



News from the

EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sponsored Agency of the Historical Council, United Church of Christ

September 1977

Volume 5, No. 2

OFFICIAL CALL TO THE 114th ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Society will be held on Tuesday, October 11, 1977, at Saint Paul's United Church of Christ, 3510 Giles Avenue at Potomac, St. Louis, Missouri.

The St. Louis Ministerium will be our host and we will join with them in the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the formal establishment of the German Evangelical Synod of North America, which joined with the Reformed Church in the U.S. to form the Evangelical and Reformed Church in 1934.

The Executive Committee will meet Monday evening, October 10th, at 8:00 o'clock in the lounge at Eden Theological Seminary, Webster Groves. Overnight accomodations will be at the Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge, Hampton Avenue at I-44, St. Louis.

The Program at St. Paul's Church, Tuesday

- 9:00 a.m. Registration, Coffee, Historical Displays
- 9:45 a.m. German Organ Music
- 10:00 a.m. Bi-lingual Evangelical Festival Communion Service
Address - "Evangelical Expansion: From Western Association to
Continental Synod, 1866-1877" by Dr. Lowell H. Zuck of Eden
Theological Seminary
- 11:40 a.m. Introduction of Guests
Dr. Reuben Koehler, Minister of Missouri Conference
Drs. Erwin and Paul Bode, Pastors of St. Paul's Church
Rev. Dennis Lindberg, President of the St. Louis Ministerium
Dr. George H. Bricker, President of the Society
- 12:30 p.m. Luncheon at nearby Masonic Hall
- 1:30 p.m. Business Meeting of the Society in the Sanctuary of St. Paul's Church
- 2:30 p.m. Adjournment

Please use the registration form which is the last page of the NEWS to register for the Annual Meeting and make luncheon reservations. We are asking all who attend to make their own overnight reservations.

We urge all our members to attend the St. Louis meeting. The last time the Annual Meeting was held in the mid-west was in 1972 when we met in St. Louis to join in the 125th anniversary of the publication of the Evangelical Catechism. If you desire more information about the meeting, please write to Dr. Lowell H. Zuck, Eden Theological Seminary, 475 East Lockwood Avenue, Webster Groves, MO 63119.

"FESTIVAL OF THE CHURCH" TO BE HELD IN SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH, CHICAGO

A two day celebration commemorating the unification of the German Evangelical Synods of North America will be held in St. Paul's Church, 655 West Fullerton Parkway, Chicago, on Sunday and Monday, September 25 and 26. The "Festival" will be sponsored by the Illinois Conference, the Chicago Metropolitan Association and the Office for Church Life and Leadership.

The Evangelical Synod of North America came into being during the years 1872-1877, though its roots go back to 1840 and the formation of the "Kirchenverein des Westens." Like so many of the structures of the Church throughout history, its emergence was unique and the result of a long and creative struggle.

The German immigrants gathered in clusters during the 19th century and maintained the religious and cultural ties which were most meaningful to them. Laity and pastors labored to organize churches and united in various regional "Kirchenvereine" (Church Societies). The earliest of these was the "Church Society of the West" established in 1840 at Gravius Settlement, Missouri. In Chicago, the first German Evangelical congregation was St. Pauls Church, dating from 1843.

What happened in Chicago and in the St. Louis area, also occurred in places like Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and New York State. In 1858 and in 1860 congregations in Ohio and New York joined the "Church Society of the West."

In 1872 the United Evangelical Synod of the Northwest and the United Evangelical Synod of the East became part of the Evangelical Synod of the West which was meeting at Quincy, Illinois. Five years later, in 1877, this action was ratified in Chicago's St. Pauls Church and became known as the German Evangelical Synod of North America. It was one of the most important ecumenical moves in American church history.

The Evangelical Synod never referred to itself as a "Church" but as a "Synod," suggesting by this term that it was a part of the universal Church of Jesus Christ. The Synods always looked toward a larger union of all churches which proclaimed Christ as Lord and Savior.

In the early days, these churches tried to minister chiefly to the German immigrants, but records reveal that as early as 1860, English was used in some of the church services and Synod meetings.

The theological stance of the Evangelical Synod is perhaps best summarized by one sentence: "In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty, in all things charity." (cf. Ephesians 4,3. "Eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.")

In 1934, the Evangelical Synod of North America merged with the Reformed Church in the United States and became the Evangelical and Reformed Church. In 1957, the merger between the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches took place, creating the United Church of Christ.

