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Finding aid for the Partners for a Racism Free Community records Collection 516

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Prepared by Rachel Burns

Grand Rapids History Center

Grand Rapids Public Library

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Summary Information

Repository:	Grand Rapids History Center
Title:	Partners for a Racism Free Community records
ID:	Collection 516
Date [inclusive]:	1996-2024
Physical Description:	12 Linear Feet 22 Boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Racial Justice Institute (RJI) and the Partners for a Racism Free Community (PRFC) were programs under the Grand Rapids Center for Ecumenism (GRACE). The purpose of these programs was to help Grand Rapids become a racism free community through forums, trainings, and assessments. These programs were also involved in activism work throughout the city, hosting an annual Summit on Racism, as well as creating anti-racism programs for religious organizations and youths. This collection contains the planning documents, outreach materials, photographs, and internal organizational records for both programs, as well as the papers of Reverend David May, Mount Moriah Baptist Worship Center, and Sharon LaChappelle.

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History of the Racial Justice Institute and Partners for a Racism Free Community

The Racial Justice Institute (RJI) began as a ministerial program under the religious non-profit organization Grand Rapids Area Center for Ecumenism (GRACE) in 1996. GRACE began operating in Grand Rapids in 1972, working on social justice issues with an emphasis on cooperation and unity among the different congregations in the city. Executive director David Baak began collaborating with Robert Woodrick, owner of the grocery chain D & W, to begin promoting anti-racism among the various congregations in the city of Grand Rapids. The original goal of RJI was facilitating discussions among churches in Grand Rapids about racial justice.

In 1996, Reverend David May was hired as the RJI Coordinator. Reverend May, along with the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce Employers Coalition Against Racism and several volunteers, created training materials focusing on promoting anti-racism through the lens of the Institute for Healing Racism. The Institute for Healing Racism is a training program based off work by educator Nathan Rutstein that focuses on viewing racism as a disease, acknowledging the history of racial discrimination in the United States, and the need to overcome racism at personal and systemic levels.

One of the programs created by Reverend May was the Summit on Racism. This began as a public forum for members of the community to express interest in anti-racism justice. This work was also a continuation of forums and discussions held by the Citizens League of Greater Grand Rapids from 1994 to 1996 to address issues of racial inequality and influence policy changes at the local level. The first Summit on Racism was held on April 16, 1999.

The Summit on Racism would go on to be a large-scale conference held annually. The event was hosted at several different locations throughout the city, with guest lecturers and breakout action teams for six different activism areas of interest: education, health, community, media, business and government. This program would become the main effort of RJI. The conference was held annually until 2007.

In addition to the Summit on Racism, RJI hosted anti-racism training in other cities and states. RJI also oversaw programs for elementary, middle, and high schools with Racism Expression Youth in Action (REYA) and the Youth Institute for Healing Racism. These programs utilized anti-racism curriculum tailored to younger audiences at local schools. RJI also organized annual Youth Marches for Racial Justice and created programming specifically about HIV/AIDS for the African American community. In 2002, members of the RJI Community Action Team proposed renaming Franklin Street to Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

Major changes for RJI began with Reverend David May's retirement in 2005. May stepped down to focus on his church, Mount Moriah Baptist Worship Center, but continued to help the organization on a contractual basis.

The 2006 Summit on Racism had a greater focus on the future and taking actionable steps to reach the goal of living in a racism free community. At this time, the business and government Summit on Racism action teams wanted to do more thorough work in the Grand Rapids community. Planning sessions were held in 2006 for the creation of the Partners for a Racism Free Community (PRFC) program. This program would take over the primary efforts of The Racial Justice Institute.

The main work of PRFC was offering Institutional Challenge to Achieve Racial Equality (ICARE) assessments to address racism and systemic issues in schools, local businesses, churches, and other organizations. PRFC also held annual forums to discuss race issues.

David Baak, longtime executive director of GRACE, retired in 2011. GRACE dissolved in 2012 and PRFC became its own non-profit organization in 2012. PRFC continued their work through 2019 until issues with funding and sustainability arose. Executive Director Faye Richardson Green and Program Director Sharon LaChappelle worked to create a memorandum of understanding with the YWCA to take over fiduciary responsibility and to conclude the work

of the organization. In 2020 PRFC closed permanently. The ICARE assessments became the intellectual property of WMCAT and Sharon LaChappelle worked with the Grand Rapids Public Library and Grand Rapids Public Museum to preserve the history of RJI and PRFC.

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Biographical Note for Reverend May

Reverend David May was born in 1942 to Lawrence and Varnell May in Allegan, Michigan as one of eight children. May and his family moved to Grand Rapids in 1945. May graduated from South High school in 1960 and then joined the Navy upon graduation. During his time of military service he served in a campaign in Vietnam and as a laboratory researcher.

Education

After completing his military service, May worked at Abbott Laboratories in Illinois as a janitor and then as a lab researcher. Reverend May began his college career in Zion, Illinois before transferring to the University of Wisconsin. He returned to Grand Rapids, Michigan to minister Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. Reverend May returned to higher education first at the Grand Rapids Baptist College, now Cornerstone University, before ultimately earning his Bachelor's degree in Social Work from Grand Valley State University in 1982.

