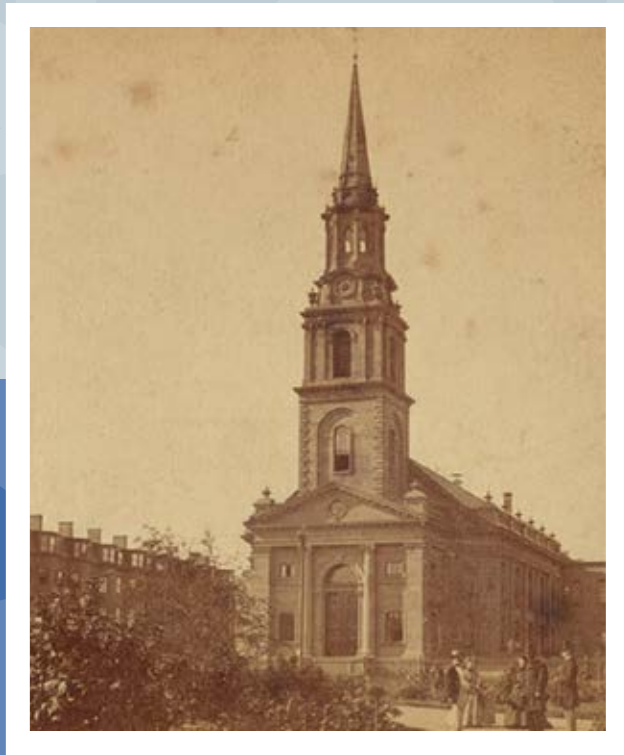
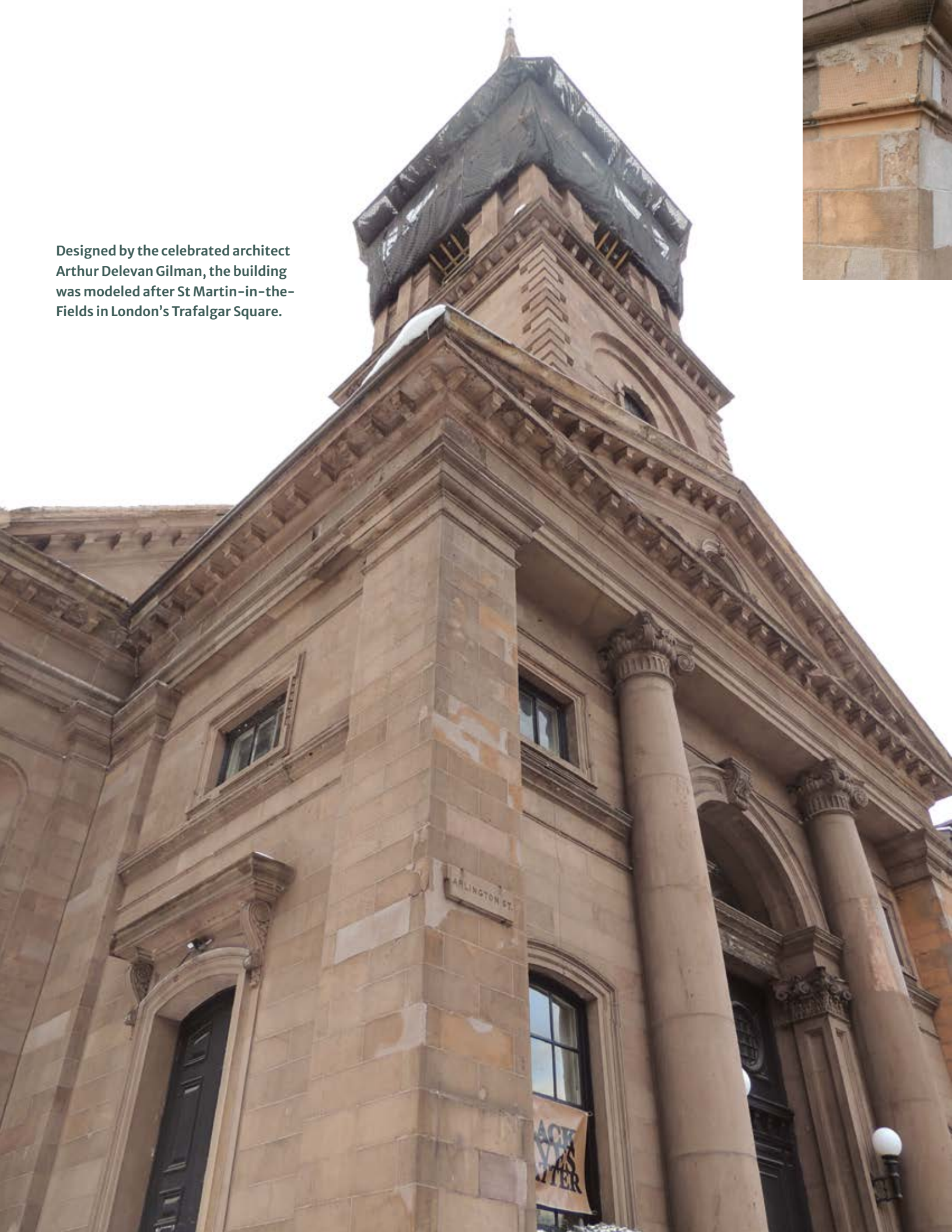


