

FRED S. BUSCHMEYER PAPERS, 1939-1971

3½ linear feet

Restrictions: None

Gift of Mrs. Myrna Buschmeyer, 1982

Congregational Library
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Processed by
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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Fred Sherman Buschmeyer was born in Carpinteria, California, on November 22, 1899. He attended high school in Los Angeles and earned his Bachelor's degree at the University of Southern California in 1922. At Boston University he received a Bachelor's of Religious Education and of Sacred Theology in 1925 and 1927 respectively. His honorary degrees included a Doctor of Letters from the University of New Hampshire in 1937; a Doctor of Divinity from the Pacific School of Religion in 1951; and a Doctor of Laws from Ursinus College in 1957.

Buschmeyer's first pastorates were in New Hampshire, namely Durham Community Church from 1927 to 1936, and First Congregational Church, Manchester from 1936-1939. In 1939 he moved to Washington, D.C. to take the pulpit at Mount Pleasant (now Westmoreland) Congregational Church. Four years later, Buschmeyer was on the Executive Committee of the General Council of the Congregational Christian Church, the first of many positions he would hold in the denomination at national and international levels.

Among his duties with the Congregational Christian Church, Buschmeyer served on the Committee for War Victims and Reconstruction in 1947; chaired the National Committee on Army and Navy Chaplains between 1948 and 1949; served on the Council for Social Action from 1948 to 1951; and was elected Associate Minister and Secretary of the General Council and of the National Council of the Congregational Churches from 1948-1956.

As Associate Minister, one of Buschmeyer's responsibilities was Director of the Department of the Ministry, a division within the Congregational Christian Churches. Organized in 1944, the department recruited ministers, provided guidance and placement services, established pension and salary guidelines, offered refresher courses and continuing learning opportunities, and established and maintained standards. The director kept in touch with Congregational Christian seminaries and all conference committees on the ministry in an effort to coordinate services.

Buschmeyer traveled in Europe in 1947, 1948, 1953, and 1955 to attend the first meeting of the World Council of Churches in 1948, and to attend meetings of the International Congregational Council. He also conducted retreats for U.S. chaplains while in Europe, and visited significant Protestant projects, which he reported on to the General Council.

In 1956, Buschmeyer resigned his position with the Congregational Christian Church to be Director of the Washington Office of the National Council of Churches. However, he was still a representative to the Executive Committee of the International Congregational Council. Five years later, he returned to a newly merged denomination, the United Church of Christ, as its Secretary, a post he held until his retirement in 1966. He remained active in both the World Council of Churches and International Congregational Council, as well as the National Council of Churches.

Although he retired from the U.C.C. in 1966, Buschmeyer did not retire from the ministry. From 1967 to 1969, he moved to Australia to serve as pastor of the Pitt Street Congregational Church in Sydney, at a time when the Australian Congregational Church was in the midst of merging. He returned

to the United States in 1970, moving back to his native California, where he was recruited as director of Personnel Relations and Admissions at Pilgrim Place, a retirement community. He finally retired in 1972 to enjoy his ten grandchildren and three great grandchildren, before his death in 1981.

The collection was donated by Buschmeyer's widow, Myrna Buschmeyer, in several gifts made during 1982.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The bulk of the Fred S. Buschmeyer papers consist of records he kept in his roles as Associate Minister and Secretary of the General Council of the Congregational Christian Church, Director of the Department of the Ministry, and delegate to the World Council of Churches and the International Congregational Council. A substantial portion of these records relate to the court cases and controversy surrounding the merger of the Congregational Christian and Evangelical & Reformed churches in 1957.

Sub-group I contains materials related to the General Council. Series A consists of minutes of the Executive, Advisory, Business, Planning, and Joint Committees between 1948 and 1957, arranged chronologically. Buschmeyer compiled the minutes by year into cardboard binders. The binders were removed, but the original order and organization of the collections were kept intact. Series B (1943-1971) supplements the binder materials, and consists of reports, minutes, and correspondence relating to the General Council, Executive Committee, and Advisory Committee.

