TOMPKINS (JERRY ROBERT) PAPERS, 1951-1993

Descriptive Summary
Title: Jerry Robert Tompkins papers  
Dates: 1951-1993  
Accession Number(s): 1996-089; 1996-090; 1998-001; 1999-007; 1999-015; 2016-012  
Extent: 14 inches  
Language: Materials are written in English.

Biographical Note:  
Jerry Robert Tompkins (1931-) has been a Presbyterian pastor and administrator in Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas. Tompkins was born in Dallas, Texas on July 4, 1931. He received an undergraduate degree in political science from Austin College in 1951, and then attended Union Theological Seminary in Virginia (1951-1952) before transferring to Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (1952-1955). He graduated and was licensed and ordained by the New Orleans Presbytery. He served as pastor at churches in Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas until 1973 when he became vice president of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. In 1980, he left this position to serve as president of the Presbyterian Children’s Home and Service Agency. Upon retirement in 1996, Tompkins was elected president emeritus. The following February he began serving for six months as interim president of Presbyterian Pan American School in Kingsville.

Tompkins also took a role in Presbyterian governance. He served as chairman of the Synod of Texas’ council in the early 1970s. This council assisted in the dissolution of the Synod of Texas and the creation of the larger, more geographically varied, Synod of Red River in 1973.

In addition to his work as a pastor and administrator, Tompkins is an author on both religious and secular topics. He wrote *D-Days at Dayton: Reflections on the Scopes Trial* (1965) and compiled and edited *And a Time to Laugh: Notes from the Pen of an Untamed Iconoclast* (1969).

Scope and Contents:  
Correspondence, printed material, and handwritten notes document both the professional and student careers of Jerry Tompkins. The collection is divided into five series: Course materials; Summer School on Urban Culture and the Church's
Understanding of It; Synod of Texas; Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and Pamphlets.

The series Course materials, contains syllabi, notes, course readings, and assignments from Tompkins’ time as a student, primarily at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, as well as some post-graduation notes on continuing education lectures. The series Synod of Texas consists of correspondence and planning documents illustrating Tompkins’ service as chairman of the Synod’s Council. “Synod E,” as mentioned in many documents, was the working title for the Synod of Red River.

Tompkins’ original folder titles have been preserved. Additional information has been added in brackets to facilitate access.

Related Collections:

Tompkins’ research material and manuscripts of his book D-Days at Dayton: Reflections on the Scopes Trial are housed at the University of Texas at Austin’s Dolph Briscoe Center for American History.

Restrictions:

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

Index Terms:

Joekel, Samuel Levinson, 1893-1954.
Nelson, Carl Ellis, 1916-
Street, T. Watson (Thomas Watson), 1916-
Tompkins, Jerry R. (Jerry Robert), 1931-
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.--Synod of Red River.
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.--Synod of Texas.

Preferred Citation: Jerry Robert Tompkins papers, 1951-1993, Austin Seminary Archives, Stitt Library, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

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Philosophy of Religion, 1952-1953, and undated

History [T. Watson Street courses]:
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   Reformation History, 1952-1953, and undated

Union Seminary:
   Acts, 1951
   Samuel L. Joekel courses:
      The Four Gospels, 1952-1953, and undated
      Acts, Bible 302, 1953, and undated
      Epistles—Pastoral, Epistles—Eschatological, undated
      Epistles—Prison, 1951-1953
      Hebrews and Revelations
   C. Ellis Nelson courses:
      CE 260, Spring 1954, Prof. C. Ellis Nelson, 1954, and undated
      [CE 351, Fall 1954, Prof. C. Ellis Nelson], 1954-1955, and undated

D043
   Church Music, 1952-1953, UT – Prof. Copes, 1953, and undated
   [Bibliographies], 1954-1961, and undated
   [Middler’s Bible Survey Final Exam], 1957
   Continuing education notes [stenographer’s note book + loose Pages, 2016-012], includes notes on talks by James McCord, Jack McMichael, Russell, Cooke, Chandren, Clinebell, Martin Niemoeller (Perkins School of Theology), “Minister’s Week” at Union Seminary, Seward Hiltner, Black, Smith, Robert McAfee Brown, Harrelson, Cleland (Currie Lectures, MidWinters, 1958), circa 1957-1963
   [Chart of Development of Presbyterian Church in the U.S.], undated
Summer School on Urban Culture and the Church’s Understanding of It:
- Urban Conf.: Practicum, misc., students, papers, 1957-1958, and undated
- Urban Conf.: Theo. Inter. of cont. culture—James Gustafson, 1958, and undated
- Urban Conf.: Sociology, William Kolb, 1958, and undated
- Urban Conf.: Art and Philosophy, William Poteat, 1958

Synod of Texas:
- Synod’s Council, 1958, 1971-1972, and undated
- [Synod E], 1972-1973, and undated
- Chairman File [1 of 2], 1972

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- Chairman File [2 of 2], 1972
- Texarkana, 1973, and undated
- Staff Search Committee, Synod E 1972, 1972-1973
- [Ad Interim] Committee to Study the Charismatic Movement, Presbytery of the Southwest, 1969-70, 1969-1978, and undated
- [William J.] Fogleman Farewell, 1993

C125 Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary:
- Report to the Association of Theological Schools and to the Southern Association of College and Schools on the Self-Study of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, [Tompkins was the general editor of this report while Vice-President of Austin Seminary; 1996-090], April 1978

D042 Pamphlets:
- Vocation, c. 1950