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# Guide to the Interseminary Commission for Training for the Rural Ministry Records

RG 47



Compiled by Martha Lund Smalley

1977

409 Prospect Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
(203) 432-5301

[divinity.library@yale.edu](mailto:divinity.library@yale.edu)

<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Yale Divinity Library  
409 Prospect Street  
New Haven, CT 06511  
(203) 432-5301  
divinity.library@yale.edu  
<http://web.library.yale.edu/divinity/special-collections>

**CALL NUMBER:** RG 47

**CREATOR:** Interseminary Commission for Training for the Rural Ministry

**TITLE:** Interseminary Commission for Training for the Rural Ministry records

**DATES:** 1926-1954

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 3 linear feet (6 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Minutes, reports and proposals document the development and activities of the Commission, including its participation in the Associated Commissions for the Development of the Rural Church in New England. Correspondence focuses on Luther A. Weigle's involvement in the Commission. The Interseminary Commission for Training for the Rural Ministry was established in 1929, with funding from John D. Rockefeller, Jr., as a cooperative effort to provide more adequate preparation for ministers working in town and country fields. The activities of the Interseminary Commission included summer institutes, research seminars, supervised fieldwork, and courses offered in connection with the seven participating seminaries: Andover Newton Theological School, Auburn Theological Seminary, Boston University School of Theology, Bangor Theological Seminary, Hartford Theological Seminary, Union Theological Seminary and Yale Divinity School.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.047>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/divinity.047>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Preferred Citation

Interseminary Commission for Training for the Rural Ministry Records (RG 47), Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

The Interseminary Commission for Training for the Rural Ministry was established in 1929 as a cooperative effort to provide more adequate preparation for ministers working in town and country ministry fields. Participating seminaries were: the Andover Newton Theological School, Auburn Theological Seminary, Boston University School of Theology, Bangor Theological Seminary, Hartford Theological School, Union Theological Seminary and the Yale Divinity School. Dean Luther A. Weigle of the Yale Divinity School was chairman of the Commission for many years. The activities of the Interseminary Commission included summer institutes, research seminars, supervised fieldwork, and courses offered in connection with the seven schools involved. The initial funding for the Commission was received from John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Later, the Commission was funded by the participating seminaries.

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## Scope and Contents

The minutes, reports and proposals date from 1928 to 1950 and document the development and activities of the Commission including its participation in the Associated Commissions for the Development of the Rural Church in New England. The correspondence dates from 1926 to 1950 and centers around Luther A. Weigle's involvement in the Commission. Correspondence of the staff of the Commission is included as well as letters to and from the deans and presidents of the participating seminaries who served as the board of directors. Correspondence regarding funding, including letters to and from John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and his representatives, is filed with the financial material of Series III. Series III also includes financial statements, expense account reports and minutes of the Finance Committee.

The subject file of Series IV is divided into four sections:

- A. Field work instruments; including questionnaires and interview guides, completed and blank. (1929-1945, undated)
- B. Staff papers and memoranda (1930-1948, undated)
- C. Student seminar reports and course descriptions (1928-1950s)
- D. Summer schools and conferences (1928-1948)

One oversize photograph of the Interseminary Commission board and staff completes the record group.

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## Arrangement

- I. Minutes, Reports, Proposals, 1928-1950, n.d.
- II. Correspondence of Staff and Board Members, 1926-1950, n.d.
- III. Financial Material, 1929-1950, n.d.
- IV. Subject File, 1928-1954, n.d.

The first three series are arranged chronologically. The fourth series is arranged alphabetically by subject within each of its sub-sections, except in the case of the student seminar reports, which are arranged chronologically.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Minutes, reports, proposals, 1928-1949, undated

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b. 1, f. 1-11	Interseminary Commission records	1928-1949, undated
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## Series II: Correspondence of staff and board members, 1926-1950, undated

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b. 2, f. 12-27	Correspondence	1926-1933 July
b. 3, f. 28-48	Correspondence	1933 August-1950

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**Series III: Financial material, 1929-1950, undated**

b. 4, f. 49-59      Financial records

1929-1950,  
undated

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**Series IV: Subject file, 1928-1954, undated**

Questionnaires, interview guides		
b. 5, f. 60	The Approach, the Method, and Especially the Content of Training for the Rural Ministry	1929
b. 5, f. 61	Household Study Survey	undated
b. 5, f. 62	Rural Religious Education	1930
b. 5, f. 63	Rural-Urban Adjustments	1942
b. 5, f. 64	Rural-Urban Adjustments	1942
b. 5, f. 65	Miscellaneous	1931-1945, undated
Staff papers, memoranda		
b. 5, f. 66	The Integration of Education for the Christian Ministry	1947-1948
b. 5, f. 67	Relation of Student Field Work to Theological Education	1942-1943
b. 5, f. 68	Miscellaneous, re: the rural church	1930-1945, undated
b. 6, f. 69a	Papers prepared by staff for a meeting at the Andover Newton Theological School	1942 December 27-28
b. 6, f. 69a	Memorandum on The Relation of Student Field Work to Theological Education	1943
Student seminar reports, course descriptions		
b. 6, f. 69b	The Church and Country Youth	1928-1933
b. 6, f. 70	Seminary extension service for the untrained minister in the rural field	1934-1936
b. 6, f. 71	Rural-urban adjustments	1937-1942
b. 6, f. 72	Small sects in rural America	1942-1946
b. 6, f. 73	Methods of church cooperation	1946-1947
b. 6, f. 74	An adequate program for the town and country church	1948
b. 6, f. 75	How does the church function in the local community?	1949
b. 6, f. 76	The rural non-farm population; the rural mission of the World Church	1950-1954, undated
Summer schools and conferences		
b. 6, f. 77	Auburn and Bangor	1930-1948
b. 6, f. 78	Boston University - Yale Divinity School, miscellaneous	1928-1944



## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Religion -- Fieldwork  
Religious education  
Universities and colleges -- Religion

### **Names**

Rockefeller, John D., Jr. (John Davison),  
1874-1960  
Weigle, Luther A. (Luther Allan), 1880-1976

### **Corporate Bodies**

Andover Newton Theological School  
Associated Commissions for the Development  
of the Rural Church in New England  
Auburn Theological Seminary (Auburn, N.Y.)  
Bangor Theological Seminary (Me.)  
Boston University. School of Theology  
Hartford Theological Seminary  
Union Theological Seminary (New York, N.Y.)  
Yale University. Divinity School