Series C, 1943-1969, documents Buschmeyer's role in the merger controversy. Many of the items in this section were duplicates of material already in either the collection of the General Council or in what is known as "The Merger Collection." Duplicates were removed, and a list of those items is appended to the inventory. The items retained include materials related to the court case between Cadman Church and Helen Kenyon of the General Council, including memoranda, statements, judgments, decisions, a subpoena, and financial report; reports; informational publications (both pro and con); correspondence; notes; church resolutions; and articles and press releases.

Buschmeyer's activities as director of the Department of the Ministry are represented in Series D. This series includes minutes, reports, correspondence, and educational materials dating 1946-1959. The final series in Sub-group I include records of the Committee for War Victims and Reconstruction, 1947-1949, (on which Buschmeyer served) consisting of diaries of a trip to Europe, speeches and interviews, a published report of the trip, and a film taken by Buschmeyer with the accompanying script; and records of the Commission on Army and Navy Chaplains (of which Buschmeyer was chair 1948-49), including pastoral letters from Buschmeyer, other correspondence, his "workbook" including minutes, and printed materials, dating 1947-1963.

Materials relating to international organizations are arranged in Sub-group II. The International Congregational Council records include correspondence to the executive committee, reports, agendas, newsletters,

delegate lists, programs, and photographs, 1943-1970. Buschmeyer's attendance at the first meeting of the World Council of Churches in 1948 is documented by an official handbook and "who's who list of delegates," programs for services, articles from magazines, and ephemera including an admission ticket.

More personal aspects of Buschmeyer's life are gathered in Sub-group III. Materials in this area include articles, speeches and sermons written by Buschmeyer, arranged in Series A (1944-1968); programs and informational brochures from churches where he served as pastor, and an invitation to his installation in 1939, as well as a study he conducted at Pilgrim Place in 1979, in Series B (1939-1979); and slides of trips he took to Europe and Asia between 1950 and 1964 in Series C.

- Sub-group I. General Council and Committee Records, 1943-1971. Minutes, reports, correspondence, court materials, publications. 27 inches.
- Sub-group II. International Organization Meeting Materials, 1943-1970. Correspondence, reports, newsletters, delegate lists, programs, photographs, and ephemera. 4 inches
- Sub-group III. Personal Materials, 1939-1979. Articles, speeches, programs, pamphlets, study, correspondence, color slides. 9 inches.

FRED SHERMAN BUSCHMEYER PAPERS, 1939-1979

DESCRIPTION

Box 1

Sub-group I. General Council and Committee Records, 1943-1971

Series A. Binders, 1948-1957

- Folder 1. Executive Committee and sub-committee minutes, 1948-1950
- " 2. Executive Committee and sub-committee minutes, 1949-1957
- " 3. Executive Committee and sub-committee minutes, 1954-1957
- " 4. Business, planning and joint committee minutes, 1955-1957

Box 2

- " 5. Executive Committee minutes, 1956-1957
- " 6. Advisory Committee and other sub-committee minutes, 1956-1957
- " 7. Planning committee re: General Synod, 1957

Series B. General Council and Committee Records, 1943-1971

Sub-series 1. General Council Records, 1944-1971

- Folder 1. Reports, ballot, press releases, program, 1949-1956, 1966
- " 2. Correspondence, 1944-1957, 1971
- " 3. Planning committee minutes, 1955

Sub-series 2. Executive Committee Records, 1943-1965

- Folder 1. Minutes, 1945-1956
- " 2. Reports, agendas, 1943-1956, 1965

Box 3

- " 3. Correspondence, 1946-1947 (removed from binder)
- " 4. " 1945-1955
- " 5. " 1956-1957, 1963
- " 6. Notes on constitutional amendments, ca. 1956
- " 7. Organizational charts, n.d.
- " 8. Resignation, 1956, 1967
- " 9. Daily diaries, 1949-1951
- " 10. " " 1952-1954
- " 11. " " 1955-1957

Sub-series 3. Advisory Committee Records, 1943-1963

- Folder 1. Minutes and correspondence, 1943, 1948, 1956, 1963

Box 4

Sub-group I (cont.)

