

# Guide to the Lee McGee Street Papers

RG 229



Compiled by Kristen G. Albert

2011

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 229

**CREATOR:** McGee, Lee

**TITLE:** Lee McGee Street Papers

**DATES:** 1968-2010

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 3.5 linear feet (8 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** This collection is comprised of writings, correspondence, news clippings, and photographs documenting the life and work of Eleanor "Lee" McGee, including her ordination to the Episcopal priesthood on September 7, 1975. Lee McGee was one of the first women ordained to the priesthood of the Episcopal Church and an early female faculty member at Yale Divinity School, serving from 1987 to 1997 as Squire Professor of Pastoral Counseling. Her career spans a variety of work in college chaplaincy, parish ministry, teaching social work, psychotherapy, consulting and parenthood. This collection provides valuable documentation of the changing role of women in the church.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.229>

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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.229>.

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

Gift of Lee McGee Street, 2011

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## Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Preferred Citation

Lee McGee Street Papers (RG 229), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Date	Event
1943 Aug 24	○ Eleanor Lee Hofmann was born in Baltimore, Maryland.
1965	○ Graduated with B.A, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> , from Maryland State College and entered Yale Divinity School
1967	○ Struck by rare eye disease of genetic origin, which rendered her permanently legally blind
1968	○ Married the Rev. Kyle M. McGee; the McGees had two sons
1969	○ Graduated from Yale Divinity School with a Master of Arts in Religion. Spent one year at University of Edinburgh.
1969	○ Moved with family to Washington, D.C. where she became a chaplain at American University.
1972-1980	○ First female chaplain and assistant director of Campus Ministry at American University's multi-denominational Kay Spiritual Life Center.
1973	○ Ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Church, in the Diocese of Washington
1975	○ Irregularly ordained to the Priesthood of the Episcopal Church, by the Right Rev. George Barrett, at St. Stephen and The Incarnation Church in Washington, D.C.
1977	○ McGee's ordination was "regularized" by Bishop Creighton following the September 16, 1976 vote by the General Convention which determined that ordination to the order of bishop, priest and deacon "shall be equally applicable to men and women".
1980	○ Completed a clinical Masters of Social Work at Catholic University in Washington, D.C.
1981	○ Moved with her family to Hartford, CT, where she worked as a priest and social worker with the chronically mentally ill, at soup kitchens and shelters
1982	○ Began teaching preaching part time at Yale Divinity School
1987-1997	○ Served as the Roger J. Squire Chair in Pastoral Counseling, Yale Divinity School.
1993	○ Marriage to the Rev. Kyle McGee ended
1994	○ The Eleanor Lee McGee and Gaylord Brewster Noyce Endowment in Pastoral Ministries was established at Yale Divinity School through generous gifts from the estates of Almon Elizur Hall and Amy Ericson Hall. The Endowment honors two

Date	Event
	Divinity faculty members who have made noteworthy contributions to student preparation for pastoral ministries.
1996	○ Published <i>Wrestling with the Patriarchs: Retrieving Women's Voices in Preaching</i> with Thomas H. Troeger, Abingdon Press
1997-	○ After retirement from YDS, lectured in England and the U.S. and led conferences on preaching, discernment, and Christian spirituality
1999	○ Eleanor Lee McGee Prize was established by the Berkeley Divinity School Graduate Society
2000	○ Married the Rev. C. Parke Street '60 B.D
2008	○ Returned to New Haven with her husband after 10 years on a ranch in Colorado.

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## Scope and Contents

This collection contains valuable materials collected by Lee McGee Street documenting her ordination to the Episcopal priesthood, as well as writings and correspondence regarding the role of women in the church.

Series I, Writings and Interviews is comprised of manuscripts, notes, articles, and sermons written by Lee McGee, as well as interviews with her, including audiotapes of an interview conducted for the Women's History Project at Yale Divinity School.

Series II, Ordination Documentation contains writings and correspondence regarding Lee McGee's decision to seek ordination, the ordination ceremony, and the events that took place following the "irregular" ordination. The Files by Person are comprised of correspondence, writings, and news clippings pertaining to individuals who were involved with the ordination, including the bishop who performed the ceremony and some of the other women who were ordained at the same time as Lee McGee. The files arranged alphabetically. There is an extensive collection of news clippings describing the events leading up to the ordination, the ordination ceremony, and subsequent events related to the role of women in the church.

