

# University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections

## Finding Aid - Winnipeg Spiritualist Church fonds (MSS 425)

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# Winnipeg Spiritualist Church fonds

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## Summary information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections
<b>Title:</b>	Winnipeg Spiritualist Church fonds
<b>Title [otherInfo]:</b>	Winnipeg Psychic Society
<b>ID:</b>	MSS 425
<b>Date:</b>	1952-2011 (date of creation)
<b>Physical description:</b>	0.48 m of textual records 180 photographs 2 artifacts 1 3.5" computer diskette
<b>Language:</b>	English
<b>Dates of creation, revision and deletion:</b>	

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## Administrative history / Biographical sketch

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### Note

The Winnipeg Spiritualist Church, also known as the Winnipeg Psychic Society, was a small congregation that existed in Winnipeg from the date of its founding by Reverend Evan Clarke, among others, in the early 1950s until its dispersal in 2012. In its early years, the congregation was called The Spiritualist Church of Divine Truth; its name was changed to the Winnipeg Spiritualist Church in 1954, and also came to be known as a society in the 1960s. In 1984 the name Winnipeg Spiritualist Church was re-adopted, as well as incorporated, and the name Winnipeg Psychic Society became a name notation for the church. Upon its founding, the objectives of the Winnipeg Spiritualist Church were defined as the advancement and promotion of the religion of Spiritualism in Southern Manitoba, the education of future healers and demonstrators of Spiritualism, furtherance of the works of the Spiritualistic Society, and a commitment to charitable works. The church and its members upheld and promoted a belief in the seven principles of Spiritualism: 1) The Fatherhood of God; 2) The Brotherhood of man; 3) The communion of spirits and the ministry of angels; 4) The continuous existence of the human soul; 5) Personal responsibility; 6) Compensation and retribution hereafter for all good and evil deeds done on Earth and 7) Eternal progress open to every human soul. The small congregation did their best to further develop the Spiritualist community in Winnipeg by holding annual psychic teas, hosting classes or workshops on topics such as clairvoyant development, palmistry, symbology, dream interpretation, past life regression or spiritual evolution, and by hiring visiting mediums, such as Gaye Muir, to attend the church and exhibit evidence of psychic phenomena and life after death.

The Winnipeg Spiritualist Church was originally located on Notre Dame Avenue in Winnipeg, and moved to a building at 293 Kennedy Street in the early 1980s, followed by a move to 295 Broadway in 1986.

In the autumn of 1989 the small congregation purchased the building at 1551 Arlington, and, after many

months of renovations, held the Grand Opening Ceremony of the new building on Dec. 3, 1989. Services at the Winnipeg Spiritualist Church were held twice on Sundays; one service in the morning and another in the evening. In addition, a healing service was held on Sunday mornings. Services consisted of a combination of aura cleansing and energizing, guided meditation, healing, the presence of clairvoyants, singing of hymns or worshipful songs, and a message in accordance with the principles agreed upon by the church, in an effort to promote and expand the understanding of Spiritualism. The small church, numbering approximately 20-80 members throughout the years, survived financially upon the generous donations of its members, one of whom accepted the mortgage of the church building at 1551 Arlington under her own name. Also conducive to the financial stability of the church were social hours, workshops, demonstrations, evenings of clairvoyance, annual psychic teas and other fundraisers hosted by the church and its members for small costs, as well as the fees paid yearly by members of the church. A Board of Directors made up of 5-9 members led the church. The leadership positions were filled by members of the church, and were newly voted upon and elected by fellow members of the congregation each year. Aside from membership disputes in 1992, relationships between the members and leaders of the Winnipeg Spiritualist Church were harmonious. The positions of leadership changed hands often until the election of Reverend Linda Zagozewski as president of the congregation in 1989; Zagozewski was a board member and/or president of the small church from 1986 until her death in 2005. After the death of Zagozewski, her husband Reverend Duncan Wilson became president of the small church until his own death in 2012. Without anyone to carry forward the role of leadership in the dwindling congregation, the remaining members chose to disperse the funds, library materials and records of the Winnipeg Spiritualist Church to the Survival Research Institute of Canada and the University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections, among other organizations. The hopes of the members upon the dispersal of the Winnipeg Spiritualist Church were that the funds and materials of the church donated to various institutions would be carried forward in the furtherance of research and the understanding of Spiritualism.

## **Custodial history**

The records of the Winnipeg Spiritualist Church were collected by Barbara Anderson and Roberta McClellan upon the disbursal of the congregation, and were donated to University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections in December 2013.

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## **Scope and content**

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The fonds consists of 8 series: vital documents, annual reports and minutes, financial reports, bulletins and church information, correspondence, subject files and references, photographs, and artifacts. Included in these series are the Church's constitution, materials used by the directors and members of the congregation during services or other functions, official minutes and financial reports, correspondence revealing the relations between members and directors of the Church, membership and healing lists, and photographs.

## Notes

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### Title notes

### Arrangement

The arrangement of the collection into 8 series was imposed upon the Winnipeg Spiritualist Church records; the original order of the materials was kept where possible, but in organizing the collection records were placed with those of their kind, and arranged chronologically.

