

NEWS

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122nd ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT ST. JOHN'S (HAIN'S) REFORMED CHURCH, WERNERSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

The 122nd Annual Meeting of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society took place at St. John's (Hain's) Reformed Church, Wernersville, PA on October 26, 1985. The Society shared in the celebration of the 250th anniversary of St. John's Church. The meeting was held on a beautiful fall day in a beautiful setting.

There were more than one hundred people in attendance including seventy-two persons from North Carolina on an "Historical Bus Tour" organized and led by the Reverend Frank Snider. Two splendid addresses were presented; the first by the Reverend Dr. John C. Shetler, former Conference Minister of Pennsylvania Southeast Conference on the topic: "The Reformed Church and Sectarian Divisiveness: Eighteenth, Twentieth Century;" the second by Dr. John B. Frantz, Professor of History, Penn State University on the subject: "Reformed What For: Church Life among German Reformed Colonists in the Mid-Eighteenth Century."

A delicious lunch was served by some of the ladies of the Church.

A display of historical items in the life of St. John's Church was avail-

TRIBUTE TO AND MEMORIAL MINUTE ON DR. JAMES E. WAGNER

The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society records the death on Sunday, October 20, 1985 of Dr. James E. Wagner, member, benefactor, officer and friend of this Society.

James E. Wagner was born May 16, 1900 in a log house near Williamsburg, Blair County, Pennsylvania, the son of Raymond C. and Callie Ida Fegley Wagner. Later the family moved to Altoona, Pa. where James grew to adult life.

Mr. Wagner was married to Ruth Doutrich Felty of Elizabethtown, PA on October 30, 1923. They had one daughter, Callie married to Harold Lovett who resides in Florida. There are three grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

A resident of Wyncote Home of the United Church of Christ, Wyncote, PA since 1982, Dr. Wagner died on Sunday, October 20, 1985.

Dr. Wagner graduated from Altoona High School and Findlay College, Findlay, Ohio with the A.B. degree in 1921. He received his Bachelor of Divinity degree from Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, PA in 1931. Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster honored him with the Doctor of Divinity degree in

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122nd ANNUAL MEETING (Cont'd. from p. 1)

able for persons to view during the lunch hour. We were most appreciative of the gracious hospitality provided by members of the congregation of St. John's and their pastor, the Reverend Peter Goguts.

Our celebrative mood, however, was dampened by the news of the death of Dr. James E. Wagner who had been such a strong supporter of this Society and outstanding leader of the Church.

The tribute to and memorial minute of Dr. James E. Wagner presented by Dr. Shetler at the meeting is here published in full.

Synopses of the two papers and the reports presented to the Annual Business Meeting appear also in this newsletter.

Next year's Annual Meeting will take place at Zion's Reformed Church (United Church of Christ), Greenville, PA October 18, 1986 in connection with the 125th Anniversary of that congregation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES E. WAGNER (Cont'd. from p.1)

1943.

Dr. Wagner was ordained October 8, 1921 by the East Pennsylvania Eldership of the Church of God and served as Pastor of the North Street Church of God, Harrisburg, Pa. 1922-1931. He served as Pastor of St. Peter's Reformed Church, Lancaster, Pa. 1931-1953 where he ministered to the college and seminary community. During this period he also was instructor in Religious History and Literature at Franklin and Marshall Academy 1935-42 as well as Inter-Instructor in Practical Theology at Lancaster Seminary.

The Evangelical and Reformed Church at its General Synod elected him First Vice President 1950 and in 1953 President of the denomination. With the formation of the United Church of Christ in 1957 through the union of the Evangelical and Reformed Church with the Congregational Christian Churches Dr. Wagner was elected Co-president of the new denomination which office he filled until 1961. Ursinus College, related to the United Church of Christ, called him to the office of Vice President where he served from 1961 to 1968.

Dr. Wagner was a member of the General Board of the National Council of Churches from 1950 to 1961 and was Vice President 1954-57. He was a member of the Central Committee of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches 1954-64 and Vice President 1959-64. During the period of his executive duties he made ten trips abroad to 30 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America.

He was the author of three books, So You're a Consistoryman, a manual for Elders and Deacons, Perspectives for a Local Church Officer and a volume on church doctrine, Incarnation to Ascension. He was editor of the Conference-Courier of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ. During his Lancaster years, 1937-1953, he wrote a week column "As I See Life" for the "Lancaster Advertiser". He also wrote a history of Christ Church, Norristown of which he was

a member.

He served ten years as a member of the Board of Trustees of Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster and was a member of the corporation of the Presbyterian Minister's Fund, a life insurance company for ministers and laypersons. He was a director of the Lancaster County Branch of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind. He served as third Vice-President of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society.

We the members of the Society celebrate the gift of grace from God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, to James E. Wagner with the promise of eternal life in the Church Triumphant. We are grateful for his distinguished ministry, his pastoral concern, his illustrious world wide leadership, and his vision of the Church as the Body of Christ: one, holy, catholic, apostolic and reformed.

We give thanks for the example he has set us. He was one who out of his means all his life tithed what God entrusted to him; One who maintained a growing relationship with people as long as human strength was given him through letters and prayers; One who loved his friends, prayed for those who differed with him and most of all who loved his own family and was so happy to tell of their achievements.

We commend Mrs. Wagner, daughter, Callie, son-in-law, Harold, grandchildren and great grandchildren to the loving care of God in Christ, the Head of the Church and that great Shepherd of the Sheep who daily seeks his own, nurtures them, protects them, watches over them and gives them life.

We shall always lift to God in worship our thanks for James E. Wagner. His spirit is reflected in his oft spoken phrase, "If I were to sing the doxology every hour for all the days of my life I would not be able to thank God enough for all this blessing to us."

