

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA ARCHIVES

FINDING AID #44

PRESBYTERIAN YOUNG PEOPLES' SOCIETIES

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Introduction

This collection consists of approximately 1 m. of minutes, reports, correspondence, publications and periodicals of Presbyterian Young Peoples' Societies at the National, Provincial, Synodical and Presbyterial levels, 1934-1988.

Records of young peoples' societies at the congregational level are held with the records of congregations and are listed in FA-4000. Related records can be found in the collections of the Committee on Young Peoples' Societies, the Board of Sabbath Schools and Young Peoples' Societies and the Board of Christian Education, listed in FA-CHRED. Other related records may be found in the Board of Congregational Life collection (FA-BCL).

The records were re-catalogued in June and July 1989 by Elspeth Reid.

This finding aid is listed as FA-PYPS.

Historical Sketch

Young Peoples' Societies have existed on an informal basis within congregations since at least 1875. The first formal attempt by the Presbyterian Church in Canada to bring these groups under some form of centralized oversight was in 1891 when the suggested constitution of the "Young Peoples' Home Missionary Society" was approved by General Assembly. (*A. & P. 1891 pp. 15, 17*) During the 1890s, the Christian Endeavour Society, an independent, ecumenical organization of young peoples' groups, gained in popularity and many congregations formed groups in affiliation with the Christian Endeavour Society or using the Christian Endeavour constitution as a basis for their structure. General Assembly gave its approval to these societies in 1893 (*A. & P. 1893 p.22*) and Christian Endeavour Societies became the main vehicle for young peoples' societies thereafter. Responsibility for oversight of these groups was given to the Committee on Young Peoples' Societies, created in 1895, which amalgamated with the Committee on Sabbath Schools in 1912 and was re-named the Board of Sabbath Schools and Young Peoples' Societies in 1913.

In 1926, following the re-organization of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Board of Sabbath Schools and Young Peoples' Societies re-affirmed their commitment to the Christian Endeavour movement, stating that "*a society founded on the principles of the Christian Endeavour would best meet our needs*". (*A. & P. 1926 appendix p.52*) By 1927 the Board had issued as constitution for the use of societies in congregations and was trying to organize groups at the Presbytery level. Following the example of the women's missionary societies at that time, the young peoples' societies also organized at the Provincial level.

In 1952 the Board expressed concern at the decline in numbers in the young peoples' societies and embarked on a study of youth work which, amongst other things, led to the establishment of the National Young Peoples' Society. The constitution, submitted to General Assembly by the re-named Board of Christian Education, was accepted in 1953. Concurrent with this the Provincial societies were re-organized into Synod Societies and the Board initiated a National Young Peoples' Conference (*A. & P. 1953 p 327*)

In 1971 the National Presbyterian Young Peoples' Society was disbanded. The Board of Christian Education called a National P.Y.P.S. Council and young adult consultation in September 1971 at which it was agreed to revoke the constitution of the National P.Y.P.S. in favour of a National Co-ordinating Body for Co-Educational Youth Groups. (*A. & P. 1972 pp. 383-385*) A Team for Youth Ministry was also established in 1971, within the Board of Christian Education, which was incorporated in the Board of Congregational Life in 1973. P.Y.P.S. was continued as a programme at the Synod, Presbytery and Congregational levels.

Archival Arrangement

This finding aid describes the records of the National Presbyterian Young Peoples' Society, 1953-1969, Ontario Provincial P.Y.P.S., 1934-1952 (and re-unions, 1977, 1981), the Synod P.Y.P.S. of

Records of the Presbyterian Young People's Society

Alberta, British Columbia, Hamilton & London, Manitoba, Manitoba & N.W. Ontario, Maritimes, Montreal & Ottawa, and Toronto & Kingston, 1954-1988 and the Presbytery P.Y.P.S. of East Toronto, Hamilton, Toronto, West Toronto, Westminster and Victoria, 1936-1988.

The file series of minutes, correspondence and other records are listed in chronological order. Most of the records are periodicals and publications, which are listed in alphabetical order of title and chronologically for each issue under each National, Synod or Presbytery P.Y.P.S.