While in school, May worked at Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services as an activity therapist and then as a clinical social worker, eventually receiving his master's degree in Social Work from Western Michigan University. While working for Pine Rest, Reverend May helped create several programs including rehabilitation of first time offenders. He also oversaw the creation of a satellite social work clinic located on Oakdale and Madison in Grand Rapids, Michigan to help reach the underserved inner city population in 1987.

Ministry Work

In October 1986, Reverend May and his wife, Yvonne May, formed a bible class in their home. Membership rose and on March 16, 1988, Reverend May registered his congregation as the Mid City Missionary Baptist Church. The church moved from the May residence to the Sheldon Complex. On February 19, 1989, Reverend Donnell Smith and the New Hope Baptist Church sold their old church building located on Caulfield Street to Reverend May. In 1999, the church was renamed to the Mount Moriah Baptist Worship Center. The church met at the Caulfield location, until 2019 when the church closed, and Reverend May and the congregation sold the building to the Iglesia Evangelica del Espiritu Santo del Monte.

Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance

Reverend May served on the social and political action committees for the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance. He worked with the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance to create the Martin Luther King Day Celebration in the city of Grand Rapids in 1990. This event began at

smaller churches with local pastors speaking but local universities and colleges collaborated with Reverend May to widen the scope of the celebration.

Racial Justice Institute

Reverend May applied for the Racial Justice Institute Coordinator position in 1996. The original intention of the position was to act as a facilitator for conversations about racial justice in the majority white congregations in Grand Rapids. Reverend May began collaborating with David Baak, the Catholic Human Development Outreach, and the Episcopal Diocese of Western Michigan to create the Faith-Based Institute for Healing Racism program. Reverend May saw potential for applying the ideas and practices of the Institute for Healing Racism at a much larger scale and thus created the Summit on Racism.

Retirement

Reverend May retired from the Racial Justice Institute in 2005. He continued to contribute to RJI as a facilitator and he also worked with the Kent Intermediate School District to bring the Youth Institute for Healing Racism training to school children. Reverend May continues racial justice activism work as a liaison to the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in Grand Rapids.

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Biographical Note for Faye Richardson-Green

Faye Richardson-Green (née Coleman) was born in 1953 in Crystal Springs, Mississippi before moving to Grand Rapids, Michigan as an infant. Her father worked for the city of Grand Rapids first in the parks and recreation department, and then in the sanitation department. Richardson-Green attended Grand Rapids Public Schools and graduated from Ottawa Hills in 1971 before attending Oakland University. When she graduated in 1974, she returned to Grand Rapids to work at Old Kent Bank. In 1982, Richardson-Green was hired at Steelcase, where she worked until 2015. While working at Steelcase, she was involved with social services volunteer efforts, including Upward Bound, the Kent County Rape Crisis Team, and the YWCA.

In 1994, Richardson-Green became the Director of Organizational Effectiveness and Inclusion at Steelcase. She attended Institute for Healing Racism Dialogues on Race put on by Bob Woodrick. Seeking to become more involved, Richardson-Green worked with the Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce to do create training programs for facilitators aligned with the Institute for Healing Racism.

When Reverend David May was hired as RJI Coordinator in 1996, Richardson-Green began collaborating with RJI to create the framework for the Summit on Racism. She also served as a facilitator and chair person for the Summit on Racism.

With the success of the Summit on Racism, Richardson-Green began work on the Partners for a Racism Free Community. As a board member, she was the lead on the creation of the assessments used by PRFC and helped with the transitional period of PRFC operating as its own non-profit organization. Richardson-Green personally recruited many of the volunteers and board members to work for Partners for a Racism Free Community. In 2016, she became the interim executive director for PRFC until 2019.

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Biographical Note for Sharon LaChappelle

Sharon LaChappelle was born in 1961 to Norma and Jim Thompson. She has had a life long dedication to racial justice, beginning with her father's role in the civil rights movement. LaChappelle was born in Alaska and lived in Canada, Massachusetts, Louisiana and Detroit, Michigan before her family moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan. She graduated from Union High School in 1979 and married her late husband Joseph LaChappelle in 1980.

LaChappelle attended Grand Valley State University for her Bachelor's Degree in Public Relations and then her Master's Degree in Social Work.

LaChappelle became involved with the Racial Justice Institute after attending the inaugural Summit on Racism. She would go on to hold many roles in the organization including leading the community action group and facilitating the Racial Expressions Youth in Action programs. LaChappelle also photographed several Racial Justice Institute events and wrote articles about the Racial Justice Institute for local news publications, attending the Mount Moriah Baptist Church at this time as well.

When the Racial Justice Institute transitioned to Partners for a Racism Free Community, LaChappelle helped to create the organizational assessments. In addition to her work with Partners for a Racism Free Community, LaChappelle worked as an adjunct professor of Social Work at Grand Valley State University and as a program director at the Baxter Community Center.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains printed materials including correspondence; meeting minutes; speaker speeches; photographs; and audiovisual materials related to The Racial Justice Institute and

Partners for a Racism Free Community. The materials range from the inception of the Racial Justice Institute in 1996 to the closing of the Partners for a Racism Free Community in 2020.

Materials relating to the Racial Justice Institute include mainly the planning documents for the Summit on Racism held yearly. Additionally, there are materials related to the programs and activism work taken on by the Racial Justice Institute as well as research materials utilized by the Racial Justice Institute. Materials relating to the Partners for a Racism Free Community mainly focus on the organizational assessments.

