

# **SUMMERS, THOMAS A., 1934- Thomas A. Summers Papers, 1920-2019**

Emory University  
Pitts Theology Library  
1531 Dickey Drive, Suite 560  
Atlanta, GA 30322  
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## **Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Summers, Thomas A., 1934-  
**Title:** Thomas A. Summers Papers, 1920-2019  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 454  
**Extent:** 6.3 cubic ft. (18 boxes)  
**Abstract:** This collection contains both personal and professional materials of Reverend Thomas A. Summers.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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## **Administrative Information**

### **Restrictions on Access**

Unrestricted access.

### **Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

### **Source**

Collection given by Thomas A. Summers, 2019.

### **Citation**

[after identification of item(s)], Thomas A. Summers Papers, MSS 454, Archives and Manuscript Dept., Pitts Theology Library, Emory University.

### **Processing**

Processed by Emily Corbin, 2019.

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## **Collection Description**

### **Biographical Note**

Thomas Abram Summers was born in Orangeburg, South Carolina in 1934. He received degrees from Wofford College (1956), Candler School of Theology at Emory University (1959), and

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Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (1978). Upon seminary graduation, he entered into six months of deferred active duty as a ROTC-commissioned officer in the U.S. Army. In 1961 he enrolled in the Clinical Pastoral Training Program at the South Carolina State Hospital. From 1962-1965 Summers was a Senior Clinical Chaplain at Milledgeville State Hospital. He then came back to Columbia, South Carolina and joined the state's Department of Mental Health. He spent one year directing the Clinical Pastoral Education Program of the South Carolina State Hospital, seventeen years as the Chief Chaplain of the William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute, and sixteen years as the Director of the agency's Academy for Pastoral Education. He retired in 1999.

Summers served as president of the Association of Mental Health Clergy from 1984-1986. He served on committees or held offices in the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, American Association of Pastoral Counselors, some state agencies of South Carolina, South Carolina United Methodist Annual Conference, and Pastoral Care Network for Social Responsibility. He held adjunct or assistant professor faculty positions with the Neuropsychiatry and Behavioral Science Department of the School of Medicine at the University of South Carolina, and the Doctor of Ministry programs of Drew University, Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary and the Southern Baptist Seminary. He served on the Merger Task Force that formed the Association of Mental Health Clergy and the College of Chaplains into the Association of Professional Chaplains in the mid-1990s.

Following his retirement, he continued his pastoral efforts in various contexts of social care and justice, such as legislation and public policy, the severely mentally ill, the LGBTQ community, Medicaid expansion, antiwar protest and civil disobedience, gun violence, racial healing, and environmental justice. In 2012 the Candler School of Theology presented him with the Distinguished Alumni Award for Community Service. He also received the Distinguished Service Award (South Carolina Mental Health Association), Anton T. Boisen Award (Association of Mental Health Clergy), and Pioneer Award (Association for Clinical Pastoral Education).

### **Scope and Content Note**

This collection documents Rev. Thomas Abram Summers's evolving and passionate interest in the integration of social justice with pastoral care. The collection contains materials from Summers's professional life, such as papers from his time at South Carolina State Hospital, Milledgeville State Hospital, William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute, the Academy for Pastoral Education, and other career activities (1940-2019). This collection also contains materials from Rev. Summers's work in social justice ministry (1984-2018), papers and presentations from conferences and workshops that Summers conducted and attended (1967-2017), Summers's publications (1951-2018), personal materials such as family history and college and military records (1920-2018), photographs (1936-2018), and audiovisual materials (1958-2004).

### **Arrangement Note**

Organized into 7 series: (1) Professional materials, (2) Social justice ministry, (3) Conferences and workshops, (4) Publications, (5) Personal materials, (6) Photographs, (7) Audiovisual materials.

## **Description of Series**

[Series 1: Professional Materials, 1940-2019](#)

[Series 2: Social Justice Ministry, 1984-2018](#)

[Series 3: Conferences and Workshops, 1967-2017](#)

[Series 4: Publications, 1951-2018](#)

[Series 5: Personal Materials, 1920-2018](#)

[Series 6: Photographs, 1936-2018](#)

[Series 7: Audiovisual Materials, 1958-2004](#)

**Series 1**  
**Professional Materials, 1940-2019**  
**Boxes 1 - 5**

**Scope and Content Note**

This series contains professional materials from Rev. Tom Summers's time at South Carolina State Hospital, Milledgeville State Hospital, William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute, the Academy for Pastoral Education, and other career activities.

