

Basic Detail Report

Title Interview with Davida Foy Crabtree

Date 23 October 2024

Primary Maker Davida Foy Crabtree

Medium born digital audio file

Description Audio file of interview with Davida Foy Crabtree. She was

interviewed by Erica Dewey on 23 October 2024 in Bloomfield, Connecticut.

Davida was interviewed as part of the Connecticut Museum of Culture and

History's Community History Project discussing moments of change in her life.

Davida described change as more justice and inclusion for all people, and

through this lens, she discussed her moments of change. She mentioned

throughout the interview how the oppression she faced in pursuing her call as a

minister ultimately made her more self-confident and determined. Recalling her

first moment of change, Davida spoke about returning to school after a summer

church camp at Silver Lake (Sharon, CT) and being laughed at by her peers and

teacher when she shared her desire to be a minister. They told her girls could

not be ministers, but that only motivated Davida more to pursue her passion.

Her parents also provided unconditional support for Davida's desire to be a

minister, which helped her overcome the challenges she faced. Despite

opposition, Davida eventually presented her paper to become an ordained

minister and took the opportunity to defend the Women's Liberation Movement

(as it was known then). Another moment of change occurred after Davida

founded the Prudence Crandall Center in New Britain, Connecticut. A woman

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came to her for help, explaining she was a victim of “wife beating.” Davida recognized the magnitude of the situation and immediately started raising awareness of domestic violence. The last moment of change she talked about was her role at the United Church of Christ when a big donor adamantly opposed gay marriage. Davida spoke up to parishioners and explained that the church needed to “support a community of people that were so under duress all the time,” changing people’s viewpoints. In addition, Davida mentioned one of her most recent roles in the Third Act organization as the founder of the Connecticut chapter. The Third Act is a group of Americans 60 and older. They advocate for climate change and democracy, focusing on relational organizing to maximize strengths. Davida emphasized that through her various work in the community, instead of seeing suffering and judging it or “blaming the victim,” she has always turned toward it to understand people’s experiences. Based on her life experiences, the biggest lesson she has learned is to value and maintain integrity regardless of the work you do.

Dimensions Duration: 36 Minutes, 47 Seconds