

**Records of the Second Congregational Church,  
South Deerfield, Mass., 1818-2016  
PVMA Library**

**Scope and Content Note:**

The Second Parish church in the village of Bloody Brook, now known as South Deerfield, was founded in 1818 as the “Second Parish Congregational Church of Deerfield” after obtaining legislative approval. Since the 1780s, residents in the southern half of the town of Deerfield had been demanding an alternative to traveling north some 6 miles to worship in the village of Deerfield, or crossing the Connecticut River to the church in Sunderland, which many joined in 1808 after a theological rift in the First Parish Church.

A school house served as a meeting place before the construction of a church building in 1821. That building was moved to its present location on North Main St. in 1848. Internal family disputes within the congregation beginning in 1844 led to seven families leaving the church in 1848. They formed the Orthodox Congregational Church of South Deerfield, also known as the Monument Church, as the meetinghouse was erected just east of Bloody Brook monument. The two churches operated independently until 1865, when members of both congregations voted to re-unite. The newly formed Congregational Church of South Deerfield was enlarged to take the combined congregations. Later buildings, including a chapel across the street, a parish house for the minister, and additions to the main meetinghouse followed. The last service to be performed in the South Deerfield Congregational Church was held in January 2017, just shy of its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The Monument Church stood idle for several years, but was sold to the Catholic diocese in 1871 and came to serve a predominantly Irish congregation. The church was subsequently moved closer to the village in 1891, where it ultimately became the home of St. James Roman Catholic church. Saint James and the adjacent parish house were sold in 2008 and are now in private hands.

The church records encompass all aspects of the Church's functions. These include Sabbath school, ministry, council minutes, orders of worship, records of births and baptisms, annual reports, cultural events, youth groups, financial affairs, and membership records. It is important to keep in mind when utilizing the records that prior to 1891, before the church was incorporated as a legal entity under Massachusetts law, two entities were responsible for the church as a whole: the church as a functioning congregation was led by the minister, deacons, standing committee and various lesser committees. These offices were held by individuals who had been admitted to the church after making a formal profession of their faith. They ran the services, engaged in missionary work, established rules and carried out church discipline. Many residents of South Deerfield attended the Congregational Church, but were not formal members. All financial matters were handled by a separate Congregational Parish Society that was responsible for maintaining the physical structures – meetinghouse, horse sheds, parsonage, etc. The Parish Society paid the minister, custodian, bell ringer, repaired the facilities and approved all other expenditures. The records of both the church and the parish

society were a gift of the Legacy Committee of the Congregational Church of South Deerfield in December 2016.

**Container List:**

Vol. I. "Records of the 2<sup>d</sup> Congregational Church in Deerfield, organized June 30, 1818. Vol. I." Continue until March 1828.

Vol. II. "Records of the Second Congregational Church, in the Town of Deerfield, (Ma) Commencing with the ordination of Rev. Tertius S. Clarke, October 3d, 1827. Vol. II." Continues until Oct. 17, 1848. Appendix entry (single page) by M. K. Cross, Pastor, December 1850.

Vol. III. "Records of the First Congregational Church in South Deerfield. Vol. III. Commencing Sept. 1850, with the installation of Rev. M. K. Cross." Continues to Sept. 1865.

Vol. IV. "Volume IV. Records of the Congregational Church of South Deerfield. Commencing Sept. 1865." Continues to annual meeting, January 1891.

Vol. V. Records of the Congregational Church of South Deerfield – Commencing with a meeting to incorporate, May 14, 1891 – October 27, 1910

Vol. VI. Records of the Congregational Church of South Deerfield – Commencing with the annual meeting, December 29, 1910 – December 31, 1925

Vol. VII. Records of the Congregational Church of South Deerfield, January 1926 – January 2, 1949

Vol. VIII. Minutes of the Church Council, June 24, 1954 – November 22, 1966

Vol. IX. Minutes of the Church Council – Commencing January 30, 1968 – March 13, 1979

"Vol. I, Records of the Congregational Parish of S.D., Sept. 1865-Feb. 1890"

"Second Congregational Parish Book. No. 2nd. Record of Parish Deeds, 1821" (bound vol.)

"Records of Parish Deeds, Pews, 1848-1856" (bound vol.)

"Parish Records, Vol. II, April 1870-May 1891" (bound vol.)

"Board of Deacons Chairperson's Handbook"

"Getting to Know You," columns, from *The Lamplighter*, 1995-2004, with index

"Our Church Guests," register, 1958-1972

Sabbath School library records, 1887-1902. In *Peloubet's Complete Sunday School Library Register*

"Demographic Study for the Congregational Church of South Deerfield, Mass., June 2001"

**Box 1: Records of the Orthodox Congregational Society (Monument Church), S. Deerfield:**

Fol. 1: Deed and correspondence, 1866; 1879

Record book of the Orthodox Congregational Society, S. Deerfield, Oct. 1848-March 1864 (1 bound vol.)

"Records of the Monument Church," 1848-1860 with later lists of members, funerals, baptisms, etc.; 1861-62 (2 bound vols.)

