

Westminster United Church

On March 28, 1912 Westminster Presbyterian Church was established as an outreach of the downtown Knox Presbyterian. On the following Sunday, Sunday School was held in the Arena Rink where the Lord and Lady Robinson Apartments now stand. On August 28, 1912 Dr. Murdoch A. MacKinnon of Knox Church laid the corner stone. The first service in the completed church was held on May 11, 1913. By the end of the summer of 1913 the stained-glass windows had been installed.

Neil R. Darrach, an architect who had moved to Regina from Ontario in 1911 at the invitation of local architect M. W. Sharon, designed the church building. The original (1913) portion of the building exhibits strong Beaux Arts influences in its eclectic mix of classical styles and symmetrical composition. Mr. Taylor of Daylight Prism and Art Glass Co designed the stained-glass windows. A local contractor, Archibald W. McGregor constructed the building, at an estimated cost of \$135,000.00. Mr. McGregor also donated the west subject window.

In the spring of 1912 the congregation of Fourteenth Avenue Methodist Church was also formed as an outreach of the downtown Metropolitan Methodist Church. A temporary building was constructed on the present site of the Mayfair Apartments, on the southwest corner of 14th Avenue and Retallack Street, with the first service held on September 29, 1912. In May of 1925 Fourteenth Avenue Methodist congregation merged with Westminster Presbyterian to become Westminster United Church. The "temporary" Methodist building still exists as the Martin School of Dance on the corner of 13th Avenue and Pasqua Street.

In reaction to the baby boom of the 1950's and the resulting need for additional space to accommodate church activities, the Westminster congregation embarked on a project to replace the original southern portion of the church with a larger Christian Education facility. This addition, which included a gymnasium/auditorium, large assembly room and kitchen, chapel, office space and meeting rooms, was constructed in 1963/64.

In 1995/96 David Johnson Studio Inc beautifully restored the 47 stained-glass windows. In recognition of this effort, Mr. Johnson and the Westminster congregation were named joint recipients of a 1997 Municipal Heritage Award in the Restoration-Interior category. In 1998 the original (1913) portion and the stained glass windows of Westminster were designated a Municipal Heritage Property.

Westminster Church has made a significant contribution to the religious life and overall community fabric of the Cathedral Area neighbourhood, and the church building is an important component of the historic institutional and commercial streetscape along 13th Avenue.



A NEW CREED

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating, who
has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new, who works in
us and others
by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Since 1968 this New Creed has been The United Church of Canada's affirmation of faith.

- Revision with inclusive language approved by Executive of General Council, November 1980.
- Revision to include reference to Creation approved by Executive of General Council, April. 1995.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

The United Church of Canada is the largest Protestant denomination in Canada. The United Church was inaugurated on June 10, 1925 in Toronto, Ontario when the Methodist Church, Canada, the Congregational Union of Canada, 70 percent of the Presbyterian Church, Canada and the small General Council of Union Churches, centered largely in Western Canada entered into an organic union. Each of the uniting churches, however, had a long history prior to 1925.

• THE PRESBYTERIANS

Presbyterians from Scotland and Ireland began arriving in Canada as early as 1713. There were many factions of the Scottish Presbyterians but in 1875 a series of mergers led to the union of most Presbyterians into the Presbyterian Church of Canada.

• THE METHODISTS

Methodism in Canada is traced to Lawrence Coughlan, an Irish Methodist preacher who came to Newfoundland in 1765. About that time Methodists were also migrating from England and as Loyalists from the US to Nova Scotia. The Canadian Methodist Episcopal Church was formed in 1828. Mergers in 1874 and 1884 resulted in the formation of the Methodist Church, Canada.

• THE CONGREGATIONALISTS

Congregationalism in Canada originated with the British government promising tree land to New Englanders who would relocate to Nova Scotia. By the late 1700's churches were established in the Maritime regions. In 1906 the Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec merged with the eastern groups to form the Congregational Union of Canada. The Ontario Conference of American-based United Brethren in Christ joined in 1907.

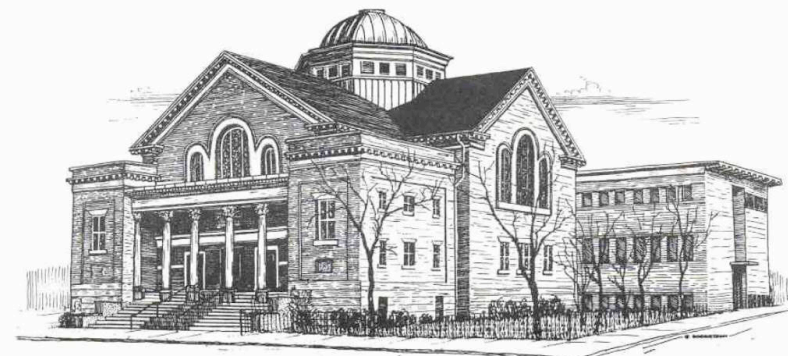
• THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF UNION CHURCHES

In 1908 a new congregation, which accepted the proposed Plan of Union as the basis of its local organization, appeared in Saskatchewan. Others soon followed and in 1912 the General Council was formed to press forward in implementing the Plan of Union. In 1925 approximately thirty percent of the Presbyterians refused to enter the merger and continued as the Presbyterian Church of Canada. In 1930 The Wesleyan Methodist Church of Bermuda joined. The Evangelical United Brethren Church joined on January 1st, 1968.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

The United Church accepts the traditional Christian beliefs, but there exists a wide latitude of personal interpretation enjoyed by both lay members and professional ministers. As a result there are strongly liberal positions, ultra-conservative beliefs, and many shades in between. The historic creeds formulated by the ancient Christian church are recognized as valuable guides to the understanding of our relationship with God. Membership is not related to the specific acceptance of a catechism or creed, but to a general acceptance of the central truths presented in the gospel. The Bible is regarded as the wholly adequate guide of resource for the person who wants to understand Christian faith and life. The Basis of Union in 1925 contains 20 articles of doctrine agreed to by the uniting churches as essential for faith and life.

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Established 1912

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Our Mission Statement:

"With faith in God and the love of Christ, we make a difference in the lives we touch."