

Inventory of the

Rockford Urban Ministries
Rockford, Illinois

Records

In the

Regional History Center

RC 266

INTRODUCTION

Stanley Campbell, Executive Director of the Rockford Urban Ministries, donated the records for the organization to the Regional History Center on January 12, 2005. Additional records were added to the collection at later dates.

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Northern Illinois Regional History Center
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SCOPE AND CONTENT

The records for the Rockford Urban Ministries date from 1962 to 2017 and consists of organization records and subject files. The organization records include constitutions, meeting minutes, director reports, newsletters, correspondence and financial information. Included within the meeting minutes files are agendas, reports, newsletters, correspondence, and financial information. Following the organization records are alphabetically arranged files that include organizations within and involved with Rockford Urban Ministries. These files also include subjects relevant to RUM's mission such as race relations, housing discrimination, school segregation, hunger, and other problems faced by people living in an urban area.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Rockford Urban Ministries is a program developed by the Rockford District of the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church in 1962 to meet pressing social problems of people living within the city which were not being met by any other institutional structures at that time.

Through the efforts of the District Superintendent, Merlyn Northwest, and concerned Methodists within the city, Edsel Ammons was appointed to be the first director of a ministry which was yet to be developed in terms of goals and programs.

The primary concerns in the "early days" centered on the needs of what then was seen as the Black community, then constituting around 5% of the total population. Edsel Ammons said in 1963: "We still have time to work to lay the foundations for brotherhood and inclusiveness, to be the redemptive agency in a community that will experience increasingly the tensions which accompany change." Other early efforts were in programs concerning neighborhood schools, evangelism for all new people, single young adults, youth needs, and utilization of the strength of the Methodist Men's organizations. Ammons assisted in the organization of a neighborhood

community council in the 7th ward, and sought to relate Black families to Grace Church. The Winnebago Street Church was reorganized during this time, becoming The United Methodist Parish of Christ the Carpenter. The presence of an Urban Work program was a considerable influence in determining the style of ministry which was developed there for our ministry to the Southwest quadrant of the city.

In January, 1966, the Shepherd of the Streets program was first discussed as a ministry to Rockford. Its purpose was to reach the alienated youth of the city, to find drop-outs and troubled youth where ever they were and to work with them in the re-building of their lives. During the next 11 years this program reached literally hundreds of youth; first with the leadership of Charles Kraft, then David Hauman, and finally a series of short term directors. The program was discontinued in 1977 both because of lack of funds and because other institutions filled the void. United Methodists can be justifiably proud for their support of this program.

Charles Jordan was appointed to the position as executive director of this ministry in June 1966. Work with the Black community continued. Jordan assisted the formation of the Westside Community Organization (WESCO), a community-wide project enlisting many groups to bring about significant change which could not be accomplished by individuals groups. Genesis Halfway House for ex-prisoners was begun, as well as many other projects. It is noted that WESCO, with leadership from Jordan, submitted a 10 point plan for greater inclusiveness in the school district in 1969. Much value was seen also in Jordan's serving on the Rockford Housing Authority Board.

Membership on the governing council has been made up of concerned lay people and Methodist clergy who have given the work stability and versatility in the great number of programs developed. Action Research Teams within the group in 1970, for example, were: Education and Training, Local Church and Lay Involvement, WESCO, Christ the Carpenter, and Shepherd of the Streets, as well as an executive committee. Ray Herbert from Grace Church was the first chairperson followed by John Schumaker from Out Master's, Don Mahan from Beth Eden, William Risinger from Centennial, Carl Plath from Our Master's, Linda Wilke from Aldersgate and James Galbreath from Bethany, the present chairperson. [Other people have served as chair since the writing of this history.]

E. Maynard Beal was appointed the executive director from June 1972 up to June 1981. Many of the same concerns as held by the council and former directors continued to be the agenda, including community organization work, race relations, school segregation concerns, and enablement of United Methodist laity to be in ministry within the community. The Management of Conflict and Know Your Community became the first two programs, the purpose of which was to enable individual congregations to become more effective in their mission. The Shepherd of the Streets continued until 1977 and support was given for the Spanish Speaking ministry through the 4-S Center. Other activities under Beal included involvement in public education, housing, equality of opportunity, economic development, hospice and emerging political issues.

In June 1981 C. Abner Hammonds was appointed to dual positions of pastor of Christ the Carpenter and executive director of RUM. Priorities for 1981-1982 included the support for the growing Northwest Illinois Hospice Association, development of a three-county-wide prison ministry group called START, economic development for the Southwest quadrant through involvement with the South/West Improvement Corporation, and joint ministries with the churches of "Old Rockford." The Old Rockford Action Research Team successfully brought together representatives for the nine United Methodist Congregations in the area south of Auburn and west of 20th Street and was able to get the Administrative Board/Council of each church to adopt a "Service District" ensuring that each block in the area was within the purview of United Methodist ministry. Other projects included evangelism workshops, peace and justice issues and a legislative breakfast.

