

**SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION
CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMISSION
STAFF FILES
1970 – 1987**

AR 138-5



Christian Life Commission staff, ca. 1975

**Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives
Nashville, Tennessee**

October, 2015

**Southern Baptist Convention
Christian Life Commission
Staff Files
1970 – 1987**

AR 138-5

Summary

Main Entry: Southern Baptist Convention. Christian Life Commission. Staff Files.

Date Span: 1970 – 1987

Abstract: Collection of correspondence and subject files maintained by the program leader staff of the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention during the leadership period of Foy Valentine and Larry Baker. The correspondence relates to seminars and meetings, publications, speaking engagements, requests for publications and services, and communications with staff members of other SBC agencies. The subject files cover issues such as conferences and moral concerns. This collection is a series within the records of the Christian Life Commission/Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Size: linear ft. 20 linear ft. (48 document boxes)

Collection #: AR138-5

Historical Sketch

The Christian Life Commission is a Southern Baptist Convention agency that provides scriptural analysis on current social issues and moral responsibilities of the Christian life. In 1947, the Commission, housed in the Southern Baptist Convention Building in Nashville, Tennessee, succeeded the Social Services Commission that started in 1913. In 1997, the Christian Life Commission was renamed the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission to describe its focus on religious liberty and church/state relations. Foy Valentine served as Executive Director of the Commission from 1960 to his retirement in 1987. Larry Baker succeeded him and served less than two years as Executive Director.

Scope and Content Note

The collection is divided into two series – Correspondence and Subject Files. The program directors of the CLC merged their correspondence into one common filing system. Therefore, all of their correspondence found its way into this arrangement. The correspondence relates to seminars and meetings, publications, speaking engagements, requests for publications and services, and communications with staff members of other SBC agencies. Correspondence with some individuals is located in individual folders, with most of the correspondence in a general alphabetical/chronological filing system.

The subject matter includes many of the issues related to the moral and ethical concerns of the Christian Life Commission. The issues include hunger, pornography, peace and justice, television violence and sexuality, capital punishment, homosexuality, marriage and divorce, political corruption, and other related moral concerns. The Christian Life Commission staff members included: Elmer S. West, Floyd Craig, Harry N. Hollis, C. Welton Gaddy, Lee Porter, W. David Sapp, John A. Wood, David Wilkerson, David Currie, William H. Elder, William M. Tillman, Jr., Larry Braidfoot, W. David Lockard, and Robert M. Parham.

Significant correspondence with the following individuals is included in the files: Catherine Allen, Sarah Frances Anders, Paul R. Adkins, Henlee H. Barnette, James Dunn, Walker Knight, Bob Keeshen (Captain Kangaroo), Larry McSwain, David Mace, A. C. Miller, T. B. Maston, William M. Pinson, Cecil E. Sherman, Phil Strickland, and Andrew Young.

Arrangement

The collection is divided into two series. The correspondence is arranged in chronological/alphabetical order. The subject files are arranged in alphabetical order by folder title.

Provenance

Deposited by the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, Bobby Reed, 2014.

Preferred Citation

Southern Baptist Convention. Christian Life Commission. Staff Files Collection, Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, Nashville, Tennessee.

Access Restrictions

None

Subject Terms

Southern Baptist Convention. Christian Life Commission.

Abortion – Religious aspects

Gambling

Homosexuality – Religious aspects

Hunger

Peace – Religious aspects

Pornography

Race relations

Women in church work

Name Terms

Allen, Catherine B.

Anders, Sarah Frances, 1927-

Adkins, Paul Russell

Baker, N. Larry (Nathan Larry), 1937-

Barnette, Henlee H.

Dunn, James M.

Knight, Walker L., 1924-

Keeshen, Robert
McSwain, Larry L.
Mace, D.R. (David Robert)
Miller, Acker C., 1891 – 1984
Maston, T. B. (Thomas Buford), 1897 – 1988
Pinson, William M.
Sherman, Cecil E.
Strickland, Phil, 1941-
Young, Andrew J.

Related Materials

Southern Baptist Convention. Christian Life Commission. Resource Files. Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives, AR 138-2.

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