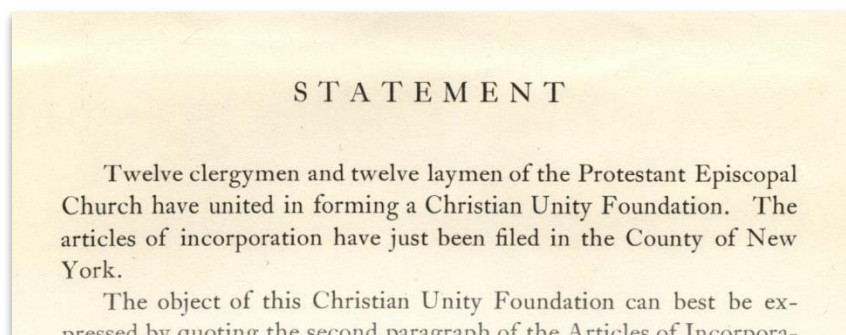


**The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,
Union Theological Seminary, New York**

William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives Group

Finding Aid for

Christian Unity Foundation Records, 1907 – 1921



Christian Unity Foundation 1910 Press Release, William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives: Christian Unity Foundation Records, box 1, folder 1, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Kristen Leigh Southworth and Brigette C. Kamsler, October 2013
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: Christian Unity Foundation
Title: Christian Unity Foundation Records
Inclusive dates: 1907 – 1921
Bulk dates: 1910 – 1913
Abstract: Minutes, constitution, by-laws, reports, treasurer's accounts, member lists, correspondence, and pamphlets of an Episcopal organization founded in 1910 to support Christian unity through research and conferences.
Size: 1 OS box, 2.00 linear feet
Storage: Onsite storage
Repository: The Burke Library
Union Theological Seminary
3041 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
Email: burkearchives@library.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

- Provenance:** The papers are part of the William Adams Brown Ecumenical Library Collection, which was founded in 1945 by the Union Theological Seminary Board of Directors.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to burkearchives@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. Please note that certain materials are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives: Christian Unity Foundation Records, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

History

The Christian Unity Foundation was incorporated in 1910 by twelve clergymen and twelve laymen of the Episcopal Church: Rev. William Crowell Doane (Bishop of Albany); Rev. Frederick Courtney (Bishop of Nova Scotia); Rev. Boyd Vincent (Bishop of Southern Ohio); Rev. Charles Palmerston Anderson (Bishop of Chicago); Rev. David H. Greer (Bishop of New York); Rev. Edwin Stevens Lines, (Bishop of Newark); Rev. Canon George William Douglas; Rev. Canon Robert Ellis Jones; Rev. Reese F. Alsop; Rev. H. R. Gummey, Jr.; Rev. Rockland Homans; Rev. Arthur Lowndes; Rear Admiral Caspar F. Goodrich (United States Navy), Colonel Charles William Larned (United States Army); Chief Justice J. H. Stiness; Robert Fulton Cutting, John M. Glenn, Francis C. Huntington, George Gordon King; William Fellowes Morgan; George Wharton Pepper; Lawson Purdy; Charles G. Saunders; William Jay Schieffelin.

Reverend Arthur Lowndes served as secretary of the Foundation. Its offices were located at 143 East 37th Street, New York City.

The objective of the Foundation was to promote Christian unity in the United States and abroad through research and conferences. The organization sought out to gather and disseminate accurate information relative to the faith and works of all Christian denominations, as well as to highlight the problem of divisions within the church and to suggest practical ways for denominations to work together as one body of Christ. In 1921, the Foundation published a book entitled *The Problem of Christian Unity*.

The fact that all of the founding members of the Christian Unity Foundation were Episcopalian led many to suspect that the real aim of the foundation was to bring other denominations into the fold of the Episcopal Church. The organization responded by assuring the public that this was not their aim, and that they would proceed with their mission slowly and with “quietness, gentleness, and humility.” However they expressed the belief that “the only way to attain large unity is to start with a small number of men who perfectly agree.”

Sources:

From the materials in the collection, as well as:

Dailey, Janet, "Christian Unity Foundation," *The Americana Supplement: A Comprehensive Record of the Latest Knowledge and progress of the World, volume 1*, The Scientific American Compiling Department: Frederick Converse Beach, 1911.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of a large scrapbook compiling correspondence, reports, minutes, treasurer's accounts, and other administrative papers pertaining to the development of the Christian Unity Foundation. Contained within this collection are also drafts and typed manuscripts of the organization's constitution and by-laws.

All materials have been kept in their original order, arranged by date. Scrapbook pages are highly acidic and very fragile. Loose papers from the front of the scrapbook were placed in folder 1, and loose papers from the back of the scrapbook were placed in folders 2-3.

Processing

Loose scrapbook pages with affixed materials were placed into Mylar envelopes. 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.

Further Sources

The Christopher Keller, Jr. Library at General Theological Seminary of New York holds copies of two publications by the Christian Unity Foundation, as well as *Replies to the Christian Unity Foundation of the Protestant Episcopal Church*, written in 1912 by Robert Livingston Rudolph and William Russell Collins.

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Correspondence, Minutes, Reports, 1907-1910
1	2	Loose Papers, 1918-1921
1	3	Undated materials [1910-1921?]
1	4	FRAGILE Scrapbook