

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA ARCHIVES**

**FINDING AID #39**

**COMMITTEE ON SYNOD CORPORATIONS /  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BUILDING CORPORATION**

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## Committee on Synod Corporations / Presbyterian Church Building Corporation

### **Introduction**

This finding aid describes two accessions of the records of the Committee on Synod Corporations (#1982-1026) and its successor The Presbyterian Church Building Corporation (#1982-1021). The records consist of the minutes, correspondence, charters and other papers, 1957-1971. Related papers may be found in the G. Deane Johnston Papers in the Presbyterian Archives.

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

The finding aid is listed as FA-SYCRP.

### **Historical Sketch**

The Committee on Synod Corporations emerged as a result of pressure from Synods and Presbyteries to set up a means of raising funds for church extension. The issue came before General Assembly in 1955 and 1956 when an overture from the Presbytery of West Toronto on church extension finances was considered and not granted. However, in 1957, the Board of Administration had to report to General Assembly that matters had virtually been taken out of its hands and that it had been made aware that:

*certain bodies within the Church were proposing to incorporate or had already incorporated for Church Extension purposes (Acts & Proceedings 1957 p.293)*

The Board therefore appointed a Committee on Financing Church Extension which submitted a separate report to Assembly recommending the establishment of Synod Corporations and the appointment of itself as a standing committee of General Assembly to co-ordinate the Synod Corporations, with the name, Committee on Synod Corporations.

The Synod Corporations were controlled by the Synods and co-ordinated by the Committee. One Presbytery, that of Ottawa, opted to set up a Presbytery Corporation rather than participate in the Montreal and Ottawa Synod Corporation. There was, however, a need for a national incorporated body and so in 1968 the Committee filed an application with the Government of Canada for a charter. When this was granted the Presbyterian Church Building Corporation was formed. This co-existed with the Committee on Synod Corporations until 1972 due to a number of legal problems involved in transferring the assets and powers of the Synod Corporations to the Presbyterian Church Building Corporation. (see *Acts & Proceedings 1970 pp.338-339*) There was also some resistance from the Presbyterian Extension Fund (B.C.) Ltd. to transferring its assets to a national body. In 1972 when these problems were resolved the Committee on Synod Corporations was dissolved and its remaining assets handed over to the Presbyterian Church Building Corporation.

The Presbyterian Church Building Corporation acted as a lending fund for church extension work and an advisory committee to congregations and presbyteries. Its purpose was described in 1988 as:

*enabling congregations to obtain the funds necessary to build or expand their facilities at favourable rates of interest*

From 1976 the Corporation also assisted retired ministers, deaconesses and other church workers to secure housing accomodation.

### Committee on Synod Corporations

1982-1026-1-1

1968

### Reports

Report to Assembly & report on  
"Population and Church Membership"

Committee on Synod Corporations / Presbyterian Church Building Corporation

1982-1026-1-2	1957 Mar.-1967 Nov.	Minutes and reports Includes minutes of the Committee re. Financing Church Extension of the Board of Administration 1957, Mar.-May, which recommended establishment of Committee on Synod Corporations
1982-1026-1-3	1968 Feb.-1972 Apr.	Minutes
1982-1026-1-4	c. 1967-1972	Correspondence with Synod Corporations
1982-1026-1-5	n.d.	Charters of Corporations Bound volume containing copies of charters of Synod corporations: Presbyterian Extension Fund (Atlantic) Ltd., Corporation of the Presbytery of Ottawa, Corporation of the Synod of Toronto & Kingston, Corporation of the Synod of Hamilton & London, Corporation of the Synod of Manitoba, Corporation of the Synod of Saskatchewan, Presbyterian Extension Fund (B.C.) Ltd.
1982-1026-1-6	n.d.	Articles of Association and By-Laws of Synod Corporations

Presbyterian Church Building Corporation

1982-1021-1-1	1968 July-1978 Feb	Minutes, correspondence and reports
1982-1021-1-1	n.d.	Publicity leaflet 12pp.
1982-1021-1-3	n.d.	Charter and By-Laws