PRESBYTERIAN HERITAGE

Spring 2020 / Vol. 33, No. 1

James Forman addresses the 181st General Assembly. San Antonio, Texas. May 1969.

A CALL FOR REPARATIONS

On May 27, 1970, fasting commissioners at the 182nd General Assembly of the UPCUSA in Chicago assigned their meal money—$5,178.60—to the newly-created National Committee on the Self-Development of People.

SDOP, which turns fifty this summer, grew out of the tumultuous events of the previous year, 1969, when James Forman called for "Christian white churches and Jewish synagogues" to pay $500 million in reparations to African Americans. Forman titled his list of demands the Black Manifesto.

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PRESBYTERIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2019 Annual Report

inside

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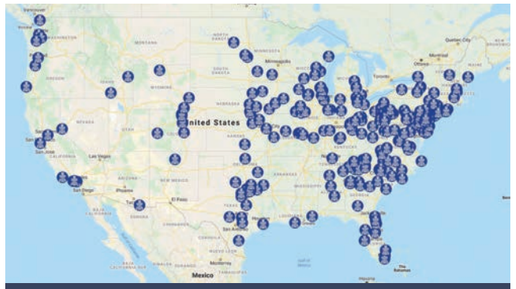
CONNECTING THROUGH COLLECTING

Active collecting is how PHS connects Presbyterian history with today's PC(USA) ministries. It's also how we inspire future ones.

From records and media of congregations, mid councils, and national offices to personal papers of missionaries, ministers, and lay Presbyterians, the materials brought into the PC(USA) national archives each year increase understanding of all it means to be Presbyterian—in 2020 and for decades to come.



PC(USA) churches PHS worked with in 2019

Scioto Valley Presbytery representatives depositing records

PHS assists congregations and mid councils by preserving church records from across the country in our state-of-the-art facility. We also help clerks of session and church staff by working directly with researchers looking for information about a worshipping community and its members. In 2019, PHS brought in 357 new collections—including large record shipments from the Presbyteries of Newark, Scioto Valley, and Central Florida—and answered questions from 276 congregations, mostly about depositing church records and digitization.

In the past six months PHS gathered personal papers of 20th century Presbyterian leaders such as Rev. Gayraud Wilmore, Amal Halaby Marks, David Sindt, and Rev. Howard Rice. We also are now the archives for Living Waters for the World, an interfaith ministry with Presbyterian roots.

If your Presbyterian family or Presbyterian-affiliated group is looking to preserve its vital history at PHS, please connect with us at **215-627-1852 or email us at refdesk@history.pcusa.org**

JOURNAL PREVIEW

In the Spring/Summer 2020 issue of *The Journal of Presbyterian History*, Thomas G. Nimick writes about China missionary Mary Morrison and her "industrial class" strategy for outreach to poor women. Also, Mark Banker examines the 200-year history of Bethel Presbyterian Church in Kingston, Tennessee, focusing on how the congregation has adapted to two centuries of religious and secular change.

Call 215.928.3865 to receive *The Journal* or visit history.pcusa.org/journal

Muekce Family Picnic. Kingston, TN, c. 1880.

FEATURE INITIATIVE: AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERS AND CONGREGATIONS

The papers of Rev. Gayraud Wilmore, a Presbyterian civil rights leader whose oral history interview is featured in this issue, were collected as part of our African American Leaders and Congregations collecting initiative. By gathering personal records of leaders and original records of African American congregations and mid councils, PHS is documenting the integral presence of Black Presbyterians throughout the history of the PC(USA) and its predecessor denominations.

If you have records related to African American Presbyterian churches or leaders, please contact David Staniunas at dstaniunas@history.pcusa.org or call 215-627-1852. To make a financial gift to this collecting effort, please contact Kim Shiley at kshiley@history.pcusa.org or 215-928-3889.

Learn more about the AALC collecting initiative: history.pcusa.org/aalc

Left to Right: Chicago, IL, May 1970; Rev. Edler Hawkins, Rev. Gayraud Wilmore and Rev. John Duley, San Antonio, 1969. SDOP exhibit, Rochester, NY, 1971.

