

Group 4

Reading Primary Source Guide

Document Creator/Source	Who wrote it? When? Why? Is it a plausibly reliable source?
Audience	Who was the intended audience? Was there more than one audience/purpose?
Historical Background	When and where was the document created? What was different then? How did circumstances at that time affect the content?
Close Reading	What language (words, ideas, phrases, images) does the document use to persuade the audience(s)? How does the language reveal the author's perspective?

Investigative Questions:

Why did the Upper Room see a need for spiritual support for PWA (People with AIDS) fighting AIDS? Consider the community as a whole, the people with AIDS and their families, and the caregiving professionals.

Both documents are from neighborhood-level newsletters. To this day, Upper Room AIDS Ministry, does not have an entry in Wikipedia. Who would create a record of grassroots neighborhood efforts to combat AIDS? Without a record, how would it be known to history?

REPORT OUT: What newspapers covered the Black organizations and churches that fought AIDS? History necessarily generalizes complicated realities—what got left out in reporting on Black religion and HIV/AIDS?

Document E Upper Room AIDS Ministry

Big Red News...Feb. 1 - 7, 1992...13

RELIGION

By
Lady
Peachema

Rev. Ella Eure-Eaton Joins The Upper Room AIDS Ministry

By Lady Peachema

The Upper Room AIDS Ministry [URAM], a nonprofit, Harlem-based organization providing direct physical and spiritual support to homeless people with AIDS, rang in the new year with the hiring of its first full-time chaplain, Rev. Ella Eure-Eaton.

Rev. Eaton is an ordained minister in the Church of Truth and holistic spiritual counselor who received her Clinical Pastoral Education [CPE] training at Bellevue and St. Luke's/Roosevelt hospitals. She's a graduate of North Carolina Central University, [Durham, N.C.] with a B.A. degree in music.

Rev. Eaton has served as a pastoral counselor to people with AIDS and their families since 1981, was recently cited by the Department of Corrections at Bayview Correctional Facility for her work in their AIDS support group. This concerned minister is featured in "Thinking About Death," a documentary produced by the Gay Men's

Health Crisis which recently aired on cable television.

As the coordinator of URAM's pastoral care services, Rev. Eaton's responsibilities include bereavement counseling to both individual clients as well as support groups; the training and direction of "buddies" from Harlem congregations



Rev. Ella Eure-Eaton

to provide home and hospital visits, companionship, emotional support and household assistance; and the coordination of the quarterly weekend retreats which provide clients with spiritual, social and recreational activities outside of the city. This multi-talented minister is also a great concert singer having sung with both the Metropolitan and City Opera companies, and she's appeared on Broadway in "Treemonisha," "Porgy and Bess" and "Trumpets of the Lord."

When I asked her how she got this position she replied, "I came to The Upper Room to confirm what everyone there already knows in his or her own heart: that because God loves us all, we must join together to address our existing conditions, going straight to the spirit as the originator of new forms and new conditions."

Rev. Eaton further revealed that she had been ministering to cancer patients, AIDS patients and homeless people since 1981, using her

own monies to buy foods, clothing and necessary items for them. "People heard about what I was doing and sent me monies to continue doing this," she explained, "I was a willing vessel, God trained me for this mission and took away the fear. I was raised to be nonjudgemental and as I work with these AIDS patients I see myself standing in proxy for Christ."

"I asked myself how would Jesus respond," she said. "In the Holy Scriptures, Jesus Christ never asked people how they got sick, he just healed them."

This spirit-filled minister expressed her hope that URAM receives full funding for her position. "This com-

munity is filled with people desperately in need of spiritual support and The Upper Room is filling an essential pastoral role in Harlem that has been vacant for far too long for people with AIDS. It is critical that my position be fully funded not only for my own benefit, but more importantly, for the benefit of people who are struggling against the dual epidemics of poverty and HIV."

If you would like to support the work of The Upper Room by making a financial contribution or volunteering please call (212) 491-9000, or write to The Upper Room AIDS Ministry, 207 W. 133 Street, New York, N.Y. 10030.

Upper Room AIDS Ministry is a Catholic Worker movement program not affiliated with any specific religious tradition. **Citation:** Lady Peachema, "Rev. Ella Eure-Eaton Joins The Upper Room AIDS Ministry," *Big Red News*, Feb. 1-7, 1992, p 13. Copy found in Susan M. Chambré Research Files on Volunteer AIDS Organizations, Yale University Manuscripts and Archives. MS 2054 Box 9 Folder 4.

Document F AIDS Ministry Opens PWA Housing

NYQ December 1, 1991

AIDS MINISTRY LAUNCHES PWA HOUSING PROGRAM

By Avril McDonald

NEW YORK—The first clients moved into the Upper Room AIDS Ministry's (URAM) new scattered site housing program last week. The program, which will provide permanent accommodation for 15 individuals and five families in the Central Harlem area, is funded by the URAM and the New York City Division of AIDS services.

"The apartment program is geared towards homeless people with AIDS and their families," said Chuck Henry, URAM's director of development. "Most of them are gay," he added. Residents are free to come and go as they please and will pay a small stipend for their apartments.

URAM also recently expanded its Adult Day Community Center. Last week, it staged a grand opening of the newly relocated center, which has moved from 100th Street to 133rd Street and Seventh Avenue. The center, which currently operates three days-a-week, will be open six days-a-week starting January.

The center is a "one-stop shop," which provides comprehensive on-site services to its mainly gay homeless PWA clientele, including case management; hot meals; recreational facilities; safer sex and risk reduction education; counselling and support groups; medical care; referrals; financial advocacy; and training in daily living skills.

In addition URAM provides a pastoral care program, which includes a "buddy" service for home- and hospital-bound PWAs and spiritual guidance. However, participation in the spiritual side of the service is not a prerequisite to availing of the ministry's services, said Henry.

Last week's grand opening included a bulb-planting ceremony and speech-making by guests who included City Councilwoman C. Virginia Fields and Dr. Nathan Wright, senior minister of St. Phillips Episcopal Church.

Upper Room offers peer support and pastoral services, but participation in them is not required to obtain other social services. **Citation:** Avril McDonald, "AIDS Ministry Launches PWA Housing Program," NYQ Dec. 1, 1991. Copy from Susan M. Chambré Research Files on Volunteer AIDS Organizations, Yale University Manuscripts and Archives. MS 2054 Box 9 Folder 4.