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged by content and by date.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
1	1	South Carolina state hospital, Rev. Dr. J. Obert Kempson, 1942-1997
1	2	South Carolina state hospital, clinical pastoral training program, 1960-1962
1	3	South Carolina state hospital, correspondence with Rev. Dr. J. Obert Kempson, 1965
1	4	South Carolina state hospital, historical context, 1977-1997
1	5	South Carolina state hospital, newspaper clippings, 1980-2013
1	6	Milledgeville state hospital, presentations and materials, 1963-1964
1	7	Milledgeville state hospital, newspaper clippings, 1964-1981
1	8	William S. Hall psychiatric institute, early years, 1965-1973
1	9	William S. Hall psychiatric institute, chief pastoral education, curriculum features, 1969-1981
1	10	William S. Hall psychiatric institute, miscellaneous items, 1969-2011
1	11	William S. Hall psychiatric institute, newspaper articles about clinical pastoral education graduates, 1972-1976
1	12	William S. Hall psychiatric institute, personal care symposium and articles, 1972-1983
1	13	William S. Hall psychiatric institute, "theology therapy", undergraduate program, 1973-1995
1	14	Academy for pastoral education, clinical pastoral education, story day, 1981-1999
2	1	Academy for pastoral education, historical context, 1982-2010
2	2	Academy for pastoral education, clinical pastoral education program brochures and faculty, 1983-2003
2	3	Academy for pastoral education, community emphasis, newspaper clippings, 1984-1987
2	4	Academy for pastoral education, newsletters, 1984-1989
2	5	Academy for pastoral education, pastoral care convocations, 1984-1993
2	6	Academy for pastoral education, curriculum resources, 1984-1997

- 2 7 Academy for pastoral education, Dr. Joseph Bevilacqua, correspondence and newspaper clippings, 1986-2017
- 2 8 Academy for pastoral education, pastoral care network for social responsibility, 1987-2004
- 2 9 Career activities, pastoral care and counseling, 1966-2009
- 2 10 Career activities, pastoral consultant, 1982-1989
- 2 11 Career activities, Columbia area clinical pastoral education committee, 1995
- 2 12 National clinical pastoral organizations, association of mental health clergy, 1965-1996
- 2 13 National clinical pastoral organizations, association for clinical pastoral education, 1965-1998
- 3 1 National clinical pastoral organizations, southeast region, association for clinical pastoral education, 1969-2017
- 3 2 National clinical pastoral organizations, merger of association of mental health clergy, 1982-2009
- 3 3 National clinical pastoral organizations, American association of mental health clergy, 1982-2009
- 3 4 National clinical pastoral organizations, retired supervisors network news, 2006-2012
- 3 5 Pastoral materials, early sermons, 1955-1978
- 3 6 Pastoral materials, eulogies, 1981-2018
- 3 7 Pastoral materials, sermons, 1990-2016
- 3 8 Pastoral materials, marriages, 1991-2018
- 3 9 Pastoral materials, prayers, 1995-2019
- 4 1 Pastoral materials, sunday school presentations, 2012-2017
- 4 2 Correspondence, letters, 1940-2005
- 4 3 Correspondence, letters sent, 1962-1996
- 4 4 Correspondence, letters received (1 of 2), 1973-2012
- 4 5 Correspondence, letters received (2 of 2), 1973-2012
- 4 6 Correspondence, political officials, 1994-2017
- 4 7 Correspondence, letters sent, 1997-2017
- 5 1 South Carolina annual conference, United Methodist church, 1946-2019
- 5 2 Awards, 1954-2018
- 5 3 Miscellaneous organizations, 1974-2016
- 5 4 Curriculum in clinical pastoral career, 2019

**Series 2**  
**Social Justice Ministry, 1984-2018**  
**Boxes 5 - 7**

**Scope and Content Note**

This series contains materials from Tom Summers's work in social justice ministry.

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged by date.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
5	5	Racial healing, 1984-2018
5	6	Mental illness awareness walk, 1985-2000
5	7	Environmental justice and nuclear disarmament, 1986-1995
5	8	Remarks, press conferences, rallies, etc., 1986-2016
5	9	LGBTQ items, 1990-2017
6	1	South Carolina clergy and friends supporting rights of LGBTQ persons, 1991-2017
6	2	State legislative testimony and remarks, 1993-2004
6	3	Letters to editor, 1993-2012
6	4	Central America, 1994-1995
6	5	Public marches and social justice, 1994-1996
6	6	Severe mental illness, 1995-2007
6	7	South Carolina equality, 1999-2018
6	8	Antiwar protest and civil disobedience, 2001-2008
6	9	Commentaries and editorials, 2004-2017
6	10	I believe license plate (1 of 2), 2007-2009
6	11	I believe license plate (2 of 2), 2007-2009
6	12	Immigration, 2007-2017
7	1	Openings, 2010-2018
7	2	Medicaid expansion, 2013-2014
7	3	Reconciling ministries network, 2013-2017
7	4	Additional social justice activity, 2016-2018
7	5	Overview, 2018

**Series 3**  
**Conferences and Workshops, 1967-2017**  
**Boxes 7 - 8**

**Scope and Content Note**

This series contains materials from conferences and workshops that Rev. Tom Summers conducted and attended.

