

Josephine Whitely-Fields Papers

2021



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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 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 or History Note

Reverend Dr. Josephine Ann Whitely-Fields, Black American United Methodist Clergy Woman, was born in 1944 at Caretta, West Virginia. Whitely-Fields is the fifth of nine children born to Arthur Thomas and Luella Braggs Whitely and lived in poverty conditions. The family were faithful Methodists. When entering the seventh grade Whitely-Fields help to desegregate the local all-white public school. Within two years the family moved Toledo, Ohio where she graduated from high school and joined the Braden Methodist Episcopal Church. Despite the move to Ohio, she continued to face racism in the local school system.

Upon graduation Whitely-Fields attended Toledo University where racism was still prevalent and continue to shape her life and future career. While attending the University of Pittsburgh Dental School she received a personal call into the ministry. Afterwards Whitely-Fields earned a Master's degree in Public Administration from the Graduate School of Public Health, University of Pittsburgh. By 1975 she decided to professionally train for ordained ministry at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary which culminated in forty years of United Methodist ministry.

Whitely-Fields became a licensed minister in 1976, Deacon (1979) and elder (1986) in the West Ohio Annual Conference. She also served a AME Zion church, churches in the Virginia Annual Conference and finally in the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference until her retirement in 2015. Other ministries outside the local church included: Annual Conference staff member, Director of Career Exploration Missions, CEO/Founder of John Wesley Career Exploration Missions Project and Associate Dean of Doctoral Studies at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio. She retired from active ministry in 2015.

Whitely-Fields was married to the Reverend Frederick Lee Fields until his death on November 30, 2004. They have four children.

Scope and Content Note

Two publications documenting selected Black clergywomen in the United Methodist tradition. The first publication is titled, *Here I Am: Black Clergy Women 1974-2016; Pioneers, Pastors, Prayer Warriors*. It is a spiral bound volume that contains additional information not found in the second publication. This hard bound publication is titled *Pioneer Black Clergy Women; Stories of Black Clergywomen of the United Methodist Church 1974-2016*. It is a condensed version of the larger first publication. Dr. Josephine Whitely-Fields is the editor of both volumes and the latter is published by Westbow Press.



Arrangement

Material has been arranged in the following manner. Alphabetical by title.

Related Material

First paragraph

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.

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Index Terms

Subject Terms

African American Methodists

Biographies

Women, Methodist

Geographic Terms

United States

Subject Names - Corporate Bodies

United Methodist Church (U.S.)

Genre Terms

Autobiographies

Biographies

Publications

Occupation Terms

Clergy

Added Names - Persons

Bell, Cheryl Jefferson

DeDeaux, Ella H.

Duroseau, Leslie

Johnson, Katurah



Lee, Linda
Lewis, Sharma Denise
Malone, Tracy S.
Mason, Debra
Moore-KoiKoi, Cynthia
Morgan, Edna Mae
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Sutton, Tara Renee

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