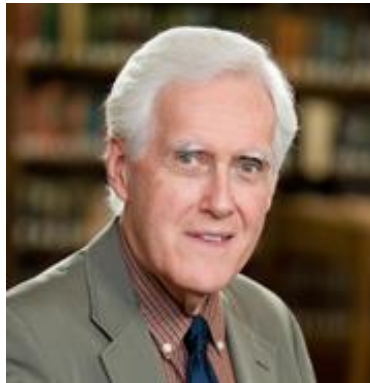


The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary,  
Columbia University in the City of New York

Union Theological Seminary Archives 1

Finding Aid for

**Christopher Morse, 1960-2012**



UTS Faculty Portrait. Retrieved from <https://myunion.utsnyc.edu/faculty/faculty-directory/christopher-morse>

Finding Aid prepared by: Paul Paulson, November 2016

With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation and the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation

**Summary Information**

Creator: Christopher Morse, 1935-  
Title: Christopher Morse Papers, 1960-2012  
Inclusive dates: 1960-2012  
Bulk dates: 1974 – 2009  
Abstract: S.T.M-1968/Ph.D. 1976 UTS, Presbyterian minister, Biblical scholar, Dietrich Bonhoeffer Professor/Emeritus and faculty member at Union. Collection consists of textual materials including correspondence, research files, publications, administrative materials, and audio cassettes.  
Size: 12.5 boxes, 6.25 linear feet  
Storage: Onsite storage  
Repository: The Burke Library  
Union Theological Seminary  
3041 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027  
Email: [burkespecial@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkespecial@library.columbia.edu)



### Administrative Information

- Provenance:** The papers of Christopher Morse were donated by Christopher Morse in consultation with Dr. Morse's estate planners. These papers form part of the Union Theological Seminary Archives, which comprises institutional and administrative records of the Seminary, combined with the papers of many organizations, scholars, pastors, laypersons, and others connected with the school.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to [burkespecial@library.columbia.edu](mailto: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 subject to copyright by the donor. Please consult the archivist for information. Series 3, box 2 is subject to FERPA restrictions until the year 2079.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, UTS: Christopher Morse Papers, 1967-2013, series #, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

### Biography

Christopher Morse was born in Virginia in 1935. He received his Bachelor of Arts in philosophy from Randolph-Macon College in 1959 where he was elected Phi Beta Kappa. He then received a Master's in Divinity from Yale Divinity School in 1962, studied at the University of Mainz in Germany in 1971, and received his Master's in Sacred Theology from UTS in 1968 before going on to pursue his Ph.D. at Union, earning that degree in 1976.

Dr. Morse spent the majority of his career at Union Theological Seminary. He is an ordained minister of the United Methodist Church with a specialization in systematic theology. This discipline seeks to give clarity to the variety of Biblical doctrine in a pragmatic fashion and encompasses the study of ethics and dogmatic theology. Morse's papers amassed in this collection concentrate on systematic theology, an area of theological research considered from in the context of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century into the 21<sup>st</sup> and the attendant social upheavals that inflected the culture around feminism, the Vietnam War, prison culture and neo-liberalism.

Morse published a number of books including *The Difference Heaven Makes: Rehearing the Gospel as News*, *The Logic of Promise in Moltmann's Theology* and *Not Every Spirit: A Dogmatics of Christian Disbelief*. His major published work, one that has been used in many schools and seminaries, is a text on Christian doctrine titled *Not Every Spirit: A Dogmatics of Christian Disbelief*. In addition to his academic affiliations, Morse is a member of The New

Haven Theological Discussion Group, The Duodecim Society and past president of The American Theological Society. Morse held the Bonhoeffer chair in Theology and Ethics at Union from 1996 to 2009. He has presented lectures and papers worldwide including lectures on “Bonhoeffer’s Theological legacy” at the Union Theological Society of the West Indies in Kingston Jamaica in 2004 and “Dogmatics and American Politics” at Neskríkja Church in Reykjavik, Iceland. Dr. Morse is currently Dietrich Bonhoeffer Professor Emeritus of Theology and Ethics, Union Theological Seminary.

