



News from the

EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sponsored Agency of the Historical Commission, United Church of Christ

December 1976

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

The 113th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society was held on Friday, October 22, 1976, at the Old First Reformed Church in Philadelphia. The meeting was called to order by the president, Dr. George H. Bricker, at 10:15 a.m.

Dr. John C. Shetler gave the opening prayer and welcomed the 38 members and friends. He also gave attention to the historic event in October 1977 when the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference will celebrate the formation of the first Reformed Synod in Pennsylvania. The celebration will be honored by the presence of the President of the Reformed Church of Holland.

The Rev. H. Daehler Hayes, pastor of the Old First Reformed Church, welcomed the Society and recognized several guests, in particular Mr. Owen Fox, president of the congregation.

The program provided a slide lecture of the church, founded in 1727, given by Daehler Hayes. The pictures were not only a wonderful presentation of the history of the church, but also of the life and the mission of the church in our day.

At the close of the presentation, the members of the Society gathered in a business session. George Bricker pointed to the fact that the minutes of the last meeting, held at Falkner Swamp, had been published in the Society's Newsletter and need not be read. A motion was passed to accept the minutes as published.

George Bricker stated that the Falkner Swamp meeting of 1975 had created considerable interests in the study and research of local churches concerning their own past and historical foundations.

He presented a concern about the need of involvement of younger people in the Historical Society, and the history of the local churches and of our denomination. Not only younger ministers, but also members of the laity should be encouraged to participate in the work of the Society.

He also gave attention to the general support needed to continue the work of the Society and the Archives. At this time the primary income which makes the work possible has come from the Arcadia Foundation and from the gifts and dues from the members of the Society. It is the hope that the Arcadia Foundation will continue to make financial allocations, and that the newly established Historical Council of the United Church will give fuller support to the maintenance of the Archives.

After these remarks of concern, the following reports were given:

Report of the Executive Secretary, Dr. Herbert B. Anstaett. Because of illness in the family, he could not be present and the report was presented by George Bricker.

In essence, the report portrayed vividly the valuable and numerous additions to the Archives of material related to the contributions made by individuals and churches to the history of our land. See Report A attached.

George Bricker reported as Librarian of the Lancaster Archives. As the report shows, there were 568 visitors to the Archives. They came from 23 states and also from Canada, Japan, Switzerland and Germany. The Archives are growing through gifts of books and pamphlets dealing with family histories. In the last year, 288 titles have been added to the holdings. See Report B attached.

Dr. Lowell H. Zuck reported on the Eden Archives. Also these archives are frequently visited and the holdings grow from year to year.

The Southern Chapter was represented by Banks D. Shepherd and Frank W. Snider. Under the guidance of the chapter, tours were organized to visit historic places like Falkner Swamp and the New England region. The Archives at Catawba College are in search of a cataloger. The structure of the archives is modeled after the Lancaster Archives.

The Financial Report was presented by Myron E. Wolf, treasurer of the Society. Questions were raised as to the income through membership and other sources. The attached report provides the answers. See Report C attached.

Dr. Harold Worthley, representing the Congregational Christian Historical Society, brought greetings and congratulations to the meeting, emphasizing the contributions made by the German Reformed Church to the history of the church and the early days of our nation.

The Reverend David H. Rapp presented the report and the proposals of the Nominating Committee. The following were nominated for the offices stated:

President:	Dr. George H. Bricker
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:	Mr. Myron E. Wolf
Librarian:	Dr. George H. Bricker
Executive Secretary:	Dr. Herbert B. Anstaett
Members-at-large:	Rev. I.C.G. Campbell
	Mr. Owen L. Fox
	Rev. Nevin E. Shellenberger
	Rev. Frank W. Snider

The nominations were accepted by the members of the Society. The secretary was asked to cast a vote in behalf of the slate presented, and the above-mentioned were elected to their term of office.

