

Cornerstones of Congregationalism II: Puritans, Pilgrims, and Us

First Congregational Church of Naperville

11 February 2007

Outline

I. Who were the Puritans?

- A. English origins
- B. The rationale for non-separatism from William Ames to Increase Mather
- C. Puritanism and congregationalism: or: All Congregationalists were Puritans, but not all Puritans were congregationalists (Von Rohr, Shaping of American Congregationalism, p. 51)
- D. Legacies: ministerial training; resource-sharing; popular education

II. Who were the Pilgrims?

- A. English origins
- B. The rationale for separatism from John Robinson to Roger Williams
- C. Disappearance and assimilation
- D. The twentieth-century "Pilgrim revival"

For additional information

John Von Rohr, The Shaping of American Congregationalism, 1620-1957 (Cleveland: Pilgrim Press, 1992).

An authoritative textbook designed for divinity students and the clergy'

Francis J. Bremer, The Puritan Experiment: New England Society from Bradford to Edwards (Hanover: Univeristy Press of New Hampsire, 1995)

A recent scholarly overview that is especially good on the transatlantic dimensions of the Puritan movement. Includes a helpful overview of the rapid assimilation of the Pilgrims into the Puritan movement.

Marion L. Starkey, The Congregational Way: The Role of Pilgrims and their Heirs in Shaping America (Garden City, N. J.: Doubleday, 1966).

The best popular history of congregationalism; as its title suggests, it treats the Pilgrims as a cornerstone of modern Congregationalism.