Records of the Presbyterian Young Peoples Society

National Presbyterian Young Peoples' Society

Council Meetings

1982-1018-1-1	1953	Council Meetings - Minutes
1982-1018-1-2	1954	Council Meetings - Minutes
1982-1018-1-3	1956	Council Meetings - Docket
1982-1018-1-4	1958	Council Meetings - Docket Includes minutes, 1956
1982-1018-1-5	1960	Council Meetings - Docket Includes minutes 1958
1982-1018-1-6	1962	Council Meetings - Docket Includes minutes, 1960
1982-1018-1-7	1966	Council Meetings - Docket Includes minutes 1964
1982-1018-1-8	1966	Council Meetings - Minutes
1982-1018-1-9	1968	Council Meetings - Minutes
1982-1018-1-10	1968	Council Meetings - Reports Reports on projects and activities, also report on role of young adults in church

Executive Meetings

1982-1018-1-11	1961	Executive and Sub-Executive - Minutes
1982-1018-1-12	1962	Executive and Sub-Executive - Minutes
1982-1018-1-13	1963	Executive and Sub-Executive - Minutes
1982-1018-1-14	1966	Executive and Sub-Executive - Reports & Papers

Reports, Correspondence and Subject Files

1982-1018-1-15	1958	Report of National Council Meeting
1982-1018-1-16	1964	Report of National Council Meeting
1982-1018-1-17	1958-1968	Revision of Constitution Typescript copies of constitution and submission of revision proposals
1982-1018-1-18	1960	National Leadership Training Conference Conference materials
1982-1018-2-1	1966-1967	National Young Peoples' Society Study Committee Reports and correspondence
1982-1018-2-2	1966-1967	National Young Peoples' Society Study Committee Reports and minutes

Records of the Presbyterian Young People's Society

1982-1018-2-3	1968-1969	National Young Peoples' Society Study Committee Reports to the Board of Christian Education and to National Council
1982-1018-2-4	1968	General Assembly Young Adult Observers Report to General Assembly and recommendations to the Board of Christian Education and the National Council of the P.Y.P.S.
1982-1018-2-5	n.d.	"Steps in Preparing and Presenting Young Peoples' Programmes" Mimeo pamphlet, 5pp.
1982-1018-2-6	n.d.	"Helps" Christian Education Leadership Training Manual Manual for various posts in P.Y.P.S. congregational groups
1982-1018-2-7	1962-1966	Correspondence and Reports

Periodicals

1955	<u>National News Bulletin</u>
1956	<u>National News Bulletin</u>
1957	<u>National News Bulletin</u>
1958	<u>National News Bulletin</u>
1959	<u>National Bulletin</u>
1960	<u>National Bulletin</u>
1961	<u>National Bulletin</u>
1962	<u>National Bulletin</u>
1963	<u>National Bulletin</u>
1964	<u>National Bulletin</u>
1965	<u>National Bulletin</u>
1966	<u>National Bulletin</u>
1967	<u>National Bulletin</u>
n.d.	<u>Leadertips</u>

Ontario Presbyterian Young Peoples' Society

1982-1019-1-1	1934 Oct.-1952 Jan.	Minutes Bound volume of typed minutes of meetings of Council, Conventions and Executive
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Records of the Presbyterian Young People's Society

1982-1019-1-2	c.1937-1940	P.Y.P.S. Handbook Bound, typescript, material compiled for use by conveners in Presbytery and local branches
1982-1019-1-3	1934; 1936-1939	Convention Programmes
1982-1019-1-4	1941; 1942; 1944	Convention Programmes
1982-1019-1-5	1946-1952	Convention Programmes
1982-1019-1-6	1920-1936	Correspondence
1982-1019-1-7	1975;1977;1981	Re-unions - Programmes
1982-1019-1-8	1944	"Presbytery Standards" mimeo copy; 12pp.

Periodicals

1935 Dec.;1937 Jan.-Mar.	<u>The Leader</u>
1938 Jan.	
1938 Feb.-1939	<u>PYPS</u> (see Presbytery of Toronto <u>PYPS</u>)
1939-1949	<u>PYPS Bulletin</u>
1947-1949	<u>P.Y.P.S. Through the Keyhole</u>
1948-1952	<u>P.Y.P.S. Through the Keyhole</u>

Synod of Alberta Presbyterian Young Peoples' Society

Periodicals

c.1962-1967	<u>Presalta</u>
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Synod of British Columbia Presbyterian Young Peoples' Society

Periodicals

1957-1966	<u>Communicator</u>
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Synod of Hamilton & London Presbyterian Young Peoples' Society

