

Regional Council 15 Archives

Finding Aid #300

West Bay Pastoral Charge (Nova Scotia)

**Regional Council 15 Archives
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Table of Contents

[Fonds Description](#).....3

[West Bay Pastoral Charge records](#).....4

[West Bay Presbyterian Pastoral Charge records](#).....5

[West Bay United Church records](#).....7

[Black River United Church records](#).....8

[Cleveland United Church records](#).....9

[Princeville United Church records](#).....10

[The Points Presbyterian Mission Station records](#).....11

[Ministers of West Bay Presbyterian Pastoral Charge](#).....12

[Ministers of West Bay Pastoral Charge](#).....13

Reference Number: PC/300

Title: West Bay Pastoral Charge fonds

Dates: 1834-1977; 1986-1990; 1995-1996; 2002-2006; 2008; 2010-2020

Extent: 24 cm textual records and 3 photographs

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.

West Bay Pastoral Charge is located in the south of Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia. Communities of faith are located at Black River, Cleveland, Princeville, and West Bay.

In 1925, the Congregational, Methodist and most Presbyterian Churches were united into one denomination--The United Church of Canada. At this time, West Bay Pastoral Charge contained the appointments of West Bay, Black River, Cleveland, and Princeville.

After the formation of The United Church of Canada in 1925, summer services were held at The Points until the building was sold by the Black River United Church Trustees in 1962.

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

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

Scope and Content: Fonds consists of baptism/marriage/burial records; membership records; minutes, annual reports, and photographs from West Bay Pastoral Charge and its Presbyterian antecedents. Fonds consists of the following sous-fonds:

- West Bay Pastoral Charge records
- West Bay Presbyterian Church records
- Black River Presbyterian Church records
- West Points Presbyterian Church records
- Princeville United Church records

Notes:

Source of Supplied Title Proper: Title based on contents.

Immediate Source of Acquisition: The majority of records were received from the pastoral charge in 1988.

Associated Material: There are microfilm records of West Bay Pastoral Charge records (1834-1977) at Archives and Records Management Nova Scotia.

Accruals: Further accruals are expected.

Physical Condition: Registers are fragile with pages disintegrating.

Reference Number: PC/300/1

Title: West Bay Pastoral Charge records

Dates: 1986-1990; 1995-1996; 2002-2006; 2008; 2010-2020

Extent: 10 cm of processed textual records

Scope and Content: Sous-fonds consists of baptism/marriage/burial records; membership records; minutes; and reports. Sous-fonds is composed of the following series:

Baptism/Marriage/Burial Records

Membership Records

Records of Session

Annual Reports

File List:

Baptism/Marriage/Burial Records

File	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/414/8	Register Baptisms (1925-June 29, 1930) Marriages (1925-October 26, 1929) Burials (1925-January 18, 1931) Also includes baptism/marriage/burial records (1887-1925) and a communion roll from West Bay Presbyterian (1881-1918)	1925-1931

Membership Records

File	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/414/8	Register: Register of pastors (1834-1930) Register of elders (1860-1918) Communion roll (1881-1918)	1834-1930

Records of Session

File	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/414/10	West Bay Presbyterian/West Bay Pastoral Charge session minutes Also includes minutes from West Bay Presbyterian Church (1898-1925)	1925-March 29, 1959

Annual Reports

File	File Title/Description	Dates
AR/306	Annual reports	1986-1990; 1995-1996; 2002-2006; 2008; 2010- 2020

Reference Number: PC/300/2

Title: West Bay Presbyterian Pastoral Charge records

Dates: 1834-1925

Extent: 10 cm textual records

Administrative History: The West Bay Presbyterian congregation was originally known as the Congregation of St. George's Channel. The congregation received their first minister, Rev. John Stewart, in 1835.

The first church built in the area was The Points Church which was built by 1834. A church was built in Black River in 1836. A new church was built in 1870 and was called "Blackie Church" after Professor Blackie in 1878.

The congregation at Marble Mountain was originally part of the West Bay Pastoral Charge but was attached to Malagawatch in the 1890s. A church was built at Lime Hill in 1876 and also eventually became connected to Marble Mountain.

In 1873, the West Bay Pastoral Charge included St. Peter's, Grand Anse, The Points, North Mountain and Black River. Cleveland and Princeville were added to the pastoral charge in 1884. In September 1905, The Points and North Mountain were separated from West Bay and were supplied by student ministers.

