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MONTREAL, Que.: St Michael's Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church
MG 8 G 62

Finding Aid No. 1140/ Instrument de recherche no 1140

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#### INTRODUCTION

In 1923 Mr. Akseli K.L. Rauanheimo, the resident Finnish Consul (later Consul General) in Montreal, initiated efforts to obtain the services of a Finnish missionary pastor in that city. After much negotiating and a visit to Helsinki, the Finnish Seamen's Mission Society (Suomen Merimies Lähetysseura) agreed to send to Montreal as its first missionary, Pastor Frithjof J. Pennanen. Immediately following his first church service there at Easter (17 April) 1927, the worshippers decided to form a congregation of the Finnish Lutheran Church. That decision was ratified at an organizational meeting held on 22 September 1927. At this meeting a name for the group was also agreed upon: the Montrealin Suomalainen Pyhän Mikaelin Luterilainen Seurakunta (St. Michael's Finnish Lutheran Congregation of Montreal). The newly established church operated under the auspices of the Finnish Seamen's Mission Society, but the congregation was ruled by its own constitution and by-laws as decided by its Annual Meetings and its elected Church Council. Pastor Pennanen received his salary from Finland; the congregation provided the space for the church services.

At a meeting on 19 May 1932, the congregation decided to incorporate itself and to join the Synod of the United Lutheran Church in America (ULCA). Previously, the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Churches in Canada had formed part of the Suomi Synod (Hancock, Michigan), but already in 1921 the ULCA had agreed to support financially the operations of the Finnish churches in Copper Cliff (Ont.), New Finland (Sask.), and Sault Ste Marie (Ont.). By 1931, Suomi Synod was unable to contribute its share in the partnership and the ULCA took total responsibility for the financial support of Finnish Canadian Evangelical Lutheran Congregations. Besides joining the ULCA, the Finnish churches in Ontario and Quebec had to join the Canadian synod in this area, The Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Canada. In addition, ten days after the reconstitution of the church, the Finnish Conference in Canada (Suomalainen Konferenssi) was founded among the Finnish churches themselves.

The name, St. Michael's Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Montreal (Montrealin Suomalainen Evankelis-Luterilainen Pyhän Mikaelin Seurakunta) was adopted in 1932. The church was finally

For other documents and information relating to the Finnish Seaman's Mission Society and the Finnish Immigrant Home which the Mission operated in Montreal in conjunction with the St. Michael's Finnish Lutheran Congregation, see MG 28 V 114--Finnish Immigrant Home--and Finding Aid No. 1139.

incorporated under the laws of the Province of Quebec on 29 May 1941 as St. Michael's Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church (Pyhän Mikaelin Suomalainen Evankelis-Luterilainen Kirkko). However, the name and title of the congregation, according to its constitution and by-laws remained "St. Michael's Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Montreal" ("Montrealin Pyhän Mikaelin Suomalainen Evankelis-Luterilainen Kirkko").

Pastor Pennanen resigned on 1 April 1933. His successor was Pastor Juho Yrttimaa who served for the next thirty-three years, until his death. In 1966, Matti Terho became the pastor. In the fall of 1974, he resigned and was replaced on 1 April by Markku Suokonautio.

For its church services the congregation first used rented premises at 372-374 Lagauchetièrre Street West. There it also operated the Finnish Immigrant Home until 1 May 1931. Then, because of financial difficulties and lessening immigration, the Home's operations were turned over to the Finnish Seamen's Mission Society. Unable to carry on, the Society was forced to close the Home altogether in the following year. Then followed a period when the church operated from various rented premises until 26 March 1941, at which time it purchased a building on 1632 Dorchester Street West. On 15 May 1960, the church moved into the building it had bought at 1500 McGregor Street (since renamed Dr. Penfield Blvd.). The church still continues to occupy these same premises.

