In 1987, the first Black woman ordained in the Presbyterian Church, Rev. Dr. Katie Geneva Cannon, used the term Womanist to explore an interpretation of the Bible that was concerned with Black women’s liberation. Her book that followed one year later, *Black Womanist Ethics*, helped launch the field of womanist ethics.
The Presbyterian Historical Society (PHS) is thrilled to announce that this year, 35 years after the publication of her groundbreaking work, the entirety of Rev. Dr. Cannon's personal papers has been digitized and made freely accessible through Pearl Digital Collections.

Katie Geneva Cannon was born in 1953 in Kannapolis, North Carolina to Esau and Corine Cannon, elders at Covenant United Presbyterian Church in Kannapolis. Her call to education and ministry was shaped by her experience growing up in the segregated South and nourished by her time at Barber-Scotia College and Johnson C. Smith Seminary. After graduating from the latter with a Master of Divinity, Cannon was ordained by the Catawba Presbytery—the first all-Black governing body in the Presbyterian Church—in 1974.

Cannon preached at Ascension Presbyterian Church in Harlem while she attended Union Theological Seminary (UTS). At UTS, she shattered another glass ceiling when she became the first Black woman to receive a Ph.D. from the institution in 1983. Shortly after, Cannon's career as an educator, ethicist, and theologian flourished.

Cannon held teaching positions at Temple University, Episcopal Divinity School, Harvard Divinity School, and Union Theological Seminary. Her colleagues admired her passion and rigorous scholarship. "Katie Cannon is on fire with love," one colleague shared. "Few people so embody the Christ-like qualities of pastoral concern, love of justice, and respect for the dignity of individuals."

Perhaps her greatest impact as an educator was made at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia where she held the position of Annie Scales Rogers Professor of Christian Social Ethics until her death in 2018.

In 2021 the Presbyterian Historical Society partnered with The Katie Geneva Cannon Center for Womanist Leadership at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond and The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary (Columbia University Libraries) to unite the records Cannon

"Black life is the rich, colorful creativity that emerged and reemerges in the Black quest for human dignity. Jesus provides the necessary soul for liberation."

distributed across the three institutions. Over a two-year period, PHS staff scanned the collections and made them available through Pearl Digital Collections, the Society’s online archive.

The result—the Katie Geneva Cannon Digital Collection—contains over 450 of Cannon’s sermons, lectures, and writings, and can be accessed from anywhere in the world for free.

On the evening of October 12, 2023, from 5pm-7pm ET, the Presbyterian Historical Society will host an event to honor the legacy of Rev. Dr. Cannon and celebrate the completion of the Katie Geneva Cannon Digital Collection. The evening will be an opportunity for those in the PC(USA) and beyond to gather and pay homage to a woman who, in her own words, taught “to empower, to equip, to set people free.”

Explore the Katie Geneva Cannon Digital Collection: [history.pcusa.org/kgc](http://history.pcusa.org/kgc)

RSVP to the Katie Geneva Cannon Digital Collection celebration by contacting [cmoore@history.pcusa.org](mailto:cmoore@history.pcusa.org).

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**Journal Preview**

In the Spring/Summer 2023 issue of *The Journal of Presbyterian History*, New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, DC is the thread that unites two articles on leading white Presbyterian pastors and issues of race. Andrew Michael Jones considers how a decade living in the Deep South shaped the racial views of Scottish immigrant Rev. Peter Marshall, who left Atlanta, Georgia for the pulpit at New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in 1937.

Paul Dornan looks at the church during the time of Rev. George Docherty (another Scot and Marshall’s successor), focusing on the congregation’s involvement in civil rights marches from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama in 1965.

Call 215.928.3865 to receive *The Journal* or visit [www.history.pcusa.org/journal](http://www.history.pcusa.org/journal)
DIGITAL COLLECTION
EDLER HAWKINS

Thanks to PHS Board member Michael Livingston, we’ve recently digitized a collection of the records of Edler Hawkins, the first Black moderator of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A (UPCUSA).

Included in the digitized collection are two pocket-size commonplace books Hawkins read from when called upon to speak. One is chiefly his typescripts of Langston Hughes poems, the other a book of songs, including the "Internationale."

