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Guide to the Interfaith Cooperative Ministries Records

RG 255



Compiled by Martha Lund Smalley

2015

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New Haven, CT 06511
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Yale Divinity Library
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New Haven, CT 06511
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CALL NUMBER: RG 255

CREATOR: Interfaith Cooperative Ministries, Inc

TITLE: Interfaith Cooperative Ministries records

DATES: 1969-2015

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 7 linear feet (17 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: These are the official archives of Interfaith Cooperative Ministries, Inc., an organization established as Downtown Cooperative Ministry, Inc. in the early 1970s in New Haven, Connecticut. It was an ecumenical organization that sought to build relationships between churches, support the development of social service agencies and programs, and encourage involvement in local, state, and national social justice issues.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.255>

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.255>.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Interfaith Cooperative Ministries, Inc., 2015.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Preferred Citation

Interfaith Cooperative Ministries Records (RG 255), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

Biographical / Historical

The Downtown Cooperative Ministry, Inc. (DCM) evolved in the late 1960s and early 1970s from the New Haven Council of Churches. According to a 1970 "Statement of Purpose" the organization sought "To be agents of human empowerment to the disenfranchised in the New Haven area under a theological discipline." DCM approached this mission of empowerment through efforts to build relationships between the several churches, participation and support for the development of social service agencies and programs, and direct involvement in local, state and national justice issues. Agencies and programs for which the DCM provided support include the Columbus House overnight shelter for the homeless in New Haven, the Community Soup Kitchen, Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen and FISH of Greater New Haven for food support, the Greater New Haven Community Loan Fund for housing issues, Sage Services and Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers for support particularly of the elderly, Citizens for Humanizing Criminal Justice, and Connecticut Interfaith Budget Watch.

In 1995, DCM broadened its mission and membership to serve the greater New Haven area and became Interfaith Cooperative Ministries, Inc. Jewish and Muslim communities became members and joined the effort.

In 2015, the ICM membership agreed that it was time to dissolve the organization due to waning interest from its members. Many of the social service agencies that DCM/ICM fostered continue to thrive.

Scope and Contents

This collection provides valuable documentation of ecumenical activities in the New Haven area, the development of social service agencies for the homeless, poor, disenfranchised, and elderly, and religious advocacy for social justice between 1970 and 2015. The role of religious organizations in the establishment of social service agencies and efforts to effect social change is documented in a detailed way. It is likely that these archives provide historical documentation of various New Haven agencies and programs that does not exist elsewhere. The waning of the influence of mainline religious communities and of the ecumenical impulse in general is reflected in the devolution of the ICM, leading to its dissolution in 2015. The amount and completeness of records varies over the years as some of the Coordinators in charge of the DCM/ICM operations were better recordkeepers than others. There is a considerable gap in documentation for the years 1998-2004.

Arrangement

- I. History of Organizations
- II. Board and Committee Records
- III. Correspondence and Reports
- IV. Program Documentation
- V. Publications / Publicity
- VI. Financial Records

Collection Contents

I: History of Organization

Legal and formational documents		
b. 1, f. 1	Certificate of Incorporation for Downtown Cooperative Ministry, Inc., including early draft and amendment for change of name	1971, 1973, 1994
b. 1, f. 2	By-laws and By-law revisions	1973-2007, no date
b. 1, f. 3	Correspondence and memos regarding Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws	1972-2004
b. 1, f. 4	Certificate of Incorporation and By-laws of Center Churches, Inc., (Hartford model for DCM)	1969-1972
b. 1, f. 5	Documents relating to tax-exempt status	1973-1975
b. 1, f. 6	Documents relating to tax-exempt status, including regarding change of name from Downtown Cooperative Ministry, Inc. to Interfaith Cooperative Ministries, Inc.	1981-1999
b. 1, f. 7	Documents submitted to State of Connecticut	1975, 1993
History / membership		
b. 1, f. 8	Annual reports of The Downtown Cooperative Ministry, Inc.	1974, 1975
b. 1, f. 9	Annual reports of The Downtown Cooperative Ministry, Inc.	1989, 1990, 1991
b. 1, f. 10	Annual reports of The Downtown Cooperative Ministry, Inc.	1992, 1993, 1994
b. 1, f. 11	Annual reports of Interfaith Cooperative Ministries, Inc.	1995, 1996, 1997, 1998
b. 1, f. 12	Annual reports of Interfaith Cooperative Ministries, Inc.	1999, 2000, 2001
b. 1, f. 13	Annual reports of Interfaith Cooperative Ministries, Inc.	2003, 2004, 2005
b. 2, f. 1	Annual reports of Interfaith Cooperative Ministries, Inc.	2006, 2007, 2008
b. 2, f. 2	Annual reports of Interfaith Cooperative Ministries, Inc.	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013
b. 2, f. 3	Annual meeting minutes and documents	1973, 1977, 1978
b. 2, f. 4	Membership meetings, annual meeting minutes and documents	1981-2013
b. 2, f. 5	Membership meeting related to dissolution of Interfaith Cooperative Ministries	2015
b. 2, f. 6	Statements of purpose, documents related to organizational structure	1971-2007
b. 2, f. 7	Narrative histories: interview with Rev. Dr. Samuel Slie, essay by Rev. Edward F. Dobiha, Jr.	1999, 2004