I move the adoption of this minute and indicate that a copy of it shall be sent to Mrs. James E. Wagner, Mrs. Callie Lovett and a copy be included in the Minutes of this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Shetler

Memorial Prayer was offered by J. C. Shetler

THE REFORMED CHURCH AND SECTARIAN DIVISIVENESS EIGHTEENTH AND TWENTIETH CENTURIES,
John C. Shetler, Conference Minister Emeritus, Penn Southeast Conference, UCC

"We live in a day of sects" is a word often spoken by the Church in every generation. However, the influence is stronger in some generations because of certain strong people who live and work at the particular time. Three sectarian events in the eighteenth and twentieth centuries are examined: (1) the Ephrata inroads in western Berks County Pennsylvania, (2) the Otterbein division in Pennsylvania and Maryland, and (3) the destroying of a congregation by a fundamentalistic, baptistic nondenominational group in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. These are examined against the characteristics of a sect given by Philip Schaff in The Principles of Protestantism.

From the first century of its life in Europe the Reformed theologians saw this church to be evangelical, apostolic and catholic and, therefore, not sectarian, but with clearly defined order for belief, worship and government. A sect is understood to be a religious group which has organically separated itself from the body of the church and conceives itself to be or to embody the whole church within its splinter group.

The revivalistic, emotional and separatistic tendencies of the Ephrata Brethren were felt in the Heidelberg and Tulpehocken areas of western Berks County. Through the efforts of Conrad Beisel, Peter Miller of Tulpehocken defected from the Reformed Church in 1735, along with Conrad Weiser (a Lutheran elder), three other elders and ten heads of families. Central was believers' baptism by immersion and observance of Saturday as the Lord's Day along with the concept of celibacy for all persons. The severity of these sectarian acts is reflected in a public book burning which included the Heidelberg Catechism, Luther's Catechism, the Psalter and 33 other books. Congregations were weakened, but none destroyed.

About twenty years later Philip Otterbein, one of six young pastors brought from the University of Herborn in 1752 by Michael Schlatter, engaged in a series of pietistic acts that led to the separation of congregations from the Reformed Church. After having served in Lancaster and York he moved to Baltimore where prayer meetings led to revivalism, strict separatistic discipline, the condemning of certain other pastors' preaching and members' living as unspiritual, not Christian. The problem of calling pastors not members of Coetus (synod) led to withdrawal of congregations and finally the act of ordination without approval or participation of the Coetus broke the bonds of polity. On the basis of an inner spiritual life Otterbein had the idea that people of various denominations could belong to a "United Brotherhood". This resulted in the act of withdrawal from those who accepted "churchly" order or doctrines of faith. While Otterbein himself seemed not to have withdrawn from the Reformed Church, he, in his last years, did not participate in the Coetus and the congregations latterly influenced by him became independent. These later became a part of the United Brethren, at least in part, by the influence of Bishop Francis Asbury.

In this latter quarter of the twentieth century and in the crossroads community of Ridge Valley near Trumbauersville, Bucks County, Pennsylvania within the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference a fundamentalistic, independent baptistic congregation through a sequence of supply ministry during a pastoral vacancy took over the congregation and possessed the property. The infiltrators withdrew the congregation

from the United Church of Christ and claimed to be the true German Reformed Church with the use of the Heidelberg Catechism and Calvinistic doctrine. The Conference and the Association placed seminarian Richard Knight under the direction of the Rev. William Thomas as student pastor. Having been refused the use of the building for worship in behalf of the remaining United Church of Christ members the congregation worshipped under the trees until the Lutheran congregation across the street offered shelter.

The Conference with the counsel of Attorney Clair Biehn and Dr. John C. Shetler, Conference Minister, sought a court injunction against the independent group as the only manner in which the property could be repossessed. Three witnesses were examined from the United Church of Christ along with the Conference Minister who gave nineteen points of proof of Reformed Heritage. The court decided in favor of the United Church of Christ. The student is now ordained and the congregation has more than 100 members.

Philip Schaff in the Principles of Protestantism provides us with characteristics of a sect which still serve us as an identifying standard: (1) want of an adequate conception of the nature of the church and of its relation to the individual Christian and the general life of man, (2) indifference toward sectarian divisions which are at war with the idea of the Body of Christ, (3) want of respect for history, by which it is affected to fall back immediately on Scriptures without regard to the development in the life of the church, (4) undervaluation of the sacraments as objective institution of the Lord, independent of individual views, (5) Disproportionate esteem for the service of preaching, with a corresponding sacrifice of the liturgy in which the whole congregation is called to put forth its religious life to God, (6) circumscribed conception of the all-pervading leavenlike nature of the Gospel, involving an abstract separation of religion from the divinely established order of the world in other spheres, (7) a fancy of its own perfection, an idea that its particular style of religion can never be improved into anything better.

The Reformed Church upholds the concept of the one holy catholic and apostolic church.

MERCERSBURG SOCIETY TO MEET IN LANCASTER

The Mercersburg Society will hold its 1986 Convocation on April 28, 29 at Lancaster Theological Seminary and Franklin and Marshall College. The opening Eucharistic Service will take place in Nevin Chapel. The principal speakers and the subjects of their addresses are: Geoffrey Wainwright, "Theology and Liturgy"; John Bratt, "Nevin and the Religious-Political Situation of His Time"; John B. Payne, "Nevin and Baptism". 1986 is the centennial of the death of John Williamson Nevin. For further information write to the Reverend George Geisler, Trinity United Church of Christ, East Petersburg, PA 17520.

REFORMED WHAT FOR?: CHURCH LIFE AMONG THE GERMAN REFORMED COLONISTS IN THE MID-EIGHTEENTH CENTURY by John B. Frantz, Prof. of History, Penn State Univ.

