

DS 523 History and Ethos of The United Church of Canada
United Church Denominational Studies **1.0 credit**
Instructor: Brian Thorpe
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Purpose

The goal of this course is explore the eighty-five year history of The United Church of Canada through the accounts of major events and controversies within the denomination, through the accounts of church leaders and reflections upon the ethos of the church by theologians. Equally important this course will reflect on the lived history of the church in individuals and congregations. Through attention to the history and formation of the church whether in the denominational adjudicatories and seminaries or in the dynamics of the local congregation or outreach ministry we will discern the roots of the current possibilities and challenges for The United Church of Canada.

This is a required course for United Church MDiv and Admissions Students

Learning Outcomes

Competencies are approved when you are able to demonstrate:

-ability to describe and discuss the history and theological traditions of the United Church

-ability to identify legacies of United Church and Canadian history influencing current issues facing the church

-ability to identify voices representing the diversity of the United Church

-ability to access the United Church archives for purposes of research

Format

The course will be taught as a seminar with instructional input. Participation will be through active listening, collegial group work, in-class discussions and presentations. Preparation for the course will include reading of electronically available articles related to the sections of the course, reading of a congregational history selected by the student and familiarity with the history of a congregational leader selected by the student. A final paper/project (8 - 10 pages) will be due by the end of the spring term.

Dates/times: Friday Feb 17: 6-9pm; Saturday Feb 18: 9am - 5pm

Prerequisites: none

Expectations of the student

-100% attendance in class

-appropriate participation in class

-a final paper/project

Course Text Book: Don Schweitzer (ed.), The United Church of Canada: A History (Waterloo: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2012)