After the close of the business session, Dr. William T. Parsons was to lecture on "A New Look at the Old Founders." For reasons of illness, he could not be present. Mrs. Parsons presented the position paper in his behalf.

The paper was a challenge to the common presentation of local church history. Questions were raised and answers were suggested as to why early settlers came to America, and where they came from. It was suggested that availability of land, freedom of religion, must be considered as vital factors. The churches also provided

lay leadership and pietistic freedom of expression. The contributions of the Pennsylvania Germans in the days of George Washington are best symbolized by the fact that between 1776 and 1783 they constituted Washington's bodyguard. The paper was a most valuable presentation, not because of the answers it gave, but because it suggested the areas of inquiry which would provide answers for a full understanding of the early constituency of the German Reformed Church in Pennsylvania.

The meeting adjourned for lunch which was served by the ladies of the Old First Reformed Church. It was delicious, graciously served, and enjoyed by the 42 individuals who had gathered by now.

After lunch, a short business session was held. Presented and adopted was the budget for the coming year. Lowell Zuck presented the invitation of the St. Louis Ministerium to hold the next annual meeting in St. Louis on October 11, 1977, at 10:00 a.m., possibly at St. Paul's Church. The invitation was accepted with great joy.

Dr. Don Yoder announced that the Singers from Kaiserslautern, Germany, will perform in Philadelphia as their greetings to our Bicentennial celebration. All are invited. Also, the Society will have a dinner at the Bookbinders Old Original Restaurant.

The afternoon program began with a presentation by Dr. George Oeste. The topic was "Philadelphia in the American Revolution 1763-1787." It was a most thoughtful presentation about the role of the people of a city in the life of our nation.

Tours to see the historic landmarks of Philadelphia occupied the attention of some of the members of the Society for the rest of the afternoon.

Those who gathered for dinner at the Bookbinders had a joyful and fraternal fellowship the rest of the evening.

Respectfully submitted,
Rudolf G. Schade, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Executive Committee meeting was held on October 22, 1976, at the Old First Reformed Church in Philadelphia, during the luncheon in connection with the 113th Annual Meeting of the Society.

The President, George H. Bricker, presented the following matters for consideration:

1. The need for additional shelving and catalogue cases in order to deal properly with the needs and demands made by materials the archives receives. The approximate cost may be \$4,000. The Committee approved this expenditure. Hope was expressed that the Historical Council will provide some or all of the money to cover these expenses.
2. The budget for the next fiscal year was presented. It is the hope that another grant by the Arcadia Foundation will make it possible to cover the added expenses for the next fiscal year.
3. The presence of Dr. Harold Worthley of the Congregational Christian Historical Society was deeply appreciated. The Executive Committee agreed that half of the expenses of his coming would be covered by the E & R Historical Society.

4. Lowell H. Zuck presented the invitation of the St. Louis Ministerial Association, extended by its president, the Reverend Richard Brueseke, to hold next year's Annual Meeting in St. Louis. It was in 1877 that the German Evangelical Synod of North America was founded. In the celebration of this anniversary, the Society will have a part. The meeting is to be held on Tuesday, October 11, 1977, possibly at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in St. Louis.

The Committee joyfully accepted this invitation.

5. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on April 26, 1977, at 12 noon at the Old First Reformed Church in Philadelphia.

Respectfully submitted,
Rudolf G. Schade, Secretary

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TRACES HISTORY OF THE SOCIETY

It seems appropriate in the Bicentennial year of the Nation's founding to relate a few historical facts about the Society rather than the usual data contained in my annual reports which have been prepared since my official connection with the Society's activities, first as Curator and Librarian, beginning in 1940, and since July 1, 1967, as Executive Secretary.

