

# **Regional Council 15 Archives**

## **Finding Aid #305**

### **Port Hastings: St. David's Pastoral Charge (Nova Scotia)**

**Regional Council 15 Archives  
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## Table of Contents

<a href="#"><u>Fonds Description.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>3</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Port Hastings: St. David's Pastoral Charge records.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>4</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>St. David's Presbyterian Church (Port Hastings) records.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>8</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Ministers of St. David's Presbyterian Church (Port Hastings).....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>9</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Ministers of Port Hastings: St. David's Pastoral Charge.....</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>10</u></a>

**Reference Number:** PC/305

**Title:** Port Hastings: St. David's Pastoral Charge fonds

**Dates:** 1890-1916, 1959-1963; 1977-2019; 2021

**Extent:** 71 cm of textual records

**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.

The Port Hastings: St. David's Pastoral Charge is located on the Strait of Canso in Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia.

In 1925, the Congregational, Methodist and the majority of Presbyterian Churches in Canada were united into one denomination--The United Church of Canada. At this time, the Presbyterian church in Port Hastings became St. David's United Church as part of its own pastoral charge. In 1936, it was decided in 1936 that Port Hastings and Port Hawkesbury would share a minister.

Effective January 1, 2019, The United Church of Canada underwent some structural changes including the elimination of all Presbyteries. At this time, Port Hastings: St. David's 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 consists of a membership directory; minutes; correspondence; financial accounts; reports; cemetery records; orders of service; newsletters; unpublished histories; and a newspaper clipping from Port Hastings: St. David's Pastoral Charge and its Presbyterian antecedents. Fonds is composed of the following sous-fonds:

Port Hastings: St. David's Pastoral Charge records

St. David's Presbyterian Church (Port Hastings) records

**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 1963; 1973; February 1995; February 1996; 1998 (accession 98-020); 1999 (accession 99-029); 2000 (accession 2M-005); 2002 (accession 02-046); 2003 (accession 03-107); 2008 (accession 08-020); 2013 (accession 13-046); 2014 (accession 14-027); 2015 (accession 15-051); 2016 (accession 16-019); 2017 (accession 17-073); 2020 (accession 20-006); and 2021 (accession 21-074).

**Associated Material:** The Nova Scotia Provincial Archives has microfilmed records including baptism records (1852-1939); marriage records (1852-1919); burial records (1887-1921); session minutes (1900-1970) and a minister's personal record book with notes concerning members of the congregation (1917-1935).

**Reference Number:** PC/305/1

**Title:** St. David's United Church (Port Hastings) records

**Dates:** 1959-1963; 1977-2019; 2021

**Extent:** 70.5 cm of textual records

**Scope and Content:** Sous-fonds consists of a membership directory; correspondence; financial accounts; reports; orders of service; newsletters; unpublished histories; and a newspaper clipping. Sous-fonds is composed of the following series:

- Membership Records
- Records of Congregation
- Records of Treasurer
- Records of Women's Organizations
- Annual Reports
- Orders of Service
- Newsletters
- Church Histories

**Note:**

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

**File List:**

**Membership Records**

\*Note: This membership directory is for both St. David's United Church (Port Hastings) and St. Mark's United Church (Port Hawkesbury).

<b>File Number</b>	<b>File Title/Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
PC/1051/5	Pictorial membership directory	2007

**Records of Congregation**

<b>File Number</b>	<b>File Title/Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
PC/370/19	Mimeo letters (3)	Christmas 1961-1962

**Records of Treasurer**

<b>File Number</b>	<b>File Title/Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
PC/370/19	Organ Fund accounts	1959-1961

**Records of Women's Organizations**

<b>File Number</b>	<b>File Title/Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
PC/370/17	Text of address on the history of the WMS by Anna MacLean with covering letter	1963

**Annual Reports**

<b>File Number</b>	<b>File Title/Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
AR/309	Annual reports	1985-2019

## Orders of Service

\*Note: The orders of service are for both St. David's United Church (Port Hastings) and St. Mark's United Church (Port Hawkesbury).

<b>File Number</b>	<b>File Title/Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
PC/813/1	Orders of service	1992
PC/813/2	Orders of service	1993
PC/813/3	Orders of service	1994
PC/1002/1	Orders of service	1995
PC/1002/2	Orders of service	1996
PC/1006/1	Orders of service	1997
PC/1006/2	Orders of service	1998
PC/1006/3	Orders of service	1999
PC/1006/5	Orders of service	2000
PC/1006/6	Orders of service	2001
PC/1040/1	Orders of service	2002
PC/1040/2	Orders of service	2003
PC/1040/3	Orders of service	2004
PC/804/19	Orders of service	2005
PC/804/20	Orders of service	2006
PC/804/21	Orders of service	2007
PC/1050/20	Orders of service	2008
PC/1051/1	Orders of service	2009
PC/1051/2	Orders of service	2010
PC/1051/3	Orders of service	2011
PC/1051/4	Orders of service	2012

PC/1052/9	Orders of service	2013
PC/153/4	Orders of service	2014
PC/836/14	Orders of service	2015
PC/483/27	Orders of service	2016
PC/1470/15	Orders of service	2017
PC/1470/8	Orders of service	2018
PC/1470/9	Orders of service	2019
PC/687/1	Order of service for covenanting service of Sandi Irving, DLM	November 14, 2021

**Newsletters**

\*Note: The newsletters are for both St. David’s United Church (Port Hastings) and St. Mark’s United Church (Port Hawkesbury).

