

# Guide to the Records of the Commission on the Study of Ministry. 1981-1991





## Records of the Commission on the Study of Ministry.

1981-1991

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The purpose of this finding aid is to help you understand the nature of this collection and to assist you in the retrieval of material from this collection. The following pages contain an administrative history of the agency which gives summary information about the agency's history and development; followed by a general description of the collection in the scope and content note. If more detailed information is warranted then series descriptions also appear. The container listing appears last and is the listing of material in each box, or container, of this collection. To request material you need to turn to the container listing section. It is essentially a listing of file folders, or artifact items, in the collection. Each folder, or item, has a call number associated with it. Each folder also lists the inclusive dates of the material in the folder. On the material request form list both the call number and the folder, or item, title. Use a different line for each folder, or item, requested. When your request sheet is complete, or full, bring it to the archivist and the material will be retrieved.

### History Note

In 1984 the General Conference established a Commission for the Study of Ministry to conduct a broad and comprehensive study of the church's historic and contemporary theological understanding of ministry, with emphasis on the meaning of ordination, the relation of ordination to the sacraments, the meaning of itinerancy, and the nature of conference membership. The Commission was to study the effectiveness of the church's present structure of ministry, consider the possibility of a permanent order of deacon and recommend any necessary restructuring for effective ministry.

The Commission was continued in its work by the 1988 General Conference and in its report of 1992 recommended, among other topics, the creation of a permanent order of deacon, replacing the then current order of deacon which was a stepping stone to elder.

### Scope Note

The material contains correspondence of the Commission for the Study of Ministry, minutes, news releases, records of jurisdictional and conference meetings, the final report of the Commission and various study papers used by the Commission.

### Arrangement

Material has been arranged in the following manner.

*SERIES: CORRESPONDENCE.*

*SERIES: G.R.E.A.T. GROUPS.*

Series: Minutes

*SUBSERIES: COMMISSION.*

*SUBSERIES: CORE COMMITTEE.*

*SUBSERIES: STEERING COMMITTEE.*

*SERIES: NEWS RELEASES.*

*SERIES: REPORTS.*

*SERIES: STUDY PAPERS.*

### Access Restrictions

Denominational agency journals, reports and committee minutes are open to the public unless they have been closed in accordance with requirements specified in the Discipline. Denominational agency staff office records are closed for twenty-five (25) years after creation. Personnel records are closed for at least

75 years. Appeals can be made to the General Commission on Archives and History, P. O. Box 127, Madison, NJ 07940.

## Restrictions on Use

Detailed use restrictions relating to our collections can be requested from the office of the archivist at the General Commission on Archives and History. Photocopying is handled by the staff and may be limited in certain instances. Before using any material for publication from this collection a formal request for permission to publish is expected and required.

## Preferred Citation

When citing material from this collection please use the following format: Direct reference to the item or its file folder, Study of Ministry, United Methodist Church Archives - GCAH, Madison, New Jersey. Do not make use of the items' call number as that is not a stable descriptor.

## Subject Terms

### *Additional Creators - Corporate*

United Methodist Church (U.S.). General Conference.

### *Subject Topics*

Church polity  
Clergy  
Clergy-Office  
Community life  
Deacons  
Education  
Elders (Church officers)  
Itinerancy  
Leadership  
Ministry  
Theology -Study and teaching.

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1335-2-5:6	Rena M. Yocum, Secretary	1985-1987
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1335-2-6:1	Ethnic Representation Concerns re: the Commission	1986-1987
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1335-2-6:6	"House of Laity," James Martin	1989
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### *G.R.E.A.T. Groups*

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1335-2-3:25	Atlanta, GA, November 19,	1984
1335-2-3:26	Chicago, IL, April 11-13,	1985
1335-2-3:27	Chicago, IL, September 19-21,	1985

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1335-2-3:30	Multi-Ethnic Consultation, Nashville, TN, December 14- 15,	1986
1335-2-3:31	Atlanta, Ga, February 26-28,	1987
1335-2-3:32	Schiller Park, IL, June 26-28,	1987
1335-2-3:33	Chicago, IL, August 28-29,	1987
1335-2-3:34	Organizational Meeting: Chicago, IL, September 20- 21,	1988
1335-2-3:35	Tulsa, OK, February 10-12,	1989
1335-2-3:36	Schiller Park, IL, April 27-29,	1989
1335-2-4:1	Philadelphia, PA, October 19-21,	1989
1335-2-4:2	Nashville, TN, February 1-4,	1990
1335-2-4:3	Detroit, MI, April 29-May 1,	1990
1335-2-4:4	Philadelphia, PA, September 27-29,	1990
1335-2-4:5	Nashville, TN, April 3-6,	1991
1335-2-4:6	Nashville, TN, August 22-24,	1991

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1335-2-3:1	(Conference Call) December 6,	1984
1335-2-3:2	(Conference Call) January 16,	1985
1335-2-3:3	Washington, DC, February 16,	1985
1335-2-3:4	Chicago, IL, April 12,	1985
1335-2-3:5	(Conference Call) August 1,	1985
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1335-2-3:19	Chicago, IL, April 3,	1989
1335-2-3:20	Schiller Park, IL, April 27,	1989
1335-2-3:21	St. Louis, MO, June 22-23,	1989
1335-2-3:22	(Conference Call) December 20,	1989
1335-2-3:23	Dallas, TX, May 30,	1990
1335-2-3:24	Essington, PA, March 13,	1991

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1336-2-4:1	Progress and Up-Dates	1985-1987
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Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
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1336-2-2:5	Ministry Studies Previously Reported in the "Daily Christian Advocate"	1964-1984
1336-2-2:6	Responses to Study Papers	1986-1987
1336-2-2:7	Drafting Committee	1985-1987
1336-2-2:8	Report of the Commission for the Study of Ministry to the General Conference of the UMC	1988
1336-2-2:9	Ordinal Task Force	1988-1990
1336-2-2:10	Survey of Bishops	1989
1336-2-2:11	Local Church Proposal	1989-1991
1336-2-3:1	Working Draft and Revisions, Ministry Study Document - Folder 1	1989-1990
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1336-2-3:5	Legislation Development - Folder 1	1990-1991
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**Study Papers**

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1336-2-2:1	Appointment Beyond the Local Church	1983-1985
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