

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA
ARCHIVES**

FINDING AID #10

1925 CHURCH UNION COLLECTION

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Introduction

This finding aid describes a collection of publications, legal papers, legislation and other printed materials relating to the 1925 Church Union. The records are mainly examples of material produced by the various committees on union of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1907-1925, along with publications supporting the union with the Methodist, Congregational and Local Union Churches which resulted in the formation of the United Church of Canada on June 10th 1925. It is likely that these documents were first collected by Austin L. Budge as convener of the Historical Committee, and that the original collection was added to by small deposits, possibly including deposits after 1973. The collection was given a preliminary listing around 1977. During the re-cataloguing material issued by the Presbyterian Church Association was transferred to that collection (Accession #1982-1003).

Related records can be found at the United Church Archives and in the records of the Board of Administration (Accession #1973-1007), the Presbyterian Church Association (Accessions #1973-1003 & 1982-1003) and in records of congregations, presbyteries and synods. ~~There are also scrapbooks, re-mounted and indexed by Gordon Allison in 1989, which are held in the Reference Collection of the Presbyterian Archives.~~

The records were re-catalogued by Kim Arnold and Elspeth Reid in October 1988. *✓ The scrapbooks were re-mounted and indexed by Gordon Allison in 1989.*

The finding aid is listed as FA-UNION.

Historical Sketch

The movement towards church union which resulted in the formation of the United Church of Canada in 1925 began in 1902 when three delegates of the General Assembly to the General Council of the Methodist Church issued an invitation to the Methodists to consider church union. The impetus for union came mainly from western Canada where the churches felt that they were competing with each other unnecessarily. A joint committee on church union was appointed with representatives from the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches and later representatives from the Congregational Church and the Local Union Churches also participated. Opposition towards union was organized through the Presbyterian Church Association in the Presbyterian Church: there was little organized opposition in any of the other Churches. The union was consummated on June 10th 1925 but about a third of the Presbyterian Church declined to enter the union.

Many books and articles have been written about the 1925 Union. Recent monographs which should be consulted for a more detailed account of the union and the events leading up to it include:

John Moir Enduring Witness (1975)

N.K. Clifford The Resistance to Church Union in Canada 1904-1939 (1985)

Scope and Contents Note

This collection of material relating to the 1925 Church Union is an artificial collection comprising approximately 0.5 metre of pamphlets, legal papers and other printed papers. The material is grouped in files which are listed under the name of the committee which produced it: the correct names of the various union committees have been used. Pamphlets are listed in alphabetical order of title within each file. The files of union committees are listed in approximate chronological order and are followed by anonymously published pamphlets. The legal papers and copies of legislation are listed after the Committee files along with three files relating to the union proceedings in 1925. *The collection includes three scrapbooks, re-mounted and indexed by Gordon Allison.*

re-mounted and indexed by Gordon Allison

File No.	Date	Description
1973-1029-1-1	1916	Committee on Union Resolutions of the Committee on Union adopted by the General Assembly, June 14 1916. 1p.
1973-1029-1-2	[ca. 1916]	Committee on Church Union Minority Report of the Committee on Church Union. 1p.
1973-1029-1-3	[ca. 1915-1925]	Committee on Church Union - Pamphlets <u>A Message from The Committee on Church to the Ministers, Elders, Members and Adherents of the Presbyterian Church in Canada</u> [ca. 1925]; 6pp. <u>The Church Union Movement. The Present Situation.</u> [ca. 1915]; 4pp. <u>Statement as to the Assembly's Action on Church Union</u> n.d.; 8pp.; n.d.; 4pp. Circular 2pp.
1973-1029-1-4	1921-1922	Union Committee of the Presbyterian Church - Pamphlets Copy minutes
1973-1029-1-5	[ca. 1920-1925]	Presbyterian Church Union Movement Committee <u>If Church Union is Not Consummated Now - What?</u> n.d.; 2pp. <u>The Task of Unity</u> n.d.; 4pp. <u>Another Vote on Church Union</u> n.d.; 4pp. <u>The Need of Church Union By a Group of Presbyterians</u> n.d.; 6pp. [see 1973-1029-1-14] <u>How Far Has the Church Gone Towards Union?</u> n.d.; 4pp. <u>Has Dr. Drummond Found the Way?</u> n.d.; 4pp. <u>Is Further Conciliation Possible?</u> George C. Pidgeon; n.d.; 4pp. <u>A Catechism on Church Union in Canada</u> n.d.; 4pp. <u>Organic Union of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches with the Dominion of Canada</u> Address by Rev. Edmund H. Oliver, Principal of Presbyterian Theological College, Saskatoon; 1923; 16pp.