The question in my title comes from a sermon that my father preached many years ago in St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed Church in Baltimore, Maryland, during which he reminded worshippers of their heritage. The question has an eighteenth century precedent also. As Count Ludwig von Zinzendorf, leader of the so-called Moravians, attempted to form his ecumenical "Congregation of God in the Spirit" in 1742, he asked derisively "what does it mean to be Reformed?"

Basic to the distinctiveness of the German Reformed Church was its doctrine. The most widely revered statement of the church's beliefs was the Heidelberg Catechism, compiled by Zacharias Ursinus in 1563, at the request of Elector Frederick III, ruler of the German-speaking Rhenish Palatinate. In an age of intense polemicism, it was an exceptionally irenic explanation of the Christian faith. Its first question and answer set the tone: "What is your only comfort, in life and in death? That I belong - body and soul, in life and in death - not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ..." The catechism goes beyond an assurance of God's love as it admonishes believers to "live according to the will of God in all good works." Although its pronouns are personal and individual, it is set in the larger context of the church. It reflects a cardinal principle of the Protestant Reformation which is that the Bible is the sole source of authority for Christians. Ursinus wrote with thorough knowledge of the scriptures and included Biblical texts. Some German Reformed colonists took their Bibles and catechisms with them to America. Those who had lost theirs in transit asked their ministers to obtain copies for them from European church officials for use in worship and instruction.

The scriptures are not precise on some matters, and the meaning of the Lord's Supper is one of them. This was a focal point of Elector Frederick's disagreement with Martin Luther's teachings. Frederick believed with Luther's associate, Philip Melancthon and the Genevan reformer, John Calvin, that Christ is spiritually but not physically present in the communion, which Ursinus stressed in the catechism. Because Lutheran and Reformed doctrine differed on this issue, ministers usually administered the sacrament only to their own Lutheran or Reformed congregations, even though they often used the same buildings.

Among the German Reformed worshippers, the sacraments were to be administered regularly. The Palatinate Church Order of 1563 specified that the Lord's Supper was to be celebrated "at least once a month in the towns; once every two months in the villages; and on Easter, Pentecost, and Christmas in both places..." In America, probably few congregations could maintain that schedule. Boehm's congregations' constitution required it twice a year. The sacrament was to be preceded by a service of preparation. Although most were corporate services, Philip William Otterbein conducted private interviews with each prospective communicant at his Lancaster, Pennsylvania, congregation.

Normally, the German Reformed settlers preferred clergymen to administer the sacraments who had been educated and ordained in Europe. A professional ministry was characteristic of the German Reformed Church in both Europe and America, in contrast to some other German religious groups, such as the Mennonites, who were served by laymen. Because legitimately ordained clergymen were scarce in the

colonies, Reformed settlers sometimes pressed others, including John Philip Boehm, into service. Nevertheless, Boehm was ordained shortly after assuming the office and served long and well in Pennsylvania, as other ministers did elsewhere, such as George Michael Weiss in New York, Otterbein in Maryland and Virginia, Samuel Suther in North Carolina, and Christian Theuss in South Carolina.

At least some German Reformed ministers in America used in the worship services that they conducted for the colonists the forms in the German language that they were familiar with in Europe, especially the Palatinate Liturgy of 1563. It was a comparatively austere liturgy that proceeded from and included the scriptures. It provided a "Lord's Day" service in which the sermon was prominent, with additional forms for the administration of the sacraments and rites and other services. Apparently, Boehm used it; he requested additional copies in 1748. When another minister used a different liturgy in his Philadelphia congregation in the early 1750's, the worshippers protested. It was so well known that in the nineteenth century several church leaders asked that it be republished in English.

The "Marburg Hymnal," published in Germantown, Pennsylvania, in 1762 for use by German Lutheran and Reformed settlers also contained worship materials. In addition to hymns, it includes collects, psalms, and epistle and Gospel lessons for services on Sundays, saints' days, and festivals of the church year.

What the German Reformed worshippers heard at services is difficult to determine, for few sermons have survived. Although Boehm's sermons have been lost, his extant letters contain many references to the importance of correct beliefs. Otterbein, however, seems to have been less concerned about doctrine and emphasized instead "whether one has experienced the death of Christ."

Some of the hymns that were available for German Reformed people to sing also express a personal relationship with God. No doubt, worshippers sang the Reformed Joachim Neander's "Lobe den Herren," still familiar as "Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth, Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth..." This hymn that is in the 1762 edition of the "Marburg Hymnal" contains a typical German Reformed emphasis on the power and love of God.

When the German Reformed colonists first settled in British America, they had little more than the love of God on which to depend in their church life. The ecclesiastical flock was scattered, and there was no one to coordinate its activities. This condition contrasted sharply with its highly organized structure in Europe. In 1748, however, the German-speaking Swiss missionary, Michael Schlatter, assembled ministers and elders in Philadelphia to organize an administrative body. Although the "coetus," as it was called, was not entirely successful in solving the church's problems, it did provide fellowship, supervision, and cohesion to the church, which contributed significantly to its ultimate survival.

To be German Reformed in the middle decades of the eighteenth century meant to be confident of God's love and to respond in righteous living. It meant to have a Biblical faith that was expressed irenically in the Heidelberg Catechism. It meant to worship and receive the sacraments regularly, using at least some of the church's traditional forms, under the leadership of professional clergymen, who were joined with the congregations' elders in the "Coetus." These people were re-formed to be "the church of Jesus Christ according to the word of God."

MINUTES OF ERHS ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society was held on October 26, 1985 in St. John's (Hain's) Reformed Church, Wernersville, PA. Registration began at 9 A.M. and the host church served refreshments during this time.

The President, Dr. John Payne, called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M. He welcomed all those in attendance. Dr. Payne introduced the host pastor, Rev. Peter Goguts, who extended a welcome to St. John's Church. He noted that this is the 250th Anniversary year of St. John's since it was organized in 1735. The Sanctuary walls, still standing, were part of a building erected in 1766.

