

Regional Council 15 Archives

Finding Aid #300

Margaree Pastoral Charge (Nova Scotia)

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Reference Number: PC/300

Title: Margaree Pastoral Charge fonds

Dates: 1823-2012; 2014-2020

Extent: 53.5 cm of textual records and 1 microfilm

Administrative History: A pastoral charge consists of one or more communities of faith (known as preaching points prior to 2019) under the spiritual leadership of a minister. The pastoral charge title usually reflects the breadth of the geographic area encompassing the charge.

Margaree Pastoral Charge is located in Inverness County on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia and contains the communities of faith of Big Intervale, Margaree Harbour (Calvin United Church), and North East Margaree (Wilson United Church).

In 1925, all Methodist churches, Congregational churches, and the majority of the Presbyterian churches in Canada became part of the United Church of Canada. The Methodist Church at North East Margaree and the Presbyterian Churches at Margaree Harbour, Big Intervale and Eastern Harbour were practicing union before 1925 and the Congregational Church at North East Margaree became part of this union in 1925. The Methodist building was moved to Middle River for the United Church in that area.

In 1925, Margaree Pastoral Charge contained the appointment of Margaree. A year later, the pastoral charge had expanded to include preaching points at North East Margaree and Big Intervale as well. Margaree Harbour was added in 1930 and Cranton Section was added in 1931. The pastoral charge became known as North East Margaree in 1932 but the name was changed back to Margaree in 1956. Cranton Harbour was no longer an appointment on the charge by 1964.

Effective January 1, 2019, The United Church of Canada underwent some structural changes including the elimination of all Presbyteries. At this time, Margaree Pastoral Charge became part of Regional Council 15.

Custodial History: Information about the custody of these records prior to acquisition is incomplete.

Scope and Content: Fonds contains annual baptism/marriage/burial records, membership lists, minutes reports, newsletters, certificates, newspaper clippings and published and unpublished church histories from Margaree Pastoral Charge and its Presbyterian, Methodist, and Congregational antecedents. Fonds is composed of the following series:

- Margaree Pastoral Charge records
- Margaree Congregational Church records
- Wilson United Church records
- Margaree Methodist Circuit records
- Margaree Presbyterian Pastoral Charge records
- Calvin United Church records

Notes:

Source of Supplied Title Proper: Title based on contents of fonds.

Accruals: Further accruals are expected.

Immediate Source of Acquisition: The majority of the textual records were received in 1978 from the Pastoral Charge via Maud McKenzie of River Denys, Nova Scotia. Records were also received in 2013 (accession 13-033); 2016 (accession 16-084); and 2018 (accession 18-082). Microfilm was purchased from Archives and Records Management Nova Scotia in 2001 (accession 01-105).

Related Records: See also Baddeck-Greenwood Pastoral Charge fonds.

Associated Material: Microfilmed records associated with this Pastoral Charge can be found at the Nova Scotia Archives.

Physical Condition: The records books of the Congregational Church and the Presbyterian Church are extremely fragile, and have been stabilized with pages encapsulated by Harold Holland from the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick.

Microform Physical Description: The microfilm is 35 mm.

Reference Number: PC/300/1
Title: Margaree Pastoral Charge records
Dates: 1953-2012, 2014-2020
Extent: 5 cm of textual records

Scope and Content: The sous-fonds contains annual reports, newsletters, newspaper clippings and published and unpublished church histories from Margaree Pastoral Charge. Sous-fonds is composed of the following series:

- Baptism/Marriage/Burial Records
- Annual Reports
- Newsletters
- Church Histories

Note:

Source of supplied title proper: Title based on contents of sous-fonds.

File List:

Baptism/Marriage/Burial Records

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/319/6	Margaree Pastoral Charge Register Marriages (July 6, 1944-December 16, 2000) Baptisms (January 10, 1945-August 4, 1968) Burials (July 6, 1943-March 17, 1981)	1943-1981

Annual Reports

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
AR/300	Annual reports	1992-1996, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2010-2012, 2014-2020

Newsletters

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/1468/16	The Trumpet newsletter	March 1953-September 1979
PC/1468/17	The Trumpet newsletter	December 2000

Church Histories

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
CH/302	-Newspaper clipping: "Churches by the Sea: Wilson United Church, North East Margaree" by M. Allen Gibson, <u>Chronicle-Herald</u>	April 3, 1982
	-Handwritten notes on history of churches	n.d.