Throughout its history, the church has played an extremely important part in the life of Montreal's Finnish community. Traditionally conservative in nature, the church has been most frequently associated with the right-wing elements in the community. Hence, the church-or, at least, part of its congregation--was usually involved in the affairs of the Montreal Finnish National Society, the Finnish War Veterans in Canada, the Montreal Suomi Society and the Central Organization of

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$ The taped sermons and broadcasts of Pastor Yrttimaa have been transferred to the sound Archives.

<sup>3</sup>See MG 28 V 102--Montreal Finnish National Society.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>See MG 28 V 60--Finnish War Veterans in Canada (Montreal Branch) and Finding Aid 664

Loyal Finns in Canada.<sup>5</sup> The Church also lent its support to the Montreal organizers of the Finnish Aid Committee (established to help Finland during the Winter War of 1939-1940 against the USSR) and the Canada-Finland Aid Society (established to assist the recovery of post-war Finland).<sup>6</sup>

These records contain documentation relating to these activities as well as to the organizational matters of the church itself. Also included are the records of a religious, social and civil nature which were created as a normal part of the church's regular functions and duties. In addition, this collection also contains records and papers of a statistical and personal nature relating to the pastors and congregation of the church. In sum, the collection is a rich source for documenting the presence of the "Church Finns" in Montreal

The collection was presented by St. Michael's Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1975, through Markku Suokonautio, the present pastor of the church.

 $<sup>^5 \</sup>rm MG$  28 V 68--Montreal Suomi Society, Inc., including the Montreal Branch records of the Central Organization of Loyal Finns in Canada-and Finding Aid No. 1139. These records, in fact, were stored by the church at the time of their transfer to the Public Archives.

<sup>6</sup>For other records concerning the activities of Finnish Canadians in Montreal and across Canada in aid of Finland during this period, see MG 28 V 46--Finnish Organization of Canada, MG 30 D 239--Sven Stadius, and The Finnish Canadian Historical Society Collection (deposited with the Multicultural History Society of Ontario).

#### ARRANGEMENT OF THE COLLECTION

The records have been arranged into the following series:

A. St. Michael's Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church, n.d., 1901-1975. 5.06 m. Vols. 1-14, 15-22, and separately stored index cards and poster.

Constitutional and related records, minutes and reports, inter-church records, correspondence, financial records, membership records, church registration records, records of church activities and services, archival holdings, estate papers, pastors' personal papers.

B. Finnish Aid Committee (Montreal), n.d., 1939-1946. 19 cm. Vol. 14

Minutes, correspondence and financial records.

C. Canada-Finland Aid Society Fund (Montreal) 1946-1947. 1 cm. Vol. 14

Constitution, minutes and correspondence.

This finding aid is a list of the file titles describing the contents of the collection. Note that this sequential listing of the file titles reflects the logical arrangement of the collection, although it was not possible to retain this order in the shelving of the files themselves. Consequently, the researcher should carefully note the volume number when requesting material or citing his source.

Volumes 1-19 are twenty-one centimetre boxes. Volume 20 is a ten centimetre box. Volume 21 is a forty-nine centimetre oversize box. Volume 22 is a fifty-five centimetre oversize box. An additional 13 cms. of index cards (3"x5") are stored in the Manuscripts "Finding Aid Card Storage System". One large poster is stored in the Manuscripts "Vertical File".

Items for transfer to other divisions include:

-Books: To the Public Archives Library;

-Finnish Festival Ribbons: To the National Medal Collection;

-Maps and Blueprints: To the National Map Collection;

-Photographs: To the National Photography Collection.

