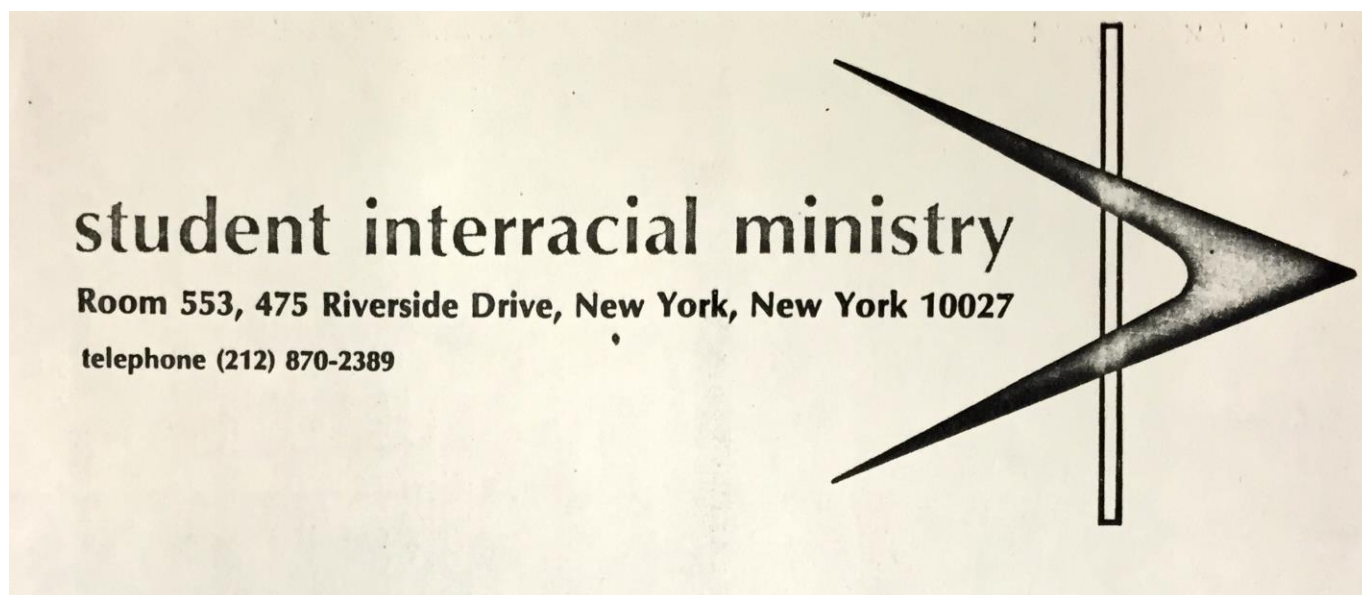


The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,
Union Theological Seminary, New York

Union Theological Seminary Archives 1

Finding Aid for

Student Interracial Ministry Records, 1960 – 1968



Credit to: UTS 1: Student Interracial Ministry Records,
The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Brigette C. Kamsler, April 2015
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

Summary Information

Creator: Student Interracial Ministry
Title: Student Interracial Ministry Records
Dates: 1960-1968
Abstract: Student-run ministry in which students, congregations and community members from racially diverse backgrounds gained greater appreciation and understanding of each other, which would eventually expand nationwide. Collection contains papers on organization and running of program.
Size: 30 boxes, 13.00 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: Exact provenance unknown. This collection was created by the SIM project and probably transferred to the archives when the program ended in 1968.
- 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. Some records are covered
Burke Library staff is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.
- Access Restrictions: The collection contains student records protected by FERPA; these materials will be restricted for 95 years from the last date in the section and are marked by a **RESTRICTED**. Otherwise, the collection is open to readers.
- Preferred Citation: Item description, UTS1: Student Interracial Ministry Records, series #, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

History

The Student Interracial Ministry, hereafter known as SIM, began in 1960. It was a ministry in which students, congregations and community members from racially diverse backgrounds would gain a greater appreciation and understanding of each other. According to Roger L. Shinn in *The Interseminarian*, Vol. 1, No. 4, December 1962:

The Student Interracial Ministry is a student project through and through. Students got the idea, pushed it, did the major work, and carried out the ministry... The students sought counsel from teachers and specialists in race relations. The National Council of Churches through its Department of Racial and Cultural Relations "adopted" the project but never interfered with student initiative.

SIM was initiated when four white students from Union Theological Seminary (UTS), inspired by the burgeoning civil rights movement, spent their summer serving in black churches in the south. They served as assistant pastors and lived among the community, where they were able to experience the same racism that their hosts suffered daily. The students and the communities found the experiment so effective that they decided to expand the program.

