

NEWS

from the **EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY UCC**

Sponsored Agency of the Historical Council, United Church of Christ

July 1990

Volume 18, No. 1.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST HISTORICAL COUNCIL MEETS IN ST. LOUIS

In connection with the 150th Anniversary Celebration of the Evangelical Synod, the United Church of Christ Historical Council will hold its annual meeting in St. Louis, just prior to the beginning of the celebration, from Thursday, October 11 to Friday, October 12, 1990.

The dozen members of the Historical Council, with Ms. Susan Dickerman as new Chairperson, will make use of the newly acquired Eden Seminary Conference Center for their housing and meeting needs on campus.

The Historical Council now has full membership, with the Rev. Barbara Kershner Daniels, associate pastor of St. Paul's U. C. C. in Fleetwood, Pennsylvania, joining the Council, along with a re-elected member, the Rev. George Gay, pastor of St. Stephen's U. C. C. Greensboro, North Carolina.

The Council rejoices in being able to meet with the new Archivist of the United Church of Christ, Mrs. Kay Schellhase, who has just moved to Lancaster, Pennsylvania from Berkeley, California, with her husband, Richard, to begin her work as Archivist of the United Church of Christ. Mrs. Schellhase, previously Archivist for the Pacific School of Religion and the Graduate

126th ANNUAL MEETING TO BE PART OF THE EVANGELICAL SYNOD 150TH CELEBRATION

The 126th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society will take place at Eden Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, on Friday and Saturday, October 12 and 13, as part of a year-long celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Evangelical Kirchenverein des Westens near St. Louis in October 1840.

On Friday evening, October 12, at 6:30 P.M., a festive anniversary banquet will be held at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Belleville, Illinois, when a new videotape presentation of the beginnings of Evangelical history will be shown for the first time.

The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society Board of Directors will have a breakfast meeting on Saturday morning, October 13, at 7:00 A.M. in the Eden Seminary Conference Center, and at 9:00 A.M. an anniversary lecture will be given by Dr. Frederick Trost, Conference Minister, United Church of Christ, from Wisconsin. A second anniversary lecture will be given by Dr. Lowell H. Zuck, Professor of Church History, Eden Seminary, at 10:00 A.M.

The Annual Meeting of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society will then take place, at 11:15 A.M. at Eden Seminary. Following lunch at Eden Seminary, busses will enable visitors to see Evangelical sites on

(Cont'd. on page 2)

(Cont'd. on page 2)

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST HISTORICAL COUNCIL MEETS (Cont'd. from page 1)

Theological Union in Berkeley, becomes the first full-time United Church of Christ archivist to be supported out of U. C. C. funds, since the Archives were begun and located at Lancaster, Pennsylvania in 1963.

Following the completion of their business meeting, Council members will participate in the Friday evening anniversary banquet and further anniversary events. It will be an honor to have the new President of the U. C. C., the Rev. Paul Sherry, in attendance at the Historical Council meetings, as well as the Secretary of the Church, the Rev. Ms. Carol Joyce Brun, who has for a long time aided the work of the Historical Council.

126th ANNUAL MEETING TO BE PART OF THE EVANGELICAL SYNOD 150th CELEBRATION
(Cont'd. from page 1)

the way to historic Marthasville, Missouri, where the seminary was begun. Supper will be ready at Femme Osage, Missouri, the oldest Evangelical congregation (1833), for visitors and friends.

On Sunday morning, October 14, scores of local United Church of Christ churches in the Missouri/Southern Illinois area will invite visitors to special services. Finally, a large anniversary worship service will take place at the Mother Church of the Synod, St. John's United Church of Christ, Mehlville (St. Louis), Missouri, at 3:00 P.M.

All of these celebrations will welcome visitors and friends, and it is anticipated that a busload of North Carolina participants will be present also, under the able leadership of the Rev. Frank Snider, a member of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society Executive Committee.

Registration forms for meals, etc., have been included in this Newsletter. They should be returned as early as possible.

KAY SCHELLHASE, NEW ARCHIVIST

On May 1 Kay Schellhase assumed her duties as the first full-time archivist of the United Church of Christ entirely supported by the denomination. Previously, the position was part-time and was funded by the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society. She succeeds the Reverend Francis R. Daugherty, who served in that position from January 1, 1989 to April 30, 1990.

The archives are located on the second floor of the Philip Schaff Library, Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

For the past three years, Ms. Schellhase has been archivist at Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, California. For ten years she was curator at the Bade Institute of Archaeology and the Howell Bible Collection at the school. She has also held positions at the Free Library at Philadelphia and with Ursinus College Library.

(Cont'd. on Page 3)

KAY SCHELLHASE, NEW ARCHIVIST (Cont'd. from page 2)

A native of Pennsylvania, she was educated at Ursinus College and Drexel University School of Library Science in Philadelphia.

TRIBUTE TO EDNA HAFER, 1909-1990

To be with Edna Hafer day after day it didn't take long to realize that her family and her church meant everything to her. She delighted in the accomplishments of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren both in Lancaster and California. Whenever possible she would journey across the country to be present at a confirmation or graduation of one of the grandchildren. But this was just one reason for admiring Edna Hafer.

