



News from the

EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sponsored Agency of the Historical Council, United Church of Christ

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Volume 5, No. 1

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society met on April 26, 1977 at the Old First Reformed Church in Philadelphia. The meeting was called to order at 11:20 a.m. by the president, Dr. George H. Bricker. Rudolf Schade was asked to open the meeting with prayer. The following members were present: Banks Shepherd, Nevin E. Schellenberger, Myron E. Wolf, Owen L. Fox, George H. Bricker, Frank W. Snider, Lowell H. Zuck, and Rudolf G. Schade. Regretfully Philip W. Weiss, Herbert B. Anstaett, and James E. Wagner were unable to attend.

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on October 22, 1976 at the Old First Reformed Church were read and accepted.

An "old business" report was given by George Bricker: Three ranges of steel shelves and two catalogue cases have been acquired for the purchase price of \$3,860.40; installation will cost between \$200 and \$300. It had been hoped that the Historical Council of the UCC would cover the total cost, but only \$1,100 has been given to cover these expenses.

Another unrestricted grant from the Arcadia Foundation has been received in the amount of \$10,000.

Under "new business" a report was presented by the Executive Secretary Herbert Anstaett. Since he could not be present, it was read by Frank Snider. The report focused upon the use of the Archives by people involved in academic research and by those who were interested in family geneology. It was rewarding for all to realize that the Archives were visited so extensively. Also mentioned was the devotion and commitment of the Steinbright family to the church and to the Reformed heritage.

A detailed Treasurer's report was presented by Myron Wolf, Treasurer.

The meeting adjourned for lunch. After a lovely fellowship, Frank Snider continued to read the report of the Executive Secretary. The comprehensiveness of the report as well as its details brought about the response of those gathered. Herbert Anstaett has made and is making a foremost contribution to the life of the E & R Historical Society and to the Archives.

Myron Wolf discussed the state of the Society's treasury from January 1, 1977 to March 31, 1977. The total income was \$2,511.07, expenses were \$6,840.57, with a deficit of \$4,329.50. If it were not for the gift from the Arcadia Foundation the Society's financial situation would be in some difficulty. Appreciation was expressed to Myron Wolf for the sound management of our limited resources and the comprehensive report he submitted.

Lowell Zuck gave his report as a member of the Historical Council of the UCC. The Council met April 1, 1977. The CC Historical Society will celebrate its 25th

anniversary. Efforts are being made to raise money for the Robert Moss Memorial Fund. A great deal of attention was given to the development of "Oral History" record. Mrs. C. G. Henkel raised the issue of a possible uniting of the E & R Historical Society and the CC Historical Society into a Historical Society of the UCC. The president expressed his appreciation for the report.

Plans for the annual meeting of the Society to be held in St. Louis on October 11, 1977 were discussed. It was emphasized that publicity should go out not later than August. Choice of speakers and the general program are in the hands of the St. Louis Ministerium and should be ready by then.

Rudolf Schade stated that a meeting will be held in Chicago's St. Paul's Church to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the "Kirchenverein des Westens." This meeting will be held on September 25 and 26, 1977. Lowell Zuck was asked to represent the Society at this gathering.

A report for the Southern chapter was given by Banks Shepherd and Frank Snider. There is growing interest in the history of the Church, the local church, and pastors and lay people who have had a vital part in the founding of congregations. The Southern Chapter also has organized tours to visit places of historic significance of our national and denominational history.

George Bricker asked for a full report of the activities of the Southern Chapter in order to include it into the Newsletter.

The final remarks were made by George Bricker informing us about the Archives at Lancaster Seminary. A part-time secretary is needed to serve both the President and the Executive Secretary. More and more people visit the Archives. Miss Elizabeth Sanders has been engaged to serve as "generalist" in the Archives, helping in research. What is needed is a person who can develop a more comprehensive insight into the content of the Archives, and the Church, which the Archives wants to serve.

Lowell Zuck reported that Bill Chrystal, an auxiliary worker for the Archives at Eden Seminary, is preparing for publication a book on "The Unknown Writings of Reinhold Niebuhr."

