

**Chicago Women-Church, 1993-2003, n.d.**

**Creator:** Chicago Women-Church

**Extent:** .5 linear ft.

**Location:**

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

**Administration Information**

**Access Restrictions:** None.

**Usage Restrictions:** Copyright of the material created by the Chicago Women-Church was transferred to the WLA.

**Preferred Citation:** Loyola University Chicago. Women & Leadership Archives. Chicago Women-Church. Box #. Folder #.

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

**Separations:** Unknown.

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

**Administrative History**

These records cover the beginning of Chicago Women-Church 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 web site in 1997 identifies CWC as an egalitarian faith community. The statement describes 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 web site found a new mission statement developed at the fall 2000 retreat and still under discussion. The statement is shorter and more concise than the original statement. The community on its web site states 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. The requested yearly dues are \$50.00. The web site identifies 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 archives to WLA with a ritual “Preserving Our Past to Influence Our Future”. The ritual concludes with a song “Weaving A Revolution.” In May

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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. The program lists Sharing of Bread and Wine.

**Scope and Content**

The papers of Chicago Women-Church span the years 1993-2003 and document the creation of CWC as a faith community. There is a mission statement of around 1994 and a new 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. Given the limited amount of material, no series are outlined.

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