



# ArchivesSpace

a community served by †Lyrasis

## The Re-Imagining Community records5628378

---

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 14, 2025.  
Description is written in: English.

Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

3041 Broadway

New York, NY 10027

Telephone: (212) 851-5606

[burke@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burke@library.columbia.edu)

URL: <https://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke.html>

---

## Table of Contents

---

Summary Information .....	3
Biographical / Historical .....	3
Scope and Contents .....	5
Arrangement .....	5
Administrative Information .....	5
Related Materials .....	7
Controlled Access Headings .....	7
Burke Library record group: .....	8
Collection Inventory .....	8
Publications .....	8
Audio and video materials .....	9
Re-Imagining Events .....	10
Administrative records .....	14

---

## Summary Information

---

<b>Repository:</b>	Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
<b>Creator:</b>	Re-imagining Community
<b>Title:</b>	The Re-Imagining Community records
<b>ID:</b>	5628378
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1988 -- 2016
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4.75 linear feet 4.75 linear feet; 11 boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Re-imagining Community was a grassroots, ecumenical movement (centered in Minneapolis, Minnesota) that was organized to challenge what it saw as a patriarchal church hierarchy, promoting justice and equality in the church and society as a whole. The collection contains newsletters and other publications, audio recordings of annual conferences and video recordings of responses to the 1993 conference, records relating to the planning of the annual conferences, and administrative records of the organization.

### Preferred Citation

Item description, AWTS: The Re-Imagining Community records, 1988-2016, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Biographical / Historical

---

The Re-imagining Community was a grassroots, ecumenical movement that was organized to challenge what it saw as a patriarchal church hierarchy, promoting justice and equality in the church and society as a whole. The Community, centered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, called for the revitalization of the Christian church.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Biographical / Historical

---

The Re-Imagining Community was an outgrowth of a "global theological colloquium" held in November 1993 in Minneapolis, Minnesota that gathered women, scholars, and church leaders together to address the goals of the World Council of Churches report, Ecumenical Decade: Churches in Solidarity with Women. Mary Ann Lundy, who worked in the national office of the Presbyterian Church, first had the idea to hold the conference five years earlier in 1988. As Lundy began to garner support for her plan, a group of women at a retreat in Minnesota chose the name "re-imagining," trying to capture the idea of a new image in the church. A group of nearly 150 volunteers, both clergy and laypersons, worked together to plan, produce, and implement the ReImagining Conference. It drew 2,200 people from around the world. The conference was sponsored by the Minnesota, Greater Minneapolis, and St. Paul Area Councils of Churches and supported partially with funds from several denominations. In 1993 the Christian Century listed the heightened involvement of women in the church as one of the top ten religious stories of the year. Unfortunately, the Re-Imagining movement encountered hostility and backlash from groups within several denominations, including the United Methodist Church and the Presbyterian Church (USA). They, and other conservative critics, charged that the conference was heretical and sought to prevent church funds from supporting any further Re-Imagining activities. The PCUSA called for the resignation of Mary Ann Lundy in 1994. Ironically, it was these actions that sparked the call to continue the Re-Imagining experience. In February 1994, nine United Methodist clergy and laywomen met and drafted a statement to the press, "A Time of Hope, A Time of Threat" with 800 endorsements. After a number of discussions and debates, in September 1994, the Re-Imagining Community was incorporated with a coordinating council of lay and clergy volunteers to continue the work begun in 1993. The Re-Imagining Community sponsored six more conferences, published a quarterly journal and several books, taught classes on feminist theology at local churches, and organized small groups across the country. A final "Gathering" in 2003 celebrated ten years of Re-Imagining and encouraged the movement to continue in other ways. The Re-Imagining Community officially disbanded in 2003.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Biographical / Historical

---

The Re-Imagining Community was re-established as a non-profit in 2014 with two goals: to preserve its history and to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the 1993 conference. To achieve the first goal, the community digitized the seven Re-Imagining conferences (which were on cassette tapes) and Dr. Sherry Jordon, associate professor at the University of St. Thomas,

conducted over seventy oral interviews with planners, participants, and presenters at the 1993 conference. The Re-Imagining Community also developed a website and collected materials to share with various archives. To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the first conference in 1993, the Re-Imagining Community partnered with churches, universities, a seminary, and a spirituality center to offer a variety of events. These included worship services, a jazz mass, a conference on non-violence, and presentations by theologians including Dr. Carol P. Christ, Dr. Judith Plaskow, Dr. Melanie L. Harris, Dr. Robyn Henderson-Espinoza, and Dr. Mary Farrell Bednarowski. Having completed these goals, the Re-Imagining Community formally dissolved as a non-profit in 2024.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Scope and Contents

