TEXAS UNITED CAMPUS CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMITTEE RECORDS, 1970-1991

Descriptive Summary

Title: Texas United Campus Christian Life Committee records
Accession Number(s): 2011-011
Extent: 8 inches
Language: Materials are written in English.

Administrative History:

The Texas United Campus Christian Life Committee (TUCCLC) was founded in 1967 by the South Central Conference of the United Church of Christ, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Texas (later the Christian Church in the Southwest), and both the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. and the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. Synods of Texas (later united as the Synod of the Sun). The founding covenant states the purpose of the TUCCLC as “to plan and administer the program and strategy for ministry in higher education at the universities and colleges within the geographical or ecclesiastical bounds of the covenanting communions.” The 1960s and 1970s were a time of ecumenical activism and unification for many Protestant denominations in the United States, a trend that influenced this united approach to campus ministry practiced by the TUCCLC.

The TUCCLC contributed administratively and financially to the creation and support of campus ministries throughout Texas and in New Orleans, Louisiana. These included ministries in Arlington, Austin, Canyon, College Station, Commerce, Dallas, Denton, El Paso, Houston, Lubbock, New Orleans, San Angelo, and San Antonio. The TUCCLC promoted relationships not only between itself and individual campus ministries, but among the ministries on its various host campuses as well.

Chairpersons of the TUCCLC included Frank L. Seaman, Ken Jones, William H. Tiemann, Peggy Cockrum, John Towery, and Alan Lobaugh. A manual of operations issued in 1986 describes the three constituent parts of the organization:

1. The United Committee, led by the chairperson, was composed of 3-6 representatives from each of the state-level judicatories of the three participating churches. In addition, one staff person named by each state-level
judiciary and two members of the TUCCCLC Campus Ministry staff served as ex officio members with voting privileges. Functions of the United Committee included assisting in the establishment of local committees for campus ministry, aiding in providing or locating resources for campus ministries, serving as an intermediary for funding of campus ministries by the state-level judicatories, providing pastoral and personnel help to local units, and facilitating ecumenical communication.

2. State-level judicatories represented each of the three participating churches: the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Presbyterian Church (USA), and the United Church of Christ. Functions of the judicatories included providing funding and staff for the United Committee.

3. Local boards were established on or near the campuses of higher educational institutions. Their functions included operating local ministries and reporting their activities to the United Committee, which in turn would provide them with funding and other forms of support.

Scope and Contents:
The TUCCCLC records represent the administrative history of the organization from 1970 to 1991, with a majority of documentation dating from 1984 to 1988. The records detail the work the organization undertook to promote and support ministry programs on college campuses in Texas and New Orleans, both financially and operationally. The organization encompassed a number of Protestant campus ministries, including those supported by the Presbyterian Church, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the United Church of Christ.

The collection includes operating manuals, meeting minutes, financial documents, correspondence between the chair of the TUCCCLC and various participating campus ministry programs, information on the United Ministries in Education (national organization), member contact lists, and information on participating campus ministry programs, including financial documentation.

The TUCCCLC records speak to the emphasis on ecumenicism in the Presbyterian Church, the United Church of Christ, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) during the 1970s and 1980s. These records illustrate the kinds of collaboration undertaken by these denominations in the campus ministry setting, and suggest the challenges their cooperative efforts faced. In addition, these records document activities and attitudes in Texas campus ministry during this period.

The Administrative Records series documents the administrative activities of the TUCCCLC from 1970 to 1991, with the bulk of the materials from 1984 to 1988. The files are arranged alphabetically according to subject. The relationships between the
TUCCLC and the campus ministries, as well as between the TUCCLC and the three churches supporting it, are illustrated through correspondence, minutes, and reports, giving diverse insights into how the TUCCLC navigated as an ecumenical organization. The correspondence in particular displays multiple perspectives on the organization’s aims and projects, showing both the places where differences were laid aside and the places where they proved a challenge to effective cooperation. Mission statements and project descriptions suggest the kinds of conversations that were happening concerning the roles of both campus ministry and ecumenical organizations during this period. In addition, notes, handouts, and printed materials from national meetings of the United Ministries in Education illustrate the TUCCLC’s relation to the overall American campus ministry environment. While the TUCCLC’s history from the early 1970s to the late 1980s is documented at least to some extent, coverage before the mid-1980s is uneven, and the original order of the materials suggests more attentive record-keeping for the organization developed in 1984-1986.

The Campus Ministries series documents the activities of individual campus ministries and the TUCCLC’s involvement with their operations. These files illustrate the active role the TUCCLC took in the various participating campus ministries, from assisting them financially, to intellectually supporting their activities with guides and meetings, to resolving disputes within organizations. A majority of the files contain completed Site Evaluation Forms from 1984, which detail the activities of the individual campus ministries and often include financial information. Some files contain additional information on the groups, such as informational handouts; self-evaluations or reports; correspondence; financial statements; handwritten notes; theological, operating, and planning documents; newspaper clippings; and meeting minutes. A majority of these records come from the mid- to late 1980s, with some earlier material sparsely represented.

What original order was discernible in the collection has largely been maintained. The significant exception is the combination of administrative records before and after the 1984-1986 period into a single series, and the division of the original “History” folder, containing pre-1986 administrative records, into genre categories consistent with those of the post-1986 materials.

It is unclear how the TUCCLC Records came to the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary Archive. Two TUCCLC staff who were connected to the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary are Michael Miller, who was a lecturer and professor at APTS from 1994 to 2005, and Peggy Cockrum, who worked in the APTS’s public relations department from 1976 to 1995.

**Processing Information:**
Processed by Arcadia Falcone and Johanna Jones, University of Texas School of Information students, October-November 2011.
Restrictions:
Materials are available by appointment only. Contact the archivist for details.

Index Terms:
Lobaugh, Alan.
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Synod of the Sun.
Texas United Campus Christian Life Committee --Archives.
United Church of Christ.
Church work with students--Texas.
College students--Religious life.
Ecumenical movement.
Universities and colleges--Religion.

Preferred Citation: Texas United Campus Christian Life Committee records, 1970-1991, Austin Seminary Archives, Stitt Library, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

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Dallas - Dallas Community Colleges, 1984-1986
Denton - North Texas State University and Texas Women’s University, 1983-1988
El Paso - University of Texas at El Paso, 1980-1987
Houston - University of Houston and Rice University, 1984-1987
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New Orleans - Tulane University, 1984-1988
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