In April of 1985 Stanley Campbell became the first lay, part-time director of RUM. He initiated support for small church run mission projects:

- Promised Land Employment Service, providing counseling to the long time unemployed, this program has put over 300 people into full time jobs, and assisted 200 people in gaining training and support.
- Rockford Neighborhood Redevelopment, rehabilitating dilapidated housing and reselling, at cost, to people who could otherwise not afford to purchase a home.
- Rockford Are Hunger Walk, which raises over \$17,000 per year for CROP/Church World Service.

Stan also works on issues that affect the poor in Rockford's communities; racism, sexism, welfare rights, and city development. RUM has successfully lobbied for and is working on, upgrading the existing programs and facilities of the juvenile detention center. Under Stan's leadership RUM is exploring peace and justice issues, particularly conversions of weapons production to peaceful purposes, Central American issues, sanctuary, and South African anti-apartheid work.

[History taken from "Statement of Historical Background Concerning RUM" found in RUM History file located in Box 1, Folder 1.]

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Civil rights
Discrimination
Discrimination in housing
Housing
Medical Care–United States
Methodists
People Who Care
Race Relations
Religion, Associations
Rockford
Rockford District Missionary Society
Rockford Urban Ministries
Segregation in education
Shepherd of the Streets
West End Revitalization Council (WERC)
West High Education Association (WHEA)
Westside Community Organization (WESCO)

COLLECTION INVENTORY

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	5	Annual Meeting Minutes, 1980-1982, 1987	
	6	Summer, 1978	
	7	Council Members, 1980-1981, 1986-2002, 2004-2005	
	8-9	Council/Board Meeting Minutes, (1980-1990)	
	10	Executive Committee Minutes, (1977-1984, 1987, 1992)	
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	5	Check Registers, May 20, 1987-December 31, 1992	
	6	Financial Support Requests, 1999-2002	
	7-8	Receipts and Expenses Ledger, 1990-1994	
	9	Travel Expenses, Stanley Campbell, 1990-1994	
	10	Action Research Team (ART), Spanish Work, 1977-1978	
	11	Action Research Teams (ART) and Committees, 1978-1985	
	12	Affirmative Action Program, City of Rockford, 1987-1988	
	4	1	Board of Global Ministries, 1990-1993
		2	Brochures, n.d.
3		Calendar of Events, 1982	
4		Calvert Investment, 1988-1994	
5		Center for Community Change, 1990	
6		Chicago Conference on Religion and Race, 1968	
7		Chicago Religious Leadership Network on Central America, March 29-30, 1995	
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9	Beth Eden, 1975		