A CALL FOR REPARATIONS

(continued from page 1)

In an oral history interview from 1982, Rev. Gayraud Wilmore remembers the events of 1969 surrounding the manifesto and the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.'s eventual response. Wilmore led the UPCUSA's Council on Church and Race from 1963 to 1972.

Although Forman wasn't Presbyterian, he had worked with Wilmore and other church civil rights leaders earlier in the Sixties, most prominently during the Hattiesburg Ministers Project voter registration campaigns in Mississippi. When the two met in April 1969 at the National Black Economic Development Conference in Detroit, Forman told Wilmore about the manifesto for the first time.

"I don't think I saw a document," Wilmore remembers during the oral history interview. "And I was not aware of the full implications of what he was talking about." Forman's list of demands included dedicated funds for Black schools, Black media, and Black community support—all to be administered by African Americans independent of white power structures. Still, Wilmore supported Forman's idea, telling him, "'Yeah, why don't you do it,' you know, that kind of thing. My attitude was that this might be something that would be worthwhile."

A month later, on May 4, 1969, Forman interrupted a service at The Riverside Church in New York City by climbing to the chancel and declaiming the manifesto before the mostly white congregation. His words were drowned out by the church organist, who played on while the pastor and worshippers left the sanctuary in silent rejection of Forman's words.

The UPCUSA, despite being one of the "white Christian churches" called out by the manifesto, issued no immediate response. Through May and early June, splinter groups of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and Black Economic Development Conference occupied offices at the Interchurch Center at 475 Riverside Drive in New York, including the UPCUSA's Board of National Missions and Commission on Ecumenical Mission and Relations, as well as the National Council of Churches. Depending on the political stripe of the occupier, the office spaces were referred to as "sit-ins" or "liberated territories."

A CALL FOR REPARATIONS

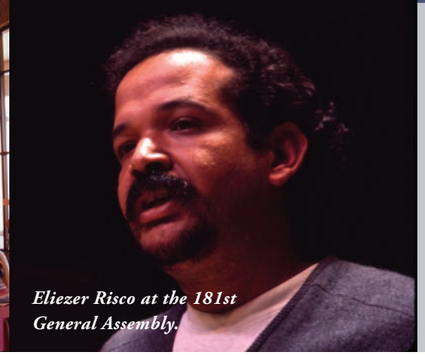
(continued from page 3)

On May 15, at the 181st General Assembly in San Antonio, Forman presented the Black Manifesto before a national audience of Presbyterians, thanks in part to an invitation from Wilmore. Recognizing the related concerns of Latino pastors, Forman yielded the floor to Rev. Eliezer Risco, editor of *La Raza*, a publication Risco described as a "barrio communications paper." Risco linked the struggles of Black and Brown Americans to ongoing international struggles against colonialism, noting that a recent meeting of the World Council of Churches in Madras had called for the global church to dedicate itself to the "self-determination of people." The San Antonio General Assembly would later call for a commission to present a plan to the 1970 Chicago Assembly creating a grant-making body "to help deprived and dispossessed people."

Interviewed about the nascent fund in late 1969, past General Assembly Moderator Rev. Edler Hawkins said it would be modeled on the church-wide building needs drive, the Fifty Million Fund. When asked to respond directly to white fears that the Black Manifesto amounted to "blackmail," Hawkins gave a measured reply. "We have to consider the responsibility of the church to deal with the needs of people, while at the same time building in the whole principle of self-determination."

The Synod of Catawba, one of the UPCUSA's all-Black governing bodies, would present a plan for more than $17 million in economic support at the Assembly in Chicago. Additional calls for funding came from Native and Mexican American groups, Black Presbyterians United, and Forman's Black Economic Development Conference—requesting $25 million in reparations.

San Antonio, TX, 1969.



Eliezer Risco at the 181st General Assembly.

In response to these requests, and perhaps inspired by the fasting commissioners' collection in Chicago, the 1971 General Assembly in Rochester assigned gifts from that year's One Great Hour of Sharing campaign to SDOP; it also directed the committee for SDOP to plan a major fund-raising campaign. According to historian Douglas Clark, the UPCUSA was the only denomination other than the Episcopal Church to provide funds in response to the Black Manifesto.

