

FINDING AID

Administrative Records of the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Fonds

Series 508/1 Conference Christian Education

- 508/1/1 Conference Committee on Christian Education
- 508/1/2 Christian Education Business Committee
- 508/1/3 Conference Committee on Christian Education Sub Committees
- 508/1/4 Young People's Union (YUP)

Author Linda White, 2002, Revised 2003, 2006, 2013, 2014

United Church of Canada Archives

Winnipeg

uccarchiveswinnipeg.ca

© 2006

500 Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario Conference fonds. -- 1917 - 2004; predominant 1954-1993. -- 43m of textual records and other material.

The Conference of Manitoba came into existence in June of 1925 with the creation of The United Church of Canada through the union of the Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational and Local Union Churches of Canada. The name was changed in 1980 to the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario as a result of a successful petition to the General Council of the United Church by Cambrian Presbytery. The Conference encompasses the entire province of Manitoba and the area of Northwestern Ontario drained by the Rainy River and Winnipeg River systems as far east as Marathon, Ontario and south to the United States border.

The Conference has an administrative as well as a geographic meaning. The thirteen conferences within The United Church of Canada function as a governing body or court of the church. Very simply, they are composed of members of the Order of Ministry on the roll of Presbyteries within the geographical bounds of the Conference and lay persons under appointment to administrative or staff positions within the Conference by a court of the church or the United Church General Council. These are matched by an equal number of lay representatives elected from the Pastoral Charges within the Conference. Chairpersons of Conference Committees and the President of the Conference United Church Women are also members of Conference. In addition to the obligation to meet annually and to appoint a Conference Executive, the Conference was charged with appointing Standing and Special Committees to carry out the day to day work of the Conference. In 1925 these were Education and Students, Evangelism and Social Service, Foreign Missions, Home Missions, Pensions, Publications, Religious Education, Missionary and Maintenance Fund, Church Property, Settlement, Statistics, Historical and Obituaries.

With a few exceptions, the structure of Conference remained essentially the same until 1972 when a major realignment of the administrative structure of the United Church at the General Council (National) and Conference levels took place. In 1972, the Boards of Home Missions, Evangelism and Social Service and Christian Education had ceased to exist along with the staff positions associated with that work. New paid staff positions which made their first appearance around this time were Regional Director of Broadcasting in 1971 (lasting only until 1972), the positions of Conference Personnel and Conference Administrative Support in 1972 and the positions of Leadership Development and Program Resource in 1973. In 1975 and 1976, and again from 1989 to 1993, a staff position for Communications was added. In 1983, the Conference staff position of Christian Development and Outreach was created and, in 1986, an Evangelism and Social Action staff person as well as a full time Conference Archivist was hired.

The changes in National and Conference administrative structure, which resulted from a move towards more regional and local control of church programs, were reflected in the evolution of Conference Committees. The powerful Conference Home Missions Committee and its sub-committees, responsible for overseeing the mission initiatives of Conference and the administration of mission grants according to Board of Home Missions directives, had been replaced by the Administrative Support Committee (briefly called the Congregational Support Committee) by 1973. Another major reorganisation of the Conference committee structure took place in 1983 when a system for the division of the work of Conference committees among four Councils (Stewardship, Worship and Education, Ministry and Personnel, Evangelism and Social Action) was devised. Committee chairs reported to their respective Councils that in turn were represented on the Conference Executive.

Another major reorganisation of Conference Structure took place in 1993. At that time, the pressure of meeting current demands with dwindling resources resulted in a move to reduce the number of Presbyteries from eight to six. The work previously allocated among four Conference Councils was then divided between three Program Units (Education and Justice, Ministry and Personnel, and Stewardship and Mission). The number of Committees reporting to the Program Units, and through them to the Conference Executive was reduced. Salaried staff were also decreased and reorganised to include the positions of Executive Secretary, Education and Justice staff person, Stewardship and Mission staff

person, Personnel staff person and Conference Archivist. Further changes to the Conference Structure were made in 2005.

Many of the materials which make up this Conference fonds had been stored in the basement of the Conference administrative offices at 120 Maryland Street in Winnipeg in an ad hoc manner for varying lengths of time over a period of approximately forty years before coming into the Archives. Generally, the records of Conference executive, staff and committee chairs were transferred to the basement at the end of their term of office. Renovations to and rearrangement of the basement area resulted in the movement of the materials around the storage area on more than one occasion. It is probable that space constraints resulted in the unrecorded disposal of an undetermined number of documents and other materials throughout the storage period. Administrative records in storage at 120 Maryland were formally transferred to the Archives in 1989. The movement of the Conference administrative offices to a new address in the fall of 1996 precipitated an inventory and the relocation of those records in 1995 prior to the move. The balance of the fonds consists of record series that had been accessioned by the Archives at various periods prior to 1995. The provenance of records accessioned prior to 1976 is often obscure.

The fonds consists of textual and other materials generated by the Conference, the Conference Executive, Conference Staff Associates and Conference Committee members in the fulfilment of their mandate as outlined in *The Manual of The United Church of Canada* from 1925 to 1994. Throughout the life of the fonds, several Conference staff members have served in more than one church or community administration simultaneously while keeping unified files. This has resulted in materials from other administrative jurisdictions being interspersed among the fonds.