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| 1973-1029-1-6 | 1924 | <p>The Church Union Committee - Pamphlets
 <u>The Things That Matter in Church Union</u>
 Prof. R.E. Welsh [192-]; 7 pp.</p> <p><u>Presbyterians Stand by Union</u>
 (Broadsheet lp.)</p> |
| 1973-1029-1-7 | 1907-1908 | <p>Joint Committee on Church Union
 Represents the Presbyterian, Methodist and
 Congregational Churches
 <u>Proceedings, 1907 (Third Conference),</u>
 <u>1908 (Fifth Conference)</u></p> |
| 1973-1029-1-8 | 1921-1922 | <p>Joint Committee on Church Union
 Copy minutes</p> |
| 1973-1029-1-9 | 1908-1924 | <p>Joint Committee on Church Union
 <u>Basis of Union of the United Church of</u>
 <u>Canada as Prepared by the Joint</u>
 <u>Committee on Church Union and Applied</u>
 <u>by the Presbyterian Church in Canada,</u>
 <u>The General Conference of the Methodist</u>
 <u>Church, The Congregational Church of</u>
 <u>Canada, also a Brief Historical Statement</u>
 Nov. 1924; 34pp.</p> <p><u>Basis of Union of the United Church of</u>
 <u>Canada as Prepared by the Joint</u>
 <u>Committee on Church Union Represents</u>
 <u>the Presbyterian, Methodist and</u>
 <u>Congregational Church, Together With a</u>
 <u>Brief Historical Statement 1922; 30pp.</u></p> <p><u>Documents agreed upon by the Joint</u>
 <u>Committee on Church Union Represents</u>
 <u>the Presbyterian, Methodist and</u>
 <u>Congregational Churches and Submitted</u>
 <u>to the Churches as a Possible Basis of</u>
 <u>Union: Together with a Brief Historical</u>
 <u>Statement [ca.1908]; 37pp.</u></p> |
| 1973-1029-1-10 | [ca.1913] | <p>Joint Committee
 <u>Survey of Church Conditions in the</u>
 <u>Dominion of Canada Made by a Joint</u>
 <u>Committee of the Methodist,</u>
 <u>Congregational and Presbyterian</u>
 <u>Churches [ca. 1913]; 52pp.</u></p> |
| 1973-1029-1-11 | 1924 | <p>Joint Committee on Church Union
 <u>Bulletin on Church Union, Jan., Feb.,</u>
 <u>Sept. 1924</u></p> |

1973-1029-1-2

[ca. 1917-1925]; 1977

Joint Committee on Church Union
A Call for a Day of Prayer With
 Suggested Readings [192-]; 3pp.

Co-operation and Union in the
 Congregational, Methodist and
 Presbyterian Churches in Canada 1923;
 21pp.

Suggested Plan for Local Union Changes
 1917; 11p.

Agreement for Co-operation 1977; 16pp/

Method of Taking the Vote on Church
 Union Under a) The Provincial Act b)
 The Federal Act in the Province of
 Saskatchewan [192-]; 10pp.

Method of Taking the Vote on Church
 Union Under a) The Provincial Act b)
 The Federal Act in the Province of
 Quebec [192-]; 8pp.

1973-1029-1-13

[ca. 1923-1925]

Joint Committee on Church Union: Bureau
 of Literature and Information Pamphlets
Our Congregation and the United Church
 of Canada [192-]; 2pp. (2 copies)

The Cry for Another Vote 14pp.

A Catechism on Church Union No. III
 1924; 8pp.

A Catechism on Church Union [192-]; 8pp

The Church and the Spirit 4pp.

Legislation and the Basis of Union 6pp.

The Valley of Decision Rev. George S.
 Carson [192-]; 4pp.

You will Agree [192-]; 2pp.

Church Union in Canada: An Estimate
 of Dr. Morrow's Book Rev. John T.
 McNeill [192-]; 15pp.

Church Union: Extracts From Minutes of
 Presbyterian General Assembly [192-];
 14pp.

The Fundamentals 1924; 1p.