This account includes a few significant happenings since 1940. Along with these facts are interspersed pertinent data, including an introductory statement of the founding of the Society, bearing on the progress made in preserving the heritage of the German Reformed Church and its successors and making it available to scholars and others. The report is limited to what is now known as the Lancaster Central Archives and Library of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, and therefore excludes reporting on the Eden Archives and Library at the Eden Theological Seminary at Webster Groves, Missouri, and does not cover the Archives of the United Church of Christ located in the Society's headquarters at Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

The Historical Society of the German Reformed Church had its origin in the Tercentenary Convention at Philadelphia in January 1863. The headquarters church was the one in which this annual meeting is being held today. A resolution was adopted at the closing session that a Committee be appointed to consider the importance and propriety of establishing an Historical Society of the Reformed Church. The actual organization took place on October 22, 1863, one hundred and thirteen years ago to this very day.

By far the largest and most important acquisition to the Society's library came to Lancaster in 1947 after Dr. William J. Hinke's death on the first of January of that year. The list of materials received then is far too long for inclusion in this report. It is published in the Bulletin, Theological Seminary of the Evangelical and Reformed Church in the United States, volume 19, pages 124-139, July 1948, in an article by George W. Richards entitled "The Life and Work of William J. Hinke." This was read at the 1948 Annual Meeting of the Society. Some five hundred volumes and one thousand pamphlets enriched the collection. The most notable part was the more than a hundred transcriptions and translations of individual church records of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, mostly from German script (for the earliest records). The major portion of these records was executed by Dr. Hinke's painstaking work. It gets more use in and out of the library than any other part of the entire library. Inquiries from many parts of the United States come to the Society every week involving its use. Fortunately, it is on microfilm and the reels are sent out on loan directly to individuals. The list of holdings, compiled by

Elizabeth Kieffer, was published by the National Genealogical Society in its Quarterly for September 1960, and was also issued in mimeographed form by the Society. The Daughters of the American Revolution Magazine republished it in February 1970. A much more comprehensive list including all the Church records owned by the Society is in preparation and is nearing completion, being accomplished by Florence M. Bricker, Assistant Archivist.

In the mid nineteen fifties, Rev. Guy P. Bready accomplished the huge task of preparing biographical accounts of deceased ministers of the Church from the year 1880 through 1941, an undertaking begun by Henry Harbaugh and continued by D. Y. Heisler and W.M. Deatrick after Dr. Harbaugh's death in 1867 to near the end of the year 1888, published in Fathers of the Reformed Church in six volumes. One thousand and seventy-six biographies are contained in Dr. Bready's work consisting of two thousand and thirty-one double spaced pages typewritten by him. With Fathers of the Reformed Church and Bready's reference volumes available, and Dr. William J. Hinke's Ministers of the German Reformed Congregations in Pennsylvania and Other Colonies in the Eighteenth Century, edited by George W. Richards, and published in 1951 by the Historical Commission of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, there is in the library a biographical record of our deceased ministers from John Philip Boehm (1683-1749) to just a few years ago. The Society's Name File is also a source of biographical information of deceased and living ministers. It is housed in ten legal size vertical files. In addition, Dr. Bready compiled a personal and subject index to the Reformed Church Messenger and the Messenger of the Evangelical and Reformed Church covering the period from 1828-Sept. 1958, typewritten by him and bound in thirteen large volumes. As you can imagine, this very valuable resource is used constantly as a guide to items published in the Church's official publication over a span of more than a century and a quarter.

At least passing mention should be made in this type of report of other important items in the library. But space does not permit it. Suffice it to report that at the Annual Meeting of the Society on May 5, 1943, Dr. H. M. J. Klein delivered the essay entitled "The Library of the Historical Society of the Reformed Church in the United States" which was printed in the Bulletin, Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church in the United States, volume 14, pages 157-168, October 1943. In describing the contents of the library, Dr. Klein listed many items by title, the rarest of which are on display in locked modern museum cases in one of the rooms of the library.

This report would be incomplete if it failed to mention by title two important papers delivered at recent annual meetings, that of Dr. James E. Wagner entitled Congregational Records - Adequate, Accurate, Cherished and Cared For!, on October 16, 1971, and Dr. Fred D. Wentzel's essay called The Forging of A Denomination, Unitive Forces in the History of the German Reformed Churches in the United States, on October 16, 1973. Both of these addresses are still available in print. Many others appear in the holdings of the Society, published and unpublished. The list is impressive because of those who wrote them as well as for their content.