Dr. Payne recognized the presence of the "Historical Bus Tour" from N.C. of 72 persons with the Rev. Frank Snider as Chairperson. Dr. Payne asked The Rev. Dr. John Shetler to lead a Memorial Minute read in memory of Dr. James E. Wagner, former co-president of the United Church of Christ and a former vice-president of the Society. Dr. Shetler read a biographical sketch and a tribute to the late Dr. Wagner. Dr. Shetler moved that the Society adopt this tribute and that it be included in the minutes of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Philip Weiss and the motion carried. Dr. Shetler lead in a Memorial Prayer followed by the Doxology.

The Rev. Dr. Philip Weiss introduced the first speaker for the morning, the Rev. Dr. John Shetler, retiring Conference Minister of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ. The title of Dr. Shetler's address was "The Reformed Church and Sectarian Divisiveness: Eighteenth, Twentieth Century." He related the story of Rev. Philip Otterbein and the divisiveness he brought to the Reformed Church in the 1700s and then the recent account of a court case concerning an attempt to take the Ridge Valley United Church of Christ out of the denomination. A question and answer period followed the presentation of the paper.

Lunch was served in the church dining hall at 12:00 noon.

Following lunch, at 1:30 P.M., the Rev. Frank Snider introduced Dr. John B. Frantz, Jr., who presented a paper entitled, "Reformed What For: Church Life among German Reformed Colonists in the Mid-Eighteenth Century." A question and answer period followed the paper. Questions were raised about the Heidelberg Catechism and its present availability. A concern was also raised about the possibility of reprinting the Evangelical and Reformed "Book of Worship".

The business session of the Annual Meeting was presided over by the president, Dr. John Payne. It began at 2:30 P.M. with an opening prayer by Dr. Lowell Zuck. The minutes of the 121st Annual Meeting, October 20, 1984, were presented by the Secretary, the Rev. Frank Snider. They were received and approved as corrected.

The report of the President, Dr. John Payne was distributed and Dr. Payne highlighted some of the paragraphs. A new brochure about the Society was handed out. It was moved, seconded to adopt the Report of the President. Motion carried. There was some discussion and questions concerning financial support for the Society.

Mrs. Florence Bricker, Archivist, presented her report. It was moved and seconded that her report be adopted with gratitude. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was given by Mr. Myron Wolf and adopted by vote.

The Budget for 1986 was presented by Mr. Myron Wolf and recommended for adoption by the Board of Directors. It was moved and seconded that this budget be adopted as presented. Motion carried.

The Rev. Harry Royer presented the report of the nominating committee. The nominees were:

President: Dr. John B. Payne, Lancaster, PA
1st Vice President: Dr. Lowell Zuck, St. Louis, MO
2nd Vice President: Dr. Philip Weiss, Philadelphia, PA
Executive Secretary: Dr. Herbert B. Anstaett, Lancaster, PA
Recording Secretary: Rev. Frank Snider, Winston-Salem, NC
Treasurer: Mr. Myron Wolf, Lancaster, PA
Archivist: Mrs. Florence Bricker, Lancaster, PA
Directors-At-Large:
Mr. Owen Fox, Philadelphia, PA
The Rev. Banks Shepherd, Winston-Salem, NC
Mrs. Ceres Henkel, Gladstone, NE
The Rev. Mary Wenck, Lancaster, PA
Dr. Rudolf G. Schade, Elmhurst, IL
The Rev. Mark Steiner, Orville, OH
The Rev. Martha Kriebel, Collegeville, PA
The Rev. David Rapp, Whitehall, PA

There were no nominations from the floor. It was moved that nominations be closed and those nominated be elected. Motion carried.

Dr. Payne announced the following future Annual Meetings:

1986 - Zion's Reformed Church, Greenville, PA Oct. 17-18
1987 - Old First Reformed Church, Philadelphia, PA
1988 - Beck's UCC Church, Lexington, NC

The President asked for new business. Dr. John Shetler voiced a concern for our "Reformed Church" history in New Jersey. It was noted that a possible future meeting might be held at the Methodist Historical Society, Madison, NJ.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved that the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors look into the possibility of reprinting the E & R "Book of Worship."

Possibilities for funding for the Society were discussed.

A question was raised about Life Memberships.

The meeting was adjourned and Dr. Philip Weiss pronounced the traditional German Benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank W. Snider, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society met at 7:30 P.M. on October 25, 1985 in the Society's Archives on the second floor of the Philip Schaff Library, Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa. Those present were: Dr. John Payne, Mr. Owen Fox, Mr. Myron Wolf, Dr. Philip Weiss, Dr. Herbert Anstaett, Rev. Mary Wenck, Mrs. Florence Bricker, Rev. Mark Steiner, Rev. Banks Shepherd and Rev. Frank Snider.

Dr. John Payne, President, called the meeting to order. He introduced the new members present, Rev. Mark Steiner and Rev. Mary Wenck, and asked each of the old members to introduce themselves. He mentioned Mrs. George Bricker's booklet, "Church and Pastoral Records", and noted that it is now being prepared for a second printing.

The President asked the Rev. Banks Shepherd to lead in an opening prayer. Dr. Phil Weiss wished everyone a "Merry Christmas", noting that it was just two months from the date.

Dr. Payne reported on the absentees. Rev. Martha Kriebel was unable to attend because of the illness of her mother and Mrs. Ceres Henkel because of the illness of her husband.

The minutes of the April 19, 1985 Executive Committee Meeting were approved as distributed in the June "Newsletter".

President John Payne presented his report. He commented that some invitations for the Annual Meetings had to be declined. He also commented on a paragraph in his report (attached) concerning the financial situation of the Society. He pointed out that there has been an increase in the number of members contributing to the Society, through both the Historical Council Appeal and directly to the E and R Historical Society.