Born in 1908 in the Bronx, Hawkins graduated from Bloomfield College and from Union Theological Seminary, and was installed at St. Augustine Presbyterian Church in the Bronx in 1938. Social activism was a fundamental part of his ministry. Hawkins organized on behalf of domestic workers in 1941 and ran for New York State Assembly in 1948. He was moderator of the Presbytery of New York City from 1958 to 1960, vice-moderator of the UPCUSA in 1960, and finally moderator of the 176th General Assembly in Oklahoma City in 1964.

Hawkins mentored a generation of prominent Black Presbyterian ministers including Metz Rollins, Clarence Cave, and Cornelius Berry Sr.

Hawkins was a track star in college, convened a poetry group among his friends, and has a lasting legacy in New York through a foundation supporting Black artists and cultural institutions. We’re honored to share an intimate glimpse into his life.

View the collection: digital.history.pcusa.org/EH

MORE LIGHT VIDEOTAPES

In August 2022, PHS staff visited Alexander Library’s Special Collections and University Archives at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey to survey the records of More Light Presbyterians. Staff viewed around 10 cubic ft. of the 54 cubic ft. collection and established a relationship with Rutgers

librarians and archivists. Through the visit and subsequent conversations with Rutgers staff and More Light leadership, PHS identified and digitized eight U-matic videotapes from the collection.

Digitization revealed footage of the 1978 UPCUSA General Assembly, where Sandra (Sandy) Brawders, a Princeton Theological Seminary student at the time, came out on the General Assembly floor and spoke during plenary for an open policy on ordination. Other videos include footage of a consultation on homophobia at the Stony Point Center in September 1984. Speakers and presenters at the consultation included Robert Hawkins, Jr., Rev. Karen Ziegler, Dr. George Edwards, Dr. Byron Shafer, Chris Glaser, and Rev. Jane Spahr.

Watch the newly digitized More Light videotapes: digital.history.pcusa.org/MLT


DEAR FRIENDS,

Last year was transformational for the Presbyterian Historical Society. While the coronavirus lingered, we continued to steward and share our archives with a focus on narratives that had received little attention in the past. Using our traditional print publications, our electronic communications, and our online programs, we sustained connections with the denomination and the community. And we took a major step in reconnecting in-person with our stakeholders and constituents—from the Board of Directors to scholars and the public.

Our first gathering in person was a reception hosted by PHS Advisory Council member John R. Buchanan in New York City where donors, researchers, Board members, and friends of PHS reunited to hear updates on collections and special initiatives at the society. A few weeks later, most of the PHS Board gathered in Philadelphia for a hybrid Board meeting. For some members, it was the first opportunity to talk face to face. During the meeting, a crowd of almost 200 gathered on a perfect fall evening for the much-delayed opening of the Building Knowledge and Breaking Barriers exhibit, a collaboration between PHS and Community College of Philadelphia. In November, PHS co-hosted a book talk at Columbia Theological Seminary with Rev. Dr. William Yoo, author of *What Kind of Christianity: A History of Slavery and Anti-Black Racism in the Presbyterian Church*. The event was well attended by PHS Board members, staff and students of the seminary, and the local community.

Our archives continued to expand as congregations, mid councils, and PC(USA) national agencies deposited records at PHS or took advantage of digitization. And, through the African American Leaders and Congregations Collecting Initiative, we saw growth in records and personal papers that highlight the witness of Black Presbyterians in the PC(USA).

Thank you so much for supporting our ministry with your engagement, donations of historical materials, and gifts of financial support. None of this is possible without you.

Nancy J. Taylor  
Executive Director

Susan Aggarwal  
Chair of the PHS Board of Directors
## Yearly Impact

### ADDING TO THE COLLECTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Agency Records</strong></td>
<td>27 groups added to the collection for a total of 83.82 cubic feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Personal Papers</strong></td>
<td>73 groups added to the collection for a total of 112.38 cubic feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Church Records</strong></td>
<td>209 congregations sent records to PHS for a total of 314.82 cubic feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mid Council Records</strong></td>
<td>26 mid councils sent records to PHS for a total of 68.34 cubic feet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### HELPING RESEARCHERS

PHS staff provided 2,025 detailed reference responses to patrons in our building, over the phone, and by email.

### SERVING THE PC(USA)

607 inquiries from PC(USA) churches, mid councils, and national agencies.

