

RECORDS OF THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ECUMENICAL COUNCIL
1956-2012

FINDING AID

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Administrative Information

Title:

Records of the Southern California Ecumenical Council, 1956-2012

Creator(s):

Southern California Ecumenical Council

Collection Identifier:

CFT00098

Extent:

124 Boxes, 54 linear feet

Repository:

David Allan Hubbard Library
Fuller Theological Seminary
135 N Oakland Ave
Pasadena, CA 91182

Acquisition Information:

Gift of Albert Cohen, Executive Director

Conditions Governing Access:

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Collection cataloged and finding aid written by Nancy Sanders Gower and Adam Gossman.
Finding aid revised by Alyson Thomas, March 2018.

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Administrative History

The Southern California Ecumenical Council has its roots in the California State Church Federation (currently named the California Council of Churches) founded in 1913 with Dr. Edwin Ryland, pastor of Hollywood First Methodist Church and President of the Los Angeles Federation of Churches, elected as first President. In 1939, this statewide federation was divided into northern and southern branches which held an annual meeting in concert and continued to coordinate their efforts on all statewide issues.

The southern branch was first called the Southern California Council of (Protestant) Churches, under the leadership of Dr. F. G. Farnam from 1938 to 1950. During the years of World War II this southern regional body affiliated with Church World Service and Church Women United and focused its efforts on meeting the needs of servicemen and refugees. After operating for a number of years, the Southern California Council of Protestant Councils was incorporated on December 19, 1950. In that same year, the Church Federation of Los Angeles joined with the Southern California Council of Churches (SCCC) to hire Dr. Forrest Weir as Executive Director. He served in this capacity from 1950 until 1969. Dr. Clarence W. Kerr was the first President of the SCCC. The Council's activities during these years included work on behalf of migrants under the direction of Rev. Chris Hartmire; radio and TV ministry under the direction of Clifton E. Moore; and Church Growth planning directed by Rev. Roy Crouch. It also included Release Time education; social ethics concerns such as the "Red Light" law; and ecumenical youth movements in relation with the Religious Education Department of the National Council of Churches.

In 1970 Priscilla Chaplin became Executive Secretary of the SCCC, during the Presidency of Dr. Carl W. Segerhammer. During her decade of service the Council worked together with the State Advisory Commission on Institutional Racism, the Ecology Task Force (with Al Cohen as Chair), and Idylewood Conference Grounds. In 1980 Eugene Boutilier became Executive Director and in response to conversations with local grass-roots ecumenical organizations and the inclusion of Orthodox Communion to the membership roll, the name of the Council was changed in 1982 to The Southern California Ecumenical Council (SCEC). In 1987 Charles Jones became Executive Director, followed by David Bremer from 1992-1995. In 1996 Al Cohen, the donor of this archival collection in 2010, took the position and remains as Executive Director in 2011. (Information summarized from the booklet "Southern California Ecumenical Council: 1988 Executive Committee," located in Box 121 of the SCEC Collection.)

The Council mission statement, amended in 1993, states that SCEC is a regional body representing churches, denominations, congregations, related ministries and other ecclesial communities who cooperate to promote responsible and creative expressions of Christian unity and witness.

Scope and Content

The Southern California Ecumenical Council is a regional body representing churches, denominations, related ministries and other ecclesiastical communities who cooperate to promote responsible and creative expressions of Christian unity and witness. These Southern California

Ecumenical Council records date from 1956-2012. The collection includes minutes of council meetings (including board meetings), correspondence, and financial records. There are also documents pertaining to a variety of ecumenical initiatives and material related to the ministries of partner organizations and denominational relations. There are documents and publications of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity program of the World Council of Churches (WCC), and various historical notes on the Southern California Ecumenical Council.

Al Cohen added 8 binders of well-organized minutes, affiliations and publications in April 2013.

