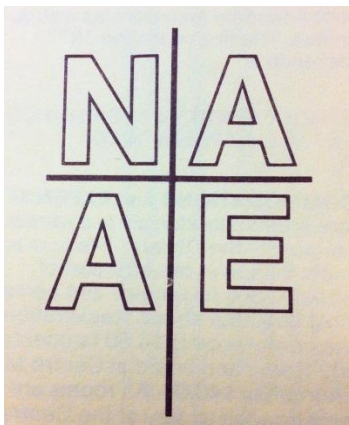


**The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,  
Union Theological Seminary, New York**

William Adams Brown Ecumenical Archives Group

Finding Aid for

**North American Academy of Ecumenists Records, 1950 – 2011**



Pamphlet, Ninth Annual Conference. Credit to: WAB: North American Academy of Ecumenists, series 3, box 13, folder 8, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Brigette C. Kamsler, July 2012. Updated September 2012.  
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

**Summary Information**

Creator: North American Academy of Ecumenists  
Title: North American Academy of Ecumenists Records  
Inclusive dates: 1950 – 2011  
Bulk dates: 1957 – 2002  
Abstract: Established in 1967, the North American Academy of Ecumenists (NAAE) is composed of college, university and theological seminary professors engaged in studies related to Christian unity. Collection includes records relating to the founding of the organization, correspondence, administrative records and information on annual conferences.  
Size: 15 boxes, 7.00 linear feet  
Storage: Onsite storage  
Repository: The Burke Library  
Union Theological Seminary  
3041 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027  
Email: [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkearchives@library.columbia.edu)

### Administrative Information

- Provenance:** The collection was donated originally to the Union Theological Seminary Library in 1974 after the sixth meeting of NAAE. One records carton was donated at that time. Since then the Burke Library was deemed the official repository for the records of NAAE. Donations and additions are made regularly and have been since 1974.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto: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 Library Archives: North American Academy of Ecumenists Records, Series # box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

### History

The idea of a national association for ecumenists was first discussed at the Oberlin, Ohio meeting of the North American Faith and Order conference in 1957. Several people concerned with this topic were gathered at that conference and they established the Association of Professors Teaching in Ecumenics. Discussions continued at the Faith and Order conferences held in Denver in 1960 and Montreal in 1963. The Professors of Ecumenics established a Continuation Committee in Montreal.

Led by Robert Tobias, Nils Ehrenstrom, Samuel McCrea Cavert, Paul Macy, and Paul Minear, the North American Academy of Ecumenists (NAAE) officially began with their inaugural conference held in 1967. At this time, the Continuation Committee of the North American Professors of Ecumenics was dissolved in favor of the formation of the NAAE. The Academy was composed of college, university and theological seminary professors engaged in studies related to Christian unity. Their goal was “to inform, relate, and encourage men and women professionally engaged in the study, teaching and other practice of ecumenism.”

The organization is still in existence today with an active membership and continues to hold yearly meetings each September. According to a recent NAAE newsletter, membership includes “ecumenically active clergy and laity as well as professors and students. It is an “Academy” by virtue of its members’ shared concern for the theological reflection and scholarship that must accompany the movement toward mutual religious understanding and the unity of the Christian Churches.”

Sources:

- Loya, Joseph A. "The North American Academy of Ecumenists: The Story of its Establishment 1957-1967." *Journal of Ecumenical Studies*. July 15, 1998: 35(3/4), 319-340.
- North American Academy of Ecumenists Website, <http://www.naae.net/> [Accessed July 24, 2012].
- Reed, Barbara E. "The Papers of the North American Academy of Ecumenists – Inventory." Prepared June 21, 1975.

