

**The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary,
Columbia University in the City of New York**

Union Theological Seminary Archives
Finding Aid for

David L. Parker Papers, 1947-1948



Finding Aid prepared by: Kevin Windhauser and Rebecca Nieto, April 2018
With financial support from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: David Lecour Parker, 1923 – 2016
Title: David L. Parker Papers
Inclusive dates: 1947 – 1948
Bulk dates: 1947 – 1948
Abstract: Union Theological Seminary alumnus and former secretary to UTS President Henry Pitney Van Dusen. Longtime Methodist minister who served congregations throughout New York and New Jersey, and activist for civil rights and women's rights: Material consists of notebooks containing class notes from UTS coursework from 1947 and 1948.
Size: 1 box, 0.25 linear feet
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Email: burkespecial@library.columbia.edu

Windhauser, Kevin; Nieto, Rebecca 05/1/18

Administrative Information

- Provenance:** The David Lecour Parker Papers were donated to the Burke Library in March 2015. They were part of a large amount of unprocessed archival materials that were organized with the support of the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to burkespecial@library.columbia.edu, or by postal mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible
Burke Library staff is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.
- 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, UTS: David L. Parker Papers, series #, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

David Lecour Parker was born on December 20, 1923 in Brooklyn, New York, and grew up as part of a large family that lived, for most of David's childhood, in Ridgewood, New Jersey. David studied at both Middlebury College and Hamilton College, although his graduation was delayed when he was drafted into the Army during the Second World War, serving as a member of the Army Signal Corps in Guam. Using the post-WWII G.I. Bill, David enrolled at Union Theological Seminary, where he studied under many Union luminaries, including Reinhold Niebuhr (Parker's notes for Niebuhr's course are included in this collection), Paul Tillich, and John C. Bennett. Parker further served for a time as secretary to Union's then-president, Henry Pitney Van Dusen.

After graduating from Union, Parker became an ordained minister in the Methodist Church, which began a long and honored career serving churches throughout New York and New Jersey—a total of 11 different congregations throughout his life. Parker also sponsored numerous German immigrant families in the United States, whom he housed in his own home, and was an early advocate and activist for women's rights, civil rights, and LGBT rights. Passionate about music since childhood, Parker became both a performer and a composer of religious music, writing numerous religious songs that he featured for his congregations.

David Parker retired from active ministry after 54 years of service, and passed away peacefully on April 6, 2016.

Collection Scope and Content Note

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This collection contains notebooks containing course notes and research notes from coursework taken at Union Theological Seminary from 1947-1948. This includes courses taken with major UTS figures such as Reinhold Niebuhr and John Bennett.

The collection is organized in one series:

- **Series 1: UTS Coursework, 1947-8 (1 box, 0.25 lin. ft.)**

This series contains notebooks containing course notes and research notes from coursework taken at Union Theological Seminary from 1947-1948

Processing

Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes.

Further Sources

None Found.

Contents list

Series 1: UTS Coursework, 1947-8

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	1	Christian Ethics II: R. Niebuhr, 1947
1	1	2	Systematic Theology: John C. Bennett, 1947
1	1	3	Systematic Theology II: John C. Bennett, 1947
1	1	4	Systematic Theology III: John C. Bennett, 1947
1	1	5	N.T.: Knox, 1947
1	1	6	Field Work: C.L., 1947
1	1	7	Recreation and Vocal, 1948