A Scottish Presbyterian and Church
 Union in Canada Rev. Prof. J.M. Shaw
 1925; 8pp.

Analysis of Votes in Church Union and
 Numerical Strength of the United Church
 of Canada [192-]; 4pp.

Press Bulletin on Church Union 1923;
4pp.

Uniting Three United Churches Rev.
William Gunn [192-]; 16pp.

Outline Sermons and Addresses on
Church Union and the United Church of
Canada 1924; 16pp.

The Final Vote [192-]; 2pp.

A Choice and a Challenge [192-]; 4pp.

A Message From Scotland 1924; 2pp.

A Vision of Unity [192-]; 2pp.

The Gospel of Anti-Unionism [192-]; 2pp.

The Fate of Anti-Unionism [192-]; 2pp.

Church Union and the Bill: A Popular
Digest and Discussion [192-]; 16pp. (2
copies)

The Presbytery of Montreal through its
Church Union Committee places the
Issues of the Vote before the Members of
the Congregations within its bounds;
Read and Decide [192-]; 4pp.

1973-1029-1-14

[ca. 1900-1925]

Church Union - Pamphlets - Anonymously
Published

The Task of Unity [192-?]; 4pp.

Organic Church Union (anti-union) [192-
?]; 14pp.

The Need of the Presbyterian Church by a
Group of Presbyterians (see 1973-1029-1-5)
[192-?]; 14pp.

Church Union and "Union" Churches
Rev. W.D. Hasell [192-?]; 1p.

Church Union: An Opportunity and a
Duty By a Group of Presbyterians [192-?];
16pp. (2 copies)

Church Union: Montreal Laymen
Organize to Advance the Cause [ca. 1903];
4pp.

The Presbytery of Owen Sound Places the
Issues of the Vote Before the Members of
its Congregations [192-]; 4pp.

1973-1029-1-15	[ca.1923-1925]	Maps of Local Unions Diagramatic maps of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Northern Ontario and the Presbytery of Halifax showing the relative strength of Unionists and non-concurrents [disputed by the Presbyterian Church Association].
1973-1029-1-16	[192-]	Toronto returns Typescript list of items on the vote among congregations.
1973-1029-1-17	1926	Legal Cases Typescript copies of legal cases concerning legacies from the John Ferguson Estate to the Presbyterian Church in Canada and the property settlements at St. Luke's, Salt Springs, Nova Scotia
1973-1029-1-18	[192-]	Legal Case: John D. Cunningham et al v. George C. Pidgeon et al Statement of Claim, Writ of Summons, Order and other legal papers: case relates to attempt to prove illegality of union involving the Presbyterian Church
1973-1029-1-19	1923	Legislation Memorandum showing proposed changes in Draft legislation submitted by the Legal Sub-Committee after consultation with Counsel
1973-1029-1-20	1924	Legislation Minutes of the Select Standing Committee on Miscellaneous Private Bills
1973-1029-1-21	[192-]	Provincial Legislation Acts & Bills from the Provincial Legislatures of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.
1973-1029-1-22	1924-1926	Federal Legislation United Church of Canada Bills
1973-1029-2-1	1925	United Church of Canada Act
1973-1029-2-2	1925	Protest to General Assembly, 9 June 1925 Typescript list of signatories to protest (see 1982-1003-3-17 Presbyterian Church Association for original)
1973-1029-2-3	1925	Order of Service: Inaugural Service of the United Church of Canada, 10 June 1925 37pp.

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| 1973-1029-2-4 | [ca. 1925] | Subscription to the Basis of Union by the
Members of the First General Council of the
United Church of Canada |
| 1973-1029-2-5 | [ca. 1925-1927] | Scrapbook
(Oversize) Re-mounted (but not
photocopied) 1989, Gordon Allison |
| 1973-1029-2-6 | [ca. 1925-1927] | Scrapbook
(Oversize) |
| 1973-1029-2-7 | [ca. 1925-1927] | Scrapbook
(Oversize) |