The Festival will begin on Sunday at 4:00 p.m. with a celebration of the Holy Communion according to the Book of Worship of the Evangelical Synod of North America. Dr. Robert Fauth, President of Eden Theological Seminary will preach the sermon. Following a dinner at St. Paul's Church, Professor Walter Brueggemann of Eden will speak on "Our Heritage and our Commitment."

On Monday, addresses will be given by Professor Gabriel Fackre of Andover Newton Theological Seminary, Professor Barbara Brown Zikmund of Chicago Theological Seminary, and Dr. Arthur Gray, formerly pastor of Park Manor Church.

The closing address, "A Vision of the Future" will be given at 7:30 p.m. by the Rev. Dr. Avery Post, President of the United Church of Christ.

For further details write to Pastor Frederick R. Trost, St. Paul's Church, 655 W. Fullerton Pkwy., Chicago, IL 60614.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY UCC!

Happy birthday to us, indeed! In 1977 we celebrate the twentieth birthday of the United Church of Christ.

The United Church of Christ came into being in June 1957, through a merger of Christian fellowships and traditions hundreds of years old. The Congregational Christian and Evangelical and Reformed churches were brought together twenty years ago into a stronger, corporate fellowship eager to do God's work.

Out of the streams of history, rich in heritage, we have reached a place where in hope and expectance, the United Church of Christ moves forward, firm in the faith that God "bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ and binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races." During the past two decades a witnessing, caring, serving church has developed. We celebrate our coming together as we remember our beginnings.

In 1877 the union of the Evangelical Synod of the West, the United Evangelical Synod of the Northwest and the United Evangelical Synod of the East was ratified to form the Evangelical Synod of North America. This year we celebrate that event of a century ago.

With its roots in the *Kirchenverein des Westens* and its future in the United Church of Christ, the Evangelical Synod of North America combined with the German Reformed Church in 1934 to form the Evangelical and Reformed Church. We celebrate its early beginnings.

Parallel celebrations are being held in Chicago on September 25 and 26, 1977, at St. Paul's U.C.C., Chicago, and in St. Louis on October 10 and 11, 1977, at St. Paul's U.C.C., St. Louis. Each celebration will feature lectures and an Evangelical communion service.

Laity and clergy from throughout the United Church of Christ are being encouraged to attend. It will be a time of remembering, giving thanks, thought, exchange, discussion and debate as we consider the calling of God to the Church in our time as well as our heritage. For further information, write Pastor Frederick R. Trost, 845 West Fullerton Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614.

At Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society Executive Committee will meet on Monday evening, October 10, 1977, at 8 p.m. At St. Paul's U.C.C., St. Louis, on Tuesday, October 11, 1977, the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society and the St. Louis U.C.C. Ministerium will hold a combined festival communion service, historical address by Dr. Lowell H. Zuck, festival luncheon, and the annual business meeting of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society between 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. A program and reservation form for luncheon at the St. Louis meeting is enclosed in this Newsletter. Please

make your reservations early since luncheon is available for only four-hundred persons, and up to one-hundred-sixty people from North Carolina have already made reservations!

--Adapted from CHURCH LEADERS BULLETIN,
Summer, 1977, by
Dr. Lowell H. Zuck

FAITH OF OUR FATHERS - KEEPING IT

An article by the Rev. Dr. James E. Wagner, President of the former Evangelical and Reformed Church and Co-President of the United Church of Christ, 1957-1961.

Musing on Dr. Bricker's invitation to write a brief statement for this issue of the Society's Newsletter, the words of the old hymn, "Faith of our Fathers, Holy Faith, We Will Be True to Thee till Death" came again and again to mind. If we are to be true to that faith we must do everything we possibly can to preserve an adequate knowledge and understanding of the faith; and, thinking along that line a sequence of historical resources began to line themselves up. Here they are.

The Bible. If the churches, especially through their Sunday Schools and other educational programs, do not preserve and pass on that "source of all sources," knowledge of the Bible will die out. This places an immeasurable responsibility on our people, from our curriculum planners on down to the lowliest Sunday School teacher and the most humble set of parents.

The Creeds, especially the Apostles' and the Nicene Creeds. They reflect what Christians of the first three centuries - those closest to the times when He lived and taught and died and rose again - believed about Him. Church School classes, and especially Confirmation classes, are where these creeds should become known--or they are not likely to become known at all.

