

Roots and Wings –

Legacy Gifts to the Maritime Conference Archives



Many of us grew up in the United Church family.

“We need roots for the ground, and wings for the sky.”

- Linnea Good



It was, and is, a welcoming place of families and music, of after service social time, of church suppers, youth groups, and community gatherings. It is a place of worship where tolerance is both preached and practiced, and where the social issues and concerns of the day are shared.

Through the leadership and dedication of its congregational members, the United Church of Canada has had a profound impact on our nation’s history. Worker’s compensation, Medicare, gender equality, public education, the rights of gays and lesbians, protection of the environment – all are issues for which United Church members have rallied.

The families and individuals of United Churches in the Maritimes have a particularly proud history in this legacy. At one time, more than half of all United Church ministers in Canada were said to have come from this region. In addition to these members of the clergy, countless lay people, UCW members, church elders, Presbytery delegates, choir members, and committee volunteers have contributed to this rich heritage.



A Legacy gift to the new Maritime Conference Archives facility helps preserve and honour this history. Through the collection and sharing of individual stories, the Church lives on.

Legacy gifts, honouring an individual or family, will be recognized in the Maritime Conference Archives for all collective contributions of \$25,000 or more. A variety of spaces in the new building are also available to be named in special recognition of those who have loved and served our Church. A publication, collecting the stories of those who are remembered, will be crafted to recognize the generosity of the legacy gifts to the new home of the Maritime Conference.

For more information about Legacy Gifts, please contact the Maritime Conference.



Sample Page of Roots and Wings

Remembering United Church Members and Families of the Maritime Conference



John and Sadie Reid

Stellarton NS – Sharon St. John Church

Earlier this year, I was asked to join a team to help raise funds for the new home of our Maritime Conference – a facility that will hold the history and memories of our churches in the regional archives. In contemplating the request, I thought about how I would ask my family to support the project and the role that my own grandparents played (and continue to play) in my life.

Although Grammie died in 1993 and Papa just a few months later in 1994, the living memory of their presence remains, especially as it influences my own faith development.

I remember how proud John Reid, my Papa, was when Sharon St. John church honoured his 50 years of serving as an elder in that congregation. His faith was rooted in traditional values and a deep commitment to God. My grandmother Sadie was always by his side. As a faithful reader of the United Church Observer, she was always up on church news. When I visited her with my young sons, we often discussed current issues facing the church and the world. She was very aware that the world does not stand still and neither should the church.

I know that I am not alone in valuing the great tradition into which I was born, one my grandparents dreamed of in 1925 as the movement for union was celebrated. For me, their legacy of faith was both roots and wings.

My own ministry has grown deeply as I realize the benefits of living in rural Cape Breton. I try to remember the things important to my grandfather, yet striving to be current as my grandmother was. I expand my vision for the church by being deeply involved locally, but also in the Presbytery, the conference and the General Council. I love it when roots and wings collaborate.

That is why the current project of pairing an archives facility with new Conference Office space for the work of those leaders grounded in our past and leaning into the edge of a new day, is vastly important to me. I have found it a fitting way to honour the memory of my grandparents and to support the desire to “remember our roots and spread our wings”.

I have made my pledge to this important campaign in the memory of my grandparents. In faith and with a grateful heart,

Donna

Rev. Donna Tourneur
Whycomagh and East Lake Ainslie Pastoral Charges

