

The Archive of Women in Theological Scholarship
The Burke Library (Columbia University Libraries)
at Union Theological Seminary

Finding Aid for

Rebecca Todd Peters Papers, 1963-1998



Finding Aid prepared by: Patricia E. LaRosa, October 2006

Summary Information

Creator: Rebecca Todd Peters, 1967 -
Title: Rebecca Todd Peters Papers
Inclusive dates: 1963-1998
Bulk dates: 1994-1997
Abstract: Distinguished Emerging Scholar and Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Elon University, Elon NC; Union Theological Seminary PhD, 2001; Leadership and organizational materials on conferences sponsored by the Ecumenical Young Women United-North America, 1995-98; reports and correspondence from the National Network of Presbyterian College Women
Size: 2 boxes + 1 OS box, 2.25 linear ft
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Email: burkearchives@library.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

- Provenance: Rebecca Todd Peters donated her papers to the Archives of Women in Theological Scholarship in 2001 with a further addition in June 2004.
- 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.
- Preferred Citation: item description, series #, box #, folder #, Rebecca Todd Peters Papers, Archives of Women in Theological Scholarship, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, New York

Biography

Rebecca Todd Peters, who prefers to be called “Toddie,” graduated from Rhodes College in Memphis in 1989 with two bachelor degrees. The first was in Art History with honors and the second was in English. Her honors thesis was on the topic: “Carl Gutherz and his symbolist ideals.” She worked as a Library Intern at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York City in Summer of 1988, and then as a Curatorial/Managing Intern for the Peggy Guggenheim Art Collection in Venice, Italy from 1989 -1990.

Toddie has a long history of working with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). She was a staff person for Justice for Women, Women’s Ministry Unit, in Louisville, KY, from 1990 to 1992. During that time she founded the National Network of Presbyterian College Women and served as their Program Coordinator from 1992 to 1996. She was responsible for contact between the Coordinating Committee (CoCo) of the NNPCW and the emerging Pilot Project, whose purpose was to link Presbyterian student communities on college campuses together through study programs, retreats, and leadership training conferences. Toddie also secured grant funding to form a coalition between the National Council of Churches in Christ (USA) and the Student Christian Movement in Canada. The group adopted the name, Ecumenical Young Women United – North America (EYWU-NA) and conducted conferences from May 1995 to May 1998.

With regard to her academic pursuits, Toddie completed a Master of Divinity at Union Theological Seminary in 1996, and then earned the M. Phil. degree in 1999 and the PhD in Christian Ethics in 2001 with a dissertation entitled “In search of the good life : a feminist critical theo-ethical reading of the globalization debates.” She was named to an endowed junior chair position at Elon University in 2001 as Distinguished Emerging Scholar and Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and teaches a range of courses within the field of Christian Ethics. She is a member of the American Academy of Religion and is currently vice-president elect of the Southeast Region. She was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Elon in 2007.

Toddie describes her academic work as interdisciplinary and on her Elon University faculty website, she says:

“My work in globalization allows me to bring together several research areas that are often separated in current academic discourse... Economic and environmental ethics are so deeply interrelated that I believe the relationship between the two must be critically examined in any study of these issues. Additionally, examination of political economy also provides an important entry point into issues of race, class, and gender justice. Solid grounding in these issues is critical for scholarship in the academy and is essential for students preparing for both traditional and non-traditional ministries.”

As an active member of the Society of Christian Ethics, Toddie has participated in the SCE Writing Group on Economics and is currently co-convenor of the SCE Ethics and Political Economy interest group. Honors for her academic excellence include Visiting Scholar, Duke Divinity School, 2002-05 and the Jepson Award (U. of Richmond) for Outstanding Dissertation in Leadership Studies, 2002. Her book, *In Search of the Good Life: The Ethics of Globalization* was awarded the 2003 Trinity Prize by Trinity Press International and honorable mention from the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights in their 2005 Outstanding Book Awards.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The Papers of Rebecca Todd Peters consist of materials associated with the National Network of Presbyterian College Women:

Series 1: National Network of Presbyterian College Women, 1991 – 1995 (1 box + 1 OS box, 1.75 linear ft.)

This series consists of materials related to NNPCW's pilot program to network women on various college campuses throughout the country. This was seen as a way to enhance the activities and programming at individual campuses, in addition to providing leadership experience to campus students.

The material consists of memos of meetings, letters to chaplains and campus representatives, mailing lists and materials from leadership training weekends held at varied locations. The oversize box contains 3 t-shirts commemorating NNPCW events. The series arrangement is chronological.

Series 2: Ecumenical Young Women United – North America, 1995 –1998 (1 box, 0.5 linear ft)

Series 2 contains the correspondence and conference materials related to the newly formed Ecumenical Young Women United-North America, a coalition between the National Council of Churches in Christ (USA) and the Student Christian Movement in Canada. This group was formed by the National Network of Presbyterian College Women to facilitate meetings and connections between young women leaders in varied denominations. EYWU-NA conducted conferences from May 1995 to May 1998.

