

Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council Archives

Finding Aid # 618

Memorial Pastoral Charge (Prince Edward Island)

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Reference Number: PC/618

Title: Memorial Pastoral Charge fonds

Dates: 1933-1940; 1946-2009; 2011-2018

Extent: 19.5 cm of textual records

Administrative History: A pastoral charge consists of one or more communities of faith under the spiritual leadership of a minister. The pastoral charge title usually reflects the breadth of the geographic area encompassing the charge.

Memorial Pastoral Charge is located on Prince Edward Island and consists of the community of faith of Memorial United Church (Murray River).

The Murray Harbour-Murray River Pastoral Charge had been informally operating as a one point charge since approximately 1988 but the official amalgamation of Murray Harbour, Murray River, and Little Sands was approved by Prince Edward Island Presbytery effective April 1, 1999. The congregation worshiped at the church in Murray River. Murray Harbour Church sold in 2008 and the church in Murray River was sold in 2009. A new church was built in 2009 and named Memorial United Church and the pastoral charge was renamed Memorial Pastoral Charge in that same year.

Effective January 1, 2019, The United Church of Canada underwent some structural changes including the elimination of all Presbyteries. At this time, Memorial Pastoral Charge became part of the Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council.

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

Scope and Content: Fonds consists of minutes; reports; baptism certificate stubs; a transcription of a baptism register; membership certificate stubs; financial records; correspondence; newsletters; published and unpublished histories; and newspaper clippings from Memorial Pastoral Charge and its Methodist antecedents. Fonds is composed of the following sous-fonds:

- Memorial Pastoral Charge records
- Murray Harbour-Murray River Pastoral Charge records
- Murray Harbour Methodist Circuit records
- Murray Harbour United Church records
- Little Sands United Church records
- St. Andrew's United Church (Belle River)

Notes:

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

Accruals: Further accruals are expected.

Immediate Source of Acquisition: Records were received from the pastoral charge in September 1996; 2008 (accession 08-056); and 2019 (accession 19-074).

Related Records: See Montague Pastoral Charge fonds. The A. C. MacPhail fonds contains a baptism/marriage/burial register (1938-1942).

Associated Material: The PEI Public Archives and Records Office holds microfilms of records for Murray River, Church of Scotland; Little Sands Presbyterian and United Church; White Sands, Guernsey Cove, Murray Harbour Bible Christian and Methodist Churches, and the Methodist Church in Hopefield.

Reference Number: PC/618/1
Title: Memorial Pastoral Charge records
Dates: 2009; 2011-2018
Extent: 7 cm of textual records

Scope and Content: Sous-fonds consists of minutes; annual reports; and newspaper clippings from Memorial Pastoral Charge. Sous-fonds is composed of the following series:

- Records of Session
- Annual Reports
- Church Histories

Note:

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

File List:

Records of Session

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/1412/26	Minutes Also includes minutes from Murray Harbour-Murray River Pastoral Charge (2004-2009)	2009-December 6, 2017

Annual Reports

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
AR/604	Annual reports	2009, 2011-2018

Church Histories

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
CH/615	-Newspaper clipping: ‘Church named Memorial United’	n.d.
	-Newspaper clipping: “Window on the art” by Mary MacKay. <i>The Guardian</i>	March 14, 2009
	-Newspaper clipping: “Stained glass artist hopes windows inspire”	March 21, 2009

Reference Number: PC/618/2

Title: Murray Harbour-Murray River Pastoral Charge records

Dates: 1933-1940; 1946-2009

Extent: 8.5 cm of textual records

Administrative History: At the time of the Union of Methodist, Congregational and Presbyterian Churches to form the United Church of Canada in 1925, two pastoral charges were established in this area: Murray Harbour with preaching points at Murray Harbour, Cape Bear and Abney; and Murray River with preaching points at Murray River, Little Sands, and Belle River.

Murray Harbour and Murray River Pastoral Charges were amalgamated in 1930. The new pastoral charge of Murray Harbour-Murray River contained the preaching points of Abney Glen, Little Sands, Murray Harbour, Murray River, White Sands, and William. Cape Bear was no longer listed as a preaching point at this time.

