Finding Aid for

Ann Robb Smith Papers, 1971 - 2004

Summary Information
Creator: Ann Robb Smith
Title: Ann Robb Smith Papers
Inclusive dates: 1971 - 2004
Bulk Dates: 1974 - 1975
Abstract: Member of the Women’s ordination planning group prior to the ordination of the first women Episcopal Priests at the Church of the Advocate, Philadelphia, July 29, 1974 [the Philadelphia 11]; lay presenter for the ordination of Sue Hiatt; ordained Asst at Church of the Advocate. Contains newspaper clippings, articles, correspondence, minutes of planning meetings, reports, statements, sermons, service sheets, and the ordination service sheet for the Philadelphia 11, July 29, 1974.
Size: 2 boxes, 1 linear ft.
Storage: On-site storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212-851-5612
Fax: 212-851-5613
Email: archives@uts.columbia.edu
Administrative Information
Provenance: Ann Robb Smith donated her papers to the Archives of Women in Theological Scholarship in October 1999 with another addition in 2006. Some of the material donated consists of records from the Women's Ordination Now support group.

Access: Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by phone, fax or email archives@uts.columbia.edu as far in advance as possible.

Access restrictions: The collection is unrestricted. Researchers are requested to use the acid-free copies of clippings in order to preserve the fragile originals in folders marked as RESTRICTED.

Preferred Citation: item, folder title, box number, Ann Robb Smith Papers, Archives of Women in Theological Scholarship, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

Biography

Ann Robb Smith is a resident of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania and is married to Kaighn Smith, an obstetrician-gynecologist and former professor at Thomas Jefferson Medical School. They have three children and four grandchildren.

Ann was a member of the Women’s ordination planning group prior to the ordination of eleven women deacons to the Episcopal priesthood, known as the Philadelphia 11. At that ordination she was the lay presenter of Sue Hiatt for ordination.

The Philadelphia 11 were ordained at the Church of the Advocate, Philadelphia on July 29, 1974 by Bishops Robert L. DeWitt, former Bishop of Pennsylvania, Daniel Corrigan, former head of the Church’s domestic missions, Edward Welles, retired bishop of West Missouri and Bishop Ramos.

The eleven ordinands were:

- Merril Bittmer
- Alla Bozarth-Campbell
- Alison Cheek
- Emily Hewitt
- Carter Heyward
- Suzanne Hiatt
- Marie Moorefield
- Jeannette Piccard
- Betty Schiess
- Katrina Swanson
- Nancy Wittig

Two priests: William A Wendt of St Stephen and the Incarnation Church and L. Peter Beebe of Oberlin, Ohio were brought to trial in church courts for permitting women ordained in Philadelphia on July 29, 1974 to function as priests.
Responses from church and press led to the establishing of the Women’s Ordination Now group to support those women whose ordination at Philadelphia was put under scrutiny and also to support the 3 ordaining bishops and priests who invited the women to celebrate the Eucharist.

Ann Robb Smith was a member of the National Advisory Committee of Women’s Ordination Now. She has been ordained to the priesthood and currently serves as the Assistant at the Church of the Advocate.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The Papers of Ann Robb Smith consist of the working papers, correspondence, clippings, and other related materials which tell the story of the ordination of 11 women as Episcopal priests on July 29, 1974 from the planning stage to the immediate responses and later anniversaries of the event. Included in this are papers relating to Women’s Ordination Now.

The bulk of the material dates from 1974 and 1975, although included are some clippings of retrospective articles and later anniversary programs. Some memorial service programs from 2002 – 2004 are in this collection as acid free copies only, the originals remaining in the possession of Ann Robb Smith.

The collection consists of newspaper clippings and magazine articles, as well as correspondence, minutes of planning meetings, list of names and addresses, reports and statements, sermons and service sheets, including copies of the service sheet from July 29, 1974 and the pen with which the ordination certificates were signed.

The collection is not divided into series and is numbered by folder within one box. The arrangement is approximately by type of material and chronological within these sections.

Processing

When the Burke Library acquired Ann Robb Smith’s papers, an attempt was made to maintain the original order. For ease of access and of preservation there has been some separation of correspondence, clippings and articles.

