

The windows are all painted glass rather than stained glass. The south window, at the rear of the meeting room, is an artist's rendition of the road to Jerusalem. The north window, the chancel window, is the Founders Window which depicts a scene from Indian Mounds Park. The Heritage Room windows show the signing of the Mayflower Compact and William Penn's treaty with the Delawares. The organ is the oldest organ ~~still in its original form~~ in Quincy. It was built by Steere Organ Company of Springfield, MA in 1875. The organ is a tracker action design, and the only minor modification through the years occurred when the hand pump motor was replaced by an electric motor.

Harvey Chatten

Harvey Chatten was a dominant architect in Quincy at the turn of the century. He apprenticed under Robert Bunce in Quincy and took over the practice when Bunce moved to Chicago in the early 1880s. Chatten officially obtained his license through the design of City Hall (1887) and Quincy High School (1891) though the majority of his residential projects were already constructed by this time. The Unitarian Church is one of the very few projects he undertook in the last twenty years of his life.

Historical Significance - Unitarian Church heritage

In the 14th century, the Unitarians split from the church body due to the belief in one God and the rejection of the doctrine of the Trinity. They were officially organized in America in 1825. Throughout their history, they have been associated with the Congregational Church in one aspect or another. On May 31, 1839, after four years of meeting with interested people in Quincy, W.G. Eliot delivered the first sermon of official Second Congregational Church in Quincy. They constructed their first church on Maine the following year, distinguishing them as one of Quincy's oldest church bodies and the third oldest Unitarian group in Illinois. As the church grew, they moved to their second meeting house on Jersey in 1850 and to their elaborate third meeting house further out on Maine in 1858. At the time of its completion, this third meeting house was the largest Protestant church building in Quincy. A Sunday school was added in 1868. Throughout these changes of location, the name also changed to the Second Congregational Unitarian Church then shortened to the Unitarian Church. A number of these early ministers were recognized nationally for their intellectual and moral leadership.

In 1911, they determined the third meeting house did not meet their needs any longer. They hired Harvey Chatten to remodel this building, but a department store owner made them an offer they could not refuse. The sale of the church and furnishings amounted to \$31,250 which paid for the new lot, building, furnishings, and a new parsonage and still left \$2000 in their account. The organ moved to the new site with the congregation, and on February 5, 1914, the fourth meeting house, the current Unitarian Church, was dedicated. The members of this church were prominent leaders within the city of Quincy, working to improve the area for everyone. As a noncreedal religion, they look for the commonalities between people and the other religions. Each person is allowed the freedom to seek the knowledge and inspiration they need to grow as an individual. The Unitarians call and ordain their own ministers according to their potential contribution to the group as a whole. Since 1961, they have been combined with the Universalist Church, a strong believer that all souls are saved. These attitudes led to the opening of their doors to other small religious groups within the community and their strong contribution to the improvement of Quincy through humanitarian and ecological efforts.

William Greenleaf Eliot

Rev. W.G. Eliot was a dominant figure in the history of the Unitarian Church and an advocate for other liberal church movements. He officially served as a pastor in St. Louis from 1834-1872. Eliot traveled around the Midwest throughout this period to help form Unitarian congregations. He arrived in Quincy