



News from the

EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Sponsored Agency of the Historical Council, United Church of Christ

December 1979

Volume 7, No. 1

116th ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN TRINITY CHURCH, COLLEGEVILLE, OCTOBER 17th

About 200 people gathered for the 116th Annual Meeting of the Society in Trinity Church, Collegeville, Pa., across from the campus of Ursinus College, on Wednesday evening, October 17th.

The host pastor, the Rev. Martha Kriebel, presented a slide show on the history of the congregation which is celebrating its 125th anniversary as a Reformed Church. However the congregation began as a liberal Mennonite Church, then became an ecumenical congregation and eventually a congregation of the Reformed Church when Ursinus College was established.

The annual address was given by the Rev. Dr. Sheldon E. Mackey, formerly Secretary of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and Executive Secretary of the Stewardship Council of the United Church of Christ. His address, "Some Reflections on the Evangelical and Reformed Experience" will be published and distributed to the membership.

The annual reports were given and are included in the following pages of the NEWS.

The present officers will continue another year until the Society is incorporated a non-profit organization and a new constitution is adopted.

FROM THE GUEST REGISTER

Since Jan. 1st, 673 persons have visited the Archives for the purpose of research.

Fifteen groups have signed the register. Most of these have been addressed by staff members.

The Archives are included on all tours of the Seminary by visiting groups altho they may not have signed the register.

GENEALOGICAL INQUIRIES

We receive approximately 25 genealogical inquiries each week. All are answered with a form letter saying that we do not do genealogical work. We make our church records available to those who come to the archives. Also we will photocopy church records at 15¢ per page plus \$5.00 per hour for secretarial work. Some records are on microfilm that may be rented for \$5.00 per reel.

HISTORICAL COUNCIL MEETS

The Historical Council UCC met in the Archives located in the Philip Schaff Library, Lancaster, Pa. November 9-10.

Consideration was given to the coming 25th anniversary of the UCC.

The Council is planning the publication of an historical journal of the UCC to be called HISTORICAL INTELLIGENCE. Harold F. Worthley will serve as editor of the first issue.

It was recommended that the Council meets only once a year but an Executive Committee meet semi-annually.

A budget of \$22,000 was set for the coming year as follows: Meetings, \$2,100; CCHS, \$5,000; ERHS, \$4,000; UCC Archives, \$10,900.

Dr. Randall Buchman continues as chairperson. New members appointed by the Executive Council, UCC, are Ms. Alice Jones of Duke University, Rev. Knighton Stanley of Washington, DC, and Dr. Barbara Zikmund of Chicago Theological Seminary.

NEXT ISSUE OF THE NEWS

The Eden Archives of the Society will be featured in the next issue. Wilfred W. Bohley, Eden Archivist will serve as guest editor.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT/ARCHIVIST TO THE ANNUAL MEETING, October 17, 1979

The Society has completed another successful year of fulfilling its purpose of collecting, calendaring, cataloging and preserving the records of the denomination and of local churches. It has been partially successful in stimulating the interest of local churches and other bodies of the church in historical interests. It has been unsuccessful in its publishing efforts.

The Society has been flooded with historical materials that has come from the instrumentalities because of their recent moves. I estimate that this summer we received over 100 cartons of material from the New York offices. Some of this material has been sorted before it was shipped, much has not. It will take more than a year for our small part-time staff to sort and organize these papers. However we see this work as an important activity and welcome it. Also more local churches are sending us material such as parish monthly news sheets, programs of anniversaries, and printed or mimeographed histories.

We have stimulated interest among local congregations to preserve their old records on microfilm. We have the work done at cost and the average charge to a congregation is only about \$60.00. At the present time this is the surest and safest way for church records to be preserved.

During the past year we have been unsuccessful in our publishing efforts. We have not published the Newsletter as we promised to do. One reason has been that as editor I have been limited by a physical eye condition which prohibits me from using the typewriter. I have tried to interest others in accepting the editorship and have been unsuccessful. There will be a newsletter reporting this meeting and I am hopeful that we can have another issue at year's end. All I can do is hope, not guarantee.

We have purchased a new addressing system which is much easier to use in addressing envelopes and I can report that our mailing list is as up to date as is humanly possible. With the new system address changes can be made as soon as they are received. We do not have to wait until mailing time to make corrections.

The most important project for the year has been the beginning of the process of incorporating the Society. Previously we functioned under the charter of the Evangelical and Reformed Church as a continuing corporation. However since this, this body has given their power of attorney to the Executive Council of the United Church of Christ, our status as a not-for-profit organization is in question. The Executive Committee has approved the following name for the new corporation, "Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society of the United Church of Christ," and the following paragraph as the purpose of the Society. This purpose will be the Constitution of the Society. The By-Laws are still to be written and will be done after the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania approves the Purpose.

