

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA ARCHIVES

FINDING AID #32

**E.W. MCNEIL FOUNDATION / CALEDON
CONTEMPORARIES**

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Introduction

This collection consists of approximately 4" of records of the E.W. McNeill Foundation and its successor the Caledon Contemporaries, 1958-1971. The records were deposited in the Archives during the 1970s, and were re-catalogued by Elspeth Reid in February 1989.

The finding aid is listed as FA-CALDN.

Historical Sketch

The E.W. McNeill Foundation was established in 1959 for the purpose of funding lay training for the Presbyterian Church in Canada. This venture arose out of the Joint Committee on the Laity which was established by General Assembly in 1955. In 1958 the General Assembly approved the formation of a corporation for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a lay training centre, to be located in a central area with the programme to be planned and operated by the Joint Committee on the Laity. The Foundation was set up in 1959 and named in honour of E.W. McNeill who was the Treasurer of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1925-19. Jepson Farm in the Caledon Hills was rented as the lay training centre, 1958-1960. In 1960 the farm was sold and the Foundation concentrated on publishing a book and a periodical "Letters to the Laos". In 1961 the Foundation decided to purchase Horseshoe Farm near Caledon as a Lay Training Centre and this was renovated in 1962-1963. In 1964, however, the Administrative Council which had not approved the purchase of the farm, decided that it was not interested in acquiring the property and in 1965 the Joint Committee on the Laity decided to discontinue its partnership with the Foundation and ceased to provide the programme for the lay training centre as of June 30th 1966. As a result of these decisions, the Foundation became an independent organization and no longer a part of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The name of the Foundation was changed to the Caledon Contemporaries and the organization became a covenanted community of ministers and laity, supported financially by donations from the membership. The Caledon Contemporaries survived as a loose-knit community until the early 1970s.

Archival Arrangement

This collection contains the minutes, correspondence and financial records of the E.W. McNeill Foundation and the Caledon Contemporaries. The material is arranged in chronological order.

File No.	Date	Description
E.W. McNeill Foundation		
1987-1004-1-1	1958-1961	Minutes, correspondence and financial statements Includes correspondence concerning biographical information on E.W. McNeill and copy of an address by McNeill
1987-1004-1-2	1959-1964	Minutes, correspondence and financial statements
Caledon Contemporaries		
1987-1004-1-3	1964-1965	Minutes and membership sampler
1987-1004-1-4	1965	The Open Circle Centre Lay training centre at Horseshoe Farm: prospectus and circulars. Also includes copy of by-laws of E.W. McNeill Foundation

E.W. McNeill Foundation / Caledon Contemporaries

1987-1004-1-5	n.d.	Research on the Laity Reviews of <u>The Secular City</u> Harvey Cox; minutes of sub-committee on Research of the Joint Committee on the Laity
1987-1004-1-6	1965-1968	Constitution, By-laws, minutes and financial statements
1987-1004-1-7	1967-1971	Correspondence and financial statements