

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

Finding Aid for

Carter Heyward Papers, 1967-1998



Finding Aid prepared by: Leslie Reyman, March 2001

Summary Information

Creator: Carter Heyward, 1945-
Title: Carter Heyward Papers
Inclusive dates: 1967-1999
Abstract: Episcopal priest, professor, theologian, activist, and writer. A pioneer in the areas of feminist liberation theology and the theology of sexuality. Correspondence, lectures, sermons, publications, photographs, audio and video tapes and artifacts documenting Heyward's ordination to the Episcopal priesthood in 1974 and her career as professor at the Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
Size: 42 boxes, 2 Oversized boxes, 22.0 linear feet
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Email: burkearchives@library.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

- Provenance: Carter Heyward donated her papers 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 at 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 correspondence in **Series I, Box 10 are restricted until 2050**. The remainder of the collection is unrestricted.
- Preferred Citation: item, folder title, box number, Carter Heyward Papers, Archives of Women in Theological Scholarship, the Burke Library, Columbia University Libraries, at Union Theological Seminary, New York.

Biography

Carter Heyward is an Episcopal priest, well-known for her impassioned preaching. She is a pioneer in theological circles, specifically in the areas of feminist liberation theology and the theology of sexuality. She speaks out on controversial issues: religion, family values, addiction and recovery, and the quality of relationships we establish with each other.

Heyward was born August 22, 1945 and raised in North Carolina. She graduated from Charlotte's East Mecklenburg High School in 1963. She received her undergraduate degree from Randolph-Macon Women's College in Lynchburg, Virginia in 1967. She then moved to New York City to begin a B.D. at Union theological seminary, but only stayed a year. "When I entered Union Seminary I was not sure just where I stood regarding the church and my involvement in it. Unsure at the end of that first year at Union, I felt moved to try church work," she wrote in 1972.

Heyward moved back to Charlotte and worked in her home parish, St. Martin's Church, for the next year and a half as a lay assistant. She did all the duties except those reserved for priests while working there. In 1971 she returned to New York and earned a Master of Arts in the Comparative Study of Religion from Columbia University. In 1973 she earned her Master of Divinity at Union Theological Seminary. Heyward received a Ph.D. in systematic theology from Union in 1980.

Heyward, called to the vocation of priesthood, was ordained priest on July 29, 1974 (the Feast day of Mary and Martha), along with ten other women. The ceremony violated church canons and was not officially sanctioned by the church until 1976. In an emergency meeting held at Chicago's O'Hare airport on August 14, 1974, the House of Bishops voted immediately that the ordinations were not valid, calling them "irregular" and restricted the women from exercising their priestly functions. In response to being denied her priestly rights, Heyward said in an interview with the *Charlotte Observer* in July 1975, "When you admit women into the mysteries – the holy places – of a society, you have posed to men's traditional superiority the ultimate threat.

You have invaded the last refuge. And they fight back...we didn't anticipate the level of the anger. We didn't dream, I suppose, that we would seem such a threat."

In January 1975, Heyward and fellow priest, Suzanne Hiatt were hired as assistant professors at Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She received tenure as an Associate Professor in 1981. As a professor, Heyward's primary teaching concentrated on 19th century Anglican theology, feminist liberation theology and theology of sexuality. She transformed consciousness, proclaimed the possibilities for women to be priests, for lesbians to be theological and made way for new approaches to connecting the divine to the erotic, to justice, and to challenging boundaries.

Her presence as a teacher, priest, activist, speaker and writer have pushed the edges of how feminists think about justice. And has challenged the foundations on which 'community' is built. Controversial and provocative, Heyward is able to help open new doors for discussions.