Series C. Merger material, 1943-1969

- Folder 1. Court material, 1947-1952
- " 2. Reports, 1947-1956, 1969
- " 3-5. Informational publications, 1948-1957, 1963
- " 6. Correspondence, 1947-1956
- " 7. Notes on merger procedures, 1943-1956
- " 8. Individual church resolutions on merger, 1956; church newsletters, 1948, 1955
- " 9. Anti-merger publications, 1947-1956
- " 10. Committee for the Continuation of Congregational Christian Churches publications, 1949, 1955-1956
- " 11. Press releases, n.d.
- " 12. Magazine articles, 1953-1956

Box 5

Series D. Department of the Ministry Records, 1946-1959

- Folder 1. Minutes, 1946-1959
- " 2-3. Reports, 1946-1959
- " 4. Correspondence, 1948, 1956-1957
- " 5-10. Educational materials, 1952-1955
- " 11. Budget, 1957
- " 12. Notes, n.d.

Series E. Committee for War Victims and Reconstruction Records, 1947-1949

- Folder 1. Diaries, June - August 1947
- " 2. Speeches and interviews, 1947, 1949
- " 3. Published report, sermons, 1947
- " 4. Motion picture film of conditions in post-war Europe, 1947
- " 5. Film scripts, 1947

Box 6

Series F. Commission on Army and Navy Chaplains Records, 1947-1963

- Folder 1. Pastoral letters, 1949-1950
- " 2. Other correspondence, 1947, 1953-1954
- " 3. "Work Book," 1957 (removed from binder)
- " 4. Printed material, photographs, 1952-1963

Box 6 (cont.)

Sub-group II. International Organizations Records, 1943-1970

Series A. International Congregational Council Records, 1947-1970

- Folder 1. Correspondence to executive committee, 1956-1967
- " 2. Reports, 1947-1970
- " 3. Agendas, 1955, 1960; budget, 1959-1964
- " 4. Newsletters, 1958, 1966, 1967
- " 5. Delegate lists, 1955, 1958, n.d.
- " 6. Programs and printed booklets, 1949, 1953, 1958, 1962
- " 7. Women of ICC newsletter, 1958
- " 8. Photographs, 1949, ca. 1955, 1960
- " 9. Notes, 1953

Series B. World Council of Churches Records, 1943, 1948

- Folder 1. "Soundings" newsletter, 1943
- " 2. Official handbook and who's who list of delegates; list of American appointees, 1948
- " 3. Communion service programs; speech text, 1948
- " 4. Admission tickets, notes, magazine articles, 1948

Sub-group III. Personal Papers, 1939-1979

Series A. Articles, speeches, sermons, 1944-1968

- Folder 1-2. Articles, speeches, etc. written by Buschmeyer, 1944-1956, n.d.
- " 3. Programs where Buschmeyer was speaker, 1944-1966
- " 4. Articles about Buschmeyer speeches, ca. 1950-1968
- " 5. Materials used to develop speeches, n.d.

Series B. Pastoral and employment materials, 1939-1979

- Folder 1. Installation invitation and service program, 1939
- " 2. Pamphlets from Durham, NH and Washington DC churches; resignation from Washington church (copy), ca. 1940, ca. 1949
- " 3. Study of Pilgrim Place residents, 1979
- " 4. Correspondence, 1952-1966

Box 7

Series C. Slides of Trips to Europe and Asia, 1950-54, 1962, 1964

- Folder 1. Europe--on the ship, and Bossey to Barcelona, 1953
- " 2. Europe--Spain to Berlin, 1953
- " 3. Europe--Holland to Lancashire, 1953
- " 4. Europe--Coventry to Bangor, 1953; Newbegin, Pembroke, Buck Hill Falls (n.p.), 1957
- " 5. Puerto Rico, n.d.

Box 7 (cont.)

Sub-group III (cont.)

Series C (cont.)

- Folder 6. Chaplains in Europe, 1964
- " 7. Seminaries and Chaplains, Department of Ministry
and Conference visit, n.d.
- " 8. Pacific, Europe, 1950, 1952-1954

Items separated from the collection of Fred S. Buschmeyer:

To the Library:

"We Believe: Six Lessons Based on the Statement of Faith," Frederick L. Fagley (Boston, n.d.)

"The Meaning of the Communion Service," Albert W. Palmer (Boston, n.d.)

"The Church Treasurer," John B. Gotts (London, n.d.)

