

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA ARCHIVES

FINDING AID #23

**COMMITTEE ON THE ORDER OF DEACONESSES /
COUNCIL OF THE ORDER OF DEACONESSES**

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Introduction

This finding aid lists the records of both the Committee on the Order of Deaconesses, 1964-1967 and the Council of the Order of Deaconesses, 1969-1984. The Archives holds only a few publications and printed papers of the Committee and the Council which were transferred at various times between 1980 and 1987.

The records were re-catalogued in February 1989 by Elspeth Reid.

This finding aid is listed as FA-DEACN.

Historical Sketch

The Committee on the Order of Deaconesses was authorized by the 1960 General Assembly on the recommendation of the Special Committee re. Examination for the Office of Deaconess. The Committee was to take over the responsibilities of a committee of the General Board of Missions on the Security of Deaconesses which dealt with their salaries, pensions and conditions of service. In addition, the committee was to keep a list of members of the Order of Deaconesses and a list of positions available, and it was to work on the possibility of transferable pension arrangements. The committee was to be composed of five persons not connected with any of the employing agencies - primarily the General Board of Missions and the Women's Missionary Societies. Over the years the committee worked to improve the salaries and status of the deaconesses and in the course of this published a booklet on the work of deaconesses in 1964. In the early 1970s with the re-structuring of the Boards and Committees of the Church, it was proposed that a single agency take charge of all church workers. The Committee on the Order of Deaconesses in 1973 indicated its willingness to participate but asked for

the right of maintaining our separate identity with the agency until such time as the place of Deaconesses within the Church has been clarified (Acts & Proceedings 1973 p.258)

The Committee on the Order of Deaconesses therefore proposed a Task Force on Deaconesses as part of the new Board and with this condition the work was transferred to the Board of Ministry in 1975.

The Council on the Order of Deaconesses was set up with the co-operation of the Committee on the Order of Deaconesses in 1968 as a bi-ennial conference for deaconesses to *consider Council policy, hear papers and discuss mutual problems concerning their work*" (Acts & Proceedings 1968 p.251).

Archival Arrangement

This collection of the records of the General Assembly's Committee on Deaconesses and the Council of Deaconesses consists mainly of approximately 10 cm of publications and printed papers, which are arranged in chronological order.

The Deaconess Board

1973-1064

n.d.

The Deaconess - Her Training and Work
Mrs. E. Livingston (Late Superintendent,
Presbyterian Missionary and Deaconess
Training Home, Toronto)
Toronto, n.d. (c. 1918/20?); 16pp.

Deaconesses

Special Committee on the Status of Deaconesses

1973-1065

c. 1923

Report and Circular to Presbyteries

Committee on the Order of Deaconesses

1982-1014-1-1

1964

The Deaconess in The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Toronto, 1964; 31pp.

1982-1014-1-2

1967

The Deaconess in The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Toronto, 1967; 24pp.

1982-1014-1-3

1975

A History of the Deaconess in The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Toronto, 1975; 24pp. illus.

1982-1014-1-4

1965-1966

Reports and Minutes

Consultation re. Status of Deaconesses, Minutes 1965, Nov.

Organization of and Regulations re The Order of Deaconesses The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Draft of Sections of the Report of Committee on the Order of Deaconesses to the General Assembly, 1966

1982-1014-1-5

1965

Consultation Papers

"The Status of the Deaconess in the Presbyterian Church in Canada" Rev. Neil G. Smith; mimeo; 6pp.

"Theological Considerations for the Order of Deaconesses" Prof. David Hay; mimeo; 8pp.

Council of the Order of Deaconesses

1987-1002-1-1

1967; 1969-1970

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"The Theological Understanding of the Role of the Order of Deaconesses in the Reformed Church Circulars in the Twentieth Century" Rev. James H. Thompson, Com., 8pp.

Includes President's Report on General Assembly

1987-1002-1-2

1973

Study Packet

Papers on the diaconate and on the role and image of women in church, and reports on the diaconate in the Presbyterian Church in Canada

1987-1002-1-3

1975

A History of the Deaconess in The Presbyterian Church in Canada prepared by

a Committee of the Order of Deaconesses The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Toronto 1975; 24pp. Centennial project

Deaconesses

1987-1002-1-4	1984	"Order of Deaconesses 1908-1984" Presentation given by Dr. Margaret Webster to the Biennial Council of the Order of Diaconal Ministries, June 14-16, 1984. Mimeo; 25pp.
1988-1002-1-5	1974	Biennial Meeting Service of Worship; Advance Programme
1988-1002-1-6	1976	Biennial Meeting Circulars, minutes and correspondence
1988-1002-1-7	1977-1978	Biennial Meeting Circulars, minutes and correspondence
1988-1002-1-8	1980	Biennial Meeting Circulars, minutes and correspondence
1988-1002-1-9	1982	Biennial Meeting Circulars, minutes and correspondence
1988-1002-1-10	1984	Biennial Meeting Circulars, minutes and correspondence
1988-1002-1-11	1985-1986	Biennial Meeting Circulars, minutes and correspondence
1988-1002-1-12	1973	Papers on Women in the Church Circulated to Deaconesses for study
1988-1002-1-13	1970; 1974	Minutes, circulars and supporting papers
1988-1002-1-14	1968	Procedural minutes
1988-1002-1-15	1961-1962	Circulars, minutes
	1968	"Report on the formation of the Council on the General Deaconesses"; 8 pp.
	1968	Agenda