Series III, Writings by Others includes collected manuscripts, addresses, lectures, and sermons primarily about the ordination of women to the priesthood.

Series IV, Conferences contains collected materials from conferences attended by Lee McGee Street.

Series V, Collected Publications includes newsletters, periodicals, and articles pertaining to the role of women in church leadership.

Series VI, Photographs and Memorabilia contains photographs and memorabilia. Of special interest is a group of photographs documenting the Lee McGee's ordination on September 7, 1975 at St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church.

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## Arrangement

- I. Writings and Interviews of Lee McGee Street, 1973-2010
- II. Ordination Documentation, 1970-2010
- III. Writings by Others, 1970-2011
- IV. Conferences, 1973-2006
- V. Collected Publications, 1971-1992
- VI. Photographs and Memorabilia, 1971-1999

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Writings and Interviews of Lee McGee Street, 1973-2010

Writings and Notes		
b. 1, f. 1	Essay on the Ordination of the Philadelphia Eleven	ca.1975
b. 1, f. 2	"Lee McGee, Diocese of Washington." Our Call, edited by Frances Trott.	1973
b. 1, f. 3	Notes and manuscripts regarding Ordination	1975
b. 1, f. 4	Notes regarding Ordination	1975
b. 1, f. 5	Notes on sex roles	n.d.
b. 1, f. 6	Inclusive language education and prayers	n.d.
Articles		
b. 1, f. 7	Viewpoint. American University Report; A.A. for the Woman; Is A.A. for You?; Young People and A.A.; The Characteristics of a Helping Relationship; Outline: Eating Disorders/Substance Abuse; The Family Genogram	1968-1979
b. 1, f. 8	"Women and the Preaching Ministry." Yale Divinity School <i>Reflection</i> .	1983 Nov
Sermons		
b. 1, f. 9	Ordination of Flora A. Keshgegian to the Diaconate	1974
b. 1, f. 10	Mark 8:34-38, St. John's Church, Norwood Parish, Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Maryland	1976 Feb8
b. 1, f. 11	Untitled, St. Stephen and the Incarnation Easter Service	1978 Apr 16
b. 1, f. 12	Ordination of Martha Bateman-Cooper to the Diaconate	1978 May 4
b. 1, f. 13	"New Beginnings"	1978 Sep 3
b. 1, f. 14	Untitled	1980
b. 1, f. 15	"Amos 7"	n.d.
b. 1, f. 16	"Have You Ever Thought About the Kind of Woman Pictured in the New Testament?"	n.d.
b. 1, f. 17	"Let Us Answer Our Call!"	n.d.
b. 1, f. 18	"Mark 8:27-38"	n.d.
b. 1, f. 19	"Of Women in the Gospels Take on a New Significance"	n.d.
b. 1, f. 20	Sermon regarding Ordination	n.d.
b. 1, f. 21-24	Untitled	n.d.
b. 1, f. 25	Partial Sermons	n.d.
b. 1, f. 26-28	Sermon Notes	n.d.

Interviews

b. 1, f. 29	"Need for Cooperation in the Priesthood: An Interview with Rev. Lee McGee." <i>New Age News</i>	1976 Mar
b. 1, f. 30	"Women Priests: Ten Years Later." <i>Berkeley Divinity School at Yale Newsletter</i>	1984 Nov
b. 1, f. 31	Yale Divinity School - Women's History Project, Interview of Rev. Lee McGee regarding Ordination and Teaching. Interviewed by Joyce Trickett, Interview transcribed by Dawn Detgen (includes audiotapes of the interview)	1993 Apr 21
b. 1, f. 32	"The Right to Ordination." <i>Diocese of Connecticut News</i>	2001 Aug-Sep
b. 1, f. 33	Interview with Lee McGee	2010 Sep 29