History / membership (continued)

b. 2, f. 8

Lists of members, Board of Directors, officers

1990-1996, no
date

II.: Board and Committee Records

Board of Directors

b. 2, f. 9	Downtown Cooperative Ministry, Inc. - Minutes and meeting documents	1970 December - 1972 June
b. 2, f. 10	Minutes and meeting documents	1972 July - 1973 April
b. 2, f. 11	Minutes and meeting documents	1973 May - 1974 November
b. 2, f. 12	Minutes and meeting documents	1976 January - 1976 September
b. 2, f. 13	Minutes and meeting documents	1976 October - 1977 November
b. 3, f. 1	Minutes and meeting documents	1978 January - November
b. 3, f. 2	Minutes and meeting documents	1979 January - December
b. 3, f. 3	Minutes and meeting documents	1980 January - December
b. 3, f. 4	Minutes and meeting documents	1981 January - November
b. 3, f. 5	Minutes and meeting documents	1982 January - November
b. 3, f. 6	Minutes and meeting documents	1983 January - November
b. 3, f. 7	Minutes and meeting documents	1984 January - 1985 November
b. 3, f. 8	Minutes and meeting documents	1986 January - 1987 December
b. 3, f. 9	Minutes and meeting documents	1988 January - 1989 November
b. 3, f. 10	Minutes and meeting documents	1990 January - 1991 November
b. 3, f. 11	Minutes and meeting documents	1992 January - 1993 November
b. 3, f. 12	Minutes and meeting documents	1994 January - 1995 November
b. 4, f. 1	Interfaith Cooperative Ministries, Inc. - Minutes and meeting documents	1996 January - 1997 November
b. 4, f. 2	Minutes and meeting documents	1997 January - December

Board of Directors (continued)

b. 4, f. 3	Minutes and meeting documents	2004 June - 2007 January
b. 4, f. 4	Minutes Folder includes 2 CDs with digital files of minutes and other documents dating from 2008-2015	2008 April - 2010 December
b. 4, f. 5	Minutes	2011 January - 2012 December
b. 4, f. 6	Minutes and meeting documents	2013 February - 2015 February
Steering Committee This section contains the contents of a loose-leaf notebook compiled by DCM Coordinator		
b. 4, f. 7	Minutes, meeting documents, correspondence	1971 May - October
b. 4, f. 8	Minutes, meeting documents, correspondence	1971 November - 1972 February
b. 4, f. 9	Minutes, meeting documents, correspondence	1972 March - July
b. 4, f. 10	Minutes, meeting documents, correspondence	1972 October - December
b. 4, f. 11	Minutes, meeting documents, correspondence	1973 January - March 14
Executive Committee		
b. 4, f. 12	Minutes, meeting documents	1973 March 29 - December
b. 4, f. 13	Minutes, meeting documents	1974 January - 1975 November
b. 4, f. 14	Minutes, meeting documents	1976 January - December
b. 4, f. 15	Minutes, meeting documents	1977 January - December
b. 4, f. 16	Minutes, meeting documents	1978 January - 1979 May
b. 5, f. 1	Minutes, meeting documents	1979 June - 1981 May
b. 5, f. 2	Minutes, meeting documents	1981 June - 1982 December
b. 5, f. 3	Minutes, meeting documents, correspondence	1983 January - 1984 December

