



Church Women United
Records, 1963-2008

Collection 14

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Catheryne Thomas, 2011

Creator/Corporate Name: Church Women United

Inclusive Dates: 1963-2008, bulk 1990-2008

Physical Description: 3 boxes (3 linear ft.)

Language: English

Provenance:

The Church Women United of Champaign-Urbana materials were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives by Mary Haywood-Benson in June 2010.

Access:

These records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

Historical Note:

Church Women United is a Christian ecumenical movement bringing together Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Orthodox women with a mission to “celebrate unity in diversity” and promote justice and world peace. The Champaign-Urbana unit traces its roots to the Interdenominational Council of Missionary Societies, founded in 1921 and later named Champaign-Urbana Missionary Union. The group was formed by eleven women representing eleven different churches and five different denominations in an effort to cooperatively serve the needs of the community. In 1926, the Union joined the Council of Women for Home Missions and the Federation of Women’s Board for Foreign Missions. In 1941, Church Women United—then named United Council of Church Women (UCCW)—was formed at the national level. In the early 1970s, Catholic women joined Church Women United of Champaign-Urbana and in the mid-1970s the local movement began partnering with the Sinai Temple Sisterhood on various projects. As of 2011, the national movement represents twenty-six supporting denominations.

Church Women United celebrates three annual celebrations: Human Rights Day, May Friendship Day, and World Community Day. The movement is also very involved in the World Day of Prayer celebrations. Along with these worship experiences, every four years CWU adopts a “quadrennial priority”. This priority allows CWU to focus on one specific area of need for their advocacy and action. CWU is heavily involved in advocating for human rights internationally and works on the behalf of women and children by signing on to proposals sent to Congress and the United Nations. CWU also encourages local units to honor their members by annually honoring a Valiant Woman, a Key Woman, and a Young Church Woman United.

The Church Women United of Champaign-Urbana has worked on projects addressing a wide range of communities and issues. They have been very active serving Meals on Wheels, sponsoring the UNICEF Trick or Treat collection, and started the local Reading is Fundamental program. The local unit also was very active in raising funds for the building of a chapel at Dwight Correctional Facility. They have



Church Women United
Records, 1963-2008

Collection 14

also been very active in letter writing campaigns to senators, representatives, and school boards promoting the needs of the communities that they strive to serve.

Scope and Content:

The collection contains records from 1963-2008, with the bulk of records representing the 1990s and early 2000s. The collection consists of records created primarily by the local unit, but also contains information from and about the national movement. The records are particularly strong in information about annual events and celebrations, especially May Friendship Day, World Community Day, and World Day of Prayer. There are also publications from the national and state units of CWU. The collection also includes information relating to the wide range of issues that CWU endeavors to address and administrative materials created by the local unit.

Arrangement:

This collection is divided into five series: administrative, events, publications and newsletters, subject file, and photographs and objects.

Series 1: Administrative:

This series contains meeting minutes and agendas, handbooks, unit yearbooks, annual reports, state and local by-laws, financial reports, and correspondence. There are also member and church lists, information about CWU, committee information, procedures, forms, and catalogs.

Series 2: Events:

This series includes the records related to annual and special events held by local, regional, and national units of CWU. Included in this series are event promotional materials, correspondence related to the particular event, and meeting minutes.

Series 3: Publications and Newsletters:

This series consists of incomplete runs of publications and newsletters created by the national and state CWU, mostly from the 1990s and early 2000s. Titles included are the *Churchwoman Magazine*, *Church Woman News*, *Illinois Interpreter*, *Inform and Act*, *Wellspring IX*, and *Lead Time*.

Series 4: Subject File:

The subject file exists to organize the materials relating to CWU's partnerships, awards, and issues in which CWU is concerned. Partnerships represented are the Fellowship of the Least Coin and Church World Service. There is also information about local organizations and human rights issues, as well as music, prayers, and Bible passages.

Series 5: Photographs/Oversized:

This series includes pictures from events held by the local unit. There are also picture slides with accompanying text used at the 2000 and 2002 World Day of Prayer events. There is also a gavel set and a male and female condom, as well as a documentary on AIDS in Africa.