There are three series that contain materials related to the personal work of Reverend David May, his church The Mount Moriah Baptist Worship Center, and the personal work of Sharon LaChappelle. It is important to note that at times, the Racial Justice Institute worked with Mount Moriah Baptist Worship Center on projects such as the 2001 Ghana trip and Youth March for Justice.

Researchers interested in contemporaneous race issues in the city during the late 1990s and early 2000s, the nature of social non-profits in the Grand Rapids community, and the intersection of religious community and anti-racism activism will find this collection most interesting.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Grand Rapids History Center

Grand Rapids Public Library
111 Library Street NE
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503
Business Number: 616-988-5497
localhis@grpl.org
URL: <https://www.grpl.org/history/>

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated by Sharon LaChappelle, 2019.098 and 2021.095

Processing Information

These materials were donated to the library over two accession periods. During the accession periods, staff worked with the donor to annotate some of material to give context to future processing staff. It was determined that some intervention was necessary to create

an arrangement schema. Materials at the item level were well organized. More organization was necessary at the file and series level.

The materials are generally arranged by organization or entity.

The majority of the paper documents arrived in binders and were well organized by the original creators. Binders from each organization were grouped together and then the contents were placed in folders with minimal reordering at the item level. From there, files for each organization were arranged chronologically.

The photographs in the accessions were originally housed in their photo development packages and labeled by subject by the donor. The processing staff used these notes to group photo packages by organization or entity and then generally arrange them chronologically using the donor's descriptions as file names.

Occasionally, duplicate materials were weeded from the collection. Some posters and collages were disassembled to save space. Most materials are housed together physically by subject matter. All like material is housed together intellectually within the finding aid.

Conditions Governing Access

All materials in this collection aside from the Lake Bella Vista Association file are open to researchers. More information about this restriction is available at the file level note in the finding aid.

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Related Materials

Related Materials

Coll. 46 Chamber of Commerce Records

GRACE Notes (1979-2011) Periodical

Grand Rapids Area Center for Ecumenism (GRACE) Collection at Calvin University

Coll. 347 Grand Rapids Public Library religious and philosophical organizations collection is a devised collection with some materials related to the Grand Rapids Area Center for Ecumenism and the Racial Justice Institute

Banners, t-shirts, awards, and artwork work produced by The Racial Justice Institute, Racial Expressions Youth in Action, and Partners for a Racism Free Community have been donated to the Grand Rapids Public Museum.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- History
- Non-profits -- Michigan -- Grand Rapids
- Grand Rapids (Mich.) -- Church history
- Anti-racism
- Grand Rapids Area Center for Ecumenism
- Racial Justice Institute
- Partners for a Racism Free Community
- Antiracism--Michigan--Grand Rapids

Collection Inventory

Series I. Racial Justice Institute

Scope and Contents

Printed Materials; photographs and audiovisual materials related to the Racial Justice Institute and its subprograms: the Summit on Racism; The Institute for Racial Healing; Racial Expressions Youth in Action; AIDS Education and Awareness for the African American Faith Based Community.

Existence and Location of Copies:

Existence and Location of Copies

There are six video cassette tapes, one audio cassette tape, and seven DVDs in this series that are housed together in Box 22. These are the original audio/visual materials and have been digitized. Please ask staff for digital access copies.

Subseries A. Summit on Racism

Title/Description	Instances	
Planning documents for the inaugural Summit on Racism, 1998	Box 1	Folder 1
Planning documents for the Summit on Racism Task Forces, 1998	Box 1	Folder 2
List of attendees of the Summit on Racism, 1999	Box 1	Folder 3
Participant materials for the Summit on Racism, 2000	Box 1	Folder 4
Summit on Racism Action Teams review, 2000	Box 1	Folder 5

Attendee feedback for the 1999 Summit on Racism, 2000	Box 1	Folder 6
Itinerary and mailer for the Summit on Racism, 2000	Box 1	Folder 7
Information on speaker Juan Williams, 2000	Box 1	Folder 8
List of attendees of the Summit on Racism, 2000	Box 1	Folder 9
List of attendees of the Summit on Racism posters in English and Spanish, 2000-2001	Box 14	Folder 6
The Summit on Racism: From Reality to Reconciliation, 2001	Box 1	Folder 10
Background information on potential speakers for the Summit on Racism, 2000	Box 1	Folder 11
WGVU West Michigan Week Summit on Racism Interview (DVD, VHS, .mp4), 2000	Box 22	Cassette 1
Feedback on the Summit on Racism, 2001	Box 1	Folder 12
Participant evaluation of the Summit on Racism conducted by the Calvin College Center for Social Research, 2003	Box 1	Folder 13-14
Demographics and feedback for the Summit on Racism, 2004	Box 1	Folder 15
Summit on Racism Community Action Team planning documents, 2001	Box 1	Folder 16
Summit on Racism Community Action Team planning documents, 2003	Box 1	Folder 17
Summit on Racism Community Action Team planning documents, 2004	Box 1	Folder 18
Focus group facilitators meetings for the Summit on Racism, 2005	Box 1	Folder 19
GRACE Racial Justice Institute Summit Reflections (DVD, .mp4), 2005	Box 22	Folder 1
Report to the community on the Summit on Racism, 2006	Box 1	Folder 20
Facilitator materials for the Summit on Racism, 2006	Box 2	Folder 1
Speech notes and itinerary from Reverend May, 2006	Box 2	Folder 2
Itinerary, correspondence, and planning documents, 2007	Box 2	Folder 3

