

**The Burke Library Archives (Columbia University Libraries)
at Union Theological Seminary, New York**

William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives Group

Finding Aid for

**National Council of Churches of Christ USA Records,
1950 - 1973**



<http://www.ncccusa.org/>

Finding Aid prepared by: Tenny Thomas, Jun 2009

Summary Information

Creator: National Council of Churches of Christ USA
Title: National Council of Churches of Christ USA Records, 1950 - 1973
Inclusive dates: 1950 - 1973
Bulk dates: 1953 - 1969
Abstract: National Council of Churches of Christ, USA is a community of 35 Christian communions and has been a leading force in the Christian ecumenical movement in the United States. Much of the Council's work is done through divisions, committees and commissions. This record collection contains administrative records, correspondence, newsletters and papers, 1950 - 1973 from Administration, Foreign Missions, Faith and Order, International Relations, and Ecumenical Relations divisions of the National Council.
Size: 16 boxes, 8 linear feet
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Phone: 212-851-5612
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Administrative Information

- Provenance:** The NCCCUSA Foreign Mission records were originally part of the independent Missionary Research Library (MRL), which moved to the Brown Memorial Tower of Union Theological Seminary in 1929. The records were accessioned to the Burke Library archives in 1976 with the closure of MRL. As Rev. Frank Wilson Price was both Director of MRL and Secretary of the Research Committee of the Division of Foreign Missions of NCCCUSA, the existence of the small group of NCCC Foreign Missions records in the Missionary Research Library is deduced to result from Price's donation of those papers to MRL. This small and incomplete collection has been aggregated with previously unprocessed material from a large unprocessed group of archival papers. This large group of mixed unidentified papers was the result of unprocessed accessions during the 1930 – 1976 period to the Mission Research Library and also to the separate William Adams Brown Ecumenical Library at Union. NCCCUSA records covering a range of departments now form a single accessible collection within the William Adams Brown Ecumenical archives group.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by phone, fax or email archives@uts.columbia.edu, as far in advance as possible.
- Access Restrictions:** The collection is unrestricted to readers. Certain materials however are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, Series #, Box #, Folder #, William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives Group: National Council of Churches of Christ USA Records, The Burke Library Archives (Columbia University Libraries) at Union Theological Seminary, New York.

Institutional History

The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA is an ecumenical fellowship of 35 Christian faith groups in the United States. Its member communions include a wide variety of Mainline Protestant, Orthodox, African-American, Evangelical and historic Peace churches. The NCCC was founded in 1950 as a cooperative agency of the Christian Churches of the United States of America which included the following general agencies: Federal Council of Churches, Foreign Missions Conference of North America, Home Missions Council of North America, International Council of Religious Education, Missionary Education Movement of the United States and Canada, National Protestant Council on Higher Education, United Council of Church Women and United Stewardship Council.

Within the National Council there were various divisions including Administration, Division of Foreign Missions, International Affairs Commission, Department of International Affairs, Department of Faith and Order and the Ecumenical Desk. The NCC continued to provide day-by-day support to its member groups in their basic tasks of evangelism, education, missionary work, and social welfare by offering consultation and sponsoring conferences, workshops, publications, public lobbies, and service agencies. Driven by the conviction that

Christian faith demands social action, the NCC has worked nationally and internationally to promote brotherhood between Christians and non-Christians, cross-cultural understanding, peace, human rights, and anti-poverty measures.

Although it was formally established in 1950, the Council continues the work of more than a dozen previously existing interdenominational organizations. Most of these ministries are carried out under the guidance of the Council's five program commissions. The commissions are: Communication Commission, Education and Leadership Ministries Commission, Faith and Order Commission, Interfaith Relations Commission and Justice and Advocacy Commission.