Heyward is the author of eleven books:

A Priest Forever: Formation of a Woman and a Priest (1976);

The Redemption of God: a Theology of Mutual Relationship (1980);

Our Passion for Justice: Images of Power and Sexuality and Liberation (1984); *God's Fierce Whimsy: Christian Feminism and Theology* (1987);

Revolutionary Forgiveness: Feminist Reflections on Nicaragua (1987);

Speaking of Christ: A Lesbian Feminist Voice (1989);

Touching Our Strength: the Erotic as Power and the Love of God (1989);

No Easy Peace: Liberating Anglicanism: A Collection of Essays in Memory of William John Wolfe (1992);

When Boundaries Betray Us: Beyond Illusions of What is Ethical in Therapy and Life (1993);

Staying Power: Reflections on Gender, Justice and Compassion (1995);

Saving Jesus from Those Who Are Right: Rethinking What It Means to be Christian (1999).

Collection Scope and Content Note

The Heyward Papers consist of correspondence, lectures, sermons, publications, subject files, photographs, audio and videotapes, and artifacts documenting the career of Carter Heyward. The collection contains much information concerning feminism, women and the priesthood, and a variety of political issues.

The collection is divided into four series:

- **Series 1: Correspondence, Sermons, Lectures, Course Material, Topical Files, Publications and Photographs, 1967-1997 (40 boxes, 20.0 linear ft.)**

This series consists of correspondence, brochures, newsletters, faculty minutes, syllabi, lecture notes, student papers, bibliographies, class handouts, articles, newspaper clippings, and photos. The folder titles and their organization reflect the original order of the Heyward Papers. They cover numerous areas of Heyward's activities and interests,

including women's issues and racism. Boxes 25-27 contain material relating to the Sandinista Revolution in Nicaragua. Box 10 will not be available until 2050.

- **Series 2: Books (1 box, 0.5 lin. ft.)**

This series consists of books written by Heyward, as well as other works from her personal collection.

- **Series 3: Audio-Visual Material, 1979-1999 (1 box, 0.5 lin. ft.)**

This series consists of video and audiotapes of sermons, lectures, workshops, and interviews.

- **Series 4: Oversized Materials, 1974-1994 (2 OS boxes, 1.0 lin. ft.)**

This series consists of oversized material including a collection of pins, an award Bible, seeds, a press packet, adult curriculum (including filmstrips) and various periodicals.

Processing

When the Burke Library acquired Heyward's papers, an attempt was made to maintain the original order she imposed throughout the course of her career. They are arranged in the original order utilized by their creator. Files noted with a \$ signify photographs within that folder.

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 List**Series 1: Correspondence, Sermons, Lectures, Course Material, Topical Files, Publications and Photographs**

Box 1

Correspondence about book answered
After Philadelphia, (bits and pieces)
Unlabeled #1
II Church-Philadelphia \$
Correspondence \$
II Church-Women's Ordination Papers
II Church-Correspondence with Paul Moore

Box 2

Other's sermons, speeches, articles re: Philadelphia
Women - PECUSA (priests, etc.)
Letters
Legal proceedings toward "recognition"
Louisville
G.O.E - general ordination exam
Philadelphia - Ecumenical support
II Church-upcoming commitments
Church/religion-my own articles, essays, etc.
My own letter to keep
II church - invitations declined
Cartoons
News clippings-sex, sexuality, gender "the sexes"
Business movie
II Church-Oberlin

Box 3

Around Philadelphia 12/15/73 and St. Mary's
Magazines
News clippings
II Church-National church/House of Bishops/General Convention
North Carolina-application
II Church-NY: my own candidacy/ordination/recognition
Mail: media
Mail: "the 15"
Correspondence-personal, 1980 \$
Engagements-past

Series 1

Box 4

My sermons
PECUSA-my correspondence
II Church-sermons, complete, typed
II church-news clippings
Washington Trial
Business-book (A priest forever)
Employment possibilities and job offerings
Oddities
Recognition papers
St. Martin's
Riverside, 10/27/74
Samples of Mail (public) since 7/29
Mail: Public (con)
Mail: public ("I'm for women's ordination, but...")
Urban bishops

Box 5

II church-Women Priests (the 11/15)
II Church-Women Clergy
Women's Caucus
WON (Women's Ordination Now)
Religion 21-5/19/67
Senior High Church School, Fall 1969
UTS-Religion 219
Master of Divinity Thesis, 1973
II Church-past commitments/engagements
Mail: personal friends
Mail: unanswered/pending
Past engagements

