

MORAVIAN ARCHIVES

Inventory  
of the records of the  
New Dawn Moravian Church  
(1983 – 1997)

Bev Beaver  
2007

New Dawn Moravian Church, 1983 – 1997, 4 boxes.

*Biography:*

Although the church was not officially opened until September 16, 1984, the planning for it, and therefore its history, began a few years earlier. Rev. Virginia Goodman, Rev. Gordon L. Sommers, and Sister Mavis Stephenson met with Moravians from the West Indies on October 6, 1979, in order to discuss the founding of a Moravian congregation. It was granted to them and in direct result of their meeting with the Moravians from the West Indies a steering committee was formed. The service held by this new Canadian chapter was on March 16, 1980, just a few short months after receiving their commission! It was hosted by Reverend Stanley F. Thomas in the form of a lovefeast. Due to the success of the first service Bishop Thomas made recommendations that the church be allowed to continue its work. In the early years of the Fellowship it was monitored by President of the Eastern District Board and Bishop Stanley Thomas. Under their supervision, from March 1980 – March 1981, they developed a Christian education program which resulted in a Children's Church School. In light of their successes, Reverend E. Sawyer was sent to do a feasibility study in 1982 and recommended that a developer be sent to further look into the church. The church had been approved for development and in the meantime had set a goal to have one hundred members for its opening in 1984. Reverend Thomas set this goal in March 1983 and with the love and support of the neighboring Moravian Churches the New Dawn Moravian Church achieved this goal and officially opened its own doors on September 16, 1984.

It is currently an active church and located at 7 Glenora Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M6C 3Y2.

*Archival History:*

An accession file could not be located, but the last record dates in 1996, so the collection must have arrived sometime afterward. The records have never been arranged before. The records were organized by Beverly Beaver, student at Moravian College in 2007.

*Scope and Content:*

The New Dawn Moravian Church consisted of three committees, the Board of Elders, the Board of Trustees, and the Joint Board. It also contained three subcommittees such as the Music Committee, Steering Committee, and the Stewardship Committee. There are minutes and agendas provided for each committee for several years. There are also minutes and agendas for the Annual Church Council which discussed the overall well being of the church as well as special events. The financial records of the church are also included. There are financial statements as well as notes from the financial secretary and treasurer's reports. The church also kept an extensive amount of letters, both sent and received. The letters range in topics from RSVP's for the opening of the church as well as congratulations on the opening, to budget requests and memos, resignations, and many other daily activities that the church dealt in.

*System of Arrangement:*

The records are arranged according to the following categories:

Introduction

1. Church By-Laws.....1984
  - a. Folder 1
2. Agendas and Minutes of the Church
  - a. Stewardship Committee.....1988
    - i. Folder 2
  - b. Steering Committee.....1984
    - i. Folder 3
  - c. Board of Elders.....1985 – 1996
    - i. Folder 4.....1985 – 1990
    - ii. Folder 5.....1991 – 1996
  - d. Annual Church Council.....1983 – 1995
    - i. Folder 6
  - e. Music Committee.....1984 – 1996
    - i. Folder 7
  - f. Joint Board.....1984 – 1997
    - i. Folder 8.....1984 – 1987
    - ii. Folder 9.....1988 – 1997
  - g. Board of Trustees.....1985 – 1996
    - i. Folder 10.....1985 – 1989
    - ii. Folder 11.....1990 – 1996
3. Finances
  - a. Monthly and Quarterly Financial and Building Fund Statements
    - i. Folder 12.....1988 – 1990
  - b. Monthly and Quarterly Financial Secretary and Treasury Reports
    - i. Folder 13.....1985 – 86, 1988 – 90
4. Correspondence.....1984 – 1996
  - i. Folder 14.....1984 – 1988
  - ii. Folder 15.....1989 – 1996

*Conditions governing access:* the records are restricted for 50 years.

*Language:* English.

*Physical Characteristics:* good.

*Finding Aids:* Inventory (also online), searchable database.

*Related Units of Description:*

Current records could be found at the church itself, or possibly in the Canadian Moravian Archives. The church register of this congregation is held in the collection of church registers (ChReg 85).

*Literature:* None available.