The series consists of materials from planning meetings, leadership seminars, conference materials and evaluations, correspondence and mailing lists. The materials are arranged chronologically.

Series 3: J. S. Peters' UTS Lecture Transcripts, 1963

This series is contained in the final folder of the box containing Series 2. The folder contains transcripts of the "Monday Morning Lecture Series" of January 1963 held at Union's James Memorial Chapel. These belonged to Jamie Sam[uel] Peters, father of Toddie.

Processing

When the Burke Library acquired Rebecca Todd Peters' papers, an attempt was made to maintain the original order. Folded materials were flattened. Newspaper clippings were photocopied on acid free paper. Staples, rubber bands, and metal clips were removed and replaced with plastic clips. All materials were placed in acid-free folders and boxes.

Contents

Series 1: NNPCW, 1991 –1995

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	1	NNPCW memos and minutes, 1991- 1995
1	1	2	NNPCW Coordinating Committee (COCO): minutes; correspondence, 1991-1993
1	1	3	Pilot program with colleges: correspondence, 1992 -1994
1	1	4	<i>Borders</i> , NNPCW Leadership training, Tucson, AZ, Aug 11-15, 1993: Correspondence with college participants
1	1	5	<i>Voices in the Storm</i> , NNPCW leadership training, Chicago, IL, Aug 10 -14, 1994: Conference schedules; text of workshops; ms notes; addresses.
1	1	6	<i>Voices in the Storm</i> : articles distributed; ms notes
1	1	7	NNPCW COCO memos, minutes, 1994 -1995
1	1	8	<i>No Longer Strangers</i> , leadership conference, Los Angeles, Aug 8-13, 1995: Correspondence; information flyer; registration sheet
1	2OS		Three commemorative t-shirts from NNPCW conferences.

Series 2: Ecumenical Young Women United – North America, 1995 –1998

2	1	1	Draft proposal to WCC US Conference re formation of Young Women's forum, May 1994; ms notes; correspondence, May – Oct 1994
2	1	2	WCC Young Women's Festival, Suva, Fiji, Nov 15 - 22, 1994: Summary of conference; music; workshop materials.
2	1	3	Ecumenical young adult mailing lists, 1994 -1995
2	1	4	WCC correspondence, Dec 1994 - Mar 1995
2	1	5	WCC US Young Adult pre-planning meeting, May 5 - 7, 1995: Agenda; ms notes; correspondence
2	1	6	WCC US Young Adult Ecumenical seminar, May 8 - 9, 1995: Agenda annotated; service program; EWYU information sheet
2	1	7	WCC ecumenical decade: information brochures and newsletters, 1994 - 98
2	1	8	Correspondence, mailing lists, July 1995 - Dec 1995
2	1	9	EYWU-NA meeting, Toronto, CA, Jan 12 - 15, 1996: Agenda; budget 1996; ms notes; correspondence
2	1	10	EYWU-NA meeting, New York City, Apr 12 - 15, 1996: Agenda; minutes; mailing list; correspondence; registrations; ms notes
2	1	11	EYWU-NA planning committee meeting, Aug 3 - 5, 1996: minutes; ms notes; expenses; reservations
2	1	12	Correspondence and mailing lists, Jun – Dec 1996
2	1	13	Correspondence and mailing lists, Jan – Jul 1997
2	1	14	EYWU-NA meeting, Toronto, CA, May, 1997: Planning committee minutes; expense sheet

Series 2: Ecumenical Young Women United – North America, 1995 –1998

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
2	1	15	<i>Sisters in the Spirit, Finding our Voices</i> : EYWU-NA leadership training, Chicago, Aug 23 - 30, 1997: Registration forms; correspondence.
2	1	16	<i>Sisters in the Spirit</i> : conference schedule; expense sheet; service music.
2	1	17	<i>Sisters in the Spirit</i> : evaluation forms
2	1	18	EYWU-NA conference, Orlando, FL, March 1998: Initial information

Series 3: J. S. Peter's UTS Lecture Transcripts, 1963

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
3	1	1	UTS Lecture series, <i>What I Believe</i> : transcripts of lectures, Jan 1963: <i>What I believe it means to be saved</i> , Jan 7, 1963: Dr. James Muilenburg, <i>What I believe about Christ</i> , Jan 14, 1963: Dr. Daniel J. Williams Dr. Edmund A. Steimle <i>What I believe about the activity of the Holy Spirit and prayer</i> , Jan 21, 1963: Dr. Douglas V. Steere Dr. Wilhelm Pauck <i>What I believe about death and the life to come</i> , Jan 28, 1963: Dr. Henry P. Van Dusen Rev. James M. Ault