The meeting was closed with prayer at 3:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Rudolf G. Schade, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1976

INCOME

Executive Council, U.C.C.		\$ 5,000.00
Conferences:		
Penn Central Conference		800.00
Associations:		
Lincoln Nebraska Association	\$	25.00
Hudson Mohawk Association		25.00
Chebogan Association		10.00
Susquehanna Association		<u>50.00</u>
		110.00

Dues Received Through Lancaster		115.00
Historical Commission Financial Campaign		1,278.77
Interest on Investments		2,444.17
Miscellaneous Income		241.07
Memorial Gifts and Other Gifts:		
Arcadia Foundation	10,000.00	
Others	<u>269.25</u>	<u>10,269.25</u>
		<u>\$ 20,258.26</u>

EXPENSES

Lancaster:		
Salaries and Payroll Taxes	\$ 5,237.36	
Supplies	186.84	
Equipment	542.00	
Binding	67.50	
Postage	71.40	
Telephone	108.00	
Miscellaneous	<u>86.47</u>	\$ 6,299.57
Eden:		
Salaries and Payroll Taxes	3,445.40	
Supplies	1.20	
Binding	9.00	
Postage	23.00	
Miscellaneous	<u>22.15</u>	3,500.75
General:		
Salaries and Payroll Taxes	1,859.00	
Meetings and Travel	1,423.13	
Honoraria	116.15	
Printing and Postage	765.30	
Miscellaneous (Includes \$1,500 for Bicentennial Display)	<u>1,571.36</u>	<u>5,734.94</u>
		<u>\$ 15,535.26</u>
	Surplus	\$ 4,723.00

ASSETS

Checking Account -- National Central Bank	\$ 1,496.11
24 Hour Statement Savings Account -- National Central Bank	18,626.62
First Federal Savings and Loan Association -- Savings Account	29.13
First Federal Savings and Loan Association -- Certificate of Deposit	4,400.00
National Central Bank -- Certificate of Deposit	10,000.00
Wellington Fund (Book Value)	1,008.00
St. Paul's Preservation Fund -- National Central Bank Certificate	<u>3,000.00</u>
	<u>\$ 38,559.86</u>

LIABILITIES AND PRINCIPAL

Liabilities

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<u>Principal</u> -- 12/31/75	\$ 33,836.86
Plus surplus from year ending 12/31/76	<u>4,723.00</u>
Principal -- 12/31/77	<u>\$ 38,559.86</u>

Respectfully submitted,
Myron E. Wolf, Treasurer

COMMITTEE FOR RELATIONS WITH EAST GERMAN CHURCH ESTABLISHED

The United Church of Christ under the auspices of its Board for World Ministries has established a permanent committee with responsibility for strengthening and deepening the ties of the UCC with the Protestant Church of Union (EKU) in East Germany. The UCC and the EKU are "sister" churches, and both have a strong "uniting" identity. What is now called the EKU was established in 1817 by the Prussian King Friedrich Wilhelm III who ordered that all Lutheran and Reformed Churches in the Prussian territory unite since in "all important matters" they were already one. Much of the theological heritage of the UCC has come from the EKU: Many of our ancestors came directly from the EKU when they emigrated to America; the Evangelical Synod of North America from its inception maintained very close ties with the EKU; and were deepened after the end of World War II by the E & R and Congregational Christian Churches.

Dr. Howard Schomer and Dr. Harold Wilke established deep personal relationships with leaders in the EKU beginning shortly after the devastation of Germany in 1945. In recent years the late President of the UCC, Dr. Robert Moss, gave strong leadership in the developing sense of common mission between the two churches. Early contacts and visits by such persons as Carl Schneider and Elmer Arndt of Eden Theological Seminary laid the groundwork for a growing network of trust, and for open dialogue on matters of theology and church practice. Since 1964 there have been a number of exchange visits by pastors, church leaders, and lay people. In May and June 1976, Professor Max Stackhouse of Andover Newton and Professor M. Douglas Meeks of Eden were the first academicians to be invited to make an official visit to the theological and educational centers of the EKU.