Folded materials were flattened. Newspaper clippings were photocopied onto acid free paper. Staples and metal clips were removed and replaced with plastic clips or interleaving of acid free paper. All materials were placed in acid-free folders and boxes.
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  - 63rd General Convention, Report of the Joint Commission on  
    ordained and licensed ministers, 1970;  
  - Address to NY Diocesan Convention by Rev. J. Robert Wright,  
    May 9, 1972  
  - Statement by Faculties of the Episcopal Consortium for  
    Theological Education in the Northeast, Oct 12, 1972. |
| 1   | 2      | Correspondence with Rev. Paul Washington, Church of the Advocate,  
  Philadelphia, 1972:  
  - Letter from Barbara, Mar 10, 1972;  
  - Draft of Letter to Pres. Bp Rev. John Allin, with ms note, [197?] |
| 1   | 3      | List of delegates to 1973 Triennial Meeting |
| 1   | 4      | List of Deputies to 35th synod, Province of Washington, Alexandria, VA,  
  Mar 26, 1974 |
| 1   | 5      | Sermon by Rev. Carter Heyward (Deacon) at Ordination of Doug  
  Clark, May 17, 1974 |
| 1   | 6      | Project report on Women in Theological Education by Rev. Suzanne  
  Hiatt (Deacon), May 1974 |
| 1   | 7      | Philadelphia 11 Ordinations’ Planning Meetings:  
  - A. R. Smith’s notebook of original minutes, July 10, 1974;  
  - List of names and addresses of attendees, July 10, July 29,  
    Oct 30, 1974 |
| 1   | 8      | Philadelphia 11 Ordinations’ Planning Meetings:  
  - Correspondence; typed minutes; memos; annotated papers,  
    July 8 - 25, 1974 |
| 1   | 9      | Philadelphia 11 ordination service programs, July 29, 1974;  
  - Pen used for signing ordination certificates;  
  - Directions to Church of the Advocate |
| 1   | 10     | Philadelphia 11 reactions: Correspondence, statements and reports,  
  Jul 19 – 29, 1974:  
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  - Letter [Church Union headed paper], to Bps DeWitt, Corrigan  
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*Response to objections raised at the service of the ordination of women*  

| 1   | 11 | Philadelphia 11 reactions: Correspondence, statements and reports, July 31 – Aug 23, 1974:  
Letter from Bp F. B. Wolf, July 31, 1974;  
Letter from Bp Lyman C. Ogilby, Aug 1, 1974;  
Letter from Bp R L DeWitt, Aug 1, 1974 with mailing items;  
Statement from Steering Committee of Episcopal Women’s Caucus with clipping, Aug 2, 1974;  
Letter from Brooke Leddy re Bp Wolf letter, Aug 4, 1974;  
Statement by Bp L. C. Ogilby to Bishops’ meetings, Aug 14 -15, 1974;  
Personal report on Bishops’ meeting, Aug 14/15 by H.H. Guthrie, E.G. Harris, H/ H. Rockwell, Sept 3, 1974;  
Letter from Bp L. C. Ogilby with Final Report of Committee on Resolutions, Aug 16, 1974;  
Letter from Bp L. C. Ogilby, Dec 18, 1974;  
Letter to Bishops …of Massachusetts from W Murray Kenney et al, Aug 13, 1974;Sermon by W MK, Aug 18, 1974;  
Statement of resignation [from Joint Commission on Ecumenical Relations] by William Wolf, Aug 17, 1974;  
Letter from Bp J. M. Allin to A. Robb Smith with Final Report of Committee on Resolutions, Aug 23, 1974;  

| 1   | 12 | Philadelphia 11 reactions: Correspondence, statements and reports, Sept. 16, 1974 – Jan 17, 1975:  
Correspondence: D.W. Belcher/ Bp J. M. Allin, Sept 16, 18, 1974;  
Memo from D. W. Belcher, Sept 23, 1974;  
Request for Presentment and trial of [name removed] to Bp L. C. Ogilby, by J. S. Keefer et al [after Jul 29, 1974];  
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Report from National Exec Council, v1 (3), Sept 1974;  
Legal Defense and Action Fund request, 1974;  
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| 1   | 14     | [RESTRICTED- FRAGILE] Philadelphia 11 reactions: News clippings,  
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| 1   | 14A    | Acid free copies f14 for consultation |
| 1   | 15     | [RESTRICTED- FRAGILE] Philadelphia 11 reactions: News clippings,  
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*Church Panorama*, 7(4) May 1974 [content post July 29];  
*People Weekly*, Aug 12, 1974;  
*Church Panorama*, 7 (5) June 1974 [content post Aug 15]  
“The Philadelphia Event: Conscience vs Order” *The  
Episcopalian*, PA Diocesan ed., Sept 1974, 2 copies |
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| 1   | 16     | [RESTRICTED- FRAGILE] Philadelphia 11 reactions: News clippings,  
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| 1   | 17     | Booklet, *Women in the Priesthood*, nd, by Rev. Emily C. Hewitt |
| 1   | 18     | Statement by Rev. Suzanne R. Hiatt, Oct 14, 1974 |
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| 1   | 19A    | Acid free copies of clippings in f19 |
| 1   | 20     | Service in Celebration of Women in Ministry, Oct 27, 1974,  
The Riverside Church |
| 1   | 21     | Editorial, *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*, v.10, no.4, Fall 1973 |
| 1   | 22     | *The Evangelical Outlook*, two issues: v.10, Oct 1974; v.11, Feb 1975 |
| 1   | 23     | *The Witness*, two issues: v.58, no.5: Jan 12, 1975; v.58, no.9:  
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| 2   | 10 | Correspondence re: Advocate legal defense fund |
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