Box 6

Mail: public (pro) #1
Mail: public (pro) #2
Mail: public (pro) #3
Tenure
Correspondence (personal)
Lectures for T-172 (Spring 80)
Lectures for T-170 (Spring 80)

Box 7

Irenaeus and the Gnostics (Spring 78)
Doctrine of God (Spring 78)
Field Exam III-Feminism & contemporary theology (12/15/78)
I.EDS-Ministry, Priesthood & Sexuality (Fall 1977)

Series 1

Box 7 (cont'd)

Esalen
Ph.D. Danforth
Ph.D. UTS admissions, housing, business
Mailing addresses

Box 8

Evaluations-CPE
II Church-Hispanic/Grand Jury
Ella Ellison
Personal Reflections-Carter Heyward
RMWC-(Randolph-Macon Women's College) Ten-year survey of '67
Clippings-Women's Ordination (1976)

Box 9

Dissertation-"The Redemption of God" 1979
"Writing on the Boundaries: Rhetorical Analysis of the Writings of the Rev. Carter Heyward" by Kirstin Melissa Danner-1994
"Relation and Faith: the Theology of Carter Heyward" by Elizabeth Jane Collier (1991)
Feministische und/oder weibliche ethik? (1991)
"Ravenous Lust for Life: A Critique of Carter Heyward's Doctrine of God in Light of Jurgen Moltmann's Relational Doctrine of the Trinity. By Drew Dermot Hanlon (1993, with some correspondence)
"The Women's Ordination Imbroglio *Why can't a woman be more like a man?" by Peter Megargee Brown

Box 10 **Correspondence Restricted until January 1st 2050**

Box 11

Book Reviews "Boundaries"
"Boundaries"
Reviews "Boundaries"
JFSR (Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion)
MMWR
Upcoming Events 1995-96
Miscellaneous Correspondence 1995
Australia Trip

Box 12

Miscellaneous #1
EDS-1997
Carter Heyward
Articles of Racism

Series 1

Box 12 (cont'd)

Miscellaneous "2 \$
Planet Conference, 1991, Resource Book #1
Planet Conference, 1991, Resource Book #2
Sale of Mel Flour (Deer Isle, Maine)
Luce Fellowship

Box 13

The Witness
1984-July, Aug., Special anniversary edition
1985-Feb., April, June-Dec.
1986-Jan.-Mar., July-Sept.
1988-Mar., Dec.
1989-Jan-Mar., May-Dec
1990-Jan-Apr., June-Aug.
1991-Apr, May, Sept.
1992-Jan. Mar, May, Sept.
1994-July, Nov, Dec.
1995-Jan, Feb, Apr, June, Sept.
1996-Mar, Apr

Box 14

The Nation-1995 (not complete)
The Nation-1996 (not complete)
The Nation-1997 (not complete)
Women Brave in the Face of Danger
Peacework – Dec. 1994, Mar, Apr, June, 1995

Box 15

The Brown Papers (12/95, 1/96)
Through the Class Clearly: Canadian Women's Education, Work & Sexuality (1984)
Sermons from St. John's Chapel, Faculty of EDS, (1993-94)
Issues on the Progressive Woman's Quarterly (Spring 1995)
Plumblin: a journal of ministry in higher education (3/95)
Journal of Women's Ministries (Winter 1995)
Re-Imagining, Quarterly newsletter (11/94)
The Voice of Integrity-(Summer 95 and Fall 95)
Conscience (Winter 94/95, Autumn 95)
1986 Wall Calendar

Box 16

Past engagements
Past engagements (1990-91)
Past engagements (1992)

Series 1

Box 16 (cont'd)

Past engagements #1
Past engagements (Spring 1991)