Over the next eight years, SIM grew exponentially. The students organized and ran the entire program, with only minimal faculty assistance from UTS. They recruited from other theological schools around the country, looking for students interested in participating. They contacted hundreds of churches, seeking positions for the participants. The program was not restricted to any one race or religious affiliation. Virtually every Christian denomination was represented in the program. The students were not only learning about different races, but often experiencing new religious practices and beliefs as well.

SIM became so successful as a summer program that full-year internships were developed. As the program grew, however, it naturally required a more complicated operating structure. An

entire office developed around the program, with regional branches in several areas of the country. Different regions began to run their own projects, often concentrating on inner-city problems. SIM ran orientation and evaluation conferences for the participants, in order to prepare them for their internships. The main office eventually hired a program director. While SIM was still entirely student-run, by the mid 1960's it had developed into an almost professional organization.

Participation in SIM was not, however, without its hazards. Students, in the south in particular, were often subject to the same difficulties as the locals. At best they suffered harassment from the whites in their area, at worst there was intimidation, jail time, and physical violence. One SIM student told in his mid-summer report of the archetypical southern sheriff who terrorized the county the student was working in. The official, along with his relatives and cronies, would routinely beat local residents, throw them in prison, and occasionally kill someone out of hand. This was, naturally, an extreme case, but it indicates the risks some of the students were taking.

Despite these hazards, SIM worked very successfully for eight years. Prominent ventures, like the Southwest Georgia Project, seemed to take on a life of their own. Dozens of participants volunteered, and the Project grew to a point where it was putting out its own newsletter and drawing up a prospectus. Similar activities were going on around the country.

Eventually, however, SIM seems to have faded away. The crusading impulse of the earlier years died down at the same time that the unifying trend of the civil rights movement was ending. By the end of 1968, the project closed down. George Walters, SIM director from June 1965-June 1966, said in an oral history in April 1995 that he wasn't sure why SIM ended, but that SIM began with offices at Union and then moved to the National Council of Churches (NCC) in the office of the Commission on Religion and Race. The Commission on Religion and Race went out of existence in 1968/1969 and was absorbed by the NCC Christian Life and Mission.

During its existence, however, SIM brought together hundreds of students, of many races and nationalities, with dozens of churches of all types and beliefs. One of the founding members of SIM, John Collins, reported that he returned to the church where he had interned over thirty years earlier, the Star of Zion AME church in Talladega, Alabama, and found residents who still remembered him. The SIM legacy continues in the many lives it affected.

Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection is organized in six series:

- **Series 1: Administration, 1960-1968 (4 boxes, 2.00 lin. ft.)**

This series contains information related to the general operations of the organization, such as financial information, correspondence, and lists of members.

- **Subseries 1A: Correspondence, 1960-1967 (2 boxes, 1.00 lin. ft.)**

This series contains letters from the New York Office about setting up sites throughout the United States. These files have been arranged chronologically, and run from 1960 to 1967. Other correspondence files contain materials related either

to specific individuals in SIM or particular aspects of the Ministry. Notable is correspondence with John Collins and Martin Luther King, Jr. in box 2, folder 1.

- **Subseries 1B: General, 1960-1968 (2 boxes, 1.00 lin. ft.)**

This series contains budgets, and similar financial material, as well as other general material such as speeches, and lists. Some materials were weeded from this series following records management. The organization and proposals contains information on the organizational structure and history of the organization, and special projects as well as their aims and objectives. An early statement of the Student Interracial Ministry was written by Roger L. Shinn, who at the time was professor of applied Christianity at Union Theological Seminary.

- **Series 2: Minutes and Reports, 1960-1967 (5 boxes, 2.25 lin. ft.)**

This series contains meeting minutes from committees and conferences, reports from SIM participants, and SIM annual reports. The Student Interracial Ministry Committee materials in box 2 pertain to the earliest records when SIM was merely a project and not a nation-wide initiative.

The Executive Committee was composed of interested students from Union, Biblical, and General Theological Seminaries, and others when possible, who volunteered their services to help carry on the SIM program from year to year. It was called the Executive Committee because it administered the total SIM program, but at the same time its members had responsibilities on their own campuses.

The Chairman of the Executive Committee was the Student Coordinator, who was a part-time paid worker. It oversaw the work of the full-time Intern Coordinator whose primary responsibility was to coordinate the National SIM Committee. The National Committee of SIM was comprised of representatives from SIM committees on the various seminary campuses. The National Committee facilitated the work on a wider scale than the Executive Committee, which resided in New York. For more information on this, please see series 1B, box 2, folders 5-6.

