



2015.04

South Central Community Collection

Repository

Mercy Heritage Center
720 Heritage Center Place
Belmont NC 28012

Preferred Citation:

Mercy Archives, Belmont, North Carolina. Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.

Creator:

Sisters of Mercy, South Central Community, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Physical Description:

139.1 linear feet and including:

- Files
- Reports
- Minutes
- Photographs
- Digital and Audio-Visual material
- Artifacts

Dates:

2008-2021

Access:

The South Central Community Collection is open for research with the exception of leadership/community governance records, certain administrative records), certain membership records and other records determined to contain private information. Consult archives staff for additional information. Folder listings for accessible portions of collection are available upon request.

Because of the nature of certain archival formats, including digital and audio-visual materials, access will require additional advanced notice.



Custodial History:

The South Central Community Collection was originally housed as a distinct archives within the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas and located in Sacred Heart Convent, Belmont, North Carolina. Upon the merger of the South Central Community with the other communities of the Institute in 2021, the collection was moved to Mercy Heritage Center in Belmont, North Carolina.

Administrative History:

Although in 1991, the 25 Regional Communities of the Sisters of Mercy in America combined to form the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, the move towards oneness continued. In 1999 the Institute Chapter voted on an Action Plan “to explore opportunities for collaboration among Regional Communities (e.g. in co-sponsoring and reconfiguring them)”...process for addressing issues called “Reimagining and Reconfiguring our Institute” a move to consolidating the existing 25 communities into 6, each a distinct civil and canonical units. (Colgan and Gottemoeller, pg. 50) In short order a Task Force comprised of sisters in leadership and a “design team” of sisters *not* currently in leadership were created to move towards reconfiguration.

Soon afterward, leadership instigated meetings in the 25 Regional Communities to inform members of discussions about reconfiguring. Regional Community leaders discussed possible mergers at Institute Leadership Conference (ILC) meetings. At an informal meeting, leaders of the Baltimore, Cincinnati, North Carolina, and St. Louis regional communities decided their communities would be a good combination. Each had an administration center in or near a large city and each had states in the southeastern US which had somewhat similar cultures and experiences except for Jamaica which had been part of Cincinnati since 1953 and Guam, founded from North Carolina in 1946.

In 2004 the four regional leadership teams decided to call their new region “Emmaus” and established a Joint Leadership Team to move through the reconfiguration process. In the following year, the Emmaus group organized committees and task forces, focusing on various aspects of Mercy life, including Re-Imagining-Reconfiguring; Association; Communications; Community Life; Finance; Ministry; Participative Governance; Relationships/Gatherings; Retirement; Vocation/Incorporation; Liturgy and Resource Group; Search Committee; Election Committee.

Beginning in 2004, Interregional Meetings were held in a number of locations and all able sisters were expected to participate in discussions and input, outside their own area, if possible. The Institute also sought further input from sisters in the form of the Mercy Institute Life Development (MILD) survey, seeking suggestions and feelings on a variety of topics to find commonalities. Interregional groups also provided forums for discussion and feedback on the work produced by the taskforces and committees.



As the reconfiguration process moved forward, it was decided that all new Communities would have geographic names and “South Central” was selected as the new name of the Emmaus Community. In 2007 an Assembly of Affairs approved an Interim Participative Governance Plan. In 2008 an Assembly of Election was held to elect the first Community Leadership Team (CLT) for the South Central Community.

On July 1, 2008, the regional communities of St. Louis, Baltimore, Cincinnati, North Carolina, which encompassed Guam, Jamaica, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, Missouri, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio and Maryland, formally combined to form the South Central Community, part of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.

Each Community was administered by a Community Leadership Team (CLT) in concert with the Institute Leadership Team, located in Silver Spring, Maryland. The South Central Community Leadership Team operated from the main administrative office in Belmont, North Carolina. All major administrative functions were also moved to Belmont, although the South Central Ministry office was based in the former headquarters of the St. Louis Regional Community.

The CLT provided leadership for the community as well as for administrative staff. Additional community life structures included Assemblies—community level governance gatherings, and eighteen Local Area Communities—where smaller groups of sisters, led by an appointed Convener, met to for discussions prior to Assemblies, planned area celebrations and organized spiritual opportunities.

The South Central Community functioned as a unit within the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas until July 1, 2021 when it formally dissolved as a canonical entity and merged with the other Mercy communities of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas.

Scope and Content:

The South Central Community collection encompasses both administrative and community life within the South Central Community. Series are divided into groupings based on function, physical format of the materials and role within the organization. Records of administrative functions can be found in Series 300 Administration/Departments. Records of community life can found in series 100 Formation of Emmaus/South Central Community, Governance/Community Structure and 400 Membership. Photographs, audio-visual and digital materials are located in series 900.

Series:

100 Formation of Emmaus/South Central Community

200 Governance/Community Structure

300 Administration/Departments

301 Administrative Support Services



- 305 Archives
- 310 Communications
- 320 Finance
- 330 Human Resources
- 335 Information Services
- 340 Justice Office
- 350 Ministry Office
- 360 Mission Advancement
- 370 Operations COO
- 380 Property / Risk Management
- 390 Retirement Services
- 400 Membership
 - 401 South Central Community Directory
 - 410 Deceased Files
 - 420 Withdrawal and Transfer Records
 - 430 Members' Drop Files; Collections; Thesis/Dissertations.
 - 440 Retirement residences 441-454
 - 460 New Membership Team
 - 470 Community Life and Spirituality
 - 480 Special Events / Celebrations / Jubilees
 - 490 Cemeteries
- 500 Ministries
 - 501 Education
 - 541 Health Services
 - 561 Social, Spiritual, Pastoral
- 600 Closed Ministries
- 700 Mercy Relationships



- 701 Mercy Association
- 721 Mercy Volunteer Corps
- 723 Companions of Mercy
- 725 Mercy International Association,
- 727 Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR)
- 730 Institute Chapters
- 743 Institute Correspondence
- 750 Institute Publications
- 760 Institute Planning and Processes
- 780 Institute Committees
- 800 Historical Records
 - 801 Published materials on the South Central Community, former Regions or Local Areas
 - 820 Other published materials about the Sisters of Mercy
 - 830 Books written by Sisters of Mercy after Reconfiguring
 - 840 Published materials on subjects that includes Sisters of Mercy or Mercy Ministries
 - 850 Annals/Chronicles/Meetings from a South Central LAC or Residence
 - 870 Local Area Communities News Clippings/Brochures, Jubilees, miscellaneous papers
 - 890 Reference Materials/Papers related to former Regional Communities of SC pre2008
- 900 Multi-Media
 - 901 Photographs
 - 911 Photo Albums
 - 914 Scrapbooks
 - 921 Floppy discs
 - 931 Cassette Tapes (CT)
 - 941 Videocassettes Recordings (VCR)
 - 951 Compact Discs (CD) / Digital Video Discs (DVD)
- 1000 Artifacts