

NEWS from the

EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY, UCC

Sponsored Agency of the Historical Council, United Church of Christ

June 1986

Volume 14, No. 1

UCC HISTORICAL COUNCIL MEETING,
ST. LOUIS, MO, SEPT. 18-20, 1986

The 1986 annual meeting of the UCC Historical Council will be held at Eden Seminary in St. Louis, MO, on September 18th to 20th. Dr. Avery Post, President of the United Church of Christ, will participate in this meeting.

The Historical Council was formed in 1975 by the General Synod. The By-Laws of the UCC state that the Council:

"shall act in an advisory capacity to the President and the Executive

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THE STORY OF THE EDEN ARCHIVES

"In this unfolding drama of Western history, which touches life in all its varied forms, the story of religious origins among the Germans has its peculiar interests. At every point we see how the German religious heritage was being subjected to a survival test in the new environment" wrote Dr. Carl E. Schneider in The German Church on the American Frontier.

Dr. Schneider showed in his carefully documented volume, which is subtitled, "A Study in the Rise of Religion among the Germans of the West," how the religion of the German settlers not only survived, but flourished.

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ANNUAL MEETING IN OCTOBER AT ZION'S
REFORMED CHURCH, GREENVILLE, PA

The 123rd Annual Meeting of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society will take place on October 18, 1986 at Zion's Reformed United Church of Christ, 260 Main Street, Greenville, Pennsylvania. This meeting will be one of a long series of events celebrating the 125th anniversary of this congregation.

The Rev. John Bucher, pastor of Burmingham United Church of Christ, Pittsburgh, will present a paper on the topic, "Reflections on the History of Penn West Conference."

Mr. Frank Stearns, Director of Music at Zion's Reformed Church, Greenville, will address the assembly on the subject, "Hymn Texts and Poetry of Henry Harbaugh."

Dr. John B. Payne will report on his trip to Hungary for the International Calvin Research Congress to be held August 25-28, 1986 at the Reformed Academy in Debrecen. Mrs. Florence M. Bricker will also report on her trip to Japan and her participation in the 100th anniversary celebration of Tohoku Gakuin University (North Japan College), Sendai.

The Board of Directors of the Society will meet on Friday, October 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Zion's Reformed Church.

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UCC HISTORICAL COUNCIL MEETING (Cont'd. from page 1)

Council in overseeing the archives of the United Church of Christ and of the two Historical Societies, in expressing interest and concern for all archival collections related to the several heritages of the denomination, in recommending the amount to be allocated in the contributions budget for the Historical Societies, and in reminding the United Church of Christ of its traditions."

Of the twelve members of the Historical Council, three are elected by each of the Historical Societies and six are appointed by the Executive Council. Presently representing the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society are Dr. John Payne, Rev. Banks Shepherd and Mrs. Ruth W. Rasche who is the Chair for 1986-1987. Members serve for a six-year term.

A high priority on the agenda of this year's meeting will be plans for observing the Thirtieth Anniversary of the United Church of Christ in 1987. General Synod Sixteen will meet in Cleveland, Ohio, in July, 1987, at the same location as that of the Merging Synod of 1957. The Program and Planning Committee of General Synod Sixteen has asked the Historical Council to assume responsibility for a historical exhibit and for a Thirtieth Anniversary Dinner to which participants of the Merging Synod will be invited.

Also on the agenda of the Historical Council is an innovative "Open Session" which will be held on Thursday evening, September 18th, at Eden Seminary. Members of the two Historical Societies and pastors, local church historians and leaders are invited to meet with the Council and to participate in its activities that evening. There will be an Open House and Reception in the Eden Archives beginning at 6 p.m. to be followed by a catered dinner and a program which will highlight some of the "Great Moments in Our UCC Heritage." Reservations for the dinner will be made through the Continuing Education Department of Eden Seminary. Enthusiastic responses are already coming from those who have been given preliminary information about this "Open Session."

Among other important matters to be considered by the Historical Council this year are serious budgetary concerns, the status of The Archives Fund, creation of a Union Catalog, and the publication of a Thirtieth Anniversary Issue of The Historical Intelligencer, the Council's annual. Dr. Lowell Zuck, First Vice-President of ERHS, is Co-editor of The Intelligencer, and he has primary responsibility for this commemorative issue.

A visit to the Deaconess Archives at Deaconess Hospital is on the Council's schedule for Friday evening. The Deaconess Archives are the repository for documents, records and artifacts of more than five hundred Deaconess Sisters who served as full-time professional women of the Church primarily in the Evangelical denominational root of the United Church of Christ.

The Eden Seminary campus was the locale in 1937 of some of the earliest discussions which eventually led to the Merger of 1957. A unique historical atmosphere will surround the members of the Historical Council as they meet on this campus in September.