At the time of Union, 1925, Belle River was part of the Valleyfield Pastoral Charge. The congregation shortly after became part of the Murray River Pastoral Charge. In 1928, Belle River joined with Eldon to form the Belfast-Belle River Pastoral Charge. From 1948 to 1955, Belle River received supply from the Murray Harbour-Murray River Pastoral Charge. In 1955, Belle River became part of the Valleyfield-Orwell Head Pastoral Charge but joined once again with Murray Harbour-Murray River in 1968. Belle River was closed in 1980.

Murray Harbour-Murray River had been informally operating as a one point charge since approximately 1988 but the official amalgamation of Murray Harbour, Murray River, and Little Sands was approved by Prince Edward Island Presbytery effective April 1, 1999. The congregation worshiped at the church in Murray River. Murray Harbour Church sold in 2008 and the church in Murray River was sold in 2009. A new church was built in 2009 and named Memorial United Church and the pastoral charge was renamed Memorial Pastoral Charge in that same year.

Scope and Content: Sous-fonds consists of baptism certificate stubs; membership certificate stubs; minutes; financial records; correspondence; reports; newsletters; a published history; and a newspaper clipping from Murray Harbour-Murray River Pastoral Charge. Sous-fonds is composed of the following series:

- Baptism Records
- Membership Records
- Records of Session
- Records of Treasurer
- Legal/Property Records
- Annual Reports
- Newsletters
- Church Histories

Note:

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

File List:

Baptism Records

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/151/13	Baptism certificate stubs	1994-2001

Membership Records

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/151/12	Membership certificate stubs	1961-1993

Records of Session

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/1412/26	Minutes Also includes minutes from Memorial Pastoral Charge (2009-2017)	January 11, 2004-2009

Records of Treasurer

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/151/16	Treasurer's book	1933-1940
PC/151/17	Treasurer's book	1946-1970
PC/151/15	Cash record books	1950-1988

Legal/Property Records

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/151/14	Correspondence and legal documents re. estate of Willard L. Jordan	1994-1995

Annual Reports

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
AR/604	Annual reports	1983-1984, 1986, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1997, 1999- 2001, 2003-2004, 2006- 2008

Newsletters

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/1103/15	The Journal" newsletters	September 1983; December 1983; Spring 1984; September 1990; December 22, 1991; April 12, 1992; December 20, 1992

Church Histories**File Number**

CH/615

File Title/Description

-“A History of the United Churches of Murray Harbour, Murray River, and Little Sands, 1815-1965” by Mr. M.A. MacNeill, 8 pp.

-Newspaper clipping: “Murray Harbour” re. brief history on occasion of 50th Anniversary of Murray Harbour Pastoral Charge

Dates

n.d.

n.d.

Reference Number: PC/618/3

Title: Murray Harbour Methodist Circuit records

Dates: [2003]

Extent: 0.5 cm of textual records

Administrative History: Thomas Dawson, a Methodist preacher, who came to Charlottetown in 1801, preached in the Murray Harbour area in the early years. The first Methodist Church on Prince Edward Island was opened in Murray Harbour in 1815 by Rev. John Hicks. The Murray Harbour Methodist Circuit included Murray Harbour, Cape Bear, and White Sands. These churches became part of The United Church of Canada in 1925.

Scope and Content: Sous-fonds consists of a transcription of a Methodist baptism register from the Murray Harbour area.

Note:

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

File List:

Baptism Records

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/169/4	Transcription of Methodist Register of Baptisms in the Parishes of St. Andrew, St. George, and St. John, 1792-1838 Transcribed by Kathie Sencabaugh and printed from the Internet on March 21, 2003	1792-1838

Reference Number: PC/618/4

Title: Murray Harbour United Church records

Dates: 1965; 1998-2001

Extent: 2.5 cm of textual records

Administrative History: The Methodist church in Murray Harbour became Murray Harbour United Church, as part of Murray Harbour Pastoral Charge, upon the formation of The United Church of Canada in 1925. Murray Harbour-Murray River had been informally operating as a one point charge since approximately 1988 but the official amalgamation of Murray Harbour, Murray River, and Little Sands was approved by Prince Edward Island Presbytery effective April 1, 1999. The congregation worshiped at the church in Murray River. Murray Harbour Church was sold in 2008.