# B E Y O N D



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CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE PRESERVATION OF **ARLINGTON STREET CHURCH**



Designed by the celebrated architect Arthur Delevan Gilman, the building was modeled after St Martin-in-the-Fields in London's Trafalgar Square.



# BEYOND BOSTON

**A**RLINGTON STREET CHURCH is a historic landmark and community treasure. It has a long and celebrated history of serving as a sanctuary for all people. The church is a leader in progressive movements for social justice that have reverberated well beyond the City of Boston and the Commonwealth.

Dedicated in 1861, it was the first public building in Boston's newly-filled Back Bay. The church's graceful 190-foot spire has been a prominent monument at the foot of the Boston Public Garden for 160 years. Unfortunately, this iconic structure is aging due to the extremes of the New England climate and the inherent frailty of its brownstone exterior.

The Beyond Campaign will preserve and restore this iconic Boston landmark, and we ask for your help.



The church's grand interior is modeled on the nave of the Church of the Annunciation in Genoa, Italy.

Between 1899 and 1930, Tiffany Studios created 16 stained glass windows for the church. They are the largest single-themed collection of Tiffany windows in the world.



**CONSTRUCTION WILL BEGIN IN 2021 AND WILL INCLUDE:**

- 
- Significant repairs to the building's structure and roof
- 
- Renovation of architectural features
- 
- Critical accessibility upgrades
- 
- Landscaping of the entire grounds



# BEYOND THE BROWNSTONE

**T**HE NON-SECTARIAN 501(c)(3) Friends of 20 Arlington Street has already raised more than \$1 million for the Beyond Campaign through highly-competitive foundation grants. There has also been 100 percent participation of the church’s congregants—every member has pledged financial support to the Beyond Campaign. But that is not enough.

There remains \$20 million in costs to repair and restore the church. The open hearts and hands of generous organizations and individuals will not only safeguard this historic building, they will preserve what it represents to people beyond the congregation who benefit from the church’s centuries-old commitment to public service and social justice.

The building is a hub of activity seven days a week, hosting critical social service initiatives, including daily 12-step meetings and the Friday Night Supper Program. Upgrades funded through the Beyond Campaign will both restore the aging structure and make it more accessible for the vital cultural, educational, and social service events that make Arlington Street Church a sanctuary for people of all faiths who live in the vibrant and diverse City of Boston.

The Samaritans suicide prevention and counseling center was founded at Arlington Street Church in 1970.



Since 1984, the Friday Night Supper Program has provided free dinners to anyone in need of a home-cooked meal in a safe and dignified environment.



