



News from the

EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

March 1974

Volume 2, No. 1

THE 110th ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Society was held on October 16, 1973 in the Schaff Building in Philadelphia. This site was chosen because this building at 1505 Race Street which played an important part in the history of the Reformed Church in the U.S. and the Evangelical and Reformed Church as the headquarters of those denominations, has been sold by the United Church of Christ to the Hahnemann Medical College. At the present time only UCC offices in the building are those of the Stewardship Council and of the Division of Publication of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries.

Dr. Fred Wentzel, who served in many executive positions in our church and maintained his office for most of his career in the building, read a paper entitled, "The Forging of a Denomination: Unitive Forces in the History of the German Reformed Churches in the United States." He traced the history of the German Reformed Church in its early efforts of mission and publishing and the struggle for centralization and direction of its purpose. The Schaff Building became the visual expression of its aims.

Dr. Wentzel's paper is being printed in pamphlet form and will be available from the Office of the Executive Secretary at a nominal cost.

The Second Vice-President of the Society, Dr. Lowell H. Zuck presided at the meeting because of the illness of the President, Dr. Charles D. Spotts, and the death of the First Vice-President, Dr. Theophil W. Menzel on October 7, 1973. His biography, a part of his Memorial Service was read, and all were aware of the man and his contributions he had made as a teacher and as a minister.

It was noted that the 109th Annual Meeting which had been planned for St. Louis in 1973 was not held because of the lack of funds to pay for the traveling expenses of the officers. However the Western Chapter's meeting was designated the annual meeting for the purpose of reports.

The reports of the Executive Secretary, Dr. Herbert B. Anstaett, and the Treasurer, Rev. George H. Bricker, were presented and approved. A summary of them is included in this Newsletter. Rev. Banks D. Shepherd and Rev. Frank W. Snider reported for the Southern Chapter and gave an account of the life of the Archives at Catawba College. The Society voted \$300 to the Southern Chapter to assist them in the care of their archives. Rev. George H. Bricker reported that the Eastern Chapter is inactive as a former organization at the present time but that the interest shown by pastors and laity in the work of the Lancaster Archives is an indication that historical concern is being expressed in the east. Dr. Lowell H. Zuck reporting for the Eden Archives, reported that Mr. Carl Sipple has retired after five years of maintaining the archives, and that Mrs. Patrick Witte is now engaged as a part-time archivist.

A great deal of interest and discussion centered around the upcoming anniversary of the Faulkner Swamp Church. The first communion services was held there on October 15, 1725 and dated the official founding of the German Reformed Church in the U.S. It was suggested that the Society meet there in 1974 to begin the celebration of this event. The Society voted to set aside \$1,000 from the Arcadia Foundation gift to encourage publication of material celebrating this event and the beginnings of the German Reformed Church in Pennsylvania.

The following officers were elected: President, Dr. Charles D. Spotts; First Vice-President, Dr. Lowell H. Zuck; Second Vice-President, Dr. Philip W. Weiss; Third Vice-President, Dr. James E. Wagner; Secretary, Dr. Rudolf G. Schade; Treasurer and Librarian, Rev. George H. Bricker; Executive Secretary, Dr. Herbert B. Anstaett. The present Executive Committee consists of the officers and the Rev. I.C.G. Campbell, Rev. Nevin E. Schellenberger and Rev. Frank W. Snider. Chapter presidents are as follows: Dr. Philip W. Weiss, Eastern Chapter; Dr. Lowell H. Zuck, Western Chapter; and Rev. Banks D. Shepherd, Southern Chapter. New members elected to the Advisory Council are Mr. Charles H. Price Jr., Rev. David H. Rapp, and Dr. John C. Shetler.

Two distinguished guests, who have been life members of the Society since 1959, were introduced: Mrs. Edith Steinbright and Miss Marilyn Lee Steinbright. The husband and father of these ladies, the late Harold D. Steinbright, made a most distinguished contribution to the structure and life of the Reformed Church. A Citation of Appreciation was presented to them for their generous support, through the Arcadia Foundation, of the Society, their local church, and the educational institutions of the denomination.

A delightful luncheon was served in the dining room of the new School of Nursing of the Hahnemann Medical College, just across the street from the Schaff Building.

