

MG

874

ARCHIE SMITH JR.
PAPERS

The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture
515 Malcolm X Boulevard
New York, New York, 10037

ARCHIE SMITH JR. PAPERS, 1962 - 2013
Sc MG 874

Bulk Dates:	1978 - 2002
Extent:	2 record cartons
Linear Feet:	2
Source and Date:	Gift of Archie Smith Jr.
Processor's Name:	Robby Koehler
Date Finding Aid Completed:	04/18/13
Abstract:	Correspondence, unpublished and published papers and sermons, and other materials that document Smith's career as a scholar and pastor
Organization Note:	Collection is organized into 3 series: Personal Papers, Professional Papers, and Pastoral Papers.
Access:	Unrestricted Access
Reproductions:	All request subject to limitations noted in divisional policies on reproduction.
Copyright:	Information on copyright (literary rights) available from repository.
Citation:	[Item], Archie Smith Jr. Papers, Sc MG 874, Manuscripts, Archives, and Rare Books Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library
Index Terms:	
Names:	Archie Smith Jr., 1939-
Subjects:	African American - Clergy African American - Study and Teaching - United States African American Education African American - Scholars Counseling and Diversity Counseling and Pastoral Theology

Preface

This finding aid was prepared as part of an archival processing project arranged through support of New York University's Department of English, in collaboration with the Schomburg Center.

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ARCHIE SMITH JR. (1939-). PAPERS, 1962 - 2013, (bulk dates, 1978 - 2001)
2 record cartons (2 linear feet).

Biographical Sketch

Archie Smith, Jr. was born on August 4, 1939, and lived most of his childhood in a mixed-race neighborhood in Seattle. He received Master's degrees in Divinity (1964), Sacred Theology (1966); an MSW (Social Welfare, 1973) and a Ph.D. from Brandeis University (1973.) Smith became the first tenured track African-American faculty at the Pacific School of Religion (PSR) in 1975. He was the James and Clarice Foster Professor of Pastoral Psychology and Counseling at PSR and the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California until 2011.

In 1964 Smith was ordained as a minister and worked in New York City. In 1966 he was appointed Minister-to-the-Community at the historic First Baptist Church in Worcester, Massachusetts. This social gospel oriented ministry enabled him to make connections between poverty conditions, individual experience and workings of the larger society. Concerns with personal, inter-personal and systemic causes of poverty, oppression and discrimination led Smith to study at Brandeis University. His Ph.D. dissertation was an analysis of drug use on College Campuses in a New England City during the early 1970's.

Over the course of the 1970s and 1980s, his work and sabbaticals in London England, related intercultural and interfaith issues with mental health practices and different family structures. He explored and developed, on both sides of the Atlantic methods for teaching and practicing therapy with a variety of families that took into account the interreligious and systemic difficulties they faced. Smith's first book, *The Relational Self: Ethics and Therapy from a Black Church Perspective* (1982) made important connections between ethics, social psychology, social science and theology. He argued that care of persons and care of worlds are interrelated. Therefore, churches are challenged to help change structures of discrimination and oppression in efforts that seek the welfare of individuals. Smith also addressed the Jonestown, Guyana mass murders and suicides of 1978. The appeal of the former Peoples Temple and Jonestown, the role of higher education, religion and mental health remained topics of concern through the later part of Smith's career in both his published and unpublished writings.

Smith's work in the 1990s and early 21st are present in a number of publications including his second book, *Navigating the Deep River: Spirituality in African American Families* (1997). The book established a systemic, cross-cultural and historical approach to understanding African-American families in society. His third book, *Tending the Flock: Congregations and Family Ministry* (1998) was co-edited with K. Brynoll Lyon. The book was a series of case studies of different kinds of congregations—Protestant, Catholic and Jewish, liberal and conservative—with family ministries in different parts of the United States. His fourth book, written with colleague Ursula Riedel-Pfafflin, was *Siblings by Choice: Race, Gender, Violence* (2004). This book explored case studies and pastoral care challenges across international and intercultural borders. Smith resigned from the PSR faculty in 2011 due to longstanding concerns about racial discrimination and failing academic standards within the institution. His teaching, religious leadership and mental health-practicing career continues. Continued productivity is evident from what he has written and published since 2011.

Scope and Content

The Archie Smith Jr. Papers document Smith's career as a pastor, scholar, and counselor and reflect his interest in placing individual and family experiences within the context of larger social, cultural, and spiritual systems. The collection is divided into three series: **PERSONAL**, **PROFESSIONAL**, and **PASTORAL**.

The brief **PERSONAL PAPERS** series (2 folders) contains correspondence with family and friends as well as with parishioners at Worcester First Baptist Church during his time there from 1966-1975. A "Family and Friends" folder contains bulletins, announcements, and other materials from events where Smith served as minister for individuals he knew, most notably as one of the officiating ministers at the marriage of Clarence Thomas.