### PROVIDING DIGITIZED HISTORY

Images and pages digitized: 68,344

New records added to Pearl Digital Archives: 1,405

Total records in Pearl: 17,985

### COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA

Total number of CCP students who visited PHS: 70

54 unique items from the collections used in classes.
We are grateful for the support and commitment of our donors this past year. We are thrilled to be fully open and able to work in-person with students, researchers, and the general public.

The generosity of donors continues to help us collect, preserve, and share our archives, as well as expand our virtual capacity to sustain the engagement of many, across the country and around the world.

Thank you!

**WHY I GIVE: ERNEST R. HIGGINBOTHAM**

I support PHS because of what I didn't know when I joined the Board eight years ago.

Among other things, I didn’t know that PHS is driven by an institutional commitment to make our Presbyterian history—good and bad—available not only to researchers but also to our congregations and the general public.

PHS reaches beyond our denomination, for example, to work with Community College of Philadelphia to give its students the opportunity to learn research skills and how to tell historical stories by using primary source documents.

I have learned that the more I know about the PHS and its work, the more I want to support PHS.
An Expression of Gratitude

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Each year we acknowledge and honor the many individuals and organizations that have supported us throughout the previous year. It is impossible to express our gratitude for the countless ways so many have given to PHS in 2022. Please accept our profound thanks for your many gifts that have helped us collect, preserve, and share the story of the American Presbyterian experience.
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With the opening of business travel, PHS staff and Board members gathered for events in New York City in August and the Atlanta area in November. We celebrated the BKBB exhibit with an in-person event in October, and we welcomed a number of visitors through our doors, including author Reza Aslan.
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PHS makes every effort to accurately maintain its donor and collection listings. If you find an error or omission, please contact the development office at 215-928-3865 or email: development@history.pcusa.org

In 2022, PHS welcomed 6 new staff members.

From left to right: Kyna Herzinger, Records Manager; McKenna Britton, Communications Associate; Nick Skaggs, Processing Archivist; Ky Evans, Archives Technician; Amalia Cottrell, Archives Technician; and Elaine Shilstut, Cataloging and Metadata Librarian.
We also wish to thank the following organizations and individuals for depositing or donating church records and other archival materials to PHS in 2022.

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Alfreda Richardson
Andy Kraushaar and Annie Freidinger Siegle
Angene Hopkins Wilson
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Brick Presbyterian Church (New York, N.Y.)
Brown Memorial Park Avenue Presbyterian Church (Baltimore, Md.)
Capital Presbyterian Church (Harrisburg, Pa.)
Cecilia Scott Smith
Center for Brooklyn History
Chris R. Glaser
Christ Presbyterian Church of the Slate Belt (Bangor, Pa.)
Columbia Theological Seminary
Community Presbyterian Church (Orangeville, Ill.)
Covenant-First Presbyterian Church (Cincinnati, Ohio)
Covenant Presbyterian Church (Palo Alto, Calif.)
Covenant Presbyterian Church (Racine, Wis.)
Craig and Cheryl Costen
Cynthia Piatt
David Lessley
David Wallace
Diane Follmer
Dick Lundy
Dovis Pollock
Eastminster Presbyterian Church (Dallas, Tex.)
Eastminster Presbyterian Church (Pittsburgh, Pa.)
Eden Naby Frye
Faith Presbyterian Church (Huber Heights, Ohio)
First Presbyterian Church (Allentown, Pa.)
First Presbyterian Church (Canyon Country, Calif.)
First Presbyterian Church (Concord, N.C.)
First Presbyterian Church (El Dorado, Ark.)
First Presbyterian Church (Goshen, N.Y.)
First Presbyterian Church (Johnstown, Pa.)
First Presbyterian Church (Lakewood, N.J.)
First Presbyterian Church (Lodi, N.Y.)
First Presbyterian Church (Minerva, Ohio)
First Presbyterian Church (New Canaan, Conn.)
First Presbyterian Church (New Vernon, N.J.)
First Presbyterian Church (Petersburg, Alaska)
First Presbyterian Church (Philadelphia, Pa.)
First Presbyterian Church (Pittsford, N.Y.)
First Presbyterian Church (Santa Fe, N.M.)
First Presbyterian Church in Springfield (Flourtown, Pa.)
First Presbyterian Church of Greene County (Bloomfield, Ind.)
Gail Eakin Kanter Davis
Gladwyne Presbyterian Church (Gladwyne, Pa.)
Grace Presbyterian Church (Midland, Tex.)
Heritage Presbyterian Church (Lincoln, Neb.)
Iris Wallace
J. Barrie Shepherd
J. Herbert Nelson II
Jacklyn Walker
James Smith
Jean Sibley
Jefferson Presbyterian Church (Jefferson, La.)
Jin S. Kim
Joe Scrivner
Jong Dae Kim
Carl Murphy
Katie Day
Keith Geckeler
Kerry Rice
Korean Central Presbyterian Church (Houston, Tex.)
Korean Presbyterian Church of Metro Detroit (Southfield, Mich.)
Korean Presbyterian Church of the Lehigh Valley (Whitehall, Pa.)
Magalene McClarrin
Manassas Presbyterian Church (Manassas, Va.)
Margaret and Kerry Poethig
Margaret Thorne Maschal
Mark Ruggiero
Market Square Presbyterian Church (Harrisburg, Pa.)
Mary Ann Lundy
Milesburg Presbyterian Church (Milesburg, Pa.)
Mona Bomgaars
Mount Horeb Presbyterian Church (Grottoes, Va.)
Nancy Hall Berens
New Hope Presbyterian Church (Derwood, Md.)
New Windsor Presbyterian Church (New Windsor, Ill.)
Oak Grove Presbyterian Church (Amelia, Va.)
Octavia Coleman
Oscar McCloud
Patricia Buck