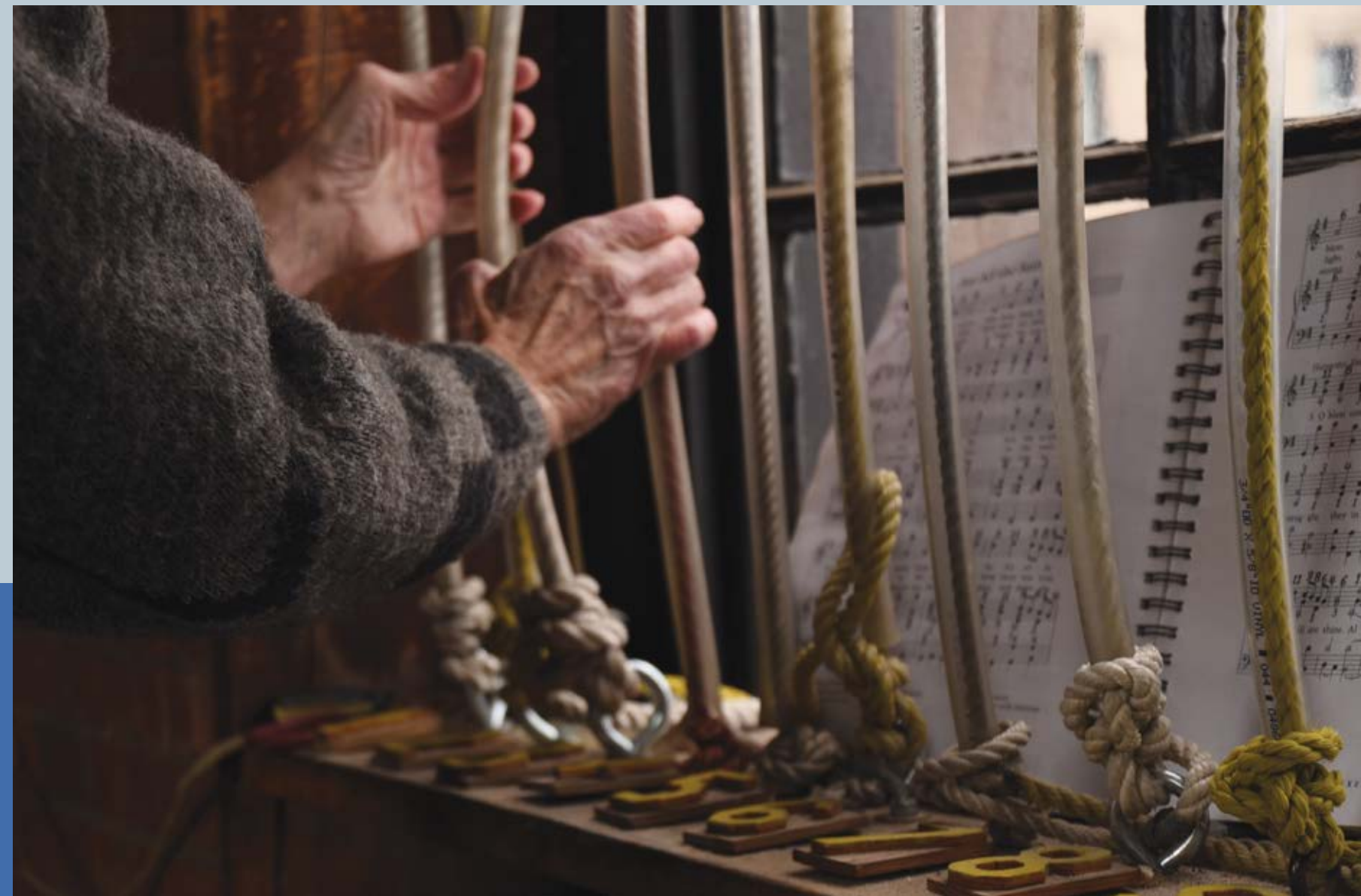
Arlington Street has partnered with Ágora since 2019, providing space to celebrate Latinx culture through concerts and vibrant arts programming.

# BEYOND BOUNDARIES

**F**OUNDED IN 1729, the church's first congregation gathered in a converted barn on Long Lane and adopted the name "Federal Street Church" in 1788 after the United States Constitution was ratified in our meeting house. The congregation supported the Boston Tea Party, the Revolutionary War, and the Civil War and opposed the Mexican-American War, the Vietnam War, and the wars in the Middle East.

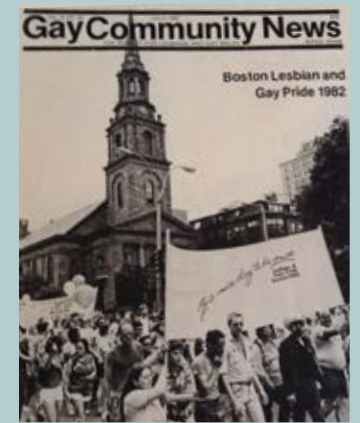
Arlington Street Church has played a significant role in the history American social justice movements with members passionately advocating for abolition, women's suffrage, civil rights, queer rights, and world peace. The church's 16 hand-rung bells have long echoed throughout the Back Bay, including for Boston's first Gay Pride Parade in 1971—and every Pride parade since. Each year, the steeple bells celebrate Opening Day for our beloved Red Sox and toll in memoriam on September 11th.