Our More Immediate Protestant Roots. The General Synod of 1977 was kind enough to send me - as have all previous General Synods of the United Church - a message of greeting and good wishes. In my response I ventured to write: "On the conviction that the validity of our hopes rests on the devotion we preserve to our memories, and when 'roots' have once more been given their rightful primacy - (I suggest) that the General Synod in all its educational programs give a fresh exaltation to such historical documents as the Savoy Declaration, the Cambridge Platform, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Evangelical Catechism, and on the Word of God in the Holy Scriptures which these documents sought to interpret and to work into the fabric of our historic fellowships."

(NOTE: for pastors and congregations most immediately linked with the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, Eden Publishing House in St. Louis offers inexpensive editions of the Heidelberg Catechism (both the 400th Anniversary Edition and the older 20th Century Edition), and of the Evangelical Catechism.)

Records of Ongoing Congregational Life. Church record books (members listed as received, baptisms, confirmations, individual members' communion records--are they any longer kept? marriages, deaths, etc.) Minutes of consistories and church councils, neatly and accurately recorded, carefully bound every five or ten years. Pictures of confirmation classes, dated and the confirmands accurately named in order row by row. Materials like these should be kept in fireproof cabinets. All these items reflect, for future generations, how a congregation has kept the faith.

To be sent to the Historical Society archives at Lancaster or St. Louis: copies of special programs, e.g., ordinations, installations, pastoral retirements, special recognition of devoted lay men and women, special congregational actions addressed to Association, Conference, public officials, etc. Copies of special materials developed locally for church school or confirmation or other such groups.

All such recordings of each congregation's life indicate how a group of God's people, in their generation, have understood, interpreted, testified to, and practiced the historic Christian faith.

NEWS FROM THE EDEN ARCHIVES

William G. Chrystal, Archivist of the Eden Archives, in addition to his archival duties, has been spending a great percentage of his time this past summer compiling a bibliography of materials in the Eden Archives which present the historical relationship of the Evangelical Synod of North America to the Evangelical Church in Germany. This project, which was made possible by a grant from the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, is intended to provide resource material for the UCC/EKU study groups now working on closer relations between the United Church of Christ and the Evangelical Churches of both East and West Germany, under the chairmanship of M. Douglas Meeks, Professor of Ethics at Eden Seminary.

Mr. Chrystal has just completed editing a collection of early writings by Reinhold Niebuhr that will be released by the Eden Publishing House in December, 1977. These essays, which are completely unknown to students of Niebuhr's thought, were mostly culled from Eden Seminary and Evangelical Synod publications found in the Eden Archives. They provide a glimpse of Niebuhr heretofore unobtainable. Beginning with an essay he wrote as an Eden student at the age of 18, they follow his many interests up to 1931. Especially valuable are his writings on the First World War and his prophetic 1919 look at church union within the Evangelical Synod, where he suggested that the basically-Lutheran Evangelical Synod could actually only really join with the Reformed Church in the U.S. This work may be ordered from the Eden Publishing House, 1724 Chouteau Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63103. In addition, Chrystal has an article, "Reinhold Niebuhr and the First World War," appearing in the Fall, 1977 issue of The Journal of Presbyterian History, and a brief piece on Dr. Samuel D. Press in one of the fall issues of A.D.

--William G. Chrystal

CHRISTOPHER NIEBUHR VISITS EDEN ARCHIVES

The recent visit of Christopher Niebuhr of Albany, New York to Eden Seminary renewed a long-standing family relationship. The Urban Planner for New York State, who is a graduate of Harvard University and has a Master's Degree from the Wharton School of Finance and Commerce, is both a son and grandson of Eden graduates, and his great-grandfather was a Barmen missionary who served as a pastor in the Evangelical Synod.

Christopher's grandfather, Gustav Niebuhr, served several Missouri and Illinois churches, including Wright City and St. Charles (St. John's) in Missouri and St. John's in Lincoln, Illinois. He was also President of the North Illinois District. Edward Hosto, his great-grandfather, was a pastor in Alhambra, Ridge Prairie, Breese, Summerfield, Maeystown, New Hanover and Burksville, all in Illinois. They became members of the same family, however, when Edward's daughter, Lydia, married Gustav

Niebuhr in California, where the two pastors were serving as missionaries, and where Niebuhr founded the first Evangelical Synod Church on the west coast, St. John's in San Francisco.