The August PHS LIVE session featured guests Mary Ann Lundy, Rev. John Fife, Amanda Craft, and Patty Barcelo for a discussion on the Sanctuary Movement.
Paul Rack
Paul Watermulder
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Plaza Presbyterian Church (Charlotte, N.C.)
Presbyterian Church (Argenta, Ill.)
Presbyterian Foundation—Robyn Sekula
Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network
Presbytery of Beaver Butler
Presbytery of Boise
Presbytery of Boston
Presbytery of Cayuga Syracuse
Presbytery of Central Florida
Presbytery of Cherokee
Presbytery of Cincinnati
Presbytery of the Coastlands
Presbytery of De Cristo
Presbytery of Denver
Presbytery of Detroit
Presbytery of East Iowa
Presbytery of Eastern Oklahoma
Presbytery of Flint River
Presbytery of Genesee Valley
Presbytery of Grand Canyon
Presbytery of Great Rivers
Presbytery of Heartland
Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey
Presbytery of Homestead
Presbytery of Hudson River
Presbytery of Huntington
Presbytery of Indian Nations
Presbytery of John Calvin
Presbytery of John Knox
Presbytery of Lake Erie
Presbytery of Maumee Valley
Presbytery of Miami Valley
Presbytery of Mission
Presbytery of Missouri River Valley
Presbytery of Missouri Union
Presbytery of New Castle
Presbytery of New Hope
Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey
Presbytery of Northern New England
Presbytery of Ohio Valley
Presbytery of Olympia
Presbytery of Pittsburgh
Presbytery of Plains and Peaks
Presbytery of San Gabriel
Presbytery of San Jose
Presbytery of Shenandoah
Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois
Presbytery of Southern Kansas
Presbytery of Southern New England
Presbytery of Transylvania
Presbytery of Wabash Valley
Presbytery of Western Colorado
Presbytery of Winnebago
Ralph C. Jones, Jr.
Rebecca Prichard
Rene Myers
Rhassell Hunter
Richard Mickley
Robert Dow Nicholson
Roland Merchant
Ruth Halverson
Samantha Lund
Scott Anderson
Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church
(Shepherdstown, W. Va.)
Sherri Hunter
Siloam Hope First Presbyterian Church
(Elizabeth, N.J.)
St. John’s Presbyterian Church (Camas, Wash.)
St. John’s Presbyterian Church (Detroit, Mich.)
Stephen Bennsky
Stony Point Center (Stony Point, N.Y.)
Susan Aggarwal
Susan Andrews
Synod of the Rocky Mountains
Thomas Campbell-Schmitt
Tom McAfee
Veronica Ransom
Webster Presbyterian Church (Webster, Tex.)
Westfield Presbyterian Church (Westfield, N.J.)
Westminster Gardens (Duarte, Calif.)
Whitesboro Presbyterian Church
(Whitesboro, N.Y.)
William S. Voncannon
Wyche Presbyterian Church (Hampton, Va.)
Yushin Lee
Zemula Fleming

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MAY 21:
HERITAGE SUNDAY

Presbyterian Reunion
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