---

The records of the Re-Imagining Community consist of organizational newsletters and other publications; audio cassette recordings of the annual Re-Imagining conferences and video recordings of responses to the 1993 conference; records pertaining to various aspects of the annual conference including financial, program, registration, and publicity materials as well as meeting minutes and correspondence; and administrative records including a Certificate of Incorporation, an Article of Dissolution, and records of the Coordinating Council, including press, personal, and denominational responses to the 1993 conference.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Arrangement

---

This collection is arranged in four series: Publications, Audio and video materials, Re-Imagining Events, and Administrative records.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Publication Statement

Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

3041 Broadway

New York, NY 10027

Telephone: (212) 851-5606

[burke@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burke@library.columbia.edu)

URL: <https://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke.html>

### **Revision Description**

PDF converted to EAD and description updated by Leah Edelman. Digital object links added to Series 2 by Kevin Schlottman and Leah Edelman. 2021-01-20 2021-12-20

### **Conditions Governing Access**

This collection is open for research.

Onsite storage.

### **Conditions Governing Access**

Unique time-based media items have been reformatted and are available onsite via links in the container list. Commercial materials are not routinely digitized.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

The Re-Imagining Community donated its records to the Archives of Women in Theological Scholarship in 1999. Subsequent donations of material were made in 2001-2005.

### **Processing Information**

Folded materials were flattened and newspaper clippings were photocopied on acid free paper. Staples, rubber bands, and metal clips were removed. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. The finding aid was created by Leslie Reyman in 2001, revised by Elizabeth Russey in 2002, revised with additions by Ruth Tonkiss Cameron in 2005, edited by Leah Edelman in 2021 and updated with suggestions from Sherry Jordon in 2024.

### **Conditions Governing Use**

Some material in this collection may be protected by copyright and other rights. Information concerning copyright, fair use, and reproduction requests can be consulted at Columbia's Copyright Advisory Office.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Related Materials

---

### Related Materials

Re-Imagining Collection, Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Duke University. [holds 2013-2023 materials] [https://archives.lib.duke.edu/catalog/reimagining#aspace\\_b78072066f44af9e9c39d52969e6d9d5](https://archives.lib.duke.edu/catalog/reimagining#aspace_b78072066f44af9e9c39d52969e6d9d5)

Oral interviews with people involved in the 1993 conference may be found online at the Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture at Duke University: [https://archives.lib.duke.edu/catalog/reimagining\\_aspace\\_f08d141f66b3e7894d65cdf5c3b4efc6](https://archives.lib.duke.edu/catalog/reimagining_aspace_f08d141f66b3e7894d65cdf5c3b4efc6)

### Related Materials

Re-Imagining Community. Re-Imagining Community records. Minnesota Historical Society. <http://www2.mnhs.org/library/findaids/00874.xml>

Re-imagining conferences from 1993-2003 may be found online at the Minnesota Historical Society: <http://www2.mnhs.org/library/findaids/00874.xml>

### Related Materials

Re-Imagining Community. Presbyterian Historical Society. <https://prestohost68.inmagic.com/Presto/content/Detail.aspx?ctID=Y2RiNWNkNzctNWJhOS00Zjk1LTk4ZTgtNDZmNGYyNGFhZGMx&rID=MjA4NjE=&qrs=RmFsc2U=&q=KHJlLWltYWdpbmluZyk=&qcf=Y2RiNWNkNzctNWJhOS00Zjk1LTk4ZTgtNDZmNGYyNGFhZGMx&ph=VHJlZQ==&bckToL=VHJlZQ==&rrtc=VHJlZQ==>

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

---

## Controlled Access Headings

---

- Video recordings (physical artifacts)
- Sound recordings
- Re-imagining Community -- Archives

## Burke Library record group:

Archives of Women in Theological Scholarship (AWTS)

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Collection Inventory

### Publications, 1994 -- 2003

Physical Description: 0.5 linear feet 0.5 linear feet; 1 box

Conditions Governing Access:

**Conditions Governing Access**

This series is open for research.

#### Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically.

#### Scope and Contents

This series contains the Quarterly Newsletter from 1994 through 2000 and 2003, as well as other publications.

Title/Description	Instances	
Re-Imagining: Quarterly Newsletter, 1994 -- 2003 <u>Physical Description</u> : 3 folders	box 1	folder 1-3
"Re-Imagining God... Community... the Church" in <i>Church and Society</i> , 1994 <u>Physical Description</u> : 1 folder	box 1	folder 4
<i>Re-Membering and Re-Imagining</i> , edited by Nancy J. Berneking and Pamela Carter Joern, 1995 <u>Physical Description</u> : 1 folder	box 1	folder 5
<i>Made in Her Image: Exploring New Perspectives in the Bible and Christian History</i> Facilitator Guide and Participant Resource Book, 1997 <u>Physical Description</u> : 1 folder	box 1	folder 6
<i>Bring the Feast: Songs from the Re-Imagining Community and Re-Imagining Journal</i> , 1998 -- 2000	box 1	folder 7



Physical Description: 1 folder

*Bless Sophia: Worship, ritual, and the litany of the Re-Imagining Community*, 2003

box 1

folder 8

Physical Description: 1 folder

### Scope and Contents

This file contains *Bless Sophia: Worship, ritual, and the litany of the Re-Imagining Community* in book format and in MS Word file format on two diskettes.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Audio and video materials, 1993 -- 2016

Physical Description: 0.75 linear feet 0.75 linear feet; 2 boxes

Physical Description: 57 audiocassettes 57 audio cassettes

Physical Description: 2 videocassettes (VHS) 2 video cassettes

Physical Description: 1 DVDs 1 DVD

### Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically.

### Conditions Governing Access:

#### Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

### Scope and Contents

This series contains audio cassette recordings of the Re-Imagining Conference from 1993 through 2003 (no conference was held in 1997; audio files not available for the 2000 conference but can be found at the Minnesota Historical Society), responses to the 1993 Re-Imagining Conference on two video cassettes titled "General Assembly Report concerning Re-Imagining Conference" and "Ted Koppel (Nightline); MacNeil/Lehrer," and a DVD titled, "Interviews by Sherry Jordon."

Title/Description	Instances
Re-Imagining Conference, 1993 <u>Physical Description:</u> 24 audiocassettes <u>Digital Object:</u> <a href="#">Re-Imagining Conference, 1993</a>	box 2
Re-Imagining Conference, 1994 <u>Physical Description:</u> 3 audiocassettes <u>Digital Object:</u> <a href="#">Re-Imagining Conference, 1994</a>	box 2
Re-Imagining Conference, 1995 <u>Physical Description:</u> 6 audiocassettes	box 2

Digital Object: [Re-Imagining Conference, 1995](#)

---

Re-Imagining Conference, 1996 box 2

Physical Description: 6 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Re-Imagining Conference, 1996](#)

---

Re-Imagining Conference, 1998 box 2

Physical Description: 15 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Re-Imagining Conference, 1998](#)

---

Re-Imagining Conference, 2003 box 2

Physical Description: 3 audiocassettes

Digital Object: [Re-Imagining Conference, 2003](#)

---

Responses to 1993 conference: "General Assembly Report concerning Re-Imagining Conference" , 1994 box 3

Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (VHS)

Digital Object: [The June 16, 1994 General Assembly report of the General Assembly Council Review Committee concerning the Re-Imagining Conference](#)

---

Responses to 1993 conference: "Ted Koppel (Nightline); MacNeil/Lehrer", 1994 box 3

Physical Description: 1 videocassettes (VHS)

Digital Object: [Responses to 1993 conference: "Ted Koppel \(Nightline\); MacNeil/Lehrer"](#)

---

Interviews by Sherry Jordon DVD, 2015 -- 2016 box 3

Physical Description: 1 DVDs

Conditions Governing Access:  
**Conditions Governing Access**

Copies of these files are stored on a preservation server. Please contact [burke@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burke@library.columbia.edu) for further information.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

## Re-Imagining Events, 1988 -- 2003

Physical Description: 1.5 linear feet 1.5 linear feet; 3 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:  
**Conditions Governing Access**

This series is open for research.

### Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically by conference date.