THE DEATH OF DR. CHARLES D. SPOTTS

Dr. Charles D. Spotts, President of our Society for the past nine years, died on December 26, 1973, in a California hospital where he and Mrs. Spotts were spending their Christmas vacation with a daughter, Mrs. Dexter D. Merrill in Claremont.

A noted educator and clergyman, he was former professor of religion at Franklin and Marshall College and a one-time adjunct professor at Lancaster Theological Seminary. He taught at Millersville State College after his retirement. During his distinguished career he served as Pastor of St. Peter's United Church of Christ and as interim pastor of St. Paul's Church, Lancaster and Bethany Church, Ephrata. He was the author of eight books on religious thought and numerous periodical articles.

MICROFILM OF CHURCH RECORDS

The Genealogical Society of the Church of Latter-Day Saints recently photographed local church records held by the Society and other miscellaneous records of a genealogical character not heretofore available on microfilm. As a result thirty-five reels of microfilm were added to our collection. A revision of our list of available microfilm of church records, including this recent acquisition is underway. Two hundred and sixty-seven reels of microfilm were lent to individuals during the past two years.

NEWSLETTER MAILINGS

Approximately 1,000 copies of the Newsletter will be mailed to members of our Society, of the Congregational Christian Historical Society, and of the Historical Commission of the United Church of Christ. Please keep us informed of your change of address so that our mailing list can be up to date.

Our Newsletter has not been published for two years because of the lack of funds. The last issue was September 1971, Volume 1, No. 3. Beginning with this issue of March 1974, Volume 2, No. 1, we hope to publish three issues each year; in March, September and November.

SOCIETY RECEIVES GRANTS

The financial situation of the Society has been greatly improved by two grants from the Arcadia Foundation amounting to \$11,000 and a special gift of \$10,000 from the General Council of the Evangelical and Reformed Church when they distributed the funds held by them.

When the Society was having severe financial difficulties in 1972 and it appeared that we would have to reduce our archival work, the Arcadia Foundation granted us \$5,000 for our current operating budget. Again in 1973 they granted us \$6,000. These two gifts have allowed us to continue our work. Our normal expenses are about \$1,000 a month and normal sources of income are about \$650 per month.

The grant from the E & R General Council has been invested and the income will be used for current operating expenses.

We are most grateful for these gifts but we also need the continuing support of the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ, the Conferences and Associations and the membership of the Society. There is much archival work that should be done for our churches and our denomination but our programs are continually limited by our income.

CHURCH RECORDS CONTINUE TO COME TO THE ARCHIVES

Last month we received a pick-up truck load of the records of the former office of the Pennsylvania Conference of the Congregational Christian Churches which were stored at Hartman Center. Presently they are being sorted and records of historical value preserved and cataloged.

We are expecting about 50 cartons of records from the vault room in the Schaff Building. Rev. Bricker spent an afternoon in the vault room marking those that have historical value and should be preserved.

Most of our Conferences are sending their official minutes and other material to the U.C.C. Archives and many of the Instrumentalities are doing the same. Many local congregations are placing their old records on "Permanent deposit" with us. We solicit all historical material that related to the work of our church.

NEWS NOTES FROM THE MID-WEST AND FROM THE EDEN ARCHIVES

A new regional grouping called "Midwest United Church of Christ Historians" was organized in November 1973 at the Lexington, Mo. United Church of Christ. By-laws

and articles of incorporation were approved. Charles Kennedy and Mrs. Clarence Henkel from Nebraska and Richard Brueseke and Lowell H. Zuck from Missouri participated. Other conferences represented included Iowa, Kansas, North Dakota and South Dakota. At the same meeting, papers on the history of Conference camping were read and discussed.

Mr. Carl Sipple has retired as Eden Archivist after serving faithfully upon return from the Japan mission field. Mr. and Mrs. Sipple are now living in their new retirement home at Uplands, Pleasant Hill, Tennessee.

The Eden Archivist is now Mrs. Patrick Witte, a member of the United Church of Christ, who has worked as a cataloger in the Washington University Library, St. Louis.

The "Index" to the Friedensbote (the leading journal of the former Evangelical Synod, 1850-1958) has now been completed and bound, and is available for use in locating names of persons, places, churches, etc., according to years. The indexing was done by the Rev. Paul Schoppe and Dr. and Mrs. Theophil Stoerker.