Credit must be given to the accomplishments of the Society's Presidents since 1940 and to the dedicated service given by part-time staff members over a long period. Names only can be mentioned here. The Presidents were: Dr. David Dunn, Dr. H. M. J. Klein, and Dr. Charles D. Spotts. Dr. George H. Bricker, as the President since 1974, is exercising dynamic leadership, serving also as Librarian of the Society and Director of the United Church of Christ Archives. He is also editor of the NEWS from the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society. Part-time staff members giving many years of service include: Charlotte Appel, Lucile Brackbill, Elizabeth C. Kieffer, and Alice F. Anstaett.

The recent modest annual appropriations from the United Church of Christ, contributions from Conferences, Associations, Congregations, and individuals (mostly ministers), a few memorial gifts, annual memberships and life memberships have been insufficient to meet yearly expenses. But with the beneficence of Mrs. Edith Steinbright and daughter Marilyn through grants from the Arcadia Foundation since September of 1972, made to bolster our financial deficiencies and to urge others who are able to do likewise, the Society has been able to operate successfully without drastically curtailing its activities.

If space permitted, much more could be reported, including among other things, the expanded role of the Society as the Official Archive of the United Church of Christ. The early history of the Society from 1863 to 1874 appeared in a well documented essay prepared by Dr. Charles D. Spotts and delivered at the Society's Centennial Celebration on October 29, 1963, printed in 1964, entitled The Birth of the Historical Society of the Reformed Church. Copies of this address are still in print. The history since 1874 remains to be written. The materials available would make this possible.

--Herbert B. Anstaett,
Executive Secretary

THE UNGER GENEALOGICAL COLLECTION

The church and genealogical records assembled by the late Claude Weston Unger over a period of many years have recently been deposited in the Society's Library by the Fackenthal Library, Franklin and Marshall College. These items pertain mostly, but not entirely, to Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. Some contiguous county records are also included. They are housed and appropriately filed and categorized in eleven legal vertical file drawers and twenty-four drawers of three by five inch cards. These additions have enriched the Society's steadily growing files of this type of material used almost daily by researchers.

Since so little is known about Mr. Under by the Society's patrons, it seemed appropriate to include with this gift announcement a biographical sketch. In preparing this account the editor has used extensively an available unsigned statement, adapting the language used to bring it up to date, prepared two years before his death, and has also received pertinent material from Mabel D. Unger, the wife of the late Samuel Unger who was one of the sons of Mr. Unger. In young manhood he became the librarian of the Historical Society of Schuylkill County, and continued as such for more than a third of a century. He also served for a number of years as President of the Society. He was a textile manufacturer from 1896 to 1914, but succumbed to the lure of rare and important books in which he dealt from 1915 until his death. He was widely known as an authority on glass collections, antiques, rare books, and as a paleobotanist, genealogist and historian. He was the co-author with Reverend Thomas R. Brendle of a 303 page monograph published by the Pennsylvania German Society as volume 45 of its Proceedings in 1935 entitled Folk Medicine of the Pennsylvania Germans, The Non-Occult Cures.

Mr. Unger was born on January 5, 1882, in West Brunswick Township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, the son of Samuel and Ellen Jane (Kimmel) Unger, his father being a manufacturer. He was a member of Trinity Reformed Church of Pottsville and as a young man sang in its choir. On September 9, 1903, he married Laura Adelia Vietinghoff, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Hoefer) Vietinghoff. Mr. & Mrs. Unger were the parents of three children: William V., born June 22, 1904; Barbara, born June 28, 1905; and Samuel, born February 19, 1907. None of the children are now living. William died in 1972, Samuel in 1973, and Barbara in 1955. Mr. Unger died on July 5, 1945. His only descendants are Barbara's five sons, the eldest of whom is Melvin Brunner, 306 Woodbourne Road, Langhorne, Pennsylvania, 19047, and William's

son, David W. Unger, R. D. No. 2, Pine Grove, Pennsylvania, 17963.