Scrapbook on Church Union

- Page 1 Article entitled "Church Union - efforts at conciliation" by Rev. Robert J. Drummond, December, 1927
- Page 2 Article entitled "The Jansenists" from The Christian
3 Irishman (undated)
- Page 4 Article "Marred and Made Again" from The Presbyterian
5 Churchman, March, 1928
- Page 6 Photo of Rev. G. A. Studdant Kennedy, and a brief account of his death, The Toronto Telegram
- A Lawrence Incident, March 29, 1929
- Brief biography of Rev. George Kyle Bamford
- Page 7 Article entitled "Premier King and Religion" February 21 1929
- Page 8 Pamphlet from Kew Beach Presbyterian Church about Methodist doctrine
- Page 9 Extract from a letter to The Globe by R. S. Cassells entitled "The Legal Aspect of Church Union", 1924
- Page 10 Part of an article about the court trial re. Grafton Church
- Page 11 Letter by John M. Poole, December 20, 1924, about Dr. Caven's approval of his book
- Page 12 Minutes of a meeting of the Presbyterian Advisory
13,14 Council for the Presbytery of Toronto, December 30, 1924
- Pages 15, Letter to members of Westminster Presbyterian Church,
to 18 Toronto, by Thomas McMillan and John M. Poole of the Westminster Church Association, December 20, 1924, against union.
- Page 19 A Product of the Plains by R. E. Knowles - a profile of Rev. Dr. R. G. MacBeth, March 25, 1929
- Page 20 A profile of Rev. Joseph Wasson
- Page 21 Outline of the history of the Presbyterian Church at Orillia
- Page 22 An article from the Monthly Record of the Free Church,
to 25 1928, entitled "Why I Am a Protestant"
- Page 26 Account of the centenary of St. Andrew's Presbyterian
27,28 Church, Ottawa, January 2, 1929

Scrapbook on Church Union (continued)

- Page 29 An account of church work and life in South Africa - a trip by Rev. James Endicott, July 14, 1928, from The Daily Province, Vancouver
- Page 30 Letter to The Morning Leader by J. A. MacKeigan replying to a letter by Rev. S. Farley of Regina, January 28, 1929
- Letter to The Globe by Edwin Elard re. Methodists and church union, February 3
- Letter to The Globe by T. N. Beckstead re. a letter by Dr. Scott, January 31
- Page 31 Copy of an invitation by the Toronto Men's Presbyterian Association and the Toronto Women's Presbyterian League inviting members of the following churches to a meeting on December 18, 1924: Kew Beach Church, Rhodes Avenue Church, MacPherson Church, Rogers Church, and Emmanuel Church
- Page 32 Account of a speech by Rev. J. D. Jones of Bournemouth, England, at Massey Hall, Toronto, June 11, 1929, about church union
- Page 33 An article "The Message of the Sundial" - a children's story from The Presbyterian Churchman
- A news account of the death of Rev. G. A. Studdart Kennedy, alias Woodbine Willie - outline of his life and views
- Page 34 Article from The Instructor, March, 1928, on Patrick Hamilton, of St. Andrew's, Scotland
- Page 35 An article about the Moderator-Designate (Scotland), the Reverend J. Harry Miller of Edinburgh
- Page 36 Article from The Toronto Star, June 10, 1929, giving statistics about the United Church of Canada
- Article about the alliance between Italy and the Vatican - its significance explained by Rev. D. C. Soules of Alma Street Presbyterian Church, Feb. 25, 1929
- Page 37 Letter to The Star by Stuart C. Parker on the title, Presbyterian Church in Canada
- Page 38 News account of the 3rd Anniversary of Renfrew Presbyterian Church, May 16, 1929, from the Renfrew Mercury

Scrapbook on Church Union (continued)

- Page 39 Article about the private bill to the Saskatchewan Legislature petitioning for a commission to investigate the operations of the United Church of Canada in Saskatchewan, February 10, 1927
- An article to say that the aforementioned bill was quashed
- Page 40 Article about the private bill mentioned above - bill quashed and churches asked to consider all other avenues to resolve difficulties, February 17, 1927.
- Page 41 Article from a church magazine about the private bill presented to the Saskatchewan Legislature (See the articles on Pages 39 and 40)
- Page 42 Letter to The Christian World by Mrs. J. F. Stevenson about a speech by Dr. T. R. Glover and his remarks about the United Church of Canada
- Letter to The Christian World about the church situation in Canada (writer not shown)
- Page 43 Letter from John I. Woodside, January 2, 1925, and two
44, 45 accompanying pages explaining various types of cases affected by church union
- Page 46 Letter from Andrew S. Grant, January 9, 1925, from the Presbyterian Advisory Council announcing a general meeting at St. Andrew's Institute
- Page 47 Three pages of minutes of meeting of the Presbyterian
48,49 Council held on January 16, 1925
- Page 50 Notice of a meeting of the Presbyterian Advisory
51, 52 Council to be held on February 13, 1925, and minutes
53 of the meeting of January 30, 1925, with lists of churches which have already voted on church union
- Page 54 A sheet entitled "Financial Effect of Union on Kew Beach Church" signed by Frederick Doran and Margaret McIntyre of the Kew Beach Presbyterian Association
- Page 55 Communication from the Organization Committee of the
56 Presbyterian Church Association, February, 1925, with suggestions and forms of resolution
- Page 57 A sheet entitled "A Foreword to Continuing Presbyterians" December, 1924, signed by A. J. MacGillivray, John Mustard, Andrew S. Grant, T. H. Rogers, and D. T. L. McKerroll