The purpose of the new corporation of the Society will be as follows:

- (1) To stimulate and cultivate interest in the heritage of the United Church of Christ as found in the former Reformed Church in the United States, the former Evangelical Synod of North America and the former Evangelical and Reformed Church
- (2) to collect and preserve historical material of the national and regional bodies and local churches of the United Church of Christ and make it accessible to all who are interested
- (3) to maintain mutual relationships and to cooperate with all groups in the United Church of Christ and other ecclesiastical bodies interested in the stimulation, cultivation collection, and preservation of church history, especially the Congregational Christian Historical Society
- (4) with all the rights, powers, privileges and immunities granted and not expressly denied by the Non-Profit Corporation Law of 1972, as amended
- (5) to provide that the Corporation shall not carry on any activity not permitted to be

carried on by (a) a Corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or (b) a Corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code, and to provide that if the Corporation is to be dissolved, all assets of the Corporation which shall remain after the payment of liabilities shall be transferred to exempt organizations within the meaning of Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

It is hoped that the incorporation and the new constitution will be available for approval by the Executive Committee at its spring meeting.

The archival work of the Society is partially supported by the Historical Council of the United Church of Christ since the archives of the Society are also the official archives of the United Church of Christ. Also the general work of the Society is supported by the Historical Council since they give us an annual grant of \$4,000 and we participate in the annual financial drive of the Historical Council. It is really difficult to separate our work as a Society from the archival work of the Historical Council.

There are actually two staffs at our headquarters in the Philip Schaff Library. The Staff of the Society is the following:

President/Archivist	George H. Bricker
Executive Secretary	Herbert B. Anstaett
Assistant Archivist	Mrs. George H. Bricker
Cataloger	Miss Lucile Brackbill
Volunteer Worker	Miss Mary Margaret Rupp

The staff of the Office of Archivist of the United Church of Christ is the following:

Archivist of the UCC	George H. Bricker
Secretary	Miss Connie Stetter
Researcher	Miss Elizabeth Sanders

These two staffs work as a unit to do whatever needs to be done in the Lancaster archives. However we make the distinction because the Historical Council pays the salary of the full-time secretary and the part-time researcher.

In addition the Society maintains archives at Eden Seminary and at Catawba College. These archives have their own staffs and the Society pays a major portion of their expenses.

The future of the Society depends upon the creation of more interest in the work of the Society and the development of younger leadership. This has been our goal for many years but have had little success in implementing it. The Executive Committee must see this as a major responsibility. I have told them that as soon as the incorporation of the Society is completed it is my intention to resign as president of the Society. It has been the tradition of the Society that the president remains in office until his death. I intend to break that tradition, God willing!

The Annual meeting for 1980 will be held in Nebraska. We are a national Society and hold annual meetings in different regions of our Church. We have received an invitation from the Conference Minister of Nebraska Conference and the historians of that conference to hold our next meeting with them. We have accepted and I hope that we can greet many of you next year in Nebraska.

George H. Bricker, President/Archivist

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Since last October the Society published one number of the News from the Evangelical And Reformed Historical Society, issued as volume 6, no.1, November 1978, edited by Dr. George H. Bricker, President. Dr. Bricker also issued in mimeographed form an unnumbered one page bulletin dated August 23, 1979, entitled Official Call To The 116th Annual Meet-

ing, detailing the program that he also arranged for October 17, 1979 at Collegeville, Pennsylvania, in Trinity Church celebrating the 150th anniversary of its founding. Approximately 1600 copies of each of the two items were mailed to the Society's constituents, consisting mostly of persons and organizations that have during the past few years made contributions by way of memberships, either through the Historical Council (previously known as Historical Commission) Appeal, or directly to the Society. It is well to note for the record that in the latest Appeal mailing that an attractive folder giving brief information on the two Societies and their sponsor agency, the Historical Council, also described the types of memberships available as follows:

Individual Memberships -
 Sponsor (\$100 or more)
 Supporting (\$50 to \$99) Individual (\$10)
 Sustaining (\$25 to \$49) Student or Retiree (\$5)
 Institutional Memberships -
 Sponsor (\$500 or more) Sustaining (\$50 to \$249)
 Supporting (\$250 to \$499) Institutional (\$20)

After promotional cost deductions, the Society received from November 1978 to the end of July 1979 through the Appeal a net total of \$2,093.01 for Individual and Institutional Memberships. The C.C. Historical Society received the same amount since the net amounts received were divided equally between the two Societies. The lists of names and addresses and the amounts contributed were supplied by Florence Coppola of the U.C.C. staff in New York City. Approximately seventy-five per cent of the 447 contributors were individuals, and twenty-five per cent were from churches, associations, conferences, and miscellaneous sources. In the four groups making up the institutional category, the churches were the major group contributors totalling about seventy per cent of the twenty-five per cent mentioned. The Society appreciates this support given through the Appeal to the ongoing work of the Society by all the participants, both individual and institutional.

The Executive Secretary is responsible for reporting required data, throughout the year, to the Internal Revenue Service for the staff members. He writes all vouchers which are submitted to The Treasurer. He attempts to keep the addresses of members in the membership file up-to-date and checks various sources in order to remove the cards of deceased members from the file. He writes thank you letters for financial contributions made directly to the Society. He assists in the reference work given to those who come to use the Society's library and to others who write for various kinds of information relating to the contents of the collection.