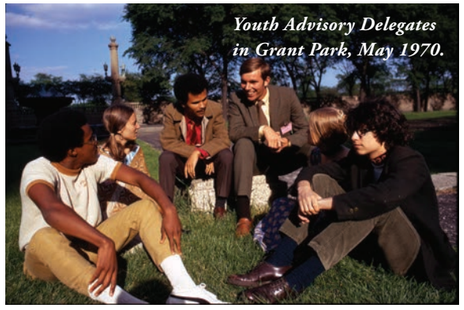
Over the coming years SDOP would withstand criticism from the Presbyterian Layman magazine for allegedly supplying money to Colombian revolutionaries, endure a grant-making moratorium after it over-committed its grant-making capacity, and yet succeed in issuing awards in excess of the Synod of Catawba's $17 million proposal by the end of 1985. SDOP would cross Forman's $25 million threshold in 1990.

In the three decades since, the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People has continued to "empower economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people," seeking "to change the structures that perpetuate poverty, oppression, and justice."

Learn more about SDOP at **presbyterianmission.org/ministries/sdop**

Listen to Wilmore's oral history interview and view materials from his personal papers in Pearl: **digital.pcusa.org/afamhistory**

Read African American history stories on the PHS website: **history.pcusa.org/afamblogs**



Youth Advisory Delegates in Grant Park, May 1970.

PHS ANNUAL REPORT 2019

DEAR FRIENDS,

For the Presbyterian Historical Society, 2019 was a year of transition and change. Even now, in spring 2020, concerns about the coronavirus have brought additional challenges. And yet the PHS staff and board remain dedicated to our core mission and emboldened by a renewed sense that we have much to contribute to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the wider community.

Four initiatives focused our work in 2019. "Building Knowledge and Breaking Barriers," our collaboration with the Community College of Philadelphia, filled our spaces with students and professors using PHS materials to study history, architecture, and creative writing. Almost 500 photographs from the Religious News Service are now in our digital archives, Pearl, thanks to a lot of dedicated work by PHS staff. We also made great strides in furthering two initiatives to intentionally collect the history of LGBTQIA+ Presbyterians and African American Leaders and Congregations.

These new initiatives are transforming the ways we serve the church, our communities, and the world—and our core mission to collect and preserve the records of the PC(USA) makes everything possible. Our work stands on the collections we have built, the resources we have preserved, and the technologies we have developed to share Presbyterian and Reformed history worldwide. None of this would be possible without the faithful contributions of our expanding family of supporters. We are so grateful for all of you.

As we move into 2020 with all of its challenges and unpredictability, we unite with you in the belief that authoritative and accessible history is vital to understanding these turbulent times.

Peace be with all of you,

Nancy J. Taylor

Nancy J. Taylor

Executive Director

Ernie Higginbotham

Ernest R. Higginbotham

Chair of the PHS Board of Directors

Yearly Impact

HELPING RESEARCHERS

PHS STAFF PROVIDED **3,106** DETAILED REFERENCE RESPONSES TO PATRONS IN OUR BUILDING, OVER THE PHONE, AND BY EMAIL

PEOPLE FROM **35** DIFFERENT STATES AND **12** COUNTRIES VISITED OUR BUILDING

3,009 COLLECTION ITEMS WERE RETRIEVED FOR RESEARCHERS

555 GENEALOGY RESPONSES PROVIDED

155 COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA STUDENTS EXPLORED PHS MATERIALS

128 INQUIRIES PERTAINED TO THE CREATION OF A BOOK

SERVING THE PC(USA)

