



Our History

The Unitarian Church of Quincy was formally organized in May 1839, following a sermon by the Reverend William Greenleaf Eliot, minister in Saint Louis, founder of Washington University and the grandfather of poet T.S. Eliot.

The church housed the first bookstore in Quincy, the Eliot Book Shop, later continued under private ownership. Each year the church holds a spring plant sale. This project is both an expression of ecological concern and a service to the community for it is anticipated and attended by large numbers of area residents. Church members began a food co-op, which still functions in our basement, and with which the church is identified, although it is no longer strictly a church project. The church has always been a place for community concerns and a meeting-ground of ideas.

Our Building

Our building at 16th and Hampshire is the fourth home for the Quincy Unitarians. It was dedicated on February 5, 1914. It is stone and timber, in the Arts and Crafts Style. The woodwork on the main floor is oak and the organ case is butternut.

The organ was built by the Steere Organ Company of Springfield, MA, a prestigious company which built organs for many eastern churches. It is a tracker-action organ: there is a direct mechanical connection between the organ keys and the pipes themselves. Originally the wind was supplied by a hand-pumped blower, but now an electric motor is used.

The chancel window, the Founders Window, is a representation of Indian Mounds Park here in Quincy, illustrating that we can find spirituality in the ordinary surroundings of our daily lives. The windows in the Heritage Room show William Penn's treaty with the Delaware Indians at Shackamaxon in 1682, and the Mayflower Compact being signed by the Pilgrims. The window at the back of the sanctuary depicts an artist's rendition of the Road to Jerusalem.

The oval plaque on the front door indicates that the church is listed with the local architectural preservation society, Quincy Preserves!