

DUCC ARCHIVES 2021-2022

Committee Members: Linda M. Ervin (Chair), Kathy Toivanen (Secretary), Cheryl Kirk, Judith Colwell

Staff: Erin Acland & Eric Tusz-King

Introduction:

Archives is fun, engages our brain in many new ways, lots of new words and the discovery of how important ARCHIVES are. Disappointing to learn that we have lost so much of our DUCC history. In our archive work we are hoping to discover some of the lost pieces and put together a more comprehensive record of DUCC.

When the members of the committee said yes to being on the DUCC Archives Committee, we didn't really understand what we said yes to. Thanks to Judith who guided us in those early days and with patience helped us to understand what fonds are. No, they are not a plant in your garden, in the world of archives a **FOND is a very important tool that may include records in any format - textual records, sound recordings, photographs and other graphics**. Another word we use is finding tool, which is not an app on your cell phone. A **FINDING TOOL is: tools that help a user find information in a specific record group, collection, or series of archival materials**.

Judith is not at this conference with us but Erin Acland is and she is our employed archivist with our Archives committee. She loves to answer questions about ARCHIVES. Judith is also a retired Archivist with the Maritime United Church Archive. **Judith is leaving our Archive committee and we give thanks for her work in teaching us about archives and for her love of archives**. She knows much about Deaconesses, Certified Churchmen and Diaconal Ministers. Her wisdom will be missed.

Cheryl Kirk has done great work in rewriting a description of Series 9 of Fonds 518. Cheryl is not able to be with us at this meeting.

Below are the activities and educational events that we have done in the last two years. Please ask questions, please bring your photographs and any documents you have in your possession to the DUCC Gathering in Tatamagouche October 2022

Activities:

- Reviving the research and writing of the DUCC History - Kathy Toivanen; on hold because of COVID, could not access archives needed for research
- Working with Finding Aids across the various archives to locate information on DUCC
- Trying to locate lost photo albums on DUCC history (once kept at GC offices in a box)
- Trying to locate framed statement of DUCC purpose
- Trying to locate DUCC minutes from Coordinating committees over the years as well as Minutes from DUCC conferences
- Locating the DUCC constitution
- Rewriting Description of Series 9 of Fonds 518 (current description does not reflect DUCC as accurate as it could)
- Clarified Eric's role on the committee
- Identifying people who could assist with rewriting description of Series 9 Fonds 518

- Continued learning about the role of archives and how archives are used
- Continuing to identify places where there is misinformation or no information (e.g., various names used to describe Diaconal Ministers and preparation for diaconal ministry)
- Information on the impact of the name change and the importance of the two conferences held at CCS in Toronto and Cedar Glen
- Ensuring records of Diaconal Ministers like Jessie Oliver, Jessie McLeod, Dorothy Landau, Margaret Fulton and Jean Whittaker are in the archives, identifying who is missing from the archives.
- Formalized an Agreement with DUCC Coordinating Committee and Prairie to Pine Region (UCC) regarding Erin's role with the Archives committee

Educational Opportunities:

- January 2021 Introduction to Archives Webinar
- Conversation with students at CCS
- Information at DUCC Gatherings
- placing webinars on DUCC website

DUCC Archives committee meets about every six weeks or so depending on urgency of the work. We meet by ZOOM.

**PLEASE KEEP YOUR RECORDS, PLEASE KEEP AND LABEL PHOTOGRAPHS
PLEASE GET TO KNOW YOUR LOCAL ARCHIVIST, THEY LOVE INFORMATION
PLEASE RESPOND TO THE ARCHIVES COMMITTEE REQUESTS FOR
PHOTOGRAFS AND DOCUMENTS, WE SEND OUT REQUESTS EVERY ONCE IN
AWHILE.**

We do not want to be a lonely committee in some dark place in a museum. Archives and our committee are a live vital and necessary committee that will provide information to all those who come after us. You might not think anyone would be interested but there are people who are very interested. Our work, as I am discovering, is seen by some researchers as an integral part to what was going on in the society at certain times in history. Don't be surprised if some research student calls you and asks what was your involvement in...some 20 years ago.

Thank you to Erin for her helpfulness around our education endeavors and searching for missing records and continuing Judith's teaching about the importance of Archives. Thanks to Eric, our steady and supportive staff person who brings great wisdom to the table. Thank you to Cheryl who jumped right in and did incredible work around Fond description. Thank you to Kathy who is an amazing minute taker and has the daunting task of writing DUCC history. It is a pleasure to meet together, usually 8 am BC time, to have interesting conversations and develop creative educational opportunities for people to find great joy in the Ministry of Archives.

On behalf of the DUCC Archive Committee
Linda M. Ervin, Diaconal Minister
September 20, 2022