



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

Guide to the

Black Theology Project records

1935-1989 [bulk 1976-1988]

Sc MG 286

Summary

Creator: Black Theology Project

Title: Black Theology Project records

Date: 1935-1989 [bulk 1976-1988]

Size: 5.79 linear feet (13 boxes)

Source: Gift of the Black Theology Project, 1987-1989.

Revision History: Finding aid updated by Lauren Stark.

Abstract: The Black Theology Project (BTP) is an interdenominational organization, originally organized as one of eight projects of Theology in the Americas (TIA). The Black Theology Project records include files of the Board of Directors, administrative materials, and program files.

Preferred citation: [Item], Black Theology Project records, Sc MG 286, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English Some material in Spanish.

Processing note: Four accessions consolidated into one collection by Diana Lachatanere, 1987-1989.

Separated Materials:

Transferred to the Moving Image and Recorded Sound Division: audio materials. For more information, please contact the division at schomburgaudiovisual@nypl.org or 212-491-2270.

Transferred to the Photographs and Prints Division: photographs.

Related Materials:

Theology in the Americas records, Sc MG 369, Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division,

Creator History

The Black Theology Project (BTP) is an interdenominational organization, founded in 1976, under the leadership of Rev. Charles Spivey, Sister Shawn Copeland, and Rev. Muhammad Kenyatta. BTP incorporates Black academicians, theologians, clergy and laity, and political and community activists in a national network committed to theological reflection and social action on behalf of the Black church and the Black community. The organization has established theological dialogues with Hispanic, Native American, and Pacific/Asian Christians in the United States and with Third World Christians and liberation movements outside of the United States, especially in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Asia.

The Black Theology Project was originally organized as one of eight projects of Theology in the Americas (TIA), a consortium program related to the National Council of Churches. BTP engages in theological dialogue and conferences with related TIA projects regarding a theology of liberation for North America.

The Project has played notable roles in the world theological conferences of the Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologies (EATWOT) and has sent representatives to present papers and participate in several EATWOT conferences since 1976. Among its other activities, BTP has held several conferences, including "Black Church and Black Community: Unity and Action for Education" (Atlanta, 1977); a 1979 conference focusing on the relation of class and feminist analysis to Black Theology; and "National and International Priorities of the Black Church" (Washington, D. C., 1984).

Scope and Content Note

The Black Theology Project records include files of the Board of Directors (lists of board members, agendas, minutes, and memoranda); administrative files, such as correspondence, membership materials, and financial records, of former executive directors, Howard Dodson, Jualynne Dodson, and Yvonne Delk; program files for the Convocation, Cuban Seminar on Black Theology, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Seminar, additional projects with Cuban ecumenical organizations, and other conferences and workshops; materials concerning BTP's collaboration with TIA; and subject files (mostly printed matter) on topics such as Black theology and Cuba, individuals, and organizations (mostly other churches and religious organizations).

Arrangement: Records organized into five series: I. Board of Directors; II. Administrative files; III. Programs; IV. Theology in the Americas; and V. Subject files.

Key Terms

Subjects

African Americans -- Religion

Authors, Black

Black people -- Cuba -- Religion

Black theology

Civil rights -- Religious aspects -- Christianity

Liberation theology
Liberty -- Religious aspects -- Christianity
Religious institutions

Names

Delk, Yvonne V.
Dodson, Howard
Dodson, Jualynne E.
Black Theology Project
Theology in the Americas (Organization)

Container List

Board of Directors 1972-1988

Many of the Board and staff members files include writing by the individual.

- b. 1 f. 1 Description, structure, and reorganization 1979-1983
- b. 1 f. 2 Certificate of Incorporation 1985
- b. 1 f. 3 Goals and objectives 1978-1983
- b. 1 f. 4 Black theological consultation meetings and correspondence 1975-1977
Describes the origin of the Black Theology Project.
- b. 1 f. 5 Board contact lists ca. 1977-1987
- b. 1 f. 6 Board forms, blank ca. 1983-1985
- b. 1 f. 7 Board forms, complete 1979-1986

Board and staff members

- b. 1 f. 8 Cone, James H 1977-1986
- b. 1 f. 9 Delk, Yvonne 1972-1986
- b. 1 f. 10 Dodson, Howard 1977-1984
- b. 1 f. 11 Dodson, Jualynne 1977-1988
- b. 1 f. 12 Eason, Vaughn 1978-1980
Former executive director of Black Theology Project.
- b. 1 f. 13 Howard, M. William 1978-1982
- b. 1 f. 14 Kenyatta, Muhammad 1977-1983
- b. 1 f. 15 Phelps, Jamie 1975-1983
- b. 1 f. 16 Ridley-Thomas, Mark 1981-1983
- b. 1 f. 17 Riley, Negail 1984-1987
- b. 1 f. 18 Rogers, Jefferson P 1983
- b. 1 f. 19 West, Cornel 1979-1983
- b. 1 f. 20 Wilmore, Gayraud 1977-1987