- in the Margaree area
- Typewritten notes on history of churches in Margaree n.d.
 - “A History of Calvin United Church, Margaree Harbour” Published by Calvin United Church. 1977
 - Newspaper clipping: “Churches by the Sea: Calvin United Church, Margaree Harbour” by M. Allen Gibson, Chronicle Herald n.d.
 - Newspaper clipping: “Churches by the Sea: United Church of Canada, Big Intervale” by M. Allen Gibson, Chronicle Herald n.d.
 - Typewritten notes on history of Congregational Church in Margaree n.d.
 - Excerpt from Congregational Churches in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, 1749-1925 by Arthur Betts re. Congregational Church in Margaree, p. 174-175 n.d.
 - Archivist’s correspondence re. Cheticamp Presbyterian Church 2007

PC/1642/3

Order of Service: 158th Anniversary of Big Intervale United Church

September 28, 1986

Reference Number: PC/300/2

Title: Margaree Congregational Church records

Dates: 1823-1927

Extent: 20.5 cm of textual records and 1 microfilm

Administrative History: The Margaree Congregational Church was organized in 1822 in the home of Irad and Armenia Hart. Their son, Josiah Hart, served as pastor until his death. After this, students from the Congregational College in Montreal preached at the church during the summer until 1875 when the first minister, Rev. W. Peacock, was called to the charge. The first church building was erected in 1834 and replaced with a new building in 1853. Finally, a third church building was built and dedicated in June 1906. The Margaree Congregational Church became part of The United Church of Canada in 1925 and was henceforth known as Wilson United Church.

Scope and Content: Sous-fonds contains baptism/marriage/burial records, membership lists, and minutes from Margaree Congregational Church. Sous-fonds is composed of the following series:

- Baptism/Marriage/Burial Records
- Membership Records
- Records of Congregation

Note:

Source of supplied title proper: Title based on contents of sous-fonds.

File List:

Baptism/Marriage/Burial Records

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/300/1	Register	1823-1924
MF-464	Baptisms (1823-1924) Marriages (1838-1924) Burials (1909-1923) Also includes congregational minutes of North East Margaree Congregational/Wilson United (1822-1861)	

Membership Records

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/300/1	Membership list	1909-1927
MF-464	Also includes baptism/marriage/burial register (1823-1924) and congregational minutes of North East Margaree Congregational/ Wilson United (1822- 1961)	

Records of Congregation

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/300/1	Congregational meeting minutes	1822-1925
MF-464	Also includes baptism/marriage/burial register (1823-1924) and congregational minutes of Wilson United (1925-1961)	

Reference Number: PC/300/3
Title: Wilson United Church records
Dates: 1925-1961
Extent: 20.5 cm of textual records and 1 microfilm

Administrative History: In 1925, the Congregational church in Margaree became Wilson United Church.

Scope and Content: Sous-fonds contains minutes and certificates from Wilson United Church. Sous-fonds is composed of the following series:

- Records of Congregation
- Records of Youth Groups

Note:

Source of supplied title proper: Title based on contents of sous-fonds.

File List:

Records of Congregation

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/300/1	Congregational meeting minutes	1925-1961
MF-464	Also includes baptism/marriage/burial register (1823-1924) and congregational minutes of North East Margaree Congregational Church (1822-1925)	

Records of Youth Groups

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/1120/1	Caledonia CGIT Group certificates	1950-1978

Reference Number: PC/300/4
Title: Margaree Methodist Circuit records
Dates: 1860-1901
Extent: 2 cm of textual records

Administrative History: In 1833, Methodists in Margaree requested a minister be appointed to serve their community but no minister was made available until 1836 when a minister was sent to spend 2/3 of their time at Ship Harbour (Port Hawkesbury) and Arichat and remaining 1/3 of their time at Margaree. It wasn't until 1884, that the Quarterly Official Board of Port Hood Methodist Circuit decided that Margaree, Baddeck, and Middle River would form a new Methodist circuit. A church and a parsonage was built around 1901 in Baddeck but membership dropped and Baddeck was no longer listed as a Methodist church in 1915. The Methodist Church at North East Margaree and the Presbyterian Churches at Margaree Harbour, Big Intervale and Eastern Harbour were practicing union before the formation of The United Church of Canada in 1925.

Scope and Content: Sous-fonds consists of baptism records; membership lists; minutes; and accounts from Margaree Methodist Circuit. Sous-fonds is composed of the following series:

- Baptism/Marriage/Burial Records
- Membership Records
- Records of Treasurer

Note:

Source of supplied title proper: Title based on contents of sous-fonds.

File List:

Baptism/Marriage/Burial Records

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/1018/5	Margaree Methodist Circuit baptism register Also includes accounts (1857-1863; 1888; 1898); membership lists (1860; 1884; 1896; 1897-1898); and Quarterly Official Board minutes (May 15, 1897-December 4, 1912)	October 4, 1860-June 3, 1867; April 5, 1896-July 7, 1901

Membership Records

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/1018/5	Margaree Methodist Circuit membership list Also includes accounts (1857-1863; 1888; 1898); baptisms (1860-1867; 1896-1901); and Quarterly Official Board minutes (May 15, 1897-December 4, 1912)	1860; 1884; 1886; 1897-1898

Records of Treasurer

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/1018/5	Margaree Methodist Circuit Quarterly Official Board minutes Also includes baptisms (1860-1867; 1896- 1901); Quarterly Official Board minutes (May 15, 1897-December 4, 1912) and membership lists (1860; 1884; 1896; 1897- 1898)	1857-1863; 1888; 1898

