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Christian Unity Foundation records10522085

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 14, 2025.

Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

3041 Broadway

New York, NY 10027

Telephone: (212) 851-5606

burke@library.columbia.edu

URL: <https://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke.html>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	4
Controlled Access Headings	5
Burke Library record group:	6
Collection Inventory	6
Christian Unity Foundation records	6

Summary Information

Repository:	Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
Creator:	Christian Unity Foundation
Title:	Christian Unity Foundation records
ID:	10522085
Date [inclusive]:	1907 -- 1921
Physical Description:	2 linear feet 2 linear feet; 1 oversize box
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	This collection contains minutes, a constitution, by-laws, reports, treasurers accounts, member lists, correspondence, and pamphlets of an Episcopal organization founded in 1910 to support Christian unity through research and conferences.

Preferred Citation

Item description, WAB: Christian Unity Foundation records, 1907-1921, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical / Historical

The Christian Unity Foundation was incorporated in 1910 by twelve clergymen and twelve laymen of the Episcopal Church: Rev. William Croswell Doane (Bishop of Albany); Rev. Frederick Courtney (Bishop of Nova Scotia); Rev. Boyd Vincent (Bishop of Southern Ohio); Rev. Charles Palmerston Anderson (Bishop of Chicago); Rev. David H. Greer (Bishop of New York); Rev. Edwin Stevens Lines, (Bishop of Newark); Rev. Canon George William Douglas; Rev. Canon Robert Ellis Jones; Rev. Reese F. Alsop; Rev. H. R. Gummey, Jr.; Rev. Rockland Homans; Rev. Arthur Lowndes; Rear Admiral Caspar F. Goodrich (United States Navy), Colonel Charles William Larned (United States Army); Chief Justice J. H. Stiness; Robert Fulton Cutting, John M. Glenn, Francis C. Huntington, George Gordon King; William Fellowes Morgan; George Wharton Pepper; Lawson Purdy; Charles G. Saunders; William Jay Schieffelin. Reverend Arthur Lowndes served as secretary of the Foundation. Its offices were located at

143 East 37th Street, New York City. The objective of the Foundation was to promote Christian unity in the United States and abroad through research and conferences. The organization sought to gather and disseminate accurate information relative to the faith and works of all Christian denominations, as well as to highlight the problem of divisions within the church and to suggest practical ways for denominations to work together as one body of Christ. In 1921, the Foundation published a book entitled *The Problem of Christian Unity*. The fact that all of the founding members of the Christian Unity Foundation were Episcopalian led many to suspect that the real aim of the foundation was to bring other denominations into the fold of the Episcopal Church. The organization responded by assuring the public that this was not their aim, and that they would proceed with their mission slowly and with "quietness, gentleness, and humility." However they expressed the belief that "the only way to attain large unity is to start with a small number of men who perfectly agree."

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

This collection contains minutes, a constitution, by-laws, reports, treasurers accounts, member lists, correspondence, and pamphlets of an Episcopal organization founded in 1910 to support Christian unity through research and conferences.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in one chronological series.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

PDF converted to EAD and description updated by Leah Edelman. 2021-11-05

Conditions Governing Access

This collection may contain some restricted material. Restrictions related to specific material are listed in the detailed contents list.

Onsite storage.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The exact provenance of this collection is unknown.

Custodial History

The papers are part of the William Adams Brown Ecumenical Library Archives, which was founded in 1945 by the Union Theological Seminary Board of Directors.

Processing Information

Loose scrapbook pages with affixed materials were placed into Mylar envelopes. Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Acidic items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper as needed. The finding aid was created by Kristen Leigh Southworth and Brigette C. Kamsler in 2013 with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation, and edited by Leah Edelman in 2021.

Conditions Governing Use

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[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Ecumenical movement -- History -- Sources
- Christian Unity Foundation

Burke Library record group:

William Adams Brown Ecumenical Library Archives

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Collection Inventory

Christian Unity Foundation records, 1907 -- 1921

Physical Description: 2 linear feet 2 linear feet; 1 oversize box

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Arrangement

This series is arranged in chronological order.

Scope and Contents

This series contains minutes, a constitution, by-laws, reports, treasurers accounts, member lists, correspondence, and pamphlets of an Episcopal organization founded in 1910 to support Christian unity through research and conferences.

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence, Minutes, Reports, 1907 -- 1910	box 1	folder 1
Loose scrapbook papers, circa 1910 -- 1921	box 1	folder 2-3
Scrapbook, circa 1907 -- 1921	box 1	folder 4

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This file is open for research, but contains items that are extremely fragile, necessitating great care in handling. Please contact Burke Library staff for more information.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)