

# **Guide to the New England Women Ministers Association Records**

**RG 303**



Andover Newton Theological School and Yale Divinity Library staff

2018

409 Prospect Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
(203) 432-5301

[divinity.library@yale.edu](mailto:divinity.library@yale.edu)

<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Yale Divinity Library  
409 Prospect Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
(203) 432-5301  
divinity.library@yale.edu  
<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

**CALL NUMBER:** RG 303

**CREATOR:** New England Women Ministers Association

**TITLE:** New England Women Ministers Association Records

**DATES:** 1952–1998

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 2 linear feet (3 boxes; 1 oversize box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Minutes, reports, correspondence, publications, and collected material document the work of the New England Women Ministers Association, an organization that sought to provide support and strengthen ties between its members.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.303>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.303>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.        box  
f.        folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Deposited in Andover Newton Theological School collection in 1992, transferred to Yale Divinity Library in 2017

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### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

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## Preferred Citation

New England Women Ministers Association Records (RG 303), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

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## History

Oral tradition indicates that in 1922 a group of women ministers gathered at Bangor Theological Seminary in an effort to form a continuing fellowship. The organizing meeting of New England Women Ministers Association was in Keene, New Hampshire, in May 1938. For several years thereafter the group met annually one day of the week of the Rural Church Workers Conference at Ocean Park, Maine. The group adopted a more formal structure in 1952 with the election of a slate of officers. The organization's focus remained on the annual meeting at which issues of common interest were discussed. In 1959 a constitution was adopted, formalizing the purpose of the group since its inception: to strengthen the ties that bind women ministers together in the Christian ministry; to encourage competent and consecrated women to consider the vocation of ministry. A subsequent revision in 1982 refined the purpose: to strengthen the ties that bind women in ministry; to encourage and support one another; to provide role models; and to affirm and enhance the chosen vocation of women ministers. New England Women Ministers Association continued its tradition of providing a time of retreat and reflection through the programs scheduled at the annual meeting.

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## Scope and Contents

Minutes, reports, correspondence, publications, and collected material document the work of the New England Women Ministers Association.

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## Arrangement

Organized into five series:

Series I. Legal Records

Series II. Administration Records

Series III. Ad Hoc Committees

Series IV. Publications

Series V. Special Events and Projects

Series VI. Regional Chapters

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**Collection Contents**  
**Series I: Legal Records**

b. 1, f. 1	Constitutions	1952-1953
	Listed in the original finding aid as follows: 04/00/1959 Tentative, First Draft; 04/15/1959 As adopted; 04/26/1962 Including revisions suggested April 26, 1962 at Annual Meeting (2 versions); 04/16/1964 Changes proposed in the NEWMA Constitution at the 1964 Annual Meeting, to be voted on at the 1965 meeting; 04/00/1982 Proposed Revised Constitution; 04/22/1982 Approved at Annual Meeting, April 22, 1982; 04/25/1991 Approved at Annual Meeting, April 25, 1991; 04/30/1992 Changes; 04/30/1992 Approved at Annual Meeting, April 30, 1992; 04/29/1993 Approved at Annual Meeting, April 29, 1993; Recommended Changes to the Constitution	

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**Series II: Administration Records**