More information can be obtained from www.ncccusa.org/about/about_ncc.htm

The main repository of archival records of the National Council of Churches of Christ USA is the Presbyterian Historical Society. <http://www.history.pcusa.org/>

Click below for links to the Finding Aids of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America Records at the Presbyterian Historical Society

http://www.history.pcusa.org/search_results.cfm?q=national+council+of+the+churches+of+christ+in+the+united+states+of+america&siteurl=www.history.pcusa.org%252F&cx=008388713594804981999%3A5f4snj1qkjk&cof=FORID%3A10&ie=UTF-8&ie=UTF-8#1002

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection is organized in five series:

- **Series 1: General Administration, 1950-1968 (2 boxes, 1 linear ft.)**

This series contains administrative documents from the times of the founding president Rt. Rev. Henry Knox Sherrill (1950-1952), Bishop William C. Martin (1952-1954), Rev. Eugene Carson Blake (1954-1957), Rev. Edwin T. Dahlberg of the American Baptist Churches U.S.A. (1957-1960), J. Irwin Miller (1960-1963), Bishop Reuben H. Mueller (1963-1966), Arthur S. Flemming (1966-1969), Cynthia C. Wedel (1969-1972) and Rev. W. Sterling Cary (1972-1975).

The General Secretaries serving during those times were Rev. Samuel McCrea Cavert (1950-1954), Rev. Roy G. Ross (1954-1963) and R.H. Edwin Espy (1963-1973).

This series is organized into 2 sub series as follows:

- **Series 1A: General Administration, 1950 – 1966 (Part of 1 box, 0.25 linear ft.)**

This collection mainly includes pronouncements, resolutions and policy statements by the Council at the time of its formation. It also includes correspondence with the *New York Times* on US recognition of China into the United Nations.

Please note that the single box for Series 1A also contains the contents of the first box of Series 1B.

- **Series 1B: Departments and Divisions, 1951 – 1968 (Part of Series 1A: box 1 + 1 box, 0.75 linear ft.)**
 This series contains minutes, reports and correspondence of a number of divisions, departments and committees within the National Council. Most notable in this series are the reports and study on the 'Missionary Obligation of the Church' by the Foreign Missions Research Committee.
- **Series 2: Division of Foreign Mission, 1952 – 1972 (4 boxes, 2 linear ft)**
 The series for this Division is organized in 3 sub series as follows:

 - **Series 2A: Division of Foreign Mission - Administration, 1952 – 1965 (4 boxes, 2.0 linear ft.)**
 The Division of Foreign Missions (DFM) came into being at the Constituting Convention at Cleveland, November 29, 1950 to continue and extend the work of the Foreign Missions Conference. This sub series contains agendas and minutes of Executive Board meetings from 1952 – 1955; Summary of Financial Statements and Budget expenditures from 1954 – 1955. Radio, Visual Education and Mass Communication Committee (RAVEMCCO) reports and minutes are also included in this collection.
 - **Series 2B: Division of Foreign Mission - Asia, 1952 – 1965 (3 boxes, 1.5 linear ft.)**
 The Asia section contains minutes, reports, financial statements and correspondence of all the Asian (Near, South, South East and Far East) Committee.
 - **Series 2C: Division of Foreign Mission - Africa, 1952 – 1965 (1 box, 0.5 linear. ft.)**
 "Africa is Here" the North American Assembly on African Affairs held at Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio, June 16-25, 1952. Report, news releases, correspondence by the Africa Committee of the Division of Foreign Missions.
 - **Series 2D: Division of Foreign Mission – Latin America, 1952 – 1965 (1 box, 0.5 linear. ft.)**
 This sub series has reports, minutes and correspondence of the Committee on Cooperation in Latin America. Significant documents include the proposed relationship between Protestants and Roman Catholics in Colombia West Indies, Jamaica and Mexico Committee reports and Commission on Evangelism reports.
- **Series 3: International Affairs Commission - Department of International Affairs and Advisory Committee on Peace, 1966 – 1970 (1 box, 0.5 linear ft.)**
 The International Affairs Commission embodied both the Department of International Affairs and Advisory Committee on Peace. The International Affairs Commission came into existence in 1960 and the Advisory Committee on Peace in 1966. Contents of this series include correspondence, minutes and reports of the Commission.

Notable materials include resolutions passed at the assembly expressing concern over Vietnam and church action for world development. Today, the Council is involved with International Affairs through the Justice and Advocacy Commission. www.ncccusa.org/about/justicehome.