Two of Gustav and Lydia's sons and a daughter went on to important teaching ministries in the church. Reinhold Niebuhr, Christopher's father, served for many years as a Professor at Union Seminary in New York City, while his uncle, H. Richard (Helmut) Niebuhr was a Professor at Yale University. Indeed, many people consider these brothers two of America's leading theologians in the twentieth century. Hulda Niebuhr, was a Professor at McCormick Seminary in Chicago.

While fully embodying the Evangelical tradition through his family roots, Christopher Niebuhr serves as a Deacon in the First Congregational Church of Stockbridge, Massachusetts, the town in which his mother, Ursula Niebuhr, herself a retired Professor of Religion, resides, and he enjoys doing detailed research in early American history, especially that of New England Congregationalism.

--William G. Chrystal

NEWS FROM THE UCC ARCHIVES AT LANCASTER

The UCC archives at Lancaster have an interesting history. A short resume of how they were founded may help our readers understand our work. They were established formally in 1863 with the organization of the Historical Society of the Reformed Church in the U.S. but the concern for the preservation of ecclesiastical records led the Synod of 1817 to establish archives at First Reformed Church, Lancaster, Pa. Over the years some of the earlier records were lost but most of them reside in the present archival collection at Lancaster.

The Evangelical and Reformed Church continued the archival collection at Lancaster as the central depository for the denomination and established the Eden Archives as the depository of archival material dealing with the Evangelical Synod of North America and the churches on the western frontiers.

With the formation of the United Church of Christ, the archival collection at Lancaster was designated a depository for all official United Church of Christ records. The Office of Archivist of the UCC was established by the former Historical Commission and continued by the present Historical Council.

The present archival collection which is housed in the Philip Schaff Library is known as the UCC Archives and the Library of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society. In a later issue of the NEWS we will describe the collection and the services we perform for the churches and researchers.

During the summer months over 500 feet of new shelving has been erected to provide storage space for archival boxes. Work will begin soon in calendaring missionary records and placing them in archival boxes which will be placed on the new shelving.

A large shipment of biographical records of pastors and leaders of the UCC sent to us by the Office of Communication has been processed. The Genealogical Society of Utah has microfilmed recent congregational and pastoral records. These rolls of microfilm are being integrated into our collection of microfilm.

Miss Elizabeth Sanders, a retired librarian, has joined our part-time staff as a special researcher. She has been assisting in answering inquiries about the

history of local congregations and pastorates. She is also compiling a record of our holdings of the official publications of all the UCC Conferences and Associations.

Dr. Herbert B. Anstaett, Executive Secretary of the ERHS who recently retired for a second time from professional library work, spends most of his days in the Archives assisting patrons. Miss Mary Margaret Rupp does volunteer work indexing the Unger Collection of church and family records. Mrs. George H. Bricker works several days a week as assistant archivist. Miss Lucile Brackbill serves as part-time cataloger as she has for many years.

Dr. Randall Buchman, chairman of the Historical Council, visited the Archives after the meeting of General Synod and outlined projects that are planned by the Council. Material relating to the Oral History Project will be mailed in October.

The Rev. Richard Taylor of Hinsdale, Mass., spent a week in the archives again this summer compiling a listing of all the churches in the UCC and their founding dates. He has been working on this project for about twelve years. His master file has at least 20,000 entries.

--George H. Bricker, UCC Archivist

BOOK SALE OF OUT-OF-PRINT REFORMED CHURCH LITERATURE

For the past twenty years Dr. Bricker has been collecting out-of-print publications dealing with Reformed Church literature for the ERHS Library. We now have a considerable number of duplicates that we can offer to our readers and researchers. THESE BOOKS WILL NOT BE SOLD TO DEALERS FOR RESALE!

If you wish to purchase any of these publications, please send your check made out to the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society addressed in care of Dr. Bricker. We will not bill. The price includes handling and postage. The list will continue in a later issue of the NEWS.