Herbert B. Anstaett, Executive Secretary

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

For the Period January 1, 1979 - September 30, 1979

	<u>INCOME</u>	
Executive Council, U.C.C.		\$ 3,000.00
Conferences:		
Missouri Conference	\$ 50.00	
Penn Central Conference	450.00	
Indiana - Kentucky Conference (For 1978)	200.00	
Indiana - Kentucky Conference (For 1979)	200.00	900.00
Associations:		
Hudson Mohawk Association -- NY Conference	25.00	
Susquehanna Association -- NY Conference	50.00	75.00
Dues Received Through Lancaster		30.00
Life Fees (I.C.G. Campbell)		100.00
Historical Council Financial Campaign		2,093.01
Interest on Investments		1,698.75

(Continued on next page)

INCOME (cont.)

Miscellaneous Income		1,194.94
Memorial Gifts and Other Gifts		
Arcadia Foundation	10,000.00	
Others	134.00	10,134.00
Historical Council--Archives--Reimbursed		<u>5,102.01</u>
		<u>\$24,327.71</u>

EXPENSES

Lancaster:		
Salaries and Payroll Taxes	\$ 6,228.26	
Supplies	305.38	
Equipment	28.10	
Binding	34.00	
Postage	166.00	
Miscellaneous	<u>1,876.22</u>	\$ 8,637.96
Eden:		
Salaries and Payroll Taxes	3,415.51	
Supplies	49.84	
Equipment	894.81	
Binding	82.10	
Postage	<u>15.00</u>	4,457.26
General:		
Salaries and Payroll Taxes	2,150.10	
Meetings and Travel	1,134.78	
Honoraria	50.00	
Printing and Postage	162.97	
Miscellaneous	<u>3,589.01</u>	7,086.86
Historical Council--Archives		<u>2,879.77</u>
		<u>\$23,061.85</u>
	Surplus	1,265.86

BALANCE SHEET - OPERATING ACCOUNT

ASSETS

Checking Account -- National Central Bank	\$ 1,130.34
24 Hour Statement Savings Account -- National Central Bank	20,273.47
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>39,840.94</u>

LIABILITIES AND PRINCIPAL

<u>Liabilities:</u>		-0-
Principal -- 12/31/78	\$38,575.08	
Plus Surplus 1/1/79-9/30/79	1,265.86	39,840.94
		<u>\$39,840.94</u>

Myron E. Wolf, Treasurer

REPORT OF THE EDEN ARCHIVES

Work of rearranging entire archives to achieve more floor space and inventory of entire archives was completed during this year.

(Continued on next page)

During Eden Seminary convocation, April 17, an Archives Open House was held which was attended by over a hundred persons. All ministers attending were asked to contribute their curriculum vitae, and also anniversary booklets containing histories of their congregations as well as their church record books after having had these books microfilmed. This was successful as many of these items have been received.

Received several museum pieces of note including a German Bible printed in 1696 and a cradle basket woven by Rev. Louis Nollau on board ship from Africa to America for his first child which was born shortly after arriving in St. Louis.

Two showcases were purchased in which articles of museum interest were put on display, and several drawer files were purchased.

Two retired ministers were engaged for genealogical research. Several wives of ministers volunteered 3 or 4 hours on Thursdays working on various jobs including updating our ministerial card files, etc.

As of the beginning of the new school year in September, three students at Eden Seminary have been assigned part time work in a Federally Funded Student Assistance Program. They are compiling alphabetical indexes of baptisms, marriages and burials in church record books in our collection which will greatly reduce time required in genealogical research. One is also serving as typist.

Financially, we have received several gifts of money which was added toward money received from the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society in the purchase of two drawer files.

Wilferd W. Bohley, Eden Archivist

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

Forms for the renewal of your membership in the Evangelical & Reformed and the Congregational Christian Historical Societies were mailed in October from the New York office of the Historical Council. If you have not returned yours as yet there is still time to do so.

Individual memberships are as follows:

Sponsor \$100 or more
Supporting \$50 to \$99
Sustaining \$25 to \$49
Individual \$10
Student/Retiree \$5.00

Institutional memberships:

Sponsor \$500 or more
Supporting \$250 to \$499
Sustaining \$50 to \$249
Institutional \$20

(next column please)

Checks should be made payable to the Historical Council and sent to 105 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016.

If you wish to join only the ERHS, make your check payable to Evangelical & Reformed Historical Society and mail to 555 West James St., Lancaster, Pa. 17603; if only the CCHS, mail check to 14 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108.

CHURCH RECORDS MICROFILMED

The Society continues its service of having records of local churches microfilmed at cost.

The average cost is about \$75.00 for 1800 pages.

This is the best way to preserve your records. Write the Archivist for information.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP IN ERHS

The ERHS Executive Committee has established life memberships for individuals at \$100. Many times these are given as memorials to loved ones who have passed on. If you desire a life membership, write to the Executive Secretary.

Please note that even though you are a life member you will receive membership notices from the Historical Council.

The N E W S is published by the Evangelical & Reformed Historical Society at its headquarters, 555 West James St., Lancaster, Pa. 17603.

The editor solicits your comments and suggestions.