Copies of the following works are already in the Congregational Library, so items were discarded

Pamphlets, books, and magazines

"The Congregational Christian Ministry: A Handbook of Standards Procedures and Services," Department of the Ministry (New York, April 1953)

"Digest of Minutes of Meetings of the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches of the the United States, 1931-1965"

Minister's Quarterly 18:4 (Winter 1962) "The Manual on the Ministry in the United Church of Christ." 1st ed., 1963.

"Historical Sketches of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church" by Mervin M. Deems, Frederick L. Fagley, Charles E. Schaeffer, and Carl E. Schneider

"The Per Capita," pub. by the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches

"The Manual for Church Members," by Frederick L. Fagley

"What Protestants Believe," by Hugh Thomson Kerr

"A Plan of Union for the Church of Christ Uniting," by the Consultation on Church Union, (Princeton, NJ, 1970)

"The Lord's Day Service with explanatory notes," 1967.

"The Constitution and By-laws of the United Church of Christ," 1967, 1976

"The Constitution and By-laws Answer Your Questions," prepared by the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches, 1960

"Our Protestant Heritage," Samuel McCrea Cavert

"Our American Missionary Association Heritage," Clifton H. Johnson, Juanita Williamson, Wesley A. Hotchkiss. (Division of Higher Education and American Missionary Assoc., 1966)

"Pilgrimage Toward Unity: Along these paths these churches came," series
of articles in Advance.

Advance 149:4 (July 12, 1957)

Antimerger 1:2 (December 1948)

"What it means to be a member of the Congregational Church," L. Wendell
Fifield

News Bulletin of the Committee for the Continuation of Congregational
Christian Churches, March, April 1957

"What do the mean by '1310 to 179'," Committee for the Continuation of
Congregational Christian Churches, February 1957

Newsletter, League to Uphold Congregational Principles, October 1954,
December 1, 1954, April 15, 1955, September 1955, November 20, 1956

"'Congregationalism B' replies to the address" 'of Equability and Perseverance
in well doing'," Committee for the Continuation of Congregational
Christian Churches, October 1950

The Congregational Christian Churches, (newsletter) March 1950, June,
September, October, and December 1955

The Free Lance, March, May 1952,

Legal documents

Copies of these items may be found in the General Council collection in
the Rare Book Room, or in the "Merger Collection" on the first floor.

Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division (Cadman Memorial
Congregational Society v. Kenyon)

Brief for Plaintiffs-Respondents

Brief for Defendant-Appellant

Reply brief for Defendant-Appellant

Judgment

Brief for International Convention of Disciples of Christ, amicus
curiae

Brief for The New York Congregational Christian Conference, Inc.,
as amicus curiae

Defendant's Trial Brief

Answer

Summons

State of New York Court of Appeals (Cadman vs. Kenyon)
Opinions filed December 3, 1953, and not yet officially reported
Brief for the New York Congregational Christian Conference, Inc.,
as amicus curiae
Brief for Defendant-Respondent
Opinion, December 3, 1953, unrevised and uncorrected
Judgment, February 21, 1950

Supreme Court of the United States, October term 1962 (First Congregational
Church and Society of Burlington, Iowa, et al. v. Evangelical and Reformed
Church, et al.)

Brief for Respondents in Opposition
Petition for a Writ of certiorari to the United States Court of Appeals
for the Second Circuit

"Decisions of the Courts in regard to the Proposed Union of the Congregational
Christian and Evangelical and Reformed Communions," May 1952

Fliers, circulars, brochures, etc.

"Report of Lawyers Committee of the Opinion and Judgment in the Case of
Cadman Church vs. the General Council," February 23, 1950

"Who Says We Are Merging? The 'Ultra Vires' Nature of The Plan For Union,"
The Committee for the Continuation of Congregational Christian
Churches, May 10, 1955.

"Two Points of View from Ministers of the Evangelical and Reformed Church,"
Paul M. Schroeder, William L. Rest, Malcolm K. Burton, January 1955

"Report on Joint Sessions of C.C. Executive Committee and E. and R. General
Council, June 20, 21, 22, 1955," Committee for the Continuation
of Congregational Christian Churches, July 2, 1955

"Those Impossible Merger Documents," Committee for the Continuation of
the Congregational Christian Churches, April 30, 1955

"Your Church and the Merger," Committee for the Continuation of Congregational
Christian Churches, April 30, 1955

circular letter from the Committee for the Continuation of the Congregational
Christian Churches, March 31, 1955, with the constitution of the
E&R Church

"Our Comments Upon the Frazier Report on E&R Church Finances," League to
Uphold Congregational Principles, n.d.