--Herbert B. Anstaett

BOOK REVIEWS

A History of the Christian Church in the South, by Durward T. Stokes and William T. Scott. Southern Conference UCC, Burlington, NC. 375 pp. Illus.

A History of the Christian Church in the South was written by Durward T. Stokes, professor of history at Elon College, and the late William T. Scott, who served as superintendent of the Southern Convention of Congregational Christian Churches for more than a decade.

The story traces the life of the Christian churches in the southern region from their beginnings late in the 18th Century when the Rev. James O'Kelly and his followers split with the Methodist Church until the organization of the United Church of Christ in 1957. Most of the churches involved were located in North Carolina and Virginia. During the latter part of the 19th century and early in the 20th, congregations were founded in Alabama and Georgia. For many years the congregations worked cooperatively without formal organization. In 1856 the Southern Christian Convention was organized. It became the Southern Convention of Congregational Christian Churches following the Congregational and Christian merger in 1931 and joined with the Convention of the South of Congregational Christian Church and the Southern Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church to form the Southern Conference of the United Church of Christ after the union of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church in 1957 to form the United Church of Christ.

The book makes for interesting reading about the people, churches, organizations and institutions who helped to form the history of this lively group of churches. It is also a serious historical study presenting helpful resources for students of the life of the church and the region.

--James H. Lightbourne, Jr.

Guides to Congregational Christian History

An introduction to the origins, development and dynamics of the Congregational Christian "way of the churches" can be sought in terms of either "inner history" (analogous to autobiography) or "outer history" (akin to biography).

Inner histories: despite the fact that he wrote eighty years ago, Williston Walker produced the best "in house" histories of Congregationalism, viz., THE CREEDS AND PLATFORMS OF CONGREGATIONALISM (1893) and A HISTORY OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES IN THE UNITED STATES (1894). Both books have been reissued in recent years, but without any updating of the history or revisions in scholarly interpretation. In 1942 Gaius G. Atkins and Frederick L. Fagley published their HISTORY OF AMERICAN CONGREGATIONALISM (now out of print). The historical half of that book unfortunately showed no real assimilation of the scholarship that had been done on Congregational beginnings and change in the half-century since Walker's books, while the portrait of the denomination circa 1942 is now of interest chiefly to specialists. Atkins later printed a fifty-page essay about the denomination, and it was several times re-edited and reissued under the title AN ADVENTURE IN LIBERTY. The earlier editions (1947 and 1950) are the best of the series in balance and for their absence of special pleading. The "inner history" of the Christian denomination has been sketched by M. T. Morrill in A HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN DENOMINATION IN AMERICA

(1912, now out of print) and in a regional study by D. T. Stokes and W. T. Scott, A HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN THE SOUTH (1975).

Outer histories: the first modern exposition in depth of Congregationalism by an academic historian came in the myriad writings of Perry Miller, beginning with ORTHODOXY IN MASSACHUSETTS (1933). However, the most succinct and readable avenue to an understanding of those early American Congregational Puritans is provided by Edmund S. Morgan in his short classic, VISIBLE SAINTS (1963). Recent years have seen many practitioners of "outer history" focusing on the ways in which Puritan/Congregational culture was actually embodied in the lives of particular towns; such local studies include Darrett B. Rutman's WINTHROP'S BOSTON (1965), Kenneth A. Lockridge's A NEW ENGLAND TOWN (1970), and Richard P. Gildrie's SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS (1975). Excellent coverage of the Plymouth Colony has been provided by George D. Langdon, Jr. in PILGRIM COLONY (1966), while Mary J. A. Jones had chronicled the early years of Connecticut in CONGREGATIONAL COMMONWEALTH (1968). An overview that covers both the heartland of the American Puritan/Congregational enterprise and the frontiers, and which neatly summarizes alike the agreements and disputes among scholars over aspects of Congregational history, is Francis J. Bremer's THE PURITAN EXPERIMENT (1976).

