

**Church Women United Rockford**  
**1946-2012, n.d.**

**Creator:** Church Women United Rockford

**Extent:** 2 linear ft.

**Processor:** Laura Pearce, July 2012

**Administration Information**

**Access Restrictions:** None

**Usage Restrictions:** The copyright for materials created by the Church Women United Rockford was transferred to the Women & Leadership Archives.

**Preferred Citation:** Loyola University Chicago. Women and Leadership Archives. Church Women United of Rockford. Box #, Folder #.

**Provenance:** Wilma Kuhlmeier, representing Church Women United of Rockford, donated the materials on May 18, 2012 (WLA2012.28).

**Separations:** Less than 1 inch of extraneous material was removed and discarded.

**See Also:** Church Women United of Elmhurst, Villa Park, Lombard Records; Church Women United in Illinois Records; Church Women United Wilmette Records at the Women & Leadership Archives.

**Administrative History**

Church Women United Rockford (CWUR) was a local unit of the larger national organization Church Women United (CWU). Founded in 1941, Church Women United is an ecumenical movement of church women of various denominations—including Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Orthodox—who work together to encourage a peaceful and just society. Church Women United identifies as “a racially, culturally, theologically inclusive Christian women’s movement, celebrating unity in diversity and working for a world of peace and justice.” As of 2011, there are over 1,200 local and state units of Church Women United in the US and Puerto Rico.

A local branch of CWU, Church Women United of Rockford began on February 3, 1921 when the missionary societies of various churches in the area met at the Court Street Methodist Church to form what they called The Women’s Missionary Union of Rockford. The organization officially became part of the larger CWU in 1945. The women of CWUR participated in local meetings and state assemblies. The group also participated in local campaigns and activities, including Fall Forum, Spring Forum, and Love Tea. The women of CWUR worked with local non-profit organizations to address issues effecting women and children. With the Big Sisters of the Winnebago County, CWUR established and supported a home for girls, known as Forest Hall. Three national CWU events, World Day of Prayer (March), May Fellowship Day—later changed to May Friendship Day—(May), and World Community Day (November) are strongly represented in this collection. The minutes of annual meetings and board meetings, as well as financial statements and treasurer’s reports make up a large portion of the collection. Church Women United of Rockford closed in 2012; its last meeting was held on March 2, 2012 at Allen Chapel A.M.E.

**Scope of Context**

Church Women United Rockford spans the years 1946-2012. The collection is arranged into four series: Administrative, Events, Audiovisual Materials, and Scrapbooks, Oversized, & 3-D Objects. The majority of the collection is within the administrative and events series which includes annual meeting minutes, board meeting minutes, financial records, and the organizations activities and celebrations. All series are arranged alphabetically.

**Series 1: Administrative, 1956-2012 , n.d., Box 1-2**

Contains materials relating to the organization's administration including: bylaws, correspondence, financial documents, lists of members, and minutes of annual meetings and board meetings.

**Series 2: Events, 1956-2012, n.d., Box 2**

The majority of the material in this series relates to the three national CWU celebrations: May Fellowship (later Friendship) Day, World Community Day, and World Day of Prayer. Also included are materials related to Fall Forum, Love Tea, and Spring Forum.

**Series 3: Audiovisual Materials, 2007, n.d., Box 3**

This series contains slides featuring Cameroon, Panama, Paraguay, and Poland along with corresponding slide text for Panama, Paraguay, and Poland from World Day of Prayer presentations.

**Series 4: Scrapbooks, Oversized, & 3-D Objects, 1946-1973, 1973-1992, 2006, n.d., Box 3-4**

Three scrapbooks are contained in this series; the two oldest scrapbooks focus on the history of CWUR, while the newest scrapbook focuses on the members of CWUR and its events. The scrapbooks contain newspaper articles, event programs, membership lists, a text titled "History of the Rockford Council of Church Women," and photographs. Oversized material consists of budget sheets for 1967 and 2006.

**Subjects:**

Church Federation of Greater Chicago  
Church group work  
Church Women United  
May Fellowship Day  
May Friendship Day  
World Community Day  
World Day of Prayer

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<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
<b>Series 1: Administrative, 1956-2012, n.d.</b>			
1	1	Annual Meeting	1991-1996
	2	Annual Meeting	1997-2001
	3	Annual Meeting	2002-2006
	4	Annual Meeting	2007-2012
	5	Board Meeting Minutes	1994-1998
	6	Board Meeting Minutes	2004-2010, 2012
	7	Board Member Lists	1993-2003, n.d.
	8	Budget and Budget Planning	1966, 1975, 2002-2011
	9	Bylaws	1960, 1992-1999, n.d.
	10	Correspondence	1965, 1967-1968, 1975-1976, 1985-1986, 1994-1998, 2004-2011, n.d.
	11	CWUI Local Unit Giving	1973-1975
	12	Disbursements and Receipts	1968-1976, 2005-2008, 2010-2011
	13	Donation Projects	1998, 2002, 2012, n.d.
	14	End of Year Gifts	1992-1998, 2003-2008
	15	Forest Hall	1964-1967
	16	Financial Reports	1956-1968
	17	Financial Statements	1996-2010
	18	Installation Service	n.d.
	19	Local Unit Annual Report	1997-1998
	20	Membership List	1997-1998, n.d.
	21	National Office Handouts	1996-1998, n.d.
	22	Record of Dues	1946-1967, 1972, 1974
	23	Statement of Purpose	1964
	24	Tax Returns	1975-1978
2	1	Treasurer's Report	1972-1976, 1981-1986
	2	Treasurer's Report	1987-1990
	3	Treasurer's Report	2005-2011

**Series 2: Events, 1956-2012, n.d.**

2	4	Event Programs	1975-1976, n.d.
	5	Fall Forum Programs	1993-2004

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6	Love Tea	1993-2012
7	May Fellowship Day	1956, 1960-1965, 1992-1996
8	May Fellowship Day Programs	1992-1999
9	May Friendship Day	2005-2011, n.d.
10	May Friendship Day Programs	2000-2011
11	Spring Forum Programs	1993-2004
12	World Community Day	1992-1993, 2007- 2011, n.d.
13	World Community Day Programs	1992-2004
14	World Day of Prayer	1992-1996, 2005- 2012
15	World Day of Prayer Programs	1992-2008
16	Yearly Events Overview	1996, n.d.

**Series 3: Audiovisual Materials, 2007, n.d.**

Slide Indexes

3	1	Panama Slide Index	n.d.
	2	Paraguay Slide Index	2007
	3	Poland Slide Index	n.d.

Slides

3A		Cameroon Slides	n.d.
		Panama Slides	n.d.
		Paraguay Slides	2007
		Poland Slides	n.d.

**Series 4: Scrapbooks, Oversized, & 3-D Objects 1946-  
1973, 1983-1992, 2006**

3	4	Events Scrapbook: Original Layout	1983, 1988-1992, n.d.
	5	Events Scrapbook: Photographs	1992, n.d.
	6	Events Scrapbook: Text	1988-1992, n.d.
	7	History Scrapbook A: Photographs	1948, 1952-1956, n.d.
4		Budget Worksheet	1967
		History Scrapbook A	1946-1962
		History Scrapbook B	1963-1973
		Receipts & Expenses	2006
		Scripture Ribbon	n.d.