- Theodore Appel. The Beginnings of the Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church in the U.S., 1817-1832. 1886. \$10.00
_____. The Life and Work of John Williamson Nevin. 1889 \$10.00
Allen R. Bartholomew. Fifty Years of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in the U.S., 1877-1927. 1927. \$2.00
_____. The Martyr of Huping. The Life Story of William Anson Reimert, Missionary in China. 1925. \$2.50
Theodore Bollinger. Huldreich Zwingli: Reformed and Patriot, Founder of the Reformed Churches, 1484-1531. (Pamphlet) 1931. \$1.00
Guy P. Bready. History of Maryland Classis of the Reformed Church in the U.S. since 1820. 1938. \$10.00
Charles D. Spotts. Camp Mensch Mill, a History and Nature Guide. \$1.50
Arthur V. Casselman. The End of the Beginning. A Narrative of the Missionary Enterprises of the Reformed Church. 1936. \$3.50
_____. Into All the World: A Brief Study of the Missionary enterprise of the Christian Church. 1934. \$1.00
_____. Red and Black and God: A Record of the China Missions. Evangelical and Reformed Church. 1940. \$1.00
_____. Unto the Progress of the Gospel. A Narrative of the Japanese Mission of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. 1942. \$1.00
Acts and Proceedings of the Coetus and Synod of the German Reformed Church in the U.S. from 1791 to 1816. \$2.50

- Joseph H. Dubbs. History of Franklin and Marshall College, 1787-1903. \$15.00
_____. Leaders of the Reformation. 1898. \$3.00
_____. Historic Manual of the Reformed Church in the U.S. 1885. \$5.00
David Dunn, et al. History of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. 1961. \$3.00
History of the East Susquehanna Classis, Eastern Synod...1856-1941. \$2.50
B. F. Fackenthal, Jr. List of Deceased Ministers of the Reformed Church in
the U.S., 1710-1929. \$2.50
D. William Gerhard. History of Lancaster Classis, Eastern Synod, 1852-1902. \$5.00

Addresses in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of the Rev. Dr. Henry Harbaugh and the Rev. Dr. Emanuel Vogel Gerhart delivered respectively at the sessions of Potomac Synod, and the Eastern Synod, Lancaster, Pa. October, 1917. 1918. \$2.00

- James I. Good. The Early Fathers of the Reformed Church in the United States, pamphlet, 1897. \$2.00
_____. Famous Missionaries of the Reformed Church. 1903. \$5.00
_____. Famous Reformers of the Reformed and Presbyterian Church, 1916. \$2.50
_____. Famous Places of the Reformed Churches: a religious guide book to Europe. 1910. \$3.50
_____. Famous Women of the Reformed Church, 1901. \$3.00
_____. History of the Reformed Church of Germany, 1620-1890. 1894. \$10.00
_____. Life of the Rev. Benjamin Schneider, D.D. a missionary of the Reformed Church in the U.S. in Turkey, 1834-1877. 1908. \$2.50
_____. The Origin of the Reformed Church in Germany. 1887. \$5.00
_____. Rambles Round Reformed Lands. 1889. \$2.50
_____. The Reformed Reformation. 1916. \$3.00
Goshenhoppen Classis, Centennial booklet of the classis, 1841-1941. 1946. \$1.00
Great Phrases of the Christian Language, a devotional book, ed. by Roger L. Shinn et al. 1958. \$2.00

A Handbook on Worship: An Interpretation of the Book of Worship of the Evangelical and Reformed Church by Scott F. Brenner et al. 1941. \$5.00

Handbook of the Board of Home Missions of the Reformed Church in the U.S., 1928-29 \$1.00

- Henry Harbaugh. The Golden Censer or devotions for young Christians. 1860. \$1.50
_____. Harbaugh's Harfe, 1870. \$12.50
_____. Heaven. 1849. \$3.50
_____. Heaven, or An earnest and scriptural inquiry into the abode of the sainted dead. 1849. \$3.50
_____. The Heavenly Home. 1853. \$3.50
_____. The Heavenly Recognition. 1851. \$3.50
_____. A Plea for the Lord's Portion of a Christian's Wealth. 1885. \$3.50
_____. Poems. 1860. \$5.00
_____. Union with the Church. 1890. \$1.00

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

Registration Form

Please return this form by September 20th to:

Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society
The Annual Meeting
St. Paul's United Church of Christ
3510 Giles Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63116

- () I plan to attend the Annual Meeting at St. Paul's Church.
- () Please make reservations for _____ persons for the luncheon,
12:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 11, 1977.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please note: Those making reservations at the Howard Johnson's Motor
Lodge, Hampton Avenue at I-44, should use the mailing
address, 5915 Wilson Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63110.
The toll free number for reservations is 1-800-654-2000.