



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
ARCHIVES
GENERAL COUNCIL • BAY OF QUINTE CONFERENCE • HAMILTON CONFERENCE
LONDON CONFERENCE • MANITOU CONFERENCE • TORONTO CONFERENCE

Research Tool 26

**GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH:
UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA RECORDS**

Address: The United Church of Canada Archives, 40 Oak Street, Toronto, ON M5A 2C6

Website: www.united-church.ca/local/archives/on
E-mail: archives@united-church.ca

Phone: 416-644-3140 ext. 101
Fax: 416-231-3103 attn: Archives

Reading Room: Monday-Thursday, 9:30 am-4:00 pm

Hours: *NOTE: The Archives is closed on Fridays, weekends, and all statutory holidays.*

All researchers are welcome. All will be asked to complete a registration form once in each calendar year, sign a daily guest register, place coats and bags into lockers provided, and adhere to guidelines on records use.

A reference staff person is available during public hours to assist researchers.

The following resources can assist in genealogical research for Ontario:

Local Church Records

This Archives holds records of the United Church and its uniting denominations (Methodist, Congregational, Presbyterian—1925 union, and Evangelical United Brethren—joined in 1968).

For the above denominations, this Archives holds local church records for the five Ontario Conferences with headquarters in Ontario (EXCLUDING the counties of Carleton, Dundas, Glengarry, Grenville, Prescott, Russell, and Stormont, which are part of the Montreal/Ottawa Conference; and Cambrian Presbytery in northwestern Ontario, *part of Manitoba and Northwest Conference; and INCLUDING three churches in Noranda, Val d'Or, and Temiskaming, Quebec*). Other United Church local church records are available in Conference Archives across Canada (see pages 4-5).

Record Types

Local church records can include baptismal, marriage, and burial registers. Such registers document these vital events and often name the parents of individuals documented. Other useful records include communion rolls and all forms of membership lists—i.e., circuit registers and historic rolls.

Although 19th-century records exist, most begin after 1896. Only very occasionally are there cemetery records.

In compliance with federal privacy legislation, *The Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act* (S.C. 2000, c.5), records including personal information are restricted for:

Baptisms:	100 years
Marriages:	75 years
Burials:	25 years

Searching for Local Church Records

The **name of the place** where the baptism, marriage, or burial took place is the key search term for access to the records of the over 1,000 congregations available at the Archives. For larger centres, the church name is also needed.

To determine whether the Archives hold the records of the area, search the Archives database at

*The post-1925 records of congregations, which remained part of the continuing Presbyterian Church in Canada after the establishment of The United Church of Canada, are held in The Presbyterian Church in Canada, Archives and Records Office, 50 Wynford Dr., Toronto, ON M3C 1J7. Phone: 416-441-1111.

Research Tool 26: GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH: UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA RECORDS

the computer workstations or online (<http://archives.united-church.ca/archives.htm>) for geographical location and/or congregation name. Search items will describe the fonds name, list of relevant series, extent of holdings, inclusive dates of records followed by predominant dates in brackets, and availability of finding aid.

Finding aids are available for churches with extensive holdings; the database entries will refer to the following: **FINDING AIDS: Bay of Quinte Conference churches—287; Metropolitan Toronto—289; Toronto Conference, excluding Metropolitan Toronto—288; Hamilton Conference—290; London Conference—291; Manitou Conference—292.** These are available in the finding aid binders in the reading room. The database entries will also provide a hyperlink to an electronic version of the finding aids if available. These can be viewed with any PDF viewer.

Note: For records with less extensive holdings, the complete description is the database entry.

Indexes

Only a few registers have been indexed by person's name. The Ontario Genealogical Society's Halton and Toronto branches have produced indexes for most of the Metro Toronto congregations, as well as some in Halton County. These publications are available in the reading room.

Photocopying

Most of the registers **cannot be photocopied**. Please consult the reference staff.

Microfilm

Available on microfilm are the minute books and vital record books (primarily baptisms, marriages, and burials) having entries beginning and ending before 1925. The denominations represented include those that became part of The United Church of Canada: Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational, and Evangelical United Brethren. Researchers wishing to check whether records of interest to them are available on microfilm should contact the Archives or search the Archives database for an LCM number. Inter-library loan requests must be submitted by the borrowing library on the usual forms.