- **Series 3: Organizations and Conferences, 1960-1967 (2 boxes, 1.00 lin. ft.)**

This series contains information on churches, orientation and evaluation, organization and proposals. The Churches represent SIM's contact with participating locales, and includes correspondence and applications to the program. Orientation and evaluation includes materials related to these annual conferences held annually. Materials include agendas, evaluations by the students, and questionnaires.

- **Series 4: Publicity and Publications, 1960-1968 (3 boxes, 1.25 lin. ft.)**

Within this series are materials published and produced publicly by SIM. Included are materials published both by and about SIM and is arranged alphabetically by publication. It also contains publicity materials like press releases, as well as newsletters from SIM itself and those produced by local SIM projects.

The publication Skandalon, produced by SIM, was a take on the Greek term “skandalon,” which means gospel – meaning the gospel was a scandal to those who did not love the Lord. It was made to focus on urban issues, racial issues, and the involvement of the church in those areas.

- **RESTRICTED Series 5: Student Files, 1962-1968 (7 boxes, 3.25 lin. ft.)**
This series contains materials related to the student participants directly, such as individualized student files, applications, correspondence, withdrawn applications, student lists, and recruitment information. The files are arranged alphabetically, but restricted by FERPA for 95 years. These will become available in 2063.
- **RESTRICTIONS Series 6: Regional Sites, 1963-1968 (9 boxes, 3.25 lin. ft.)**
Within this series is information about the local projects undertaken by SIM, and is divided into five geographical subseries generally broken down further by city or regional project. Each of the five subseries contains correspondence, proposals, and related information for the local projects, which are generally arranged alphabetically by project.
 - **Southeast, 1963-1967 (4 boxes, 1.75 lin. ft.)**
This section contains information on locations in Mississippi, Kentucky, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Georgia. Throughout the folders marked restricted are student applications and evaluations, which is the reason those materials are closed.
 - **Midwest, 1963-1967 (2 boxes, 0.75 lin. ft.)**
Locations served were Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Church applications, strategies, specific models and information general related to the locations and institutions are included. This section has no restrictions as it does not contain student records.
 - **Northeast, 1965-1968 (1 box, 0.25 lin. ft.)**
This section contains information on locations in New York, New Jersey, Maryland, and Washington, D. C. Many of the folders contain student evaluations and applications; the folders that do contain these materials are marked.
 - **West, 1965-1967 (1 box, 0.25 lin. ft.)**
The West focuses on locations throughout California. Also included is information from the COMMIT project, which stood for Center for Metropolitan Mission In-Service Training, which was directed by Robert E. Ryland. The last folder containing the COMMIT material includes student applications and is restricted.
 - **Southwest, 1966-1967 (1 box, 0.25 lin. ft.)**
This section contains information across the southwest; however the records focus on Texas. One folder contains contact information of students as well as their applications and is restricted.

Processing

Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Some of the folders that were originally organized in 1995 were combined, and subseries were eliminated and kept as just the series with subheadings.

Original organization and housing was undertaken in the spring and summer of 1995, with the collection arranged by Daniel Sokolow after the preliminary sorting by Professor James M. Washington's course, "A Religious History of the Civil Rights Movement." The collection has not been processed since water incursion and freeze drying in 2002. It was updated and reorganized in 2015 by Brigette C. Kamsler as part of the grant funded by the Henry Luce Foundation.

It was during this time that records management practices were applied to the financial records, which originally were much more voluminous containing information on gift receipts, acknowledgements, expenditures and draft budgets. In general, two copies of materials were kept instead of three which follows the Burke Library standards.

The organization was created and run by students. Specific student records, evaluations and applications with personal information are restricted following FERPA and are indicated throughout the finding aid. These materials are closed for 95 years from the most recent date in the folder.

Further Sources

The Burke Library contains a number of other collections related to the topics and organizations covered within. The East Harlem Protestant Parish Records came about during a similar time frame and also was student-driven to a degree. For more information, please see the [EHPP Finding Aid](#). The [National Council of Churches Records](#) at Burke Library may also be of interest.

The papers of Roger L. Shinn are available at the Burke Library, as are a number of other Union-related materials. For more information, please see the [Burke Library Archives website](#).