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2. MINUTES AND REPORTS, 1928-1968 (Vols. 1-2), 27 cm.	1
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6.	MEMBERSHIP RECORDS, n.d., 1929-1970 (Vol. 7), 13 cm
	I. Membership Applications II. Membership Lists III.Addresses
7.	CHURCH REGISTRATION RECORDS, n.d., 1920-1968 (Vols. 7-9), 35 cm
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	<ul><li>I. Publicity Material</li><li>II. Sunday and Confirmation School Records</li><li>III.Sewing Circle Records</li><li>IV. Summer Camp Records</li><li>V. Welfare Committee Records</li></ul>
9.	ARCHIVAL HOLDINGS, n.d., 1928-1973 (Vols. 11-12), 27 cm
	<ul><li>I. Records and Papers</li><li>II. Literary Works</li><li>III.Periodicals</li><li>IV. Miscellaneous</li></ul>
10.	ESTATE PAPERS, n.d., 1907-1933 (Vols. 12-13, 20), 14 cm
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#### **ABBREVIATIONS**

LCA - Lutheran Church in America

SMFELC - St. Michael's Finnish Evangelical ... Lutheran Church

ULCA - United Lutheran Church in America

# A. ST. MICHAEL'S FINNISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (SMFELC)

VOL.	FILE		DATE
		1. CONSTITUTIONAL AND RELATED RECORD	DS
Ι.	1 -	Constitution (Finnish), First Draft	1927
	2	" (Finnish), Second Draft	1927
	3	Contracts: Finnish Seamen's Mission-SMFELC	1928
	4	Constitution (Finnish)	n.d.
	5	(English)	1932
	6	" (Finnish)	n.d.
	7	" Proposed by ULCA	1958
	8	Minute book: Including letters Patent	n.d., 1941
	9	Supplementary Letters Patent	1960
	_ 10	Constitution: Including supplementary letters Patent, related correspondence	JanMar. 1960
		2. MINUTES AND REPORTS  I. CONGREGATIONAL RECORDS	•
		a. Minute books: Annual, General and Church Council Meetings	
	11	Record book No. 1	1932-1934
	12	2	1933-1935

VOL.	FILE					DATE
1	13	Record	book	No,	3	1936-1939
	14	II	II	н	4	1939-1944
	15	11	tr	п	5	1945-1953
	16	и	п	П	6	1953-1961
	17	u	11	11	7	1962-1968
		ь. Re	eport:	s, m	inutes etc.: For Annual Meeti	nas
2.	1	 Annual				1928
	2	11	п	J		1929
	3	11	ıı			1930
	4	n	11			1932
	5	n	п			1933
	6	,u	II			1934
	7	п	11			1935
	8	ĬĬ	II			1936
_	9	ш	11			1937
	10	'n	п			1938
	11	n	п			1939
	12	n	11			1940
	13	11	īi			1941
	14	ш	n			1942
	15	n	n			1943
	16	ii	11			1944
	17	11	и			1945

VOL.	FILE		DATE
2	18	Annual Meetings	1946
	19	π π	1947
	20	и и	1948
	21	и и	1949
	22	u u	1950
	23	n tt	1951
	24	и п	1952
	25	и и	1953
	26	íf II	1954
	27	u II	1955
	28	н п	1956
	29	II II	1957
	30	п	1958
	31	п п	1959
	32	п	1960
	_ 33	Pastor's Annual Report	1962
	34	Annual Meeting	1967
		II. CHURCH COUNCIL RECORDS	
	35	Notice of meeting	1927
	36	Notices of meetings, etc.	1928
	37	Minutes, related correspondence	1928
	38	Agendas of meetings	1929
	39	п	1930

VQL.	FILE		DATE
2	40	Minutes, agendas, etc.	1932-1934
	41	Mînutes	1935
	42	п	1936
	43	п	1960
		INTER-CHURCH RECORDS      concerning the united Lutheran church	
		IN AMERICA	1933-1936
	44	Daily Reports to ULCA	1933-1935
	45	Quarterly Reports to ULCA	
	46	и и и	1936-1939
	47	H H H	1941-1944
	48	и и и и	1945-1948
	49	Parochial Blanks: For the ULCA	1932-1934
	50	" Reports: To the ULCA	1938-1958
	<b>-</b> 51	и и и и	1962
	52	Reports and Applications to ULCA	1935-1947
	53	Constitutions: Central Fellowship of the Finnish Congregations of the ULCA	1942
	54	Report: On the Manifested Life of the Congregation to the UCLA	1952-1958
	55	Minutes: Of the Central Fellowship of the Finnish Congregations of the UCLA	1952-1962
	5	II. Concerning the Finnish Conference in Canada	
	56	Constitution: Of The Finnish Conference in Canada (Suomi-Konferenssi)	c.1962