What no single page can do is list even a few of the specialized books and articles on the English and Continental background, and different periods, movements, events and personalities which comprise the Congregational Christian story. More than two hundred and fifty such studies are described in Harold F. Worthley, "The Congregational Way: Some Historical and Bibliographical Remarks," available from the Congregational Christian Historical Society, 14 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts, 02108, for \$1.50. Almost all of the items listed in Worthley's article can be borrowed for the cost of postage from the Congregational Library, 14 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts, 02108.

--Harold F. Worthley

The Heritage Series (see enclosed folder)

In one sense, the United Church of Christ, now an adolescent of 19 years, has a limited history. Yet, part of its richness and complexity is represented in the several histories which now converge in the United Church. It begins with Puritan New England, includes the Pennsylvania German Reformed experience, the story of the Christian people, and the Evangelical migrations to the Missouri Valley. A variety of ethnic traditions is represented in that history--European, African, Asian, Latin American. The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries has published eight monographs called "The Heritage Series" to recover significant elements of this past.

The monographs were prepared under the editorship of J. Earl Thompson of Andover Newton Theological Seminary and Edward A. Powers of the board's staff. Most authors are professional historians. They have sought to get in touch with major motifs in the historical record which have contemporary significance while paying close attention to historical detail. The Zuck and Wilson pieces are foundational. The Lovejoy, Parsons, and Thompson pieces take a particular paradigm, and interpret its significance.

Jones deals with the black experience with special reference to New England and Lang treats the interplay of white missionaries with native Americans.

Withers documents several parts of the experience of women, particularly in New England.

Taken together the essays furnish important perspective on UCC backgrounds. Each of the pieces is provocative and interesting.

--Edward A. Powers

The titles in the "Heritage Series" are European Roots of the United Church of Christ by Lowell H. Zuck, Puritanism and the Public Realm by John F. Wilson, German Reformed Experience in Colonial America by William T. Parsons, Samuel Hopkins: Religion, Slavery, and the Revolution by David S. Lovejoy, Women of Faith and Our History by Barbara A. Withers, From Consciousness to Conscience - Blacks and the United Church of Christ by Lawrence Neale Jones, Two Spirits Meet by Stuart Lang, and Congregational Dissent Against the War of 1812 by J. Earl Thompson, Jr.

MIDWEST U.C.C. HISTORIANS (MUCCH)

Midwest UCC Historians, incorporated in 1973, held a program meeting at the West Central Regional in St. Joseph, Missouri, this fall. Meeting on both October 6 and 7, 1976, the historians heard a paper by Dr. Annadora Gregory of Crete, Nebraska, on "Congregationalism and the Lake Chautauqua Movement."

As organized in 1874, Chautauquas provided general education for the public and special training for Sunday School teaching. Chautauqua techniques were adaptable to the developing west. In Nebraska, a Congregational pastor, J. D. Stewart of Hastings, applied those techniques to local situations. From his efforts, 111 churches and 800 Sunday Schools were organized.

The original Chautauqua movement was accompanied by the erection of permanent structures where the Chautauqua series were held. Later this approach was superseded by a "traveling tent" Chautauqua. These latter Chautauquas carried along their tents and talent, emphasizing lectures and cultural performances. They were very popular with rural people until fading in the 1930's.

Dr. Charles Kennedy of Lincoln, Nebraska, president of MUCCH, proposed a new approach to the writing of conference histories in the midwest. Over a period of several years, authors from each participating conference would confer and use a generally unified approach. They would apply the concept of management appraisal or management audit to historical research. Dr. Kennedy, with experience in this field, has offered his services to help achieve this goal. Conference ministers, their associates and predecessors will be important to this project. The 1977 biennial meeting will include Dr. Kennedy's proposal as a part of that meetings emphasis.

