

Andrew Young, who for so long has worked in the shadow of political and social giants, felt himself impelled last Christmas to fill a void in Southern leadership by offering his candidacy for the Congress of the United States.]

"I saw the progress of the past decade being wiped out in the wake of the assassinations and the Chicago Democratic Convention," he says. "The leadership of the 1950s and 60s had passed off the scene, and I felt the present leadership was trying to move us backward."

Setting forth a platform of reason, experience and effective action, Young began to put together a campaign effort to carry him to Congress.

✓ [Born on March 12, 1932, Young was educated at Dillard University in New Orleans and Howard University in Washington, D.C. Following graduation, he enrolled in Hartford Theological Seminary in Connecticut and earned a Bachelor of Divinity Degree in 1955.]

He pastored churches in Hartford, Connecticut; Marion, Alabama where he met his wife; and in Thomasville and Beachton, Georgia. He joined the National Council of Churches' Department of Youth Work as its Associate Director in 1957. For several years he worked professionally with youth in such diverse areas as television programming, athletics and policymaking related to youth.

◁ Young served with the National Council of Churches until 1961 when he joined the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to conduct a Southern voter registration drive. By 1964, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had elevated him to SCLC's executive directorship. >

From this position he played a part in the crucial struggles of the decade. He was involved in civil rights struggles in Birmingham, St. Augustine and Selma and was a key participant in working out some of the solutions which led to the progress hailed by people throughout the South.

Young helped in the drafting of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He became Executive Vice President of SCLC in 1968, the year of Atlanta's labor disputes where he worked behind the scenes for quiet reconciliation.

Presently, Young is a founding member of an informal group of Congressmen and public officials who meet regularly to evaluate and analyze major social issues. He has worked with religious organizations of all faiths and denominations including the World Council of Churches, the National Catholic Welfare Council and the American Jewish Congress.

In addition to his work with government and the church, Young is both involved and respected in labor affairs. He has been instrumental in making settlements and solving disputes in landmark situations such as Charleston, S.C. where he played a crucial role as mediator and problem solver.

Young has traveled extensively, lecturing before church and social organizations in Europe, South America, Africa, the Caribbean and the Middle East.

This year he received Hartford Seminary's Outstanding Alumnus award. He holds a similar honor from Howard University.

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He has led a U.S. delegation to the European Ecumenical Youth Assembly, attended the World Council of Churches' Central Committee in 1961 and again this year, and has participated in study tours of the Middle East, Israel and Jordan.

He is chairman of the board of the Delta Ministry of Mississippi, and is a board member of the Martin Luther King Memorial Center, the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Foundation and the National Emergency Committee for Peace in the Middle East.

(He is a member of the First Congregational Church of Atlanta. He and his wife Jean and daughters Andrea, Lisa and Paula live on Veltre Circle in Southwest Atlanta.)