



Book of Joshua Burgess while at Carleton Presbyterian Saint John, NB

What records should come to the Archives?

- Minutes - of all groups, boards, committees
- Official Correspondence
- Members Rolls and Registers baptism, marriage, burial
- Property and building records
- Published and unpublished histories
- Newsletters and Annual Reports
- Biographical documents and information on clergy, founding members, and lay leaders

MEET OUR ARCHIVISTS

E. Arthur Betts (1963-1978): "People are hoarding old church documents, which could some day be lost altogether."
- Annual report 1969

Neil A. MacLeod (1978-1986): "It appears that too many people feel that an archive's function is to gather, store, and index materials that are regarded as 'OLD', ... but ... The present day happenings in a congregation are of vital importance, for down the road, thirty, forty or fifty years this material will be research material."
- Annual report 1982

Carolyn Earle (1986-1998): "People have a tendency to think that information which is common knowledge ... need not be written down. If your minutes are not well prepared and then placed in the Archives, how can questions be answered?"
- Speech, Halifax, 1996

Judith Colwell (1998-present): "Stories of our past can only be told if the memory can still be found. It is the function of your Archives to keep safely the written, audio and pictorial history of our churches."
- Annual report 2001



Maritime Conference Archives

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Maritime Conference Archives

The United Church of Canada

Our Mandate:
to collect, to preserve, and to provide access to the non-current records of continuing value to the Conference



"You are my witnesses"
(Isaiah 43:10)

We keep records to bear witness to the life and ministry and the growth of our Church.

ARCHIVES PROFILE

The development of the collections in the **Maritime Conference Archives** began as early as 1866 when the Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the Lower Provinces of British North America agreed that the clerks of the presbyteries be a committee "... to collect manuscripts and documents of interest ... and report to the Synod at its next meeting." In 1903 an informal meeting of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island Methodists organized a society to promote the study of Church history.

In 1960 a room equipped to serve as an Archives was opened in the residence of Pine Hill Divinity Hall, in Halifax, Nova Scotia. It was named in memory of Dr. J. W. Falconer, Professor of New Testament at Pine Hill, 1907-1941.

The Methodist records were moved from Mount Allison University to the Falconer room in 1968. Thirty years later the entire collection was moved to its current location in Sackville.

The work of the Archives is overseen by the Archives Unit of the Heritage and Resources Committee of Maritime Conference.



OUR ARCHIVES SPACE TODAY

We moved into our current facility in December 1997. At that time there were three empty aisles awaiting records, and it was thought that the space would be sufficient for twenty years. The shelves on the aisles, if stretched out end to end, measure 496 metres. We added 5.4 metres of shelving on a spare wall, so now the space occupied by records stretches over half a kilometer. **The shelves are full, but with wiggle room from stringent weeding and some off-site storage, we can cope until a permanent solution is found.**

The largest sector of records are those of our Pastoral Charges which take up 53% of our shelving. Conference and similar records prior to 1925 take up 20% of shelving. Biographical and personal records take up 8%; Pine Hill, 6%; photos 5%, and Presbyteries 8%.



Research Room

OUR ARCHIVES IS GROWING

We will be faced with a crisis. As more churches close, **their records must come to the Archives** [*The Manual* section 090(a), 092(u)], and many churches are closing and/or amalgamating. Presbytery and Conference records which are vital to our United Church ministry in Maritime Conference are also growing.

OUR ARCHIVES NEEDS SPACE

To be sure that we will have adequate space for the foreseeable future, we need another kilometer of shelves – and, by the way, a place to put them.

An Archives Planning Committee, charged with finding increased space to meet our current and future needs, is now in place.



Storage room