Minutes, reports, membership records		
b. 1, f. 2	President reports	1990–1998
b. 1, f. 3	Vice-President reports	1990-1991, 1997
b. 1, f. 4	Membership Registrar reports	1976, 1983-1986, 1991-1998
b. 1, f. 5	Supporting documents, including: job description, membership applications, procedure, sample welcome letter	1982–1996
b. 1, f. 6	Address and membership lists	1959-1999, no date
b. 1, f. 6	Minutes of annual meetings and supporting documents	1952–1954
b. 1, f. 7	Minutes of annual meetings and supporting documents	1955–1980
b. 1, f. 8	Minutes of annual meetings and supporting documents	1981–1998
Correspondence		
b. 2, f. 1	Correspondence, including circular letters Correspondents include: Betsy Sowers, Gretchen Hall, Margaret Morton, Dorothy Pease, Eva Henderson, Miriam Higgins, Evelyn Grindle, Laura Ingler, Ruth E. Thompson, Sophia Fahs, Helen Terkelsen, Edith Northrop, Beryl Capewell, Marion Stickney, Lillian Standish, Nancy Hildonen, Miriam Ackor, Gladys York, John H. Chafee, Miriam Eckard, Jacqueline Mills, Ruth Weber, Eunice Shaw Bull, Helen Zigmund, Polly Laughland, Drucilla Schneiderheinze, Ida Folsom, Elsie Gibson, Sarah A. Edwards	1954–1977
b. 2, f. 2	Correspondence, including circular letters Correspondents include: Gretchen Hall, Frances Knerr Thorne, Marja Coons, Paul Mahowald S.J., Jo-an Bott, Cathy Narowitz, Evelyn Grindle, Elsie Gibson, Marie Tolander, Diane Pierce, Valerie Tregger, Gay Godfrey, Helen Zigmund, Gerrie Brown, Sr. Mary T. Coffey, Harriet Newman, Betsy Sowers, Mary C. Clapp, Marilyn Cusick, Jean Reidel, Ann Duffy, Pat Halsall, Jamie Gustafson	1978–1981
b. 2, f. 3	Correspondence, including circular letters Correspondents include: Carole Etzler, Sharon Smith Viles, Peg Jacobs, Olivia Hayes, Sarah Davis Smith, Lucy Brady, Ann B. Day, Franny Nudelman, Cynthia L. Walton, Alice M. Ling, Sandra Ragle, Linnea Prefontaine, Barbara Breen, Barbara Silk, Elizabeth Frazier, Joyce Quinn Blum, Brenda Moulton	1982–1997
Treasurer records		
b. 2, f. 4	Annual reports	1969–1998
b. 2, f. 5	Supporting documents	1970–1994
b. 2, f. 6	Supporting documents	1995–1998
Historian records		
b. 3, f. 1	Historical notes and reports	1975–1980

## Historian records (continued)

b. 3, f. 2-3	Historical news clippings	1949–1997
b. 3, f. 4	Historical writings by members Published and unpublished material. Authors include: Gretchen Hall, Gladys D. York, Sophia Lyon Fahs, S. Elizabeth Goodrich, Elsie Gibson, Merle H. Mason, Cecelia Belanger	1959–1984
b. 3, f. 5	Subject-related articles collected by historian	1968–1984
b. OV1	Scrapbook of clippings and documents collected by NEWMA historian	1965–1973
Publicity records		
b. 3, f. 6	Press releases	1985
b. 3, f. 6	Annual reports	1994, 1996
Executive Committee		
b. 3, f. 7	Minutes	1962, 1970, 1978, 1980, 1985, 1986, 1991-1998
b. 3, f. 8	Supporting documents	1980–1998

**Series III: Ad Hoc Committees**

Committee for the Exploration of Discrimination Against Women in the Ministry		
b. 3, f. 9	Statement of purpose and membership list	1971 April 15
b. 3, f. 9	Suggested letter to be sent to women ministers in New England	1971 May 3



**Series IV: Publications**

b. 3, f. 10	News Sheet	1956
b. 3, f. 10	Summer Activities of the NEWMA Network	1981
b. 3, f. 10	Flyers, Newsletters, etc.	1982–1998

**Series V: Special Events and Projects**

b. 3, f. 11	Survey of NEWMA members	1976
b. 3, f. 12	Program: Spirituality and the Woman Minister	1982
b. 3, f. 12	Christmas card exchange	1982–1984
b. 3, f. 12	50th anniversary celebration	1988

**Series VI: Regional Chapters**

b. 3, f. 13	Massachusetts: Evaluation of workshop "Blessed are the Peacemakers" (1981); publicity flyer (1984)	1981, 1984
b. 3, f. 13	Vermont: Program, events for 1981; letter from Cynthia L. Walton; notice of meeting	1981
b. 3, f. 14-15	Miscellaneous material, primarily related to non-NEWMA events	

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Women clergy

### **Corporate Body**

New England Women Ministers Association