Subjects

California, Southern
Cohen, Albert
Ecumenical conversations
Refugees – Central America
Refugees – Southeast Asia
Social justice
Southern California Interfaith Task Force on Central America

Arrangement

The collection is arranged according to its original organization. The collection has been organized into the following series and subseries:

- Series I: SCEC Materials, 1956-1995 (Boxes 1-45)
 - Subseries 1: Minutes and Meeting Documents (Boxes 1-32)
 - Subseries 2: Financial and Legal Material (Boxes 33-45)
- Series II: Materials Regarding Ministries, Partner Organizations, and Denominational Relations, 1960s-1990s (Boxes 46-83)
- Series III: Alphabetical Files (Boxes 84-112)
- Series IV: “Miscellaneous to Sort” (Boxes 113-119)
- Series V: Faith & Order Papers (Boxes 120-124)
- Series VI: Binders added by Al Cohen, 1996-2012

Container List

Series I: SCEC Materials, 1956-1995. Boxes 1-45.

Subseries 1: Minutes and Meeting Documents. Boxes 1-32.

Boxes 1-32: Minutes and Meeting Documents

Box	Description	Date/Note
1	Board Notes and Minutes 1956-1959	
2	Board Notes and Minutes 1960-1965 – 1	
3	Board Notes and Minutes 1960-1965 – 2	
4	Board Notes and Minutes 1966-1969 – 1	
5	Board Notes and Minutes 1966-1969 – 2	
6	Board Notes and Minutes 1970-1974	
7	Board Notes and Minutes 1975-1979 – 1	
8	Board Notes and Minutes 1975-1979 – 2	
9	Board Notes and Minutes 1980	
10	Board Notes and Minutes 1981 – 1	
11	Board Notes and Minutes 1981 – 2	
12	Board Notes and Minutes 1982	
13	Board Notes and Minutes 1983	
14	Board Notes and Minutes 1984	
15	Board Notes and Minutes 1985	
16	Board Notes and Minutes 1986	
17	Board Notes and Minutes 1987	
18	Board Notes and Minutes 1988-1989	
19	Board Notes and Minutes 1990-1991	
20	Board Notes and Minutes 1992	
21	Board Notes and Minutes 1993	
22	Board Notes and Minutes 1994	
23	Board Notes and Minutes 1995	
24	Commission Minutes 1	
25	Commission Minutes 2	
26	Commission Minutes 3	
27	General Board Miscellaneous	
28	Proposals and Resources 1	
29	Proposals and Resources 2	
30	Proposals and Resources 3	
31	Proposals and Resources 4	
32	Proposals and Resources 5	

Subseries 2: Financial and Legal Material. Boxes 33-45.

Boxes 33-45: Financial and Legal Material

Box	Description	Date/Note
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33	Finance and Administration – General Early 1990s - 1	
34	Finance and Administration – General Early 1990s - 2	
35	Finance and Administration – General Early 1990s – 3	
36	Finance and Administration – General Early 1990s – 4	
37	Finance and Administration – General Early 1990s – 5	
38	Financial Documents – SCCC – 1980-1982	
39	Financial Documents – Oversize	
40	Financial/Legal Documents – Miscellaneous	
41	Legal Documents 1	
42	Legal Documents 2	
43	Legal Documents 3	
44	Legal Documents 4	
45	Legal Documents 5	

Series II: Materials Regarding Ministries, Partner Organizations, and Denominational Relations, 1960s-1990s. Boxes 46-83.

Boxes 46-83: Materials Regarding Ministries, Partner Organizations, and Denominational Relations

Box	Description	Date/Note
46	Cuban 1	
47	Cuban 2	
48	Cuban 3	
49	Cuban 4	
50	Denominational Files 1	
51	Denominational Files 2	
52	Denominational Files 3	
53	Denominational Files 4	
54	Denominational Files 5	
55	IRRC 1	
56	IRRC 2	
57	IRRC 3	
58	IRRC 4	
59	Old HEAT Files 1	
60	Old HEAT Files 2	
61	Old HEAT Files 3	
62	Old HEAT Files 4	
63	Southern California Interfaith Task Force on Central America 1	
64	Southern California Interfaith Task Force on Central America 2	
65	Southern California Interfaith Task Force on Central America 3	
66	Southern California Interfaith Task Force on Central America 4	
67	Southern California Interfaith Task Force on Central America 5	
68	Southern California Interfaith Task Force on Central America 6	
69	Southern California Interfaith Task Force on Central America 7	
70	Southern California Interfaith Task Force on Central America 8	

71	Southern California Interfaith Task Force on Central America 9	
72	Board Materials 1960s – 1	
73	Board Materials 1960s – 2	
74	Board Materials 1960s – 3	
75	Board Materials 1980s – 1	
76	Board Materials 1980s – 2	
77	Board Materials 1980s – 3	
78	Board Materials 1980s – 4	
79	Board Materials 1980s – 5	
80	Board Materials 1990s – 1	
81	Board Materials 1990s – 2	
82	Board Materials 1990s – 3	
83	Books and Magazines	

Series III: Alphabetical Files. Boxes 84-112.