**Records of the Second Congregational Church, S. Deerfield:**

Fol. 1: Warrants and votes, 1827

Fol. 2: Petitions, proposals, 1817; undated

Fol. 3: Financial records, 1829-1832 and undated

Fol. 4: Building committee account book, 1848; land deed, 1856

Fol. 5: Sunday school, 1890; undated

Fol. 6: Women's Missionary Society meeting book, 1936-1941

Fol. 7: Miscellaneous, 1877-1979

Record book of the Sabbath School Association, Oct. 1867-Dec. 1881 (1 bound vol.)

**Box 2: Fol. 1: Adult Study**

Fol. 2: Annual meetings - announcements, minutes, etc.

Fol. 3: Board of Deacons

Fol. 4: Building Committee

Fol. 5: Bylaws

Fol. 6: Church attendance

Fol. 7: Church closure

Fol. 8: Church Council

Fol. 9: Church Council meeting highlights

Fol. 11: Church facilities, use of

Fol. 12: Church history

Fol. 12: Church school

Fol. 13: Church yearbook reports

Fol. 14: Committees (misc.)

Fol. 15: Conferences, workshops, events

Fol. 16: Confirmation

Fol. 17: Correspondence, 1949-1985

Fol. 18: Correspondence, 1986-2007 and undated

**Box 3: Fol. 1: Deacons meetings**

Fol. 2: Death & dying

Fol. 3: Finances

Fol. 4: Franklin Assoc., Mass. Conference of Churches

Fol. 5: Franklin Co., Senior Services lawsuit

Fol. 6: Fund raising

Fol. 7: General Council of Congregational Christian Churches

Fol. 8: "Kitchen Theology"

Fol. 9: Ladies Aid Society

Fol. 10: Mass. Conference Worship Commission

Fol. 11: Membership

Fol. 12: Memorial Funds/Gifts, A-F

**Box 4:** Fol. 1: Memorial Funds/Gifts, S-W

Fol. 2: Memorial Funds/Gifts, G-J

Fol. 3: Memorial Funds/Gifts, K-R

Fol. 4: Nominating Committee

Fol. 6: One hundred fiftieth anniversary

Fol. 7: Ordination sermons

Fol. 8: Organ

Fol. 9: Pastoral Counseling Center

Fol. 10: Pastoral search/compensation review

Fol. 11: Pastors (reports, etc.)

Fol. 12: Pew Bibles

Fol. 13: Physical plant

Fol. 14: Safe Church policy

Fol. 15: Senior Church School

Fol. 16: Senior Pilgrim Fellowship

**Box 5:** Fol. 1: Special Meetings, announcements/minutes

Fol. 2: Tandem Club

Fol. 3: Trustee meeting, 1995

Fol. 4: Trustee minutes/reports

Fol. 5: Vacation Bible School

Fol. 6: Wedding certificates

Fol. 7: Youth forum

Fol. 8: Youth Rally, 1974-1975

Treasurer's ledger, 1961-1964 (bound vol.)

"New Beginnings Assessment" (2013) (spiral-bound vol.)

"Parish Self-Appraisal, June 25, 1987"

Parish Self-Appraisal binder

**Box 6:** Plays, 1993-2013, performed by Fellowship Players, Uncommon Players. Programs, publicity materials, photographs, correspondence, financial statements, etc.

**Box 7:** Church Council reports, 1954-1966 (bound vol.)

Church Council reports, 1968-1979 (bound vol.)

Minutes of Church Council Meetings, 1979-2007; 2013; 2015- 2016

Annual reports, 1977-2015

Church *Directory*, 1990; 2004; 2006

"A Lenten Journey," 2004; 2005; 2008-2013; 2016

"The Covenant" (lesson booklet)

**Box 8:** "Record Book of Ladies Serving Society Congl. Church South Deerfield Mass.," Oct. 1904-Oct. 1915

"Record book of the Ladies Aid Society Congl. Church South Deerfield Massachusetts," Oct. 1921-May 1930

Ladies Aid Society, reports 1934-1941 (bound vol.)

Ladies Aid Society, reports 1941-1952 (bound vol.)

Ladies Aid Society, reports 1952-1960 (bound vol.)

Ladies Aid Society, reports, 1967-1972 (bound vol.)  
Ladies Aid Society, Treasurer's Book, 1947-1975 (bound vol.)

**Box 9:** Records of the In-Between Club

Vol. 1, May 1956-April 1961  
Vol. 2, May 1961-Feb. 1966  
Vol. 3, March 1967-March 1982  
Vol. 4, April 1982-May 1988  
Misc. folder

Orders of Worship, 1968-1979

Sabbath School record books, 1867-1881

Sabbath School record books, 1882-1886. Kept in *Hoyt's Improved Sunday School Record Book*

Sabbath School record books, 1887-1889; 1893; 1896. Kept in *Peloubet's Complete Sunday School Record Book*

Sabbath School record book, 1896. Kept in *Pilgrim Sunday School Record Book*

Sabbath School record books, 1890; 1892; 1893; 1897-1909; 1913- 1916. Kept in *Southworth's Complete Sunday School Record Book*

Sabbath School record book, 1916

*The United Church Lamplighter* (newsletter), Jan., Feb., Dec., 1969; March-May, 1970; April-June, 1971

*Lamplighter* (newsletter), 1987-2016

Floor plans: Additions and Alterations to South Deerfield Congregational Church, Nov. 2003; Dec. 2007