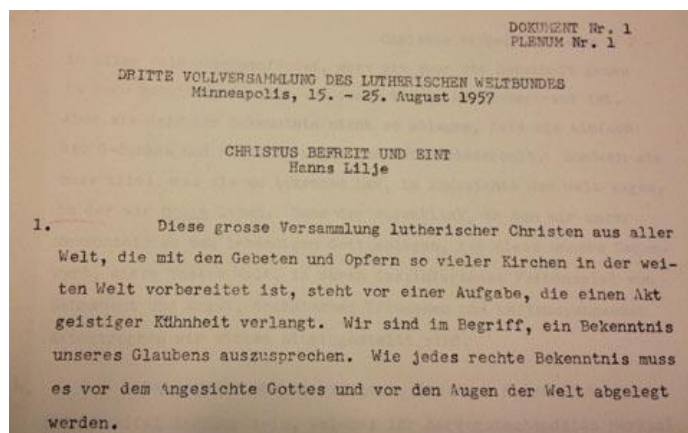


The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,
Union Theological Seminary, New York

William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives Group

Finding Aid for

Lutheran World Federation Assembly Records, 1946 - 1967



Dritte Vollversammlung Des Lutherischen Weltbundes, Dokument nr. 1, Plenum Nr. 1
Credit to WAB: Lutheran World Federation Records, box 1, folder 6,
The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Elizabeth Beller, July 2013
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: Lutheran World Federation
Title: Lutheran World Federation Assembly Records
Inclusive dates: 1946 - 1967
Bulk dates: 1957
Abstract: The Lutheran World Federation is an international organization of Lutheran Congregations and serves as the highest governing body for member churches. Collection includes resultant documents from the second and third Lutheran World Federation Assemblies in 1952 and 1957. Includes yearly runs of the News Bulletin of the Lutheran World Federation from 1946 to 1950; press releases made by the Lutheran World Federation and the Newsletter of the 3rd Assembly.
Size: 2 boxes, 1.00 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: Lutheran World Federation Assembly Records, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

History

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) was founded in the aftermath of World War II in 1947 and is still in existence today. Based upon the interwar movement of international Lutheran cooperation as evidenced through the Lutheran World Convention, the LWF was a loose grouping of Lutheran churches from Norway, Germany and the United States of America as well as smaller groupings of Lutheran churches worldwide. The founding principles of the federation were employed not only because of doctrinal importance but the great need for help and aid in war torn Europe and elsewhere internationally. The four founding tenants of LWF were help and aid for the needy; common initiatives in mission; joint efforts in theology and common response to ecumenical challenges.

The LWF assemblies, begun in 1947 are the highest order of decision making within the organization. The 1957 Assembly which was located in Minneapolis, Minnesota was the first such assembly held in the United States of America. According to the Lutheran World Federation Assembly website, 145 international delegates gathered. Many of these were from Germany and Scandinavia lending credence to the German and Norwegian language materials in the Burke Library Archives collection.

As the decade between the founding of the LWF and the meeting of the 3rd Lutheran World Federation passed, the composition of the LWF continued to shift and change. The 3rd Assembly witnessed an increase in the influence of Latin America upon the LWF as greater numbers of Latin American Churches were joining. The 3rd Assembly also noticeably felt the absence of members from states located behind the iron curtain as the tensions of the Cold War between the United States and Russia heightened.

It should be noted that not all Lutheran churches worldwide are members of the Lutheran World Federation. There are Lutheran churches of greater orthodox beliefs and liturgical tradition than

the members of the Lutheran World Federation. Some of these are associated with the Lutheran Missouri-Synod.

Sources:

The Lutheran World Federation, Assembly: <http://www.lutheranworld.org/content/assembly>

Schjorring, Jens Holger, Kumari Prasanna and Hjelm, Norman A. From Federation to Communion, Minneapolis, MN., Fortress Press, 1997.

Vajta, Vilmos. From Generation to Generation: The Lutheran World Federation 1947 – 1982, Lutheran World Federation Report #16, Geneva, Switzerland, 1983.

Collection Scope and Content Note

This collection contains assembly documents, press releases, newspaper clippings and issues of the official publication of the LWF. A complete set of the 1957 3rd Assembly documents in English is accompanied by sets of German and Norwegian language documents. Both the German and Norwegian selections of documents are missing certain items. This has been noted in the content lists below. The Assembly documents are arranged around five distinct themes or subtopics: “The Freedom we Have in Christ;” “The Unity of the Church in Christ;” “The Freedom to Reform the Church;” “Free for Service in the World;” and “Free and United in Hope.”

Also included in the collection is a list of the 1952 delegates from the 2nd Lutheran World Federation Assembly held in Hanover, Germany and yearly runs of the News Bulletin, the “official organ” or official publication of the Lutheran World Federation from 1946 – 1950. In addition, press releases concurrent with the 3rd Assembly and newspapers clippings are present. Issues of the Newsletter of the 3rd Assembly printed and distributed in the year leading up to the 3rd Assembly are found in the collection as well.

Processing

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. Any items in an advanced state of deterioration were placed in Mylar envelopes.

Further Sources

Information Service of the Lutheran World Federation Jan 1951 – Feb. 1955 at Burke Library: <http://clio.columbia.edu/catalog/4486955>

Youtube video of interviews conducted at the 3rd Lutheran World Federation Assembly <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4fTMYkCO8A>

Video provided by the Evangelical Lutheran Church Archive <http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/History/ELCA-Archives.aspx>

Contents list

Box	Folder	Contents
		1957 3rd Lutheran World Federation Assembly
1	1	List of delegates, 1957
1	2	List of documents, [1957?]
1	3 - 5	Documents, English, no. 1 – 48, 1957
1	6	Documents German, no. 1 - 7; <i>Dritte Vollversammlung des Lutherischen Weltbundes Dokument</i> , 1957
1	7	Documents, German, no. 8 – 19, 21, 23, 24, 26 – 31, 1957
1	8	Documents German, no. 34 – 36, 38, 39, 41, 42, 44 - 47
1	9	Documents, Norwegian, no. 1 – 6; <i>Lutherska Världsförbundets Tredje Generalförsamling</i> , 1957
1	10	Documents, Norwegian, no. 7 – 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 24, 26 – 30, 1957
1	11	Documents, Norwegian, no. 31, 34 – 36, 38, 39, 41, 44 – 47, 1957
		Press Releases and Publications, 1946 - 1957
2	1	Press releases: National Lutheran Council News Bureau, Newspaper clippings; Lutheran's 3rd World-wide conclave ends <i>Chicago Daily Tribune</i> Monday August 26, 1957; Lutherans Settle all Points of Difference <i>The Christian Century</i> , July 31, 1957 Bishop Cites Rise in Hungary Faith, <i>New York Times</i> , Tuesday August 6, 1957 World Assembly Calls Lutherans, <i>New York Times</i> , Saturday August 10, 1957
2	2	Newsletter of the Third Assembly of the LWF, no. 1 - 7, 1957
2	3 – 7	News Bulletin, official organ [publication] of The LWF, 1946 - 1950
		1952 2nd Lutheran World Federation Assembly
2	8	Unofficial Who's Who list of Delegates and Representatives, Hanover Germany 1952.
2	9	Correspondence, WAB Library and National Lutheran Council, 1957
2	10	Reports, Minutes and Pamphlets, 1949-1967