749 INQUIRIES FROM PC(USA) CHURCHES, MID COUNCILS AND NATIONAL AGENCIES—OUR LARGEST PATRON GROUP

351 CHURCHES RECEIVED PHS REFERENCE HELP

ADDING RECORDS AND PERSONAL PAPERS

64 ACTIVE CONGREGATIONS SENT RECORDS TO PHS

205 CUBIC-FOOT BOXES FROM **12** LARGE COLLECTIONS PROCESSED AND MADE AVAILABLE TO RESEARCHERS

PROVIDING DIGITIZED HISTORY

IMAGES AND PAGES DIGITIZED: **74,713**

ITEMS ADDED TO PEARL DIGITAL ARCHIVES: **2,036**

REACHING PATRONS ONLINE

VISITORS TO PEARL: **15,497**

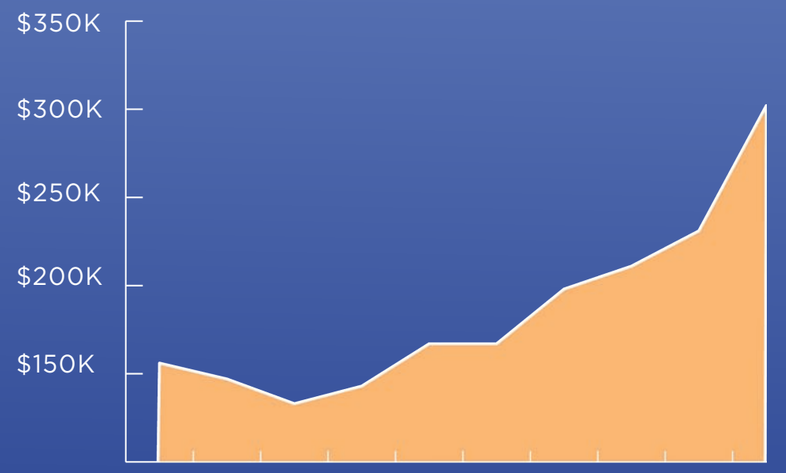
VISITORS TO PHS WEBSITE: **149,186**

Your Support Adds Up

PHS continues its upward trend and accelerated growth in fundraising, far exceeding the national average in many areas. Over the past 10 years, our fundraising capacity has grown 94%. Our family of donors from across the United States and around the world is helping us expand our capacity to collect, preserve, and share the story of the American Presbyterian experience. Thank you!

Fundraising Results 2010–2019

Increase of 94%



Total Contributed Revenue 2018 to 2019
↑18%

Board and Council giving
↑49%

Revenue per Donor
↑44%

Total Revenue from Individuals & Congregations
↑13%

WHY I GIVE: YUSHIN LEE

I am inspired by the meaningful work of the Presbyterian Historical Society and cannot help thinking that it was the all-knowing God who miraculously connected me with PHS.

Yushin Lee is a member of the PHS Board of Directors

As the National Caucus of Korean Presbyterian Churches prepares to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our immigrant ministry in this land, we have made it our mandate to collect and preserve our stories to tell our descendants. I believe that the dedicated and experienced staff of PHS will help us fulfill that mandate.

To help this effort I have created a special Korean language brochure urging our congregations to deposit their historic records at PHS.

I am honored to serve on the Board and to financially support PHS' mission, faithful staff, and invaluable service to the Church and society.

PHS was blessed in 2019 with a record number of researchers to our building, including scholars, national church leaders, and members of Presbyterian worshipping communities from across the nation. Our four feature initiatives allowed us to interview history makers, turn PHS into a primary-source classroom for community college students, and share digitized Presbyterian history—and ecumenical history—with the world. We are extremely fortunate to receive sustaining financial support from the Office of the General Assembly, the PHS Board of Directors, and hundreds of individual donors and church members. We look forward to welcoming many more friends and supporters to the PHS family in 2020.

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1 Miles Grosbard and architectural history students from the Community College of Philadelphia, September.