Box 17

Christianity and Crisis
Alienation and Anger, Fall 1991 Resources
In each of us a need...
Tatman thesis
Embodying the Connections
WTC w/Donna B. (2/21-22/92)
Photos \$
Correspondence
Writings
Women-Connections, disconnections and violations (6/9-10/89)
14th Annual Maine State Alcohol/drug abuse prevention conference
Speeches, Sermons, Panel Discussion #1
Speeches, Sermons, Panel Discussion #2
Speeches, Sermons, Panel Discussion #3

Box 18

Past Commitments (1995)
Engagements (Fall 1994)
Engagements (1993-94)
Past engagements (Spring/summer 1993-some 1992)
Speaking engagements (winter/spring 1996)
Correspondence (summer 1994)
R. Bennett fiasco
Laura Brown
Australia

Box 19

Bunting
Music
Ph.D.
Regrets
Barbara Harris consecration \$
B.W. Harrison
Schleiermacher
Tillich
Pilgrim Press
Proposal re: my faculty status/situation (1987)
Hiatt
Active current correspondence
Resources

Series 1**Box 20**

AAR 1991 (Kansas City)
Harper and Row
Essays on my work
News clippings
Sermons(completed)
Shameless sacred passion
Aids Healing Service homily-EDS
No Easy Peace
Finding our Voice
Honoring the Women in our Lives (BWF, 5/91)
Works in Progress
Women Church essay
Witness

Box 21

Unwin Hyman
Trial of Faith
Touching our Strength
Theology of Friendship-Netherlands
Sermon, Homilies (1988-89)
Solle' and Heyward-Kurt Werner-Pick
Und sie ruhrte sein kleid zu
Redemption of God
Our Passion for Justice
Response to Janet Crawford's paper
Photos #1
Photos #2
Photos #3
Photos #4

Box 22

Dr. I. Carter Heyward
Liturgy
Correspondence
Correspondence (Fall 1985)
Correspondence (spring/summer 1985)
Correspondence (Summer 1984)
Correspondence (Fall 84/winter 85)
Correspondence (1987)
Correspondence (1987-88)

Box 23

Correspondence (1987)
Correspondence (1988)

Series 1

Box 23 (cont'd)

Liberation Theology group and personal journal
T-180 Group Project (Campbell, O'Donovan, Parrish, Sugrue, Wostrel)
Group Project (Hilda Fritze)
Loretto community (Sisters of Loretto)
Group V's reflective journal (Debs, Thornton, Gaiser, Brostrom)
Group Journal (brown, Kogut, Jackson, Slade)
Anglican Theology -Syllabus/exam (Spring 1983)
Anglican Theology-Davis Lecture (1983)
Beecher
My Books (correspondence, 1984)
C.I.A.

Box 24

Resume (1985)
Past engagements
Evaluations of me
Evaluation/Self
T-186 Feminist theology (Spring 1984)
Feminist Liberation Proposal
Promotion
Racism/EDS
Social Pastoral Mission Program (T-262/263)
Speaking of Christ
Syllabi (past)
Theological Examination of Marxist Theory (T-260)

Box 25

Theory of Sexuality (Spring 1988)
Bible and Feminist Hermeneutics NT/T 215
Group #3 (Quinn, Gleason, Yoshimu, Morgan)
Nicaragua #1
Nicaragua #2
Nicaragua #3
Nicaragua #4

Box 26

Nicaragua #5
El amanecer de ser una tentacion
Memoria
Nicaragua #6
Summer 1984 Nicaragua plans
Nicaragua #7
Nicaragua #8
Nicaragua fund raising
Nicaragua #9

Series 1**Box 27**

Nicaragua #10
Nicaragua #11
Nicaragua (11/83) (briefing materials)
Nicaragua #12
Nicaragua #13
Sandinista (FSLN)
Anti-Sandinista's (FDN-contras, La Prensa-opposition paper)
Honduras
"Wrestling with Jacob's Angel" Linda Clark
EDS Liturgy (memos, etc.)