Executive Committee (continued)

b. 5, f. 4	Minutes, meeting documents	1985 January - 1986 December
b. 5, f. 5	Minutes, meeting documents	1987 January - 1988 December
b. 5, f. 6	Minutes, meeting documents	1989 January - 1990 December
b. 5, f. 7	Minutes, meeting documents	1991 January - 1992 December
b. 5, f. 8	Minutes, meeting documents, correspondence	1993 January - 1994 December
b. 5, f. 9	Minutes, meeting documents	1995 January - 1996 December
b. 5, f. 10	Minutes, meeting documents	1997 January - December
b. 5, f. 11	Minutes, meeting documents	2004 January - 2006 May
Other committees and task forces		
b. 6, f. 1	Associate Organization and Program Directors' Fundraising Committee	1992
b. 6, f. 2	Cooperative Development Committee / Working Group	1981-1983
b. 6, f. 3	House Church Committee	1975
b. 6, f. 4	Investor Responsibility Committee	1980-1982
b. 6, f. 5	Long Range Planning Committee	1972-1975
b. 6, f. 6	Long Range Planning Committee	1983-1985
b. 6, f. 7	Membership Committee	1992-1993
b. 6, f. 8	Political and Community Action Committee (PACAC)	1976-1977
b. 6, f. 9	Political and Community Action Committee (PACAC)	1978-1979
b. 6, f. 10	Political and Community Action Committee (PACAC)	1980-1981
b. 6, f. 11	Politics and Poverty Committee	1975
b. 6, f. 12	Program Committee	1991-1997
b. 6, f. 13	Project Development Committee / Working Group	1981-1984
b. 6, f. 14	Racism Committee	1978
b. 7, f. 1	Regional Interfaith Partnership Task Force	1994
b. 7, f. 2	Regional Interfaith Partnership Task Force	1994
b. 7, f. 3	Religious Partnership Proposal Committee	1993

Other committees and task forces (continued)

b. 7, f. 4	Save the Children Special Committee	1988
b. 7, f. 5	Spiritual Development Working Group	1981-1984
b. 7, f. 6	Worship Committee See also documentation of worship services in Series IV, Program Documentation	1972-1978
b. 7, f. 7	Worship Committee	1979-1994
b. 7, f. 8	Young Adults, Committee Exploring DCM Ministry to	1981-1982

III.: Correspondence and Reports

b. 7, f. 9	Documents, correspondence from early years of DCM	1970-1971
b. 7, f. 10	Including list of activities and reports of Coordinator, William C. Green	1972-1973
b. 7, f. 11	Planning retreats	1973-1974
b. 7, f. 12	Coordinator's report, correspondence, Coordinator's planning calendar	1975-1976
b. 7, f. 13	Including regarding installation of Joanne Whitcomb as Coordinator, resolution regarding Yale strike, correspondence	1977-1979
b. 7, f. 14	Planning retreats	1977-1979
b. 8, f. 1	Installation of John E. Kitagawa as Coordinator, correspondence	1980
b. 8, f. 2	Memos, reports of Coordinator, proposal for homeless shelter in New Haven	1981
b. 8, f. 3	Planning retreats	1981, 1982
b. 8, f. 4	Memos, reports of Coordinator	1982
b. 8, f. 5	Including regarding formation of Columbus House shelter and Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers program	1983
b. 8, f. 6	Memos, reports, appointment of interim Coordinator	1984
b. 8, f. 6a	Including regarding installation of Samuel N. Slie as Coordinator	1985
b. 8, f. 7	Including regarding admission of Congregation Mishkan Israel to DCM, establishment of revolving loan fund to address housing crisis in New Haven	1986
b. 8, f. 8	Including regarding revolving loan fund program, proposal for churches to address Columbus House shelter overflow	1987
b. 8, f. 9	Including regarding Connecticut AIDS Residence Program proposal	1988
b. 8, f. 10	Proposal for DCM to continue work of Wider City Parish, retirement of Robert Forsberg	1989-1991
b. 8, f. 11	Including regarding budget and finance, New Haven Peace Commission	1989
b. 8, f. 12	Including regarding revised By-laws	1990
b. 8, f. 13	Correspondence, including to elected officials and regarding Shalom People	1991-1992
b. 8, f. 14	Correspondence, documents, including from Defense Coalition for Melvin Jones	1993
b. 9, f. 1	Correspondence	1994
b. 9, f. 2	Retirement of Samuel Slie, appointment of Dexter Cheney as Coordinator	1994-1995
b. 9, f. 3	Coordinator's reports, reports regarding Community Foundation for Greater New Haven grant, Wider City Parish program	1995-1997
b. 9, f. 4	Correspondence of Coordinator Reed Smith, reports regarding grant from Community Foundation of Greater New Haven	2002-2006
b. 9, f. 5	Email from Robert Forsberg regarding history of Wider City Parish	2002

b. 9, f. 6	Article regarding dissolution of ICM, letters acknowledging distribution of remaining funds	2015
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IV,: Program Documentation