"Why This Merger and Who Wants It?" National Association of Congregational
Christian Churches, n.d.

"Let's Have Full Knowledge and Straight Thinking about This Union," League
to Uphold Congregational Principles, February 1957

letter concerning, and pamphlet "Freedom is the Foundation of Church Unity,"
Russell J. Clinchy, May 1955

minutes of the meeting of the Joint Planning Committee of the Executive
Committee of the General Council of the Congregational Christian
Churches and the General Council of the Evangelical and Reformed
Church, June 22, 1955

"Comments on the decision of the court -- January 26, 1950," D. Horton

"Don't be Stampeded into Hasty Action," General Council of the
Congregational Christian Churches, May 18, 1949

"Opinion and Judgment," (re: Cadman Church v. Helen Kenyon)

"The Evangelical and Reformed Church," James E. Wagner. Reprinted from
the National Council Outlook, January 1956

"Toward clarifying some misunderstandings," James E. Wagner. Reprinted
from Advance, May 2, 1956

"The Local Church and its Property After Union," Information Committee,
June 1955

Letter missive to Congregational Christian Churches, from the Committee
of Fifteen, November 11, 1948

"A Primer of Union," published for the Joint Committee, CC and E&R Churches

"Step by Step with our Congregational Christian Churches, . . . Toward
the Achievement of the Proposed United Church of Christ," Information
Committee

"United in Christ," Executive Committee of the CCC and the General Council
of the E&R Church

circular letter from the General Council of CCC to Pastors and Church Clerks
of the CC Fellowship, February 24, 1949

open letter from the New York Congregational Christian Conference, Inc.,
October 4, 1949

"Report of the Lawyers Committee of the Opinion and Judgment in the Case
of Cadman Church vs. The General Council," February 23, 1950

open letter to the Executive Committee from L. Wendell Fifield, n.d.

"A Plea for Understanding Coupled with an Offer," Alexander Abbott et al.,
January 4, 1955

Report to the Directors of the League to Uphold Congregational Principles,
January 24, 1955

"An Open Letter to the Committee of Fifteen," from Max Strang, November
8, 1948

"Questions and Answers about the Proposed Union . . .," Information Committee, 1955

"The Basis of Union . . .," Provisional draft of October, 1944, 4th ed.

"A Letter Supporting Dr. L. Wendell Fifield and in Answer to 'An Official Reply'," Committee for the Continuation of Congregational Christian Churches, December 22, 1954

"An Open Letter from Dr. L. Wendell Fifield and an Official Reply." Preprinted from Advance, January 12, 1955.

Letters missive from Executive Committee of the CCC, October 18, 1954, July 6, 1955 and July 31, 1956

"A Statement by the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches," March 1, 1950

General Council meeting announcement, October 17, 1949

letter from Douglas Horton, Minister of the General Council, to members of the Executive Committee, November 1, 1954

announcement of proposed meeting to form the General Synod of the UCC, October 17, 1949

"Comments on the brochure entitled 'The Evanston Meeting'," n.d.

"A Brief Review of Merger Procedures," Committee for the Continuation of Congregational Christian Churches, October 1, 1955

circular letter to CC Churches from the League to Uphold Congregational Principles and the Committee for the Continuation of CC Churches, October 1, 1955

"Report to Churches on League's Request for Data," League to Uphold Congregational Principles, July 5, 1955

"The League Replies to its Critics," League to uphold Congregational Principles, July 5, 1955

letter to the Executive Committee of CC Churches from the Committee for the Continuation of CC Churches, June 18, 1955

"Dr. Wagner's Forthright Statement on Merger," Joint Committee of the CC Executive Committee and the E&R General Council

"Articles of Association of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches of the U.S., December 30, 1955

"What You Can Do Now to Keep Our Churches Free," Committee for the Continuation of the Congregational Christian Churches, n.d.