Subjects:

Church Women United -- Champaign County (Ill.)
Women's prayer groups



Church Women United
Records, 1963-2008

Collection 14

Container List

Box 1

Series 1: Administrative

- Folder 1: About CWU, Common Goals, Logo. Undated.
- Folder 2: Annual Report, Local, 2001 and 2004.
- Folder 3: Annual Report, National, 1985-1986, 1995-1996, 1998-1999.
- Folder 4: By-laws, State and Local, 1989, 2002, and undated.
- Folder 5: Celebration Planning and Reports, 1990-2007 and undated.
- Folder 6: Communications Committee, undated.
- Folder 7: Correspondence, 1988-2008, and undated.
- Folder 8: CWU Social Policies, 1941-2004
- Folder 9: Ecumenical Assembly Profiles & Procedures, 977
- Folder 10: Financial, 1986-1989, and undated.
- Folder 11: Financial, 1990-1999
- Folder 12: Financial, 2000-2007
- Folder 13: National Information Handbook & Directory, 1997-2002, 2006
- Folder 14: Job Descriptions, 1998, 2001
- Folder 15: Local Unit Handbook, 1988
- Folder 16: Local Unit Handbook, 1993
- Folder 17: Local Unit Handbook, 2000
- Folder 18: Meeting Agenda & Minutes – Annual, 1988, 1998, 2000, undated.
- Folder 19: Meeting Agenda & Minutes – Board, 1986-1998
- Folder 20: Meeting Agenda & Minutes – Board, 1999-2007
- Folder 21: Meeting Agenda & Minutes – Executive Committee, 1996, 1997, undated.
- Folder 22: Meeting Agenda & Minutes -- Other -- 1989, 2003, 2007, 2008, undated.
- Folder 23: Meeting/Event Announcements & Calendars -- 1989, 1996-2007, undated.
- Folder 24: Member & Church Listings, 1963-2008, undated.
- Folder 25: Nominating Committee, 1997, 2000, 2002, undated.
- Folder 26: Recognition of Gifts/Young Church Women United Recognition Form, 2003-2006, undated.
- Folder 27: Resource Catalogues, 1998, 2002
- Folder 28: Unit Yearbooks, Bloomington/Normal, Decatur, Local Units, 1986-2004
- Folder 29: Valiant Women Award Procedures, 2003, undated.

Series 2: Events

- Folder 30: 60th Anniversary Celebration – National, 2001
- Folder 31: 65th Anniversary Celebration – National, 2006
- Folder 32: 70th Anniversary Celebration – Illinois, 2001
- Folder 33: 80th Anniversary Celebration – Local, 2001
- Folder 34: Annual Meeting and Tea, 1991-1994, 1999, 2003
- Folder 35: East Central Regional Event, 1997, 1999, 2002
- Folder 36: Human Rights Celebration, 2007
- Folder 37: Interfaith Gatherings, 2003-2006, 2008, n.d.
- Folder 38: May Friendship Day, 1990, 1993-1998



Church Women United
Records, 1963-2008

Collection 14

Folder 39: May Friendship Day, 1999
Folder 40: May Friendship Day, 2000
Folder 41: May Friendship Day, 2001
Folder 42: May Friendship Day, 2002
Folder 43: May Friendship Day, 2003
Folder 44: May Friendship Day, 2004
Folder 45: May Friendship Day, 2005, 2006
Folder 46: May Friendship Day, 2007, 2008
Folder 47: Miscellaneous Events, 1993-2008
Folder 48: National Assembly, 2001
Folder 49: State Assembly, 1995-2000
Folder 50: State Assembly, 2002-2004
Folder 51: State Assembly, 2006, 2007
Folder 52: State Assembly, 2008