The **PROFESSIONAL PAPERS** series (2 lin. ft.) documents his career as a scholar from the early 1960s to the first decade of the 21st century. Many of the letters in the Correspondence sub-series deal with the planning of events at PSR and various other institutions and Smith's employment negotiations and offers. Smith's personal reflections on the course of his career, his employment options, and some of his professional experiences are documented in the faculty reports, journals, and reflections

that were either written as part of his duties at PSR or for professional reference.

Notable items in the Unpublished Talks (.3 lin. ft.), Unpublished Writing (.2 lin. ft.), and Published Writing subseries include papers on homosexuality, abuse, and drugs and their impact on the black family and church; manuscript annotations and emendations to lecture notes; unpublished talks of the Jonestown mass murders/suicide and religious cults more generally; and an early draft of a chapter of his first book *The Relational Self*. Smith's experience as a researcher are documented in a folder devoted to a study he led at the Pacific School of Religion in the late 1970s that examined student's religious and spiritual beliefs. The teaching sub-series consist of syllabi, teaching evaluations, and materials relating to Smith's resignation from PSR in 2011.

Throughout his career, Smith delivered sermons for ordinations, commencements, and other events and was also often called on to compose and deliver public prayers. Filed in the **PASTORAL PAPERS** (.4 lin. ft.) are these prayers and sermons based upon lectionary texts, international and contemporary events. They cover a wide variety of topics. Sermons delivered at the (historic) First Baptist Church, Worcester, Massachusetts, during the late 1960s demonstrated his early attempts to address racism and poverty as systemic issues. Also represented in the series are materials relating to workshops Smith gave in London, England to Muslim and secular trained therapists. They relate to spirituality to mental health practice. Also among the pastoral papers is the theological significance of the pastoral prayer in the life of a congregation, especially on different liturgical seasons of the year. They include national tragedies and international events. In 2011, members of the academic community and a local Black church came together to honor Smith. A folder documents that event.

Provenance

Gift of Archie Smith Jr.
SCM 13-03

Processed by Robby Koehler
2013

Container List

Box Folder

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | PERSONAL PAPERS |
| 1 | Correspondence |
| 2 | Family and Friends |
| | PROFESSIONAL PAPERS |
| | Correspondence |
| 3 | 1980-1990 |
| 4 | 1980-1990 |
| 5 | 1991-2009 |
| | Unpublished Lectures and Talks |
| 6 | 1976-1980 |
| 7 | 1981-1985 |
| 8 | 1986-1990 |
| 9 | 1986-1990 |
| 10 | 1991-2000 |
| 11 | 2001-2012 |
| | Unpublished Writing |
| 12 | Ordination Paper, 1964 |
| 13 | Union Theological Seminary Paper |
| 14 | Dissertation, 1973 |
| 15 | Tidings of Comfort and Joy |
| 16 | Brandeis University Course Paper |
| 17 | 1972-1980 |
| 18 | 1981-1990 |
| 19 | 1990-2000 |
| 20 | PSR Study and Report on Spirituality, 1976 |
| 21 | Institute for Ecumenical and Cultural Research |

Container List

Box Folder

- | | |
|---|---|
| 2 | Journals, Reports, Professional Development |
| 1 | 1979-1990 |
| 2 | 1991-2012 |
| 3 | Conference Programs and Professional Materials
Published Writing |
| 4 | 1969-1999 |
| 5 | 1999-2012
Teaching |
| 6 | Syllabi, 1979-1989 |
| 7 | Syllabi, 1990-2011 |
| 8 | Student Evaluations |
| 9 | Resignation from PSR |

PASTORAL PAPERS

- | | |
|----|----------------------|
| | Sermons |
| 10 | 1967-1980 |
| 11 | 1981-1990 |
| 12 | 2000-2012 |
| | Prayers |
| 13 | Pastoral |
| 14 | Pastoral |
| 15 | Occasional |
| 16 | Prayer Workshop |
| 17 | Jonestown |
| 18 | Appreciation Service |

MANUSCRIPTS, ARCHIVES AND RARE BOOKS DIVISION

SEPARATION RECORD

The following items were removed from:

Name of Collection/Papers: Archie Smith Papers

Accession Number: SCM 13-03

Donor: Archie Smith Jr.

Gift X

Date received: January 2013

Date transferred: May 3, 2013

The item(s) listed below have been sent to the division indicated, either to be retained or disposed of there. Any items that should receive special disposition are clearly marked.

Moving Image and Recorded Sound Division:

12 Audio Cassettes, 6 Audio CDs, 21 DVDs

Separated by: Robby Koehler

Date: 3/8/2013