

Chicago Women-Church Records 1993-2007

Creator: Chicago Women-Church

Extent: 0.5 linear feet (1 box)

Language: English

Repository: Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago. Please contact WLArchives@luc.edu regarding use.

Administration Information

Access Restrictions: None

Usage Restrictions: Copyright of the material created by the Chicago Women-Church was transferred to the Women and Leadership Archives.

Preferred Citation: Identification of item, date, box #, folder #, Chicago Women-Church, Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago.

Provenance: Maura Henderson for Chicago Women-Church donated these materials to WLA on January 26, 1998 (WLA1998.33).

Processor: Dorothy Hollahan. Updated by Elizabeth A. Myers, April 2007.

Processing Information: Finding aid updated December 2025.

Separations: Unknown

See Also: Chicago Catholic Women Records and the Women-Church Convergence Records at the Women and Leadership Archives.

Administrative History

These records cover the beginning of Chicago Women-Church (CWC) which began about 1994 as a separate organization from Chicago Catholic Women (See written notes in File 1). It is a group based on the North side of Chicago. The mission statement of CWC, written about 1994 and reported on the CWC website in 1997, identified CWC as an egalitarian faith community. The statement described CWC as a sacred circle of loving and powerful women dedicated to the continual exploration of the feminine and lists as a need “to be open to further exploration of who we are and what we want to be identified as, in various social and political terms (e.g. Catholic: Catholic; pro-choice; feminist; etc.)”

A September 22, 2003 visit to the CWC website found a new mission statement developed at the Fall 2000 retreat and still under discussion. The statement was shorter and more concise than the original statement. On its website, the community stated that a past in Catholicism is common to many of us, but “we reject the church’s sexism and hierarchal structure.”

The CWC usually meets twice a month at a rented house and has liturgy/rituals prepared by members with a later business meeting. There are usually Fall and Spring retreats, and the requested yearly dues are \$50. The website identified LINKS that cover many other groups with similar goals. CWC is a member of Women Church Convergence, and members attend its meetings.

On April 12, 1997, CWC celebrated its gift of its records to WLA with a ritual "Preserving Our Past to Influence Our Future." The ritual concluded with a song "Weaving A Revolution." In May 1996, the community, after detailed and extensive planning, carried out an Ordination Ritual and Protest in front of Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago to promote the ordination of women. Stoles made by CWC were blessed and distributed, and the program listed Sharing of Bread and Wine.

Scope and Content

The papers of Chicago Women-Church span 0.5 linear feet and the years 1993-2007, which document the creation of CWC as a faith community. There is a mission statement of around 1994 and a newer mission statement of 2000. Correspondence with various organizations and many liturgies/rituals from the twice monthly meetings are included. A major activity in 1996 was the ordination ritual/protest. The materials have been organized according to their provenance. Also includes photographs, news clippings, and a VHS tape. Because of the limited amount of material, no series are outlined.

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
		<i>Chicago Women-Church Records 1993-2007</i>	
1	1	Mission Statement	1994-2003
1	2	Member/Mailing list	1996
1	3	Liturgies and rituals for meetings and celebrations	1993-2007
1	4	Meeting and news announcements; Minutes	1995-1998
1	5	Correspondence	1995-1997
1	6	Correspondence - Intentional Community	1997
1	7	CORPUS correspondence	1996
1	8	Correspondence - Rosemary Ruether survey	1996
1	9	Correspondence - Catholics For A Free Choice-Pew Research Center Report on the American Church	1996
1	10	Woman Church Convergence correspondence	1995-1997
1	11	Ordination for Women Ritual/Protest at Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago	1994
1	12	Photos - Ordination Ritual/Protest	1994
1	13	News Clippings	1994-1996
1	14	Woman Church articles - Mary E. Hunt	undated
1	15	Photos	1996
1	16	Photos - May Retreat & Stole making	1996
1	17	Photos - CWC potluck	1996
1	18	Photos - Retreat (Photos from Elli Vitkus)	1996
1	19	Photos - Retreat	1997
1	20	Photos - Retreat at Sawyer, Michigan	1997

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1	21	<i>Censured and Silent</i> [VHS]	1997
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