Box 28

Worship and Spirituality
Worship and Spirituality (response to customary)
Eucharist
T/E 119 The Christian "Right" and US society; Shaping a liberating Resistance
Folder One (For November 6)
Christology and other courses
Faculty
Miscellaneous
Catalogs

Box 29

Anglican Theology (prep. for lecturer, 1983)
Anglican theology
Anglican Theology Bibliographies
T-120 Lectures (Anglican Theology, Spring 1983)
T-130 Christology: And Intimidation (Fall 1995)
Anglican Theology #2
Copies of Book chapters
Anglican Theology (my lectures-1983)

Box 30

T/E 119 The Christian "Right" and US Society (1996)
Correspondence (1994)
Papers (1994)
T/CS 103 Foundations for Theological Praxis (1995)
Episcopal Church Publishing Company Awards Night 1994
Katherine Hancock Ragsdale
Thomas B. Stevenson
Miscellaneous (1994)

Series 1

Box 31

1988-#1
1988-#2
1988-#3
Feminist Theology #1
Articles for course
Feminist Theology #2

Box 32

Feminist Theology (1984)
Articles for course- #2
Articles for course-#3
Worship planning at UTS-1981
Our stories-feminist theology project (1980-82)
Hearing the word: an inclusive-language liturgical lectionary for year C

Box 33

Women and Minority Ph.D.'s in the 1970's: a data book
Various publications
Various publications #2
Woman as other: a study of alienation in Rosemary Ruether, Mary Daly, and Sheila Collins
Quakers and war taxes
Photos \$
Correspondence (1996-97)

Box 34

Betsan Martin (?)
Quaker same-sex marriage
Addresses (EDS)
White Racial Awareness Process (facilitator guidelines)
Continuing the Dialogue (a pastoral study document...issues of human sexuality)
Field Exam III (1978)
Course articles
A Prelude to Garsuken Haven Theology (root-working) by Garth Fletcher
Sexual Models of God by Kevin C.A. Elphick
EDS-self-study report (1988)

Box 35

Christianity and Crisis, (10/15/73 and 7/13/77)
Apocalypse: a guide to EDS and Environs
Womanspirit, (Summer Solstice 1975, Spring Equinox 1977, Summer Solstice and Fall Equinox 1978)
Seminary Quarter at Grailville (Summer 1974, 1975, 1976)

Series 1**Box 35 (cont'd)**

Notes from the 3rd year: Women's Liberation
 Women (winter 1974)
 The Great Goddess. Heresies: A Feminist Publication on Art and Politics
 Words and music by Holly Near and Jeff Langley
 Living on the Earth by Alicia Bay Laurel
 Southern Exposure. Mark of the Beast

Box 36

The Witness

1977- March
 1978- Oct.
 1979- June, July, Oct.
 1980- Oct
 1982-Oct, Nov, Dec
 1983-Jan, Mar, May, Oct, Nov, Dec
 1984- Jan, Feb, April, May, Sept, - Dec, (10th Anniversary issue)
 1985- Jan, Feb, Mar
 1986- Sept
 1987- June, July/Aug

Christianity and Crisis

2/4/74
 10/18/76
 9/18/78, 10/30/78
 3/5/79, 7/23/79, 11/12/79
 4/14/80, 5/12/80, 10/27/80, 11/10/80
 7/12/82, 12/27/82
 4/4/83, 5/16/83, 12/12/83
 2/6/84, 8/13/84, 10/1/84

Box 37

Copies of reserved material for courses
 EDS-Student Handbook-Supervised Theological Field Education, revised 8/97
 Circle of Grace Community Church
 D. M., Feminist Liberation Theology and Ministry Handbook
 Report of FLT & M and women of color
 List of female alums in class order
 FLT minutes

Box 38

EDS catalogue-1981/82, 1983/84, 1986/87, 1987/88, 1988/89, 1991/92,
 1992/93, 1994/95
 Weston School of Theology, Directory 1991/92, 1996/97, 1997/98
 The Boston Theological Institute, 1992/93 catalogue

Series 1

Box 38 (cont'd)

The Boston Theological Institute, Institute Directory, 1993/94 Names and Addresses
 The Nation, 8/25-9/1/97 and 10/20/97
 Utne Reader, Mar/Apr 1993, and Sept/Oct 1997
 Filmmakers Library 1996
 EDS Stationary