**Series II: Ordination Documentation, 1970-2010**

## Lee McGee

b. 2, f. 1	Woman Chaplain: Ray of Light for AU Coeds. The AU Report	1972 Sep-Oct
b. 2, f. 2	Ordination Application and Examination	1972-1974
b. 2, f. 3	Legal Documents and Correspondence	1974-1976
b. 2, f. 4	Committee for the Ordination of Women	1974-1975
b. 2, f. 5	Policy Statements, Open Letters, and Writings and Notes by Lee McGee	1974-1976
b. 2, f. 6	Ordination Announcement by Phyllis Edwards, Eleanor Lee McGee, Alison Palmer, Betty Rosenberg, and Diane Tickell	1975
b. 2, f. 7	A Statement of Intention by the Rt. Rev. George W. Barrett; Decision to Ordain; Summary of Remarks following Ordination	1975
b. 2, f. 8	Ordination Program and Invitation	1975 Sep 7
b. 2, f. 9	Ordination Sermon, St. Stephen's and the Incarnation	1975 Sep 7
b. 2, f. 10	Certificate - Oath of Conformity, Episcopal Church, Alison Palmer, Betty Rosenberg, Lee McGee (notarized copy)	1975 Sep 7
b. 2, f. 11	Address on the Canonical Aspects of the Ordination of Women by Henry H. Rightor	1975 Sep
b. 2, f. 12	Report of the Council of Advice	1975 Sep 22
b. 2, f. 13	Yale Divinity School Eucharistic Fast	1976 Feb 27
b. 2, f. 14	Thoughts on Regularization, George W. Barrett, Daniel Corrigan, Robert L. DeWitt	1976 Oct 15
b. 2, f. 15	Conferring of the Sacred Order of Priest in the Service of Ordination and Consecration for Lee McGee and Betty Rosenberg	1977 Jan 8
b. 2, f. 16	Dress Guidelines for Clergy Women Serving in the Anglo-Catholic Parish of the Episcopal Church	ca.1975
b. 2, f. 17	Ordination Collected Material	1974-1975
Files by Person		
b. 2, f. 18	Anderson, Vienna	1978
b. 2, f. 19	Barrett, Rt. Rev. George W. (Bishop)	1975-2000
b. 2, f. 20	Cheek, Alison	1975-1976
b. 2, f. 21	Creighton, Bishop William F.	1972-1976
b. 2, f. 22	Dewitt, Bishop Robert Lionne	1975, 2003
b. 2, f. 23	Fuller, Georgia Whippo	1975
b. 2, f. 24	Hewitt, Emily Clark	1977



## Files by Person (continued)

b. 2, f. 25	Heyward, Carter	1976
b. 3, f. 1	Hiatt, Suzanne Radley	1973-2002
b. 3, f. 2	Hwang, Rev. Jane	n.d.
b. 3, f. 3	Palmer, Alison. Questionnaire Regarding the Status of Women Deacons Seeking Ordination to the Episcopal Priesthood	1975
b. 3, f. 4	Palmer, Alison. Correspondence	1975-1978, 2004-2008
b. 3, f. 5	Palmer, Alison	1971-1977
b. 3, f. 6	Palmer, Alison	2010
b. 3, f. 7	Rich, Susan	1978 May
b. 3, f. 8	Rosenberg, Elizabeth Powell	1973-1975
b. 3, f. 9	Russell, Letty Mandeville	2007
b. 3, f. 10	Schiess, Betty	1976
b. 3, f. 11	Stodghill, Marion Whitbread	1985
b. 3, f. 12	Swanson, Katrina	1973-2005
b. 3, f. 13	Tickell, Diane	1975
b. 3, f. 14	Walker, Rt. Rev. John T.	1977
b. 3, f. 15	Wendt, Rev. William A.	1975
b. 3, f. 16	Wendt, Rev. William A.	1975-2001
Files by Institution		
b. 3, f. 17	Episcopal Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts	2004
b. 3, f. 18	Kay Spiritual Life Center, American University	1972-1978
b. 4, f. 1	Levine Museum of the New South, Correspondence re Women in Religion Program	2005
b. 4, f. 2	St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church (includes copies of the Newsletter Bread)	1970-1991
b. 4, f. 3	St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church	1999-2001
Correspondence		
b. 4, f. 4	Ordination Correspondence	1973-1974
b. 4, f. 5	Ordination Correspondence	1975 Jan-Aug
b. 4, f. 6-7	Ordination Correspondence	1975 Sep
b. 4, f. 8	Ordination Correspondence	1975 Oct