Scope and Content: Sous-fonds consists of minutes; a history; and newspaper clippings from Murray Harbour United Church. Sous-fonds is composed of the following series:

Records of Women's Organizations
Church Histories

Note:

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

File List:

Records of Women's Organizations

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/152/1	UCW Mary Martha minutes and roll	February 19, 1988-January 9, 2001

Church Histories

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
CH/615	-“A History of the United Churches of Murray Harbour, Murray River, and Little Sands, 1815-1965” by Mr. M.A. MacNeill, 8 pp.	n.d.
	-Newspaper clipping: “New Church Hall at Murray Harbour, P.E.I.”	n.d.
	-Newspaper clipping: “Murray Harbour United Church closing doors”	n.d.

Reference Number: PC/618/5

Title: Little Sands United Church records

Dates: 1965; n.d.

Extent: 0.5 cm of textual records

Administrative History: The Presbyterian church in Little Sands became Little Sands United Church, as part of the Murray River Pastoral Charge, upon the formation of The United Church of Canada in 1925.

Murray Harbour-Murray River had been informally operating as a one point charge since approximately 1988 but the official amalgamation of Murray Harbour, Murray River, and Little Sands was approved by Prince Edward Island Presbytery effective April 1, 1999. The congregation worshipped at the church in Murray River.

Scope and Content: Sous-fonds consists of a history and newspaper clippings re. Little Sands United Church.

Note:

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

File List:

Church Histories

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
CH/615	-“A History of the United Churches of Murray Harbour, Murray River, and Little Sands, 1815-1965” by Mr. M.A. MacNeill, 8 pp.	1965
	-Newspaper clipping: “Little Sands church earns recognition”	n.d.
	-Newspaper clipping: “Special service at Little Sands United”	n.d.

Reference Number: PC/618/6

Title: St. Andrew's United Church (Belle River) records

Dates: 1972; 1994

Extent: 0.5 cm of textual records

Administrative History: At the time of the creation of The United Church of Canada in 1925, Belle River was part of the Valleyfield Pastoral Charge. This church was a newly formed United Church congregation made up mostly of members who had withdrawn from the Wood Islands and Belfast Presbyterian Churches which remained Presbyterian at the time of Union. The congregation soon became part of the Murray River Pastoral Charge. A church, converted from an old cheese factory, was opened in 1927.

In 1928, Belle River joined with Eldon to form the Belfast-Belle River Pastoral Charge. From 1948 to 1955, Belle River received supply from the Murray Harbour-Murray River Pastoral Charge. In 1955, Belle River became a part of the Valleyfield-Orwell Head Pastoral Charge. The pastoral charge was reorganized in 1968 with Valleyfield becoming part of Montague Pastoral Charge; Orwell Head became part of the Orwell-Vernon Pastoral Charge and Belle River joined once again with Murray Harbour-Murray River. Belle River was closed in 1980.

Scope and Content: Sous-fonds consists of two histories of St. Andrew's United Church.

Note:

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

File List:

Church Histories

File Number	File Title/Description	Dates
CH/615	-“History of the Churches of Saint Andrew's United Church, Belle River United Church.”	March 6, 1994
	-History of St. Andrew's United Church, Belle River by Anna Riley, 3 pp.	1972

History of the Presbyterian Congregation of Murray Harbour, Murray River, and Little Sands

The first Presbyterian minister to visit the Murray Harbour area was Rev. Dr. James MacGregor who preached a couple sermons there in 1806. The congregation of Murray Harbour South and Murray Harbour North was organized in 1822 by Rev. Dr. Kerr. It wasn't until 1830 that the congregation had its first settled minister, Rev. Daniel MacCurdy. By 1885, the pastoral charge included 3 churches: Murray Harbour North; Murray Harbour South; and a church on St. Peter's Road in between the other two churches. In 1891, the congregation was divided into two pastoral charges: Murray Harbour North and Murray Harbour South. Little Sands and Murray River were added to Murray Harbour South in 1892.