The church at Cleveland was built in 1874 and was the first church built on the road to Grantville and Lower River Inhabitants. A new church was built in 1899 and was located on the east side of the river on land donated by W. R. Morrison. It used some materials from the original place of worship and was then known as the River Inhabitants Bridge Church.

Construction was started on a church in Princeville in 1864 but the building was not completed until the 1880s. This church was originally part of the Port Hastings Pastoral Charge.

In 1925, the Black River, Cleveland, Princeville, and West Bay Presbyterian Churches became part of The United Church of Canada.

Scope and Content: Sous-fonds consists of baptism/marriage/burial records; membership records; minutes; and reports from West Bay Presbyterian Pastoral Charge. Sous-fonds consists of the following series:

- Baptism/Marriage/Burial Records
- Membership Records
- Records of Congregation
- Records of Board of Managers
- Records of Session

Notes:

Source of Supplied Title Proper: Title based on contents.

File List:

Baptism/Marriage/Burial Records

File	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/415/1	West Bay Presbyterian Pastoral Charge register: Baptisms (October 7, 1834-September 1887) Marriages (November 2, 1834-August 12, 1873)	1834-1887
PC/414/8	West Bay Presbyterian Pastoral Charge register: register: Baptisms (September 22, 1887-1925) Marriages (August 4, 1892-1925) Burials (September 20, 1887-1925) Also includes baptism/marriage/burial records from West Bay Pastoral Charge (1925-1931) as well as membership records (1881-1918)	1887-1925

Membership Records

File	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/414/8	West Bay Presbyterian Pastoral Charge: Register of pastors (1834-1930) Register of elders (1860-1918) Communion roll (1881-1918) Also includes baptisms/marriages/burials (1887- 1931)	1834-1930

Records of Congregation

File	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/415/2	Black River Presbyterian congregational meeting minutes Also includes Board of Manager minutes (1877- 1925) as well as minutes from West Bay Pastoral Charge (1925-1977)	July 2, 1877-1925

Records of Board of Managers

File	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/415/2	Black River Presbyterian Board of Managers minutes Also includes congregational minutes (1877- 1925) as well as minutes from West Bay Pastoral Charge (1925-1977)	July 2, 1877-1925

Records of Session

File	File Title/Description	Dates
PC/414/10	West Bay Presbyterian session minutes Also includes minutes from West Bay Pastoral Charge (1925-1959)	January 1, 1898-1925

Reference Number: PC/300/3

Title: West Bay United Church records

Dates: [1990s]

Extent: 0.5 cm of textual records

Administrative History: In 1925, the Presbyterian church in West Bay became West Bay United Church.

Scope and Content: Sous-fonds consists of two unpublished histories of West Bay United Church.

Notes:

Source of Supplied Title Proper: Title based on contents.

File List:

Church Histories

File	File Title/Description	Dates
CH/309	-Archivist's handwritten notes on history of West Bay	[1990s]
	-"The History of West Bay Congregation and Its Ministers" by Mrs. Catherine Skinner, 12 pp.	n.d.

Reference Number: PC/300/4
Title: Black River United Church records
Dates: 1986
Extent: 0.5 cm of textual records

Administrative History: In 1925, the Presbyterian church in Black River became Black River United Church as part of the West Bay Pastoral Charge.

Scope and Content: Sous-fonds consists of histories and newspaper clippings from Black River United Church records.

Notes:

Source of Supplied Title Proper: Title based on contents.

File List:

Church Histories

File	File Title/Description	Dates
CH/309	- <i>The Long and Winding Road, 1836-1986: Black River United Church, Dundee, Cape Breton</i> by Holly Sampson, 60 pp.	1986
	-Newspaper clipping: "Churches by the sea: Black River United Church, Dundee" by M. Allen Gibson. <i>The Chronicle Herald Mail-Star</i>	September 20, 1986
	-Black River United Church 150 th anniversary service	August 17, 1986
	-Newspaper clipping: "Black River United 150 th Anniversary service draws 200." <i>The Chronicle Herald Mail-Star</i>	August 23, 1986

Reference Number: PC/300/5
Title: Cleveland United Church records
Dates: 1974
Extent: 0.5 cm of textual records

Administrative History: In 1925, the Presbyterian church in Cleveland became Cleveland United Church records as part of the West Bay Pastoral Charge.