## Correspondence (continued)

b. 4, f. 9	Ordination Correspondence	1975 Nov-Dec
b. 4, f. 10	Ordination Correspondence	1976
b. 4, f. 11	Ordination Correspondence	1977-1978
b. 4, f. 12	Ordination Correspondence	n.d.
b. 4, f. 13	General Correspondence	1971-2006
Organizations		
b. 4, f. 14	Christian Parity Goup	n.d.
b. 4, f. 15	Minnesota Committee for Women's Ordination NOW	1975-1976
b. 4, f. 16	National Committees for Women's Ordination to the Priesthood and Episcopacy (various committees)	1973-1975
b. 4, f. 17	National Organization for Women (NOW)	1974-1976
b. 4, f. 18	Women's Ordination Now (WON)	1975-1976
Anniversary Celebrations		
b. 5, f. 1	10th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women Priests (includes news clippings)	1984
b. 5, f. 2	10th Anniversary of the Irregular Ordination of Four Women Priests at St. Stephen and the Incarnation	1985 Sep 8
b. 5, f. 3	20th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women to the Priesthood in the Episcopal Church	1994
b. 5, f. 4	Witness Awards (includes audiotape)	1994
b. 5, f. 5	25th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women to the Priesthood in the Episcopal Church	1999
b. 5, f. 6	Episcopal Women's History Project	2004
News Clippings		
b. 5, f. 7	News Clippings	1973
b. 5, f. 8	News Clippings	1974
b. 5, f. 9	News Clippings	1975
b. 5, f. 10	Religious News Service	1975-1977
b. 5, f. 11	News Clippings	1976
b. 6, f. 1	News Clippings	1977
b. 6, f. 2	News Clippings	1978-1979
b. 6, f. 3	News Clippings	1981-1987

## News Clippings (continued)

b. 6, f. 4	News Clippings re Barbara Harris, First Woman Bishop in the Anglican Communion	1988-1989
b. 6, f. 5	News Clippings	1994-1999
b. 6, f. 6	News Clippings	2001-2006
b. 6, f. 7	News Clippings	n.d.

**Series III: Writing by Others, 1970-2011**

## Manuscripts, Lectures, and Addresses

b. 6, f. 8	Brakeman, Lyn G. "Becoming a Woman Priest." Chapter 19, <i>Forgive Us Our Debts</i> (re Lee McGee)	2011
b. 6, f. 9	Boyd, Jeff. Chapter 9. "The Soul of a Lutheran"	n.d.
b. 6, f. 10	Cromey, Robert W. "The Ordination Circus"	1975
b. 6, f. 11	DeWitt, Robert L. "One Pilgrim's Progress", Kellogg Lecture	1985 May 21
b. 6, f. 12	Rightor, Henry Haskell. "The Existing Canonical Authority for Women's Ordination"	n.d.
b. 6, f. 13	Stewart, Rt. Rev. Alexander Doig. "Seventh Annual Address of the Bishop for the 75th Annual Meeting of the Convention of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts"	1976 Nov 5
b. 6, f. 14	Swidler, Leonard. "Jesus was a Feminist"	n.d.
Sermons and Prayers		
b. 6, f. 15	Archbishop of Canterbury's Sermon at York Minster, General Synod July Group Sessions	2008 Jul 6
b. 6, f. 16	Bishop George Barrett Sermon Audiotape. 35th Anniversary as Bishop, Trinity Episcopal Church, Santa Barbara, California	1998 May 10
b. 6, f. 17	Ridgely, Rev. Benjamin J. "Something Went Wrong"	1975 Sep 7
b. 6, f. 18	Street, Rev. C. Parke. "Pentecost XVI and Day of Illegal Ordination to the Priesthood of Women Deacons. St. Margaret's Church, Washington, D.C."	1975 Sep 7
b. 6, f. 19	Way, Rev. Pegg. "You are not my God, Jehovah"	1970
b. 6, f. 20	Sermons re Ordination, authors unidentified	1975, n.d.
b. 6, f. 21	Collected Sermons	1973-1978, n.d.
b. 6, f. 22	Collected Prayers	n.d.
b. 6, f. 23	Prayers Services	1979