Rev. Dr. James MacGregor occasionally preached at Little Sands and Wood Island, which were one congregation at the time, from 1806-1819. In 1823, Rev. John MacLennan, a minister of the Church of Scotland, came to Belfast, Wood Islands, Murray Harbour, Cherry Valley, and the surrounding community. In 1843, Belfast continued with the Church of Scotland while Wood Island, Murray, Harbour, and Valleyfield joined with the Free Church. Donald MacNeill was ordained and inducted as minister of the congregation in 1857. At the time, the only church building was a small building which was partially finished on the outside. During the pastorate of Donald MacNeill, new churches were built at Little Sands and Wood Island. A manse was also erected.

A new church was built in Murray River in 1894 and dedicated on November 25, 1894. A new church was built at Little Sands in 1898. The manse at Murray Harbour was sold in 1903 and a new one bought in Murray River. A new church was built and opened in Murray Harbour in 1905.

In 1925, the congregation of Murray Harbour, Murray River and Little Sands decided not to vote on church union and they became part of The United Church of Canada.

Ministers of Murray Harbour Methodist Circuit

1822-1824: John Snowball
1824-1826: Robert Crane
1826-1828: T.H. Davis
1828-1831: W. Webb
1831-1837: R. Conney
1837-1838: J.V. Vost
1838-1861: James Buckley
1861-1864: J.G. Bigney
1865-1867: J.A. Mosher
1868-1871: N.W. Colpitts
1871-1872: G.B. Payson
1872-1873: R. Tweedy
1873-1875: H.J. Clarke
1875-1878: A.E. LePage
1878-1881: J.C. Berrie
1881-1884: E. Bell
1884-1886: W.E. Reynolds
1886-1899: J.S. Allen
1899-1900: W.C. Matthews
1900-1903: A.D. MacCully
1903-1904: J. Perkins
1904: Supply
1905-1908: A.E. Chapman
1908-1911: G.A. Sellers
1911-1915: L.H. Jewett
1915-1917: H.A. Brown
1917-1921: E.S. Weeks
1921-1925: S. Howard
1925: C. Graham

Ministers of Murray Harbour Pastoral Charge

1925-1927: C. Graham

1927-1929: Robert Smart

1929-1930: T.R. Goudge

Ministers of Murray River Pastoral Charge

1925-1929: M.D. MacDonald

1929-1930: Robert Smart

Ministers of Murray Harbour-Murray River Pastoral Charge

1930-1938: Thomas R. Goudge
1938-1939: Roy E. Webster
1939-1941: W.I. Green
1941-1945: Willard C. Picketts
1945-1950: Roy E. Vessey
1950-1951: S.I. Green (supply)
1951-1955: D. Wallace MacPherson
1955-1956: Henry C. Macdougall
1956-1960: L.S. Woolfrey
1960: ----
1961-1966: David H. Barwise
1966-1969: Herbert W. Chapman
1969-1975: John H. Powell
1975-1979: Anthony G.N. Ware
1979-1982: Lonnie S. Atkinson
1982-1989: C. Dawn Wheeler
1989-1993: A. Kimberley Macaulay
1993-1994: M. Gayle MacDonald
1994-1998: Sheila M. Edney
1998-1999: Robert G. Hutcheson
1999-2001: James H. Bragan
2001-2003: Robert H. Hutcheson
2003-2009: Laurie B. Brehaut

Ministers of Memorial Pastoral Charge

2009-2014: J. Keith Gale
2014-2015: David H. Colvin
2015-2016: Donald M. MacPherson
2016-2019: Keith R. MacPherson
2019: ---
2020-: Debbie Aitken