



400 YEARS OF *Faith*  
AMERICAN  
CONGREGATIONALISM  
SINCE 1620

## Did you know Charles Hammond...

When Charles Hammond came to Detroit there was no Congregational church to join. So, he joined the First Presbyterian Church and became an Elder. As soon as he could he helped gather the First Congregational Church. He got his brother, Henry Hammond, to come and be its first minister. David Hale, a New York businessman, abolitionist and friend of the Tappan brothers, financed the church for the first three years.

Charles had come to Detroit to help build the Michigan Central Railroad. When that project was completed, he moved on to Chicago to help build other railroads. After the Great Chicago Fire devastated the community, Hammond was picked to lead the rebuilding.

All the while he built and ran railroads, and he remained active in his church and in the Anti-Slavery movement. He would also go on to help establish the Chicago Theological Seminary, which his brother, Henry, also was active in creating.

## ...was a Congregationalist?

Celebrating 400 Years of American Congregationalism  
Learn more about our Congregational History at [naccc.org](http://naccc.org)

### Call to Worship

L: Precious Lord, take our hands in this hour

**C: Lead us on, help us stand**

L: We want to walk in the light

**C: Of our pilgrim forebears**

L: Who lived in the strength of Your Spirit

**C: And with the hope of the triumph of the Gospel**

### Invocation (in unison)

Almighty and merciful God, we come to this hour seeking a vision, for a world which needs Your love and care. Imbue us with a pilgrim spirit, always willing to venture where You would have us go, always prepared to do our part to redeem the past for the sake of a more hopeful future. Gather us now, for we come with great expectations to be blessed. Amen

Historical story by: Rev. Will Lange

Liturgy by: Rev. Tom Richard