

FINDING AID FOR
Lewis A. McGee Papers



Meadville Lombard Theological School Archives
Unitarian Universalist Sankofa Special Collection
610 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL, 60605
(773) 256-3000 ext. 629

Collection Description

Title: Lewis A. McGee Papers

ID: MLTS.US.5003

Creator: McGee, Lewis A.

Date Range: 1915-1982, bulk 1940s-1960s

Extent: 1.5 linear feet (3 half boxes)

Language(s): Bulk of materials in English - some French.

Scope and Content: This collection contains the personal papers of Unitarian minister and activist Reverend Lewis A. McGee. It includes sermons, orders of service, correspondence, church bulletins, and newspaper clippings. The collection dates from 1915-1982, with the bulk of materials dating between the 1940s and 1960s.

Arrangement: This collection is divided into four series: Series I Personal; Series II Sermons; and Series III Professional. These series divisions reflect the filing structure used by Rev. Lewis A. McGee when possible. Series I and III are arranged alphabetically by folder title, and chronologically thereunder. Series II is arranged chronologically, and alphabetically thereunder.

Series I Personal consists of personal documents including biographical information, personal files, and correspondence. Series II Sermons consists of sermons, divided into two subseries: Subseries I Sermons consists of manuscripts of sermons and sermon drafts; Subseries II Sermon Materials consists of handwritten notes and various forms of publications. Series III Professional consists of documents related to Rev. McGee's professional career, including Free Religious Fellowship documents, church bulletins, orders of service, and newspaper clippings.

Box and folder numbers function as unique identifiers for any digital surrogates of materials. [e.g. B1.F1]

Biographical Note: Lewis Allen McGee was born in 1893 in Scranton, Pennsylvania. He was ordained in the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) and served as an Army chaplain during World Wars I and II. After his time in the military, McGee enrolled at Meadville Lombard Theological Seminary and received his doctoral degree in 1949, becoming one of the first African

American ministers in the Unitarian church. McGee was a humanist, and his experience in an integrated Army led to his interest in creating an interracial congregation. He founded the Free Religious Fellowship in Chicago with his wife Marcella Walker McGee in 1947 where he was granted fellowship and served as minister from 1948 to 1953. All Souls Free Religious Fellowship in Chicago remains an active Unitarian Universalist congregation of color. McGee would go on to serve congregations in Springfield, Ohio as well as Los Angeles, Chico, Anaheim, and Pasadena, California. He died in 1979 at the age of 85.

Subjects and Index Terms: African American Unitarian Universalists -- Illinois --
Chicago -- 20th Century
Humanism -- History -- 20th century
McGee, Lewis A. -- Sermons
Unitarian Universalist churches -- Clergy

Restrictions: This collection is open for research use.

Processed by: Sarah Levine, April 2016

Inventory

Series I: Personal

Box 1 - MLTS.US.5003.B1

Box 1 Folder 1	Biographical Material	1936-1978
Box 1 Folder 2	Certificate of Deaconship	1915
Box 1 Folder 3	Correspondence [1/2]	1947-1966
Box 1 Folder 4	Correspondence [2/2]	1947-1966
Box 1 Folder 5	French Coursework	1946
Box 1 Folder 6	Los Angeles Church	1959
Box 1 Folder 7	Personal - Miscellaneous	1947-1960
Box 1 Folder 8	Scrapbook - Marcella McGee	1953-1966

Series II: Sermons

Subseries I: Sermons

Box 1 Folder 9	Four Lights Hanging High	1953
Box 1 Folder 10	Salvation Old And New	1956
Box 1 Folder 11	Our American Indian Brothers	1958
Box 1 Folder 12	Changing Conception Of The Good	1958
Box 1 Folder 13	The Practice Of Goodwill	1958-1965
Box 1 Folder 14	Life Can Be Enjoyable	1959
Box 1 Folder 15	Devotion In Full Measure	1959
Box 1 Folder 16	Living With Myself	1959
Box 1 Folder 17	How To Handle Failure	1959-1966
Box 1 Folder 18	Living With One's Self	1959-1960
Box 1 Folder 19	The World Refugee Year	1959-1963
Box 1 Folder 20	Our Right Not To Believe	1961-1962
Box 1 Folder 21	Why Fight The Civil War Again	1961
Box 1 Folder 22	What Is Consumer Credit Doing To Us?	1961
Box 1 Folder 23	Where Are We Going?	1961
Box 1 Folder 24	Why Not Try For Excellence	1961
Box 1 Folder 25	What Grounds For Hope?	1961
Box 1 Folder 26	Chico's Future and Our Church	1962
Box 1 Folder 27	Danger On Right And Left	1962
Box 1 Folder 28	Unitarianism & What About The Bible	1962
Box 1 Folder 29	Religions Background - Catholic & Protestant	1962
Box 1 Folder 30	Goal For Mankind	1962
Box 1 Folder 31	A Positive View Of Liberal Religion	1963
Box 1 Folder 32	A New Look At Death	1963
Box 1 Folder 33	Reconstructing The Ark	1963