2 Volunteer Janet Lowery and Archivist Elizabeth Wittrig with Voices of Sophia records, April.

3 Public Services Associate Sonia Prescott with Community College of Philadelphia students, February.

4 First Presbyterian Church of Allentown, PA visited PHS with Board member, Marsha Heimann, November.

5 PHS Board member Michael Livingston with PHS Advisory Council Member Shirley Satterfield, September.

6 PC(USA) A Corp president Kathy Lueckert during A Corp board meeting at PHS, October.

7 Deanna Ferree Womack visited PHS to research women missionaries, March.

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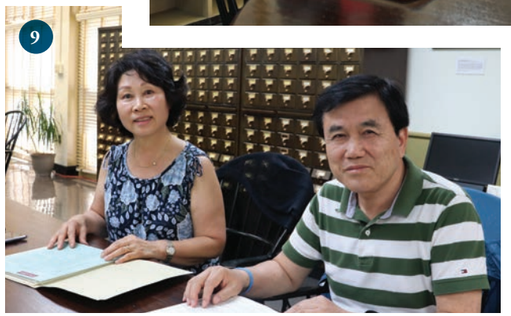
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8 Archivist David Staniunas and Co-Moderator Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri during the PHS Board and COGA joint meeting, April.

9 Mission co-workers Yen Hee Lim and Rev. Choon Lim researched at PHS, August.

10 PHS Board Chair Ernie Higginbotham, April.

11 Community College of Philadelphia students exploring collection materials, September.

12 Courtenay Willcox and Greg Klimovitz of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, October.

An Expression of Gratitude

Each year we acknowledge and honor the many individuals and organizations that have supported us throughout the previous year. It is impossible to express our gratitude for the countless ways so many have given to PHS in 2019. Please accept our profound thanks for your many gifts that have helped us collect, preserve, and share the story of the American Presbyterian experience.

$10,000 and above

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Beulah Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Women, Louisville, KY

PHS continues to collect the stories of people and organizations who engaged in the forty-year movement to enable ordination and marriage rights for LGBTQIA+ Presbyterians through the Pam Byers Memorial Fund. Featured image—Barry Smith recalls meeting David Sindt: youtube.com/PresbyterianHistSoc

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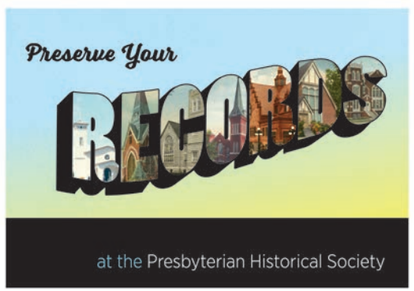

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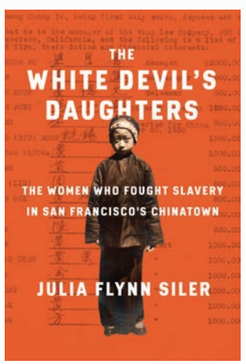

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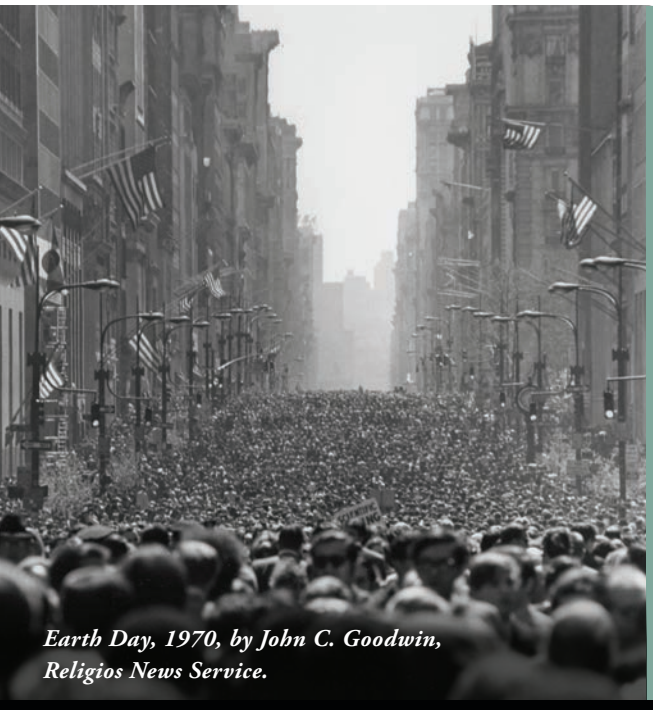

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