Boxes 84-112: Alphabetical Files

Box	Description	Date/Note
84	Abortion Rights – Block Grants	
85	Cable – Center for Media Studies	
86	Central America - Cults	
87	Ecology Task Force – Ecumedia (1985)	
88	Ecumenical Development Cooperative Society – Employee Files (Blue)	
89	Employee Files (Other)	
90	Employee – Program Units/Affiliates – Correspondence - Employee – Personnel Correspondence – OUT	
91	Enrollment Cards – Copies – EPIC – City RFP Master – Michelle’s Copy	1984
92	EPIC – Cancelled Checks – CPIC Close Out Correspondence	
93	ERRSS Session – Hunger Ecumenical Action Taskforce (HEAT)	1977-1978
94	Health Care for the Homeless – Miscellaneous	
95	IBT Hassles – Interfaith Coalition of Southern California (IHC)	1977-1988
96	ICH – IRRC – Minutes	1984-1992
97	Jewish-Christian Relations – Korea-Background Material	1983-1986
98	Lebanon – Lutheran Resources Commision	
99	Ma, Sung Key – Miscellaneous SCEC	
100	Miscellaneous SCEC – National Center for Immigrant’s Rights (NCIR) – Refugees and Human Rights	
101	NCIR / LAFLA Lawsuit – Nuclear Free Pacific	
102	Nuke Freeze Inititative	
103	Nuke Free Initiative	
104	Office of the Americas – Pro Peace	
105	Reader’s Digest – Refugee Reflections on...	

106	Refugees Misc – Rent Control; Isabel Rodriguez	
107	El Rescate – El Rescate Grants	
108	El Rescate Miscellaneous – SEIU Local 339 Hollywood Presbyterian	
109	Sanctuary – “Stop Simpson-Mazzoli”	
110	South Africa – Stauros International	
111	Thank yous – USA/USSR, Citizen’s Dialogue	
112	Vandalism – 1010 Development Corporation	

Series IV: “Miscellaneous to Sort.” Boxes 113-119.

Boxes 113-119: “Miscellaneous to Sort”

Box	Description	Date/Note
113	Peace Sunday, 1983 Graphics MLK – OES-FEMA Earthquake Charts for Los Angeles and Ventura	
114	Misc to Sort 1 – Misc to Sort 3	
115	Misc to Sort 4 – Misc to Sort 7	
116	Misc to Sort 8 – Misc to Sort 11	
117	Misc to Sort 12 – Misc to Sort 14	
118	Misc to Sort 15 – Interfaith Center to End the Arms Race	
119	Periodicals	

Series V: Faith & Order Papers. Boxes 120-124.

Boxes 120-124: Faith & Order Papers

Box	Description	Date/Note
120	Faith and Order Commission Archives	Donated by John Huber
121	Faith and Order – SCEC history	
122	SCEC Faith and Order Commission	
123	Articles, Papers, Christian Unity – Faith and Order	
124	Miscellaneous - LAFCO	

Series VI: Binders added by Al Cohen, 1996-2012. Binders 1-9.

Boxes 120-124: Faith & Order Papers

Item	Description	Date/Note
1	Together. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	1997-2012
1	Visions of the Ecumenical Movement	Nov 4, 2003
2	Board Minutes	1996-2002
3	Board Minutes	2003-2006
4	Board Minutes	2006-2012
5	Executive Committee Minutes	1996-2004
6	Executive Committee Minutes	2005-2012
7	Endorsements and Affiliations	1996-2002

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8	Endorsements and Affiliations	2003-2010
9	Faith and Order Commission	2002-2012