Box 1 Folder 34 Easter Notes 1959-1966

Box 2 - MLTS.US.5003.B2

Box 2 Folder 1 The Word Is With Man 1964
Box 2 Folder 2 The Quest For Identity 1954 and 1964
Box 2 Folder 3 The Essence And The Shell 1965
Box 2 Folder 4 Explanation And Discovery Of Inner
Space 1965
Box 2 Folder 5 What Is Past Is Prologue 1965
Box 2 Folder 6 The Riddle Of The Sphinx 1965
Box 2 Folder 7 How Wide Shall We Open The Door? 1965
Box 2 Folder 8 Idealism, A Force For Growth 1967
Box 2 Folder 9 The Teachings Of Jesus 1967
Box 2 Folder 10 Living In Two Worlds At One Time 1967
Box 2 Folder 11 A Time To Think About Time 1968
Box 2 Folder 12 Martin Luther King 1968
Box 2 Folder 13 Social Justice Sunday 1980-1991
Box 2 Folder 14 A Religious Philosophy For An Age
Of Science undated
Box 2 Folder 15 Adventure Into Spaciousness undated
Box 2 Folder 16 Barriers To Knowledge & Freedom Of
Thought undated
Box 2 Folder 17 Christmas undated
Box 2 Folder 18 The Freedom To Be Informed undated
Box 2 Folder 19 Is Popular Religion Good Religion undated
Box 2 Folder 20 A Philosophy Of Religious Education undated

Subseries II: Sermon Materials

Box 2 Folder 21 Notes: Buddhism undated
Box 2 Folder 22 Notes: Golden Rule undated
Box 2 Folder 23 Notes: Life Can Be Enjoyable undated
Box 2 Folder 24 Notes: Meaning Of Xmas undated
Box 2 Folder 25 Notes: Peace ca. 1961-1962
Box 2 Folder 26 Notes: Service Of Dedication And
Membership ca. 1952-1978
Box 2 Folder 27 Notes: Talk On Elderly, Church undated
Box 2 Folder 28 Notes: Quest undated
Box 2 Folder 29 Sermon Notes [1/2] undated
Box 2 Folder 30 Sermon Notes [2/2] undated
Box 2 Folder 31 The Unitarian Movement undated

Series III: Professional

Box 2 Folder 32	Free Religious Fellowship [1/3]	1947-1954
Box 2 Folder 33	Free Religious Fellowship [2/3]	1947-1954
Box 2 Folder 34	Free Religious Fellowship [3/3]	1947-1954
Box 2 Folder 35	Celebratory Material - Free Religious Fellowship	1948-1951

Box 3 - MLTS.US.5003.B3

Box 3 Folder 1	Free Religious Fellowship Financials	1946-1955
Box 3 Folder 2	Free Religious Fellowship Guests	1947-1953
Box 3 Folder 3	Free Religious Fellowship Minutes	1947-1966
Box 3 Folder 4	Free Religious Fellowship Newsletters	1952-1953
Box 3 Folder 5	Free Religious Fellowship Orders Of Service	1948-1955
Box 3 Folder 6	Free Religious Fellowship Photograph	undated
Box 3 Folder 7	Free Religious Fellowship Publicity	1947-1949
Box 3 Folder 8	Church Bulletins, Minutes, and Orders of Service [1/2]	1946-1948
Box 3 Folder 9	Church Bulletins, Minutes, and Orders of Service [2/2]	1953-1979
Box 3 Folder 10	Orders Of Service, etc. [1/2]	1948-1963
Box 3 Folder 11	Orders Of Service, etc. [2/2]	1960-1963
Box 3 Folder 12	Orders Of Service, Marriage & Baptism	1949-1953
Box 3 Folder 13	Minutes For Women's Alliance	1948-1950
Box 3 Folder 14	National Leadership & Training Conference	1954
Box 3 Folder 15	Newspaper Clippings	1948-1978
Box 3 Folder 16	Ordinations	1948-1959
Box 3 Folder 17	Selma	1965
Box 3 Folder 18	Woolfer Memorial	1954