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City Councils of Churches records4492692

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Description is written in: English.

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Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

3041 Broadway

New York, NY 10027

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

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Summary Information

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Repository: | Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary |
| Creator: | National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America |
| Title: | City Councils of Churches records |
| ID: | 4492692 |
| Date [inclusive]: | 1909 -- 1970 |
| Physical Description: | 3 linear feet 3 linear feet; 6 boxes |
| Language of the Material: | English . |
| Abstract: | The various City Councils of Churches were ecumenical organizations that focused on Christian and church unity at the local level. Among the materials included in the collection are annual reports, bulletins and newsletters, and pamphlets. |

Preferred Citation

Item description, WAB: City Councils of Churches records, 1909-1970, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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Biographical / Historical

The mid-twentieth century was a significant period in the development of the Ecumenical movement in the United States. In 1950, the Foreign Missions Conference of North America gave way to the Division of Foreign Missions of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. According to Ruth Rouse in *A History of the Ecumenical Movement, 1517-1948*, the unity of eight then-separate national councils, among them the Foreign Missions Conference, the Council of Church Women, and Council for Religious Education, "practically organized all aspects of the Churches' common life in an ecclesiastically-constituted organ of common action." This development, along with the creation of the World Council of Churches in 1948, was a significant one for the ecumenical movement for much of the same reason. For the first time, there were two denominationally-

connected groups with common goals of creating Christian unity in both doctrine and action. These goals are reflected in the City Councils of Churches Records and illustrate their execution on a local level. The Constitution for The Federation of Churches of Christ in Albany, New York, for example, stated its object as the development of "the spirit of Christian fellowship and to promote through cooperative effort the spiritual, moral, social, and civic welfare of the community." Similarly, The Council of Churches of Buffalo and Erie County state one of their objects as concerning itself "with all those interests that concern the churches, especially those matters of mutual helpfulness and community influence..." These objectives manifest themselves in the activities of each city council represented in this collection, whether this is in regards to matters of religious education, race relations, or social welfare.

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Scope and Contents

This collection contains materials created by or for the City Councils of Churches, including administrative materials (such as constitutions, by-laws, and policies), annual reports and meetings records, bulletins and newsletters, pamphlets, event programs, and informational brochures. The materials address a variety of issues common across the cities represented in the collections, including religious education, social welfare and action, youth, and race relations.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in one alphabetical series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Revision Description

XML instance created by Rebecca Weintraub. EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. EAD spot checked and corrected and description updated by Leah Edelman. 2013-06-29 2019-05-20 2021-02-10

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Onsite storage.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The exact provenance of this collection is unknown.

Processing Information

Some material was cataloged by Lynn A. Grove on 1988-08-05. 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 Rebecca Weintraub in 2012 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

Related Materials

WAB: Council of Churches of the City of New York, Dept. of Church Planning and Research, series #, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Related Materials

WAB: National Council of Churches Records, series #, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Related Materials

WAB: World Council of Churches Records, series #, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Local councils of churches -- New York (State) -- Albany
- Local councils of churches -- Connecticut -- Bridgeport
- Local councils of churches -- New York (State) -- Buffalo
- Local councils of churches -- Illinois -- Chicago
- Local councils of churches -- Ohio -- Cleveland
- Local councils of churches -- Michigan -- Detroit
- Local councils of churches -- Connecticut -- Hartford
- Local councils of churches -- California -- Los Angeles
- Local councils of churches -- Kentucky -- Louisville
- Local councils of churches -- Pennsylvania -- Philadelphia
- Local councils of churches -- Pennsylvania -- Pittsburgh
- Local councils of churches -- Texas -- San Antonio
- Local councils of churches -- California -- San Francisco
- Local councils of churches -- Missouri -- Saint Louis
- Local councils of churches -- Washington (D.C.)

Burke Library record group:

William Adams Brown Ecumenical Library Archives

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Collection Inventory

City Council of Churches records, 1909 -- 1970

Physical Description: 3 linear feet 3 linear feet; 6 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged alphabetically by city.