Scrapbook on Church Union (continued)

- Page 58 Communication from the Presbyterian Advisory Council
January 19, 1925, giving a form for resolutions
and about the appointment of representatives
- Page 59 A communication entitled "Autocracy or Democracy - Which?"
61 from the Rhodes Avenue Presbyterian Association, Dec. 3,
1924, signed by W. J. Collins, J. E. Virtue, Mrs. Yeaman,
and C. Mackintosh.
- Page 60 "A Pastoral Message" to Deer Park Presbyterian Church
62 December 3, 1924, by the minister, E. A. Henry, in
support of union.
- Article by R. W. Dickie entitled "Will the United
Church Be Financially Solvent?" (not dated)
- Page 63 Article from The Monthly Record of the Free Church of
Scotland entitled "The Great Pyramid" by Sir James
Simpson
- Page 64 "Church Union in Canada" as seen by Sir Henry Lunn,
1927
- Page 65 Article from The Star, June 12, 1925, about a speech
66, 67 by Charles Clayton Morrison of the Christian Century,
Chicago, about abolishing war and sectarianism, to
the General Council of the United Church of Canada
- Page 68 Brief article from The Star, June 15, 1925, about the
silliness of the multiplication of sects, report of
speech by Dr. Charles Clayton Morrison, in a sermon
at Trinity United Church, Toronto
- Page 69 Letter by R. J. Wilson to the Scots Observer pointing
out errors in Mr. Farley's letter (not dated)
- Page 70 Announcement by The Christian Century about projected
articles on "Why I Have Found Life Worth Living"
- Page 71 Announcement by Ernest Thomas of a new series to
appear in The Christian Century on Interpreting
Canadian Church Life
- Page 72 A Map of Northern Ontario showing location of United
Churches and Presbyterian Churches
- Page 73 Handwritten excerpt for The Christian Century about
sharing missionary work

Scrapbook on Church Union (continued)

- Page 74 Article from The Saskatoon Daily Star, February 11,
75, 76 1927, detailing Rev. Dr. E. H. Oliver's opposition
to the private bill before the Saskatchewan Legislature
petitioning to investigate the operations of the United
Church of Canada
- Page 77 Article from The Saskatoon Star, February 12, 1927,
78, 79 giving an account of the proceedings in the Saskatchewan
Legislature over the Private bill aforementioned
- Page 80 Article from The Halifax Chronicle, February 19, 1927,
giving the judgment in the Saltsprings case, saying
that the Dominion Act cannot be varied
- Page 81 2 articles about the case of the bequests to
Tatamagouche Church

Letter outlining the union discussion taking place
before the United Church was formed, April 26, 1928,
written by a "parish minister"
- Page 82 Brief article from The Campbellton Tribune about the
judgment in the Newcastle case

Article in The Star about the Rutherford case
and other property disputes
- Page 83 2 articles about the Newcastle case in New Brunswick
1929
- page 84 Letter by David Hunter to The Presbyterian Churchman
on church union in England

Article about church union in Scotland
- Page 85 Article on church union in the United States,
November 21, 1928

Letter by A. R. Johnston to The Globe on the use of
the name "Presbyterian Church in Canada"
- Page 86 Article from The Leader, Regina, February 11, 1927,
to 89 full news account of the meeting of the Legislature
over the private bill or inquiry into the activities
of the United Church
- Page 90 Article from The Leader, Regina, February 19, 1927,
to 93 on the private bill in the Legislature over the
activities of the United Church