

NEWS from the

EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY, UCC

Sponsored Agency of the Historical Council, United Church of Christ

June 1987

Volume 15, No. 1

ANNUAL MEETING IN OCTOBER AT OLD FIRST  
REFORMED CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA, PA

"Lifting up our Historical Roots at the Time of the U.S. Constitution" will be the theme of the 124th Annual Meeting to be held at Old First Reformed Church, 4th and Race Streets, Philadelphia on Saturday, October 24, 1987. The meeting will also celebrate the 260th anniversary of Old First Church.

Two papers will be presented: "The German Reformed Element in the Era of the U.S. Constitution 1785-1815: by Professor William Parsons of Ursinus College and "18th Century Martyrs of the Faith: Weyberg, Winkhaus, Hendel" by The Reverend David Rapp, Pastor of St. John's UCC (Mickleys), Whitehall, Pennsylvania. The latter paper will concern the ministries of three pastors of Old First Reformed Church who gave their lives in a yellow fever epidemic that struck Philadelphia in the 1790's.

In the afternoon after the business meeting of the Society there will be a walking tour of historic Old Philadelphia Churches which will also feature the exhibit, "Miracle at Philadelphia" at the Second Bank, 4th and Chestnut Sts.

UCC HISTORICAL COUNCIL AT THIRTIETH  
ANNIVERSARY GENERAL SYNOD

The Historical Council assisted with the celebration of the Thirtieth Anniversary of the United Church of Christ at the Sixteenth General Synod held in Cleveland Convention Center, Cleveland, Ohio June 25-30, 1987. The Council sponsored a Thirtieth Anniversary Reunion Dinner on Sunday, June 28 at the Bond Court Hotel which was attended by about eight hundred persons. Individuals who had taken part in the uniting synod held in Cleveland thirty years ago were recognized. Short speeches were presented on the theme "We Celebrate Our UCC Heritage As a People... Gathered by the Spirit" (The Rev. Avery D. Post); "United by the Spirit" (The Rev. Charles Cobb); "Renewed by the Spirit" (The Rev. Martha Baumer); "Guided by the Spirit" (The Rev. Hector Lopez); "Sent forth by the Spirit" (Ms. Julie Nakamura). Presiding at the dinner was Mrs. Ruth W. Rasche, Chair of the UCC Historical Council.

As Mrs. Rasche presented the Historical Council report on Saturday morning to the delegates and visitors at the synod, a reenactment of two important symbolic acts at the first General Synod took place: the carry-



ANNUAL MEETING AT OLD FIRST CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA (Cont'd. from page 1)

A luncheon will be served at Old First Reformed Church and at Arch Street Meeting House, 4th and Arch Streets. Reservations for lunch should be sent to the Rev. Geneva Butz, "Annual Meeting ERHS", Old First Reformed Church, 4th and Race Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19106 or persons may call the church office (215) 922-4566. Reservations should be received by Wednesday, October 21.

Block reservations have been made for the Quality Inn at 22nd Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway for Friday night, October 23. Persons desiring rooms for the night of October 23 should send their reservation form at the end of this newsletter, to Mrs. Connie Witmer, Secretary, The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, 555 W. James St., Lancaster, PA 17603. Persons wanting reservations for Saturday night, October 24 should contact the motel directly.

All persons whether or not they are members of the Society are cordially invited to attend this festive meeting.

UCC HISTORICAL COUNCIL AT THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY GENERAL SYNOD (Cont'd. from p.1)

ing on stage by Historical Council members of the crozier (Dr. John B. Payne), the Bible (Rev. Henry Campbell), the communion cup (Mrs. Florence M. Bricker), baptismal font (Mrs. Susan P. Dickerman) and the uniting handshake by the co-presidents with John Payne representing Dr. James E. Wagner and Henry Campbell, Dr. Fred Hoskins.

In the exhibit area the Historical Council mounted an impressive several paneled display showing pictures of the Uniting Synod, of episodes and people in the thirty year history of the United Church of Christ and of the work of the Historical Council and the several archives of the church. This display which was put together by Mrs. Rasche attracted considerable attention during the course of the synod meeting.

ACCESSIONS

We are grateful for publications which come to the archives from Pilgrim Press, historians and family genealogists. Here are listed just a few that are representative of the different subjects.