Scope and Contents

This series contains materials created by or for the City Councils of Churches, including administrative materials (such as constitutions, by-laws, and policies), annual reports and meetings records, bulletins and newsletters, pamphlets, event programs, and informational brochures. The materials address a variety of issues common across the cities represented in the collections, including religious education, social welfare and action, youth, and race relations.

| Title/Description | Instances | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Albany, 1947-1954 | | |
| Administrative, 1948-1951 | box 1 | folder 1 |
| Annual Reports and Meetings, 1947-1954 | box 1 | folder 2 |
| Bulletins and Newsletters, 1948-1953 | box 1 | folder 3 |
| Pamphlets, circa 1947 -- 1948 | box 1 | folder 4 |
| Weekday Church School, circa 1947 -- 1951 | box 1 | folder 5 |
| General, circa 1947 -- 1951 | box 1 | folder 6 |
| Bridgeport, 1945-1953 | | |
| Annual Reports and Meetings, 1946-1951 | box 1 | folder 7 |
| Bulletins and Newsletters, 1947-1953 | box 1 | folder 8 |
| Church Directory, 1950 | box 1 | folder 9 |
| Events, 1950-1951 | box 1 | folder 10 |
| Pamphlets, 1947-1952 | box 1 | folder 11 |
| School of Religion [Bridgeport Area Leadership Training School], 1945-1952 | box 1 | folder 12 |
| Toward...A Church Strategy for Metropolitan Bridgeport, 1947 | box 1 | folder 13 |
| Buffalo, 1942-1957 | | |

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|---------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------|
| Administrative, 1942-1951 | box 1 | folder 14 |
| Annual Reports and Meetings, 1944-1954 | box 1 | folder 15 |
| Bulletins and Newsletters, 1947-1957 | box 1 | folder 16 |
| Pamphlets, 1946-1952 | box 1 | folder 17 |
| General, circa 1942 -- 1950 | box 1 | folder 18 |
| Chicago, 1943-1955 | | |
| Annual Reports and Meetings, 1945-1953 | box 1 | folder 19 |
| Bulletins and Newsletters, 1949-1955 | box 1 | folder 20 |
| Pamphlets, 1943 | box 1 | folder 21 |
| Cleveland, 1953-1970 | | |
| Bulletins and Newsletters, 1953-1970 | box 2 | folder 1-2 |
| Detroit, 1943-1954 | | |
| Administrative, 1943-1946 | box 2 | folder 3 |
| Annual Reports and Meetings, 1947-1954 | box 2 | folder 4 |
| Detroit Council of Religious Education, 1947 | box 2 | folder 5 |
| Pamphlets, circa 1943 -- 1951 | box 2 | folder 6 |
| War Emergency Commission Report of Progress, circa 1943 | box 2 | folder 7 |
| General, 1947-1954 | box 2 | folder 8 |
| Hartford, 1946-1954 | | |
| Administrative, 1948 | box 2 | folder 9 |
| Annual Reports and Meetings, 1946-1953 | box 2 | folder 10-11 |
| Bulletins and Newsletters, 1947-1954 | box 2 | folder 12-13 |
| Church Study of Metropolitan Hartford Connecticut, 1947 | box 3 | folder 1 |
| Department of Christian Education, 1950-1954 | box 3 | folder 2 |
| Department of Social Service, circa 1946 -- 1953 | box 3 | folder 3 |
| Events, circa 1946 -- 1954 | box 3 | folder 4 |
| Pamphlets, circa 1946 -- 1954 | box 3 | folder 5 |
| Youth Council, 1949-1954 | box 3 | folder 6 |
| General, 1949-1952 | box 3 | folder 7 |
| Los Angeles, 1945-1963 | | |
| Annual Reports and Meetings, 1945-1955 | box 3 | folder 8-10 |
| Bulletins and Newsletters, 1947-1962 | box 3 | folder 11-12 |

