SYNOD OF TEXAS (PCUS) COLLECTION, 1851-1972, 1995-1998

Descriptive Summary

Title: Synod of Texas (PCUS) collection
Extent: 59.5 linear inches
Language: Materials are written in English.

Administrative History:

The Synod of Texas was originally formed as part of the U. S. Presbyterian Church in 1850 and held its first scheduled meeting on October 30, 1851. Due to intense division between Old School and New School Presbyterian churches, in 1861 the Synod of Texas followed Old School dissenters and joined the newly formed Presbyterian Church of the Confederate States of America. The denomination changed its name in 1865 to the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS) in order to distinguish itself from its northern counterpart, the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (PCUSA). In 1868 PCUSA sympathizers withdrew from the synod, reconstituting themselves in 1878 as the Synod of Texas, PCUSA.

The original synod was formed from the Presbytery of Brazos, and was subsequently divided into three smaller presbyteries; Brazos, Eastern Texas, and Western Texas. As the synod grew, new presbyteries were formed, including Austin, Central Texas, Brownwood, Dallas, El Paso, Central Texas Union, Fort Worth, John Knox, Mid-Texas, North Eastern Texas, Paris, Southern Texas and Southwestern.

The Synod of Texas (PCUS) was actively involved in social programs, and attempted to reach and affect a diverse membership. The synod sought to better the lives of minorities and the physically and economically disadvantaged through missionary outreach, welfare services, anti-poverty campaigns, and mental and physical health programs.

Although the Synod of Texas (PCUS) was administered independently of the Synod of Texas (PCUSA) and the Synod of Texas, United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (UPCUSA), by 1971 efforts were made for administrative
cooperation with the UPCUSA synod. Joint committees were formed and joint meetings held between the Synods of Texas PCUS and UPCUSA in attempts to elect one person to serve as Joint Executive of both synods. Also in 1971, the Synod of Texas (PCUS) discussed joining the Synod of Louisiana (PCUS) and the Synod of Arkansas-Oklahoma (PCUS) in forming a larger regional synod. In 1973 they joined together to form the Synod of Red River. In 1983 the Synod of Red River (PCUS) and the Synod of the Sun (UPCUSA) joined together to form the Synod of the Sun (PCUSA).

Scope and Contents:
This is an artificial collection of materials relating to the Synod of Texas (PCUS) that have been collected by the Austin Seminary Archives, including minutes, financial records, printed material, scrapbooks, photographs, and other documentation of the work of the Synod. The collection is divided into the following series: Synod Meetings; Committees & Councils; Finances and fundraising; Affiliated Institutions; Synod Publications; Presbytery albums; General; Photographs; and Artifacts.

Restrictions:
Materials are available by appointment only. Contact the archivist for details.

Related collections:
Alfred Frederick Swearingen minutes, Austin Seminary Archives
Jerry Robert Tompkins papers, Austin Seminary Archives

Index Terms:
Austin College (Sherman, Tex.)
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.
Presbyterian Child Placement Agency (Dallas, Tex.)
Presbyterian Children’s Home and Service Agency (Itasca, Tex.)
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.--Synod of Texas.
Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly.
Presbyterian Pan-American School (Kingsville, Tex.)
Presbyterian School for Mexican Girls (Taft, Tex.)
Schreiner Institute.
Southwestern Presbyterian Home and School for Orphans.
Texas-Mexican Industrial Institute.
Westminster Encampment (Kerrville, Tex.)
Church fund raising.

Preferred Citation: Synod of Texas (PCUS) collection, 1851-1972, 1995-1998, Austin Seminary Archives, Stitt Library, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
Inventory:

Shelves/ cabinets

Synod Meetings:

Box     Contents

Minutes:

Print copies, 1851-1957, 1959-1972
Microfilm [six reels], 1851-1965

C089

Facsimile edition of 1856 Synod meeting minutes, undated
“An Address before the Synod of Texas at Houston on the occasion of celebrating the 50th anniversary of Synod,” by S. F. Tenney, October 1905

The Fiftieth Session of the Synod of Texas Held in the Second Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas, [souvenir booklet with photographs], November 22, 1905

C103

Committees & Councils:

Executive Committees:
Reports of Executive Committees to the Ninety-Seventh Session of the Synod of Texas, September 9-11, 1952

Sub-Committee on Christian Higher Education:
Minutes, November 19-20, 1962

Committee on Christian Relations:
“Biblical Teaching, Reformed Theology, Presbyterian Practice as regards Church and State,” May 19-21, 1959
Report of the Permanent Committee on Christian Relations to the 1965 Session of the Synod of Texas, May 18-20, 1965

Church Extension Field Council:

Medical Center Committee:
Report to the Synod, October 1951

Committee on Program, Publicity and Research:
A Study of Texas Presbyterian Ministers, Officers, and Churches, Presented at the Centennial meeting of the Synod of Texas, October 9-11, 1951

Synod’s Campaign Committee:
Report to the Synod of Texas, 1956 and undated

C104

Finances and fundraising:

Presbyterian Educational Fund, audit report, 1947-1949

**B075**  
Texas Presbyterians Together for Christ fundraising campaign, scrapbook, [1956]

**C103**  
Where Your Treasure is…!: The Story of the Texas Presbyterian Foundation, by Thomas W. Currie, Jr. [2010-004], 1995

**C083**  
**Affiliated Institutions:**

**Austin College:**

The Chromascope / Sherman, Texas / Volume IX, [Austin College yearbook, 2011-001], 1908

**C105**  
Proposed consolidation of student loan and endowment funds, 1943

Board of Trustees report to Synod, 1943-1945

Financial data, 1948-1954

Audit reports, 1953-1960

**B025**  
Photograph: Campus shot with Wynne Chapel in the background, color slide, November 1966

**C105**  
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary:

Board of Trustees report to Synod, 1943-1945

Southwestern Presbyterian Home and School for Orphans:

[Note: Merged with Presbyterian Child Placement Agency to form the Presbyterian Children’s Home and Service Agency in 1955]

Report to Synod, 1943-1945

Audit reports, 1950-1954

Presbyterian Child Placement Agency:

[Note: Merged with Southwestern Presbyterian Home and School for Orphans to form the Presbyterian Children’s Home and Service Agency in 1955]

September 1953-December 1954

Presbyterian Children’s Home and Service Agency:

Audit reports:

1955-1963

**C106**

1964-1971

**B025**  
Photograph: Children playing on swing set, color slide, ca. 1960s
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<td>C016</td>
<td>Video: “Home – A Place to Come to,” [VHS, from the Mission Presbytery Resource Center], 1992</td>
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| C106 | “A Place to Call Home,” brochure, undated  
Presbyterian School for Mexican Girls:  
[Note: Merged with the Texas-Mexican Industrial Institute to form Presbyterian Pan-American School in 1955.]  
Board of Trustees report to Synod, 1943-1945  
Audit reports, 1930-1955  
Texas-Mexican Industrial Institute:  
[Note: Merged with the Presbyterian School for Mexican Girls to form Presbyterian Pan-American School in 1955.]  
Board of Trustees report to Synod, 1944-1945  
Audit reports:  
1945-1948 |
| C107 | 1950-1954  
Presbyterian Pan-American School:  
Board of Trustees Meetings, 1959-1960 |
| B025 | Photographs, ca. 1960s |
| C107 | Audit reports:  
[Including separate reports for the Presbyterian School for Mexican Girls and the Texas-Mexican Industrial Institute], 1956  
1956-1966 |
| C016 | Video: “Presbyterian Pan American School,” [VHS, from the Mission Presbytery Resource Center], circa 1990s |
| C107 | Schreiner Institute:  
Board of Trustees report to Synod, 1945  
Audit reports, 1952-1958  
The Mountaineer, Volume XXXV, Number 1, September 21, 1957 |
B025a Westminster Encampment; Kerrville, Texas:
Photographs [12 black and white photographs, 1996-061, selected captions below], circa 1934-1935
“Quartet: Joe, me, Ruth Lewis, Pat Marse”
“Joe”
“Leland Murphy, John D. Mosely, Tommie Smith”
“Presbytery Presidents”
“Highway Chairmen”
“Warren Hall”
“Ed Bayless”
“The Big Three: Richard – President; Evelyn – Vice President; Grace – Secretary”
“We all lived together”
“Don Cowan, 1934”

C107 Presbyterian Synodical Young People’s Conference
[including The Howl o’ the Hills camp newsletter, Volume 11, 1938], 1934-1938
Statement of Operations, October 1930-Summer 1933

C108 Audit reports and financial documentation, September 1933-1949
Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly:
Audit reports:
September 1950-1964

C109 1964-1970

C089 Synod Publications:
The Fiftieth Session of the Synod of Texas, Held in the Second Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas, [includes portraits], November 22, 1905
Presbyterian Expansion in the Synod of Texas of the Presbyterian
Church, U.S., prepared and published by order of the Synod, [two copies, also available in the Stitt Library stacks, 1999-004], 1927


The Howl o’ the Hills camp newsletter, Volume 11, No 1-5, [2011-007], June 1938


A Study of Texas Presbyterian Ministers, Officers and Churches, Committee on Program, Publicity, and Research, Synod’s Council of Texas, PCUS, Presented at the Centennial Meeting of the Synod of Texas, Austin, Texas, October 9-11, 1951

“Synodical’s Fiftieth Birthday,” [photocopied clipping], The Texas Presbyterian, November 1, 1954


The Mexican American Churches in the Synod of Texas, published by the Mexican American Task Force of the Synod of Texas, Presbyterian Church in the U.S., 1971

B179 Texas Presbyterian [2011-008, continued as The Presbyterian, see the Congregational History Collection]:
  Volume 1-4, [missing Volume 3:5, August 1954], 1951-1956

B180 Volume 5-11, 1956-1962

B181 Volume III-IV, 5-11, [missing Volume 11:9, September 1971], 1963-1971
C031  **Presbytery albums [94-208], October 9-11, 1951:**

[Note: The Presbytery albums were compiled for the 1951 meeting of the Synod of Texas by E. A. Dean, secretary-treasurer of the Synod. They primarily consist of photographs of the churches (past and present, through 1951) within the presbytery. Also included are samples of letterhead, lists of pastors, membership and Sunday School attendance figures and other information.]

- Presbytery of Brazos [two albums, second duplicates some material from the first]

C032  Presbytery of Central Texas

C031  Presbytery of Dallas

C032  Presbytery of El Paso

C032  Presbytery of Mid-Texas [two albums]

C033  Presbytery of Paris:

- Two albums

B031a  Correspondence and documents related to the collection of information for the albums

C032  Presbytery of Texas-Mexican

C033  Presbytery of Western Texas [two albums]

I001  Artifacts: Original albums, 1951

C103  **General:**

- Letter to alumni from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia [includes list of graduates from the Synod of Texas; 2010-007], 1916

B025a  **General photographs:**

- Group photograph, “Synod of Texas convened at Tyler, Texas,
Box Contents

Hiester, Photographer, Tyler, Texas, [1993-009], 1888
Synod of Texas reorganization and Synod staff [Gene Dean, Jim
Campbell, Lena Clausell, Linda Zeigler and unidentified man],
ten color transparencies and six slides, 1965-1968

On loan Artifacts:

Texas Synodical Gavel

C103 Description of gavel and W. S. Red, written and signed by
Malcolm Purcell, [2010-007], September 19, 1952