The Book of Worship, United Church of Christ, Office of Church Life & Leadership, 1986

A Just Peace Church, editor, Susan Thistlethwaite, United Church Press, 1986

For Crying Out Loud, Women and Poverty in the United States, ed. by Rochelle Lefkowitz and Ann Withorn, Pilgrim Press, 1986

Penn's Example to the Nation: 300 Years of the Holy Experiment, editor Robert Grant Crist, 1987

The Briner Family History, by Forrest D. Myers and Jerry A. Clouse, 1987

Journal of the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association, Inc., v.3, no.2, 1986

Mount Pleasant Memories-Westmoreland Beginnings: Oral histories of our Church, Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda, MD, 1986



ELIZABETH SANDERS, STAFF MEMBER RETIRES

On June 30th, 1987, the staff of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society had to say farewell to our beloved co-worker, Elizabeth K. Sanders. For ten years she had worked with us as cataloguer, researcher and shared in many ways in the total program of the Society. She contributed much to enable the work of the archives to run smoothly. Professionally she was a trained librarian and had had experience in public libraries in this country and with the Armed Forces in Germany for several years. Before that she had been a public school teacher. Having been born into a parsonage family Miss Sanders was well acquainted with the history of the Church, the Reformed, Evangelical and Reformed, and now the United Church of Christ. Her knowledge of church polity as well as the geographical location of many local churches was a tremendous aid in archival work in the preservation of church histories and the keeping of church records.

Many tour groups come to the archives and Elizabeth cheerfully addressed all of them whether they were confirmation classes, senior citizens, or students from our college and university in Japan. Her presentations were not confined to visiting tour groups. She participated in workshops and seminars at the Conference level and for other Historical Societies. In her quiet manner she made many friends and won the respect of those she helped with research and those who worked closely with her. At all times her amiable smile was an indication that "Elizabeth was pleased".

Miss Sanders will move to an apartment in Menno Village in Chambersburg August 26. While we understand why she wishes to have free time to enjoy her retirement, she will be sorely missed at the archives. We hope to be able to fill the position that she held, but we can say in all sincerity that Miss Sanders can never be replaced.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, APRIL 27, 1987

The Executive Committee of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society met on Monday, April 27, 1987, at 11 A.M. in the Old First Reformed Church, United Church of Christ, 4th and Race Streets, Philadelphia, PA. Present for the meeting were: John Payne, Lowell Zuck, Myron Wolf, Owen Fox, David Rapp, Phillip Weiss, Florence Bricker, Banks Shepherd, Frank Snider, and Mary Wenck.

The President, Dr. John Payne, called the meeting to order at 11 A.M. and led in an opening prayer. The Minutes of the October 17, 1986 meeting of the Board of Directors in Greenville, Pa. were presented and adopted as circulated.

Reports were represented to the Executive Committee concerning the various activities of the Society.

Florence Bricker, Archivist for the Lancaster Archives, presented a report on the activities there. She noted that the Archives were receiving more and more calls, correspondence and requests for assistance with church related subjects. Mrs. Bricker reported that a number of "tourist" groups come to the archives, mostly on Saturdays.



MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Cont'd. from page 3)

The Archives are receiving quite a few new books. Genealogical materials have been donated to the Archives. A display is being prepared for the Penn Northeast Conference Meeting the last week in May.

The Rev. Geneva Butz, pastor of Old First Reformed Church joined the group to discuss plans for the Annual Meeting in October. The Pennsylvania Southeast Conference will bring a tour group to this meeting. The Southern Chapter is likewise planning a tour for persons from North Carolina and Virginia. Some mechanics concerning the serving of meals for such a large group were discussed. Arrangements will be made for some of the group to eat at the Arch Street Friends Meeting House. A tentative outline for the meeting was made. It was noted that the Executive Committee of the Society will meet on Friday night, October 23, at Old First Church at 7:30 P.M.

There was discussion concerning the possibilities for publicizing our Annual Meeting at General Synod of the United Church of Christ in June. Rev. Geneva Butz will prepare a flyer for distribution there.

An invitation has been received from Bethany United Church of Christ, Bethlehem, PA to hold our Annual Meeting there in 1991. It was moved by Philip Weiss and seconded by David Rapp that we accept their invitation. The motion carried.