Subseries B. Talks and Conferences Outside of the Summit on Racism

Title/Description	Instances	
"How to Run a Summit" presentation for North Ottawa Ethnic Diversity Alliance, 2000	Box 2	Folder 4
Cross cultural engagement trainings and meeting minutes, 2001	Box 2	Folder 5

Cross cultural engagement trainings and meeting minutes, 2002	Box 2	Folder 6
Community Summit on Eliminating Racism at the University of Dayton Ohio presented by Reverend May, 2003	Box 2	Folder 7
Reverend May speech to the Grand Rapids University Club, 2004	Box 2	Folder 8

Subseries C. Programs of the Racial Justice Institute

i. AIDS Education for the African American Faith Based Community

Title/Description	Instances	
Lecture materials for the AIDS Education for the African American Faith Based Community	Box 3	Folder 3
"Though I Stand at the Door and Knock: Discussion on the Black Church Struggle with Homosexuality and AIDS" booklet	Box 3	Folder 4
NAACP HIV/AIDS Film Project adapted for the AIDS Education for the African American Faith Based Community	Box 3	Folder 5
NAACP Voting Rights and HIV/AIDS Awareness church fans	Box 14	Folder 8

ii. Faith Based Institute for Healing Racism

Title/Description	Instances	
The Faith-Based Institute for Healing Racism, 2002	Box 3	Folder 6
The Faith-Based Institute for Healing Racism Conference materials, 2004	Box 3	Folder 7
The Faith-Based Institute for Healing Racism Conference presenter materials, 2004	Box 3	Folder 8

iii. Institute for Healing Racism

Title/Description	Instances	
Institute for Healing Racism Conference participant materials, 2007	Box 3	Folder 9

iv. Racial Expressions Youth in Action

Title/Description	Instances	
Racial Expressions Youth in Action, 2000	Box 3	Folder 10
Racial Expressions Youth in Action communication with school districts, 2000	Box 3	Folder 11

Racial Expressions Youth in Action curriculum, 2001	Box 4	Folder 1
Racial Expressions Youth in Action planning sessions, 2001	Box 4	Folder 2
"Talkin to the Streets' What is Racism?" Video (VHS, .mp4)	Box 22	Cassette 4
Racial Expressions Youth in Action Skits, Report Outs, and Interviews in Audience (VHS, .mp4) , 2004	Box 22	Cassette 5
Interview with Sharon LaChappelle and Mike Robinson on REYA (audio cassette, .mp4)	Box 22	Cassette 7
Racial Expressions (DVD, .mp4) , 2004	Box 22	Folder 1
Racial Expressions Youth in Action Conference (DVD, .mp4) , 2005	Box 22	Folder 1
REYA Skits Does Racism Exist; Black and White Only?; Questions (DVD, .mp4), 2006	Box 22	Folder 1
REYA Powerpoint (CD-ROM, .ppt), 2007	Box 22	Folder 1

v. Youth Institute for Healing Racism

Title/Description	Instances	
Youth Institute for Healing Racism Handbook, 2004	Box 4	Folder 3
Youth Institute for Healing Racism Handbook, 2007	Box 4	Folder 4
Youth Institute for Healing Racism directions for community activity facilitator	Box 4	Folder 5
Youth Institute for Healing Racism listening activity	Box 4	Folder 6
Youth Institutes for Healing Racism training video (DVD, .mp4)	Box 22	Folder 1
Youth Institute for Healing Racism Wedgwood post interviews with kids (VHS, .mp4), 2003	Box 22	Cassette 2

vi. Youth March for Justice

Title/Description	Instances	
Youth March for Justice meeting minutes, 2001	Box 4	Folder 7
Youth March for Justice photo collage poster, 2000	Box 14	Folder 2-5
Youth March for Justice (VHS, .mp4) , 2000	Box 22	Cassette 3

Processing Information:

Processing Information

VHS tape labeled by Sharon LaChappelle: "Youth March #3 Central High All the Speeches, Media Center, Jeff Smith, Steve Warner, and Rev May.

This will help identify some people because they are named in the video."

Subseries D. Internal Documents

Scope and Contents

Meeting minutes; strategic planning; funding information for the Racial Justice Institute

Title/Description	Instances	
Early History Documents, 1996	Box 4	Folder 8
Correspondence between the Racial Justice Institute and potential funders, 2003	Box 4	Folder 9
Kent Intermediate School District Early Childhood Planning Team, 2006	Box 4	Folder 10
Presentation on the Grand Rapids Area Center for Ecumenism and Racial Justice Institute	Box 4	Folder 11

Subseries E. Activism

Scope and Contents

Documents on race justice issues in the Grand Rapids area and the renaming of Franklin Street to Martin Luther King Drive.