### Finding aids

An on-line finding aid is available at the link below:

"Mss 425 (A13-159)":[http://www.umanitoba.ca/libraries/units/archives/collections/complete\\_holdings/ead/html/winnipeg\\_spiritualist\\_church.shtml](http://www.umanitoba.ca/libraries/units/archives/collections/complete_holdings/ead/html/winnipeg_spiritualist_church.shtml)

### Related material

While not directly related to this collection, the University of Manitoba Archives & Special Collections houses many collections pertaining to psychical research and spiritualism--including the Hamilton family fonds--that might be of interest to researchers who have explored this collection.

### Accruals

No other accruals are expected.

### Other notes

- **Publication status:** published
- **Level of detail:** Full
- **Status description:** Revised
- **Description identifier:** Mss 425 (A13-159)

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## Access points

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- Textual record (documentary form)
- Records in Electronic Form (documentary form)
- Graphic material (documentary form)
- Object (documentary form)

## Series descriptions

### Vital Documents

Date: 1972-1996 (date of creation)

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

published

#### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Constitution and Amendments	1972, 1982		A2013-159, Box 0001 File 0001
	File - Real Estate Doc. for 1551 Arlington	1989		A2013-159, Box 0001 File 0002
	File - Certificate of Title	1994, 1996		A2013-159, Box 0001 File 0003
	File - Renewal of Name Notation for Winnipeg Psychic Society	1992		A2013-159, Box 0001 File 0004

### Annual Reports and Minutes

Date: 1952-1998 (date of creation)

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

published

#### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Annual Reports	1975-1988, 1991		A2013-159, Box 0001 File 0005
	File - Extracts of Minutes	1952-1964		A2013-159, Box 0001 File 0006

	File - Minutes (mostly handwritten)	1990-1993	A2013-159, Box 0001 File 0007
	File - Minutes (typed)	1994-1998	A2013-159, Box 0001 File 0008

### Financial Reports

Date: 1975-1996 (date of creation)

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

published

#### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Financial Reports	1975-1985 ; 1992-1996		A2013-159, Box 0001 File 0009
	File - Gaye Muir Account	1991		A2013-159, Box 0001 File 0010

### Bulletins and Church Information

Date: 1988-1993 (date of creation)

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)
- Records in electronic form (documentary form)

Publication status:

published

#### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Bulletins	1988-1991		A2013-159, Box 0001 File 0011
	File - Church Service Notes			A2013-159, Box 0001 File 0012
	File - Course Materials			A2013-159, Box 0001 File 0013

	File - Flyers and Fundraising	1995-1998	A2013-159, Box 0001 File 0014
	File - Family Songbook of Faith and Joy	1993	A2013-159, Box 0001 File 0015
	File - Hymnal		A2013-159, Box 0001 File 0016
	File - Library Directory		A2013-159, Box 0002 File 0001
	File - Membership Lists	1987, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1997	A2013-159, Box 0002 File 0002
	File - Sermons of the Old Testament by Jesus of Nazareth Copyright	1960-1966	A2013-159, Box 0002 File 0003
	File - Marriage Ceremony	2002	A2013-159, Box 0002 File 0004
	File - Death Ritual Brochure		A2013-159, Box 0002 File 0005

## Correspondence

Date: 1980-2010 (date of creation)

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)

Publication status:

published

### File / item list

Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Correspondence from Board to all Church Members	1980-1994		A2013-159, Box 0002 File 0006
	File - Correspondence and Witness Accounts regarding the 1992 Membership Dispute	1992		A2013-159, Box 0002 File 0007
	File - Other Correspondence	1980-2010		A2013-159, Box 0002 File 0008

## Subject Files & Reference

Date: 1970-2011 (date of creation)

Access points:

- Textual record (documentary form)



<u>Publication status:</u> published				
<b>File / item list</b>				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Miscellaneous	1987, 1998, 2007, 2008		A2013-159, Box 0002 File 0009
	File - Guest Books	1986-2011, 1990-2009		A2013-159, Box 0002 File 0010
	File - Healing Lists	1991-2008		A2013-159, Box 0002 File 0011
	File - Rev. Linda Zagozewski Personal Notebook	1990		A2013-159, Box 0002 File 0012
	File - Reference Article by unknown Author	1971		A2013-159, Box 0002 File 0013
<b>Photographs</b>				
<u>Date:</u> 1989-1990 (date of creation)				
<u>Access points:</u>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Graphic material (documentary form)</li> </ul>				
<u>Publication status:</u> published				
<b>File / item list</b>				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Photos and Polaroids			A2013-159, Box 0002 File 0014
	File - Photo Album	1989-1990		A2013-159, Box 0003 File 0001
	File - Photo Album	1989-1990		A2013-159, Box 0003 File 0002
<b>Artifacts</b>				
<u>Access points:</u>				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Object (documentary form)</li> </ul>				

<u>Publication status:</u> published				
<b>File / item list</b>				
Ref code	Title	Dates	Access status	Container
	File - Collection Plate			A2013-159, Box 0004 File 0001
	File - WSCI Rubber Stamp			A2013-159, Box 0004 File 0002