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North American Academy of Ecumenists records4492711

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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>

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical / Historical	3
Scope and Contents	4
Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	4
Related Materials	6
Controlled Access Headings	6
Burke Library record group:	6
Collection Inventory	6
Series 1: Administrative records	6
Series 2: Correspondence	7
Series 3: Conferences	8
North American Faith and Order, Oberlin, Ohio	8
North American Faith and Order, Denver	9
Inaugural North American Conference on Theological Education for Ecumenical Dialogue	9
Other conferences	9
Series 4: Ecumenical Education and Theology	9

Summary Information

Repository:	Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
Creator:	North American Academy of Ecumenists
Title:	North American Academy of Ecumenists records
ID:	4492711
Date [inclusive]:	1950 -- 2011
Physical Description:	7 linear feet 7 linear feet; 15 boxes
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	Established in 1967, the North American Academy of Ecumenists (NAAE) is composed of college, university and theological seminary professors engaged in studies related to Christian unity. The collection includes records relating to the founding of the organization, correspondence, administrative records and information on annual conferences.

Preferred Citation

Item description, WAB: North American Academy of Ecumenists Records, series #, 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 idea of a national association for ecumenists was first discussed at the Oberlin, Ohio meeting of the North American Faith and Order conference in 1957. Several people concerned with this topic were gathered at that conference and they established the Association of Professors Teaching in Ecumenics. Discussions continued at the Faith and Order conferences held in Denver in 1960 and Montreal in 1963. The Professors of Ecumenics established a Continuation Committee in Montreal. Led by Robert Tobias, Nils Ehrenstrom, Samuel McCrea Cavert, Paul Macy, and Paul Minear, the North American Academy of Ecumenists (NAAE) officially began with their inaugural conference held in 1967. At this time, the Continuation Committee of the North American Professors of Ecumenics was dissolved in favor of the

formation of the NAAE. The Academy was composed of college, university and theological seminary professors engaged in studies related to Christian unity. Their goal was "to inform, relate, and encourage men and women professionally engaged in the study, teaching and other practice of ecumenism." The organization is still in existence with an active membership and continues to hold yearly meetings each September. According to a recent NAAE newsletter, membership includes "ecumenically active clergy and laity as well as professors and students. It is an "Academy" by virtue of its members' shared concern for the theological reflection and scholarship that must accompany the movement toward mutual religious understanding and the unity of the Christian Churches."

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents

This collection contains administrative documents relating to the structure of the organization from its inception as the Professors of Ecumenics, including minutes and membership records; correspondence relating to the NAAE; conference materials, including planning records, participant lists, reports, pamphlets, agendas, and notes; as well as the original materials relating to the establishment of NAAE, including materials which discuss the advances made in introducing ecumenical studies to theological schools, the Dirks Report, which emerged from the desire to establish an institute in the Western Hemisphere dedicated to ecumenical study, and syllabi from courses gathered at the meeting of the Professors of Ecumenics in 1957.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in four series: Administrative records; Correspondence; Conferences; and Ecumenical Education and Theology.

[^ 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. 2022-05-24

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Onsite storage.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

One record carton was donated to the Union Theological Seminary Library in 1974 after the sixth meeting of NAAE; since then additional donations were made.

Custodial History

This collection is part of the William Adams Brown Ecumenical Library Archives, which was founded in 1945 by the Union Theological Seminary Board of Directors.

Processing Information

Some material was cataloged by Lynn A. Grove on 1988-08-09. Deteriorating 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 collection was originally organized chronologically, but included notes indicating that records should be reorganized by type. The finding aid was created by Brigette C. Kamsler in 2012 with the support of the Henry Luce Foundation, and edited by Leah Edelman in 2022.

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.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Materials

WAB: Robert Tobias papers, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Controlled Access Headings

- Christian union -- North America -- Societies, etc
- Ecumenists -- North America -- Societies, etc

Burke Library record group:

William Adams Brown Ecumenical Library Archives

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Administrative records, 1953 -- 2004

Physical Description: 2.25 linear feet 2.25 linear feet; 5 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged alphabetically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains documents relating to the structure of the organization from its inception as the Professors of Ecumenics. Included are detailed minutes and other documents relating to the foundation

of the group. Membership records include general membership, those that attended the conferences, and membership lists including those who served on various committees.

Title/Description	Instances	
Clippings, 1992	box 1	folder 1
Financial Records, 1966 -- 2002	box 1	folder 2
Institutional History by Robert Tobias, 1954 -- 1986	box 1	folder 3
Proposed Constitution, 1966	box 1	folder 4
Proposed Formation of NAAE, 1967	box 1	folder 5
Library Committee, 1974 -- 1976	box 1	folder 6
Membership, 1960 -- 1989	box 2	
Membership, 1990 -- 2004	box 3	
Minutes and reports, 1953 -- 1989	box 4	
Scope and Contents		
Including Fellowship of Professors of Missions; Professors of Ecumenics, Oberlin Conference; Professors of Ecumenics, Montreal Conference; Formation of NAAE; Inaugural NAAE Conference.		
Minutes, 1990 -- 1999	box 5	

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 2: Correspondence, 1957 -- 2002

Physical Description: 2 linear feet 2 linear feet; 4 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged roughly chronologically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains correspondence relating to the NAAE. The earliest letters deal with the establishment of the Association of Professors of Ecumenics and the creation of the organization, as well as putting out a call for members. The letters discuss a variety of issues and represent many members. Also included is President's Correspondence from Father Ernest R. Falardeau.

