



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

John J. Hicks collection

1964-1974

Sc MG 401

Summary

Creator: Hicks, John J., 1915-

Title: John J. Hicks collection

Date: 1964-1974

Size: 0.21 linear feet (1 box)

Source: Gift of Juanita R. Riley and a custodian from St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 1988.

Abstract: The John J. Hicks collection consists primarily of printed materials. The bulk of the material relates to the celebration of Rev. Hicks's 10th anniversary as pastor of St. Mark's United Methodist Church. In addition, the collection contains some of his sermons, reflections, religious essays, and prayers, as well as correspondence and letters from the period during which he was the president of Local School Board 6. Brochures and programs documenting Hick's work and honoring him comprise the rest of the collection. There is also a booklet, *Reflections*, which was a memorial tribute to Hicks's wife, Pollie; included in the booklet are five letters from Mrs. Hicks to each of her children.

Preferred citation: [Item], John J. Hicks collection, Sc MG 401, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

Processing note: Accessioned by Rosalie P. Jeter, April 1998.

Separated Materials:

Part of this collection originated from the St. Mark's United Methodist Church collection.

Related Materials:

St. Mark's United Methodist Church collection, Sc MG 361, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Creator History

Reverend John J. Hicks was born in Brownwood, Georgia, and grew up in Jacksonville, Florida. Hicks's theological training occurred at Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia; the Graduate School of Religion, University of Southern California; and the Reed School of Religion, Los Angeles. He also did postgraduate studies at Jewish seminaries in California and New York City.

In 1964, Hicks joined St. Mark's United Methodist Church in Harlem, New York, where he continued its tradition of focusing on social justice, strong community ties, and social welfare involvement. He led St. Mark's as its pastor until 1981. In addition, Hicks was a board member and president of New York City's Local School District #6. Hicks was married to Pollie Louise Bledsoe, with whom he had five children.

Scope and Content Note

The John J. Hicks collection consists primarily of printed materials. The bulk of the material relates to the celebration of Rev. Hicks's 10th anniversary as pastor of St. Mark's United Methodist Church. In addition, the collection contains some of his sermons, reflections, religious essays, and prayers, as well as correspondence and letters from the period during which he was the president of Local School Board 6. Brochures and programs documenting Hicks's work and honoring him comprise the rest of the collection. There is also a booklet, *Reflections*, which was a memorial tribute to Hicks's wife, Pollie; included in the booklet are five letters from Mrs. Hicks to each of her children.

Key Terms

Occupations

African American clergy

Geographic Names

Harlem (New York, N.Y.)

Names

Hicks, John J., 1915-

St. Mark's United Methodist Church (Harlem, New York, N.Y.)

Container List

- b. 1 f. 1 General correspondence 1964-1974
- b. 1 f. 2 Prayers and spiritual essays
- b. 1 f. 3 Sermons
- b. 1 f. 4 Local School Board #6 1967-1968
- b. 1 f. 5 Writing 1974
- b. 1 f. 6 Certificate, "You Are in the News"