Correspondence

- b. 1 f. 21 1977-1981
- b. 1 f. 22 1982-1983
- b. 1 f. 23 1984-1986
- b. 1 f. 24 1987-1988

Meeting minutes and agendas

- b. 1 f. 25 1977-1981
- b. 1 f. 26 1982-1984
- b. 1 f. 27 1985-1986
- b. 1 f. 28 1987-1988

Administrative files 1976-1988

- b. 1 f. 29 Letterhead
- General correspondence
- b. 1 f. 30 1977-1978
- b. 2 f. 1 1979-1982

Administrative files (cont.)
General correspondence (cont.)

- b. 2 f. 2 1983
- b. 2 f. 3 1984-1986
- b. 2 f. 4 1987-1988

Financial records

- b. 2 f. 5 1976-1983
- b. 3 f. 1 Lease with the Interchurch Center 1983
- b. 3 f. 2 1984-1985
- b. 3 f. 3 1986
- b. 3 f. 4 1987-1988
- b. 3 f. 5 undated
- b. 3 f. 6 Orbis books sold 1983-1984
- b. 3 f. 7 Fundraising and grants 1977-1985

Mailing lists

- b. 3 f. 8 1977-1988
- b. 4 f. 1 undated

Membership

- b. 4 f. 2 Brochure, letters, and cards 1984-1987
- b. 4 f. 3 Forms, complete 1979-1988
- b. 4 f. 4 Chicago chapter membership meeting 1986

Printed matter

The Black Theology Project Bulletin

- b. 4 f. 5 1977-1988
- b. 4 f. 6 Rough drafts and research material 1983-1988
- b. 4 f. 7 Press releases and press list 1977-1984
- b. 4 f. 8 Clippings and articles 1977-1986
- b. 4 f. 9 Brochure 1983-1985
Includes drafts and final versions.
- b. 4 f. 10 Work/study program coordinator 1982-1985

Programs 1977-1989

Arranged chronologically.

Convocation

- b. 5 f. 1 1977
Includes planning material, papers, and program.
- b. 5 f. 2 1978-1980
1984
- b. 5 f. 3 Planning 1983
- b. 5 f. 4 Brochure and registration information
- b. 5 f. 5 Registrants
- b. 5 f. 6 Program draft and final version
- b. 5 f. 7 Speaker information and papers
- b. 5 f. 8 Resolutions
- b. 5 f. 9 Evaluations 1984

- Programs (cont.)
- Convocation (cont.)
- 1984 (cont.)
- b. 5 f. 10 "Call to Action" and final report
- b. 5 f. 11 Financial records
- 1985
- b. 5 f. 12 Planning 1984-1985
- b. 6 f. 1 Registration information and program
- b. 6 f. 2 Workshop reports
- b. 6 f. 3 Financial records
- 1986
- b. 6 f. 4 Planning 1985-1986
- b. 6 f. 5 Registrants
- b. 6 f. 6 Program and participants
- b. 6 f. 7 Resolutions
- b. 6 f. 8 Financial records
- 1987
- b. 6 f. 9 Planning and financial records 1985-1987
- b. 6 f. 10 Program and brochure
- b. 6 f. 11 Papers
- b. 6 f. 12 Reports
- b. 6 f. 13 1988-1989
- b. 6 f. 14 Seminar/lecture series 1977-1986
- b. 6 f. 15 Reflection groups 1983-1984
- b. 6 f. 16 Conference in Cuba on Black Theology, Coordinacion Obrero Estudiantil Bautista de Cuba (COEBAC) 1984 April
- b. 6 f. 17 Fourth Interethnic Indigenous Dialogue, Chicago 1984 September
- b. 6 f. 18 Study trips to Brazil 1984-1988
- Theological Seminar in Homage to Martin Luther King, Jr., Havana, Cuba
- b. 7 f. 1-2 1984
- Folder 2 includes printed matter, much of which covers Jesse Jackson's trip to Cuba.
- 1986
- b. 7 f. 3 Planning material, programs, and clippings
- b. 7 f. 4-6 Papers and participant biographies
- b. 8 f. 1 1988
- COEBAC Musical Exchange Program, Cuba
- b. 8 f. 2 1985
- b. 8 f. 3 1986
- b. 8 f. 4 Asian affairs (seminars) 1985-1987
- b. 8 f. 5 COEBAC congregational exchange program 1985-1987
- b. 8 f. 6 Program updates 1985-1987
- b. 8 f. 7 Conferences on women and the church, Havana 1986-1987
- b. 8 f. 8 African affairs 1987
- Includes All Africa Council of Churches and Partners in Ecumenism African trip.
- b. 9 f. 1 1987 Committee of Women for Justice cluster conversation 1987-1988

Theology in the Americas 1976-1989

- b. 9 f. 2 Planning Committee (consultation for Black Theology Project) 1976-1978
- b. 9 f. 3 Correspondence 1976-1988
- b. 9 f. 4 National Committee 1977-1989
- b. 9 f. 5 Publications 1977-1985
Includes brochures, newsletters, and conference publications.