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence and Syllabi, Oberlin, 1957 -- 1959	box 6	folder 1
Correspondence, Professors of Ecumenics, 1959	box 6	folder 2

Correspondence, 1960 -- 1969	box 6	folder 3-4
Correspondence, Third Faith and Order Conference, Montreal, 1962 -- 1963	box 6	folder 5-6
Correspondence, Proposal for Formation of NAAE, 1963 -- 1967	box 6	folder 7
Circular Letter and Replies Regarding Formation of NAAE, 1964	box 6	folder 8-10
Correspondence Regarding Membership in Proposed Academy of Ecumenists, 1966	box 7	folder 1
Correspondence, 1966 -- 1969	box 7	folder 2-12
Correspondence, 1970 -- 2002	box 8	
President's Correspondence, Father Ernest R. Falardeau, 1991 -- 1995	box 9	

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 3: Conferences, 1957 -- 2011

Physical Description: 2.25 linear feet 2.25 linear feet; 5 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged chronologically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains conference materials, including planning records, participant lists, reports, pamphlets, agendas, and notes. Conferences discuss the work of the past year and where the organization hopes to grow in the upcoming year, as well as current issues in the field of Ecumenics.

North American Faith and Order, Oberlin, Ohio, 1957-09	box 10	
Pre-Conference Meeting, Ecumenics in Seminary, 1957	box 10	folder 1-2
Pre-Conference Arrangements, 1957	box 10	folder 3
Conference Participants, 1957	box 10	folder 4
Syllabi, Professors of Ecumenics, Oberlin, Ohio, 1957 -- 1958	box 10	folder 5
Tobias Notes, Agenda and Documents from Conference, 1957	box 10	folder 6

Summary Notes for AATS Meeting, "What the World Church Means for Theological Education," Boston University, 1958-06	box 10	folder 7
North American Faith and Order, Denver, 1960-12	box 11	
Pre-Conference Reports, Bossey, 1960	box 11	folder 1
Pre-Conference Draft Agenda and Participants List, 1960	box 11	folder 2
Pre-Conference Sample Letters to Invitees, 1960	box 11	folder 3-4
Pre-Conference Speaker Invitations and Responses, 1960	box 11	folder 5
Pre-Conference Study, "Ecumenics in the Seminary Curriculum: A Survey and Appraisal", 1960	box 11	folder 6-7
Pre-Conference Survey on Ecumenics in Seminary Curricula, 1960	box 11	folder 8
Developments, Notes and Agenda, 1960	box 11	folder 9-11
Inaugural North American Conference on Theological Education for Ecumenical Dialogue, 1967	box 12	
Pre-Conference Planning, 1966 -- 1967	box 12	folder 1-7
Theme Discussion: Ecumenical Theology, 1966	box 12	folder 8
Registrants, 1967	box 12	folder 9
Conference Documents, 1967	box 12	folder 10-11
Workshop on Church History, 1967	box 12	folder 12
Other conferences, 1970 -- 2011	box 13	
	box 14	
Second through Sixteenth conference, 1970 -- 1984	box 13	folder 1-15
Annual conferences, 1985 -- 1991	box 13	folder 16-22
Annual conferences, 1992 -- 2011	box 14	

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Series 4: Ecumenical Education and Theology, 1950 -- 1969

Physical Description: 0.5 linear feet 0.5 linear feet; 1 box

Conditions Governing Access:

Conditions Governing Access

This series is open for research.

Arrangement

This series is arranged roughly chronologically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains the original materials relating to the establishment of NAAE when it was known as the Association of Professors Teaching in Ecumenics. Highlights include materials from Bossey, Switzerland which discuss the advances made in introducing ecumenical studies to theological schools; the Dirks Report, which emerged from the desire to establish an institute in the Western Hemisphere dedicated to ecumenical study, thought and education; and syllabi from courses gathered at the meeting of the Professors of Ecumenics in 1957.

Title/Description	Instances	
Conference Materials from Switzerland, 1954 -- 1959	box 15	folder 1
Dirks Survey, NCC Special Committee on Study of Ecumenical Education report to NCC General Board, 1956	box 15	folder 2
Syllabi and Readings, Courses in Ecumenics from United States Schools, 1950 -- 1966	box 15	folder 3-9
Summary Report, Preliminary Study of Ecumenical Education for the Special Committee on the Study of Ecumenical Education, NCCCUSA, 1956	box 15	folder 10
Theological Education, The Christian Centur, 1957	box 15	folder 11
North American Regional Report to the Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies, Bossey, 1959	box 15	folder 12
Notes, Professors of Ecumenics Discussion between Ehrenstrom and Tobias, 1959	box 15	folder 13
Roman Catholic Seminaries and Religious Houses of Formation in the United States, 1966	box 15	folder 14
Statistical Survey, Protestant and Roman Catholic Seminaries, 1967	box 15	folder 15
Theological Bibliography, 1963	box 15	folder 16
Tobias, "Ecumenical Theology", circa 1950 -- 1959	box 15	folder 17
World Council of Churches Source Material, Study on the Authority of the Bible, 1969	box 15	folder 18

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)