Many congregations have retained their own records; consult *The United Church of Canada Year Books* in the reading room, or search the Find a Church online service (<http://locator.united-church.ca>) for current addresses and telephone numbers. Although it is the policy of the United Church to have records deposited in an appropriate United Church archives, records sometimes have been deposited in local archives and/or museums.

Personal Registers

Personal registers of individual ministers also include records of baptisms, marriages, and burials.

Central Methodist Baptismal Registers

The *Wesleyan Methodist Baptismal Register* (WMBR) includes baptisms (1825-1910; predominantly 1840-1873) covering primarily Ontario and parts of Quebec. This register (four microfilm reels, plus index by township name) is also available through interlibrary loan and for sale. Please note that even though the register covers a wide area, it is not a complete record of all baptisms that occurred during this period. A printed index is also available in the reading room.

The *Methodist Episcopal Church Niagara Conference Baptismal Register* includes baptisms (1849-1906; predominantly 1858-1886) covering much of southern Ontario and after 1863 extending west of Toronto. An index published by the Ontario Genealogical Society is a transcription of all information in the register except for the minister's name, and is available in the reading room.

Research Tool 26: GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH: UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA RECORDS

Information on ministers, missionaries, and lay workers of The United Church of Canada and its predecessor denominations include:

Biographical Files Collection

The Archives has compiled biographical files on certain ordained ministers, missionaries, and some lay church workers in the various denominations. To search for an individual, search the Biographical database at the computer workstations, or contact staff to see what files exist.

Church Periodicals and Publications

The Archives has a fine collection of church newspapers and magazines; however, most of these resources are stored off-site and there is a cost to retrieve them.

Check the University of Toronto library catalogue at www.library.utoronto.ca for the call numbers of the periodicals. To order these publications, contact the Archives and place an off-site retrieval request.

References to publications by or about people in the church and about local churches can be found in the library catalogue (www.library.utoronto.ca/resources/index.html).

Directories

Directories list ministers by denomination with information on charges served. The directories include the *Cyclopaedia of Methodism in Canada* and those compiled by Douglas Walkington. These resources are available in the reading room.

Local Church History Files Collection

In addition to publications (above), local church history vertical files provide information on many of the Ontario churches. To see these files, contact Archives staff.

Methodist Missionary Society Annual Reports

These reports include lists of contributors to the Missionary Society. The lists of personal names are arranged first by Conference, then by district, then circuit, and finally local church. Although no further information is provided, these reports often place individuals within a particular church if this information is not already available. Ask Archives staff for *Annual Report of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Church* (BV 2550.2.M5 PS REF).

Pension and Personnel Files

Pension (see Finding Aid 298) and personnel files (see Finding Aid 310) are available for some former church workers. Due to lengthy restrictions on access, in accordance with federal privacy legislation, many of these files are closed to research.

Personal Papers

Papers provide more detailed information on individuals, such as ministers and missionaries. See the Archives database for available personal papers.

Consult also the Personal Papers Collection (Finding Aid 305, available in the reading room) made up of personal papers of only a file or two in extent. These collections may not have been catalogued individually and do not appear in the database.

Photographs

Photographs of people (primarily ministers and missionaries), churches, church-related institutions, and activities are sometimes available. Consult the Graphics database available at the computer workstations at the Archive or online at <http://archives.united-church.ca/graphics.htm>.

Research Tool 26: GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH: UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA RECORDS

For records outside Ontario, contact the following United Church of Canada Archives:

ALBERTA AND NORTHWEST CONFERENCE: Jane Bowe-McCarthy, Conference Archivist, Alberta and Northwest Conference Archives, c/o Provincial Archives of Alberta, 8555 Roper Rd., Edmonton, AB T6E 5W1

Website: <http://culture.alberta.ca/archives/>

E-mail: Jane.Bowe-McCarthy@gov.ab.ca Phone: 780.427.8687 Fax: 780.427.4646

ALL NATIVE CIRCLE CONFERENCE: All Native Circle Conference (ANCC) includes presbyteries with congregations in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec. For records of Keewatin Presbytery and ANCC Conference records, please contact Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario. For all other records of that Conference, researchers should contact All Native Circle Conference, The United Church of Canada, 367 Selkirk Ave., Winnipeg, MB R2W 2M3