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence Between Don Adams Supporters and the Racial Justice Institute, 1999	Box 5	Folder 1
"When Stopped by the Police Vehicle Document Envelope" from ACLU, Kent County Chiefs of Police Association and Racial Justice Institute	Box 5	Folder 2
Initial planning to rename Franklin Street to Martin Luther King Drive from the Summit on Racism Community Action Team notes, 2002	Box 5	Folder 3
Proposal to rename Franklin Street to Martin Luther King Drive, 2002	Box 5	Folder 4
Cesar Chavez speech on Martin Luther King Jr. given by Sharon LaChappelle to the City Commission, 2004	Box 5	Folder 5

Subseries F. Research Materials

Scope and Contents

Surveys; reports; articles used as reference for the Racial Justice Institute, including work done by the Citizens League of Greater Grand Rapids before the Racial Justice Institute was established.

Title/Description	Instances	
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Citizens League of Greater Grand Rapids "Listen, Learn, Act: Promoting Racial Harmony in Greater Grand Rapids", 1996	Box 5	Folder 6
"The Status of African American Women in Kent County Executive Summary" by the Grand Rapids Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., 1997	Box 5	Folder 7
Forum on Affirmative Action: A Legislative Update, 1998	Box 5	Folder 8
Michigan Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights Community Forum on Race Relations in Grand Rapids, 1998	Box 5	Folder 9
Collected articles on race issues, 1998	Box 5	Folder 10
"We're Not Finished Yet: Grand Rapids NIF (National Issues Forums) on the Move" by Yvonne Sims	Box 5	Folder 11
"Racial Profiling: Local TV News Racial Representation for Black History Month February 2001" a Grand Rapids Institute for Information Democracy Report, 2001	Box 5	Folder 12
African American Women's Club and organizational endeavors in Grand Rapids	Box 3	Folder 13
American Program Bureau Source for Diversity Speakers and Programs	Box 5	Folder 14
Religious and Civic Organizations Addressing Racism Questionnaire Responses	Box 5	Folder 15
Annotated Copy of "Black Managers: The Dream Deferred," by Edward Jones in the Harvard Business Review, 1986	Box 5	Folder 16

Subseries G. News Clippings and Articles

Scope and Contents

Articles about the Racial Justice Institute as well as collected news stories about race issues in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and the United States in general.

Title/Description	Instances	
"Removing Racism from River City" by Sharon LaChappelle in Freeman Magazine, 2000	Box 6	Folder 1
"Calvin Hosts 800 at Third Annual Summit on Racism" in Spark Magazine, 2001	Box 6	Folder 2
Notes from Reverend May Racial Justice Institute Interview with Charles Honey for the Grand Rapids Press, 2001	Box 6	Folder 3
"Acting to Fight Racism" by Sharon LaChappelle in Grand Rapids Magazine, 2002	Box 6	Folder 4
Newspaper clippings, 1998-2018	Box 6	Folder 5

Newspaper clippings, 1999-2005	Box 6	Folder 6
Newspaper clippings, 2000-2004	Box 6	Folder 7
Newspaper clippings, 2000-2005	Box 6	Folder 8
Summit on Racism 2000 participant list advertisements in local periodicals	Box 6	Folder 9

Subseries H. Photos

Scope and Contents

Photos of events and programs involving the Racial Justice Institute. The majority of the photos were taken by Sharon LaChappelle. Prints are housed in Box 15 and their corresponding negatives are held in Box 17.

Title/Description	Instances	
Racial Justice Institute Community Action Group Low Rider Festival, 1999	Box 15	Folder 1
	Box 17	Folder 1
Racial Justice Institute Community Action Group Native American Pow Wow, 1999	Box 15	Folder 2
Racial Justice Institute Community Action Group Healing Tree Activity, 2000	Box 15	Folder 3
	Box 17	Folder 2
Racial Justice Institute Community Action Group Healing Tree Activity , 2001	Box 15	Folder 4-5
	Box 17	Folder 3
Institute on Healing Racism John Ball Park retreat, 1999	Box 15	Folder 6-8
	Box 17	Folder 4
Institute on Healing Racism Retreat featuring Reverend May and Bob Woodrick, 1999	Box 14	Folder 1
International Institute for Healing Racism Conference, 2000	Box 15	Folder 9-13
	Box 17	Folder 5
Reverend May with the local Ghanaian people, 2001	Box 15	Folder 14-15
The Ghana District Area Centre for Ecumenism, 2001	Box 15	Folder 16-17
	Box 17	Folder 6
Reverend May speaks at the Ghana District Area Centre for Ecumenism, 2001	Box 15	Folder 18
	Box 17	Folder 7
Reverend May in Ghana, 2001	Box 15	Folder 19

	Box 17	Folder 8
School Children and the new school in Papase, Ghana, 2001	Box 15	Folder 20
Reverend May with Ghanian visitors in Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2003	Box 15	Folder 21
REYA planning meetings, 2000	Box 15	Folder 22
REYA press release and news conference, 2000	Box 15	Folder 23
REYA training sessions with students, 2000	Box 15	Folder 24
	Box 17	Folder 9
REYA recruiting and planning sessions with students, 2001	Box 15	Folder 25-26
	Box 17	Folder 10
REYA school training sessions, 2001	Box 15	Folder 27-28
REYA large scale schools conference, 2002	Box 15	Folder 29-30
	Box 16	Folder 1-2
	Box 17	Folder 11
Youth March for Justice, 1999	Box 16	Folder 3-6
	Box 17	Folder 12
Youth March for Justice, 2000	Box 16	Folder 7-9
	Box 17	Folder 13
Youth March for Justice, 2001	Box 16	Folder 10
	Box 17	Folder 14
Youth March for Justice, 2002	Box 16	Folder 11

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Series II. Partners for a Racism Free Community

Scope and Contents

Planning Documents; meeting minutes; financial statements; outreach materials relating to Partners for a Racism Free Community. Materials range from the creation of the organization under GRACE through its operation as its own 501-c-3. Materials also include information on the annual forums held by PRFC and the assessment criteria.