**Series IV: Conferences, 1973-2006**

b. 7, f. 1	Covenant Community	1973-1976
b. 7, f. 2	Diocesan Task Force on Women	1973
b. 7, f. 3	Conference for Episcopal Woman Seminarians, Virginia Theological Seminary	1973 Mar 30-31
b. 7, f. 4	Episcopal Women's Caucus	1974
b. 7, f. 5	Experimental Worship Group Retreat, Planning Notes and Collected materials re the retreat	1974
b. 7, f. 6	General Convention of the Episcopal Church	1973
b. 7, f. 7	National Organizing Conference for the Ordination of Women to the Priesthood and Episcopate	1974 Oct 24-26
b. 7, f. 8	Women and Ordination in the Christian Churches: International Perspectives, Lincoln Theological Institute, University of Manchester	2006 Jul 12-14
b. 7, f. 9	Women Exploring Theology	1973
b. 7, f. 10	Women in Ministry: The Ministry of Women, First Annual Barrett Conference	2001 May 1-4
b. 7, f. 11	Women Proclaiming: Research, Issues and Resources	1995 Mar 13-17
b. 7, f. 12	Women's Ordination Conference	1977 Jun 27

**Series V: Collected Publications, 1971-1992**

## Newsletters and Periodicals

b. 7, f. 13	<i>De-Liberation</i>	1974-1976
b. 7, f. 14	<i>Faith at Work</i>	1974 Oct
b. 7, f. 15	<i>The Feminist Times</i>	1972
b. 7, f. 16	<i>Genesis-3: Philadelphia Task Force on Women in Religion</i>	1971
b. 7, f. 17	<i>Post American</i>	1974 Aug-Sep, 1975 May
b. 7, f. 18	<i>Responses: United Methodist Women</i>	1972 Jul-Aug
b. 7, f. 19	<i>Washington Diocese</i>	1975, 1978
b. 7, f. 20	<i>The Witness</i>	1984 Aug
b. 7, f. 21	<i>The Witness</i>	1984 Sep
b. 7, f. 22	<i>The Witness</i> Special Issue - Daughters of Prophecy: Episcopal Women Priests 10th Anniversary, 1974-1984	1984
b. 8, f. 1	<i>Women Deacons Newsletter</i>	1975
b. 8, f. 2	Yale Divinity School <i>Reflection</i>	1976 Nov, 1985 Jan
b. 8, f. 3	Collected Publications	1975-1976

## Articles

b. 8, f. 4	Articles regarding the ordination of women	1972-1975
b. 8, f. 5	Women in the church collected material	1972-1992
b. 8, f. 6	Articles regarding women's rights and feminism	1970-1973
b. 8, f. 7	"The Power of Women and the Subversion of the Community" (collection of articles)	1972

**Series VI: Photographs and Memorabilia, 1971-1999**

Photographs		
b. 8, f. 8	Lee McGee	ca.1975, 2005, 2005
b. 8, f. 9	Ordination at St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church	1975 Sep 7
b. 8, f. 10	Farewell Picnic	1981
b. 8, f. 11	Lee McGee performing a baptism, St. Stephen's Church, Bloomfield	1984
b. 8, f. 12	Alison Cheek, Carter Heyward, Suzanne Hiatt, Alla Bozarth Campbell, Lee McGee in Philadelphia	1984 Jul 29
b. 8, f. 13	Guide dog	n.d.
Memorabilia		
b. 8, f. 14	Collected Programs	1971-1994
b. 8, f. 15	Memorabilia	1999, n.d.
b. 8, f. 16	Memos, Notes, and Messages	n.d.
b. 8, f. 17	Miscellaneous, including information about Eleanor Lee McGee and Gaylord Brewster Noyce Endowment in Pastoral Ministries	1975, 1994

## **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**

Ordination of women -- Episcopal Church  
Women in the Episcopal Church

### **Names**

McGee, Lee