1982-1019-2-1	1959 Jan.-1964 Nov.	Minutes Bound volume of typed minutes of meetings of Council and Executive
1982-1019-2-2	1965	Minutes
1982-1019-2-3	1966	Minutes
1982-1019-2-4	1967	Minutes
1982-1019-2-5	1968	Minutes
1982-1019-2-6	1969	Minutes
1982-1019-3-1	1954	Constitution Includes Hamilton & London Synod Trophy Rules

Records of the Presbyterian Young People's Society

1982-1019-3-2	1958; 1962; 1964	Reports to the National P.Y.P.S.
1982-1019-3-3	c. 1951-1957	Leadership Training Conference materials and circulars
1982-1019-3-4	1958-1965	Training and organization Circulars, guides and helps for leaders
1982-1019-3-5	1958-1961	Fall Rallies - Programmes
1982-1019-3-6	1962-1968	Fall Rallies - Programmes
1982-1019-3-7	1970	Fall Rally Programme and publicity material
1982-1019-3-8	1965	Fall Rally Committee Report and minutes of committee meetings
1982-1019-3-9	1970	<u>Culmination</u> Year Book and Song Book
1982-1019-3-10	1966-1967	<u>Missions</u> Introductory booklet and pamphlets
1982-1019-3-11	n.d.	Synopsis Publicity circulars and drawing for cover of periodical
1982-1019-3-12	1968	Synd Reference Manual and Guide for the Editing and Publishing of <u>Synopsis</u> : Gregor C. Harris

Periodicals

1952	<u>Synopsis</u>
1953	<u>Synopsis</u>
1954	<u>Synopsis</u>
1955	<u>Synopsis</u>
1956	<u>Synopsis</u>
1957	<u>Synopsis</u>
1958	<u>Synopsis</u>
1959	<u>Synopsis</u>
1960	<u>Synopsis</u>
1961	<u>Synopsis</u>
1962	<u>Synopsis</u>
1963	<u>Synopsis</u>
1964	<u>Synopsis</u>
1965	<u>Synopsis</u>

Records of the Presbyterian Young People's Society

1966	<u>Synopsis</u>
1967	<u>Synopsis</u>
1968	<u>Synopsis</u>
1969	<u>Synopsis</u>
1970	<u>Synopsis</u>
1980	<u>Synopsis</u>
1981	<u>Synopsis</u>
1985	<u>Synopsis</u>

Synod of Manitoba Presbyterian Young Peoples' Society

Periodicals

1954; 1955	<u>Red River Record</u>
1953-1955	<u>Spire</u>

Synod of Manitoba and North-Western Ontario Presbyterian Young Peoples' Society

Periodicals

1965	<u>Spire</u>
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Maritime Council of the Presbyterian Young Peoples' Society

Periodicals

1962	<u>The Atlantic Janus</u>
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Synod of Montreal & Ottawa Presbyterian Young Peoples' Society

Periodicals

1965-1967	<u>The Link</u>
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Synod of Toronto & Kingston Presbyterian Young Peoples' Society

Council Meetings

1982-1019-4-1	1961	Minutes and Dockets
1982-1019-4-2	1962	Minutes and Dockets
1982-1019-4-3	1963	Minutes and Dockets
1982-1019-4-4	1964	Minutes and Dockets
1982-1019-4-5	1965	Minutes and Dockets
1982-1019-4-6	1966	Minutes and Dockets
1982-1019-4-7	1967	Docket
1982-1019-4-8	1967	Minutes
1982-1019-4-9	1968-1970	Minutes
1982-1019-4-10	1971-1973	Minutes
1982-1019-5-1	1974-1976	Minutes
1982-1019-5-2	1977-1978	Minutes
1982-1019-5-3	1979	Minutes
1982-1019-5-4	1980	Minutes

Executive Meetings

1982-1019-5-5	n.d.	Executive Meetings - Minutes
1982-1019-5-6	1960	Minutes
1982-1019-5-7	1961	Minutes
1982-1019-5-8	1962	Minutes
1982-1019-5-9	1963	Minutes
1982-1019-5-10	1964	Minutes
1982-1019-6-1	1965	Minutes
1982-1019-6-2	1966-1967	Minutes
1982-1019-6-3	1969-1971	Minutes
1982-1019-6-4	1972-1973	Minutes
1982-1019-6-5	1973 Oct.-1974 Aug.	Minutes
1982-1019-6-6	1974 Oct.-1975 July	Minutes
1982-1019-6-7	1975 Sept.-1976 Sept.	Minutes
1982-1019-6-8	1977 Oct.-1978 Aug.	Minutes
1982-1019-6-9	1977 Oct.-1978 Mar.	Minutes
1982-1019-6-10	1978 Oct.-1979 May	Minutes
1982-1019-6-11	1979 Oct.-1980 Sept.	Minutes