Subject files 1935-1988

Arranged alphabetically by individual or author, organization, or topic.

- b. 10 f. 1 Afro-American Religious History Group 1975-1982
- b. 10 f. 2 Alabama Rural Council 1987
- b. 10 f. 3 Bibliographies
- b. 10 f. 4 Birdzell, Doug. "Power and the Poor" 1979 October 29
- b. 10 f. 5 Black clergy list
- b. 10 f. 6 Black-Jewish relations 1969
Black theology
- b. 10 f. 7 Articles 1935-1987
- b. 10 f. 8 Papers and unpublished material 1970-1985
- b. 10 f. 9 Black women clergy 1985-1988
- b. 10 f. 10 Black women's health issues 1984
- b. 10 f. 11 Brazil 1985-1988
- b. 10 f. 12 Church brochures, newsletters, and flyers 1977-1988
- b. 10 f. 13 Clergy and Laity Concerned (Blacks against Nuclear Proliferation) 1983-1984
- b. 10 f. 14 Congress of National Black Churches
Cuba
- b. 11 f. 1 1972-1984
- b. 11 f. 2 1986-1988
- b. 11 f. 3 Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians 1977-1983
- b. 11 f. 4 Ethnic Minority Local Church (EMLC) 1982
- b. 11 f. 5 Feminist theology 1985
- b. 11 f. 6 Forbes, Jack. "Black Pioneers: The Spanish-Speaking Afroamericans of the Southwest" 1966 Fall
- b. 11 f. 7 The Gay and Lesbian Theology Project 1985
- b. 11 f. 8 Grenada 1983-1984
- b. 11 f. 9 Guyana 1983
- b. 11 f. 10 *Hyman, Mark. Blacks Who Died for Jesus: A History Book brochure* undated
- b. 11 f. 11 Immigration 1981
- b. 11 f. 12 Jackson, Jesse 1984-1985
- b. 11 f. 13 Kabarhuza, Hamuli. "Pour Une Action Evangelique en Milieu D'Etudiants, Chretiens en Afrique Ajour d'Hui" 1983 May
In French.
- b. 11 f. 14 King, Martin Luther, Jr 1963-1986
- b. 11 f. 15 Liberation theology 1979-1984

Subject files (cont.)

- b. 11 f. 16 Marxism and Christianity 1984
- b. 11 f. 17 Michaelson, Wes. "Politics and Spirituality" undated
- b. 11 f. 18 Moon, Sun Myung 1982
- b. 12 f. 1 Moore, Moses Nathaniel, Jr. "Orishatukeh Faduma: Servant of a Liberal Protestant and Pan-African Missionary Tradition, 1857-1946" 1982 May
- b. 12 f. 2 Namibia 1985
- b. 12 f. 3 National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus 1983
- b. 12 f. 4 National Council for Black Studies 1982
- b. 12 f. 5 National Council of Black Churchmen 1970-1983
- b. 12 f. 6 National Council of the Churches of Christ (NCCC) 1952-1985
- b. 12 f. 7 National Endowment for the Humanities 1980
- b. 12 f. 8 Nouwen, Henri articles 1978-1980
- b. 12 f. 9 Poverty undated
- b. 12 f. 10 Presbyterian Criminal Justice Program 1984
- b. 12 f. 11 Racism 1970-1982
- b. 12 f. 12 Redic, John W., II. "Exploring the Origin of Masculine Bias against Women" 1986 April 25
- b. 12 f. 13 Robeson, Paul 1977
- b. 12 f. 14 Shockley, Grant S. "Ethnic Pluralism and Future Forms of Ministry in the Military" 1978 Winter
- b. 12 f. 15 Sixteenth St. Baptist Church undated
- b. 12 f. 16 South Africa ca. 1980-1986
- b. 12 f. 17 Southern Christian Leadership Conference Affiliates Directory 1968
- b. 12 f. 18 Speeches 1976-1987
Includes speeches by Congressman Louis Stokes, Rev. Everett C. Parker, and Rev. John Mendez.
- b. 12 f. 19 Stewart, Cheryl A. "The Priesthood of All Believers" 1986 July 28
- b. 12 f. 20 Trinity United Church 1984
- b. 13 f. 1 United Methodist Church 1983-1985
- b. 13 f. 2 War and violence 1982-1983
- b. 13 f. 3 *The Witness* 1978-1980
- b. 13 f. 4 World Council of Churches 1980-1984
- b. 13 f. 5 Yearwood, Lennox. "National Afro-American Organizations in Urban Communities" 1978 June