record book, 1906-1909	8	4

**Series 5: Church Social Activities, 1867-1939, undated**

This series contains records of the societies or clubs that were part of the church, arranged chronologically.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Young Ladies' Sewing Society record book, 1867-1880	8	5
Seeley Y.P.S.C.E., 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary program, 1892; tickets, 1892; information, 1894; ephemera, 1897	8	6

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, constitution, invitation, catalog of books, undated	8	7
Essex County Christian Endeavor Societies, programs, 1897, 1901	8	8
Men's League, <i>The Co-Worker</i> newsletter, 1897-1898 [multiple copies]	Flat file 2	
Guild, constitution, by-laws, programs, 1911-1939, undated	8	9
Men's Bible Class, announcements, invitations, 1911-1915, undated; Men's Club, invitations, 1935-1939	8	10
"North Church Outlook" newsletter, 1936-1937	8	11
Other event programs, 1860-1939, undated	8	12

**Series 6: Other Material, 1910, 1953-1979, undated**

This series contains a diagram of the organ console, a guest book, and an application to the Massachusetts Historical Commission to get the church placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Diagram of console of organ at North Church built under direction of the organist, Hayden B. Harris, 1910	Flat file 3	
First Church guest book, 1953-1979	12	
Application to the Massachusetts Historical Commission, including the history of the stained glass windows, undated [1983?]	8	13