**Collection Scope and Content Note**

The Morse papers span the years of 1967 to 2013 and are contained in 12.5 document boxes. The papers are arranged in the original order they were submitted to the archive. They relate to many aspects of Christopher Morse’s life and career but are generally focused on his academic and professional experiences. Inclusive are academic papers and lectures of which there are drafts, annotated copies and audio recordings. In addition there are liturgical materials that consist of marriage rites and church bulletins, administrative materials, bills and travel schedules. Teaching materials include tests, lecture notes, syllabi and student papers. Strongly represented are correspondence, drafts of papers and articles, annotated manuscripts, editorial correspondence and other documentation relating to his major works, *The Difference Heaven Makes: Rehearing the Gospel as News* and *Not Every Spirit: A Dogmatics of Christian Disbelief*. There are 6 series in the collection. The first concentrates on scholarship and includes academic papers, lectures, research resources as well as papers by others annotated by Morse. The second series is focused on publications and includes galleys, notes, research materials and critiques. Series 3 is centered on Morse’s activities at UTS and include accreditation notes, matriculation records, letters of reference, annual reports, exchange program notes as well as UTS lecture series notes and papers related to the Bonhoeffer professorship. Series 4 contains correspondence, church bulletins and wedding services. Series 5 represents specialized subject files and includes papers and correspondence with the topics of prison ministry feminism and theology, Peter Heltzel, Barth, G. Sauter, Outka and additionally a ‘Faith and order project’.

The collection is organized in 6 series:

- **Series 1: Scholarship, 1968-200? (3 boxes, 1.5 lin. ft.)**

This series contains the bulk of Christopher Morse’s scholarship including research materials for subjects of interest. This series overlaps with series 5, ‘Subject files.’ One will discern elements in each series represented herein that point to Dr. Morse’s scholarly pursuits. Within this series is a subseries titled ‘papers by others’ that contains papers in Dr. Morse’s collection written by other scholars or students.

- **Series 2: Publications, 1981-2010 (3 boxes, 1.5 lin. ft.)**  
This series comprises published works by Doctor Morse as well as contributory materials to the work including drafts, research initiatives and critiques. Included in this series is work published by other authors, some for which Dr. Morse provided critiques.
- **Series 3: Union Theological Seminary – Administrative, 1960-2012 (2.5 boxes, 1.25 lin. ft.)**  
This series centers around documentation related to the Union Theological Seminary where Doctor Morse spent most of his career. Included are administrative notes such as those concerning Dr. Morse's application for tenure as well as UTS lectures and letters of recommendation written for students.
- **Series 4: Correspondence, 1979-1994 (1 box, .5 lin. ft.)**  
This series consists of correspondence related to the establishment of the Bonhoeffer Memorial Chair and other events.
- **Series 5: Subject Files, 1967-2006 (3 boxes, 1.5 lin. ft.)**  
This series is constructed from topics of interest coextensive with Dr. Morse's scholarship but distinct enough to identify as subjects of interest of their own.
- **Series 6: Audiovisual Materials [1989-1996] (1 audiovisual box, 0.5 lin. ft.)**  
This series is comprises magnetic audio cassettes created by Dr. Morse that contain recordings of lectures, radio interviews and liturgical related materials.

### **Processing**

Metal clips 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. Cassettes without plastic crystal cases were housed in acid free envelopes.

### **Further Sources**

Biographical information taken from the *Union Theological Faculty Page*  
<https://myunion.utsnyc.edu/faculty/faculty-directory/christopher-morse>

**Contents list****Series 1: Scholarship 1968-200?**

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
<b>Academic Papers and Lectures</b>			
1	1	1	Notes on early/mid-career academic work, 1968-1981
1	1	2	Tutorial for Dr. Driver's Course, 1970-1971
1	1	3	Talks and Discussions Materials [1969-1975?]
1	1	4	Papers Discussed, [1970-1975]
1	1	5	Brown Lectures RMC [Randolph-Macon College], March 1980
1	1	6	NCC [National Council of Churches] Toronto Workshop Oct. 7-10 1980
1	1	7	VA [Virginia] Pastors School Lecture, Jan. 26-29 1981
1	1	8	Dieter T. Hessel Lectionary Article, 1982
1	2	9	WCC [World Council of Churches] Faith and Order Project, 1981
1	2	10	Riverside Church Lenten Series, 1981
1	2	11	United Women Methodist Assembly, 1982
1	2	12	Auburn Theological Seminary, 1982
1	2	13	30 <sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly Board of the Laity, Baltimore, Oct. 22-24 1982
1	2	14	Gordon – Conwell Theological Seminary, 1982
1	2	15	Syracuse United Methodist Church, Nov. 1983
1	2	16	AAR [American Academy of Religion] Respondent, 1984
1	2	17	Trinity Institute Talk, 1985
1	2	18	Englewood NJ, St. Paul's, Lecture on Sexuality in Theological Perspective, 1987
1	2	19	Clippings, 1989-2001
1	2	20	Episcopal Consultation, Chicago, 1989
1	3	21	New York Times, Letter to the Editor - Truth and Theology, 2001
1	3	22	Articles by Christopher Morse, 1967-2003
<b>Papers by Others</b>			
1	3	23	Papers by other, 1980-2003
1	3	24	Papers by others, 2004-2007
1	3	25-26	Bibliographies and sample tests of others, 1968-1982