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	15	Evans United Methodist, 1973, 1975	
	16	Grace and St. John's Cooperation (Merger), 1976-1980	
	17	Near East Cluster Community Program, 1975-1976	
	18	Churches, Council of: Near East Cluster of Churches, 1975-1980	
	19	Church's Involvement in Metropolitan Community Development by Rev. Kim Jefferson, n.d.	
	20	Citizens' Survey Report for Highland Community College, July 1979	
	21	Clergy Welcome Breakfast, 1999-2000	
	22	"Code Amendment to Create Regulations Concerning Treatment of Unborn Human Beings and Abortion," 1978	
	23	Commission on Pan Methodist Cooperation, 1995	
	24	Committees, General Information, 1976-1978	
	25	Community Development, 1976-1977	
	26	Community Empowerment, 1983	
	5		Conference:
		1	Chicago World Mission Institute, April 10-12, 1986
		2	Comprehensive Test Ban Petition Drive News, May 30, 1986
		3	Consistency in Nonviolence: A Fresh Approach to Building Peace and Supporting Life, April 13, 1985
		4	Illinois State-Wide Seminar, May 12-13, 1987
		5	Journeying Toward a Vision, n.d.
		6	North Central Jurisdiction Urban Network, January 7-9, 1986
		7	Peace with Justice Interfaith Event, May 8-10, 1986
		8	Theological Conference on the Theme of Liberation, February 10-12, 1988
9		Conflict Resolution, 1986-1994	
10		Covenant Living in Times of Change: A Study Course for United Methodist School of Missions, July 28-August 2, 1978	
11		CROP/Global Education/Church World Service, 1987, 1994	
12		Disabled (RAMP, etc.), 1986-1991	
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	2	Healthcare/Crusader Clinic, 1986-1993	
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	5-7	Housing Now!, 1987-1993	
	8	Housing Projects in Rockford, 1985-1990	
7	1-2	Housing Task Force, 1978-1980	
	3	Rockford Area Affordable Housing Coalition, 1991-1997	
	4	Hunger Coalition Activities, 1987-1993	
	5	Illinois Economic Crisis Project, 1985-1986	
	6	Illinois Impact Seminar, May 14-15, 1991	
	7	In Defense of Creation: The Nuclear Crisis and a Just Peace, The United Methodist Council of Bishops, 1986	
	8	Insurance Redlining: Fact or Fiction, February 1979	
	9	Jail Reachout, 1977, 1979-1980	
	10	Job Description and Interview Process, 1985, n.d.	
	11	KKK Visit, 1994	
	12	Knights of the KKK, Booklet, 1920	
	8	1	Lay Academy, 1971-1972
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3		Martin, Lynn, 1986-1990	
4		Martin Luther King's Birthday, Winnebago County Board, 1981	
5		Mentally Ill, 1988-1994	
6		Methodist Federation for Social Action, 1985-1995	
7		Metro ARTeam, 1982	
8		Metro Study, 1980	
9		Ministry of Criminal Justice, 1981-1983	
10		Training Material, n.d.	
11		Minority Board Members Ideas, 1991	
12		Move to 623 7 th Street, 1993	
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6		Seminar: Industrial Areas Foundation and Citizens Action Program, December 10, 1974	
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	3	South African Investment Policy, 1986	
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	5	Temporary Help, 1985-1986	
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	13	1	General, 1972
		2	Newsletter, 1978
		3	Program Emphasis, 1973
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5		Vegetarian Planning Committee, Vegetarian Restaurant Survey, n.d.	
6		Volunteerism, 1976-1979	
7		Welfare Reform, 1988-1997	
8		Wellspring Orientation, 1987-1989	
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9		C.O. Material, 1964-1975, 1978	
10		Crisis Center, 1979-1980	
11		"Neighbors" Program, 1976	
12		Tax Problems, 1979	
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14		West Side United Methodist Church, 1988-1989	
15		Whole Rockford Catalog: A Handbook for Daily Living by Ernest Webster and Marilee McSweeney, 1974	
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	8	Good Speeches, 1983-1994	
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	4	Bars, 2000-2001	
	5	Candidates Forum, 1992-1999	
	6	Charlotte's Web, 1992-1998	
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	8	Citizens for Justice Committee, 2001	
	9	Communities Upholding Persons (CUP), 1981-1982	
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	16	Bread for the World Sunday Resources Kit, October 11, 1987	
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	19	Definition and Procedures	
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	21	Des Moines Area Urban Mission Council, February 1988-September 1991	
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	24	Engage/ Social Action Forum-42 Unemployment, July 1978	
	25	Final Report Kent Creek Industrial Strategy, September 1980	
	26	Fire at Lao Buddhist Temple, n.d.	
	27	"A First Friday Report" Jobs for the Disadvantaged: Local Programs that Work, April 4, 1986	
	28	Food Research and Action Center, September 1987	
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	5	Hunger Connection, 1985-August 1989	
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	22	Invoices, 1985-1986	
	23	Jane Goodall and Stanley Campbell in Beloit, April 2000	
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	9	A New Religious America: How a "Christian Country" has Become the World's Most Religiously Diverse Nation, 2002	
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	12	North Central Jurisdiction Urban Network Event, September 28-30, 1983	
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16	Office on Global Education FACTS and One Hour Curriculum, n.d.		
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14		War Tax Protest at Rockford Main Post Office, April 15, 2002		
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16		West Coast Trip, November 1997		
17		Westside Cultural Development Center, n.d.		
18		Women, Infants, and Children Supplemental Foods, n.d.		
19		Written Resources, January 1985-1992		
Oversize	Volume	20 th Celebration of Director-Stanley Campbell		

ADDENDUM

24	20	Collection of articles, History of Rockford Urban Ministries, 2012
	21	Planning Retreat, 2006

ADDENDUM

	22	Annual Dinners, 1983-2013
	23	Appeal Letters, 1991-2011
	24	Budgets, 1993-2013
	25	Council Members, 2003-2015
	26-27	Executive Committee Records, June 1998-2000, April 2003-2006
25	1-2	Executive Committee Records, 2007-2014
	3	Executive Committee Meetings, 2013
	4	Events, 1984-2015
	5	Critical Mass Energy Journal, Volume 7, 1982
	6	Crop Hunger Walk, 1985-2015
	7	Correspondence, 1992-2015
	8	Cuba Trip Correspondence and Notes, October 18-26, 1996
	9	Hiroshima Nagasaki Commemoration, 1990
	10	Low Level Waste Management Records, June 1981
	11	Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, 2014
	12	Speeches, n.d.
	13	Newsletters, 2004-2015
26	1	Newspaper Articles 1982-2015
	2	Nuclear Energy Information, 1981-1984
	3	Rockford Peace and Justice Action Committee Newsletters, 1991-2015
	4	Work Camps, 1999-2014
	5	Photographs, 1984-2013
	6	Construction of Just Goods and R.U.M. Offices, n.d.
Oversize	1	Stanley Campbell portrait and photograph in signed frame

ADDENDUM

26	7	Correspondence, circa 1985-2017
	8	Events and People of Rockford Urban Ministry, 1994, 2015-2017
	9	Finances, 2002-2017

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	17
26	10	Minutes, Agenda and Reports, 2010-2017	
	11	Photographs of Stanley Campbell, 2016, n.d.	
27	1	Newspaper Articles, Apr. 11, 2009-Nov. 28, 2017	
	2	Rockford Urban Ministry Scrapbook, 1989-2004	
	3	Sermons, Lectures/ Presentations, 2014-2017, n.d.	
	4	Work Camp, 2002	
	5	32 nd Veterans for Peace National Convention, 2017	
	item	Rev. James Galbreath Rockford Urban Ministry Gavel	