The Society's presence at the forthcoming General Synod of the United Church of Christ in June was discussed. Dr. John Payne and Mrs. Florence Bricker plan to attend. A motion was made by Dr. Phillip Weiss and seconded by Myron Wolf that the Society pay expenses for Dr. Payne and Mrs. Bricker to attend. Motion carried.

The Schaff Centennial of the American Society of Church History will be held at Lancaster, Pa. April 14-16, 1988. All members of our Society are invited to attend these special sessions. There will be a banquet Friday evening at the Brunswick Hotel in Lancaster. The meetings begin on Thursday evening. We will hold our spring Executive Committee Meeting on Thursday afternoon, April 14, prior to the meeting of The American Society for Church History.

The Society has also received an invitation to the German-American Studies Meeting at Millersville University near Lancaster to be held on April 29-30, 1988.

The Rev. Banks Shepherd, president of the Southern Chapter reported on its activities. He noted that copies of the "Story of Southern Synod" by Dr. Banks Peeler are on sale from the Southern Chapter office at \$5.00 per copy. The Fall Meeting of the Southern Chapter will be held on November 14, 1987 at Beulah United Church of Christ, Lexington, NC. This congregation is celebrating its 200th anniversary.

The Southern Chapter is making plans to host the Annual Meeting of the national Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society in the fall of 1988. Plans for the program for that meeting include a presentation on the unique "Pierced Tombstones" in several former "Reformed" Church cemeteries in Davidson County, NC



MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Cont'd. from page 4)

and a paper on "Early Reformed Ministers In The South". A tour of historic church sites in the area is also planned. The Annual Meeting will be held in Beck's United Church of Christ near Lexington. Tentative dates for the 1988 meeting are October 21 and 22, but may be a week earlier or later depending on the Fall Furniture Market in High Point, NC.

The 1989 Annual Meeting is planned for Lakeland College in Wisconsin. Dr. Frederick Trost is the contact person for that meeting.

Dr. Lowell Zuck presented a report on the Eden Archives. He noted that the Archives were the site of the Thursday morning sessions for the Eden Seminary Convocation with about 75 persons present. About 100 persons visited the Eden Archives in October. Dr. Zuck is the author of a new book, "Socially Responsible Believers" published by the Pilgrim Press. Dr. Zuck will be on sabbatical leave this fall and will study at Cambridge University in England.

The Utah Genealogical Society photographer spent considerable time in the Eden Archives and made microfilms of materials there. The "Evangelical Synod Fund" has purchased a microfilm reader/printer for the Archives. Mrs. Anni Quist continues as Archivist. The archives have assisted with a historical pageant presented in May in the Missouri Conference.

Mr. Myron Wolf gave the Treasurer's Report. Motion was made to accept this report with thanks to Mr. Wolf for all his work as treasurer. There was discussion on possibilities of better investment income with a higher yield.

Dr. Payne reported that James M. Seale of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society in Nashville, TN corresponded with him concerning possibilities of cooperation between the two historical societies. Mr. Seale invited Dr. Payne to attend a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society and Dr. Payne responded by inviting Mr. Seale likewise to attend an Executive Committee meeting of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank Snider, Secretary

Mrs. Paul A. Wimmer, Jr., Secretary



REGISTRATION FORM FOR ANNUAL MEETING, PHILADELPHIA, PA, OCTOBER 24, 1987

Please return this form by September 25 to:

Mrs. Paul A. Witmer, Jr., Secretary  
Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society  
555 West James Street  
Lancaster, PA 17603

- ( ) I plan to attend the Annual Meeting at Old First Reformed Church,  
Philadelphia, PA.
- ( ) Please make reservations for \_\_\_\_\_ persons for October 23, 1987 at  
The Quality Inn - Center City, 501 N. 22nd St., Philadelphia, PA.

Please indicate the number of rooms you wish. \_\_\_\_\_

Single Room Rate - \$58.83 per night

Double Room Rate - \$58.83 per night

Send luncheon reservations for Saturday, October 24, at The Arch Street  
Meeting House at \$8.50 per person to: Old First Reformed Church,  
4th & Race Sts., Philadelphia, PA 19106.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please enroll me as a member of the ERHS and CCHS for 1987. 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 Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, 555 West James Street, Lancaster, PA 17603 or the Historical Council UCC, 105 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016