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged by date.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
7	6	Conference speeches, 1967-1993
7	7	Workshops, 1970-1997
7	8	Workshops, 1972-1996
8	1	Conference speeches, 1994-2005
8	2	Workshops, 1997-2005
8	3	Workshops, 1998-2017
8	4	Conference speeches, 2006-2014
8	5	Workshops, 2006-2017

**Series 4**  
**Publications, 1951-2018**  
**Boxes 9 - 10**

**Scope and Content Note**

This series contains publications by Rev. Tom Summers.

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged by date.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
9	1	Historical journals in pastoral care and counseling, 1951-1968
9	2	Collected papers, 1960-2011
9	3	Journal articles, 1967-2012
9	4	Unpublished articles and letters to the editor, 1978-2014
9	5	Book reviews, 1985-1998
9	6	Short stories, 1993
9	7	Chapters in books, 1996-2017
9	8	Book references to Tom Summers, 1996-2016
9	9	Sports articles, 1997-2004
10	1	Books, hunkering down: my story in four decades of clinical pastoral education, 2000-2006
10	2	Supervisors bibliography, 2000-2014
10	3	Books, hunkering down: my story in four decades of clinical pastoral education, 2000-2015
10	4	Books, want a frog? memories, sports and other South Carolina tales, 2006
10	5	Chapter in book, southern perspectives on the queer movement, 2018



**Series 5**  
**Personal Materials, 1920-2018**  
**Boxes 11 - 13**

**Scope and Content Note**

This series contains personal materials such as family materials and college and military records.

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged by content and date.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
11	1	Family, father, Carroll Erwin Summers, 1922-1992
11	2	Family, mother, Anabel Hill Summers, 1920-2005
11	3	Early years, 1934-1948
11	4	Family friend, Louise Montgomery Spann, 1940-1998
11	5	Drawings, 1948-1951
11	6	Orangeburg high school, South Carolina (1 of 2), 1948-1952
11	7	Orangeburg high school, South Carolina (2 of 2), 1948-1952
11	8	Sports letters, 1948-2001
11	9	Block letters, 1951-1956
12	1	Wofford college, 1952-2017
12	2	Journal writing, 1954-1992
12	3	Candler school of theology, miscellaneous school materials, 1956-2017
12	4	Candler school of theology term papers (1 of 2), 1958-1959
12	5	Candler school of theology term papers (2 of 2), 1958-1959
13	1	United States army, commissioned ROTC, deferred active duty, 1959-1960
13	2	Pastor of trio methodist church, 1960-1961
13	3	Family materials, 1962-2006
13	4	Doctor of ministry degree, Lutheran theological southern seminary, 1974-1988
13	5	Family background, 1974-2018
13	6	Family, brother, Carroll Erwin Summers, Jr., 1975-2010
13	7	Diary, 1948
13	8	Personal movie reviews, 2007-2018
13	9	Biography, 2018
13	10	Favorite books, 2018

**Series 6**  
**Photographs, 1936-2018**  
**Box 14**

**Scope and Content Note**

This series contains photographs.

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged by donor.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
14	1	Listing of captions, undated
14	2	Centers, folder 01, 1960-1983
14	3	Academy for pastoral education, folder 02, 1983-1999
14	4	Other career activities, Folder 03, 1985-1993
14	5	National clinical pastoral organizations, folder 04, 1969-2003
14	6	Social justice ministry, folder 05, 1986-2012
14	7	Social justice ministry, folder 06, 1992-2015
14	8	Social justice ministry, folder 07, 1989-1994
14	9	Social justice ministry, folder 08, 1994-2015
14	10	Social justice ministry, folder 09, 2008-2018
14	11	Workshops, folder 11, 2009
14	12	Correspondence, folder 12, undated
14	13	Awards, folder 13, 1994-2012
14	14	Publications, folder 14, 2000-2006
14	15	Earlier eras, folder 15, 1936-1948
14	16	Earlier eras, folder 16, 1936-1999
14	17	Earlier eras, folder 17, 1948-1951
14	18	Earlier eras, folder 18, 1953-2008
14	19	Earlier eras, folder 19, 1956-2012
14	20	Earlier eras, folder 20, 1956-1978
14	21	Family, folder 21, 1962-2017
14	22	Miscellaneous, folder 22, 1975-2018

**Series 7**  
**Audiovisual Materials, 1958-2004**  
**Boxes 15 - 18**

**Scope and Content Note**

This series contains cassettes and video cassettes.

