

# Guide to the Paula C. Watson Papers

## 1953-2015



Published for the African American Methodist Heritage Center By  
General Commission on Archives and History of The United Methodist Church, Madison, New Jersey  
P.O. Box 127, Madison, NJ 07940  
2019-02-05



## Paula C. Watson Papers

1953-2015

1.89 cubic feet

aamc.ms.gcuh5925

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 a brief biographical history of the person, or persons, who created or collected these papers, 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.

### Biographical Note

Paula C. Watson (?-?), lay person and United Methodist general agency employee, had careers in both business and church work. Born in Bluefield, West Virginia, she attended West Virginia State University located at Institute, West Virginia, and received a Bachelor of Science degree in business administration. Watson also studied at the College of Insurance in New York City.

Before starting her professional career in the church Watson held positions in real estate, insurance and banking. It should be noted that one of these positions included working for Carver Federal Savings and Loan Association in New York City. Carver is one of the first African American savings and loan associations in the United States. These work experiences provided her the necessary tools for the next phase of her career.

For five years Watson was staff assistant in real estate and insurance for the American Baptist Home Mission Societies. Her career in The United Methodist Church connection included positions at both the General Board of Global Missions, National Division (1974-1977) and later at United Methodist Communications (1977-1986).

Watson started working in the GBOGM's Insurance Office and later transferred to Finance and Field Service Office. At that time she was the only lay woman of color amongst the twenty-seven field representatives to assist local churches, districts, annual conferences in fund raising campaigns. Much of her work required extensive traveling resulting in successful training seminars which resulted in numerous successes throughout the connection.

Eventually Watson left GBOGM to work for United Methodist Communications, Northeastern Jurisdiction, Division of Program and Benevolence Interpretation office. The new position mirrored the work she did with GBOGM. Responsibilities included working with bishops, annual conference council directors, District Superintendents and other church leaders interpreting general church benevolence programs, especially Church World Service, and other apportioned benevolence funds.

Paula C. Watson is an active member in the Black Methodists for Church Renewal (BMCR) caucus and a church member in The United Methodist Church.

### Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of two parts with the majority documentation being books on the African American United Methodism experience in its historical context, cultural identity, fights against racism



and other relevant issues. The Black Methodist for Church Renewal (BMCR) caucus is directly or by association related to most of the documents found within the collection. The container list includes individual titles listed under either individual or institutional authorship/publisher. The next part contains a few folders directly related to Black Methodist for Church Renewal reports and publications, an unpublished history, biographical documents, local church histories and news releases.

## **Arrangement**

Material has been arranged in the following manner. The collection is arranged alphabetically by book author and folder title.

## **Related Material**

## **Access Restrictions**

There are no restrictions regarding this collection.

## **Use Access**

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, Paula C. Watson Papers, African American Methodist Heritage Center - GCAH, Madison, New Jersey. Do not make use of the item's call number as that is not a stable descriptor.

## **Index Terms**

### ***Subject Terms***

African American Methodists  
African American Universities and Colleges  
Methodism History 19th century  
Race relations-Religious aspects

### ***Geographic Terms***

Maryland  
United States

### ***Subject Names - Person***

Cleaver, Emmanuel

### ***Subject Names - Corporate Bodies***

Black Methodists for Church Renewal  
United Methodist Church (U.S.)

### ***Genre Terms***

Books  
Church bulletins  
Histories



Manuscripts  
News releases

***Added Names - Persons***

Caldwell, Gilbert Haven  
Cole, Johnnetta B.  
Crockett, Joseph V.  
Current, Angella  
Daniels, George M.  
Dees, Jesse Walter  
Felder, Cain Hope  
Gadsden, James S.  
Graham, John H.  
Grant, Hector J.  
Halasa, Malu  
Jones, Chester R.  
McClain, William Bobby  
Nichols, Roy Calvin  
Patterson, Sheron C.  
Shockley, Grant Sneed  
Smith, Warren Thomas  
Thomas, James S.  
Thompson, Barbara Ricks  
Thurman, Howard  
White, Woodie Walter