VOL.	FILE			DATE
2	57	Rules and Regulations: Of The Finnish Conference in Canada	•	1962
	58	Minutes: Of The Finnish Conference in Canada		1962-1963

### 4. CORRESPONDENCE

Note that the correspondence files of the Consulate General of Finland, Montreal, actually consist of Consul-General Rauanheimo's correspondence concerning the establishment and maintenance of both the Church and the Finnish Immigrant Home. Note also that the correspondence files of Pastor Yrttimaa listed here refer to his official church correspondence. The personal papers of Yrttimaa and the other pastors of the church are listed on p. nos. 24-26 following.

	59	Files of Montreal	the C	onsulate	General	of Finland,	1926
	60	п	u	11	ш	ĪII	1927
	61	u	II	II	111	п	1928-1932
	_ 62	Concernir Montreal	ng the	Consula	te Genera	l of Finland,	1950-1966
	63	11		11	m)	u	1960 -
3	1	Concerni	ng the	Church	Council		1932-1936
	2	General	iles				1932-1933
	3 Concerning the Canadian Suomalainen Järjestö (Finnish Organization of Canada)					1935	
	4	General	Files				1939-1949
	5	Concerni	ng Imn	nigrants			1951

VOL.	FILE		DATE
3	6	General Files	1950-1958
	7	m m	1961-1966
	8	Files: J. Yrttimaa	1960
	9	п	1961
	10	п	1962
	11	п	1963
	12	ш	1964
	13	п	1965
	14	п	1966

# 5. FINANCIAL RECORDS

### I. BILLS PAID

15	1	Receipts		1934
	2	11		1935
	<b>_</b> 3	н		JanJune 1936
	4	и		JulDec. 1936
	5	II		1937
	6	11		1938
	7	n	(Part I)	1939
	8	II	(Part II)	1939
	9	u		1940
	10	,II		JanJune 1941

VOL.	FILE			DATE
15	11	Receipts		July-Dec. 1941
ŧ	12	п		1942
16	1	ıı		1943
	2	п	(Part I)	1944
	3	II	(Part II)	1944
	4	u .		1945
	5	11	(Part I)	1946
	6	п	(Part II)	1946
	7	<u>II</u>		JanJune 1947
	8	11		July-Dec. 1947
	9	n		1948
	10	n.		1950
17	1	II		JanJune 1 1951
	2	II		July-Dec. 1951
	3	u		1952 -
	4	n	•	1953
	5	п		1954
	6	II.		JánJune 1955
	7	П		July-Dec. 1955
	8	ш		1956
	9	a a		1957

VOL.	FILE		DATE
18	]	Receipts	1958
	2		JanJune 1961
	3	II.	July-Dec. 1961
	4	π	JanJune 1962
	5	ц	July-Dec. 1962
	6	п	1963
	7	и	1964
	8	п	1965

### II. ACCOUNT BOOKS

		a. <u>Accou</u>	nts: G	livings of	the Congreg	ation	
3	15	Collection	Record	l Book			1936
	16	n	н	H.			1937
	17	п	п	п			1939
	18	u	n	п			1940 -
	19	п	11	п			1941
	20	n i	п	п			1942
	21	п	n	n			1943
	22	11	ii.	и			1944
	23	п	11	II			1945
	24	II	11	11			1946
	25		u	111			1947
	26	п	u	п			1948
		11	н	m			1949
	27	91	**				1949