Correspondence

1982-1019-6-12	1956-1964	Correspondence and circulars
1982-1019-6-13	1962-1963	Correspondence Includes Synod mailing and circulars

Records of the Presbyterian Young People's Society

1982-1019-6-14	1963-1964	Correspondence Includes Synod mailing and circulars
1982-1019-6-15	1964	Correspondence Includes correspondence of Secretary and circulars
1982-1019-7-15	1964-1966	Correspondence Secretary Correspondence
1982-1019-6-16	1965	Correspondence Mainly correspondence of Gloria Hipson, as Leadership Training Convener, Nominating Committee Chairman and other posts
1982-1019-6-17	1966	Correspondence
1982-1019-6-18	1967	Correspondence
1982-1019-7-1	1970	Correspondence
1982-1019-7-2	1973-1974	Correspondence
1982-1019-7-3	1974-1975	Correspondence
1982-1019-7-4	1975-1976	Correspondence
1982-1019-7-5	1976-1977	Correspondence
1982-1019-7-6	1977-1978	Correspondence
1982-1019-7-7	1978-1979	Correspondence
1982-1019-7-8	1979-1980	Correspondence
1982-1019-7-9	n.d.	Spotlight on Canadian Missions Poster
1982-1019-7-10	n.d.	Convention and Retreat Mailing List
1982-1019-7-11	1970	1971 Convention Committee Minutes
1982-1019-7-12	c.1965	Manual, Constitution and Edna McIntyre Trophy Rules
1982-1019-7-13	1953-1955	Convention - Programmes
1982-1019-7-14	1974	Convention - Programme
1982-1019-7-16	1965	<u>O Come Let Us Worship</u> 1965; 25pp.
1982-1019-7-17	1965-1968	"Quarterly Mailing" and "Synod Fellowship Newsletter"
1982-1019-7-18	1968-1975	"Quarterly Mailing" and "Synod Fellowship Newsletter"
1982-1019-8-1	1940	Convention Committee Publicity leaflet

Records of the Presbyterian Young People's Society

Periodicals

1954 May; Sept.	<u>The Echo</u>
1964-1966	<u>The Pathway</u>
1966-1969	<u>Crisis and Dialogue</u>
1982-1983	<u>P.Y.P.S.</u>
1984-1985	<u>P.Y.P.S.</u>
1986-1987	<u>P.Y.P.S.</u>
1988	<u>P.Y.P.S.</u>

Presbytery of East Toronto P.Y.P.S.

1982-1019-8-2	1959-1961	Executive Minutes
1982-1019-8-3	1954	Leadership Training Conference
1982-1019-8-4	1956-1957	Secretary Correspondence and Minutes

Periodicals

n.d.	<u>Corum</u>
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Presbytery of Hamilton P.Y.P.S.,

1982-1019-8-7	n.d.	Circular - Home Religion Typescript, 2pp.
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Periodicals

1936 Mar., Apr., Oct.	<u>Spotlight</u>
1953-1956	<u>Presbytery Bells</u>
1964-1965	<u>Presbytery Bells</u>

Presbytery of Toronto P.Y.P.S.

(see Presbyteries of East and West Toronto for records after 1947)

1982-1019-8-5	n.d.	Constitution
1982-1019-8-6	1937, 1938	Little Conference Agendas

Periodicals

1936 Jan., May; 1937 Nov.-Dec.	<u>PYPS</u>
1937 Jan.-1938 Jan.	<u>PYPS</u> (see Ontario P.Y.P.S.)

Presbytery of West Toronto P.Y.P.S.

Periodicals

1985	<u>Newsletter</u>
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Records of the Presbyterian Young People's Society

Presbytery of Westminster P.Y.P.S.

Periodicals

c. 1957-1958

The Burning Bush

Presbytery of Victoria P.Y.P.S.

Periodicals

1966

The Burning Bush