- **Series 4: Department of Faith and Order, 1963 – 1971 (3 boxes, 1.5 linear ft.)**

In 1957, a North American Conference on Faith and Order was held in Oberlin, Ohio. To ensure that its concern would be ongoing, the Oberlin conference suggested that a national commission on Faith and Order be established and that the National Council of Churches be its custodian. The Faith and Order series is arranged chronologically. The collection includes Committee reports, minutes and papers. Key materials include the national study commission report on the ecclesiological importance of the Council of Churches, Inter-Church communion survey and bi-lateral conversation between churches report.

www.ncccusa.org/pdfs/FaithAndOrderHandbook.pdf

- **Series 5: Ecumenical Desk, 1952 – 1965 (1 box, 0.5 linear. ft.)**

Ecumenical Desk has now been merged into the Faith and Order Commission and exercises special responsibility within the life of the Council for programs, resources and communication integral to the building and the maintenance of interchurch relationships, and to theological reflection of these relationships.

The Ecumenical collection is arranged chronologically and the key materials include the National Council's work with the Catholic and Orthodox Churches. Reports, minutes and correspondence in regards to prayer for promoting Christian unity and ecumenism are also featured in this series.

www.ncccusa.org/faithandorder

Processing

Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Metal fastenings were removed. Fragile acidic documents were photocopied.

Contents list**Series 1A: NCCC: General Administration, 1950 - 1966**

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1A	1	1	Missionaries and Income Taxes - Survey by W. P. Mills, Transcript, Dec 1951
1A	1	2	Summary of Resolutions, 1950 - 1966
1A	1	3	Policy Statements, Jun 1956 - Dec 1966
1A	1	4	Policy and Strategy Committee Minutes, Apr - Sep 1958
1A	1	5	Correspondence re NCC in favor of US Recognition of Communist China and its Admission to UN", New York Times, 1958
1A	1	6	NCCCUSA Pronouncements, 1959 - 1972

Series 1B: NCCC: Department and Committees, 1951 - 1968

[Note: Contents of Series 1B box 1 are within the same box as Series 1A box 1]

1B	1	1	Department of International Justice and Goodwill - Correspondence and Report for Buck Hill Consultation, 1951
1B	1	2	Committee on World Literacy and Christian Literature Newsletters, 1951 - 1957
1B	1	3	Committee on World Literacy and Christian Literature Executive Minutes, Reports and Supporting Documents, 1952 - 1954
1B	1	4	Committee on World Literacy and Christian Literature Executive Minutes, Finances and Supporting Documents, 1955 - 1958
1B	1	5	Commission on Missionary Education: Department of Adult Work Minutes, Correspondence and Supporting Documents, 1958
1B	1	6	Department of Church and Economic Life Special Committee Report, "In Search for Maturity in Industrial Relations", 1960
1B	1	7	Department of Religious Liberty Correspondence, 1964 - 1965
1B	1	8	Division of Overseas Ministries on Theological Education Committee Minutes, Mar 1966 - Apr 1967
1B	1	9	Division of Christian Life and Work (DCLW): Department of Social Justice Project Prospectus on Economic Power and Responsibility Summary, Sep 1967 - Oct 1968
1B	2	1	Committee on Research in Foreign Missions - Missionary Obligation of Church Minutes, 1950 -1951
1B	2	2	Committee on Research in Foreign Missions - Missionary Obligation of Church Papers, 1951
1B	2	3	Committee on Research in Foreign Missions - Missionary Obligation of Church Papers, 1951
1B	2	4	Committee on Research in Foreign Missions - Missionary Obligation of Church Report, 1952
1B	2	5	Missionary Training Conference and Asmara Study Conference Reports, 1957 - 1959
1B	2	6	Associated Mission Medical Field Reports, Minutes and History, 1955 - 1958

Series 1B: NCCC: Department and Committees, 1951 - 1968 (Cont'd)

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1B	2	7	Committee on Missionary Personnel Minutes, Reports and Papers, 1954 -1956
1B	2	8	Committee on Missionary Personnel Minutes, Reports and Papers, 1957 - 1959
1B	2	9	Committee on Missionary Personnel Correspondence and Study, 1959