John Schlarb of Topeka, Kansas, stands ready to accept dues in his capacity as treasurer. Everyone is welcome regardless of address. Membership includes voting privileges, occasional newsletters and other communications, biennial meetings, and program meetings in the alternate years. All dues paid now will be in effect until the end of 1979.

Individual membership	\$3.00
Two persons at one address	5.00
Church membership (2 delegates per member-church)	25.00

Please send your check to:

Midwest UCC Historians
John Schlarb, Treasurer
510 Garfield
Topeka, KS 66606

--Ceres Henkel, Secretary

HISTORICAL COUNCIL (UCC) MEETING HELD IN NEW YORK

The second meeting of the Historical Council of the United Church of Christ was held in New York City, November 12-13, 1976. A detailed report of the meeting has been published in the NEWS from the Congregational Christian Historical Society, Fall 1976, vol. 8, no. 2. If you desire a copy of this report, write to the CCHS, 14 Beacon Street, Boston, Massachusetts, 02108.

1977 ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

The Congregational Christian Historical Society annual meeting will be held at the First Congregational Church (UCC), Albany, N.Y., May 9-10, 1977, that being the site and the 125th anniversary of the famed Albany Convention of 1825.

The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society annual meeting will be held at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, St. Louis, Missouri, October 11, 1977. The Society will meet with the St. Louis Ministerium in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the German Evangelical Synod of North America, one of the constituent bodies of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY

Perhaps you have received a mailing from the Historical Council asking you to become a contributing member for the coming year. If you have made your contribution, "Thank You." If you have not, we urge you to do so today. Individuals, congregations, associations and conferences may become members. There are two routes to membership.

One way is to send a contribution of \$5.00 or more directly to the Society, 555 West James St., Lancaster, PA 17603. Persons or organizations joining this way become members of the Society for one year. They receive the three issues of the NEWS from the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society published each year, and any historical pamphlets that may be published. Occasionally there is a small charge for such materials to recover printing costs. They are also eligible to draw on the resources of the Society, its archives and its expertise in answering questions about German Reformed, Evangelical and Reformed, and United Church of Christ history.

Membership in the Society underwrites the Society's service to individuals, congregations, scholars, researchers and denominational offices. It also provides funds for the cataloging and preservation of congregational records, official minutes and papers of all the organizations of the United Church.

A second way to become a member is to send a contribution of \$10.00 or more directly to the Historical Council of the United Church of Christ, 197 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10010. The check should be made payable to the "Historical Council," and it will be divided equally between the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society and the Congregational Christian Historical Society. Such a contribution makes one a voting member for one year of both Societies, bringing the donor the newsletter of both organizations and giving access to the resources of both.

We hope you continue your membership in the Society for 1977 and urge other individuals and your congregation to join.

WE SOLICIT YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS. PLEASE ADDRESS THEM TO:

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

THE HERITAGE SERIES--NEW FROM UNITED CHURCH PRESS

THE HERITAGE SERIES consists of eight monographs on diverse subjects which depict the significant historical events, and the individual and corporate experiences of early church members and religious leaders who helped build the rich heritage of the United Church of Christ. Each monograph has its own distinctively illustrated cover and varies in length from 16 to 20 pages, including extensive reference notes and bibliographical information.

THE HERITAGE SERIES was designed and written especially for church members with a limited knowledge of religious history and the movements from which the United Church of Christ evolved. Teachers and scholars, too, in the disciplines of religious history, philosophy and sociology will find a wealth of historical information in the individual monographs, which heretofore could not be found in such concentrated form on the subjects covered.

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_____	GERMAN REFORMED EXPERIENCE IN COLONIAL AMERICA--	
_____	William T. Parsons	"
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_____	David S. Lovejoy	"
_____	WOMEN OF FAITH AND OUR HISTORY--Barbara A. Withers	"
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_____	J. Earl Thompson, Jr.	"

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