

## ***Church Women United - Elgin Records 1941-2013***

**Creator:** Church Women United - Elgin

**Extent:** 5.5 linear feet (8 boxes)

**Language:** English

**Repository:** Women and Leadership Archives, Loyola University Chicago. Please contact [WLAarchives@luc.edu](mailto:WLAarchives@luc.edu) regarding use.

### **Administration Information**

**Access Restrictions:** None

**Usage Restrictions:** All copyrighted material created by the Church Women United of Elgin was transferred to the Women and Leadership Archives upon the donation of the materials.

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

**Provenance:** These records were donated to the Women and Leadership Archives by Linda Meyer on April 4, 2014 and May 31, 2016. WLA2014.14 and WLA2016.19

**Processor:** Molly Sampson, March 2019

**Processing Information:** Subseries added and finding aid updated by Laura Berfield, December 2025.

**Separations:** Duplicate brochures and newspaper clippings were removed.

**See Also:** WLA records for Church Women United in Illinois, Church Women United Peoria, Church Women United Naperville, Church Women United Rockford, and Church Women United Wilmette.

### **Administrative History**

Church Women United (CWU) was a denominationally inclusive Christian women's organization that strives for social justice and world peace. Originally named United Council of Church Women, the national organization was founded December 8, 1941, one day following the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The Elgin chapter of Church Women United was founded in 1957. The chapter was initially called United Church Women of Elgin but changed to Church Women United to coincide with the national organization changing to Church Women United. The Elgin chapter was one of more than 100 CWU chapters affiliated with Church Women United in Illinois. CWU Elgin took part in many national and international events that promoted prayer and peace, including World Day of Prayer, World Community Day, the Human Rights Celebration, and May Friendship Day (called May

Fellowship Day until 1998). The Elgin chapter also supported many local, national, and international charities. In 1970, the Church Women United Elgin expanded the chapter to include South Elgin.

One of the most significant contributions to the Elgin community was the creation of Meals on Wheels in 1972. Created and led by Shirley Minks, CWU Elgin was in charge of planning, delivery, volunteers, bookkeeping, and other administrative aspects of the program until 2013.

Church Women United of Elgin began considering disbanding in 2013 due to low membership, and the group officially disbanded in January of 2013 after 56 years in operation.

### **Scope and Content**

#### **Series 1: Administration, 1941-2013, Boxes 1-4**

This series contains annual records, meeting minutes, correspondence, and other institutional records related to Church Women United. The series is grouped within three subjects, Annual Records, Meeting Minutes, and General, all of which are organized chronologically.

##### **Subseries 1.1: Annual Records, 1958-2009, Box 1-2**

##### **Subseries 1.2: Meeting Minutes, 1989-2013, Box 2-3**

##### **Subseries 1.3: General Box 3-4, 1941-2009, undated, Box 3-4**

#### **Series 2: Programs and Events, 1957-2013, Boxes 4-5**

This series contains material relating to the programs and events sponsored or organized by Church Women United Elgin. Including event programs, newspaper articles, pamphlets, and records for World Day of Prayer, World Community Day, Human Rights Celebration, May Friendship Day, and Meals on Wheels.

#### **Series 3: Affiliated Organizations, 1976-2012, Boxes 5, 8**

This series contains material related to the organizations and charities that the CWU Elgin supported. Materials include correspondence, programs, and brochures. One oversize object was placed in Box 8.

#### **Series 4: Publications, 1975-2012, Box 6**

This series contains the *Illinois Interpreter* published by Church Women United in Illinois, a booklet published by CWU titled *A Guidebook for a Global Society* and copies of the *Public Policy* newsletter published by the Illinois Conference of Churches.

#### **Series 5: Scrapbooks, 1957-2013, Boxes 7-8**

This series consists of scrapbooks created by CWU Elgin members. Four of the scrapbooks contain newspaper articles, photographs, programs, and certificates relating to CWU Elgin activities from 1957-2013. The fifth scrapbook consists only of material related to the Meals on Wheels program and includes newspaper articles, photographs, and records of the program.