VOL.	FILE					DATE
3	28	Collection	Record	Book	•	1950
•	29	ш	п	Ш		1951
	30	11	II	п		1952
4	1:	н	ıı	п		1953
	2	п	11	n		1954
	3	u	п	П		1955
	4	п	11	п		1957
	5	п	11	п		1958
	6	п	п	п		1959
	7	п	11	II.		1960
	8	11	п	п		1962
	9	л	п	ш		1963
	10	n	11	п		1964
	11	п	п	п		1965
	12	п	п	tr		n.d.
	13	aı	п	п		n.d.
	14	n	···II	ii .		1970-1972
		b. General	Accoun	ts_		
5	1	Account bo	ok			1933-1938
	2	n	II			1938-1942
21	1	п	ıı.			1943-1947
	2		II.			1948-1952
	3		II			1953-1960

VOL.	FILE				DATE
5	3	Inventory Bo	ook.		1937
ě	4	Account Book	c: Concerning	g the Church Home	1937-1943
	5	Bank Books			1938-1944
	6	11 11			1948-1953
		TTT	***	and character	
		5		and Statements	
	7	Treasurer's	Statements		1930-1932
	8	п	11		1933-1934
	9	П	11		1935-1937
	10	II .	File		1936-1941
	11	Financial Re	eports and Sta	atements	1938-1940
	12	п	п	п	1941
	13	п	и	п	1942-1944
	14	п	п	п	1945-1950
	15	11	II	п	1951
	16	11	11	11	1952
	17	tt.	ш	н	1953
	18	н	ш	T.	1954
	19	11	п	п	1955
	20	п	Ж	п	1956
	21	Treasurer's	statements		1957-1961
		TV Dyanani	tri Docondo		
-	-		ty Records		1010 1055
6	1	Legal Docume	ents: Concer	ning Church Bldgs.	1912-1960
	2	Leases: Cor	cerning Chur	ch Buildings	1929-1956

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6	3	Land Deed: Gift from the Finnish Seamen's Mission	1932
	4	Records: Concerning Church Building Fund	1932-1955
	5	Records: Concerning Purchase of 1632 Dorchester St. W.	1941
	6	Records: Concerning Church Extension Loan	1941
	7	Offer to Purchase: For 13 Rosemount Ave.	1959
	8	" For 1595 McGregor	1959-1960
	9	Records: Concerning sale of 1632 Dorchester St. W., 3/12/59; vacated 14/5/60	1959-1960
	10	Financial Records: Concerning 1500 McGregor St.	1960
	11	Records: Concerning Purchase of 1500 McGregor St.	1960
	12	Records, Legal Documents: Concerning 1500 McGregor St.	1868-1968
	13	Correspondence: Concerning 1500 McGregor St. and 1632 Dorchester	1956-1968
	- 14	Contract: For Construction	1941
	15	Insurance Policies: Concerning Church properties.	1942-1966
	16	Collection Lists #1-60: SMFELC Building Fund	1941
	17	" 61-124 " "	1941
	18	и и и	n.d.
	19	Building Fund Receipt Books Nos. 1-5	1950
	20	Building Fund Collection Book	1950-1951

VOL.	FILE		DATE
6	21	Finnish Records: Concerning Church Building Fund	1953
		V. OTHER FINANCIAL RECORDS	
	22	Budget for 1935	1935
	23	Financial Records: Miscellaneous	1930-1939
	24	и и п	1939-1941
	25	п п п	1940-1949
	26	и и п	1950-1959
	27	и и п	1960-1969
	28	Lottery Lists	n.d.
	29	"Suomen Viljaa" Collection List	n.d.
		6. MEMBERSHIP RECORDS  I. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS	
-	_		n.d.
7 .	. 1	File A	n.d.
	2	<u> </u>	n.d.
	3	1	n.d.
	4	u II	,,,,,,
		II. MEMBERSHIP LISTS	
	5	List	1929
	6	Lists	1929-1970
	7	Lists	1932,1947- 1948
			scent to T