Fonds are composed of the following series: Conference Annual Meetings, 1925-1993; Conference Executive, 1925-2002; Conference Offices, 1958-1989; Committees, Task Forces and Working Groups Answering to the Executive and Sub-Executive, 1968-1993; Manitoba Conference Branch of The United Church Woman's Missionary Society, 1918-1962; Manitoba Conference Branch Woman's Missionary Society Archives Collection, [ca.1885-ca.1960]; Manitoba Conference Lay Association, [ca.1910]-1962; District Council AOTS, 1964-1977; Conference Committee on Christian Education, 1927-1992; Conference Home Missions Committee, 1926-1973; Superintendents of Home Missions, 1926-1973; records of the Administration of Norway House Residential School, 1954-1967; Conference Hospitals, 1923-1982; Home Missions Inter-Conference and Ecumenical Groups, 1956-1969; Conference Evangelism and Social Service Committee, 1933-1976; Conference Congregational Life and Work, 1952-1979; Church in Society Committee, 1976-1983; Evangelism and Social Action Council, 1983-1993; Inter-Conference and Ecumenical Groups reporting to the Evangelism and Social Action Council, 1972-1999; Conference Communications, 1964-1992; Worship and Education Council, 1981-1994; Worship and Education Council Women's Groups, 1982-1992; Education and Justice Unit, 1987 - 2004 (predominately 1993 - 1998); Committee on Education, Students and Church Vocations, 1975-1978; Conference Education Committee, 1972-1983; [Interim] Placement Committee, 1970-1972; Conference Settlement Committee, 1971-1980; Conference Staff Committee, 1966-1992; Ministry and Personnel Council, 1982-1993; Conference Personnel Officer, 1972-1993; Conference Personnel Records, 1957-1993; records of the Conference Finance Committee, 1964-1974; records of Conference Administrative Support, 1973-1983; records of Administrative Support Staff, 1972-1993; Conference Stewardship, 1967-1993; Church Camps, 1918-1975; Church Home for Girls, 1945-1976; Women's Union, 1926-1958; Manitoba Conference Woman's Association, 1946-1962; Conference United Church Women, 1963-2002; Fellowship of Professional Women, 1949-1980; Manitoba Canadian Girls in Training, 1918-1990; and the Manitoba Student Christian Movement, 1923-1981.

Title based on contents of fonds.

The fonds also includes ephemera, photographs, slides, audio tape recordings, video tape recordings and 50 sets of blueprints, plans and architects' drawings.

Original order of many of the series of the fonds was substantially obscured during the storage period and many materials were in an extremely disorganised state with no original order or access points apparent; where necessary, order based on administrative function has been reconstructed by the arranging archivist.

Some restrictions on access; see series descriptions.

Finding Aids consist of series descriptions and box lists; some sub-series and file level description available.

Further accruals are expected.

508/1 Conference Christian Education. -- 1927-1971. -- 50cm textual records.

The function of Christian or religious education was "to provide for each age group in the Church appropriate programs of worship, instruction, service activities and recreation." (The Manual, 1928) This includes what is generally thought of as Sunday School as well as other programs for children and youth such as Explorers, Trail Rangers, Tuxis, Canadian Girls in Training (CGIT) and Young People's Societies and Groups as well as adult religious education. The work of combining the religious education programs of the uniting Churches was begun many years previous to actual union in 1925, with most congregations utilising a common church school curriculum and structure. Following union it was mandated that each Conference should appoint a Standing Committee on Religious Education. Representation was drawn from the Presbytery Committees on Religious Education, the Young People's Union of Conference and the Field Secretaries of Christian Education appointed by the General Council Board of Religious Education as well as any other members of the Board resident in Conference. Also included were up to ten additional members appointed from Conference. From 1932, this committee was known as the Conference Committee on Christian Education. Prior to 1936, Religious Education in the Conference was largely directed and supported by the ecumenical Religious Education Council of Manitoba. The Council also operated an Office and Supply Depot. In 1935 it was decided that the Conference should assume direct responsibility for Christian Education within its boundaries while recommending the continuance of the Religious Education Council of Manitoba on an advisory basis; a relationship which continued until ca.1950. The Conference Committee also undertook to take over operation of the Council Office and Supply Depot. Other co-operative relationships included the Manitoba Girl's and Boy's Work Boards, the Tuxis and Trail Ranger Association, the Manitoba CGIT Board and the Sunday School Superintendent's Association (largely a Winnipeg organisation). Another activity of Conference Christian Education was the operation of Vacation Bible Schools. In 1950, the Manitoba Conference of the United Church was involved with the operation of special Vacation Schools for the large groups of children evacuated from Winnipeg because of flooding at Matlock and Gimli with the help of extra funding from the Woman's Missionary Society.

The Christian Education Committee was also involved in the distribution of educational resources. In 1946, it was decided that the Christian Education Committee would publish a newsletter called the 'Four-Forty-one' (after the address of the Conference offices in the Somerset Block). A library of audio-visual resources (largely slides and filmstrips) was established at the Religious Education office by the end of 1946 and a Visual Aids/Visual Education sub-committee was created in 1949. In 1950, a membership fee was instituted and the service became known as the Visual Education Library (the Audio Visual Education Library or AVEL by 1953). In 1956 it was decided to amalgamate the Christian Education Information Depot and the Woman's Missionary Society Literature Depot at the Christian Education offices at 441. In 1960, the Christian Education AV Library began carrying films, missionary filmstrips and records. In 1962 it was decided that the Manitoba Conference AVEL would assume responsibility for all audio-visuals for both the Manitoba and Saskatchewan Conferences. Manitoba AVEL would also handle films for the Board of Information and Stewardship. As a result the Library was closed for several months and moved to new quarters in the new Conference offices at 120 Maryland. Leadership and training resources were added to the resource centre in 1965. An AVEL Advisory Committee was set up in 1966. In 1967, General Council Board of Christian Education assumed the cost of operating existing depots. A regional Conference Committee was established to offer counsel and administrative. Conference Christian Education would have representation on the new committee, however, it was no longer be a sub-committee of Christian Education.