Series 2A: Division of Foreign Missions- Administration, 1952 - 1958

2A	1	1	Division of Foreign Missions Foundation Papers, 1950
2A	1	2	Booklets on Religious Freedom, Mission, Women Leadership, 1952
2A	1	3	Annual Reports to Assembly, 1955, 1956, 1958
2A	1	4	3 rd Assembly Records and Documents, Dec 1952
2A	1	5	4 th Assembly Records and Documents, Dec 1953
2A	1	6	5 th Assembly Records and Documents, Dec 1954
2A	1	7	6 th Assembly Records and Documents, Dec 1955
2A	1	8	7 th Assembly Records and Documents, Nov 1956
2A	1	9	9 th Assembly Records and Documents, Nov 1958
2A	1	10	Staff Council Records and Correspondence, 1951 -1952
2A	1	11	Staff Council Records and Correspondence, 1953 - 1955
2A	1	12	Staff Council Records and Correspondence, 1956 - 1957
2A	2	1	Proposed Budget, 1952
2A	2	2	Proposed Budget, 1953
2A	2	3	Revised Budget Estimate, 1953 - 1955
2A	2	4	Proposed Budget, 1954
2A	2	5	Proposed Budget, 1955
2A	2	6	Proposed Budget, 1956
2A	2	7	Proposed Budget, 1957 - 1959
2A	2	8	Relief and Construction Committee Budget, 1952
2A	3	1	Executive Board Records, 1950 - 1951
2A	3	2	Executive Board Records, 1952
2A	3	3	Executive Board Records, 1953
2A	3	4	Executive Board Records, 1954
2A	3	5	Executive Board Records, 1955 -1956
2A	3	6	Executive Board Records, 1957 -1959
2A	4	1	Public Relation Records, 1951 - 1952
2A	4	2	Strategy Committee Records, 1951 -1953
2A	4	3	Radio, Visual Education and Mass Communication Committee (RAVEMCCO), 1952 - 1956
2A	4	4	RAVEMCCO, 1957
2A	4	5	RAVEMCCO, 1958
2A	4	6	RAVEMCCO, 1959

Series 2A: Division of Foreign Missions- Administration, 1952 - 1958

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
2A	4	7	Department of American Communities Overseas Statements, 1950
2A	4	8	Committee on Technical Cooperation, 1952
2A	4	9	Treasurers' Committee Minutes, 1950
2A	4	10	DFM's Relationships with World Council of Christian Education, 1953

Series 2B: Division of Foreign Missions: Asia, 1951 - 1965

2B	1	1	Committee on Southern Asia (CSA) Newsletters, 1953 - 1956
2B	1	2	CSA Reports and Minutes, 1953 - 1956
2B	1	3	CSA Correspondence, Supporting Documents, 1951 - 1953
2B	1	4	CSA Correspondence, Supporting Documents, 1954 - 1955
2B	1	5	CSA Correspondence, Supporting Documents, 1956 - 1958
2B	1	6	Joint Office on Southern Asia and Near East Committee Minutes, Correspondence, Reports, 1952 - 1958
2B	1	7	Christian Council of India and Pakistan Reports and Budgets, 1952 - 1954
2B	1	8	National Christian Council of Ceylon Reports and Budgets, 1953 - 1955
2B	1	9	National Christian Council of West Pakistan Correspondence, Bulletins, Budget, 1953 - 1954
2B	1	10	National Christian Council of East Pakistan Reports and Budgets, 1953 - 1955
2B	1	11	United Christian Mission in Nepal Reports and Correspondence, 1953 - 1955
2B	2	1	Near East Committee Correspondence, Minutes, Reports, Papers, 1952 - 1958
2B	2	2	Near East Committee Occasional Newsletter, Jan 1953 - Jun 1956
2B	2	3	Near East Committee Occasional Newsletter, Jan 1957 - Jan 1960
2B	2	4	Near East Committee Outreach Report and Papers, 1952 - 1958
2B	2	5	Far Eastern Joint Office - China Executive Minutes, 1953 -1965
2B	2	6	Far Eastern Joint Office - Japan Committee Correspondence, 1951 -1959
2B	2	7	Far Eastern Joint Office - Japan Committee Report Bulletins # 43-70, 1953 - 1958
2B	2	8	Far Eastern Joint Office - Japan Executive Correspondence, Minutes, Reports, Accounts, 1952 - 1959
2B	3	1	Far Eastern Joint Office - Korea Committee Report Bulletins # 62 - 96, 1952 - 1959
2B	3	2	Far Eastern Joint Office - Korea Committee Annual Meeting, 1952 -1955
2B	3	3	Far Eastern Joint Office - Korea Committee Annual Meeting, 1956 - 1959
2B	3	4	Far Eastern Joint Office - Southeast Asia Committee Annual Meeting, 1952 - 1959
2B	3	5	Far Eastern Joint Office - Southeast Asia Committee Report Bulletins 19 - 73, 1953 - 1959