E-mail: allnative@mts.net Phone: 204.582.5518 Fax: 204.582.6649

BRITISH COLUMBIA CONFERENCE: Blair Galston, Conference Archivist, British Columbia Conference Archives, Vancouver School of Theology, 6000 Iona Dr., Vancouver, BC V6T 1L4

Website: <http://www.bc.united-church.ca/archives>

E-mail: united-archives@vst.edu Phone: 604.822.9589 Fax: 604.822.9212

CONFERENCE OF MANITOBA AND NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO: Diane Haglund, Conference Archivist, Rare Book Room, University of Winnipeg Library, 515 Portage Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3B 2E9

E-mail: d.haglund@uwinnipeg.ca Phone: 204.783.0708 Fax: 204.786.1824

MARITIME CONFERENCE: Sarah Wallace, Conference Archivist, Maritime Conference Archives, 21 Wright Street, Sackville, NB E4L 4P8

Hours: Tues.–Thurs. 9 am–4 pm

Web: www.marconf.ca/archives.htm

E-mail: archives@marconf.ca Phone: 506.536.0998 for appointment Fax: 506.536.2900

MONTREAL AND OTTAWA CONFERENCE

A. **Montreal and area records (Montreal Presbytery, Consistoire Laurentien, and Ottawa Presbytery—Quebec congregations only):** Beverly Anderson-Levine, Conference Archivist
Mailing address: Montreal and Ottawa Conference Archives, St. Andrew's United Church, 75-15th Avenue, Lachine, QC H8S 3L7
Hours: Wed. 8:30 am–4:30 pm
E-mail: moarchivesucc@gmail.com Phone: 514.634.7015 ext. 4 Fax: 514.634.2489
Street address: Archives nationales du Québec, Centre de Montreal, 535 Viger East, Montreal, QC
Hours: CLOSED MONDAYS Sat.–Sun. and Tues. 10 am–5 pm, Wed.–Fri. 10 am–10 pm
Phone: 514.873.6000 Fax: 514.873.2980

B. **Ottawa Presbytery and Seaway Valley Presbytery (Ontario records only):** Doug Robinson, Assistant Archivist
Mailing address: City of Ottawa Archives, c/o City of Ottawa, 110 Laurier Ave. West, MC-433, Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1
Street address: 100 Tallwood Dr., Ottawa, ON
Reading room hours: CLOSED MONDAYS. June to August: Tues.–Fri. 8:30 am–4 pm; September to May: Tues.–Fri. 8:30 am–4 pm, Tues. 6:30–9 pm, Sat. 12–5 pm (CLOSED statutory holiday weekends)
Website: http://www.ottawa.ca/en/rec_culture/museum_heritage/archives/index.html
E-mail: archives@ottawa.ca Phone: 613.580.2424 ext.13333 Fax: 613.580.2614

Research Tool 26: GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH: UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA RECORDS

- C. **Quebec-Sherbrooke Presbytery (Eastern Townships Records):** Emily Potter, Archivist, Eastern Townships Research Centre, Archives Department, Bishop's University, Lennoxville, QC J1M 1Z7
Website: www.etc.ca
E-mail: etc2@ubishops.ca Phone: 819.822.9600, ext. 2261 Fax: 819.822.9661
- D. **Quebec-Sherbrooke Presbytery (Records outside of the Eastern Townships):** Julie Roy, Archivist, Archives nationales du Québec, Centre regional de l'Estrie, 225, rue Frontenac, bureau 410, Sherbrooke, QC J1H 1K1
E-mail: anj.sherbrooke@mcc.gouv.qc.ca Phone: 819.820.3010 Fax: 819.820.3146

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CONFERENCE: Leona Laundry, Conference Archivist, Newfoundland and Labrador Conference Archives, 320 Elizabeth Ave., St. John's, NL A1B 1T9
Website: www.newlabconf.com/archives.shtml
E-mail: unitedchurch@nfld.net Phone: 709.754.0372 Fax: 709.754.8336

SASKATCHEWAN CONFERENCE: Mailing address: Saskatchewan Conference Office, Archives Inquiries, 418A MacDonald St., Regina, SK S4N 6E1
Street address: Saskatchewan Archives Board, The University of Saskatchewan, Murray Building 3 Campus Dr., Saskatoon, SK
E-mail: archives@skconf.ca Phone: 306.721.3311 Fax: 306.721.3171

Note: This resource is updated regularly, but to avoid disappointment, contact the appropriate Conference Archives before making a visit.