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------|
| Church Welfare Bureau, circa 1945 -- 1949 | box 4 | folder 1 |
| Clergy Advisory Committee, 1952 | box 4 | folder 2 |
| Correspondence, 1952-1963 | box 4 | folder 3 |
| Ecumenical Conference, 1953 | box 4 | folder 4 |
| Ministers' Convocation, 1952-1957 | box 4 | folder 5 |
| Pamphlets, circa 1945 -- 1954 | box 4 | folder 6 |
| General, 1955-1958 | box 4 | folder 7 |
| Louisville, 1944-1954 | | |
| Administrative, circa 1944 -- 1954 | box 4 | folder 8 |
| Annual Reports and Meetings, 1947-1953 | box 4 | folder 9 |
| Bulletins and Newsletters, 1947-1954 | box 4 | folder 10-11 |
| Church Promotion Kit, 1953-1954 | box 4 | folder 12 |
| Directory of Churches, 1948-1954 | box 4 | folder 13 |
| Events, 1949-1954 | box 4 | folder 14 |
| Interdenominational Survey of Metropolitan Louisville, Kentucky, 1944 | box 4 | folder 15 |
| Pamphlets, circa 1944 -- 1954 | box 4 | folder 16 |
| General, 1947-1954 | box 4 | folder 17 |
| Philadelphia, 1909-1967 | | |
| Addresses, 1952-1953 | box 4 | folder 18 |
| Administrative, 1909 | box 4 | folder 19 |
| Annual Reports and Meetings, 1947-1953 | box 4 | folder 20 |
| Bulletins and Newsletters, 1947-1967 | box 4 | folder 21-22 |
| Pamphlets, circa 1957 | box 4 | folder 23 |
| Pittsburgh, 1953-1964 | | |
| Bulletins and Newsletters, 1953-1964 | box 5 | folder 1-4 |
| Saint Louis, 1947-1955 | | |
| Bulletins and Newsletters, 1947-1955 | box 5 | folder 5 |
| Correspondence, 1952-1953 | box 5 | folder 6 |
| Institute on Aging, 1953 | box 5 | folder 7 |
| Pamphlets, 1946-1952 | box 5 | folder 8 |
| Red Cross, 1953 | box 5 | folder 9 |
| General, 1953 | | |

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|-------------------------------------------------------|-------|------------|
| | box 5 | folder 10 |
| San Antonio, 1952-1954 | | |
| Annual Reports and Meetings, 1954 | box 5 | folder 11 |
| Bulletins and Newsletters, 1953 | box 5 | folder 12 |
| Directory of Churches and Ministers, 1952-1954 | box 5 | folder 13 |
| Pamphlets, 1953 | box 5 | folder 14 |
| Voters' Guide, 1953 | box 5 | folder 15 |
| General, 1953 | box 5 | folder 16 |
| San Francisco, 1944-1953 | | |
| Annual Reports and Meetings, 1945-1953 | box 5 | folder 17 |
| Bulletins and Newsletters, 1946-1947 | box 5 | folder 18 |
| Pamphlets, 1944-1948 | box 5 | folder 19 |
| Washington, D.C., 1936-1954 | | |
| Administrative, 1942-1951 | box 6 | folder 1 |
| Annual Reports and Meetings, 1943-1954 | box 6 | folder 2 |
| Audio-Visual Division, 1949-1951 | box 6 | folder 3 |
| Bulletins and Newsletters, 1937-1954 | box 6 | folder 4-5 |
| Christian School in the Nation's Capital, 1946-1951 | box 6 | folder 6 |
| Department of Research and Church Planning, 1949-1951 | box 6 | folder 7 |
| Department of Social Welfare, 1948-1951 | box 6 | folder 8 |
| Events, 1950-1951 | box 6 | folder 9 |
| Pamphlets, circa 1953 | box 6 | folder 10 |
| Race Relations, circa 1951 | box 6 | folder 11 |
| Yearbook and Church Directory, 1936, 1951 | box 6 | folder 12 |
| General, 1937-1951 | box 6 | folder 13 |

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