**Table of Contents**



## Container List

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
2413-4-7:1	Caldwell, Gilbert H. - Can Blacks Be Christians? The Question Many Young Blacks Are Asking	1973
2413-4-7:2	Caldwell, Gilbert H. - Just The Right Word: Reflections On Popular Quotations	1996
2413-4-7:3	Caldwell, Gilbert H. - What Mean These Stones? Lessons Of Hurricane Katrina, 9/11, The Million Man March, The Million More Movement	2005
2413-4-7:4	Cole, Johnnetta B. - Conversations: Straight Talk With America's Sister President	1993
2413-4-7:5	Crockett, Joseph V. - Teaching Scripture From An African-American Perspective	1990
2413-4-7:7	Daniels, George M. - Drums of War: The Continuing Crisis in Rhodesia	1974
2413-4-7:8	Daniels, George M. - Tokenism To Diversity: Reflections Of African Americans In The United Methodist Church From 1961-1993, First Draft Manuscript, Later Published As Turning Corners.	Undated
2413-4-7:9	Daniels, George M. - Turning Corners: Reflections Of African Americans In The United Methodist Church From 1961-1993	1996
2413-4-7:10	Daniels, George M. - Turning Corners: Reflections Of African Americans In The United Methodist Church From 1961-1963, Second Draft	Undated
2413-5-1:1	Daniels, George M. - Turning Corners: Reflections Of African Americans In The United Methodist Church From 1961-1963, Final Draft	Undated
2413-5-1:3	Gadsden, James S., Editor - Experiences, Struggles, And Hopes Of The Black Church	1975
2413-5-1:4	Graham, J. H. - Black United Methodists: Retrospect and Prospect	1979
2413-5-1:5	Graham, J. H. - Mississippi Circuit Riders 1865-1965	1967
2413-5-1:6	Grant, Hector J. - Banked Fires: A Book Of Poems	1982
2413-5-1:2	Dees, Jesse Walter - The College Built On Prayer: Mary McLeod Bethune	1953
2413-5-1:7	Felder, Cain Hope - Troubling Biblical Waters: Race, Class and Family	1989
2413-5-1:8	General Board of Global Ministries - Missionaries Of The United Methodist Church Through The Camera's Eye	1988
2413-4-7:6	Current, Angella - Breaking Barriers: An African American Family And The Methodist Story	2001



# Guide to the Paula C. Watson Papers

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
2413-5-2:1	General Board of Global Ministries - They Went Out Knowing ... An Encyclopedia Of Women In Mission	1986
2413-5-2:2	General Board of Global Ministries - To A Higher Glory: The Growth And Development Of Black Women Organized For Mission In The Methodist Church 1940-1968	Undated
2413-5-2:3	Halasa, Malu - Mary McLeod Bethune	1989
2413-5-2:4	Jones, Chester R. - Dancing With The Bear And Other Facts of Life: The Story of Jocelyn Elders, M.D.	1995
2413-5-2:5	McClain, William B. - Black People In The Methodist Church: Whiter Thou Goest? (Two Copies)	1984
2413-5-2:6	Nichols, Roy Calvin - Echos From Atalanta's Black Pentecost	1990
2413-5-2:7	Nichols, Roy Calvin - Footsteps In The Sea: God's Power At Work In The World	1980
2413-5-2:8	Nichols, Roy Calvin - Footsteps In The Sea: God's Power At Work In The World	1980
2413-5-2:9	Patterson, Sheron C. - I Want To Be Ready: Meditations Based On Quotes From Famous Black Persons	1994
2413-5-3:1	Shockley, Grant S. (General Editor) - Heritage And Hope: The African American Presence In United Methodism	1991
2413-5-3:2	Smith, Warren Thomas - Harry Hosier Circuit Rider	1981
2413-5-3:3	Thomas, James S. - Racial Dilemma: The Story Of The Central Jurisdiction	1992
2413-5-3:4	Thompson, Barbara Ricks, Editor - The Central Jurisdiction Recovery Project: Preserving Our Past, Building Our Future	2006
2413-5-3:5	Thurman, Howard - Deep River And The Negro Spiritual Speaks Of Life And Death	1990
2413-5-3:6	Thurman, Howard - For The Inward Journey: The Writings Of Howard Thurman	1990
2413-5-3:7	Thurman, Howard - With Head And Heart: The Autobiography Of Howard Thurman	1979
2413-5-4:1	White, David L. - African Americans In The United Methodist Church: Recalling The Legacy	1994
2413-5-4:2	White, Woodie W. - Confessions OF A Prairie Pilgrim	1988



## Guide to the Paula C. Watson Papers

Call Number	Folder Title	Date(s)
2413-5-4:3	White, Woodie W. - Conversations Of The Heart	1991
2413-5-4:4	White, Woodie W., General Editor - Our Time Under God Is Now: Reflections On Black Methodists For Church Renewal, BMCR Twenty-Fifth Anniversary	1993
2413-5-4:5	Black Methodists For Church Renewal (BMCR) Publications	1968-1995
2413-5-4:6	Cleaver, Emmanuel	1993-1995
2413-5-4:7	Centennial Caroline United Methodist Church History	1983
2413-5-4:8	Clergy Remembrances	1987-2015
2413-5-4:9	History Of Black Staff Forum - Paula C. Watson, Compiler	1994
2413-5-4:10	Miscellaneous Documents	1993-1997