In 1963, the recommendation was made to dissolve the Conference Committee on Information and Stewardship with responsibility for the Mission Education program being taken over by Christian Education. In 1964, the General Council Division of Congregational Life and Work (CL&W) was created with responsibility for oversight of Evangelism and Social Service, Christian Education, United Church Men and United Church Women. The Conference Standing Committee of CL&W not created until 1969. At that time areas which had been the responsibility of Christian Education came under CL&W. The Conference Christian Education Committee had their last meeting in December of 1968.

From 1925 to 1968 a paid staff person in the form of a Field Secretary of Christian Education assisted with the implementation of Christian Education programs at the Conference and Presbytery levels. The Field Secretary also served as the Secretary of the Conference Committee. Field Secretaries of Christian Education for Manitoba Conference for this period included Rev. J. W. Little, 1925-1935; Rev. F. M. Milligan, 1935-1942; Rev. J. M. Taylor, 1942-1946; Rev. P. G. White, 1946-1948; Rev. Wilbur Howard, 1949-1953; Rev. W. E. (Ted) Leighfield, 1953-1959; Rev. R. S. (Bud) Harper, 1959-1964; and John Klassen, 1964-1968. The Field Secretary was shared with Saskatchewan Conference until 1942. Paid staff also included Field Secretaries of Boy's Work (most recently Mr. George Takashima appointed in 1961, resigned 1963) and Girl's Work.

The provenance of a large proportion of these records is obscure and it is not always possible to determine the individual or individuals who created these files or who had custody of them before they were accessioned by the Conference Archives.

Sub-series described here include: records of the Conference Committee on Christian Education, 1927-1969; records of the Christian Education Business/Administration Committee, 1935-1946; minutes and other records of the Conference Committee on Christian Education sub-committees, 1948-1971; and records of the Manitoba Conference Young People's Union, 1950-1961.

Title is based on contents.

Original order of the records in this series was obscured during accessioning and later microfilming projects; order has been imposed based on the administrative organisation of the various Conference Christian Education initiatives; General Council records concerning Christian Education budget requests for 1968 have been culled.

Records pertaining to Christian Education may also be found among the records of the various Presbyteries of Conference.

Accession: Ex-107; 1984-41; 2006 - 28; 2005-33

508/1/1 Conference Committee on Christian Education. -- 1927-1969. -- 16cm textual records.

This sub-series consists of the minutes, annual reports and other records created by the Manitoba Conference Committee on Christian Education. This includes minutes and annual reports dating from 1933 to 1956 and January 1966 to January 1969. Included are minutes of the antecedent Conference Committee on Religious Education from 1927-1932. The sub-series also incorporates minutes of meetings of United Church representatives on the Boards of the Religious Education Council, as well as copies of minutes and reports of Conference Committee on Christian Education sub-committees and minutes of Conference Committee on Christian Education Executive meetings.

Title is based on contents.

File level description; box lists available.

Location: Box 508/1-1; Box 508/1/4-2.

File Description

1. Minutes of the Conference Committee on Christian Education. -- 1927-1940. -- 1 folder.

Title is based on contents.

2. Minutes of the Conference Committee on Christian Education. -- 1942-1949. -- 1 folder.

Title is based on contents.

3. Minutes of the Conference Committee on Christian Education. -- 1950-1956. -- 2 folders.

Title is based on contents.

4. Minutes of the Conference Committee on Christian Education. -- 1966-1969. -- 1 folder.

Title is based on contents.

Records were in a disorganised state; chronological order has been reconstructed by the archivist.

5. Conference Committee on Christian Education Annual Report. -- 1951. -- 1 folder.

Title is based on contents.

6. Conference Committee on Christian Education Pamphlets and Flyers. -- 195-. -- 2 folders.

Title is based on contents.

508/1/2 Christian Education Business Committee. -- 1935-1946. -- 2cm textual records.

As a sub-committee of the Conference Committee on Christian Education, the Christian Education Business Committee was responsible for supervising the raising and expenditure of the Christian Education budget. It was also charged with oversight of all business in connection with the work of the Conference Committee on Christian Education including the supply depot and Christian Education offices.

The sub-series consists of the minutes of the Business Committee of the Conference Committee on Christian Education including reports, correspondence and memoranda and various financial statements.

Also known as Christian Education Administration Committee.

Title is based on contents.

The Finding Aid is the sub-series description; box list available.

Location: Box 508/1-1.

508/1/3 Conference Committee on Christian Education Sub-Committees. -- 1948-1971. -- 32cm textual records.