Series 2B: Division of Foreign Missions: Asia, 1951 - 1965(Cont'd)

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
2B	3	6	Far Eastern Joint Office – Philippines Committee, 1953 - 1959
2B	3	7	Far Eastern Office - Taiwan Sub-Committee, 1957 - 1958
2B	3	8	East Asia Consultation, 1955
2B	3	9	Eastern Asia Christian Conference, 1957
2B	3	10	Far Eastern Joint Office Budgets, 1955
2B	3	11	Asia Conference on Mass Communication Reports, 1955 - 1958

Series 2C: Division of Foreign Missions: Africa, 1951 - 1965

2C	1	1	North American Assembly on African Affairs (NAAAA) Promotional Publications, Jun 1952
2C	1	2	NAAAA Conference Records, Jun 1952
2C	1	3	NAAAA Dignitaries Invitations A - E, Mar - May 1952
2C	1	4	NAAAA Dignitaries Invitations F - L, Mar - April 1952
2C	1	5	NAAAA Dignitaries Invitations M - R, Mar - May 1952
2C	1	6	NAAAA Dignitaries Invitations S - W, Mar - Jun 1952
2C	1	7	NAAAA Report, Jun 1952
2C	1	8	Africa Committee Expenditure Budgets, 1955

Series 2D: Division of Foreign Missions: Latin America, 1954 – 1958

2D	1	1	Committee on Cooperation in Latin America (CCLA) Records, 1954 – 1959
2D	1	2	CCLA Reports, 1954 - 1956
2D	1	3	Executive Minutes and Financial Statements, 1956 - 1959
2D	1	4	Audio-Visual-Aids Committee, 1956 - 1957
2D	1	5	Christian Literature Committee, 1956 - 1957
2D	1	6	Commission on Evangelism, 1956 - 1957
2D	1	7	West Indies, Jamaica, Mexico Committee, 1958
2D	1	8	Youth and Student Work Committee, 1956 -1958
2D	1	9	Papers re Religion in Latin America, 1956

Series 3: International Affairs Commission: Department of International Affairs and Advisory Committee on Peace, 1966 - 1970

3	1	1	International Affairs Newsletters, 1958
3	1	2	Department of International Affairs (DIA) Review of Reports, Dec 1960
3	1	3	Commission of Churches on International Affairs and 20 th General Assembly Session, Sep 1965
3	1	4	Sixth World Order Study Conference, Oct 1965
3	1	5	International Affairs Commission, 1966
3	1	6	Objectives and Responsibilities in USA Foreign Policy: Christian Critique, 1967; Christian Witness in International Affairs

Series 3: International Affairs Commission: Department of International Affairs and Advisory Committee on Peace, 1966 – 1970 (Cont'd)

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
3	1	7	Church Action for World Development Draft Proposals Oct 1968; New Internationalism: Contemporary Responsibility of US Power, 1968
3	1	8	DIA Minutes, Mar, 1968; Agenda, Nov 1968
3	1	9	DIA Statements of Issues and Objectives for 1970s, 1969
3	1	10	Resolution Messages: Peaceful Dissent, Population, and Vietnam; Reports, Nov, Dec 1969
3	1	11	Advisory Committee on Peace Agenda and Minutes, 1966
3	1	12	Advisory Committee on Peace Papers, Sep 1966

