Annual Meeting

of the

SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Martin Luther King, Jr., President

September 27-28-29, 1961

Host Affiliate

NASHVILLE CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Kelly Miller Smith, President

General Headquarters

CLARK MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH

Theme

THE DEEP SOUTH IN SOCIAL REVOLUTION
The Southern Christian Leadership Conference is organized as a service agency to facilitate coordinated action of local protest groups and to assist in their sharing of resources and experiences. The magnitude of the problem calls for the maximum commitment of resources of all institutions in Negro life, North and South. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference seeks to cooperate with all existing agencies attempting to bring full democracy to our great nation.
The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, in cooperation with the Nashville Christian Leadership Council, welcomes you to our annual meeting. It is our desire in these two days that you will have an opportunity to study more thoroughly the deeper meanings of the present social revolution in the Deep South.

We invite you to be candid in your inquiries, that we may learn together, for the study of nonviolence is inexhaustive, and there are many answers we seek in the search for truth. We have chosen this community for our annual meeting because it provides the interest and activity in nonviolent direct action.

We trust that the insights and techniques developed here will be utilized in your respective communities, that before many days, a vigorous, coordinated, nonviolent, mass attack will be made on segregation all over the South.

wyatt tee walker  
Director

GREETINGS . . .

It is our sincere pleasure to welcome the delegates of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to Nashville and the adjoining areas. We of the Nashville Christian Leadership Council are still struggling to be free men. Our efforts thus far have been successful due to the complete cooperation of the spirited citizens of Nashville and the adjoining areas. Our freedom one day will be a complete freedom and it shall come on the shoulders of these dedicated souls. On this day America will realize her full self-hood as intended by the founding fathers.

KELLY MILLER SMITH, President  
NASHVILLE CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP COUNCIL
Message
From The
President

I am convinced beyond the shadow of a doubt that the philosophy of nonviolence will redeem the soul of America. There is a great temptation to accept nonviolence solely as a strategy, a device; this we must guard against. This is one of the chief aims of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference: to broadly disseminate through intensive training the heart of nonviolence, that our commitment to nonviolence will not only be a technique, but shall become for us a way of life with love and redemption as its center. The other chief aim of SCLC is in the area of voter-registration. Here again, it must be recognized that the right and proper use of the ballot is vital in our struggle for first-class citizenship. The SCLC stands ready to serve in developing and organizing grassroots voter registration programs. One of the most significant steps that the Negro can take at this hour is that short walk to the voting booth.

M. L. KING, JR.
Annual Meeting

DATE: September 27, 28, and 29, 1961
PLACE: Nashville, Tennessee
HEADQUARTERS: Clark Memorial Methodist Church,
Alexander M. Anderson, Minister
HOST: Nashville Christian Leadership Council
Kelly Miller Smith, President
GENERAL CHAIRMAN: The Rev. Claude Walker, Minister of
the Gay- Lea Christian Church.
THEME: “THE DEEP SOUTH IN SOCIAL
REVOLUTION”

PROGRAM

Wednesday, September 27, 1961

12:00 P.M. Registration Clark Memorial Methodist Church
1:00 P.M. Annual Board Meeting First Baptist Church
(Sorry, Board Members Only)
5:30 P.M. Dinner
8:00 P.M. “TRIBUTE TO THE FREEDOM RIDERS”

Benefit Concert
featuring
Harry Belafonte & The Belafonte Folk Singers
(Ryman Auditorium)

ADMISSION: Sponsors ten ($10.00) dollars
($3.75 - $2.65 - $1.90)
Thursday, September 28, 1961

9:00 A.M. Registration (cont’d.)

10:00 A.M. Opening Session
Devotions

10:15 A.M. Formal Opening of the Annual Conference

10:30 A.M. Annual Report

11:00 A.M. Report From Affiliates

11:30 A.M. Committee Appointments

11:45 A.M. KEYNOTE ADDRESS

12:30 P.M. Lunch

2:30 P.M. Afternoon Session
Devotions

2:15 P.M. “NONVIOLENCE AND SOCIAL REVOLUTION”

3:00 P.M. Workshops

Section I THE PHILOSOPHY AND TECHNIQUE OF NONVIOLENCE
Leader: Matthew McCollom
Consultants: James M. Lawson, SCLC
             James Farmer, CORE

4:15 P.M.