<b>File Number</b>	<b>File Title/Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
PC/1468/18	Contact newsletter	April 1996; June 1996; December 1996
PC/1468/21	Contact newsletter	1977-1979
PC/1468/22	Contact newsletter	1980-1985
PC/1468/23	Contact newsletter	1986-1993
PC/1468/24	Contact newsletter	1994
PC/1468/25	Contact newsletter	1995-1999
PC/1531/10	Contact newsletter	2000-2001
PC/1531/9	Contact newsletter	2002; November 2003; June 2004
PC/1531/11	Contact newsletter	2005; November 2006; 2007

**Church Histories**

<b>File Number</b>	<b>File Title/Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
CH/305	-History: "Centennial Year 1985: St. David's United Church, Port Hastings, N.S.," 8 pp.	1985
	-Newspaper clipping: "Churches by the Sea: St. David's United Church, Port Hastings" by M. Allen Gibson (n.d.)	n.d.
	-"St. David's 119 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary" by Yvonne Fox from Contact newsletter	November 2004

**Reference Number:** PC/305/2

**Title:** St. David's Presbyterian Church (Port Hastings) records

**Dates:** 1890-1916

**Extent:** 0.5 cm of textual records

**Administrative History:** Port Hastings was once known as Plaster Cove (or variant spelling Plaister Cove.) Missionary ministers sent from Scotland preaching in the Strait as early as 1798. In April 1827, a committee representing 90 Presbyterian families in the area petitioned the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland for a minister. Subsequently, a pastoral charge was set up in October 1827 with a minister serving both Port Hastings and River Inhabitants.

It was not until January 1832 that the congregation received its first minister, the Rev. Dougald McKichan, who served Port Hastings, River Inhabitants, and River Denys. The first Presbyterian church in Port Hastings was erected early in Rev. Dougald McKichan's ministry, sometime around 1832. This building was never finished though and eventually deteriorated. A second church was built in 1852. This building burned down in 1865 while repairs were being made. A third building was built the next year but never finished on the inside. Work began on a fourth building in 1881 and it was dedicated on November 27, 1885 and renamed St. David's Presbyterian Church. A manse was constructed in 1889.

In 1925, St. David's Presbyterian Church joined The United Church of Canada.

**Scope and Content:** Sous-fonds consists of minutes and cemetery records from St. David's Presbyterian Church in Port Hastings. Sous-fonds is composed of the following series:

Cemetery Records

Records of Women's Organizations

**Note:**

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

**File List:**

**Cemetery Records**

<b>File Number</b>	<b>File Title/Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
PC/370/18	Port Hastings Presbyterian Cemetery book Includes minutes, membership lists, and records of burials	1895-1916

**Records of Women's Organizations**

<b>File Number</b>	<b>File Title/Description</b>	<b>Dates</b>
PC/370/16	Port Hastings Presbyterian Women's Foreign Missionary Society minutes	October 30, 1890-February 1896



### **Ministers of St. David's Presbyterian Church (Port Hastings)**

1832-1840: Dougald McKichan

1840-1852: Supplied from West Bay

1852-1881: William Gordon Forbes

1881-1887: H.K. MacLean (supply minister); Roderick MacLeod (supply minister); and F.D. Laurie (supply minister)

1887-1894: Donald MacDonald

1894-1895: Kenneth MacKenzie

1895-1896: Edward Taylor

1896-1897: John Calder

1897-1903: L.H. MacLean

1903-1907: Hector MacLean

1907-1913: John C. MacLeod

1913-1914: Gordon MacLennan

1914-1916: John Murray

1916-1917: MacLeod Harvey

1917-1925: Donald MacDonald

## **Ministers of Port Hastings: St. David's Pastoral Charge**

1925-1936: Donald MacDonald  
1936-1939: Angus J. MacQueen  
1939-1942: Russel MacSween  
1942-1947: Burton Crowe  
1947-1951: W.K. Pace  
1951-1955: Harold O'Brien  
1955-1957: G.A. Christie  
1957-1958: E. Lloyd Salsman  
1958-1964: Ronald Dempsey  
1964-1967: Boyd Butt  
1967-1972: Eldon Gunn  
1972-1978: Dawson MacDonald  
1978-1979: Walter Davis  
1979-1987: Rev. Kenley MacNeil  
1987-1992: Kimball William Fraser  
1992-1993: James G. Crooks  
1993-1998: William R. MacLennan  
1998-2002: ----  
1999-2002: Debbie A. Aitken  
2002-2003: Donald J. MacDonald  
2003-2007: Wilfred E. Pelley  
2007-2010: G.L. Sheldon LeGrow  
2010-2011: Robert S. Lockhart  
2011-2020: Nancy E. Corrigan  
2020-2021: ---