



Smithsonian Institution

National Museum of African American History and Culture

Southern Christian Leadership Conference Citizenship Workbook

Extracted on Mar-28-2024 03:52:29

The Smithsonian Institution thanks all digital volunteers that transcribed and reviewed this material. Your work enriches Smithsonian collections, making them available to anyone with an interest in using them.

The Smithsonian Institution (the "Smithsonian") provides the content on this website (transcription.si.edu), other Smithsonian websites, and third-party sites on which it maintains a presence ("SI Websites") in support of its mission for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." The Smithsonian invites visitors to use its online content for personal, educational and other non-commercial purposes. By using this website, you accept and agree to abide by the [following terms](#).

- If sharing the material in personal and educational contexts, please cite the National Museum of African American History and Culture as source of the content and the project title as provided at the top of the document. Include the accession number or collection name; when possible, link to the National Museum of African American History and Culture website.
- If you wish to use this material in a for-profit publication, exhibition, or online project, please contact National Museum of African American History and Culture or transcribe@si.edu

For more information on this project and related material, contact the National Museum of African American History and Culture. [See this project](#) and other collections in the Smithsonian Transcription Center.

[[IMAGE: photograph of adults in a classroom]]

The Purpose of the Citizenship School

The Citizenship Schools are for adults. Their immediate program is literacy. They enable students to pass literacy tests for voting. There is also involved in the mechanics of learning to read and write an all-round education in community development which includes housing, recreation, health, and improved home life. Specific subjects are emphasized such as safe driving, social security, cooperatives, the income tax, an understanding of tax-supported resources such as water testing for wells and aid for handicapped children, and the structure and function of our local and national government.

The Citizenship Schools provide a service to the people which is not available through any other private or public program at the present time.

They are open to all people of a community who face problems related to first-class citizenship and want to do something about them.

[[IMAGE: photograph of participants]]

2

[[end page]]

[[start page]]

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference

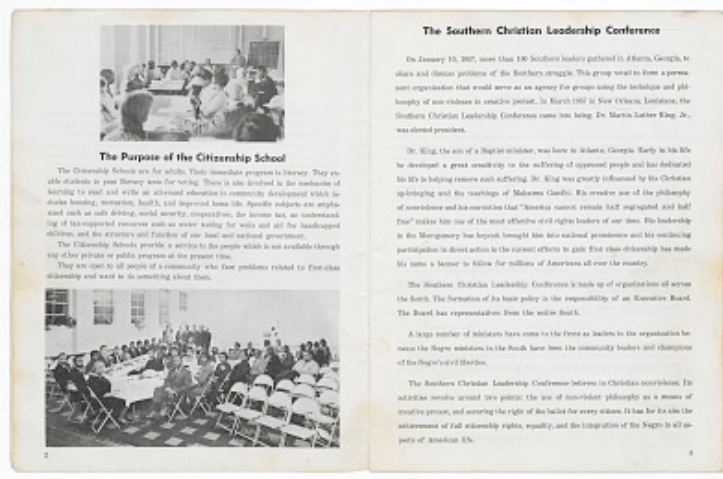
On January 10, 1957, more than 100 Southern leaders gathered in Atlanta, Georgia, to share and discuss problems of the Southern Struggle. This group voted to form a permanent organization that would serve as an agency for groups using the technique and philosophy of non-violence in creative protest. In March 1957 in New Orleans, Louisiana, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference came into being. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was elected president.

Dr. King, the son of a Baptist minister, was born in Atlanta, Georgia. Early in his life he developed a great sensitivity to the suffering of oppressed people and has dedicated his life to helping remove such suffering. Dr. King was greatly influenced by his Christian up-bringing and the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. His creative use of the philosophy of nonviolence and his conviction that "America cannot remain half segregated and half free" makes him one of the most effective civil rights leaders of our time. His leadership in the Montgomery bus boycott brought him into national prominence and his continuing participation in direct action in the current efforts to gain first class citizenship has made his name a banner to follow for millions of Americans all over the country.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference is made up of organizations all across the South. The formation of its basic policy is the responsibility of an Executive Board. The Board has representatives from the entire South.

A large number of ministers have come to the front as leaders in the organization because the Negro ministers in the South have been the community leaders and champions of the Negro's civil liberties.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference believes in Christian nonviolence. Its activities revolve around two points: the use of non-



violent philosophy as a means of creative protest, and securing the right of the ballot for every citizen. It has for its aim the achievement of full citizenship rights, equality, and the integration of the Negro in all aspects of American life.

3

Southern Christian Leadership Conference Citizenship Workbook
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Approved by Smithsonian Staff
Extracted Mar-28-2024 03:52:29



Smithsonian Institution

National Museum of African American History and Culture

The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

Join us!

The Transcription Center: <https://transcription.si.edu>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianTranscriptionCenter>

On Twitter: [@TranscribeSI](https://twitter.com/TranscribeSI)

Connect with the Smithsonian

Smithsonian Institution: www.si.edu

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Smithsonian>

On Twitter: [@smithsonian](https://twitter.com/smithsonian)