Section II THE POWER OF THE BALLOT IN SOCIAL REVOLUTION
Leader: Edward T. Graham, Miami, Florida
Consultants: W. C. Patton, NAACP
             Hosea Williams, Southeastern Georgia Crusade for Voters
             Harry Blake, Field Secretary, SCLC
FREEDOM RALLY
8:00 P.M.
War Memorial Auditorium
Kelly Miller Smith, Presiding

FREEDOM SING: (7:30 P.M.)
Leader: Guy Carawan
Highlander Folk School

INVOCATION:
Music — Audience
Star Spangled Banner

MESSAGE OF SCRIPTURE:
Grady Donald
Nashville, Tenn.

PRAYER:
C. K. Steele
Tallahassee, Fla.

SPECIAL MUSIC:
Robert Frierson

GREETINGS: (2 minutes)
City of Nashville
Z. Alexander Looby
Nashville Christian Leadership Council
J. Metz Rollins
Tennessee Christian Leadership Conference
Robert E. James
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
F. L. Shuttlesworth
Special Guests
Wyatt T. Walker

SPECIAL MUSIC

FINANCIAL APPEAL

MUSIC — Audience

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPEAKER

ADDRESS:
Martin Luther King, Jr., President
Southern Christian Leadership Conference

CLOSING SELECTION — Audience
Lift Every Voice and Sing
C. T. Vivian
Chattanooga, Tenn.

BENEDICTION
McCoy Ransom
Friday, September 29, 1961

9:00 A.M.  Plenary Session

Samuel W. Williams

3rd Vice-President, Presiding

Andrew Young

Devotions

9:15 A.M.  Workshops

Section III  ROLE OF ADULTS AND YOUTH IN SOCIAL REVOLUTION

Leader: Virgil Wood

Consultants: Alice Cobb

Paul Rilling, SRC

Diane Nash, SNCC

J. Charles Jones

Section IV  CHANGING RURAL VALUES IN SOCIAL REVOLUTION

Leader: Mrs. Dorothy Cotton

Consultant: Mrs. Septima Clark, SCLC

10:30 A.M.  Business Session

1. STAFF REPORTS

   a. Report of Director
   b. Report of Treasurer
   c. Report of Leadership Training
   d. Report of Field Secretary

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

   a. Resolutions
   b. Time & Place
   c. Constitution Revision
   d. Nomination
   e. Others

3. GREETINGS

   a. State Conference and Affiliates

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

12:15 P.M.  Conference Sermon

D. E. King

Zion Baptist Church, Louisville, Ky.

1:00 P.M.  Lunch

2:30 P.M.  Closing Session

C. O. Simpkins

4th Vice-President, Presiding

S. S. Seay, Sr.

Devotions

2:45 P.M.  Plenary Session

Spottswood Robinson

"THE ROLE OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION IN SOCIAL REVOLUTION"

4:00 P.M.  Closing Business Session and Adjournment
Friday, September 29, 1961

LAWYERS FORUM AND SEMINAR
First Baptist Church
319 8th Avenue, North
Benjamin Hooks, Esq., Presiding

10:00 A.M. Greetings
I. M. Augustine, Esq.
New Orleans, Louisiana
General Counsel for SCLC

INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS

10:30 A.M. "LEGAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FREEDOM RIDE TRIALS TO INTERSTATE TRAVEL"
William Kunstler, Esq.
Civil Liberties Union
New York, N. Y.

11:30 A.M. Discussion Group

1:00 P.M. Lunch

2:30 P.M. Afternoon Session
C. O. Simpkins
4th Vice-President, Presiding
S. S. Seay, Sr.

2:45 P.M. "THE ROLE OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION IN SOCIAL REVOLUTION"
Spottswood Robinson, Esq., Dean Howard
University Law School, Member
Civil Rights Commission

4:00 P.M. Closing Business Session and Adjournment
GUEST SPEAKERS

James M. Lawson, Keynote, Nashville
Spottswood Robinson, III, Dean Howard University Law School, Member Civil Rights Commission
William Kunstler, ACLU lawyer and author
James Farmer, National Director CORE
Lift Every Voice and Sing

FIRST STANZA

Lift every voice and sing, til earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty,
Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song, full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song, full of the hope that the present has brought us,
Facing the rising sun, of our new day begun,
Let us march on 'til victory is won.

LAST STANZA

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way,
Thou who has by thy might led us into the light,
Keep us forever in Thy path we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee,
Lest thy hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee,
Shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand
True to our God, true to our native land.

JAMES WELDON JOHNSON
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*Clergy