The congregation's progressive theology is welcoming to all, embracing faiths beyond their own. Religious leaders from around the world have spoken from the Arlington Street Church pulpit, including Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sylvia Boorstein, Lama Surya Das, and Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche. Dr. Benjamin Spock, Dr. Marion Wright Edelman, Dr. Abraham Maslow, Noam Chomsky, and actors Kathleen Turner and Matt Damon have also spoken here—among many, many others.





Rev. Jeremy Belknap, a leading patriot, preacher, and scholar, was chosen as the church's minister in 1787. One year later, Belknap and the congregation sent a petition to the General Court of Massachusetts to abolish slavery.



Throughout the 1970s, queer rights groups frequently gathered at Arlington Street Church. The Daughters of Bilitis, Boston Area Gay and Lesbian Youth, and the Boston Gay Men's Chorus were founded at Arlington Street, and the first AIDS benefit concert was held here.

### Rev. Reeb Dies from Savage Beating in Selma

Demonstrators Sob in Rain as Word of Reeb's Death Spreads



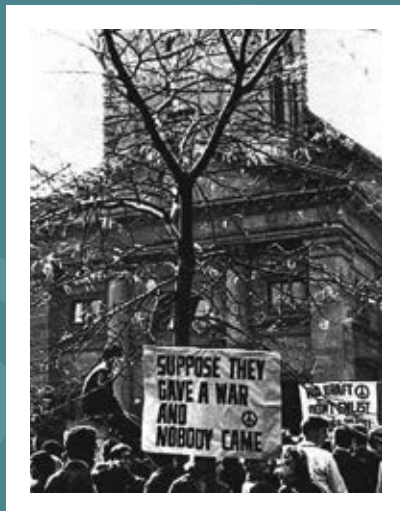
Skull Fracture Proves Fatal To Former Casper Minister

James J. Reeb, a prominent minister and civil rights leader, died in Selma, Ala., on Sunday, April 4, 1968, after being beaten by a mob of white segregationists. He was 35 years old. The news of his death spread quickly, and thousands of people gathered in Selma to mourn. His death was a significant event in the civil rights movement.

Rev. James Reeb and several other leaders of Arlington Street Church answered the call of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to join the fight for justice and voting rights. While in Selma for the historic march in 1965, Rev. Reeb died after being beaten by white segregationists. His memory was invoked by President Lyndon B. Johnson as he delivered the Voting Rights Act to Congress.



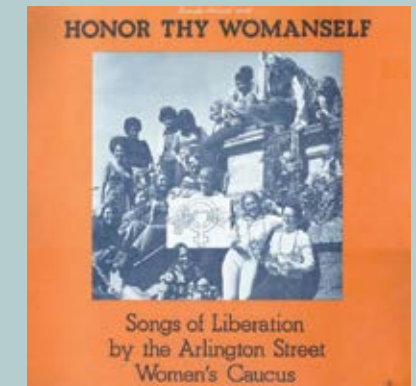
In 1969, Arlington Street's Bob Hohler formed Fellowship for Renewal in support of Black empowerment. The Freedom Center was founded at Arlington Street to raise money for African American liberation.



On October 16, 1967, 280 young men turned in their draft cards at Arlington Street Church in protest of the war in Vietnam. They were received by Arlington Street's Rev. Jack Mendelsohn, Catholic priest Fr. Robert Cunnane, Yale Chaplain Rev. William Sloane Coffin, and Harvard Divinity School professor George Williams.



In 2004, David Wilson and Robert Compton were married here in the first legal same-sex wedding in a church in the U.S. Three days later, three clergy officiated over 55 weddings in one day at Arlington Street Church.



The Arlington Street Church Women's Caucus was organized on Mother's Day in 1973. The service opened with a large procession of women singing Carolyn McDade's "We Might Come In A-Fighting."

# BEYOND MEASURE

**T**HIS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST congregation lives their mission statement every day: Gathered in love and service for justice and peace. It's more than a place of worship. For nearly three centuries, it has been a sanctuary for discourse and demonstration, a refuge for the displaced and mourning, and a place to celebrate unity in diversity.

During this extraordinary time, we respectfully ask for your generous support to help preserve one of the city's most treasured landmarks and protect an institution that has played a key role in making Boston and our country a beacon of hope for all. To learn how you can make a difference, please reach out to us at [Beyond@ASCBoston.org](mailto:Beyond@ASCBoston.org).





## Arlington Street Church

– GATHERED IN LOVE AND SERVICE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE –



FRIENDS OF  
20 ARLINGTON  
STREET

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