Sub-Committees of the Conference Committee on Christian Education were created to supervise the various aspects of Christian Education work in the Conference and to oversee the activities associated with a particular age group or administrative function. At various times these included: Children's Work (Explorers); Girl's Work (which eventually came to function only as a unit of the Manitoba CGIT Board); Boy's Work; Adult Work; Young People (acting as liaison with the Conference Young People's Union); Leadership Training; Business; and Executive. In 1940 a Junior Work sub-committee, dealing with the religious education of primary aged children, was added. A Radio Sub-Committee was formed in 1943 to oversee Christian Education efforts in the area of religious broadcasting. However, the responsibilities of the Radio Sub-Committee had been moved under the umbrella of the Conference Committee on Broadcasting by 1945. Also in existence at various times were a Camping Committee and Church Vacation School Committee

Due to the difficulty of securing sufficient motivated volunteers, not all the sub-committees were functioning all the time. For example, by the early 1940s the Children's Work and Junior Work sub-committees were moribund, although the Children's Work Sub-Committee would later be revived. By 1950, there were thirteen sub-committees operating including Camp Sites, Young Adult, Visual Education, Naramata and 'Station Wagon' as well as some of those already mentioned above. The Naramata sub-committee was charged with investigating the creation of a Christian Leadership Training School for lay workers in Manitoba similar to the one that had been established in Naramata, B. C. A co-operative facility, the Prairie Christian Training Centre, was established at the Qu-Appelle Valley Centre by 1952. The 'Station Wagon' Sub-Committee oversaw the fundraising for and purchase of a Christian Education vehicle that was primarily used for Young People's work.

By 1961, twenty sub-committees were operating under the umbrella of Christian Education. These were regrouped under the administrative divisions of Children, Youth & Adult with one staff person responsible for each. New sub-committees created during the 1960s included Drama, Pre-School Work and Primary Work. Adult Study, more commonly known as the Sub-Committee on Adult Work, was added in 1962. In 1967, as the Conference moved towards the creation of a Conference Committee of Congregational Life and Work, it was decided to do away with formal Children, Youth and Adult sub-committees of Christian Education and, in exchange, create an ad hoc committee and chair for each Christian Education 'event'.

This sub-series consists of the minutes and other records for various sub-committees and other groups that reported to the Conference Committee on Christian for the period from 1948 to 1970. Records have not yet been accessioned for all the sub-committees mentioned above.

Title is based on contents.

File level description; box list available.

Location: Box 508/1-1.

File Description

1. Young Adult Programs. --1948-1960. -- 2 folders.

From 1948 to around 1960 Conference activities for young adults (aged approximately 18 to 25 years and usually married) were co-ordinated by the Winnipeg Young Adult Council. The membership of the Council appears to have consisted of representatives from each of Winnipeg's active Young Adult groups. Representatives from Westminster's 50-50 Club also reported to the Council. The main function of the Council was to organise fellowship and educational opportunities for Manitoba Conference young adults. This included an annual Fall Rally at which the Executive of the Council was elected. Beginning in 1949, the Council also pioneered Marriage Guidance and Enrichment 'clinics' in the Conference in co-operation with the 50-50 Club at Westminster. By 1953, few young adult groups were still active in the Conference. Programming for young adult events came to be guided more and more by the Conference Young Adult Sub-Committee under the direction of Ted Leighfield. Presidents of the Winnipeg Young Adult Council included Rod Horne, 1948-1949; Jim McKay, 1949-1950; and Howard Elliott, 1950-1951.

Items described here include minutes and correspondence of the Winnipeg Young Adult Council dating from 1948 to 1960. Also included here are minutes and other material generated by the Young Adult Sub-Committee, also called the Young Adult and Couples Club Sub-Committee, dating from 1958 to 1960.

Title is based on contents.

Formerly known as the Winnipeg Presbytery Young Adult Council.

Chronological order was reconstructed by the arranging archivist.

2. Sub-Committee on Adult Work. -- 1962-1967. -- 1 folder.

A sub-committee on Adult Study, more widely known as the Sub-Committee on Adult Work, was created by Conference Christian Education in 1962 to co-ordinate adult work. Representatives were drawn from the Young People's Union, Young Adults, United Church Men and Senior Adult work as well as members at large. When the Kairos Program for Young Adults made its first Conference appearance in 1965, it was decided that a separate Kairos Committee need not be created and organisation and distribution of Kairos material was carried on by the Adult Sub-Committee.

Items described here consist of an incomplete series of the minutes of the Sub-Committee on Adult Work from 1962-1967. Also included are copies of a newsletter produced by the sub-committee and a copy of the Ordination Sermon preached by Rev. Stanley H. Searle at Knox United Church in 1962.

Title based on contents.

Chronological order was reconstructed by the arranging archivist.

3. Sub-Committee on Children's Work. -- 1954-1971. -- 11 folders.

Items described here consist of an incomplete series of the minutes of the Christian Education Sub-Committee on Children's Work from 1958-1960 and 1966-1967; and General Council Children's Work Committee materials including minutes and field bulletins for the Explorer and Messenger programs.

Title based on contents.

4. Junior Girl's Work Sub-Committee. -- 1960-1961. -- 1 folder.

The Junior Girl's Work Sub-Committee was formed in 1960 when the Explorer Committee, which previously reported to the Children's Work Sub-Committee, and the Junior Sunday School Teachers joined into one unit. This new Sub-Committee now reported to the Conference Christian Education Committee. A large part of the work of this committee was the direction of the Explorer program for Junior Girls. Records consist of an incomplete series of the minutes of the monthly meetings of the sub-committee from its first meeting on 6 January 1960 to the meeting of 8 January 1961.