Reference Number: PC/300/5

Title: Margaree Presbyterian Pastoral Charge records

Dates: 1891-1925

Extent: 30 cm of textual records and 1 microfilm

Administrative History: The first Presbyterian church in the Margaree area was erected at Whale Cove in 1840. This building was torn down in 1872 and a new church was built at J.C. MacLean's in the same year. The congregation met at this church until the present church was built at Margaree Harbour in 1887. From 1871-1880, Rev. Alexander Grant of Lake Ainslie included the congregation of Margaree in his pastoral charge. After 1880, the charge was served by students. In 1895, the charge was organized to include Eastern Harbour (now Point Cross, near Cheticamp), Big Intervale and Margaree Harbour. In 1925, this church became part of The United Church of Canada and is now known as Calvin United Church.

The Presbyterian Church at Big Intervale was built in 1868.

Scope and Content: Sous-fonds consists of baptism records and minutes. Sous-fonds is composed of the following series:

Baptism/Marriage/Burial Records
Records of Session

Note:

Source of supplied title proper: Title based on contents of sous-fonds.

File List:

Baptism/Marriage/Burial Records

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/300/2	Margaree and Cheticamp Presbyterian	1891-1925
MF-464	Baptism Register Also includes baptism records for Calvin United (1925-1948), session minutes, and communion roll for Calvin Presbyterian/United Church.	

Records of Session

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/300/2	Minutes	1895-1925
MF-464	Also includes baptism records for Calvin Presbyterian/United (1891-1948) and communion roll for Calvin United Church.	

Reference Number: PC/300/7

Title: Calvin United Church records

Dates: 1925-1977

Extent: 30 cm of textual records and 1 microfilm

Administrative History: With the formation of The United Church of Canada in 1925, the Presbyterian Church in Margaree Harbour became Calvin United Church.

Scope and Content: Sous-fonds consists of baptism records, a membership roll, minutes, and an order of service. Sous-fonds is composed of the following series:

Baptism/Marriage/Burial Records

Membership Records

Records of Official Board

Records of Session

Orders of Service

Note:

Source of supplied title proper: Title based on contents of sous-fonds.

File List:

Baptism/Marriage/Burial Records

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/300/2	Baptism register	1925-1948
MF-464	Also includes baptism records for Margaree and Cheticamp Presbyterian (1891-1925), session minutes, and communion roll for Margaree Presbyterian/Calvin United Church	

Membership Records

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/301/1	Communion roll	1930-1977
MF-464	Also includes baptism records and session records for Calvin Presbyterian/United	

Records of Official Board

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/301/1	Minutes	1950
MF-464	Also includes baptism records for Calvin Presbyterian/United (1891-1948), communion roll for Calvin United Church, and session minutes from Calvin Presbyterian/United.	

Records of Session

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/300/2	Minutes	1933
MF-464	Also includes baptism records for Calvin Presbyterian/United (1891-1948), communion roll for Calvin United Church, and session minutes from Calvin Presbyterian.	

Orders of Service

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/1642/3	Order of service for 140 th anniversary service	June 8, 1980

Ministers of Margaree Congregational Church

1873: Vacant
1874: J.F. Malcom (student)
1875-1880: William Peacock
1881-1883: Vacant
1884-1887: J. Shipperley
1888-1889: Vacant
1890-1892: R.B. Mills
1893-1895: Vacant
1896-1897: J. Shipperley
1898: Vacant
1899-1901: Abraham Braine
1902-1903: Vacant
1904: Robert Hay
1905-1907: Samuel Wilson
1908-1912: William J. Bevis
1913-1919: John H. Sulston
1920-1922: F.G. Purnell
1923-1924: Vacant

Ministers of Margaree Methodist Circuit

1855-1856: James Burns
1856-1857: A.W. Nicholson
1857-1858: S.I. Teed
1858-1859: J.W. Howie
1859-1860: I.E. Thurlow
1860-1861: J.J. Teasdale
1861-1862: A.S. Tuttle
1862-1863: J. Johnson

*After this point, the Margaree region was supplied from Port Hood, Hawkesbury, or Baddeck.

Ministers of Margaree Pastoral Charge

1925: Vacant

1926: Vacant

1927: Alexander S. Murray

1928-1931: Ernest Plowman

1932-1936: C.H. Johnson

1937-1941: R.A. Ross

1942: Vacant

1943: Supply

1944-1947: A.C. McPhail

1948: Vacant

1949-1979: Thomas S. Bellis

1980-1982: Gordon D. Postill

1983-1987: Ross B. Hamilton

1988-1990: David N. Hann

1991-1992: Stephen R. Berube

1993-1997: J. David Brewer

1998-2001: Gordon D. MacLean

2002-2003: Vacant

2004-2010: Barbara MacNaughton

2011-2015: Norma Mills

2015-2016: Dale Crawford

2016-: Alicia Cox