**Arrangement Note**

Arranged by donor.

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
15	1	Listing of materials, undated
15		VHS, the magic of memories, 1997
15		VHS, camera clips from Tom Summers, 1958-1959
15		VHS, international pastoral care network for social responsibility conference, teplice, Czechoslovakia, 1989
15		VHS, second annual state-wide walk for the mentally ill, Columbia, SC, 1989
15		VHS, television interview with Tom Summers and news program related to the walk for the mentally ill, 1989
15		VHS, video of Jean Houston presenting "the art and science of human transformation", 1988
15		VHS, television news clips, walk for the mentally ill, 1988-1989
15		VHS, a place to come back to, mental illness and the church, produced by the American Lutheran Church, 1989
16		VHS, walk for the mentally ill, Columbia, SC, 1991
16		VHS, television clips concerning the walk for the mentally ill, Columbia, SC, 1991
16		VHS, striving for fullness of life: the church's challenge to health, 1991
16		VHS, television news clips, mental illness awareness walk, Columbia, SC, 1992
16		VHS, press conferences and other events, SC clergy and friends supporting rights of gays and lesbians, Columbia, SC, 1993
16		VHS, columbia area clinical pastoral education committee annual summer picnic, 1994
16		VHS, spirituality, Tom Summers on panel, 1994
16		VHS, 90th birthday, Anabel Hill Summers, Orangeburg, SC, 1994
16		VHS, memories of Anton T. Boisen, 1997
17		Statue, gift from Obert Kempson, 1988
17		Statue, Wofford college, 2000
18		Cassette, pastoral care and mental health, 1971
18		Cassette, chaplaincy and mental health, 1972
18		Cassette, sermons by Rev. Tom Summers at chapel worship services at W.S. Hall psychiatric institute, 1973

- 18 Cassette, sermon by Rev. Tom Summers at chapel worship service at W. S. Hall psychiatric institute, 1976
- 18 Cassette, recent trends in pastoral ministry to the mentally ill, 1982
- 18 Cassette, tendering our gifts (1 of 3), 1986
- 18 Cassette, tendering our gifts (2 of 3), 1986
- 18 Cassette, tendering our gifts (3 of 3), 1986
- 18 Cassette, how the South Carolina mental health system interacts with the South Carolina religious community, 1987
- 18 Cassette, radio interview with Tom Summers, the annual walk for the mentally ill, 1988
- 18 Cassette, president's address, Don Richardson annual meeting of the national alliance for the mentally ill, 1987
- 18 Cassette, public testimony, Tom Summers, nuclear weapons and the Savannah river site, 1987
- 18 Cassette, my life with Martin Luther King, Jr., Coretta Scott King (1 of 2), 1990
- 18 Cassette, my life with Martin Luther King, Jr., Coretta Scott King (2 of 2), 1990
- 18 Cassette, music recording, gift from west German chaplains, 1989-1990
- 18 Cassette, radio interview, Tom Summers and Dr. Charles Goldman, walk for the mentally ill, 1991
- 18 Cassette, radio interview, walk for the mentally ill, pastoral supervisory conference, 1991-1992
- 18 Cassette, opening ceremony, mental illness awareness walk, 1991
- 18 Cassette, peace with justice, 1991
- 18 Cassette, pastoral supervisory conference with a CPE student, academy for pastoral education, 1991
- 18 Cassette, national public radio interview with Tom Summers, religious support for the LGBTQ community, 1992
- 18 Cassette, radio interview, Tom Summers, annual mental illness awareness walk, 1992
- 18 Cassette, music given by group of Salvadoran villagers known as Grupo Sumpal, 1993
- 18 Cassette, telephone interview, Tom Summers and Dave Myler, support of LGBTQ community, 1994
- 18 Cassette, stories on the 50th anniversary of the association of mental health clergy, 1997
- 18 Cassette, eulogy, Mrs. Verna Bateman, 1999
- 18 Cassette, stigma and the religious community, American psychiatric association, 1998
- 18 Cassette, American religious pluralism and its challenges for chaplains, association of professional chaplains, 2004
- 18 Cassette, Russell Dix and Anton Boisen memorial lecture, 2004
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