Title based on contents.

5. Boy's Work Sub-Committee. -- 1958-1969. -- 12 folders.

The Boy's Work Sub-Committee was responsible for overseeing United Church boy's programs such as the Tuxis and Trail Rangers programs for teen-aged boys as well as other boy's groups established within Conference churches. These could include the Scouts, Boy's Brigade and fraternal organisations such as the Black Square. In 1943, the decision was made to separate the Boy's Work Sub-Committee into two with one new committee responsible for Tuxis and Trail Rangers and another responsible for all other boy's work. By 1950, however, membership in Tuxis and Trail Rangers had begun to decline and a separate sub-committee was no longer needed to supervise this work. New Conference programs which appeared around this time were TYRO (a new program for junior boys aged 9, 10 and 11), Sigma-C (a program for boys aged 12, 13 and 14 which got underway in 1953) and High-C (a co-ed program for teens aged 15, 16 and 17). By 1969, with the move away from centralised programming, the decision was made to no longer provide youth program materials for specific programs such as Tuxis and Sigma-C but rather to provide age appropriate resources which could be used by any United Church youth group. Tuxis had a long association with the Boy's Parliaments program that have since evolved into the Youth Parliament program.

Records consist of the minutes of the Boy's Work Sub-Committee, 1958; General Council Boy's Work Department field bulletins and newsletters; resource and program material including minutes from other Conferences and the General Council Boy's Work Committee.

Title based on contents.

See minutes of the Conference Committee on Christian Education of 18 March 1952 for a copy of the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Boy's Work in the Conference.

6. Hi-C Programs. -- 1958-1971. -- 3 folders.

Hi-C was a co-ed program for teen-agers aged 15, 16 and 17 that offered activities for graduates of the Sigma-C program and a co-ed experience for members of CGIT (Canadian Girls in Training). Records consist of an incomplete series of the minutes of the meetings of the Hi-C Sub-Committee for 1958 and 1959; and Hi-C program material for 1968-1971. Also included here are the minutes of the Winnipeg High-C Council for 1964 to January 1970 that contain information about Manitoba Conference Hi-C annual rallies.

7. Conference Camping Sub-Committee. --1958-1970. -- 2 folders.

From the earliest days, the Conference Christian Education Committee offered camping opportunities such as Church Vacation and Leadership Training Camps. By the 1960s, the committee was suggesting the amalgamation and co-ordination of all Conference camping programs under one Conference Camping Committee. The record consists of the minutes of the meeting of the Camping Sub-Committee for 11 April 1958. Also included with this accession are the minutes of the Conference Camping Committee, which reported to the Educational Sub-Committee of the Congregational Life and Work Committee for 1969-1970.

Title based on contents.

8. Leadership Education Sub-Committee. -- 1958-1963. -- 3 folders.

Records consist of minutes of the Leadership Education Sub-Committee dating from 1958-1961; a draft copy of "Leader's Material for Fourteen Training Sessions and Relating Plan for Observation and Practice Teaching" by George E. Speers, c.1963; and report forms which list the Christian Education workers for each pastoral charge of the Manitoba Conference in 1961.

Title based on contents.

9. Audio-Visual Sub-Committee. -- 1959. -- 1 folder.

Records consist of the minutes from a meeting of the Audio-Visual Sub-Committee for 20 January 1959.

Title based on contents.

10. Field Work Sub-Committee. -- 1958-1961. -- 1 folder.

The Field Work Sub-Committee co-ordinated and supervised the allocation of field work hours by the Christian Education field work staff within the Manitoba Conference. Records consist of minutes of the Field Work Sub-Committee dating from 1958-1961.

Title based on contents.

11. Church Vacation School. -- 1955-1958. -- 1 folder.

The Conference Committee on Christian Education was responsible for planning and operating Church Vacation Schools. Records consist of minutes of the General Council United Church Vacation School Committee dating from 1955 and 1958.

Title based on contents.

508/1/4 Records of the Manitoba Conference Young People's Union. --1939-1993. -- 70cm textual records + audio visual material.

The Conference Young People's Union (YPU) was in existence from 1925 and continued to function as the Conference level young people's group ('young people' were generally younger than 'young adults' and not married) until the advent of the Kairos program around 1965. The Young People's Union operated almost autonomously, electing an executive, raising funds and accounting for expenditures. They did, however, make regular reports to the Conference Committee on Christian Education and were represented at Committee meetings. Manitoba Conference Young People's events included the Annual Conference Young People's Union Convention.

A major initiative of the Young People's Union was the Young People's Caravans. The Caravans program, which later evolved into the Crossreach program under Congregational Life and Work, had its origins in the offer made by the Conference Young People's Union to donate a station wagon to the Conference Christian Education Committee in 1948. This station wagon would function as a special 'Christian Education Caravan'. The idea was developed into proposed 'Youth Caravans' that would provide young people, who would be encouraged to volunteer for a summer or winter of service, for Vacation Bible Schools or work projects in remote areas. By 1950, the Young People had raised sufficient funds to purchase the 'Youth Caravans' vehicle that was placed under the supervision of the Conference Christian Education Committee. By 1953, the idea of Christian Youth Caravans had caught hold in the Conference YPU and members were assisting with summer services at points that would not otherwise be served. In 1955, there were twenty-four Caravans operating.