The UCC-EKU Working Group will be centered at Eden Seminary under the chairmanship of Professor Meeks. It met for the first time on January 21-22 at Eden and is composed of the following: Professor Frederick Herzog of Duke Divinity School; The Reverend Scott Libbey, Conference Minister of the Iowa Conference; Professor Stackhouse; The Reverend Robert Starbuck, former "fraternal worker" for facilitating relationships between the two churches; and The Reverend Frederick Trost, Pastor of St. Paul's UCC in Chicago. Dr. Schomer, Staff Member of The United Church Board for World Ministries, and The Reverend Peter Meister, who also served in the capacity of "fraternal worker" and currently a D.Min. candidate at Eden, will serve in ex-officio capacity on the committee.

One principle objective of the Working Group is to investigate the possibility of establishing intercommunion between the UCC and the EKU. This will entail deep and sustained dialogue with EKU-UCC Arbeitsgruppe in East Germany, a committee mandated with the same responsibilities within the EKU. The mutual work of the two committees will be divided into five areas: 1) theological imperatives for Church and Society; 2) theological education; 3) formation of the congregation and organization and leadership of the Church; 4) Sacraments and orders (offices); and 5) common ministry of the EKU and UCC to the third world. The Working Group will attempt to locate and coordinate work being done in these areas of concern throughout the UCC, and will also have responsibility for relating what is gained in the relationship with the EKU to the local congregations of the UCC.

--M. Douglas Meeks

SOCIETY SUPPORTS EKU-UCC ARCHIVAL WORK

The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, a sponsored agency of the United Church of Christ Historical Commission, has responded favorably to appropriating

around \$800 this calendar year to pay for inventorying the Eden Archives collection of material relating to the EKU-UCC (and its predecessors) relationships. Mr. William Chrystal, Eden Archivist, has agreed to undertake the task, much of it to be accomplished this summer. A copy of the inventory listing will be shared with the UCC Archives at Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

We anticipate that this will be of use to the Working Group, tying in also with new archival preservation of materials relating to EKU-UCC work currently underway.

--Lowell H. Zuck

BOOK REVIEW

The Shaping of the United Church of Christ: An Essay in the History of American Christianity by Louis H. Gunnemann. Philadelphia, a Pilgrim Book, United Church Press, 1977.

Twenty years after its official founding, the United Church of Christ shows signs of developing a tradition of its own, while at the same time the sometimes contradictory tendencies of its predecessor traditions continue to be remembered and revived. As an aid to strengthening the developing U.C.C. tradition, Dr. Louis H. Gunnemann, former dean of the United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and former U.C.C. assistant moderator, has contributed eight valuable chapters toward a new book outlining the Shaping of the U.C.C.

From within the contemporary uniting church story, the reader is guided by a trusted church leader who at the same time retains clear identity within the former German Reformed faith. Not yet official (there is no reference to the 1975 U.C.C. Historical Council, in existence since 1965 as a Commission), Dr. Gunnemann's account is readable and authoritative. It is of special interest to laypeople because Mr. Gunnemann points up clearly the special dialectic working between ministers and people among former Congregational, Christian, Reformed, Evangelical, and United Church folk shaping past and present history alike.

Official U.C.C. history has not yet appeared. A CC history was published in 1942 by G. G. Atkins and F. L. Fagley and and E & R history edited by D. Dunn in 1961 were authorized by their respective historical societies. W. Walker's 1894 Congregational history and his 1893 Creeks and Platforms are unofficial, old, and authoritative. E. S. Morgan brings them up to date in Visible Saints (1963). D. T. Stokes and W. T. Scott in 1975 published a history of the Christian church in the South. C. E. Schneider's German Church on the American Frontier (1939) has long been out-of-print. H. F. Worthley's bibliography on the Congregational Way (1975) and L. H. Zuck's European Roots of the U.C.C. (1976) are helpful as brief introductions, along with F. A. Kostyu's History and Program of the U.C.C. (1965).