Subseries A. Internal Documents

Strategic Planning Documents

Title/Description	Instances	
Recipe Cards for the creation of Partners for a Racism Free Community, 2006	Box 7	Folder 12
Partners for a Racism Free Community Strategic Map, 2006	Box 7	Folder 1
Partners for a Racism Free Community Communication Plan, 2006	Box 7	Folder 2
Strategic Planning Steering Committee Documents, 2006	Box 7	Folder 3
Strategic Planning Correspondence with local congregations, 2006	Box 7	Folder 4
Strategic Planning community mapping, 2007	Box 7	Folder 5
Correspondence with poster volunteers, 2007	Box 7	Folder 6
Strategic Planning Sessions Minutes, 2007-2008	Box 7	Folder 7
Strategic Planning Speakers Bureau, 2007	Box 7	Folder 8
Strategic Planning Credentialing Committee Planning Documents, 2007	Box 7	Folder 9
Strategic Planning Documents, 2012-2016	Box 7	Folder 10
"Why Measure? Non Profits Use Metrics to Show They are Efficient" article, 2004	Box 7	Folder 11

Financial Documents and Board Records

Title/Description	Instances	
List of funders and underwriters, 2007	Box 7	Folder 13
Receipts for merchandise and brochures, 2007	Box 7	Folder 14
Grand Rapids Area Center For Ecumenism financial statements, 2010-06	Box 7	Folder 15
Grand Rapids Area Center For Ecumenism financial statements, 2011-06	Box 7	Folder 16
Board Meeting Minutes; Financial Statements; Program Planning, 2011	Box 7	Folder 17
W.K. Kellogg Foundation Narrative Report, 2011-2012	Box 7	Folder 18
Financial statements and board meeting minutes, 2012	Box 7	Folder 19
Partners for a Racism Free Community financial statements, 2012-06	Box 7	Folder 20
Financial documents for the fiscal year, 2013	Box 8	Folder 1
Financial documents and board meeting minutes, 2013	Box 8	Folder 2

Board member notebook, 2014	Box 8	Folder 3
Financial documents and board meeting minutes, 2014	Box 8	Folder 4
Partner Roundtable meeting minutes, 2014	Box 8	Folder 5
Board member contact list, 2015	Box 8	Folder 6
Financial documents and board meeting minutes, 2015	Box 8	Folder 7
Financial documents and board meeting minutes, 2016	Box 8	Folder 8
Partners for a Racism Free Community financial statements	Box 8	Folder 9
Memorandum of Understanding between Partners for a Racism Free Community and YWCA, 2019	Box 8	Folder 10
Correspondence between the Wege Foundation and Partners for a Racism Free Community, 2019	Box 8	Folder 11

Outreach Materials

Title/Description	Instances	
Fliers, brochures, business cards and other outreach materials	Box 8	Folder 12
Partners for a Racism Free Community informational poster	Box 14	Folder 9
The Community Catalyst Newsletter, 2011-2015	Box 8	Folder 13

Subseries B. Partners for a Racism Free Community Annual Forums

Title/Description	Instances	
Forum attendees, donors, sponsors, and underwriters, 2007	Box 9	Folder 1
Forum participant materials and planning documents, 2008	Box 9	Folder 2
Forum donors, sponsors, and underwriters, 2011	Box 9	Folder 3
Forum donors, sponsors, and underwriters, 2015	Box 9	Folder 4

Subseries C. Institutional Challenge to Achieve Racial Equity Assessments

Title/Description	Instances	
Pilot drafts for the assessment process, 2008	Box 10	Folder 1
Sample organization assessment, 2010	Box 10	Folder 2
Level one designations and feedback for various organizations A-L, 2010	Box 10	Folder 3

Level one designations and feedback for various organizations M-Z, 2010	Box 10	Folder 4
Davenport University Assessment: Leadership Engagement, 2015	Box 10	Folder 5-8
Davenport University Assessment: Internal Policies, 2015	Box 10	Folder 9-11
Davenport University Assessment: External Policies, 2015	Box 10	Folder 12
Davenport University Assessment: Contractor, Suppliers, and/or Vendor Practices, 2015	Box 10	Folder 13
Davenport University Assessment: Client, Congregation, Customer, and/or Marketplace Practices, 2015	Box 11	Folder 1-2
Davenport University Assessment: Measurement and Results, 2015	Box 11	Folder 3
Wedgwood Christian Services Assessment: Leadership Engagement, 2016	Box 11	Folder 4-6
Wedgwood Christian Services Assessment: Internal Policies, 2016	Box 11	Folder 7-9
Wedgwood Christian Services Assessment: External Policies, 2016	Box 11	Folder 10
Wedgwood Christian Services Assessment: Contractor, Supplier, and/or Vendor Practices, 2016	Box 11	Folder 11
Wedgwood Christian Services Assessment: Client, Congregation, Customer and/or Marketplace Practices, 2016	Box 11	Folder 12

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Series III. Reverend David May papers

Scope and Contents

Awards; correspondence; and articles about the accomplishments of Reverend May outside of the Racial Justice Institute, including his work as a social worker and as a representative of the One America Initiative under President Clinton.

