



The New York Public Library  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,  
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

**Alexander and Shirlene Stewart Pentecostal collection**

1925-1993

Sc MG 477

Processed by Christine McKay.

## Summary

**Creator:** Stewart, Alexander C., 1957-

**Title:** Alexander and Shirlene Stewart Pentecostal collection

**Date:** 1925-1993

**Source:** Provenance: Gift of Alexander and Shirlene Stewart SCM93-5

**Abstract:** The Alexander and Shirlene Stewart Pentecostal collection provides information on four African-American Pentecostal denominations: Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, founded by Robert C. Lawson in 1919 in Harlem; Bible Way Church World Wide, founded by Smallwood Williams in 1927 as a Washington, D.C. congregation of Lawson's Church and incorporated as a denomination in 1957; Church of The Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, founded by Sherrod C. Johnson in 1933 after a split with Lawson; and United Pentecostal Council of the Assemblies of God, founded in 1919 to assist missions. The collection contains miscellaneous programs, news clippings, correspondence, sermons, articles, journals, and other printed material, as well as a scholarly paper on missions by Alexander Stewart and response by Kenneth Gill.

**Preferred citation:** Alexander and Shirlene Stewart Pentecostal collection, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Christine McKay; machine-readable finding aid created by Apex Data Services; revised by Terry Catapano.

## Creator History

The Alexander and Shirlene Stewart Pentecostal Collection was donated by Alexander Stewart, Assistant Historian of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, to complement the DuPree African-American Pentecostal Collection. It documents the doctrines and activities of four African-American Pentecostal denominations: Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, founded by Robert C. Lawson in 1919; Bible Way Church World Wide, founded by Smallwood Williams in 1927 as a Washington, D.C. congregation of Lawson's Church and incorporated as a denomination in



1927; Church of The Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, founded by Sherrod C. Johnson in 1933 after a split with Lawson; and United Pentecostal Council of the Assemblies of God, founded in 1919 to assist missions.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The collection includes miscellaneous programs, clippings, correspondence, sermons, articles, journals, and other printed material.

**Arrangement:** Arranged by denomination

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

African American churches  
African American Pentecostals  
African Americans -- Religion  
Pentecostal churches -- United States  
Pentecostalism -- United States

### **Titles**

Preservation of the Black Religious Heritage Project funded by the Lilly Endowment

### **Names**

Stewart, Alexander C., 1957-  
Assemblies of God. United Pentecostal Council  
Bible Way Churches of Our Lord Jesus Christ World Wide  
Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith  
Church of The Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith



## Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 **Bible Way Church World Wide 1991**  
The folder includes programs for memorial services for Smallwood Williams and his daughter, musician and educator Pearl Williams-Jones, and an obituary for Smallwood Williams.
- Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith**  
The folders contain miscellaneous correspondence; clippings on Refuge Temple in New York and Robert C. Lawson, and Solomon's Temple in Detroit, and its pastor William L. Bonner; several issues of *Contender of the Faith*; a souvenir journal for Solomon's Temple; a 1932 brochure for Lawson's Industrial Union Training School in North Carolina; and other printed material. Also included are writings by Lawson and Bonner, including a lesson on homosexuality, and a scholarly paper on missions by Alexander Stewart with a response by Kenneth D. Gill.
- b. 1 f. 2 **Miscellaneous Correspondence and Printed Material 1925-1993**
- b. 1 f. 3 **Writings of William L. Bonner 1977-1979**
- b. 1 f. 4 **Writings of Robert C. Lawson n.d.**
- b. 1 f. 5 **Church of The Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith 1948-1991**  
The folder includes a 1948 issue of *Guiding Light* containing a sermon by Sherrod C. Johnson and biographical information; an obituary for Johnson; excerpts from a statement regarding the church dress code; and a 1989 letter discussing the death of Johnson and subsequent split in the denomination.
- b. 1 f. 6 **United Pentecostal Council of the Assemblies of God 1991**  
The folder contains a program of the 72d National Convention with a historical statement and lists of officers and tenets of faith.