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains copies of organizational records pertaining to various aspects of the annual conference, including financial information, meeting minutes, correspondence, program material, registration information, publicity material, evaluations, and materials related to speakers, exhibitors, and volunteers, among other records.

Title/Description	Instances	
Ecumenical Decade: Churches in Solidarity with Women (1993 conference): Steering committee minutes, 1988 -- 1993 <u>Physical Description:</u> 3 folders	box 4	folder 1-3
Ecumenical Decade: Churches in Solidarity with Women (1993 conference): Arrangements, 1992 -- 1993 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder	box 4	folder 4
Ecumenical Decade: Churches in Solidarity with Women (1993 conference): Daily conference newsletter, 1993 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder	box 4	folder 5
Ecumenical Decade: Churches in Solidarity with Women (1993 conference): Evaluations and thank you letters, 1994 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder	box 4	folder 6
Ecumenical Decade: Churches in Solidarity with Women (1993 conference): Name lists of participants, 1993 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder	box 4	folder 7
Ecumenical Decade: Churches in Solidarity with Women (1993 conference): Program, 1993 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder	box 4	folder 8
Ecumenical Decade: Churches in Solidarity with Women (1993 conference): Publicity, 1993 -- 1994 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder	box 4	folder 9
Ecumenical Decade: Churches in Solidarity with Women (1993 conference): Speaker correspondence, 1991 -- 1993 <u>Physical Description:</u> 3 folders	box 4	folder 10-12
Re-Imagining: Jesus, Christ, and Us (1994 conference): Evaluations, 1994 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder	box 5	folder 1
Re-Imagining: Jesus, Christ, and Us (1994 conference): Program, 1994 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder	box 5	folder 2
Re-Imagining: Jesus, Christ, and Us (1994 conference): Publicity, 1994	box 5	folder 3

<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder		
Re-Imagining: Jesus, Christ, and Us (1994 conference): Registration, 1994	box 5	folder 4
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder		
Soundings: Re-Imagining the World (1995 conference): Budget , 1994 -- 1995	box 5	folder 5
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder		
Soundings: Re-Imagining the World (1995 conference): Correspondence, 1995	box 5	folder 6
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder		
Soundings: Re-Imagining the World (1995 conference): Committees, 1994 -- 1995	box 5	folder 7-8
<u>Physical Description:</u> 2 folders		
Soundings: Re-Imagining the World (1995 conference): Evaluations and thank you letters, 1995	box 5	folder 9
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder		
Soundings: Re-Imagining the World (1995 conference): Program, 1995	box 5	folder 10
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder		
Soundings: Re-Imagining the World (1995 conference): Publicity, 1995	box 5	folder 11
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder		
Soundings: Re-Imagining the World (1995 conference): Registration, 1995	box 5	folder 12
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder		
Soundings: Re-Imagining the World (1995 conference): Volunteers, 1995	box 5	folder 13
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder		
Soundings: Re-Imagining the World (1995 conference): Worship, 1995	box 5	folder 14
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder		
Naming, Claiming, and Re-Imagining Power (1996 conference): Arrangements committee , 1996	box 5	folder 15
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder		
Naming, Claiming, and Re-Imagining Power (1996 conference): Membership/publicity committee , 1996	box 5	folder 16
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder		
Naming, Claiming, and Re-Imagining Power (1996 conference): Program committee , 1996	box 5	folder 17

<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder		
Naming, Claiming, and Re-Imagining Power (1996 conference): Public relations committee , 1996	box 5	folder 18
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder		
Naming, Claiming, and Re-Imagining Power (1996 conference): Quest committee , 1995 -- 1996	box 5	folder 19
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder		
Naming, Claiming, and Re-Imagining Power (1996 conference): Ritual committee , 1996	box 5	folder 20
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder		
Naming, Claiming, and Re-Imagining Power (1996 conference): Evaluations, 1996	box 5	folder 21
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder		
Naming, Claiming, and Re-Imagining Power (1996 conference): Program, 1996	box 5	folder 22
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder		
Naming, Claiming, and Re-Imagining Power (1996 conference): Publicity, 1996	box 5	folder 23
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder		
Naming, Claiming, and Re-Imagining Power (1996 conference): Registration R-Z, 1996	box 5	folder 24
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder		
Re-Imagining Revival (1998 conference): Arrangements committee, 1996 -- 1998	box 6	folder 1
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder		
Re-Imagining Revival (1998 conference): Fundraising committee, 1998	box 6	folder 2
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder		
Re-Imagining Revival (1998 conference): Planning ("Flow Committee"), 1997 -- 1998	box 6	folder 3
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder		
Re-Imagining Revival (1998 conference): Evaluations, 1998	box 6	folder 4
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder		
Re-Imagining Revival (1998 conference): Exhibitors, 1998	box 6	folder 5
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder		
Re-Imagining Revival (1998 conference): Program, 1998	box 6	folder 6
<u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder		
Re-Imagining Revival (1998 conference): Publicity, 1997 -- 1998	box 6	folder 7-8

