



# ArchivesSpace

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## Church World Service records4492691

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Description is written in: English.

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Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

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

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
<b>Creator:</b>	National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Church World Service
<b>Title:</b>	Church World Service records
<b>ID:</b>	4492691
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1925 -- 1969
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.75 linear feet 1.75 linear feet; 5 boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	The Church World Service (CWS) was founded in 1946, merging three pre-existing organizations, and continues to provide aid and support worldwide after merging with the National Council of Churches in 1965. The collection contains administrative material, including meeting minutes, by laws, reports, and financial papers; publications, including newsletters, published and unpublished articles, promotional materials, reports, and correspondence; as well as personal stories from those who worked for CWS.

### Preferred Citation

Item description, WAB: Church World Service records, 1925-1969, series #, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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## Biographical / Historical

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The Church World Service (CWS) was founded in 1946, with a mission of "Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, heal the sick, comfort the aged, shelter the homeless." It merged three preexisting groups: the Church Committee for China Relief, the Church Committee for Relief in Asia, and the Church Committee for Overseas Relief and Reconstruction. A total of seventeen denominations, both Catholic and Protestant, formed CWS in order to provide aid such as

food, clothing and medical supplies to those affected by World War Two. Successful programs included the Immigration and Refugee Program, Christian Rural Overseas Program and One Great Hour of Sharing, which still exist today. In the 1950s and 1960s, CWS expanded from Europe and Asia to assistance in Africa and Latin America. It was also during the 1960s that the organization began to provide funds for development along with pre-existing emergency aid. In 1965, CWS merged with the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States: Division of Overseas Ministries. Aside from their help to overseas, in 1970 CWS began serving the United States during disaster. Much of CWS's success is due to partnerships, some of which have separated to create other organizations such as the Middle East Council of Churches, the Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh or CEPAD in Nicaragua. CWS is still active in over thirty countries. The National Council of Churches considers it a sister agency.

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection contains administrative material, including meeting minutes, by laws, reports, and financial papers; publications, including newsletters, published and unpublished articles, promotional materials, reports, and correspondence; as well as personal stories from those who worked for CWS.

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## Arrangement

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This collection is arranged in three series: Administrative records; Publications; and Personal accounts.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

3041 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027

Telephone: (212) 851-5606

[burke@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burke@library.columbia.edu)

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

### **Revision Description**

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

### **Conditions Governing Access**

This collection is open for research.

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**

Material was cataloged by Lynn A. Grove on 1988-08-05. Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Metal staples were left in some items to prevent document(s) from tearing. 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. Some articles were kept together with glue and/or tape; they were not separated to prevent damage(s) to the documents. The finding aid was created by Fatoma Rad and Brigette C. Kamsler in 2013 with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation, and edited by Leah Edelman in 2021.

### **Conditions Governing Use**

Some material in this collection may be protected by copyright and other rights. Information concerning copyright, fair use, and reproduction requests can be consulted at Columbia's Copyright Advisory Office.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Materials

Records of the Church World Service, 1946-1992 (inclusive). HR1128. Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

### Related Materials

Church World Service Records, RG 529, Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Christian union -- Societies, etc

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## Burke Library record group:

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William Adams Brown Ecumenical Library Archives

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## Collection Inventory

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### Series 1: Administrative records, 1925 -- 1950

Physical Description: 0.75 linear feet 0.75 linear feet; 2 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

#### Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

#### Arrangement

This series is unarranged.

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains administrative material of CWS, including meeting minutes, by laws, reports, and financial papers.

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
By-Laws and Historical Information, 1946	box 1	folder 1
Minutes, 1945 -- 1950	box 1	folder 2-4
Japan, Korea, Okinawa Committee Meeting Minutes, 1947 -- 1948	box 1	folder 5
South East Asia Committee and India Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes, 1947 -- 1948	box 1	folder 6
Annual Meeting, 1949-02-16	box 1	folder 7
Monthly Reports, 1946 -- 1947	box 1	folder 8-9
Treasury Reports, 1946 -- 1947	box 1	folder 10
Summary of Aid Shipped and Received, 1945 -- 1947	box 2	folder 1
Committee Reports and Briefings, 1946 -- 1947	box 2	folder 2
Reports by Country, 1945 -- 1947	box 2	folder 3
Reports and Correspondence, 1925 -- 1949	box 2	folder 4

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**Series 2: Publications, 1937 -- 1969**

Physical Description: 0.75 linear feet 0.75 linear feet; 2 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

**Conditions Governing Access**

This series is open for research.

**Arrangement**

This series is unarranged.

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains newsletters, articles before they were published along with their published counterparts, posters, flyers, brochures and pamphlets, and general materials that were used to help market the Organization's goals and programs. This series also contains information about the Displaced Persons Program and One Great Hour of Sharing. Also included are official letters that were sent by the CWS leaders along with some confidential reports that were to remain unpublished.

<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Material to be published, 1937 -- 1951	box 3	folder 1-5
News release, 1949	box 3	folder 6

Confidential reports, 1947	box 3	folder 7
Addresses, 1946 -- 1951	box 3	folder 8-9
Church World Service News, 1946 -- 1949	box 3	folder 10
Brochures, Pamphlets, Information Sheets, 1944 -- 1950	box 4	folder 1
Church World Service News and Other Newsletters, 1943 -- 1950	box 4	folder 2
Programs and Events, 1947 -- 1950	box 4	folder 3
Displaced Persons Program, 1946 -- 1950	box 4	folder 4
Collaborative Organization Publications: Interchurch Newsletter, 1969	box 4	folder 5
Posters, circa 1940 -- 1949	box 4	folder 6

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### Series 3: Personal accounts, 1946 -- 1951

Physical Description: 0.25 linear feet 0.25 linear feet; 1 box

Conditions Governing Access:

#### Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

#### Arrangement

This series is arranged in rough chronological order.

#### Scope and Contents

This series contains personal stories from those who worked for CWS and their experiences of helping those who needed aid. Members of note include Abbe Livingston Warnhuis, who was Executive Vice President. The accounts originate from various locations in Europe and Asia.

Title/Description	Instances	
Personal stories, 1946 -- 1951	box 5	folder 1-4
Letters of gratitude, 1950	box 5	folder 5
Pleas from countries, 1946 -- 1948	box 5	folder 6

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