Box 2

Series 2: Events

Folder 1: Valiant Women Luncheon, 2000
Folder 2: World Community Day, 1992-1995
Folder 3: World Community Day, 1996-1998
Folder 4: World Community Day, 1999
Folder 5: World Community Day, 2000
Folder 6: World Community Day, 2001
Folder 7: World Community Day, 2002-2004
Folder 8: World Community Day, 2005, 2007
Folder 9: World Day of Prayer, 1987, 1989, 1992-1995
Folder 10: World Day of Prayer, 1997-1998
Folder 11: World Day of Prayer, 1999
Folder 12: World Day of Prayer, 2000
Folder 13: World Day of Prayer, 2001
Folder 14: World Day of Prayer, 2002
Folder 15: World Day of Prayer, 2003, 2004
Folder 16: World Day of Prayer, 2005, 2006
Folder 17: World Day of Prayer, 2007

Series 3: Publications and Newsletters

Folder 18: *Churchwoman Magazine*, v. 55, no. 1-3. 1989.
Folder 19: *Churchwoman Magazine*, v. 56, no. 1, 5, 6. 1990.
Folder 20: *Churchwoman Magazine*, v. 57, no. 1-4. 1991.
Folder 21: *Churchwoman Magazine*, 1994 and 1996
Folder 22: *Churchwoman Magazine*, v. 63, no. 1-4. 1997.
Folder 23: *Churchwoman Magazine*, v. 64, no. 1-4. 1998.
Folder 24: *Churchwoman Magazine*, v. 65, no. 1-4. 1999.
Folder 25: *Churchwoman Magazine*, v. 66, no. 1-3. 2000.



Church Women United
Records, 1963-2008

Collection 14

- Folder 26: *Churchwoman Magazine*, v. 67, no. 1-4. 2001.
- Folder 27: *Churchwoman Magazine*, v. 68, no. 3-4. 2002.
- Folder 28: *Churchwoman Magazine*, v. 69, no. 3-4. 2003.
- Folder 29: *Churchwoman Magazine*, v. 70, no. 1-2. 2004.
- Folder 30: *ChurchWoman News*, 2006-2008
- Folder 31: *Illinois Interpreter*, 1989-2007 (not complete)
- Folder 32: *Inform and Act*, 2001, 2006, 2008
- Folder 33: *Lead Time*, v. 10, no. 4, 1988
- Folder 34: *Wellspring IX*, "The Bent-Over Woman," 1988

Series 4: Subject File

- Folder 35: Action/Global Concerns Committee, 1997, 2000-2008, undated
- Folder 36: AIDS/HIV Education, 2003-2007, undated
- Folder 37: Assignment: Poverty of Women, 1987-1990, undated
- Folder 38: Building on Beijing, Women's National Action Agenda, undated
- Folder 39: Children's Rights, 2008, undated
- Folder 40: Church World Service / CROP walk, 1998, 2000, 2002, undated
- Folder 41: CWU-Stanley Consultation on Global Mission, 1998
- Folder 42: Domestic Violence / A Woman's Fund Inc., 1989, 2001, 2008, undated
- Folder 43: Fellowship of the Least Coin, 2006, undated
- Folder 44: Generations of Hope, 2008, undated
- Folder 45: Health Care, 1993 and undated
- Folder 46: Islam, 2002 and undated
- Folder 47: Music, Prayers, Bible Passages, 1989, 1999, 2001, undated
- Folder 48: National Farm Worker Ministry, 2001, 2008, undated

Box 3

Series 4: Subject File

- Folder 1: Native American Policy, 1997 and undated
- Folder 2: Racism, 1982, 1984, undated
- Folder 3: Slavery, undated
- Folder 4: Valiant Women Award Winners, 1980, 1988, 2000-2007
- Folder 5: Women LinC, undated
- Folder 6: Young Church Women United, 2002, 2007

Series 5: Photos/Oversized

Photos: Approximately 425 photographs of individuals and groups at annual events. Also contains photographs of Valiant Woman and Young Church Woman United honorees.

Slides and Text:

World Day of Prayer 2000, Indonesia (discusses Indonesian culture)

World Day of Prayer 2002, Romania (discusses the history of Romania and its culture)

DVD Documentary: *Coming to Say Goodbye: Stories of AIDS in Africa*

Gavel Set

Male and Female Condom