Scope and Content: Sous-fonds consists of an unpublished history and a newspaper clipping from Cleveland United Church.

Notes:

Source of Supplied Title Proper: Title based on contents.

File List:

Church Histories

File	File Title/Description	Dates
CH/309	-Brief history of Cleveland United Church prepared on occasion of 100 th anniversary, 1 p. -Newspaper clipping: "Churches by the Sea: \$129, and 91 hours of labor were promised" re. Cleveland United Church by M. Allen Gibson"	1974 September 28, 1974

Reference Number: PC/300/6

Title: Princeville United Church records

Dates: [ca.197-]; 1993

Extent: 0.5 cm of textual records and 3 photographs

Administrative History: The Presbyterian church in Princeville became Princeville United Church as part of the West Bay Pastoral Charge.

Scope and Content: Sous-fonds consists of photographs; unpublished histories; and newspaper clippings from Princeville United Church. Sous-fonds consists of the following series:

Photographs

Church Histories

Notes:

Source of Supplied Title Proper: Title based on contents.

File List:

Photographs

File	File Title/Description	Dates
V/GC/4.99-4.101	3 photographs with view of front centre; front left; and front right of exterior of Princeville United Church B&W. 12.7cm x 8.9cm	[ca.197-]

Church Histories

File	File Title/Description	Dates
CH/309	-Photocopy of newspaper clipping: "Churches by the Sea: Princeville United Church" by M. Allen Gibson	n.d.
	-Newspaper clipping: "Church anniversary joyous celebration" re. Princeville United Church by M. Allen Gibson, <i>The Chronicle Herald Mail-Star</i>	August 14, 1993
	-"History of Princeville United Church of Canada," 9 pp.	n.d.

Reference Number: PC/300/7

Title: The Points Presbyterian Mission Station records

Dates: 1906-1922; 1966

Extent: 2 cm textual records

Administrative History: The Points was originally part of the West Bay Presbyterian Pastoral Charge. In September 1905, West Bay Points and North Mountain were separated from West Bay. After the formation of The United Church of Canada in 1925, summer services were held at The Points until the building was sold by the Black River United Church Trustees in 1962

Scope and Content: Sous-fonds consists of membership records and minutes of the West Bay Points Presbyterian Church. Sous-fonds consists of the following series:

Membership Records

Records of Session

Notes:

Source of Supplied Title Proper: Title based on contents.

File List:

Membership Records

PC/414/9	The Points Presbyterian Mission Station register: Communion roll [1907]-1920 Baptisms (December 17, 1906-August 19, 1922; February 28, 1966)	1906-1922; 1966
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Records of Session

PC/414/9	The Points Presbyterian Mission Station session minutes	December 17, 1906-1922
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Ministers of West Bay Presbyterian Pastoral Charge

1874-1884: Rev. Wm. G. Forbes
1884-1892: Rev. Donald MacDougall
1893-1909: Rev. Angus MacMillan
1910-1913: Rev. Alexander Ferguson
1913-1914: Rev. J.A. MacLellan
1914-1921: Rev. J.C. MacLennan
1921-1925: Rev. D.J. MacLeod

Ministers of West Bay Pastoral Charge

1925-1930: Rev. D.J. MacLeod
1930-1942: Rev. James P. Kaye
1943-1944: Rev. John W. Grant
1944-1948: Rev. W. C. MacDonald
1948-1950: Rev. Harold Robbins
1950-1952: Rev. Harold Cox
1952-1958: Rev. R. C. Humby
1958-1959: Rev. J. Fraser MacDonald
1959-1961: Rev. S. Snow
1952-1965: Rev. Gordon MacDiermid
1965-1970: Rev. Anna Taylor
1970-1973: Rev. Fred Guy
1974-1979: Rev. Pringle Fraser
1979-1985: Frederick A. Snyder
1985-1991: Rev. Margie Whynot
1994-1996: Rev. Irene Gunn
2002-2004: Rev. Fran Six
2004-August 2005: ----
August 2005-December 2005: Catherine and David MacLean (supply ministers)
2006-2008: Rev Jim Bragan
2008-March 2011: Rev: K. Wayne Yorke
March 2011–December 2011: Catherine and David MacLean (supply ministers)
2012-2015: Rev. Richard Bowley
2015-: Rev. Donna Lovelace