

Collection #
SC 3311

CHURCH FEDERATION OF GREATER INDIANAPOLIS RECORDS ADDITION, 1995–1999

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July 2017

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 manuscript folder
COLLECTION DATES:	1995–1999
PROVENANCE:	Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis, Indianapolis, IN; April 2012
RESTRICTIONS:	None
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ACCESSION NUMBER:	1999.0708X
NOTES:	

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Church Federation of Indianapolis was formed on 7 June 1912 from a federation of forty of the city's Protestant churches. The organization traces its origins to the Indianapolis Ministerial Association, which had been formed to keep ministers aware of the community's social and moral issues. The two groups continued to operate side by side for many years.

Reverend Morton C. Pearson of First Friends Church was selected to be the first executive secretary of the organization, headquartered at the downtown YMCA. In 1920 Pearson left for Detroit and was replaced by Charles H. Winders from the Downey Avenue Christian Church. Winders remained in the position for four years, then returned to his pastoral work and was succeeded by Ernest Evans, formerly of the Second Reformed Church. Evans served as executive secretary until his death in the spring of 1939. Dr. Howard J. Baumgartel from the First Presbyterian Church of Edensburg, Pennsylvania, replaced Evans. Under Baumgartel's direction the number of member churches increased from 52 to 149. During this time the Federation was instrumental in the establishment of the Indiana Council of Churches (January 1943) and the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA (1950).

Baumgartel retired in 1954 and was succeeded by Rev. Laurence T. Hosie from Presbyterian Labor Temple in New York City. Hosie stressed the participation of local churches in the organization's committee work. During his years as executive director the Federation invited Billy Graham to come and speak in 1959 and the organization's newsletter, Federation Forecast, went to printed form in November 1963. Other accomplishments made during this period included a move to new quarters on North Meridian Street (1956), and an end to segregation in churches. Three programs were launched in the areas of research and planning, TV and radio, and chaplaincy programs for hospitals, courts, and the police and fire departments. The television puppet show, Time for Timothy (originally Timothy Churchmouse), one of the Federation's most successful programs, came out of the organization's commitment to television ministry. Timothy debuted in November 1957 under the creative eye of Dr. Alfred A. Edyvean from the communications department at Christian Theological Seminary.

In 1966 Rev. Robert S. Koenig from the Evangelical United Brethren denomination became director of the Church Federation. Koenig's accomplishments included the simplification of the organization's "unit" (formerly division) structure, the inclusion of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese in the membership, and work to better serve the poor and minorities. A major accomplishment of the Church Federation during this time was the formation of H.O.M.E. (Housing Opportunities Multiplied Ecumenically) in November 1967. An ecumenical program providing housing units for low-income families, the name was later changed to Interfaith Housing, Inc.

In 1973 United Methodist Layman, Paul McClure became the Federation's Executive Director. Under McClure, the Federation extended its membership to non-Protestant denominations including Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, Pentecostal, and independent congregations. Other advances were made in the areas of race relations,

assistance to the poor, and chaplaincy. In 1992 McClure was succeeded by Rev. Dr. Angelique Walker-Smith, who continues to serve as the Federation's Executive Director into the 21st century. Dr. Walker-Smith's administration has tackled such community issues as police-action shootings, family relationships, especially in Center Township, and a clergy ID badge system.

The organization ceased operations in 2016.

Sources:

Becker, Edwin L. *From Sovereign to Servant, The Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis, 1912–1987*. Indianapolis: The Federation, 1987. BR560.15 B43 1987

“Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis,” in *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis* Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1994), p. 421. F534.I55 E4 1994 (Reference Room and General Collection)

Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis Web Site:
(<http://www.churchfederationindy.org/index.htm>).

Materials in collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection addition contains nine issues of "The Federation Forecast," a publication of the Church Federation of Greater Indianapolis. The issues span from February 1995 to Spring 1999.

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"The Federation Forecast," Feb. 1995–Spring 1999

CONTAINER

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