

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

Finding Aid for

Ann Robb Smith Papers, 1971 - 2004



Finding Aid prepared by: Ruth Tonkiss Cameron, May 2006

Additional material prepared by: Patricia LaRosa, July 2006, revised by Ruth Tonkiss Cameron, July 2008

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
Email: burkearchives@library.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 email to burkearchives@library.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. 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.

Contents List

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Pre-1974 Statements and Addresses on ordination of women: 63 rd 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 to "Ann and Barbara," Mar 7, 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 35 th 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: Letter from Bp Lyman C. Ogilby, Jul [19] & 26, 1974; Letter from Bp L. C. Ogilby, Jul 29, 1974, 2 copies; Letter [Church Union headed paper], to Bps DeWitt, Corrigan and Welles, July 29, 1974;

Box	Folder	Contents
1	10	(Cont'd) Letter from Bps. Corrigan, DeWitt and Welles [pre July 29], in <i>Christianity & Crisis</i> 34 (15), Sept, 1974; <i>Response to objections raised at the service of the ordination of women</i>
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; Sermon: <i>Everyday Work of Christian People: the Disobedience of Unjust Laws</i> , by C.V. Willie, Jun 9, 1974; Request for Presentment and trial of [name removed] to Bp L. C. Ogilby, by J. S. Keefer et al [after Jul 29, 1974]; Executive Council notes by Paul Washington, Sept 1974; Report from National Exec Council, v1 (3), Sept 1974; Legal Defense and Action Fund request, 1974; Appeal for General Convention, Oct 4, 1974; Joint statement by eleven women priests, Nov 30, 1974; Card: Katrina Swanson to A. R. Smith, Jan 13, 1975; Statement to clergy by Merrill Bittner, Jan 17, 1975

Box	Folder	Contents
1	13	Personal correspondence to A. R. Smith, July 24 - Aug 9, 1974: from Ann Calland, July 24, 1974 from Kay [Phimister?], July 26, 1974 from Margaret Sheets, July 29, 1974 from Hope?, July 29, 1974 from Peggy Gilman, Aug 9, 1974
1	14	[RESTRICTED- FRAGILE] Philadelphia 11 reactions: News clippings, July 1971, July 20 –28, 1974, including “Drums along the Schuylkill” in <i>The Episcopalian</i> , July 1971
1	14A	Acid free copies f14 for consultation
1	15	[RESTRICTED- FRAGILE] Philadelphia 11 reactions: News clippings, July 29 – Sept 1974, including: <i>Church Panorama</i> , 7(4) May 1974 [content post July 29]; <i>People Weekly</i> , Aug 12, 1974; <i>Church Panorama</i> , 7 (5) June 1974 [content post Aug 15] “The Philadelphia Event: Conscience vs Order” <i>The Episcopalian</i> , PA Diocesan ed., Sept 1974, 2 copies
1	15A	Acid free copies of clippings in f15
1	16	[RESTRICTED- FRAGILE] Philadelphia 11 reactions: News clippings, Aug 2, 1974– Jan 1975, including: <i>Genesis III</i> , 4 (3/4), Aug/Sept & Oct, 1974; <i>The Episcopalian</i> , Oct, Nov, 1974;
1	16A	Acid free copies of clippings in f16
1	17	Booklet, <i>Women in the Priesthood</i> , nd, by Rev. Emily C. Hewitt
1	18	Statement by Rev. Suzanne R. Hiatt, Oct 14, 1974
1	19	[RESTRICTED- FRAGILE] Articles re Bishop Robert L. DeWitt, 1972-3
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, <i>Journal of Ecumenical Studies</i> , v.10, no.4, Fall 1973
1	22	<i>The Evangelical Outlook</i> , two issues: v.10, Oct 1974; v.11, Feb 1975
1	23	<i>The Witness</i> , two issues: v.58, no.5: Jan 12, 1975; v.58, no.9: Mar 9, 1975