Dr. Gunnemann has really written two books in one. The first uses primary sources (and memories) to recount the recent forming of the U.C.C. Chapter one traces the beginnings from a ministerial discussion group in St. Louis around 1937 until the 1948 Congregational General Council at Oberlin voted adoption of the Basis of Union with Interpretations although less than 75% of the Congregational churches had approved. A second chapter reviews the long legal battles mounted by Congregationalists opposed to union and the complicated internal struggles among Congregationalists to define their polity and attitudes, while E & R people revised their more presbyterial tendencies to accord with Congregational fears of an authoritarian church. The third chapter tells the happier story of achieving union, and of

accepting the Statement of Faith and the Constitution, from 1957 through 1969. A fourth chapter sensitively describes the changed temper amid racial-war-socially radical contemporary issues which tried the new denomination as it sought identity between 1969 and 1975.

A fifth chapter leaves history for interpretation as it answers the question "Why the United Church of Christ?" in five sections. Mr. Gunnemann gives sociological reasons for the union as well as historical-theological perspectives derived from the "English Reformed tradition" (the sovereignty of God, the Lordship of Christ, and transformation of life, all derived from Calvinism via H. R. Niebuhr), from the German Reformed tradition, from the German Evangelical tradition, and from converging movements toward Christian unity. Christians are regarded by Mr. Gunnemann as being essentially Congregational. The chapter is skillfully and convincingly written.

Having completed his interpretative sketch of reasons for the union in chapter five, Mr. Gunnemann then concludes his second book with three long chapters going back to the beginnings of Congregational immigration into colonial New England, German Reformed people entering into colonial Pennsylvania, the Christians originating within the national period of American history, and similar nineteenth century Reformed and German Evangelical immigrants bringing their traditions to the American Midwest. The author concludes his separate denominational studies as the four main uniting groups were entering into preparation for further union before 1937.

Admittedly secondary in the use of historical data, these chapters gather up essentials in clear, well-ordered discussions that are especially strong in combining theological and religious sensibility with objective, far-ranging historical materials that include almost everything of significance without ponderous detail. While no novel perspectives on American church history are suggested, Mr. Gunnemann's well-balanced account reveals that U.C.C. people fit comfortably into the Campbell-Fukuyama sociological findings of 1970, i.e., they manifest a devotional orientation and at the same time seek an "instrumental role in God's action." Mr. Gunnemann believes that this devotional orientation accounts for the existence of the union, perhaps an unduly pious viewpoint! He points out that this same identification is present among other main-line American church bodies.

Quite up-to-date on U.C.C. developments, Mr. Gunnemann rejoices that the growing power of the President, the Executive Council, and the state conferences show that early fears of CC's were unjustified and are passing away. This same data could, of course, be given another interpretation! At any rate, Dr. Gunnemann's advocacy of the U.C.C. union and uniting efforts is clear, his Christian spirit is winning, and his sound, substantial book is worthy of close attention by both believers and doubters within and without the U.C.C.

--Lowell H. Zuck

MEMORIAL GIFTS ENCOURAGED

Memorial gifts to the Society are an excellent way to honor the memory of loved ones and to support the work in which they were interested. Memorial gifts are invested and the income used for current operating expenses.

Since 1970 the following memorials have been received.

Name of the Memorial	Donor	Amount
<u>William Edwin & Mary Belle Ault Hoy Memorial</u>	Gertrude Blanche Hoy (daughter)	\$1,150.00

<u>Erma Rebuck Bricker</u> <u>Memorial</u>	George H. Bricker (son)	500.00
<u>Charles Dewey Spotts</u> <u>Memorial</u>	Don Yoder (colleague)	50.00
<u>Howard L. Irwin</u> <u>Memorial</u>	Mrs. Lester Fidler (daughter)	50.00
<u>Ralph S. Weiler</u> <u>Memorial</u>	John R. Weiler (son)	50.00
<u>Paul Kitterer</u> <u>Memorial</u>	Peace UCC Elkader, Iowa	50.00

PUBLISHED ARTICLE ON GEORGE WARREN RICHARDS AVAILABLE

An article entitled "George Warren Richards: Architect of Church Union" was published in the Journal of Presbyterian History, volume 55, number 1, Spring 1977. The article was written by the Rev. Michael C. Romig, who is pastor of the Lykens Valley Charge of the United Church of Christ. It was the result of an independent study unit in the field of Church History at Lancaster Theological Seminary and Mr. Romig was awarded the Philip Schaff Prize in Church History for the paper at his graduation exercises in 1974.