**Collection Scope and Content Note**

The collection is divided into four series:

- **Series 1: Administrative Records, 1953 – 2004 (5 Boxes, 2.25 linear feet)**  
This series contains documents relating to the structure of the organization from its inception as the Professors of Ecumenics. Included are detailed minutes and other documents relating to the foundation of the group. Membership records include general membership, those that attended the conferences, and membership lists including those who served on various committees.
- **Series 2: Correspondence, 1957 – 2002 (4 boxes, 2.00 linear feet)**  
Within this series is correspondence relating to the NAAE. The earliest letters deal with the establishment of the Association of Professors of Ecumenics and the creation of the organization, as well as putting out a call for members. The letters discuss a variety of issues and represent many members. Also included are President's Correspondence from Father Ernest R. Falardeau spanning 1991 – 1995.
- **Series 3: Conferences, 1957 – 2011 (5 boxes, 2.25 linear feet)**  
The history of the NAAE is closely allied with the conference and can be traced through the various years. Many of the committees of the NAAE exist in relation to the conferences, which appear to be the most important program held by NAAE. Each conference discusses in-depth the work of the past year by the NAAE, as well as where the organization hopes to grow in the upcoming year. Presentations are made at the conferences on a variety of topics discussing current issues in the field of Ecumenics.
- **Series 4: Ecumenical Education and Theology, 1950 – 1969 (1 box, 0.50 linear feet)**  
Within this series are the original materials relating to the establishment of NAAE when it was known as the Association of Professors Teaching in Ecumenics. Highlights include those from Bossey, Switzerland which discuss the advances made in introducing ecumenical studies to theological schools. The Dirks Report emerged from the desire to establish an institute in the Western Hemisphere dedicated to ecumenical study, thought and education. At the meeting of the Professors of Ecumenics in 1957, attendees were asked to bring syllabi from their courses, copies of which are included in this series from a large variety of educational institutions.

**Processing**

Deteriorating 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. The collection was originally organized chronologically, but included notes indicating that records should be reorganized by type.

**Related Collections**

The Burke Library includes many collections and papers from those involved with the NAAE, including the World Council of Churches. For more information on these collections, please see the Burke website at <http://library.columbia.edu/indiv/burke.html> or contact staff directly [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkearchives@library.columbia.edu).

## Contents list

### **Series 1: Administrative Records, 1953 – 2004**

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	1	Clippings, 1992
1	1	2	Financial Records, 1966 – 2002
1	1	3	Institutional History by Robert Tobias, 1954 – 1986
1	1	4	Proposed Constitution, 1966
1	1	5	Proposed Formation of NAAE, 1967
1	1	6	Library Committee, 1974 – 1976
1	2	1 – 8	Membership, 1960 – 1989
1	3	1 – 6	Membership, 1990 – 2004
1	4	1	Minutes, Fellowship of Professors of Missions, 1953 – 1954
1	4	2	Minutes, Professors of Ecumenics, Oberlin Conference, 1957
1	4	3	Minutes, Professors of Ecumenics, Montreal Conference, 1963
1	4	4	Minutes Regarding Formation of NAAE, 1965
1	4	5	Minutes Regarding Inaugural NAAE Conference, 1966
1	4	6 – 11	Minutes and Reports, 1966 – 1989
1	5	1 – 5	Minutes, 1990 – 1999

### **Series 2: Correspondence, 1957 – 2002**

2	6	1	Correspondence and Syllabi, Oberlin, 1957 – 1959
2	6	2	Correspondence, Professors of Ecumenics, 1959
2	6	3 – 4	Correspondence, 1960 – 1969
2	6	5 – 6	Correspondence, Third Faith and Order Conference, Montreal, 1962 – 1963
2	6	7	Correspondence, Proposal for Formation of NAAE, 1963 – 1967
2	6	8 – 10	Circular Letter and Replies Regarding Formation of NAAE, 1964
2	7	1	Correspondence Regarding Membership in Proposed Academy of Ecumenists, 1966
2	7	2 – 12	Correspondence, 1966 – 1969
2	8	1 – 8	Correspondence, 1970 – 2002
2	9	1 – 6	President's Correspondence, Father Ernest R. Falardeau, 1991 – 1995

### **Series 3: Conferences, 1957 – 2011**

			<b>North American Faith and Order, Oberlin, Ohio, September 1957</b>
3	10	1 – 2	Pre-Conference Meeting, Ecumenics in Seminary, 1957