Mrs. Florence Bricker, Archivist, presented her report, a copy of which is attached to the minutes.

The Rev. Banks D. Shepherd made the report from the Southern Chapter and indicated that this chapter has sponsored a Bus Tour to attend the Annual Meeting with 72 persons on two buses.

Dr. Lowell Zuck presented a report from the Eden Archives. He made verbal additions to the printed report. He indicated that the Eden Archives are trying to muster additional support from the Missouri area Conferences. He related that there had been two visitors to the Archives from Germany interested in strengthening and furthering our relationship with German churches.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Mr. Myron Wolf. He also distributed copies of a proposed budget for 1986.

A motion was made by Dr. Phil Weiss and seconded by Dr. Lowell Zuck that reports from all of the officers be accepted and adopted. Motion carried.

The Budget, previously presented by Mr. Myron Wolf, was discussed. A motion was made by Dr. Phil Weiss and seconded by Rev. Mary Wenck that the 1986 Budget Recommendations be adopted as presented. The motion carried.

A report from Mrs. Ceres Henkel on "The Midwest U C C Historians" was read by Dr. John Payne.

The Annual Meeting for 1986 was discussed. This meeting is to be at Zion's Reformed United Church of Christ, Greenville, PA, the Rev. Bob Nace, Pastor. Zion's Church will be celebrating their 125th Anniversary and the dates for the meeting will be October 17 and 18, 1986. Some suggestions for possible papers on the Pennsylvania West Conference were made.

There was some discussion on possible programs for 1987 and 1988. The 1987 meeting is to be at Old First Church, Philadelphia and the 1988 meeting at Beck's (Reformed) United Church of Christ, Lexington, N.C.

It was agreed that the Executive Committee for the Society will meet on April 4, 1986 at 11 A.M. at Old First Reformed Church, Philadelphia.

It was noted that items are needed for the "Newsletter." Lowell Zuck will edit the June, 1986 issue.

It was reported that Rev. Harry Royer, Chairperson for the Nominating Committee for the Annual Meeting, will re-nominate all of the current members and officers of the Board of Directors and that Rev. David Rapp of Whitehall, PA, is being nominated as an additional member to the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Frank W. Snider, Secretary

POLICY GOVERNING ARCHIVAL ACCESSIONS IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST APPROVED
BY GENERAL SYNOD XV

The document, "Archival Accessions Policies and Practices in the United Church of Christ" prepared and proposed by the Historical Council was approved by General Synod XV. This document describes a recommended policy for the deposit of records from the various congregations, associations, conferences, boards and agencies of the United Church of Christ. Copies of this document may be obtained by writing to Ms. Florence Coppola, United Church of Christ, Historical Council, 105 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OCTOBER 1985

Since our last annual meeting on October 20, 1984, at First United Church of Christ, Shelby, Ohio, the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society has enjoyed a good year. That meeting itself, which celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the 500th anniversary of Zwingli's birth, set us on a proper course, thanks to the assistance of Mayor Garland John Gates and the congregation of First United Church of Christ. We anticipate a duplication of the success of that meeting at the 122nd Annual Meeting at St. John's (Hain's), Wernersville, PA on October 26, 1985 when we shall share in the 250th anniversary of that church with two papers on Pennsylvania Reformed history by Dr. John Shetler and Dr. John Frantz. Next year, 1986, we shall be holding our Annual Meeting at Zion's Reformed Church, Greenville, PA, in connection with that congregation's 125th anniversary. The places of meeting for 1987 and 1988 have also been established, in Philadelphia at Old First in 1987, and in Lexington, North Carolina, in 1988. It is pleasing that we receive so many invitations for holding our annual meeting. Unfortunately, we have had to turn down other invitations because they conflicted with some we had already accepted.

Last November 8-10 I represented the Society at the UCC Historical Council Meeting in New York. At that meeting the Historical Council discussed: the mounting of exhibits at the General Synod in Ames, Iowa, the promotion and funding of the Historical Intelligencer, the promotion of the Historical Council Appeal of 1985 along with changes in the cost and categories of membership and the UCC Accessions Policy. A UCC Accessions Policy document recommending a standard policy and practice for accessioning denominational, conference and congregational records in the various archives within the United Church of Christ was adopted and recommended to General Synod 15 which also adopted it by a unanimous vote.

In June Mrs. Bricker and I took to Penn Central Conference the Society's three-paneled display showing in the central panel important figures and symbols of the antecedent denominations of the United Church of Christ and on the two side panels, historic churches of Penn Central Conference and the past and present officers of the Society. We also had available to hand out the Society's new brochure which had only recently been printed and which explains to prospective members of the Society and users of the Archives the work of the Society and the Archives. The exhibit seemed to arouse considerable interest at the Conference.

The work of the Archives goes well under the faithful and able direction of Mrs. Bricker who along with her fine staff does important work for the Church. They sort through, file and catalogue boxes upon boxes of material received from agencies of the denomination and from families of former leaders, such as, during the past year, Reginald Helffrich. They respond to several inquiries received every day from individuals, congregations, conferences and denominational leaders from New York to Hawaii. They explain the history of our Church and the work of the Archives to visitors from as far away as Germany and Japan, youth groups, consistories, tourists, etc. They assist persons conducting research in the Archives. Mrs. Bricker and her staff, Mrs. Edna Hafer, Miss Elizabeth Sanders, Mrs. Connie Witmer, our secretary, together with our dedicated Executive Secretary, Mr. Herbert Anstaett, are to be commended for the excellent work that they carry on for minimal wages on behalf of the Church.

