

The Filson Historical Society
Kentucky Council of Churches
Records, 1884-1973

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Size of Collection:
3 cubic feet

Location Number:
Mss./BA/K37

**Kentucky Council of Churches
Records, 1884-1973**

Scope and Content Note

Contains the records of the Kentucky Council of Churches, an ecumenical organization based in Lexington, Kentucky, with connections to the broader National (and World) Council of Churches. The records include meeting minutes, reports, newsletters, and correspondence related to the council's activities during the post-World War II era, as well as similar records of related organizations including the Kentucky Sunday School Association (from 1884-1950) and the Lexington Ministerial Association (from 1940-1959).

Several books related to the development of the Sunday School movement in America were transferred to the library.

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Historical Note

The Kentucky Council of Churches was established in 1947 as a new manifestation of the Kentucky Sunday School Association, which had been active since 1865. Both organizations were part of the broader trend of religious benevolent and reform societies, aimed at improving society through religious education, outreach, and ministry. By the mid-1950s, the KCC had developed into a rather progressive institution. Previously primarily consisting of white congregations, the KCC began to readily accept African-American churches such as the African Methodist Episcopal into ecumenical efforts across the state. Over the course of the 1950s and 1960s, the council repeatedly denounced segregation and racism, worked to aid migrant agricultural workers, argued for the end of capital punishment, and participated in soil conservation efforts, among other activities. The council continued into the early twenty-first century, and remained an independent organization, although several of the member communions were also members of the National and World Councils of Churches.

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Folder 32:	Kentucky Sunday-School Association, Conventions, 1871-1888 & 1883-1887
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Folder 40: *Kentucky Sunday School Reporter*, 1912-1917
Folder 41: *Kentucky Sunday School Reporter*, 1918-1927
Folder 42: *Kentucky Sunday School Reporter*, 1928-1937
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Folder 45: Miscellaneous Records, 1923-1967

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Subject Headings

Childhood
Communism - United States
Ecumenical movement
Environmentalism - Religious aspects
Juvenile delinquency - Kentucky
Kentucky Council of Churches
Migrant agricultural laborers
Race relations
Religion
Religious broadcasting
Religious education
Sunday school conventions - Kentucky