Series 4: Department of Faith and Order, 1959 - 1973

4	1	1	Faith and Order (FAO) Advisory Committee Minutes, 1959 - 1961
4	1	2	FAO Advisory Committee Minutes, 1962
4	1	3	FAO Advisory Committee Minutes, 1963
4	1	4	FAO Advisory Committee Minutes, 1964 - 1966
4	1	5	FAO Committee Minutes, 1967 - 1970
4	1	6	FAO Committee Division of Christian Unity, 1967 -1969
4	1	7	FAO Secretariat Reports, 1966 - 1971
4	1	8	FAO Committee Working Papers, 1969 - 1970
4	1	9	FAO Structure, Local and Regional Development, Staff Meeting Report, 1967 - 1971
4	1	10	FAO Commission, 1971 – 1973
4	2	1	National Study Commission Ecclesiological Significance of Council of Churches Minutes, 1960 - 1965
4	2	2	National Study Commission Ecclesiological Significance of Council of Churches Papers, 1960 - 1961
4	2	3	National Study Commission Ecclesiological Significance of Council of Churches Report, 1962
4	2	4	National Study Commission Order and Organization Minutes and Report, Jun 1963 - Oct 1963
4	2	5	National Study Commission Order and Organization Papers, Jun 1963
4	2	6	National Study Committee Minutes, Apr 1966 - Sep 1967
4	2	7	Committee and Church of New Jerusalem (Swedenborgian) Conversation Minutes, Oct 1965
4	2	8	Inter-Church Communion Survey, Aug 1966
4	2	9	Eucharist Ecumenical Movement Minutes, Apr 1970
4	2	10	Black Theology Report, 1970
4	2	11	Bi-lateral Conversations Report and Bibliography, 1964 - 1969
4	3	1	Federal Union of Churches Articles, News and Views, 1956 - 1959
4	3	2	National Colloquium Papers, Jun 1966
4	3	3	National Colloquium Papers, Jun 1967

Series 4: Department of Faith and Order, 1959 - 1973 (Cont'd)

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
4	3	4	National Colloquium Papers, Jun 1968
4	3	5	National Colloquium Papers, Jun 1969
4	3	6	National Colloquium Papers, Jun 1969
4	3	7	National Colloquium Papers, Jun 1970
4	3	8	Newsletter "Occasional Papers," 1967 - 1969
4	3	9	Study on Israel -Transcribed Articles, 1969 -1970

Series 5: Ecumenical Desk, 1958 - 1972

5	1	1	Memorandum on Ecumenical Relations, 1956
5	1	2	NCCCUSA and United States Catholic Conference on World Justice and Development Report, 1958
5	1	3	Ecumenical Study Desk Memorandum, Feb 1964
5	1	4	Christian Unity Division Committee on Ecumenical Affairs, May 1965
5	1	5	Roman Catholic Commission (Bishop Carberry) Minutes, Correspondence Working Papers, 1965
5	1	6	Consultation with Evangelicals Report, 1965
5	1	7	Prayer for Prompting Christian Unity, Dec 1965
5	1	8	Committee on Ecumenical Affairs Minutes, Dec, 1965, Nov 1966
5	1	9	Orthodox Seminar Report, 1966
5	1	10	NCCCUSA and Bishop's Commission for Ecumenical Affairs Minutes, 1966
5	1	11	Roman Catholic Church and NCCCUSA Relations Report, 1967
5	1	12	Loyola Centennial Conference on Ecumenism Papers, 1970
5	1	13	Task Force on Options Confronting NCCC - Report, Supporting Documents, 1970
5	1	14	Committee on Future Ecumenical Structure Proposal for National Conference of Churches, Jan 1971
5	1	15	Constitutional and Functional Changes Proposal, 1972
5	1	16	Catholic Bishops' Commission on Ecumenical and Inter-religious Affairs Memorandum, Correspondence, Consultations' List, 1965 - 1972