General		
b. 9, f. 7	Responses to survey of affiliated programs, miscellaneous events	1995-2005
Citizens for Humanizing Criminal Justice Originally known as Citizens for Better Correctional Institutions		
b. 9, f. 8	By-laws, correspondence, reports	1975
b. 9, f. 9	Correspondence, minutes, reports	1976-1977
b. 9, f. 10	Minutes, reports, newsletters	1978
b. 9, f. 11	Minutes, reports, newsletters	1979
b. 9, f. 12	Minutes, reports, newsletters	1980
b. 10, f. 1	Minutes, reports, newsletters	1981
b. 10, f. 2	Minutes, reports, newsletters	1982-1985
b. 10, f. 3	Minutes, reports, newsletters	1986-1991
Clergy breakfast / lunch program		
b. 10, f. 4	Announcements, contact information	1981-1987
b. 10, f. 5	Announcements, contact information	1988-1994
Columbus House Emergency overnight shelter for men and women in New Haven		
b. 10, f. 6	Correspondence regarding establishment of Columbus House overnight shelter in New Haven, Shelter Development Committee	1981
b. 10, f. 7	Shelter Development Committee / Shelter Management Committee correspondence, reports, by-laws, policies	1982
b. 10, f. 8	Shelter Management Committee minutes and correspondence, lease agreement with Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church	1983 January - May
b. 10, f. 9	Shelter Management Committee, Columbus House Articles of Association and By-laws, Board of Directors	1983 June - December
b. 10, f. 10	Board of Directors documents, application for Certificate of Incorporation, budgets, newsletter	1984 January - May
b. 10, f. 11	Board of Directors minutes	1984 June - 1985 April
b. 11, f. 1	Board documents, newsletter issue	1994 April - December
b. 11, f. 2	Board documents, reports	1995 January - May

Columbus House (continued)

b. 11, f. 3	Board documents, reports	1995 July - 1996 April
	Community Soup Kitchen At Christ Episcopal Church, New Haven	
b. 11, f. 4	Reports, Board and Executive Committee minutes, By-laws	1986 - 1987
b. 11, f. 5	Board minutes, reports, newsletters	1988 - 1991
b. 11, f. 6	Board minutes, reports, newsletters	1992 - 1995
	Connecticut Interfaith Budget Watch "Statewide coalition of religious leaders if many faiths committed to raising awareness that the state budget is a moral as well as an economic and political document"	
b. 11, f. 7	Correspondence, Steering Committee minutes, brochures, ads	1999 - 2004
	Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen in 1987 DESK began serving evening meals three nights per week, one night at each of the three churches on the New Haven Green: Trinity Church, the First Church of Christ (Center Church) and The United Church.	
b. 11, f. 8	DCM assistance in formation of DESK	1987
	FISH of Greater New Haven Emergency food assistance agency in New Haven	
b. 11, f. 9	Letter to DCM, brochures, newsletters	1972-1986
	Greater New Haven Community Loan Fund See also "Housing issues" sub-series for DCM committee work and studies leading to formation of the GNH-CLF	
b. 11, f. 10	DCM committees and activities leading to formation of GNH-CLF	1985-1987
b. 11, f. 11	Committee documents, formation of GNH-CLF	1987
b. 12, f. 1	Committee and Board documents	1988 January - May
b. 12, f. 2	Grant applications, reports	1988 June - December
b. 12, f. 3	Board and committee documents, reports	1989-1990
b. 12, f. 4	Board documents, newsletter, reports	1991-1993
	Habitat for Humanity	
b. 12, f. 5	Advisory committee, brochure, article	1995-1997, no date

Housing issues

This sub-series contains research materials related to housing issues, including those contributing to the formation of the Greater New Haven Community Loan Fund.

