

REPORT OF THE GENERAL SYNOD ARCHIVIST TO GENERAL SYNOD 2025

FOR INFORMATION

Invites and deepens life in Christ

The General Synod Archives continues to provide witness to the life of the church, its teachings, its decisions, and its relationships by collecting the records of General Synod and its national office departments, nationally significant individuals, Indigenous parishes, and ecumenical coalitions. Significant acquisitions included the records of the Council of the North, the John Cooper Robinson family, the Aboriginal Rights Coalition (ARC), and the Rt. Rev. Terry Brown.

Dismantling racism and colonialism and embracing mutual interdependence with the Indigenous Church

Records of Indigenous communities and related residential schools – The General Synod Archives has been receiving more requests from Indigenous communities for their records, especially in relation to residential school students who died at the school. Sometimes they hire third party research firms to gather the records (Know History, etc.) or they request the records to be scanned and sent to them. We are happy to comply with these requests. In 2023-2024, records and photographs provided related to Mohawk Institute, Pelican Lake residential school, and Old Sun residential school.

Missing Children and Unmarked Graves

Office of the Independent Special Interlocutor for Missing Children and Unmarked Graves and Burial Sites Associated with Indian Residential Schools (OSI) – Questionnaires answered, and records shared on cemeteries and names and known information on children who died at Anglican residential schools.

Visit from the Inuvialuit Corporation – regarding Residential School Missing Children Community Support Funding Project. A delegation from the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation came to research missing children from the residential schools in the Inuvialuit Region. They were also looking for information on TB related illness and deaths. There were 15 people, which we were able to accommodate because we have a large meeting room next to the Archives Reading Room. This was the largest group we ever had. In the past we had four to six people.

Diocese of the Arctic Archives

- 2024 - Canada Youth Employment grant – a project archivist arranged and described the 29 boxes of records from the Diocese of the Arctic synod office, including scanning 660 photos and describing 383 of the photographs.
- 134 enquiries – Indigenous genealogical research and residential school research.

Diocese of Keewatin Archives

- 2023 - Canada Youth Employment grant – a university student arranged and described 1969 files from the records of the Diocese of Keewatin synod office and the records of 27 parishes.
- St. Paul's, Churchill parish registers were scanned and sent to the church so they would have access to all the records to answer requests themselves.
- 27 enquires - Treaty Status research and genealogical research.

Nurtures right relationships among people of faith in local, national and global communities and networks

Volunteers

- The General Synod Archives continues to benefit from the faithfulness of volunteers from local parishes, who process records and catalogue books.

Anglican Diocesan Archivists

- The General Synod Archives continues to support diocesan archivists and frequently refers genealogical researchers to the relevant diocese. We try to keep the list of diocesan archivists up to date on the archives website and support each other using the Anglican Archivists google group.
- The Anglican Diocesan Archivists met in November 2023, hosted by the Diocese of Algoma at Algoma University. The meeting was hybrid, so that more of the archivists could participate since funding was not available for all to attend. The archivists attending in person appreciated touring the former Shingwauk residential school building and the Chapel, which is still onsite.

Canadian Church Historical Society

- Bishop Terry Brown, the president of the Canadian Church Historical Society, died unexpectedly over the Easter weekend 2024. Although he was best known as a parish priest, missionary, and diocesan bishop, he was also a prominent and accomplished Canadian church historian who leaves a significant volume of original published research. The CCHS gives thanks for his life and mourns his untimely death.
- The Canadian Church Historical Society (CCHS) hosted an international hybrid conference in April 2024 to mark the 60th Anniversary of the 1963 Toronto Anglican Congress. As Secretary-Treasurer, the General Synod Archivist was highly involved with the logistics of the meeting and fostered relationships during the planning of and participation in the conference.

Stewards and renews God's creation; protects and sustains the earth; pursues justice for all people.

- The General Synod was able to hire a Project Archivist to assist in preparing for the future electronically, using electronic records management, and physically, by preparing archival material for the move anticipated in 2026.
- The General Synod Archivist has been joining in meetings with the United Church Archivists and the Presbyterian Church Archivists to plan an ecumenical archival space in anticipation of the move to 300 Bloor St. W., which will shrink the footprint of all three churches.

Submitted by,

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