Subseries A. Awards and Accolades

Title/Description	Instances	
Reverend May Bachelor of Science degree from Grand Valley State College, 1982	Box 11	Folder 13
Awards Given to Reverend May for social work efforts, 1999	Box 11	Folder 18
Reverend May One America meeting with President Clinton photo and letter, 2000	Box 11	Folder 19

'Man of the Decade' Award presented to Reverend May from the Community Empowerment Center, 2004	Box 12	Folder 3
The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Hazel R. Lewis President Award to Reverend May , 2015	Box 12	Folder 18

Subseries B. Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence with Reverend May, 2002	Box 11	Folder 23
Correspondence from Richard DeVos and Amy Turner to Reverend May, 2003	Box 12	Folder 2

General

The book Hope From My Heart: Ten Lessons for Life was also donated to the library in good condition in this collection. The library had an existing copy of this book M 234.2 D498h. The donation copy was placed in the rare book collection.

Subseries C. General Photographs of Reverend May

Title/Description	Instances	
Photo of Rosa Parks with First Lady Yvonne May and Yamaka May (.tif)	Box 12	Folder 19
Photos of Reverend May with Summit Attendees, Community Empowerment Center, and others, undated	Box 11	Folder 22
2001 Calendar with Photos of Reverend May	Box 11	Folder 21
Photos of Reverend May speaking to a crowd	Box 14	Folder 11

Subseries D. Ghana Trip

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence between Reverend May and the Ghana District Area Centre for Ecumenism, 2000	Box 3	Folder 2
Background Information on the Ghana District Area Centre for Ecumenism, 2001	Box 2	Folder 9
Reverend May diary of Ghana trip, 2001	Box 2	Folder 10
Information on the Missionary Trip to Ghana with the Grand Rapids Area Center for Ecumenism and Mount Moriah Baptist Worship Center, 2002	Box 2	Folder 11
"Through My Eyes: A View of Ghana, Africa" by Reverend David May, 2002	Box 3	Folder 1
Reverend May "Through My Eyes: A View of Ghana, Africa" booking signing informational poster, 2004	Box 14	Folder 7

Subseries E. Ministry Service Papers

Title/Description	Instances	
List of participants in the Martin Luther King Day Celebration, 1990	Box 11	Folder 15
Concerned Minister Association Meetings on the Effects of Crime in Grand Rapids, 1994	Box 11	Folder 17
Lake Bella Vista Improvement Association Documents , 2001-2003	Box 20	Folder 1

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is restricted to researchers. The materials in this file have Personal Identifiable Information, police records, and confidential health documents that are protected by HIPAA. These documents have an unknown provenance to Sharon LaChappelle, Reverend David May, the Grand Rapids Area Center for Ecumenism and its programs. It is believed these materials were given to Reverend David May.

Subseries F. News and Interviews with Reverend May

Title/Description	Instances	
News articles and clippings about Reverend May, 2000	Box 11	Folder 20
Reverend May in Equality Magazine, 2003-2004	Box 12	Folder 1

Subseries G. Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services Work

Title/Description	Instances	
Photos of the Pine Rest Satellite Clinic, 1987	Box 11	Folder 14
Report on African Americans in relation to families, mental health, and clinicians, likely written by Reverend May	Box 11	Folder 16

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Series IV. Mount Moriah Baptist Worship Center records

Scope and Contents

Newsletters; handouts; and ephemeral material related to the Mount Moriah Baptist Worship Center. Mount Moriah Baptist Worship Center was called the Mid City Baptist Church until 1999.

Title/Description	Instances	
Mid City Baptist Church founding documents and early history, 1986	Box 12	Folder 4

General Baptist Convention meeting minutes , 1989, 1991, 1994	Box 12	Folder 5
Mount Moriah Baptist Worship Center event programs, 1993	Box 12	Folder 6
Mid City Baptist Church announcements, 1994	Box 12	Folder 7
Mount Moriah Baptist Worship Center anniversary celebrations, 1994	Box 12	Folder 8
"The Extreme Word" Newsletter, 2003-2004	Box 12	Folder 9
"The Extreme Word" Newsletter, 2005-2009	Box 12	Folder 10
Letters to Reverend and First Lady May	Box 12	Folder 11
Notes from Reverend May sermons	Box 12	Folder 12
Sunday school materials	Box 12	Folder 13
Sunday school drawings	Box 12	Folder 14
Photos of members during praise and worship	Box 12	Folder 15
Funeral programs of Mount Moriah members	Box 12	Folder 16
Mount Moriah Baptist Worship Center trip to the Charles Wright Museum of African American History photo collage poster	Box 14	Folder 10

Subseries A. Photos

General

Photos of events and members of the Mount Moriah Baptist Worship Center Church. The majority of these photos are most likely taken by Sharon LaChappelle. Negatives are housed in Box 18.