THE STORY OF THE EDEN ARCHIVES (Cont'd. from page 1)

The German Evangelical Church Association of the West was organized in 1840. Marthasville Seminary (now Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves) was established in 1850. Philanthropic organizations like the Good Samaritan Hospital (1861) and the German Protestant Orphans' Home (1859) were founded at the same time.

The Eden Archives were organized by Dr. Carl Schneider and the Historical Commission of the Evangelical Synod in 1925 to preserve the records of the work of these dedicated men and women who established this vital church in the West. The Eden Archives now are related through the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society to the archival network of the U.C.C.

Here in the Archives the books, biographies, correspondence, sermons, and official documents tracing the history and growth of the German Evangelical Synod of North America are housed.

Rev. L. E. Nollau's desk at which he and K. L. Daubert, H. Garlichs, P. J. Heyer, J. J. Riess, and G. W. Wall convened the Kirchenverein in 1840 to organize what became the German Evangelical Synod of North America has on it a section of log from the cabin in which the Evangelical Synod was founded in Mehlville, MO, Oct. 15, 1840, and a copy of the minutes of the first meeting of the six ministers on Oct. 14, 1840 at Gravois Settlement, St. Louis, MO.

The linotype on which copy was set for "Der Friedensbote", the German Evangelical newspaper published in St. Louis from 1850 to 1958, sits in the middle of the reading room. Bound copies of all of the issues of "Der Friedensbote" are on the shelves and are recorded on microfilm.

File cabinets contain folders for each church with roots in the German Evangelical Synod and many other U.C.C. congregations, and are kept up to date with materials contributed by local congregations.

Memorabilia from early pastors and missionaries are housed in display cases.

A card file contains brief biographical information on early pastors in the synod.

Vital church records which have been consigned to the Archives for safe keeping are shelved, catalogued, and made available to persons interested in genealogy or church history. Most of these records are available on microfilm so that old, fragile records may be preserved.

Persons doing research for reasons as diverse as genealogy and doctoral dissertations find material about and by leaders of the church, such as Nollau, Rieger, Wall, Baltzer, Goebel, and their peers, seminary professors, and more recent "sons of the synod" such as the Niebuhrs and Walter Brueggemann.

The records of the German Evangelical Synod of North America are well-cared for and preserved in their own Archives housed in the lower level of the Luhr Library, on the campus of Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves, Missouri.

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THE STORY OF THE EDEN ARCHIVES (Cont'd. from page 3)

Visitors are welcomed, and correspondence will be acknowledged. The Eden Archives are open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 A.M. until noon.

Ahme Quist, Archivist

ANNUAL MEETING IN GREENVILLE, PA (Cont'd. from page 1)

Block reservations have been made for the nights of October 17 and 18 at Cianci's Motel Lodge, Mercer Road, Greenville, PA. A reservation form is to be found at the end of this newsletter.

All persons are invited to share in this anniversary celebration of Zion's Reformed Church and the Annual Meeting of the Society.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING: APRIL 4, 1986

The Executive Committee of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society met on April 4, 1986, at 11 A.M. in the Old First Reformed Church (United Church of Christ), in Philadelphia, PA. Present for the meeting were: John Payne, Lowell Zuck, Florence Bricker, Banks Shepherd, Myron Wolf, Philip Weiss, Owen Fox, and Frank Snider. The Rev. Ms. Geneva Butz, pastor of Old First Church, was also present.

Dr. John Payne, President, called the meeting to order and led in the opening prayer. The minutes of the October 25, 1985 meeting were presented, accepted and adopted as distributed in the Winter Newsletter.

Plans for the October 18, 1986 Annual Meeting were discussed. The meeting will be held at Zion Reformed United Church of Christ, Greenville, Pennsylvania, as a part of that church's 150th Anniversary Celebration. A paper on Henry Harbaugh is to be given by Frank Stearns. Possibilities for a second paper were discussed. These included possible papers on the history of the Pennsylvania West Conference or on the history of Zion's Reformed Church, Greenville, PA., the host church. The possibilities of reports to be included in the meeting were mentioned. A question was raised concerning the mechanics of getting to Greenville. Dr. Paul Westcoat is to be contacted concerning this need.

Plans for the 1987 Annual Meeting were also discussed. This meeting is to be at Old First Reformed Church in Philadelphia in connection with the bi-centennial year of the U.S. Constitution. It will also be the 260th year for Old First Reformed. It was suggested that the meeting tie in with some of the planned activities in Philadelphia for the Fall of 1987. These include a new "black" opera to be written and a celebration of the "freedom of religion." A number of possibilities were discussed. We hope to have more concrete plans by the Fall meeting in October of 1986. Dates of a number of events in Philadelphia for the Fall of 1987 are to be set by June 1, 1986.