Caravans were absent from Conference for the summer of 1959 and the program was reorganised for the summer of 1960 under the supervision of the Caravans Sub-Committee of the Conference Christian Education Committee. That summer Caravans participants undertook camping, church vacation schools and surveys in northern and rural areas. In 1966, the Caravans Committee came under the Christian Education Committee for the purpose of financial allocations while previously they had made a separate appeal and funds had been held in a separate bank account. It was decided at that time that the Sub-Committee on Adult Work would absorb the Caravans Committee with Caravans having representation on that sub-committee. The Conference Congregational Life and Work Committee absorbed the Conference Committee on Christian Education along with the Caravans program in 1968.

The provenance of some of these records is obscure. However, it is known that many of the records pertaining to the YPU were accessioned along with other records of the Conference Christian Education Committee in 1984 and from the Conference Office in 2006. Isabella Mills, who had served on the Christian Youth Caravan Committee as a member of the Personnel Committee during the 1950s and who also served as Caravan Director in 1952 and 1953, donated other records pertaining to Christian Youth Caravans to the Archives in 1994. In August of 2009, material collected by Mr. Dave Downie and transferred to the archives was added to this fonds, although the material did not all originate from the Conference.

Records described as part of this sub-series include minutes of the Manitoba Conference YPU and YPU Executive, 1951-1956; YPU Scrapbooks and various program materials, 1940-1993; records of Manitoba Conference Christian Youth Caravans, 1951-1956; Annual Reports 1941-1956; and "Accent on Youth" booklets, 1939-1940.

Title is based on contents.

File level description; box lists available.

For records of the Christian Youth Caravans dating from ca.1960 and the succeeding Crossreach Program see the Records of the Crossreach Program described with the records of the Congregational Life and Work Committee elsewhere in this fonds.

See also the Personal Papers of Ken McGregor for other material pertaining to the Young People's Union.

A video and cassette tape from the APEX Youth Reunion in 1992 may be found on the Sound and Moving Images Shelf.

Location: 508/1/4-1; 508/1/4-2; and 508/1/4-3.

Accession: 2006 - 28; 2005-33

File Description

1. Minutes of the Manitoba Conference Young People's Union. -- 1953-1956. -- 1 folder.

Title based on contents.

2. Minutes of the Manitoba Conference Young People's Union Executive and Sub-Executive. -- 1951-1954. -- 1 folder.

Title based on contents.

3. Manitoba Conference Young People's Union Flipchart: Where Does the YPU Come In?. -- [195-]. -- 1 volume.

Title based on contents.

4. Manitoba Conference Young People's Union Scrapbooks. -- 1950-1961. -- 5 volumes.

These scrapbooks appear to have been compiled by Laura Birbeck of Boissevain, Manitoba who was a member of the Manitoba Young People's Union Executive during the 1950s. They were acquired from the Winnipeg One School Division Resource Centre, where they had been in use as resource materials, in 1974.

The scrapbooks contain resource materials, convention programs, Manitoba Conference Young People's Union newsletters ('Lulu'), reports, biographies of Young People's Union Executive officers, newspaper clippings, and correspondence.

Title based on contents.

5. Manitoba Conference Young People's Union: Pool Packet. -- [ca.1950]. -- 1 folder.

The 'Pool Packet' contained a combination of resource materials, project ideas and memos from the Conference Young People's Union Executive and appears to have been distributed to young people's groups monthly.

Title based on contents.

6. Manitoba Conference Young People's Union Newsletters. -- 1953-1954. -- 1 folder.

Title based on contents.

7. Manitoba Conference Young People's Union Conference Convention Materials. -- 1942-1951. -- 2 folders.

Title based on contents.

- 8.** Young People's Union of The United Church of Canada Pre-Study Materials for Delegates to National Council. -- 1952. -- 1 folder.

Title based on contents.

- 9.** Minutes of Christian Youth Caravan Committee. -- 1951-1956. -- 2 folders.

Items found here include an incomplete run of the minutes of the Christian Youth Caravan Committee of the Manitoba Conference Young People's Union including correspondence and reports and various other miscellaneous records.

Title based on contents.

For further minutes of the Christian Youth Caravan Committee for the period from 1952 to 1969 see the file 'Caravan Committee Minutes' housed with the records of the Crossreach Program described as part of the records the Congregational Life and Work Committee elsewhere in this fonds.

- 10.** Minutes of Christian Youth Caravans Area Committee. -- 1954. -- 1 folder.

The Area Sub-committee of the Christian Youth Caravans Committee was responsible for considering requests for placement of Caravan volunteers from Conference fields and for making the necessary arrangements concerning volunteer accommodation and program supplies.

Items found here include an incomplete run of the minutes of the Area Sub-Committee of the Christian Youth Caravans Committee.

Title based on contents.

- 11.** Minutes of Christian Youth Caravans Personnel Committee. -- 1952-1954. -- 1 folder.

The Christian Youth Caravans Personnel Committee was responsible for considering applications from potential Caravan volunteers and determining their placements.

Items found here include an incomplete run of the minutes of the Personnel Sub-Committee of the Christian Youth Caravans Committee.

Title based on contents.

- 12.** Christian Youth Caravans Evaluation Sessions Report. -- 1953. -- 1 folder.