Box	Folder	Contents
2		<i>Women's Ordination Now</i> papers
2	1	WON formation memorandum, Dec 11, 1974; WON meeting notes, Jan 1975
2	2	WON meetings, Feb 1975: Minutes, correspondence, flyers sent out, list of members
2	3	WON meetings, Mar 1975: Steering committee minutes, ms directions to church, funding committee report
2	4	WON meetings, Apr – Jun 1975: Chronology of events surrounding ordination, Oct 1970-Mar 1975; Memo from Advisory board, flyer re: September ordinations
2	5	WON meetings, correspondence July 1975 – Sep 1975: Minutes, July 12 th ; Ltr. from Rev. John Frizzell, re: Refusal of Alison Cheek's request for licensing, Jul 17, 1975; WON Newsletter, Sep 1975; Ad Hoc Community plan for action memo, with annotations
2	6	WON correspondence, clippings, papers, March – Sept 1975: <i>Who is Susan Hiatt</i> , ms by A. R. Smith, [1975]; "Who is Suzanne Hiatt," <i>Diocesan News</i> , Mar 1975 [RESTRICTED FRAGILE] Newspaper clippings, April – May 1975: re Wm. Wendt trial, April/May, 1975; 1975 women's ordinations; 4 Bishops' trial; use of funds by women in 2 parishes; Women's Ordination Now fundraising leaflet, etc, 1975; Charge to 2nd group of Episcopal women ordinands from Alison Cheek, Sept 7, 1975; Service sheet, Church of the Ascension, Parkesburg, PA, Suzanne Hiatt sermon, Sept 1975
2	6A	Acid free copies of clippings in f6
2	7	Minnesota Committee for Women's Ordination Now, Oct 1975: Statement of affirmation; Diocesan convention report
2	8	WON meetings, correspondence, Oct 1975 House of Bishops Meeting Documents, Sep 1975; Ltr from Bishop George Rath to Rev. Sanford Culter, Oct 2, 1975; Ltr to A. R. Smith from Rev. S. Culter; WON newsletter publications, Minutes as newsletter; Ms address list, ms notes, job description; Edna Pittinger Correspondence and Resume; directory

Box	Folder	Contents
2		<i>Women's Ordination Now</i> papers
2	9	WON meetings, correspondence Nov 1975-Mar 1976: Memo from Flora Keshgegian, A. R. Smith, Bob DeWitt, Nov 24, 1975 Letter from Anne Exley to "Flora and Ann," Dec 3, 1975 Report on visit of Rev. Suzanne Hiatt to Church of the Advocate, by A. R. Smith, Dec 21, 1975 WON minutes, Philadelphia, Jan 23-24, 1976 Ms letter from Ann .Mar 23, 1976 Second Anniversary Celebration Proposal for Jul 29, 1976 WON Newsletter [review of] 1975
2	10	Correspondence re: Advocate legal defense fund
2	11	[RESTRICTED FRAGILE] Articles re Alison Cheek: "A woman priest views her church". <i>Christian Science Monitor</i> , Sept 10, 1975; "Women of the year", <i>Time</i> , Jan 5, 1976
2	11 a	Acid free copies of clippings in f11
2	12	[RESTRICTED FRAGILE] Newspaper, article clippings, Oct 1975 -
2	12a	Acid free copies of clippings in f12
2	13	Sermons: Rev. Paul Washington, Mar 1, 1975 Rev. Barbara Harris, Mar 12, 1975
2	14	Ordination announcement for the "Washington 4," Sep 7, 1975
2	15	<i>The Witness</i> , Sep 1975: "The women priests one year later;" <i>The Witness</i> , Nov 1975: "The ordained ministry in the 1970's"
2	16	Issues of <i>Ruach</i> newsletter: Mar-Apr 1975, Jul-Aug, 1975, Spring 1999
2	17	Church service bulletins with Philadelphia 11 celebrants
2	18	[RESTRICTED FRAGILE] Anniversaries of Philadelphia 11 ordinations, 1982 - 1999: The Price of Priesthood," <i>Philadelphia Enquirer</i> , Aug, 1982; "Daughters of Prophecy," Special Issue, <i>The Witness</i> , 1984; Order of service for 10th anniversary, July 29, 1984; Order of service for 20th Anniversary, July 29, 1994 <i>Passover remembered</i> , 25th anniversary poem by Alla Renée Bozarth
2	18 A	Acid free copies of clippings in f18

Box	Folder	Contents
2		<i>Women's Ordination Now</i> papers
2	19	Rev. Dr. Suzanne Hiatt: Memorial service program, June 17, 2002, [acid free copy]
2	20	Bishop Robert L. DeWitt: Obituary, <i>Philadelphia Enquirer</i> , Nov 24, 2003; memorial service program, May 15, 2004, [acid free copies]