Box 39 See separately listed Series 2: Books

Box 40

Ethics
 Correspondence (1996/97)
 Religion/Theology/SS articles #1
 Resources
 Feminist Theology articles #1
 Feminist Theology articles #2
 Voices Newsletter (1995/96)
 Syllabi from Bev Harrison courses

Box 41

Stuff #1
 FYI
 D. Min. Program Evaluation 6/92
 Mutuality-dictionary of Christian Feminist Theology
 T102-lecture transcript (10/4/92)
 Various Carter Heyward
 Various syllabi from other professors
 T205-Christology and Crisis
 T315-Christology:Advanced Seminar
 T1300-Christology: An Introduction
 T186-Introduction to Feminist Liberation Theology
 Photos \$

Series 2: Books

Box 39

I Am the Way. Constitutions. Sisters of Loretto, Nerinx, Kentucky
 Touching Our Strength by Carter Heyward
 Speaking of Christ. A Lesbian Feminist Voice by Carter Heyward
 When Boundaries Betray Us. Beyond Illusions of What is Ethical in
 Therapy and Life by Carter Heyward
 God's Fierce Whimsy. Christian Feminism and Theological Education by
 The Mudflower Collective
 Le souffle des femmes. Luce Irigaray. Presente des credos au feminine

Series 2

Box 39 (cont'd)

Our Passion for Justice. Images of Power, Sexuality, and Liberation by Carter Heyward
 WomanPriest. A Personal Odyssey by Alla Renee Bozarth
 Und sei.ruhrte sein Kleid an. By Kreuz Verlag
 Erotic Art 2 compiled by Drs. Phyllis and Eberhard Kronhausen
 Red Clay Reader 7
 Children in Community

Series 3: Audio-Visual Material

Box 42

Visual

Sexual Ethics and Justice Making (9/27/90-9/29/90), San Francisco
 Eve's Daughter
 Meat Pie 2/90
 After our War, How will Love Speak? 11/19/86
 EDS 5/83

Audio

Compassionate Remembering: Spirituality, Sanity & Morality in a
 Dismembered World 1990 American Psychiatric Assn. NY
 Theme: Retrospective of Recent Work about Lesbian Sexuality and
 Religion, 1991 AAR/SBL Annual Meeting, 11/23-26/91,
 Kansas City, MO
 Fleshing Out the Spirit -Women's Week 1992
 Chapel Homily-Acts 2:17-21, 11/3/92
 Lecture, 11/3/92
 Ethics Lecture, 11/4/92
 Faith Journey, Nancy W. Gezies and C. Heyward
 Sex, Gender and Power: A Lesbian Feminist Liberation Perspective
 KAIROS Lecture Series, 4/20/92, Cambridge, MA
 Inheriting our Mother's Gardens
 Tape #1-Katie Cannon, et. al
 Tape #2-Responses (C. Heyward)
 Tape #3-Getting out of the Garden
 UTS Oral Exam 2/16/79
 T284 (Lecture) 3/7/89
 (Lecture) 11/24/85
 On Recovery (WTC Health Fair) 4/15/89
 "Ideas and Issues" WETS-FM 5/30/99
 Micro-cassette tape 10/19/89

Series 4: Oversize Materials

Box 43

"Sometimes I Wish" Feminist Songs by Carole Etzler
 Button-"Women priests have real presence"

Series 4: Oversize Materials

Box 43 (cont'd)

Gift Bible-given to C. Heyward from R. DeWitt on 7/29/74

Life-"Remarkable American Women" 1776-1976

Life-"The 70's" Special Issue 12/79

Box 44

Political pins/buttons

Radish seeds

1983 Honduras press Packet

Repercusiones Del Terrorismo de estado de la adminstracion Reagan en
la vida del pueblo nicaraguense

The Witness - a 1994 General convention Supplement

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven. A 10-session adult seminar in Feminist
Theology by Shirley Ann Ranck