Our financial condition is about the same as it was at this time last year. In certain categories of income there have been increases as over against last year, grants from conferences and associations, dues paid directly to the E & R Historical Society by individuals and congregations and most especially an increase in life memberships. Part of the reason no doubt for the increase in dues paid to us in Lancaster is that we are now charging a visitor's fee for non-members who do genealogical research in the Archives. Instead of paying that fee each time they use the Archives some persons choose to become members. But this fact does not totally explain the encouraging growth since last year of individual memberships. These increases in income are offset by a decrease so far this year in gift income. We continue to be most grateful for the major contributions of the Arcadia Foundation to our work and to all the persons and churches, associations and conferences who make gifts to the Society.

The expenses remain stable except for the added cost of insurance and for costs that we have incurred because of incorporation, especially accounting costs. These will recur yearly because of the necessity of reporting our financial state each year to the Internal Revenue Service. Other major expenses that we shall be incurring soon are for equipment - a new typewriter for our secretary, a proper chair for our archivist, a new telephone for Mrs. Bricker, and a much-needed audiovisual cabinet which will be paid in part by funds donated to the Alice Anstaett Memorial. There is also a continuing need to have many of our precious volumes bound or rebound.

The financial picture for the next year is mixed. At its meeting last spring the Executive Council voted to reduce its grant to the two Historical Societies, the Congregational-Christian and the Evangelical and Reformed from \$9,000.00 to \$7,000.00. For us in the E & R Historical Society that would mean a cut from \$4,500.00 to \$3,500.00. The actual figure to be allotted to the two Societies, however, will not be finally determined until sometime this fall.*

Fortunately, the Society has friends to come to the rescue. When members of Lancaster Association learned of the prospective cut by the Executive Council, they voted at their annual meeting in May to raise their pledge from \$500.00 to \$1,500.00 for 1986. The allocation of \$500.00 for 1985 was itself an increase of \$400.00 over the figure for 1984. We in the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society are deeply indebted to Lancaster Association and to all other friends who recognize the importance of support of the Society to preserve and keep alive the rich heritage of our Church.

Respectfully submitted,
John B. Payne/President

* Since this report was written, the Executive Council has reversed its previous action and has restored the former allocation of \$9,000.00 to the two Societies.

REPORT OF THE ARCHIVIST OCTOBER 1985

It is said that there are two sides to every story; so it has been with the Archives of the Evangelical & Reformed Church and the United Church of Christ in the past year. More people are learning about the Archives and more people are turning to us for assistance. In our service and outreach to persons I would call it an especially good year. By visits, correspondence and telephone calls I believe that we have reached more people than in any other year in the past five years. Approximately 1,000 persons have come to the Archives and countless others have come to know us by correspondence. We have received and replied to more than 500 letters. Everyone gets an answer. If we do not have the information they are seeking we try to refer them to another more likely source. We receive all kinds of letters, many for genealogical information, but I believe that just as many this past year have been church related. This I consider a very healthy and encouraging trend. Let me tell you about just one letter. The question went something like this - "Among a listing of denominations in America, I saw The United Church of Christ, Just who are these people, and what do they believe? Well, this gentleman received more than a letter - he was sent a whole packet of literature on the UCC plus some suggested reading material. Individuals and congregations are concerned about the history of their congregation and the Church-at-large. These inquiries come especially if they happen to be planning an anniversary. Likewise for an anniversary they asked for biographical material on former or present ministers. We furnish this information and encourage them to send us publications of their anniversary when it has been celebrated. Thus our data on local churches is enlarged and enriched.

Persons come to the archives and they like what they see, and appreciate their experiences while there. As a result some of these visitors have sent us books, histories of churches and seminaries, church records, either in printed form or on microfilm. Only recently we received from the Campbelltown Church a rare first edition copy of a "Choral Book for the Organ", printed in German, it sets tunes for both Lutheran and Reformed congregations.

More of our conference papers carry publicity about the Archives and for this we are grateful.

This summer the Church of the Latter Day Saints came again and microfilmed records that had not been done previously. This is done at no cost to us and we receive the reels of microfilm.

During the past twelve months we again welcomed to the Archives Confirmation classes, Senior Citizen groups, Black ministers from Southern Conference, visitors from Germany, Japan and England and many states of the United States.

Now that is one side of the story - the positive, good news. But the other side is not so bright. As I have said to many persons, "We operate on a shoe string", never being quite sure whether we can continue to carry on business as usual for another year. We simply do not have the finances to operate as we should and do the work that we would like to do. Our staff is underpaid and overworked. All give extra time voluntarily each week so that more work can be done. We cannot buy books. When we are challenged to buy some from time to time I have to say, "Sorry, our budget does not permit us to buy books - if you care to give a copy

as a gift we will be grateful." Sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn't. The reference books that we have are used daily and they eventually need to be rebound. We can afford to have only a few done each year. We soon must purchase a cabinet for our audio visual material. Part of this cost will be underwritten as a memorial gift. We wonder from where the rest of the money will come. To cut our staff, we don't want to, and we can't afford to do it, but it could happen in the future. Regular contributions from individuals, churches, associations and conferences would help to ease the situation a great deal. We would like to see more endowments established. This would help significantly, and each year as we sit down to make up the budget we wouldn't have to ask ourselves - how much longer can we go on?

We all enjoy and are enthusiastic about our work and we want to go on but we need your help and the help of all persons in the United Church of Christ.

Respectfully submitted,
Florence M. Bricker, Archivist
(Mrs. G. H.)

REPORT OF THE SOUTHERN CHAPTER

The Southern Chapter held its annual meeting on November 17, 1984 at Catawba College. The theme was "Local Church History Gathering and Preserving." Resource persons were: Mrs. Ruth Carpenter, Dr. Betty Sell, Mrs. Jackie Sims, and the Rev. Frank Snider. Mrs. Carpenter told of her part in the establishment of a local church history room in Shiloh Church at Faith, N.C. Dr. Sell and Mrs. Sims introduced the Chapter Archives and led the group on a tour of the facilities at the Catawba College Library. Rev. Snider gave an audio-visual presentation on Oral History Gathering which was made available by the Davidson County (N.C.) Genealogical Society.