**Series 3: Conferences (Cont'd)**

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
			<b>North American Faith and Order, Oberlin, Ohio, Sept. 1957 (Cont'd)</b>
3	10	3	Pre-Conference Arrangements, 1957
3	10	4	Conference Participants, 1957
3	10	5	Syllabi, Professors of Ecumenics, Oberlin, Ohio, 1957 – 1958
3	10	6	Tobias Notes, Agenda and Documents from Conference, 1957
3	10	7	Summary Notes for AATS Meeting, "What the World Church Means for Theological Education," Boston University, June 1958
			<b>North American Faith and Order, Denver, December 1960</b>
3	11	1	Pre-Conference Reports, Bossey, 1960
3	11	2	Pre-Conference Draft Agenda and Participants List, 1960
3	11	3 – 4	Pre-Conference Sample Letters to Invitees, 1960
3	11	5	Pre-Conference Speaker Invitations and Responses, 1960
3	11	6 – 7	Pre-Conference Study, "Ecumenics in the Seminary Curriculum: A Survey and Appraisal," 1960
3	11	8	Pre-Conference Survey on Ecumenics in Seminary Curricula, 1960
3	11	9 – 11	Developments, Notes and Agenda, 1960
			<b>Inaugural North American Conference on Theological Education for Ecumenical Dialogue, 1967</b>
3	12	1 – 7	Pre-Conference Planning, 1966 – 1967
3	12	8	Theme Discussion: Ecumenical Theology, 1966
3	12	9	Registrants, 1967
3	12	10 – 11	Conference Documents, 1967
3	12	12	Workshop on Church History, 1967
3	13	1	Second Conference, St. Louis, Missouri, 1970
3	13	2	Third Conference, Garrison, New York, 1971
3	13	3	Fourth Conference, Ontario, Canada, 1972
3	13	4	Fifth Conference, Dayton, Ohio, 1973
3	13	5	Sixth Conference, Washington, D.C., 1974
3	13	6	Seventh Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1975
3	13	7	Eighth Conference, Garrison, New York, 1976
3	13	8	Ninth Conference, Montreal, Canada, 1977
3	13	9	Tenth Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, 1978
3	13	10	Eleventh Annual Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1979
3	13	11	Twelfth Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana, 1980
3	13	12	Thirteenth Conference, New York, New York, 1981
3	13	13	Fourteenth Conference, Weston, Massachusetts, 1982
3	13	14	Fifteenth Conference, Toronto, 1983
3	13	15	Sixteenth Conference, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1984
3	13	16	Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., 1985
3	13	17	Annual Conference, Chicago, Illinois, 1986
3	13	18	Annual Conference, Ontario, Canada, 1987

**Series 3: Conferences, (Cont'd)**

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
3	13	19	Annual Conference, New York, New York, 1988
3	13	20	Annual Conference, Louisville, Kentucky, 1989
3	13	21	Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., 1990
3	13	22	Annual Conference, St. Louis, Missouri, 1991
3	14	1	Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada, 1992
3	14	2	Annual Conference, Stony Point, New York, 1993
3	14	3	Annual Conference, Pasadena, California, 1994
3	14	4	Annual Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1995
3	14	5	Annual Conference, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1996
3	14	6	Annual Conference, Toronto, Canada, 1997
3	14	7	Annual Conference, Covington, Kentucky, 1998
3	14	8	Annual Conference, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 1999
3	14	9	Annual Conference, Lansdowne, Virginia, 2002
3	14	10	Annual Conference Pamphlets, 2004-2011

**Series 4: Ecumenical Education and Theology, 1950 – 1969**

4	15	1	Conference Materials from Switzerland, 1954 – 1959
4	15	2	Dirks Survey, NCC Special Committee on Study of Ecumenical Education report to NCC General Board, January – February 1956
4	15	3 – 9	Syllabi and Readings, Courses in Ecumenics from United States Schools, 1950 – 1966
4	15	10	Summary Report, Preliminary Study of Ecumenical Education for the Special Committee on the Study of Ecumenical Education, NCCCUSA, 1956
4	15	11	Theological Education, <i>The Christian Century</i> , April 1957
4	15	12	North American Regional Report to the Graduate School of Ecumenical Studies, Bossey, February 1959
4	15	13	Notes, Professors of Ecumenics Discussion between Ehrenstrom and Tobias, November 1959
4	15	14	Roman Catholic Seminaries and Religious Houses of Formation in the United States, 1966
4	15	15	Statistical Survey, Protestant and Roman Catholic Seminaries, 1967
4	15	16	Theological Bibliography, 1963
4	15	17	Tobias, "Ecumenical Theology," [195?]
4	15	18	World Council of Churches Source Material, Study on the Authority of the Bible, 1969