The publication was made possible by a contribution of \$558.00 by the Society to the Journal. The subsidy was needed because of the increase in the pagination of this issue of the publication.

The Society would like to recover the subsidy. It is offering a copy of the Journal in which the article appears (or when copies are exhausted, a xeroxed copy) for a contribution of \$5.00. Please send your contribution and request for the article to the Executive Secretary.

SOCIETY PUBLISHES PAMPHLET ON GERMAN REFORMED BEGINNINGS

Dr. James E. Wagner, co-president of the United Church of Christ, 1957-61, wrote an article for the Lancaster County Bicentennial Committee on the beginnings of the German Reformed Church in the county. It was published in condensed form in Lancaster County Churches in the Revolutionary War Era by the Lancaster County Historical Society.

Our Society has published the complete article by Dr. Wagner in a pamphlet entitled Older than the Nation, The United Church of Christ and its German Reformed Beginnings in Lancaster County. The publication was sponsored by the Lancaster Association, the Penn Central Conference and the Society. Copies are available at the cost of \$1.00 per copy. Address your requests to the Executive Secretary.

COLOR PRINT OF THE ESCUTCHEON OF THE REFORMED CHURCH IN THE U.S.

The General Synod of the Reformed Church in the U.S. in 1929 adopted a coat-of-arms or escutcheon that would represent the historic lines of the denomination.

During the following years it appeared in color on the stationery and official papers of the Reformed Church. It was also reproduced in color as a poster and hung in many churches.

THE REFORMED CHURCH IN THE U.S.



Today the escutcheon can be seen in the stained glass windows of some of our churches but most of the framed posters have disappeared. The Society has received many inquiries about it and requests for copies.

Color prints, eleven by fourteen inches, have been made from an original reproduction that hangs in the archives of the Society. They may be secured from the Office of the Executive Secretary. The cost is \$15.00 per color print.

The following description of the escutcheon appeared in the Almanac and Yearbook in 1930.

The escutcheon is divided into four sections, separated by a large cross, upon which appears the legend, "In Hoc Signo Vincas." ("In This Sign Conquer.") This design is taken from the Reformed Church of Bentheim, a district lying in Germany and on the borders of Holland.

The upper left-hand section carries a surface of field transversely divided into blue and white, representing the coat-of-arms or colors of Zurich. Upon this field is placed the burning bush, the bush that was not consumed. The design represents the Reformed Church in France. The flaming bush was also used by Scotland and Ireland. The inscription varies: "I am burned but not consumed"; "Burning but flourishing"; "And yet it was not consumed."

The upper section on the right, shows a field of scarlet, the color of Switzerland, upon which appears the seal of Calvin, a hand holding a heart. The accompanying legend is "I yield my heart promptly and sincerely to Thee, O God," or "I offer my heart to Thee, O God."

The entire lower section on the left is given to Zwingli's coat-of-arms. The colors are gold and black. In the centre of the field is a ring. There is no inscription, but the ring is used as a symbol of eternity.

The field of the lower section on the right reproduces the colors of the Palatinate, blue and white. It will be noticed that the colors of Zurich and of the Palatinate are alike. They differ in the arranging or plan. Here the blue and white are in the form of a scotch plaid or diamond shape. On this field is placed the "Lily Among the Thorns." This was the symbol of the Huguenot Church under its severe persecution. It was also used by the Waldensian Church as well as the Reformed Church of Holland. The inscription is "Emergo," "I struggle through." The sentiment is also given, "The Lily springing up from a bed of thorns."

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

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