Our archivist, Mrs. Sims, continues to receive and process materials from local churches and pastors of the old Southern Synod. She serves well within the limitations of the space allotted us in the Catawba College Library vault. She is receiving inquiries regularly about genealogical matters from over a wide area. She is currently working on the records of the Life Memberships of the Women's Guild of the Southern Synod.

One item which might be of interest to the Society is the inclusion of five former Reformed cemeteries in Davidson County in the National Register of Historic Sites - Beck's, Bethany, Beulah, Emanuel, and Pilgrim. They are among ten cemeteries which contain Baroque and Gothic style gravestones of the period from 1803 to 1843. It is our understanding that Davidson County is the only place in the United States where these pierced stones appear. We congratulate these churches whose cemeteries were named Historic Sites.

Our annual chapter meeting this year is scheduled for Saturday, November 16, 1985 at Mt. Hope Church in Guilford County, N.C. The program will focus on the life and work of Dr. George W. Welker, founder of Mt. Hope (1847). He was active in the formation of the N.C. Classis; and as a member of the N.C. General Assembly, he introduced a bill creating Charitable Institutions in N.C. Dr. Carolyn Beyer, a native of the Mt. Hope community and professor of history at Greensboro College

who did her doctoral dissertation on Dr. Welker, will deliver a paper on this patriarch.

Surely one of the highlights of our year in the Southern Chapter is the sponsorship of a bus tour to this annual meeting and the privilege of sharing in the celebration of the 250th anniversary of St. John's (Hain's) Reformed Church at Wernersville. An added feature of our tour is a visit to St. John's Church at Jonestown, Pa. and the homeplace of the Hedrick clan. This family is quite strong in N.C., and a number of the Hedricks are on our tour. We appreciate the services of the Rev. Frank Snider, secretary of this Society, in arranging this tour.

We are happy to announce that Beck's Church, Lexington, N.C., has extended an offer to host the 1988 meeting of the Society. The Southern Chapter will be glad to work with the Society and with Beck's Church in arranging for this meeting. (Three of our churches in Davidson County will celebrate their 200th anniversaries in successive years - Beck's in 1987, Beulah in 1988, and Bethany in 1989).

We are glad to be able to serve as the link with the past of the Southern part of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. And we appreciate the support of the national Society.

Respectfully submitted,
Banks D. Shepherd/President

REPORT OF THE EDEN ARCHIVES

The work of the Eden Archives continues under the direction of Dr. Lowell Zuck, Librarian, and Mrs. Ahme Quist, Archivist. Our hours are the normal ones of Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. until noon, with additional arrangements possible upon consultation. The lower level room in the Luhr Library continues as our location, and we rely also upon the photocopying and other facilities of the main Eden-Webster Library, which is open until midnight weekdays.

Mrs. Quist has been cataloging new materials and revising the catalog in a most acceptable manner. She and her husband, Earl, are currently enjoying a trip to China, where they are visiting a "daughter" who was an exchange student living with them earlier. We are making use in the Archives of two Junior Eden students, Paul Witmer and Rob Hartmann, through the work-study program of the seminary, although their hours are quite limited.

The Eden Archives Committee has its next scheduled meeting with President Malcolm Warford and area representatives on November 6, 1985. One of the agenda items is the program for an Archives-sponsored public seminar, which we have been offering annually in cooperation with the Continuing Education department of the Seminary.

As can be observed from the accompanying display of "Archives and Manuscript Collections in the St. Louis Area" (1985), the Eden Archives are one of the depositories whose holdings are listed among the 112 local archival collections!

We rejoice in the naming and re-dedication of what is now called the "Luhr Library" at Eden Seminary on Sunday, October 13, 1985, in honor of Adelhied and Eugene Luhr, longtime supporters of Eden from Evangelical backgrounds in Southern Illinois.

An October 1985 listing of "Church Record Books in the Eden Archives" indicates that we hold records of seventy churches either in the original or in microfilm or both. In addition, that list adds eleven additional churches whose records have been microfilmed by the Utah Genealogical Society for us in the Spring of 1985. We have only begun to receive microfilm copies of those churches promised to us by the Mormons.

We wish to express the thanks of the Eden Archives staff and Committee for the continued counsel and financial aid from our E R H S brothers and sisters in Lancaster, as well as our interest in maintaining continuing relationships with the C C H S and the Historical Council of the U C C.

Respectfully submitted,
Lowell H. Zuck/Librarian

TRIBUTE TO A. HUNTER RINEER

When confronted by a difficult genealogical question or one relating to a church or cemetery record for which the staff could not supply an answer the familiar quote was, "wait until Hunter Rineer comes in, he can set us straight." The staff of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society were always happy to see Mr. Rineer come into the archives. His knowledge of church and cemetery records in Lancaster County was outstanding. He was never too involved in his own work to stop and help either the staff or other researchers, and the information which he gave was usually accompanied by some humorous story or anecdote.

We were shocked by the news of his untimely death November 23, 1985. He will be sorely missed by those who knew and worked with him in the archives.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE HISTORICAL COUNCIL POSTER?

The Historical Council has printed a limited edition commemorative poster to celebrate the history of the United Church of Christ. The poster is 18" x 24" printed in dark brown with a burgundy background and is suitable for framing. Depicted here are artifacts reflective of our history: Communion ware from historic Evangelical & Reformed and Congregational congregations; German & English Bibles; a copy of the Cambridge Platform; pictures of Reformed Church leaders; an issue of the Herald of Gospel Liberty, the newspaper of the Christian denomination, and 19th century quilts and lace.