Materials in the Eden Archives are being used in the preparation of a new history of Eden Theological Seminary being written by Prof. Walter Brueggemann, Academic Dean at Eden.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

There were items in the report of Dr. Herbert B. Anstaett, Executive Secretary, not otherwise covered elsewhere in this Newsletter. An analysis was made of support received by the Society from individuals, churches, associations, and conferences through the financial appeal sent out by the Historical Commission through the Office of the Treasurer of the Church. As a result of that appeal (now in its eighth year) the Society received approximately \$1,800 this past year from this source. It is interesting to note that the contributions received from individuals, mostly being ten dollars each, increased from 195 to 227 during the past two years. The Society takes this opportunity to thank everyone and every organization for their support. The paid up memberships reported at the annual meeting, including life members, was 426.

In 1972 the Society published the paper read by Dr. James E. Wagner before the 108th annual meeting of the Society, October 16, 1971, at First Church, Schuylkill Haven, Pennsylvania, entitled "Congregational Records---Adequate, Cherished, Cared For!" Of the 4,000 printed copies, the distribution made shortly after its publication included 2,361 to the sponsoring Conferences, i.e., the four in Pennsylvania and Central Atlantic, 138 to four other Conferences, 63 to churches and pastors, and 6 to four miscellaneous groups, representing in all 32 of the 50 states. One gratuitous copy was sent to each Conference office and a few complimentary copies were supplied. Furthermore, an edition of 500 copies of the "practical pages" (Pages 6-12) were reprinted, subtitled "Some Thoughts on Keeping Records -- And KEEPING Them." One hundred and fifty of these were sold to the Minnesota Conference, 50 to Mrs. Clarence Henkel, and 200 to the Congregational Christian Historical Society. Since these were provided as indicated, modest requests have been filled. Copies of the original publication and of the reprint are still available for sale, for fifty and twenty-five cents respectively. Prices in quantity will be quoted upon request.

In August 1971, Miss Gertrude B. Hoy, a valued member of the part-time library staff, started a fund in memory of her parents, William Edwin Hoy (1858-1957) and Mary Belle Ault Hoy (1863-1937), missionaries to Japan and China. This fund, all contributed by her, now totals \$1,125.00. Other memorial gifts have been received and the Society welcomes this type of gift.

A job description for the Executive Secretary, formulated on July 1, 1967, was made a part of the report since it reflects most of the activities of his office. Only a partial list of his work is mentioned here. He serves as the head executive officer of the Society and as coordinator of the work of the separate Archives. He receives all money and bills in the name of the Society, receiving receipts from the treasurer for all income and issuing vouchers to the treasurer for all expenditures, and promotes the financial support of the Society. His office maintains the membership records and the mailing list.

SUMMARY OF THE TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer reported that the balance in the operating account of the Society on January 1, 1972 was \$2,862.91 and on January 1, 1973, \$1,660.89.

The following is a summary of the accounts for the period, January 1, 1973 to October 12, 1973:

Balances, January 1, 1973

Operational Account	1,660.89		
Arcadia Foundation Reserve Fund (1972)	<u>5,000.00</u>	6,660.89	

Income 1-1-73 to 10-12-73

Normal Sources	6,806.47		
Arcadia Foundation	<u>6,000.00</u>	<u>12,806.47</u>	19,467.36

Expenditures 1-1-73 to 10-12-73

9,112.98

Balances 10-12-73

Operational Account: Remainder of			
Arcadia Foundation 1972 gift	4,354.38		
Arcadia Foundation Gift 1973	<u>6,000.00</u>		<u>10,354.38</u>

Cash and Investments, October 12, 1973

Life Memberships - 126 shares Wellington Fund	1,452.78
St. Paul's Church, Baltimore, Md:	
Preservation Fund - 1 Income Certificate	3,000.00
Memorial and Reserve Funds - 1 Savings Certificate	4,287.27
*Checking Account Balance	<u>10,354.38</u>

*Note: The normal expenses for maintaining the archives and the work of the Society is approximately \$1,000 per month. Subsequent to this report funds not needed to meet monthly expenses were placed in a savings account.

WE SOLICIT YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS. Please address them to:

Dr. Herbert B. Anstaett, Executive Secretary
or
Rev. George H. Bricker, Editor
Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society
555 West James Street
Lancaster, Pa. 17603