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Week of Compassion Records, 1996-2000

Week of Compassion Committee

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**Week of Compassion Records,
(1996-2000)**

Center for Restoration Studies
Manuscripts #524

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1 September 2021

About this collection

Title: Week of Compassion Records, 1996-2000

Creator: Week of Compassion Committee

Identifier/Call Number: Center for Restoration Studies Manuscripts #524

Physical Description: 3 folders

Dates (Inclusive): 1996-2000

Dates (Bulk): 1996-1997

Location: Center for Restoration Studies

Language of Materials: English

Scope and Content Note: These records document the Week of Compassion committee meetings from 1996-2000.

Biographical Note: [Biographical note from Week of Compassion website]:

“In the beginning...

The Week of Compassion emerged in the early 1940s, as World War II created a series of humanitarian crises around the globe. The International Convention (General Assembly) of the Christian Church made two recommendations regarding multiple aid and relief projects around the world. These recommendations outlined partnerships with multiple ecumenical ministries and counterparts. The Church designated a “Day of Compassion,” on which congregations would hold a special offering to raise funds to support these mission projects.

In 1943, the “Wartime Service Fund” was approved by the International Convention. At this point, the Disciples of Christ designated a “Week of Compassion” to raise \$250,000 for ongoing support of these relief efforts.

In the meantime...

Over the next several decades, the work of Week of Compassion and its partners expanded to include not just humanitarian aid, but also disaster response and refugee resettlement. The ministry’s leadership evolved as well, from a voluntary office to a full-time executive director; additional staff helped expand the reach of the ministry; and the annual fund grew over time from thousands of dollars to millions.

Into the Future

When our ministry began, the idea of different denominations partnering together--in spite of differences in doctrine or practice-- was a radical notion. In many ways, it is still countercultural to work together across many kinds of boundaries. And yet, we remain committed to the partnerships that make our mission stronger, and that allow us to reach those in need with the love of Christ.

As of 2019, Week of Compassion has been in operation for 75 years. We are proud of our history, but also recognize that there is so much work yet to be done. The need to collaborate and address the world's increasingly complex humanitarian issues--while maintaining unity as a guiding principle--is more critical than ever. Your support enables us to faithfully respond to human need around the world; empower communities to build and rebuild; and partner with other church organizations as the Body of Christ. Around the year and around the world, Week of Compassion remains committed to sustaining this faithful presence far into the future.”¹

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition: unknown

Date of Acquisition: circa 2020

Accession Number: R 2021.042

Date of Accession: 1 September 2021

Accessioned by: Amanda Dietz

Processor and Date of Processing: Amanda Dietz, 1 September 2021

Finding Aid Creator and Date: Amanda Dietz, 1 September 2021

¹ “History” page on Week of Compassion website, <https://www.weekofcompassion.org/history.html>

Using this collection

Processing Status: Processed

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Arrangement of Materials: Materials were housed in 3-ring binders and are foldered in the same order.

Separated Materials: None.

Subjects and Keywords

Churches of Christ -- History -- 20th century

Churches of Christ -- Indiana

Manuscripts

Missions

Inventory

[first folder] finding aid

Folder 1

Week of Compassion Committee Meeting, Indianapolis, IN, June 21-22, 1996

Folder 2

Week of Compassion Committee Meeting, Indianapolis, IN, June 13-14, 1997

Folder 3

Week of Compassion Fall Meeting, Indianapolis, IN, November 10-11, 2000