The poster sells for \$6.00 plus postage and may be ordered from Church Leadership Resources, 1400 N. 7th St., St. Louis, MO 63106 or The Evangelical & Reformed Historical Society, 555 W. James St., Lancaster, PA 17603.

The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society
Statement of Income and Expenses
Year Ending December 31, 1985

<u>INCOME</u>		
The Executive Council -- U.C.C.		\$ 4,500.00
Conferences: Penn Central	\$ 655.00	
Penn Southeast	500.00	
Penn West	100.00	
New York	50.00	
Wisconsin	50.00	
Southern California	25.00	1,380.00
Associations: Lancaster, Penn Central Conference	\$ 500.00	
Susquehanna, N.Y. Conference	50.00	
Genesee Valley, N.Y. Conference	50.00	
Hudson Mohawk, N.Y. Conference	25.00	625.00
Dues Received Through Lancaster		1,396.00
Life Fees: Dr. C. Richard Beam	\$ 250.00	
Mr. Alvin F. Rupp	250.00	
Rev. Herman J. Helfrich	250.00	
Rev. Dr. John C. Shetler	250.00	1,000.00
Historical Council -- Financial Campaign		2,000.00
Interest on Investments		4,384.76
Visitor Fees		523.00
Miscellaneous Income: Photocopies, microfilm rental, etc.		2,562.31
Memorial Gifts and Other Gifts of \$50.00 or more:		
Thomas Spangler	\$ 100.00	
St. John's UCC of Mehlville, MO	100.00	
Mazeppa Union Church, W. Milton, PA	50.00	
Dr. Herbert Anstaett (Alice Anstaett Memorial)	55.00	
Alfred P. Leber Memorial	50.00	
John C. Motter	100.00	
The Arcadia Foundation	12,000.00	
Trinity UCC, Pottstown, PA	500.00	
Ernest Doerschuk (Alice Anstaett Memorial)	50.00	
Wentz UCC Women's Guild, Worcester, PA	150.00	
1st Congregational Church UCC, Nashua, IA	100.00	
Owen L. Fox	50.00	
Rev. Dr. Philip Weiss	100.00	
Mary Louise Carroll -- Memorial to Carrie		
K. Feldman & Frieda K. Steil	500.00	
Florence M. Bricker	100.00	
Others	324.09	14,329.09
Special Contribution		1,500.00
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 34,200.16

EXPENSES

Lancaster	Salaries	\$ 8,895.89	
	Supplies	644.69	
	Equipment	32.00	
	Binding	246.80	
	Postage	741.07	
	Telephone	741.52	
	Miscellaneous	2,217.40	
	Special	<u>682.75</u>	\$ 14,202.12
Eden:	Subsidy		5,220.00
General:	Salaries	4,540.35	
	Meetings & Travel	1,506.66	
	Honoraria	200.00	
	Printing & Postage	382.18	
	Miscellaneous	<u>112.46</u>	6,741.65
Historical Council -- Archives			<u>4,103.58</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES			<u>\$ 30,267.35</u>
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR			\$ 3,932.81

The Evangelical & Reformed Historical Society
Balance Sheet
December 31, 1985

ASSETS

Checking Account -- Hamilton Bank	\$ 1,590.93
Liquid Reserve Account -- Hamilton Bank	28,253.33
Hamilton Bank -- Certificate of Deposit	10,000.00
Penn Savings Bank -- Certificate of Deposit	4,402.02
GMC Memorial Endowment (Hamilton Bank C/D)	1,001.00
Wellington Fund -- Book Value	1,008.00
St. Paul's Preservation Fund -- Hamilton Bank C/D	<u>3,000.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 49,255.28</u>

LIABILITIES AND PRINCIPAL

Liabilities		-0-
Principal -- 12/31/84	\$ 45,322.47	
Plus Surplus for the year ended 12/31/85	<u>3,932.81</u>	
Principal -- 12/31/85		<u>\$ 49,255.28</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND PRINCIPAL		<u>\$ 49,255.28</u>

We are sorry to see that our income for 1985 was approximately \$4,000 less than it was for 1984. We thank the Executive Council for its support as before. We are happy that we received more contributions from a larger number of conferences than anytime among the last ten years. It is probably the largest ever. Records beyond ten years are not available as this report is written. We are most grateful for this increased participation. Associations, too, supported us to a greater extent due to Lancaster Association's \$500 contribution. This is appreciated so very, very much. Dues received through Lancaster are \$731 more than last year. This is likely a result of our larger membership. Members are not required to pay visitor fees. Investment income is almost \$700 more than last year. Our miscellaneous income is off by \$457. Memorial gifts and other gifts are substantially less than last year -- \$7,341 less. Our Total Income of \$34,200 for the year is approximately \$3,800 less than 1984.

Expenses were held to a minimum. Our total of \$30,267 is \$973 less than our previous year.

Despite the substantial decrease in the memorial gifts and other gifts category, we were able to end the year with a surplus. One reason for this is the fact that we are operating with a small staff willing to work for very low compensation and our annual meeting costs were lower because of less travel expense. There is much additional work that needs to be done but with the great uncertainty that surrounds our income area, we must continue to control our expenses. Should our gift income change very much, we will be in a deficit situation.

We are happy that we were supported to the extent indicated and we thank everyone who helped us get through 1985 without a deficit.

Respectfully submitted,

Myron E. Wolf, Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please enroll me as a member of the ERHS and CCHS for 1986. Enclosed is my check.

Memberships

_____ Individual (\$15)	_____ Supporting (\$100 to \$499)
_____ Student (\$7)	_____ Sustaining (\$30 to \$99)
_____ Sponsor or Life (\$250)	_____ Institutions (\$25)

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Please detach, return and make payable to either the Historical Council UCC, 105 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016 OR the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, 555 West James Street, Lancaster, PA 17603.