

## **Course D *History of the United Church of Canada* [Online]**

Lecturer Reverend Doctor John Young

### Description

This course will examine the history of the United Church from the events leading to its creation in 1925 up to the present. It will look at key developments in various eras as the Church sought to respond to challenges in its own life and in the wider society.

### Outline

Week One: “The Formation of the United Church of Canada”

What factors led the Methodists, Congregationalists, and Presbyterians to consider coming together as one church? What were some key features of the negotiations toward church union, and why did the Presbyterian Church split over the question of becoming part of this new denomination?

Week Two: “1925-1945—Consolidation in the Midst of Crisis”

How did the United Church meet the challenges of the Depression and World War II, even as it was consolidating three denominational traditions into one?

Week Three: “1946-1970—Bright Sunshine, Then Gathering Clouds”

The two decades that followed World War II saw significant growth for most mainline denominations in Canada. The late 1960s witnessed challenges and the beginning of a reversal of that earlier growth. This class session will look at both these phenomena even as it examines other features of this period.

Week Four: “1970-2000—Coping with Change, in Society and in the Church”

During this last part of the twentieth century, how did the United Church try to respond to rapid and significant changes in society and to demands within the church for change in various aspects of its life and work?

Week Five: “2000 - the Present—The Church in the New Millennium”

This class session will look at some radical changes the United Church made in this first part of the twenty-first century. It will also offer some reflection on the future of the United Church as it moves toward the one hundredth anniversary of its founding.

## Bibliography

Schweitzer, Don, ed. *The United Church of Canada: A History*. Waterloo, ON: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2011.

I shall make suggestions for reading from this book for each class session.

Airhart, Phyllis D. *A Church with the Soul of a Nation: Making and Remaking the United Church of Canada*. Montreal & Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2014.

Schweitzer, Don, Robert C. Fennell, Michael Bourgeois, eds. *The Theology of The United Church of Canada*. Waterloo, ON: Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2019.

## Bio

The Rev. Dr. John H. Young is a retired United Church minister. He has served in congregational ministry, as a faculty member in the theology programme at Queen's University, as Executive Staff in the national United Church office, and as an Interim Principal.