Items found here include the agenda, evaluation questionnaire and final report of the evaluation weekend attended by the 1953 Manitoba Caravan Teams.

Title based on contents.

13. Christian Youth Caravans Participants Reports and Logs. -- 1953. -- 1 folder.

Items found here include logs kept by Caravan participants over the course of their placement and submitted to the Committee as part of the final report process as well as the final reports of selected Caravan projects.

Title based on contents.

14. Log of Christian Youth Caravan at Lavenham, Edwin and Long Plain. -- [ca.1953]. -- 1 folder.

Items found here include the log kept by Caravan participants over the course of their placement at the Lavenham, Edwin and Long Plain Field.

Title based on contents.

This log was not dated although it was accessioned with similar logs dated to 1953.

Log contains 21 black and white photographs; some locations are identified.

15. Christian Youth Caravans Financial Accounts. -- 1952. -- 1 folder.

Title based on contents.

16. Christian Youth Caravans Policy and Procedures. -- 1951-1953. -- 1 folder.

Items found here include Christian Youth Caravans policy and procedure documents including those that outline the responsibilities of the local Caravan Committees, the structure of provincial Caravan organisations and program and training procedures.

Title based on contents.

17. Plan of Organisation for Manitoba Christian Youth Caravans. -- 1954. -- 1 folder.

Title based on contents.

18. Christian Youth Caravans Correspondence. -- 1951-1956. -- 4 folders.

Title based on contents.

19. Christian Youth Caravans Participant Training Materials. -- 195-. -- 5 folders.

Title based on contents.

20. Press Clippings. -- 1953. -- 1 folder.

This folder includes press clippings describing Young People's Union and Christian Youth Caravan activities.

Title based on contents.

21. Reunion Material. -- 1958 - 1992. -- 3 folders.

One folder includes a 1992 Reunion Programme and membership list, as well as a January 25, 1958 Star Weekly article on The Rev. Winnifred Bridges.

Title based on contents.

Accession: 2006 - 28; 2005-33

22. "Accent on Youth". -- 1939-1940. -- 2.2 cm textual material.

Title based on contents.

Accession: 2005-33

23. Annual Reports. -- 1941-1956. -- 1 folder.

Annual reports described here are from the Westminster APEX Youth Group in Winnipeg.

Title based on contents.

Accession: 2005-33

Box Lists

Box 508/1-1

Records of Conference Committee on Christian Education

- Minutes of the Conference Committee on Christian Education. -- 1927-1969. -- 5 folders.

Records of Conference Committee on Christian Education Business Committee

- Records of the Christian Education Business Committee. -- 1935-1946. -- 1 folder.

Records of Conference Committee on Christian Education Young Adult Programs

- Minutes, Young Adult Council. -- 1948-1960. -- 1 folder.
- Minutes, Conference Committee on Christian Education Young Adult and Couples Club Sub-Committee. -- 1958-1960. -- 1 folder.

Records of Conference Committee on Christian Education Sub-Committee on Adult Work

- Records of the Sub-Committee on Adult Work. -- 1962-1967. -- 1 folder.

Records of Conference Committee on Christian Education Sub-Committee on Children's Work

- Minutes of Conference Committee on Christian Education Children's Work Sub-Committee. -- 1958-1960. -- 1 folder.
- Field Bulletins for Teachers and Leaders of Children. -- 1969, 1971. -- 1 folder.
- Minutes of National Children's Work Committee. -- 26 September 1962. -- 1 folder.
- Explorers Field Bulletins. -- 1962-1969. -- 1 folder.
- "The Explorer"-- October 28, 1956. --1folder (Acc: 2009-56)
- Minutes of National Explorer Committee. -- 1955-1964. -- 1 folder.
- Minutes of National Joint-Explorer Committee. -- 1954-1958. -- 1 folder.
- Explorers Resource Material. -- 1962-1968. -- 1 folder.
- Messengers Program Material. -- 1962-1969. -- 1 folder.
- Messengers Field Bulletin. -- 1962-1969. -- 1 folder.
- Alberta Conference Explorers/Messengers/C.G.I.T. Circulars. -- 1967-1968. -- 1 folder.
- Minutes of the National Committee on the Coordination of Junior Work. -- 1959-1960. -- 1 folder.

Records of Conference Committee on Christian Education Junior Girl's Work Sub-Committee

- Minutes, Junior Girl's Work Committee. -- 1960-1961. -- 1 folder.
-

Records of Conference Committee on Christian Education Boy's Work Sub-Committee

- Minutes of Conference Committee on Christian Education Boy's Work Sub-Committee. -- 1958. -- 1 folder.
- National Boy's Work Department Field Bulletins. -- 1963-1969. -- 1 folder.
- Intermediate/Senior Boy's Groups Field Bulletins. -- 1963-1969. -- 1 folder.
- 'Tuxis News'. -- 1963-1969. -- 1 folder.
- 'TYRO News'. -- 1963-1969. -- 1 folder.
- 'Sigma-C News'. -- 1964-1969. -- 1 folder.
- TYRO/Cubs/Scouts/Venturers/Rovers Resource Material. -- 1963-1969. -- 1 folder.
- TYRO/Sigma-C/Tuxis Program Material. -- 1966-1968. -- 1 folder.
- Minutes of National & Maritime Conference Boy's Work Committees. -- 1965, 1967. -- 1 folder.
- Maritime Conference 'Boy's Work Newsletter'. -- 1964-1966. -- 1 folder.
- Minutes of National Committee on Boy's Work. -- 1965-1966. -- 1 folder.
- Boy's Parliament Financial Statements. -- 1961-1963. -- 1 folder.