Physical Description: 2 folders

Re-Imagining Revival (1998 conference): Registration, 1998 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder	box 6	folder 9
Re-Imagining Revival (1998 conference): Scholarships, 1998 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder	box 6	folder 10
Re-Imagining Revival (1998 conference): Speakers, 1997 -- 1998 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder	box 6	folder 11
Re-Imagining Revival (1998 conference): Volunteers, 1998 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder	box 6	folder 12
From Vision to Vessel (2000 conference): Evaluations, 2000 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder	box 6	folder 13
From Vision to Vessel (2000 conference): Program , 2000 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder	box 6	folder 14
From Vision to Vessel (2000 conference): Speakers, 1999 -- 2000 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder	box 6	folder 15
Generations of Wisdom: One body of water (2003 conference): Arrangements, 2003 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder	box 6	folder 16
Generations of Wisdom: One body of water (2003 conference): Program, 2003 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder	box 6	folder 17
Generations of Wisdom: One body of water (2003 conference): Publicity, 2003 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder	box 6	folder 18
Generations of Wisdom: One body of water (2003 conference): Honeycomb conference session, 2003 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder	box 6	folder 19

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

### **Administrative records, 1993 -- 2003**

Physical Description: 2 linear feet 2 linear feet; 5 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

**Conditions Governing Access**

This series is open for research.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged by format, and then alphabetically and/or chronologically.

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains administrative records of the Re-Imagining Community, including a Certificate of Incorporation, an Article of Dissolution, correspondence, minutes, publicity materials, and other records. The majority of records concern the Coordinating Council, the governing body of the Community, including press, personal, and denominational responses to the 1993 conference.

Title/Description	Instances	
Certificate of Incorporation, 1994 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder	box 7	folder 1
Article of Dissolution, 2003 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder	box 7	folder 2
Coordinating Council - Post 1993 conference controversy press response list, circa 1993 -- 1994 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder	box 7	folder 3
Coordinating Council - Post 1993 conference controversy press response: ALA Journal through Presbyterian News, circa 1993 -- 1997 <u>Physical Description:</u> 10 folders	box 7	folder 4-13
Coordinating Council - Post 1993 conference controversy press response: Presbyterian Outlook through Worship Arts, circa 1993 -- 1997 <u>Physical Description:</u> 6 folders	box 8	folder 1-6
Coordinating Council - Post 1993 conference controversy participant correspondence, 1993 -- 1994 <u>Physical Description:</u> 6 folders	box 8	folder 7-12
Coordinating Council - Post 1993 conference controversy other responses: circulars, reports, resolutions, circa 1993 -- 1997 <u>Physical Description:</u> 5 folders	box 9	folder 1-5
Coordinating Council correspondence, 1994 -- 2000 <u>Physical Description:</u> 5 folders	box 10	folder 1-5
Coordinating Council minutes, 1994 -- 2003 <u>Physical Description:</u> 10 folders	box 10	folder 6-15
Speakers' lists, 1988 -- 2003 <u>Physical Description:</u> 1 folder	box 11	folder 1
Small Groups, 1995 -- 1999	box 11	folder 2

Physical Description: 1 folder

---

Membership, 1995 -- 1997

box 11

folder 3-4

Physical Description: 2 folders

---

Faith Labs, 1997 -- 2000

box 11

folder 5

Physical Description: 1 folder

---

Publicity and Public Relations, 1995 -- 2000

box 11

folder 6-8

Physical Description: 3 folders

---

E-Newsmail, 1998 -- 2003

box 11

folder 9-10

Physical Description: 2 folders

---

Worship, 1998

box 11

folder 11

Physical Description: 1 folder

---

Quarterly Worship, 1999 -- 2000

box 11

Physical Description: 1 folder

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)