

Archives of Women in Theological Scholarship
The Burke Library, Columbia University Libraries,
At Union Theological Seminary, New York

Finding Aid for

E. Allen Mellen-St Mary's Manhattanville Papers, 1973-2012



Sculpture of 1973 Event by Dykstra Karns
at Cathedral of St John the Divine, New York

Finding Aid prepared by: Ruth Tonkiss Cameron, 2013

Summary Information

Creator: E. Allen Mellen
Title: E. Allen Mellen (St Mary's Manhattanville) papers, 1973-2012
Inclusive dates: 1973-2012
Bulk dates: 1974-1975
Abstract: E. Allen Mellen has held a range of roles in the Vestry St Mary's Church Manhattanville including that of treasurer and former Warden; Correspondence and papers relating to the sponsorship by St Mary's Church parish of two women deacons of the parish, Carter Heyward and Emilie Hewitt for ordination in the Cathedral Church of St John the Divine, Diocese of New York, December 1973.
Size: 1 box, 0.25 linear feet
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Email: burkearchives@libraries.cul.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

- Provenance:** In 2012 Mr. E. Allen Mellen donated the papers of this collection to the Archives of Women in Theological Scholarship.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to burkearchives@libraries.cul.columbia.edu, or by postal mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible [Burke Library staff](#) is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.
- Access Restrictions:** The collection is unrestricted.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, E. Allen Mellen (St Mary's Manhattanville) papers, box 1, folder #, in the Archives of Women in Theological Scholarship, The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries, at Union Theological Seminary, New York.

Biography/History

Seven months before the famous "Irregular Episcopal ordinations" of eleven women in Philadelphia in 1974, five women deacons were presented for ordination to the priesthood at the regular December service of ordination of priests in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York.

On December 15th 1973 along with five men ordained as deacons in the previous June, five women deacons were also presented for ordination to priesthood. These women Deacons were Emily Hewitt, Carter Heyward (both deacons at St Mary's Manhattanville, 521 126th Street, New York), Carol Anderson, Barbara Schlachter and Julia Sibley. Marie Moorefield had also planned to join in presenting herself for ordination but was absent through illness. This was the first occasion in the history of the Episcopal Church, where women had been presented to the Bishop for ordination to the priesthood and had fully taken part in the service, but were refused ordination by the laying on of hands.

Bishop Moore, in declining to ordain them, said:

"I feel bound to wait on the Church before laying hands on my sisters whose ordination the Church does not allow. Here are my hands, eager to ordain sisters who are prepared."

The women deacons along with their presenters, and many supporters left the Cathedral. It is understood that they then held an Agape at nearby Union Theological Seminary.

Later in his sermons to the priests and several hundred attendees in the cathedral the Bishop stated "Today we see the agony and brokenness of our church by the presence of five deacons who may not be ordained. All of us who are their friends share their pain with them."

Emily Hewitt, Carter Heyward and Douglass B. Clark were all three deacons in the parish of [St. Mary's Manhattanville](#) in New York in the early 1970s. This parish, known as the "We are not afraid! Parish" in the Episcopal Church has served the West Harlem Community since 1823. Douglass Clark was the only one of the three deacons from St Mary's Manhattanville who was ordained at the December 15th Cathedral ceremony. Emily Hewitt and Carter Heyward were later ordained among the Philadelphia Eleven.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection specifically concerns the deacons, Emily Hewitt and Carter Heyward, both Union Theological Seminary alumnae, who were supported along with Douglass Clark by the parish of St. Mary's Manhattanville for Episcopal ordination in 1973.

The contents of this collection reveal the involvement of the parish and correspondence between Mr. Allen Mellen, Bishop Paul Moore, Jr., Neale A. Secor, the Priest in charge St. Mary's and others. Further papers cover the development of women's 'irregular' ordinations and the celebration of Sue Hiatt.

The collection consists of a single box of correspondence accompanied by some newspaper clippings and one book. The arrangement is chronological.

Sources

-For information related to the Bronze bas relief in the cathedral of St John the Divine depicting this event by sculptor, Dykstra Karns, please see the Episcopal New Yorker online:

http://episcopalarchives.org/cgi-bin/ENS/ENSpress_release.pl?pr_number=74188

Accessed 11/12/2013.

-For articles covering the Ordination event see Episcopal New Yorker, December 1973 and the New York Times, Dec. 16th 1973.

Processing

When the Burke Library acquired this collection, an attempt was made to maintain the original order. Some alteration in the order of correspondence to clarify the sequential order of events was found to be necessary to facilitate research consultation.

Folded materials were flattened. Newspaper clippings were photocopied on acid free paper. Staples and metal clips were removed. All materials were placed in acid-free folders in an archival box.

Correspondents

Ellen Marie Barrett

Douglass B. Clark, Deacon, St. Mary's Manhattanville, New York

James L. Duncan, Episcopal Bishop, Diocese of South East Florida

Eugene R. Fairweather, Professor of Divinity, Trinity College, Toronto, Canada

Charlotte Graves Patton, Chair, Congregational Committee on Women's Ordination, St Mary's, Manhattanville, New York

J. E. Griffiss, Professor of Apologetics and Dogmatic Theology, Nashota House, Wisconsin

Emily Hewitt, Deacon, St. Mary's Manhattanville, New York

Carter Heyward, Deacon, St. Mary's Manhattanville, New York

E. Allen Mellen, Vestry Chair/Treasurer/ Warden, St Mary's Manhattanville, New York

Albert T. Mollegen, Professor of New Testament and Christian Ethics, Episcopal Theological Seminary, Virginia

Paul Moore, Jr. Episcopal Bishop, Diocese of New York

Richard A. Norris, Professor of Dogmatic Theology, General Theological Seminary, New York

Thomas F. Pike, President, Standing Committee

Neale A. Secor, Priest in charge St. Mary's, Manhattanville, New York

William Stringfellow

Contents List**Series I: Correspondence, 1997-2012**

Series	Box	Folder	Content
1	1	1	C. Heyward to N. Secor, May 1973
1	1	2	"Women Priests Yes or No' E. Hewitt and S. Hiatt, 1973 St Mary's Publication Party Photograph Correspondence, 2003, 2012
1	1	3	Correspondence --Heyward/Hewitt Ordination, April - Dec. 1974
1	1	4	Correspondence --Heyward/Hewitt Ordination, Feb. 1975-Sept. 1976
1	1	5	Correspondence --Ellen Marie Barrett Ordination, 1977
1	1	6	Report on Validity of Philadelphia Ordinations, by Norris, Fairweather, Griffiss, Mollegen, 1975
1	1	7	Service Sheets--Women's Ordination Riverside Church, 1974 St Mary's Manhattanville, 1977
1	1	8	Women's Ordination--News Clippings, 1974-75
1	1	9	WON Women's Ordination Now, v1 (5, 6) 1975 WON Ordination Announcement of Washington Five, Sept 1975
1	1	10	Celebration in Honor of Suzanne Hiatt, Union Theological Seminary, 2003