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING (Cont'd. from page 4)

It was moved by Banks Shepherd and seconded by Lowell Zuck that we set as a tentative date for the 1987 meeting October 24 and 25, 1987. The motion was adopted. Rev. Butz suggested that the meeting might be a joint meeting with the Philadelphia Association and include papers, a walking tour or tours, and a festive service. There was some discussion of the possible speakers that might be invited.

Lowell Zuck has agreed to do the summer "Newsletter." The need for materials for this issue was discussed. The possibility of "spotlighting" Life Members was suggested.

The meeting was recessed for lunch, which was served so graciously by the ladies of "Old First Church." A delicious meal was enjoyed by the group.

It was noted that the 1988 Annual Meeting will be held at Beck's U.C.C., Lexington, N.C., in the Fall of that year. An invitation for the 1989 meeting has come from Lakeland College, Wisconsin. It was moved by Lowell Zuck and seconded by Philip Weiss that we accept the invitation and that the meeting involve Dr. Fred Trost. General plans for the 1988 meeting in N.C. were discussed. These will include tours to other local churches celebrating their 200th anniversaries and highlighting the "pierced tombstones" unique to this area. Banks Shepherd and Frank Snider will work on program plans.

Mr. Myron Wolf presented the Treasurer's report. It was noted that at the end of 1985 we had a surplus of \$3,900. Four new life memberships have been received. Six Conferences have contributed. There was an increase in overall membership dues. Mr. Wolf reported that the income for the first quarter of 1986 was up from 1985.

Discussion was held on how to get better financing from the United Church of Christ. It was noted that the total budget for the Historical Council is only \$27,000. There was concern about getting more in the United Church of Christ budget for historical purposes.

It was moved by Dr. Philip Weiss and seconded by Dr. Lowell Zuck that the Treasurer's report be accepted and adopted with thanks to Mr. Myron Wolf for a job well done.

It was noted that the "Schaff Centennial" will be held in the Spring of 1988 at Lancaster Theological Seminary. This will celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the "American Society of Church History" by Philip Schaff. A local committee is working on plans.

Florence Bricker reported on the Archives at Lancaster. She needs more staff help and more money is needed to secure additional staff. More movable shelving is also needed for the Archives. A "Traveling Display" is being prepared by Mrs. Bricker. Ms. Mary Wenck agreed to assist with this preparation. She reported that she is receiving more correspondence from persons and churches for assistance with historical research.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING (Cont'd. from page 5)

Dr. John Payne will attend the Pennsylvania West Conference on June 4 and take the display there. He will also take it to the Penn Central Conference meeting. There are still copies of the "Zwingli issue" of "Christian History Magazine" available from the Archives in Lancaster. There are also copies of the "Historical Council Poster" available. Church groups such as confirmation classes and senior citizens groups are still visiting the Archives at Lancaster.

Rev. Banks Shepherd reported for the Southern Chapter Archives at Catawba College. He noted that there have been problems with the lights and electrical system there. It was suggested that there be a communication from the Society to the administration at Catawba College expressing gratitude for the past and present relationship that the Southern Chapter has had with the college and the use of its facilities. A motion was made, seconded, and adopted that this be done.

Dr. Lowell Zuck reported for the Eden Archives. Its facilities contributed to the preparation of a new biography of Reinhold Niebuhr by Richard Fox. There have been many other activities, including two weeks of microfilming last summer by the Mormons. Needs at the Eden Archives include a microfilm reader-printer and a steel filing cabinet. There are some space problems.

It was announced that the Mercersburg Society will meet at Lancaster, PA, on April 28 and 29, 1986.

It was pointed out that an Archival Accessions Policy has been adopted by the United Church of Christ Historical Council, and that it has been published in the Fall 1985 "Historical Intelligencer."

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank W. Snider, Secretary

THE JOHN B. FRANTZ MEMORIAL FUND

The Rev. Dr. John B. Frantz, pastor at Trinity United Church of Christ, Pottstown, PA, for thirty-one years, and a well-known and highly respected pastor for fifty-two years, died on March 22, 1986 in St. Petersburg, Florida.

He was a strong supporter and active member of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society. His family, his wife Ruth, and sons, John B. and Paul R., suggested that contributions in his memory be sent to the Society.

The numerous and substantial gifts in his honor are testimony to the warm admiration in which he was held. The Society is grateful for this fund to support its work, which Dr. Frantz regarded as so important.

AN ARCHIVIST'S ADVENTURE IN JAPAN

For years one may have known about a place, read about it, and been well aware that it is connected with one's own church. In our mind we imagine what it looks like and what it would be like to be there. All this I had done through the years about Tohoku Gakuin University (formerly North Japan College) and Miyagi College in Sendai, Japan.