#### **Subjects:**

Women in Community Service  
Church World Service  
Meals on Wheels

Elgin (IL)

Box	Folder	Title	Dates
		<b><i>Church Women United - Elgin 1941-2013</i></b>	
		<b>Series 1: Administration, 1941-2013</b>	
		<b>Subseries 1.1: Annual Records</b>	
1	1	Annual Records (1 of 2)	1958-1963
1	2	Annual Records (2 of 2)	1958-1963
1	3	Annual Records	1973-1976
1	4	Annual Records	1976-1980
1	5	Annual Records	1986-1987
1	6	Annual Records	1988
1	7	Annual Records	1989
1	8	Annual Records	1992-1998
2	1	Annual Records	2001-2006
2	2	Annual Records	2006-2009
2	3	Annual Reports	1958-1963, 1987, 1988
		<b>Subseries 1.2: Meeting Minutes</b>	
2	4	Meeting Minutes	1989
2	5	Meeting Minutes	1990
2	6	Meeting Minutes	1991
2	7	Meeting Minutes	1992
2	8	Meeting Minutes	1993
2	9	Meeting Minutes	1994
2	10	Meeting Minutes	1995
2	11	Meeting Minutes	1996
2	12	Meeting Minutes	1997
2	13	Meeting Minutes	1998
2	14	Meeting Minutes	1999
2	15	Meeting Minutes	2000
2	16	Meeting Minutes	2001
2	17	Meeting Minutes	2002
2	18	Meeting Minutes	2003
3	1	Meeting Minutes	2004
3	2	Meeting Minutes	2005
3	3	Meeting Minutes	2006
3	4	Meeting Minutes	2007
3	5	Meeting Minutes	2008
3	6	Meeting Minutes	2009
3	7	Meeting Minutes	2010
3	8	Meeting Minutes	2011
3	9	Meeting Minutes	2012

*Women and Leadership Archives  
Loyola University Chicago*

3	10	Meeting Minutes	2013
<b>Subseries 1.3: General</b>			
3	11	Church Women United Positions/Policies/Actions	1941, 1991
3	12	United Church Women of Elgin Constitution	1957
3	13	Chapter Resources	1962, 1993-1997
3	14	Correspondence	1974, 1988, 1996, 2006
3	15	Internal Correspondence	1989-2009
3	16	Elgin Chapter Bylaws	1993
3	17	Revitalization Award	1996
3	18	Church Women United in Illinois	2007-2008
3	19	Valiant Woman and Human Rights Award	2007-2008
3	20	History	undated
3	21	Brochures	undated
4	1	Stationary	undated
<b>Series 2: Programs and Events, 1957-2013</b>			
4	2	World Day of Prayer (1 of 2)	1957, 1974-2005
4	3	World Day of Prayer (2 of 2)	2006-2012
4	4	10 <sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly of United Church Women	1964
4	5	Meals on Wheels	1985-2012
4	6	World Community Day	1986-2011
5	1	Church Women United Luncheon	1992, 2007-2008
5	2	May Friendship Day	1989-2013
5	3	Human Rights Celebration	2006-2013
5	4	Love the Planet	undated
5	5	Wellspring Program	undated
<b>Series 3: Affiliated Organizations, 1976-2012</b>			
5	6	Christian Rural Overseas Project (CROP)	1976, 1996
5	7	Community Crisis Center	1990, 2003, 2012
5	8	Generations of Hope	2002-2007
5	9	Ribbon of Tangible Hope	2003, 2005
5	10	Shri Swaminarayan Mandir Temple	2005
5	11	Boys and Girls Club Elgin	2008
5	12	Musical Theater Workshop	2007-2008
5	13	Various Elgin Organizations	2011
5	14	Fellowship of the Least Coin	undated
8	4	Fellowship of the Least Coin Collection Jar	undated
5	15	United Nations	undated
5	16	Department of Corrections	undated
5	17	Church World Service	undated
5	18	Guideposts Sweater Project	undated
5	19	Various Affiliated Organizations	undated

*Women and Leadership Archives  
Loyola University Chicago*

<b>Series 4: Publications, 1975-2012</b>			
6	1	<i>Peoples Guidebook for a Global Society</i>	1975-1977
6	2	<i>Illinois Interpreter</i>	1989, 1991-1998
6	3	<i>Illinois Interpreter</i>	1999-2004
6	4	<i>Illinois Interpreter</i>	2005-2012
6	5	<i>Public Policy</i>	1999-2000
<b>Series 5: Scrapbooks, 1957-2012</b>			
7	1	Scrapbook [fragile]	1957-1966
7	2	Scrapbook	1962-1985
8	1	Meals on Wheels	1972-1996
8	2	Scrapbook	2003-2012
8	3	Scrapbook	1986-2003