VOL.	FILE		DATE			
		III. ADDRESSES				
.7	8	Lists: Names and Addresses	n.d.			
	9	Address Book	n.d.			
	10	п п	n.d.			
	11	п п	n.d.			
	12	Telephone Index: Addresses	n.d.			
	13	Year Book: Addresses	1964			
	14	Membership Addresses	n.d.			
	15	Addresses	n.d.			
	16	Address Books, Lists & Notes	n.d.			
		IV. OTHER MEMBERSHIP RECORDS				
	17	Membership Records: Character References	1955-1976			
	18	Membership Certificates	n.d., 1962			
	19	Personal records and certificates	1943-1960			
	-	7. CHURCH REGISTRATION RECORDS				
		I. GENERAL STATISTICAL RECORDS				
		The following are copies of report forms filed with the Quebec Ministry of Health for inclusion in Dominion Bureau of Statistics records.				
	20	Monthly Returns: Births, Deaths, Marriages	1947-1954			
	21	Monthly Returns: Births, Deaths, Marriages	1955-1961			
	22	Lists of Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths (Notes)	n.d., 1960- 1965			

DATE VOL. FILE BIRTH RECORDS II. Registration of Births: Copies of returns filed with the Quebec Ministry of Health (arranged by surname of child) 1936-1961 7 23 Part I: A-H 1936-1961 24 Part II: I-0 1936-1961 25 Part III: P-W 1947,1951 8 1 Birth Certificates III. MARRIAGE RECORDS Registration of Marriages: Copies of returns filed with the Quebec Ministry of Health (arranged by surname of bridegroom. 1936-1961 2 Part I: A-L 1936-1961 3 Part II: M-W 4 Marriage Certificates, etc. 1936-1961 1936 5 Marriage Banns, Licences, etc. 6 1937 1938 ... 7 11 1939 8 11 1940 9 11 1941 10 11 1942-1944 11 11 1945-1947 12 11 1948-1950 13 11 н 1951 14

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8	15	Marriage	Banns, L	icences	s, etc.		1952		
	16	II	п	TI .	II .		1953		
	17	u	u	Ħ	п		1954		
9	1	п	11	u	п		1955-1956		
	2	ш	11	ш	п		1957		
	3	п	II	11	п		1958-1959		
	4	и	11	11	u		1960-1961		
		IV. DEA	TH RECOR	<u>DS</u>					
	5	Registration of Deaths (including still 1936-1961 births): Copies of returns filed with Quebec Ministry of Health (arranged by name of deceased).							
	6	Death not by surnam			neral home	s (arranged	1940-1968		
	7	Death cer	rtificate	s and 1	related re	cords	1937-1954		
		V. OTHE	R RECORD	<u>S</u>					
	В	Certifica	ites of B	aptism			1941		
	9	Occupation	nal Cert	ificate	es from Fi	nland	1920-1957		
	10	Occupation	nal Cert	ificate	es from Fi	nland	1962		
	11,	Receipts status.	re.: Re	gister	ing of act	s of civil	1937-1961		
		8. RECO	RDS OF	CHURCI	H ACTIVI	TIES AND S	ERVICES		
		I. PUBLI	CITY MAT	ERIAL					
	10	Cinculan	lottons				1027		

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9	13	Announcements and Programs	1930-1939
	14	Circular Letters	1932
	15	п	1933
	16	Church Council: Announcements	1932-1934
	17	Church Bulletins	1936
	18	Announcements and Programs	1940-1949
	19	ш	1950-1959
	20	и	1960-1969
	21	Confirmation Programs	1970
	22	Announcements and Programs	1970
	23	a a	n.d.
	24	Newsletters	1937-1975
	25	Minutes: Publication Committee	1934
	26	"Kirkon=kellot": Lay-outs	n.d.,1936
	27	"Ompeluseuran lehti," No. 1	1939
	28	"Torstai-ilta," No. 2, 4 May	1939
	29	2 November	1939 -
	30	" Manuscripts	1939-1940
	31	" January	1940
	32	Programs of events	1940-1970
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