Then on May 16, 1986 I no longer had to dream about it. I was there, along with 16 other persons from Lancaster. On that day I had the rare privilege and pleasure of attending the Centennial Celebration of Tohoku Gakuin.

As we entered the chapel we were received as honored guests, for the faculty and students have a great respect for persons affiliated with Franklin and Marshall College, Ursinus College, and Lancaster Theological Seminary. They feel a close tie with church persons back in the United States and the names of Dr. David Schneder and Dr. William Hoy, early missionaries are revered there.

The college was founded in 1886 by these two men and one of their own leaders, Oshikawa Masayoshi. Pictures of these three men graced the front of the chapel, and time and time again tribute was paid them in the addresses of the morning.

During the service honorary degrees were conferred upon Dr. James Powell, President of Franklin & Marshall College, Dr. Richard P. Richter, President of Ursinus College, and Dr. Paul Gregory, Regional Secretary for East Asia Mission.

Each year on Founders' Day, May 15th, the School observes Founders' Day and students and faculty go to the Christian cemetery where Dr. Schneder is buried and where a memorial marker has been erected for Dr. Hoy. After the service on May 16th some of us went out to this cemetery.

As an added tribute a display was mounted in one of the downtown department stores with pictures showing the early history of the college, and some pieces of furniture used by these two men. Such is the reverence and respect that Tohoku Gakuin feels for Dr. William Hoy and Dr. David Schneder.

A book "Not without Struggle" written by Dr. C. William Mensendiek and published in the spring of 1986 tells the life story of William Hoy (1858-1927). Dr. Mensendiek, a professor of Tohoku Gakuin, is married to the former Barbara Dunn of Lancaster.

But the wonder of being at Tohoku Gakuin for me did not end there. Just about sundown that same day I was taken by Dr. Hiromichi Watanabe (a professor who had visited the archives in 1984) to see the campus of Miyagi College. That too, I had often dreamed about, but the beauty of the spot, the imposing new buildings was more than I had ever imagined. I was to spend three weeks in Japan but that day, May 16th, will always remain as a most memorable one as we fellowshiped with Christians half way around the world.

We moved on as a group to Tokyo, Nagoya, Kyoto, Hiroshima and Osako. We were impressed with the beauty of the mountains, lakes, gardens, shrines and temples

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and castles, and we can never forget the gracious people of Japan. In Hiroshima we saw evidences of the destruction, but over and above that we witnessed the great desire for world peace as shown in their Peace Memorial Park.

The second high point of my entire trip came just two days before we left Japan. I had the great pleasure of being a guest in the home of Jocelyn Bartholomew Sugimoto (Daughter of Dr. & Mrs. Alfred Bartholomew) and her family. That day was a joyous experience and the memory of which I shall always cherish.

Florence M. Bricker (Mrs. G. H.)

FILE DRAWER GIFT FROM MARY DYKE

Last December Mary Dyke (Mrs. Samuel Dyke) contributed to the Archives of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society 58 file drawers of handwritten cards giving source material on hundreds of families in Pennsylvania. Mrs. Dyke has been a well known and highly respected genealogist for 45 years, and it is always a pleasure for us to have her come to the archives.

The Society is most grateful for this invaluable gift which has been added to the 146 drawers of similar material in the Archives.

THE ARCHIVES ACQUIRES AUDIO VISUAL CABINET

A storage cabinet for Audio Visual materials, film strips, cassettes, tapes and slides was recently purchased for the Archives by monies contributed in memory of Mrs. Alice Anstaett. Mrs. Anstaett served for many years as Secretary of the Society.

PLEASE SEND CHANGES OF ADDRESS

For each Newsletter that is returned to the Society, because it bears an incorrect address, the Society must pay .60¢. This becomes quite an expensive item over a year's time. If you move, or for any other reason your address is changed will you please notify the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society. You can help in this way to reduce the expenses of the Society.

REGISTRATION FORM FOR ANNUAL MEETING, GREENVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA, OCTOBER 18, 1986

Please return this form by October 1 to:

Mr. Frank Stearns
260 Main Street
Greenville, PA 16125-2099

- () I plan to attend the Annual Meeting at Zion's Reformed Church,
Greenville, PA.
- () Please make reservations for _____ persons for October 17 and/or 18, 1986
at Cianci's Motel Lodge, Mercer Road, Greenville, PA.

Please indicate the number of rooms you wish. _____

The rate for a double room with two double beds will be \$27.00 + tax.

- () Please make reservations for _____ persons for the luncheon October 18.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Memberships

_____ Individual (\$15)
_____ Student (\$7)
_____ Sponsor or Life (\$250)

_____ Supporting (\$100 to \$499)
_____ Sustaining (\$30 to \$99)
_____ Institutions (\$25)

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____

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