**Series 2: Publications, 1981-2010**

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
2	1	1	Barth Paper Dialog, 1981
2	1	2	Handbook of Christian Theologians, Jürgen Moltmann, Martin Marty, 1984
2	1	3	Chapters 1-5, untitled, "Heaven", [2009]

**Series 2: Publications, 1981-2010**

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
2	1	4	'The Difference that Heaven Makes', [Xeroxed Galley], 2010
2	1	5	Final page proofs – Not Every Spirit, 1993
2	2	6	Diskette case 1 and 2 – Not Every Spirit', [1993]
2	2	7	Diskette cases 3 and 4 – Not Every Spirit, Diskette case 4 Backup [1993]
<b>Publications by Others</b>			
2	2	8	Galleys and offprints – Ajayi, Carse and farewell address, 1995-1998
2	3	9	Dagmar Pöppen, Normen und Aufbrüche- Dedication to Morse, 2011
2	3	10	Peter Tudvad, Stadier På Antisemitismens Vej- Dedication to Morse, 2011
2	3	11	Academic papers by Gerhard Sauter and Journals, 1994-2001
2	3	12	Manuscript by Ian A. McFarland, 1998

**Series 3: Union Theological Seminary – Administrative, 1960-2012**

3	1	1	UTS Morning Lectures - 'Grace in Barth's World and Ours', 1980
3	1	2	UTS Morning Lectures – 'Calvin', 1986
3	1	3	Matriculation exam, 1987
3	1	4	Inaugural lecture, February 15 1994
3	1	5	Urgent writing deadlines and speaking commitments, 1998- 2000
3	1	6	Annual Reports UTS- personal, 1980-2012
3	1	7	Appointment review, 1993
3	1	8	Bonhoeffer exchange program and Society newsletters, 1998-2004
3	1	9	Bonhoeffer Chair Reports, 1994-2012
3	1	10	Tenure Review, 1974-1984
3	1	11	UTS Related Materials 1960-2006
3	2	1-5	Letters of reference [ <b>Restricted</b> ], 1978-1999

**Series 4: Correspondence, 1979-1994**

4	1	1	Gerhard Sauter, 1979-1980
4	1	2-4	Bonhoeffer Professorship Inaugural- congratulatory, 1994
4	1	5	AAR [American Academy of Religion], 1983-1984
4	1	6	Loose Correspondence, 1993

**Series 5: Subject Files, 1967-2006**

5	1	1	Outka – 'J. ellul's Ethics' et al, 1984-2000
5	1	2-3	Liturgies and church bulletins, 1978-2004
5	1	4	United Methodist Doctrine, 1985
5	1	5	Prison Ministry, 1999-2004

## UTS1: Christopher Morse Papers, 1960-2012

8

### **Series 5: Subject Files, 1967-2006**

<b>Series</b>	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Contents</b>
5	2	6-7	Annual Conference, United Methodist Church, 1984-2006
5	2	8	Peter Heltzel, 2002-2004
5	2	9	Feminist theology issues, 1989-1993
5	2	10	Drayton Lectures, Nov. 6-7 1988
5	3	11	Barth Centenary (Stony Point), May 2-4 1986
5	3	12	Gerhard Sauter articles, 1967-1992
5	3	13	Loose documents, 1994
5	3	14	Diskettes – ST104 evaluations [199?]

### **Series 6: Audiovisual Materials [1989-1996]**

6	1	God's Promise as Presence, Christopher Morse
6	2	VP81-1 Lecture I, Dr. Christopher Morse
6	3	VP81-1 Lecture II, Dr. Christopher Morse
6	4	VP81-1 Lecture III, Dr. Christopher Morse
6	5	VP81-1 Lecture IV, Dr. Christopher Morse
6	6	VP81-1 Lecture V, Dr. Christopher Morse
6	7	Chris Morse
6	8	WQR Radio Interview 5/18/96
6	9	Side 1, 'St Mark's Christmas Eve, 1982
6	10	Dr. Christopher Morse/Respondent to Van Buren, 10/13/89
6	11	Anglican Summer School (Perth), Christopher Morse, Jan. 1989
6	12	Anglican Summer School, Perth, Christine Nystrom, Jan. 1989
6	13	Anglican Summer School, Perth, Christine Nystrom, Jan. 1989
6	14	Ch. IV



