

ALL: Drawn together in the mystery of God and led by Christ,

One: In 1843 a group of eighteen people decided to form a new church "according to Congregational usage and order" in the Railway Village of Milton and Quincy.

ALL: Drawn together in the mystery of God and led by Christ,

One: Those eighteen followers of Jesus met in Josiah Babcock's Hall and named themselves the Second Evangelical Congregational Church of Milton.

ALL: Drawn together in the mystery of God and led by Christ,

One: That company of saints met in the "Stone Church" for a year, went back to Babcock's Hall, and then built the building they inhabited for over 100 years on land that is now 577 Adams Street in Milton.

ALL: Growing in the Spirit, engaging faith, and embracing change,

One: For seven years, from 1865 to 1872, the Second Evangelical Congregational Church of Milton and the First Evangelical Congregational Church of Milton were both served by the same pastor.

ALL: Growing in the Spirit, engaging faith, and embracing change,

One: In 1898 this band of around fifty believers was "incorporated" and renamed themselves East Congregational Church of Milton.

ALL: Growing in the Spirit, engaging faith, and embracing change,

One: In the next half century their town's and church's populations grew exponentially, pastors were called and ministered alongside them, they added heat and a vestry to their current building, and, in 1951, with great joy, they moved into a beautiful new church at 610 Adams Street.

ALL: Seeking justice for all,

One: The congregation called the first of its seven female pastors in 1980.

ALL: Seeking justice for all,

One: The congregation proclaimed its welcome of people of all gender identities and sexual orientations as an Open and Affirming Congregation in 2004.

ALL: Seeking justice for all,

One: The congregation called the first of its two out gay or lesbian pastors in 2012.

ALL: Building and Serving Community in Christ's Name,

One: For nearly two centuries, the people called East Church have served and supported its neighbors near and far through the ministries of the wider church, the City Mission Society and Pine Street Inn of Boston, the Interfaith and Protestant Social Services of Quincy, the Milton Food Pantry, and the Milton Coalition to Prevent Substance Misuse and Promote Mental Health.

ALL: Building and Serving Community in Christ's Name,

One: The congregation has shared the gifts of reading and literacy through its remarkable Emma Schroeder Library, nearly a decade of rebuilding and voluntarily staffing a public elementary library at the Roosevelt School in Hyde Park, and giving away hundreds and hundreds of new children's books.

ALL: Building and Serving Community in Christ's Name,

One: In 2019 the congregation mounted 177 solar panels on its roof to care for God's good creation, reduce its carbon footprint, generate its own green energy, and create even more green energy to share with its mission partner, Epiphany School, in Dorchester.

ALL: Building and Serving Community in Christ's Name,

One: The people called East Congregational Church have faithfully discerned God's call to the future and, in January 2025, will be transformed along with its neighbors from First Congregational Church of Milton into a new "United Congregational Church in Milton."

**ALL: Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
God is still speaking!**

**EAST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH of MILTON
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

610 Adams Street
Milton, MA 02186

OUR VISION

Drawn together
in the mystery of God and led by Christ,
we will grow in the Spirit
by engaging faith, embracing change,
and seeking justice for all.

OUR MISSION

Building and serving community in Christ's name.