b. 12, f. 6	Miscellaneous material regarding housing issues in New Haven	1973-1989
b. 12, f. 7	Background material related to community loan fund programs	1984-1988
b. 12, f. 8	"New Haven Housing Study" - prepared for DCM by Elizabeth Swenson	1986
b. 13, f. 1	Reports, including of Greater New Haven United Way Housing and Homelessness Conference, Comprehensive Homeless Assistance Plan	1987-1991
Inner City Community Coffee House		
b. 13, f. 2	Steering Committee	1994-1995
Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers		
b. 13, f. 3	Grant application to Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers Program	1983
b. 13, f. 4	Correspondence, Steering Committee documents	1983
b. 13, f. 5	Successful grant application follow-up	1984
b. 13, f. 6	Publicity, news releases	1984
b. 13, f. 7	Volunteer training materials	1984
b. 13, f. 8	Correspondence, Steering Committee documents, reports	1984
b. 13, f. 9	Correspondence, Steering Committee documents, reports	1986
b. 13, f. 10	Correspondence, Steering Committee documents, reports	1987
b. 13, f. 11	Newsletters, Steering Committee documents, reports	1988-1989
b. 13, f. 12	Correspondence, Steering Committee documents, reports	1990-1992
b. 14, f. 1	Correspondence, newsletters, Steering Committee documents	1993-1994
b. 14, f. 2	Steering Committee documents, By-laws, Mission Statement	1995
Sage Advocate Programs / Sage Services of CT Programs to assist the elderly		
b. 14, f. 3	Sage Advocate By-laws, proposals for DCM support	1971-1972
b. 14, f. 4	Proposals, reports, program documentation	1973-1974
b. 14, f. 5	Grant applications, Advisory Board minutes, program documentation	1975-1976
b. 14, f. 6	Newsletters, proposals, reports	1977-1980
b. 14, f. 7	Sage Services of Connecticut Board minutes, grant application, By-laws	1985-1988
b. 14, f. 8	Board of Directors documents, reports, newsletter	1989-1990

Sage Advocate Programs / Sage Services of CT (continued)

b. 14, f. 9	Board of Directors documents, program documentation, history booklet "The Sage Story"	1991-1992
b. 14, f. 10	Brochures, Board of Directors documents	1993-1995
	Shalom People A coalition of religious and peace groups in the greater New Haven area	
b. 15, f. 1	Program documentation, including response to Gulf War	1988-1993
	Spiritual Wholeness: Body and Soul project Demonstration project to provide health information, health screening, referral, treatment, follow-up to at risk African American and Latino persons, particularly elderly women, for which DCM was a sponsor. The project was coordinated by Rev. Edward Dobihal.	
b. 15, f. 2	Grant application, program documentation	1991-1994
	Vacation Bible School	
b. 15, f. 3	Program documentation	1982-1993
	Worship services	
b. 15, f. 4	Joint / union worship services, pulpit exchanges	1970-1990
b. 15, f. 5	Lenten and Easter services	1973-1994, no date
b. 15, f. 6	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day services	1992-2006
b. 15, f. 7	Miscellaneous services, including for peace, the homeless, military personnel	1985-1991, 2004
	Youth ministry	
b. 15, f. 8	Program documentation	1971-1973
b. 15, f. 9	Program documentation	1981 - 1982
b. 15, f. 10	Program documentation	1982-1983

IV.: Publications / Publicity

b. 16, f. 1	"Highlights" newsletter	1997, 2001-2004
b. 16, f. 2	"Highlights" newsletter	2005-2006
b. 16, f. 3	Brochures, fact sheets	1970s-2001
b. 16, f. 4	Miscellaneous: photographs of member churches, "Interfaith" button, graphic items, slide of DCM display at Black Expo	no date

V.: Financial Records

Budgets, reports, audits

b. 16, f. 5	Budgets, reports	1972-1979
b. 16, f. 6	Budgets, reports, correspondence	1980-1981
b. 16, f. 7	Budgets, reports, correspondence	1982-1983
b. 16, f. 8	Budgets, reports, correspondence	1984-1986
b. 16, f. 9	Budgets, reports	1987-1989
b. 16, f. 10	Budget, reports	1990-1994
b. 16, f. 11	Financial statements, audits	1995-1999
b. 16, f. 12	Financial statements, audits	2000-2004

Grants

b. 17, f. 1	Corporation for National Service grant for Martin Luther King Day service Project of Interfaith Cooperative Ministries - Community Mediation Interracial Dialogue Project	1999
b. 17, f. 2	J.P. Morgan Chase grant for Technical Assistance	2003
b. 17, f. 3	Haymarket People's Fund grant for general support	2003
b. 17, f. 4	National Conference for Community and Justice grant for the September 11th Fund Community Through Unity Project Project in partnership with Community Mediation, Inc.	2003
b. 17, f. 5	Haymarket People's Fund grant for general support	2004
b. 17, f. 6	Haymarket People's Fund grant for general support	2005
b. 17, f. 7	Haymarket People's Fund - denied proposals	2006, 2007

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

Church and social problems
Religion and justice

Geographic Names

New Haven (Conn.) -- Church history

Names

Slie, Samuel

Corporate Body

Interfaith Cooperative Ministries, Inc

Acquired From

Interfaith Cooperative Ministries, Inc