Change in Box Numbering

Old Box Numbers [pre-2015]	New Box Numbering [2015]
Series 1A, Box 1	Series 1A, Box 1
Series 1A, Box 2	Series 1A, Box 2
Series 1B, Box 1	Series 2, Box 1
Series 1B, Box 2	Series 2, Box 2
Series 1C, Box 1	Series 2, Box 3
Series 1C, Box 2	Series 2, Box 4-5
Series 1D, Box 1	Series 1B, Box 1
Series 1E, Box 1	Series 3, Box 1
Series 1F, Box 1	Series 3, Box 2
Series 1G, Box 1	Series 1B, Box 2
Series 1H, Box 1	Series 1B, Box 1
Series 2A, Box 1	Series 4, Box 1
Series 2A, Box 2	Series 4, Box 2
Series 2B, Box 1	Series 4, Box 3
Series 3A, Boxes 1-6	Series 5, Boxes 1-6 RESTRICTED
Series 3B, Box 1	Series 5, Box 7 RESTRICTED
Series 4A, Box 1	Series 6, Box 1
Series 4A, Box 2	Series 6, Box 2
Series 4A, Box 3	Series 6, Box 3
Series 4A, Box 4	Series 6, Box 4
Series 4B, Box 1	Series 6, Box 5
Series 4B, Box 2	Series 6, Box 6
Series 4C, Box 1	Series 6, Box 7
Series 4D, Box 1	Series 6, Box 8
Series 4E, Box 1	Series 6, Box 9

Contents list

Series 1: Administration, 1960-1968

Subseries 1A: Correspondence, 1960-1967

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1A	1	1-8	New York Office, May 1960-October 1967
1A	2	1	John Collins, 1961
1A	2	2	Franklin I. [Chris] Gamwell, 1960-1961
1A	2	3-4	James Hartley, 1961-1963
1A	2	5	Wayne M. Jones, 1966
1A	2	6	Dennis Loo, 1963-1964
1A	2	7	E. Maynard Moore, 1966-1967
1A	2	8	M. George Walters, 1965-1967
1A	2	9	Information Requests, 1965-1966
1A	2	10	Seminary Contacts, 1962-1963
1A	2	11	Skandalon – Southeast, 1966-1967; West, 1967
1A	2	12	Form Letters
1A	2	13	General, 1960-1962

Subseries 1B: General, 1960-1968

1B	1	1	Fundraising - Aquinas Fund
1B	1	2	Budgets, 1966-1968
1B	1	3	Finance Committee, 1961-1963
1B	1	4	Financial Correspondence, 1962-1967
1B	1	5	Speeches, 1966
1B	1	7	Job Descriptions and Personnel
1B	1	8	Personnel: E. Maynard Moore and M. George Walters
1B	1	9	SIM and the Interseminary Movement, 1966

Organizational Structure and History, 1960-1968

1B	2	1	History, Aims and Objectives of SIM, 1960-1961
1B	2	2	Organizational Proposal, 1966-1967
1B	2	3-4	Prospectus, 1967-1968
1B	2	5	SIM Handbook, 1965-1966
1B	2	6	Structure Statements, 1965-1967
1B	2	7	Special Projects, 1966-1968
1B	2	8	Proposals and Working Papers, 1966-1967
1B	2	9	Transition Model Proposal, 1967-1968

Series 2: Minutes and Reports, 1960-1967

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
			Minutes, 1961-1967
2	1	1-5	Executive Committee, October 1964-February 1967

Series 2: Minutes and Reports (Cont'd)

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
Minutes (cont'd)			
2	1	6-10	National Committee, February 1965-March 1967
2	2	1-4	Student Interracial Ministry Committee, 1961-1966
2	2	5	Midwest Regional, January and March 1966
2	2	6	General Committees, 1966-1967
2	2	7	Ninth Biennial Consultation on Field Education, 1967
2	2	8	Chicago Strategy Conference, 1966
2	2	9	Project Directors Conference, April 1967
Reports, 1960-1967			
2	3	1	Summer 1963
2	3	2	Mid-Summer, 1964
2	3	3	Mid-Summer Copies, 1961-1964
2	3	4-5	Mid-Summer, 1965
2	3	6-9	Summer, 1965
2	4	1	Mid-Summer, 1962
2	4	2	Summer, 1967
2	4	3	Mid-Year Intern Reports, 1963-1964
2	4	4-7	Intern Reports, Yearlong Placements, 1965-1967
2	4	9-12	Program Reports, 1960-1967
2	5	1	General, 1967
2	5	2	Trips, 1962-1966
2	5	3	Cumulative Annual Reports, 1960-1966