Title/Description	Instances	
'Endangered Species' Church Band Performs at Lamar Park	Box 16	Folder 13
Sunday school class at the Wealthy Theatre Grand Reopening	Box 16	Folder 14
Mount Moriah Baptist Worship Center building renovations	Box 16 Box 18	Folder 15 Folder 1
New members photos , 2001-2004	Box 16	Folder 16-17
Mount Moriah Baptist Worship Center members during praise and worship	Box 16 Box 18	Folder 18 Folder 2
Baptisms at Mount Moriah Baptist Worship Center	Box 18	Folder 3
Church attendees at Mount Moriah Baptist Worship Center, 2001	Box 18	Folder 4

Mount Moriah Baptist Worship Center Women's Day Event , 2001	Box 18	Folder 5
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Series V. Sharon LaChappelle papers

Scope and Contents

Documents relating to the work done by Sharon LaChappelle outside of the Racial Justice Institute and Partners for a Racism Free Community including in her role as program director at the Baxter Community Center. Included are materials relating to her husband, Joseph, and her son Nicholas Levi who were involved in several local theater productions. There are also photographs taken by LaChappelle of the African American Art Festival of 1999 for Equality Magazine.

Subseries A. Theater Productions involving the LaChappelle Family

Title/Description	Instances	
Annotated copy of the script "Flyin' West" by Pearl Cleage	Box 13	Folder 1
Nicholas Levi LaChappelle copy "Flyin' West" script	Box 13	Folder 2
Blocking cues for "Flyin' West" Show	Box 13	Folder 3
"Flyin' West" Playbill and advertisements, 1997-1998	Box 13	Folder 4
News Articles on the "Flyin' West" Stage Production, 1997-1998	Box 13	Folder 5
Notes and letters to Nicholas Levi and Sharon LaChappelle from the cast and crew of "Flyin' West", 1997	Box 13	Folder 6
Letter to Sharon LaChappelle from Pearl Cleage, 2000	Box 13	Folder 7
Playbills for "The Will," "Carefully Taught," and "The Colored Museum" featuring Nicholas Levi and Joseph LaChappelle, 1999	Box 13	Folder 9
The Paper. article on KMR Diversity Theater featuring Nicholas Levi LaChappelle, 2001	Box 13	Folder 11
"Flyin' West" Stage Show (VHS, .mp4)	Box 22	Cassette 6

Subseries B. Baxter Community Center Mizizi Maji Mentoring Program

Title/Description	Instances	
Articles on the Mizizi Maji Program from Students, 2005-2010	Box 13	Folder 12
"Mizizi Maji Goes to City Hall to Save Program" in The Grand Rapids Times, 2010	Box 13	Folder 13
Youth spotlight on Nyah McKinney of the Mizizi Maji Program in the Southtown News, 2010	Box 13	Folder 14

"Visit Gives Students New View of South Africa" in the Grand Rapids Times, 2011	Box 13	Folder 15
"Education Through Travel: Michigan Youth Earn a Trip to South Africa" by Nick Levi LaChappelle in Go Global Journal, 2011	Box 13	Folder 16
Baxter Community Center Mizizi Maji Mentoring Program 2012 Calendar with Photos of South Africa Trip	Box 13	Folder 17
Baxter Community Center Annual Report on Mizizi Maji Education Through Travel Program, 2013	Box 13	Folder 18
Equality Magazine Grand Rapids African American Festival Article with photos by Sharon LaChappelle, 1999	Box 13	Folder 8
Letter to Sharon LaChappelle from Lew Burrows, 2000	Box 13	Folder 10
Grand Day in Grand Rapids, Michigan signed poster , 2013	Box 14	Folder 12

Subseries C. Photos

Scope and Contents

Photos taken by Sharon LaChappelle of events from her personal life. LaChappelle often would attend events and take photos for newsletters and magazines. Her husband Joseph and son Nicholas Levi LaChappelle were active in the local theatre scene. Additionally, Sharon LaChappelle is friends with Rhonda Coleman who owned an art gallery, Room 222 on Division street from 1995 to 2004. Room 222 exhibited the art of many Black Artists, including George Thomas of Idlewild, Michigan.

Negatives with their corresponding prints are housed in Box 19.

Title/Description	Instances	
'Flyin' West' Stage performance photos, 1997	Box 16	Folder 19
	Box 19	Folder 1
'Flyin' West' Cast in the green room, 1997	Box 16	Folder 20
	Box 19	Folder 2
Spectrum Theatre Women's Writing Workshop featuring Jean Reed Baily and Alice Kennedy , 1997	Box 19	Folder 3
Speakers at the 3rd Annual African American Symposium at Eastern Avenue Church , 1998	Box 16	Folder 21
	Box 19	Folder 4
Room 222 Art Gallery Show featuring artist George Thomas , 1998	Box 16	Folder 22-23
	Box 19	Folder 5
Photos of the African American Festival for Robert LaDew's Equality Magazine , 1999	Box 16	Folder 24-25

General

Most photos are captioned, identifying people and businesses at the fesitval. Included are: Robert

LaDew, Paublo Martinez, Norman Holison, Lord and Humes LTD imported Collectibles Peggy Kelly, Annette Humes-Brown, Leslie A. Crosby, Let's Sew it for Less, Jerline Hatchett, John Williams, CDs-R-Us, House of Blessings, Shellie Cole, Innovative Blinds, Associations of Black Nurses, Alio African Art, Ali Jum, Smell Good Inc., Faheem Ouigbodi, Carolyn Russel, David Turnbull, Sheila Hansil, African World Arts and Crafts, Joe Hansil, and Sheila Hansil.

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