Records of Conference Committee on Christian Education Hi-C Programs

- Minutes of Conference Committee on Christian Education Hi-C Sub-Committee. -- 1958-1959. -- 1 folder.
- High-C Program Material. -- 1968-1971. -- 1 folder.
- Minutes of Winnipeg High-C Council. -- 1964-1970. -- 1 folder.

Records of Conference Committee on Christian Education Conference Camping Sub-Committee

- Minutes of Conference Camping Committee. -- 11 April 1958. -- 1 folder.
- Minutes of Conference Camping Committee. -- 1969-1970. -- 1 folder.

Records of Conference Committee on Christian Education Leadership Education Sub-Committee

- Minutes of Conference Committee on Christian Education Leadership Education Sub-Committee. -- 1958-1961. -- 1 folder.
- Leaders material [for] Teacher Training Sessions. -- 1963. -- 1 folder.
- Report Forms for Manitoba Conference Christian Education Workers. -- 1961. -- 1 folder.

Records of Conference Committee on Christian Education Audio-Visual Sub-Committee

Records of Conference Committee on Christian Education Field Work Sub-Committee

Records of Conference Committee on Christian Education Church Vacation School

Box 508/1/4-1

Records of Manitoba Conference Young People's Union

- Minutes of the Manitoba Conference Young People's Union. --1953-1956. -- 1 folder.
- Manitoba Conference Young People's Union Flipchart: 'Where Does the YPU Come In?'. -- [195-]. -- 1 volume.
- Manitoba Conference Young People's Union Scrapbooks. --1950-1961. -- 5 volumes.
- Apex Young People's Union Reunion Programme and Membership List (1992) and Star Weekly Article on Rev. Winnifred Bridges.-- January 25, 1958. -- 1 folder.
- APEX Reunion correspondence. -- 1992.-- 1 folder.
-
- Historical memoirs, and drama production programmes from Crescent-Fort Rouge United Church Young people's Union. -- 1983, 1993.-- 1 folder
- Annual reports and event notices from Westminster APEX Youth Group. -- 1941-1956. -- 1 folder.
- CGIT songs (used by Young People's Union). --[1947-1948].-- 1 folder

- Christmas letter (1944), photocopy of Newspaper article (1942), programme [1940], convention notes (1942).-- 1 folder.
- Young People's Union Centennial Celebrations at Westminster United Church. -- 1992. -- 1 folder.
- APEX Reunion Planning Committee minutes, financial statements, correspondence, publicity, event programme and bulletin, registration list. -- 1992. -- 1 folder.
- Winnipeg Presbytery Young People's Union newsletter and convention programme. -- 1940. -- 1 folder

Box 508/1/4-2

Records of Conference Committee on Christian Education

- Conference Committee on Christian Education Annual Report. -- 1951. -- 1 folder.
- Conference Committee on Christian Education Pamphlets and Flyers. -- 195-. -- 2 folders.

Records of Manitoba Conference Young People's Union

- Minutes of the Manitoba Conference Young People's Union Executive and Sub-Executive. -- 1951-1954. -- 1 folder.
- Manitoba Conference Young People's Union: Pool Packet. -- 195-. -- 1 folder.
- Manitoba Conference Young People's Union Newsletters. -- 1953-1954. -- 1 folder.
- Manitoba Conference Young People's Union Conference Convention Materials. -- 1951. -- 1 folder.
- Young People's Union of the United Church of Canada Pre-Study Materials for Delegates to National Council. -- 1952. -- 1 folder.
- Crescent-Fort Rouge Young People's Union "Accent on Youth".--1939-1940. -- 2.2 cm.
- Winnipeg Presbytery Young People's Union songbook. -- [early 1940s].-- 1 volume.
- Manitoba Conference Young People's Union songbook, "Everybody Sing".-- 1945.-- 1 volume

Records of Manitoba Conference Christian Youth Caravans

- Minutes of Christian Youth Caravan Committee. -- 1951-1956. -- 2 folders.
- Minutes of Christian Youth Caravans Area Committee. -- 1954. -- 1 folder.
- Minutes of Christian Youth Caravans Personnel Committee. -- 1952-1954. -- 1 folder.
- Christian Youth Caravans Evaluation Reports. -- 1953. -- 1 folder.
- Christian Youth Caravans Participants Reports and Logs. -- 1953. -- 1 folder.
- Log of Christian Youth Caravan at Lavenham, Edwin and Long Plain. -- n.d. -- 1 folder.
- Christian Youth Caravans Financial Accounts. -- 1952. -- 1 folder.
- Christian Youth Caravans Policy and Procedures. -- 1951-1953. -- 1 folder.
- Plan of Organization for Manitoba Christian Youth Caravans. -- 1954. -- 1 folder.
- Christian Youth Caravans Correspondence. -- 1951-1956. -- 4 folders.

Box 508/1/4-3

Records of Manitoba Conference Christian Youth Caravans

- Christian Youth Caravans Participant Training Materials. -- 195-. -- 5 folders.

Records of Manitoba Conference Young People's Union and Christian Youth Caravans

- Press Clippings. -- 1953. -- 1 folder.