Series 3: Organizations and Conferences, 1960-1967

<u>Churches, 1962-1967</u>			
3	1	1-5	Applications, 1964-1966
3	1	6-7	Contacts: Alabama, Minnesota, Missouri, Washington D. C., 1965
3	1	8-13	Correspondence, 1962-1967
3	1	14	Home Church Campaign, 1965
<u>Conferences, 1960-1966</u>			
3	2	1-6	Orientation, 1961-1966
3	2	7-9	Evaluation, 1960-1961; 1964-1966
3	2	10	Evaluation Questionnaires, 1965

Series 4: Publicity and Publications, 1960-1968

4	1	1	Accent of Possibility, 1967-1968
4	1	2	Christian Advocate, 1964

Series 4: Publicity and Publications (Cont'd)

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
4	1	3	Christian Century, 1962
4	1	4	Interracial News Service, 1962
4	1	5-6	Interseminarian, December 1962; 1966-1967
4	1	7	Raleigh Times, 1966
4	1	8-11	Skandalon, 1966-1967 and Drafts
4	1	12	General, 1963-1966
4	1	13	Publications Committee, 1967-1968
4	1	14	Stirrings in the Mulberries, 1965
4	2	1	Publicity Materials, 1964-1966
4	2	2	Publication Proposals, 1966-1967
4	2	3	News Clippings [196?]
4	2	4	Press Releases, 1966-1968
4	2	5	Publication Materials [196?]
Newsletters, 1960-1967			
4	3	1	Chicago Newsletter, 1966
4	3	2	SIM Newsletter, 1963-1967
4	3	3-10	Southwest Georgia Newsletter, June 1966-July 1967
4	3	11	Grain of Salt, 1960-1964
4	3	12	Quiet Revolution, 1965

[RESTRICTED] Series 5: Student Files, 1962-1968 [CLOSED UNTIL 2063]5 1-7 **[RESTRICTED]****[RESTRICTIONS] Series 6: Regional Sites, 1963-1968**

Southeast, 1963-1967			
6	1	2	Region, 1966
6	1	3	Contacts: Regional, Mississippi, Kentucky, Louisiana, 1965-1966
6	1	4	Contacts: North Carolina, South Carolina, 1965-1966
6	1	5	Contacts: Tennessee, Virginia, 1965-1966
6	2	1	Birmingham, Alabama Project, 1963-1964
6	2	5	Daytona Beach, Florida Project, 1966-1967
6	2	11	Migrant Ministry, 1966
Southwest Georgia Project, 1965-1967			
6	4	1	Community Health Assistance Project, 1966
6	4	2	Gillespie-Sheldon Institute Project, 1966
6	4	3	Proposal by Charles M. Sherrod [19??]

RESTRICTIONS Series 6: Regional Sites (Cont'd)

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
Midwest, 1963-1967			
6	5	1	Regional Committee, 1963-1966
6	5	2	Chicago, Illinois Project, 1966-1967
6	5	3	Dayton, Ohio Project, 1966
6	5	4	Indianapolis, Indiana Project, 1966-1967
6	5	5	Kansas City, Missouri Project, 1966-1967
6	5	6	Milwaukee, Wisconsin Project, 1966-1967
6	5	7	St. Louis, Missouri Project, 1966-1967
6	5	8	Toledo, Ohio Project, 1966
6	5	9	Twin Cities, Minneapolis, Minnesota Project, 1966-1967
6	6	1	Regional Contacts, 1965-1966
6	6	2	Ohio and Missouri Contacts, 1965
6	6	3	Calvary Methodist Church, Minneapolis, 1966-1967
6	6	4	Park Avenue Methodist, Minneapolis, 1966-1967 Sabathani Baptist Church, Minneapolis, 1967
6	6	5	Brooklyn Methodist Church, Minneapolis, 1966-1967
6	6	6	Methodist Church of Brook Park and Pine City, Minnesota, 1966-1967
6	6	7	Pine Bend Mission, Fosston, Minnesota, 1967
Northeast, 1965-1968			
6	7	2-3	Correspondence, 1965-1967
6	7	7	Atlantic City Internship Project, 1966-1967
6	7	11	White Plains Internship, 1966-1967
6	7	13	Washington DC Community Project, 1966
West, 1965-1967			
6	8	1	Regional Committee and Contacts, 1965-1967
6	8	2	Richmond, California Inner City Project, 1967
6	8	3	Bay Area, California Projects, 1966-1967
6	8	4	Oakland, California Project, 1966-1967
6	8	5	Los Angeles, California Project, 1966-1967
Southwest, 1966-1967			
6	9	1	Regional Committee, 1966-1967
6	9	3	Houston, Texas Project, 1967
6	9	4	Dallas, Texas Project, 1967