



27 July 2006

The Rev. Dr. James H. Sinclair
General Secretary, General Council
The United Church of Canada
3250 Bloor Street West, Suite 300
Toronto, Ontario,
Canada M8X 2Y4

Dear Rev. Sinclair:

As Chair of the Religious Archives Special Interest Section of the Association of Canadian Archivists, I would like to echo the statements made by Scott Goodine, President of the ACA, urging the General Council of the United Church of Canada to ensure the continued support its support of its Central Archives program.

The Central Archives of the United Church of Canada has served as a role model for religious archives of all denominations and faiths in Canada. They are leaders in the archival community and, through the dedication and expertise of the staff, the Central Archives program has become a concrete example of how a strong archival program can serve the administration of the Church while providing a high level of service to a diverse group of researchers.

The Central Archives program provides invaluable support to both the members and the administration of the United Church as well as the public at large. Without a strong archival program the ability to understand the history of the United Church of Canada and its continuing importance to Canadian society is undermined. Furthermore, the ability of the General Council to function effectively will be compromised: without a strong and ongoing commitment to its archival program the General Council's ability to meet administrative and legal requirements will be greatly diminished.

I urge the General Administration of the United Church of Canada to ensure the ability of the Archives to function is not placed in jeopardy and to devote the resources needed so that they can continue to preserve and share the collective memory of the United Church.

Yours sincerely,

Rodney Carter
Chair, Religious Archives Special Interest Section/
Archivist
St. Joseph Region Archives
Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph
16 Manitou Crescent East
Kingston, Ontario, Canada
K7N 1B2
(613) 389-0275 (tel.)/(613) 384-6978 (fax)
reg.archives@bellnet.ca