HOLY GROUND, INC.

Emory University
Pitts Theology Library
1531 Dickey Drive, Suite 560
Atlanta, GA 30322
404-727-4166

Descriptive Summary

Creator: Holy Ground, Inc.
Title: Holy Ground Inc. records, 1993-2009.
Call Number: Record Group No. 061
Extent: 7 cubic feet (15 boxes)
Abstract: Contains the organizational records for Holy Ground, Inc., a non-profit center for spiritual retreat, religious exploration, and interfaith dialogue.
Language: Materials entirely in English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on Access
Unrestricted access.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction
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Source
Gift.

Citation
[after identification of item(s)], Holy Ground, Inc. records, RG 061, Archives and Manuscript Dept., Pitts Theology Library, Emory University.

Processing
Processed by Elizabeth Arnold and Brandon Wason, July 2016.

Collection Description

Historical Note
Holy Ground, Inc. was founded in 1993 by Sandra Smith and Dorri Sherrill, two graduates of Candler School of Theology at Emory University. Both wanted to recreate the theologically

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diverse, pro-woman environment for religious and spiritual inquiry they experienced in seminary. They established Holy Ground, Inc. in Asheville, North Carolina as a center for spiritual retreat, religious exploration, and interfaith dialogue—all with an eco-feminist foundation.

Over the next fifteen years, Holy Ground hosted speakers ranging from distinguished biblical scholars to various artists to prominent religious figures. The center facilitated educational seminars on topics including ethics, social justice, political activism, self-care, and creative living. Retreats included a yearly mother-daughter weekend, labyrinth meditation walks, guided hikes in the Blue Ridge Mountains, and silent retreats on solstice days.

Holy Ground, Inc. dissolved in 2009 as the result of the economic hardships for non-profit organizations during recession years and the resignation of inspirational executive director Sandra Smith. The organizational records were returned to Candler School of Theology, the conceptual birthplace of Holy Ground, Inc.

Scope and Content Note
Holy Ground, Inc. records features both the public promotional materials, records, and literature along with the internal correspondence, planning, and organizational materials. Also included are financial and administrative records, board minutes, and legal documents designating both their corporate and non-profit status.

Arrangement Note
The collection is organized into five series: (1) administrative records, (2) correspondence, (3) financial records, (4) publications, and (5) workshops, seminars, and events.

Series 1—Administrative records: Encompasses board minutes, articles of corporation, dissolution materials and documents, and non-profit status records.

Series 2—Correspondence: Includes letters from encouragement and contribution, planning for various speakers/presenters, and follow-up correspondence for various topics and events.

Series 3—Financial records: Consists of budget records, fundraising materials, and grant applications.

Series 4—Publications: Entails newsletters, scrapbook materials, an academic paper detailing the organization’s narrative, and a cookbook published by Holy Ground.

Series 5—Workshops, seminars, and events: Records community and organizational activities promoted and facilitated by Holy Ground.
## Container List

### Administrative Records

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### Correspondence

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### Financial Records

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5  2  Mother's and Father's Day Fundraiser, 2001-2006
5  3  Soul Circles: Spiritual Resource Project Sponsors, 2005-2008
5  4  Valparaiso Grant Application, 2005

### Publications

5  5  "At the Intersection of Sacred Circles and Public Squares: The Story of Holy Ground"
5  6  *Feasting on Food and the Enneagram* (cookbook), 2005

### Workshops, Seminars, and Events

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7  2  "Activism and Spiritual Life" Project Descriptions, 2004
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7  5  Barbara Hughes Art and Healing Event, 2007
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8  2  "Creating Beloved Community" with bell hooks, 2001
8  3  Creativity-Centered Hike and Play Events, 2003
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8  7  Earth Religions Workshop Materials, 2007
8  8  Eco-Feminism and Militarism Seminar, 2004
8  9  "Encountering the Religious Other" with Thomas Thangaraj, 1995, 2002
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9  3  Feminism Course Materials, 2001

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9  4  Feminist Bible and Forgiveness Event Records, 2008
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9 12  Freeing Your Natural Voice
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10  6  Holy Ground Art Exhibit Records, 2008
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10  9  Interfaith Seder, 2007-2009
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