Association with Edna told one that she was a woman of the church. Beginning in her early years in Boyertown, Edna loved and served her church all her life through. As the wife of the Rev. Dr. Harold F. Hafer she helped her husband at St. Paul's Church in Ridgely, Maryland. In 1939 they were called to Faith Church in Lancaster. Here again she served as a devoted pastor's wife until Dr. Hafer's death in 1952.

Although no longer presiding over a parsonage, Edna's work went right on and in the years that followed she served on the church's consistory and was one of the most ardent supporters of the change when the congregation moved from South Duke and North Streets to its present location on Wabank Road. For many years she was treasurer of the Board of Missionary Home at President and New Streets. She held the office of treasurer of the Lancaster Regional Women's Guild of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Later she was elected to serve for several terms on the Board of the United Church of Christ Homes in Annville, Pennsylvania.

But Edna's interest and talents were not limited to the parish or organizations of the church. Soon after her husband's death she was asked to become secretary for the faculty of Lancaster Theological Seminary. She held this office until 1960 when she became secretary and assistant to the presidents of the seminary until 1980. When she retired, she was honored by the whole seminary at the alumni banquet.

About a year after her retirement from the seminary, she came to work for the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society. Here her services were invaluable for she knew the history of the denomination, how it had emerged from the Reformed Church beginnings to the merger with the Evangelical Synod of North America and then from the union of the Evangelical and Reformed Church with the Congregational Christian Churches in 1957 to become the United Church of Christ. She knew countless numbers of ministers who had been students during her years at the seminary. She had a keen sense for determining the value of papers and documents that should be preserved in the archives. Edna Hafer was needed in the archives. Edna, for many years, had been needed by the church for she was a woman devoted to the church.

Florence M. Bricker

ST LOUIS CELEBRATIONS OF THE EVANGELICAL SYNOD 150TH ANNIVERSARY

The year 1990 has been a festive season for celebrating both the European and the American roots of the Evangelical Synod tradition.

In February and May 1990, Eden Seminary presented honorary doctor's degrees to two visitors from West and East Germany for their contributions to the ecumenical church and to the on-going relationship between the United Church of Christ and the Evangelical Church of the Union in Germany.

The Rev. Reinhard Groscurth, Ecumenical Officer of the E.K.U., West Berlin, was honored in February for his bridge-building mission to keep synods in East and West Germany in touch during the twenty-eight years that the Berlin Wall divided the two Germanies.

The Rev. Christa Grengel, Ecumenical Officer of the E.K.U., East Berlin, gave the Eden Commencement address in May and was honored for her efforts for peace and ecumenism in the two Germanies. In her address, she discussed five experiences today in Germany and beyond: theological existence, the gift of credibility, perestroika and metanoia, prayer and doing right, and conciliar community.

At the April Spring Convocation, Bishop/Professor Joachim Rogge, of Goerlitz, East Germany, gave three lectures on the European origins of the Evangelical tradition, both historical and contemporary, while Prof. Lowell H. Zuck lectured on the Evangelical Synod in American Culture, and Dr. Mary Catherine Hilker, of the Aquinas Institute of St. Louis, lectured on future challenges before the church.

Other visitors to St. Louis during 1990 included Dr. Christoph Gestrich from the Kirchliche Hochschule, West Berlin, who in January and February visited seminaries and universities in North Carolina, California, Illinois, Missouri, West Virginia, and New York, on behalf of the U.C.C./E.K.U.

A large delegation from our U.C.C. sister church in the province of Westphalia, West Germany, visited Eden Seminary in May, and participated in a special conference on women's issues in theology sponsored in part by the U.C.C. Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society.

In addition, a special four-page Der Friedensbote insert has been widely distributed in connection with Eden Seminary's journal Events, January 1990. Making use of the old German type used by the denominational journal from 1850 to 1958, the Friedensbote issue commemorates the 150th anniversary and gives a chronology of significant Evangelical events.

A HISTORY OF THE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED CHURCH RE-ISSUED

Pilgrim Press has re-issued the only detailed, single-volume history of the two churches which joined in 1934 to become the Evangelical and Reformed Church, and twenty-three years later became part of the United Church of Christ in 1957.

Prof. Lowell H. Zuck, first vice-president of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, has prepared a new introduction and up-dated the bibliography of the volume, in time for the 150th anniversary of the Evangelical Synod. Otherwise, the new paper-bound edition retains the same masterful articles on both the European and the American backgrounds of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.

Separate chapters were written by David Dunn, Josias Friedli, William Toth, and James E. Wagner from the Reformed side, and by Paul N. Crusius, Theophil W. Menzel, and Carl E. Schneider from the Evangelical side, all members of the Historical Society of the Evangelical and Reformed Church shortly after its ending, in 1961. The new paperback edition is 400 pages long, and is available from Pilgrim Press, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115, for \$14.95. It will be on sale also at the St. Louis anniversary meetings.

HOW THE EVANGELICAL SYNOD BEGAN ON THE 1840 MISSOURI FRONTIER

The beginning of the Evangelical Synod one-hundred-fifty years ago takes us back to German immigrant days on the Missouri/Mississippi frontier. Some of the earliest settlers in what later became Missouri were German Reformed people from the East. More significant German Protestant numerical growth in the Midwest came from the most recent immigrants with their conflicting religious ideas, including non-religious rationalists, many Catholics, strict Lutherans objecting to the recent Union Church in Prussia, and people who became "Evangelicals", that is, German-speaking immigrants who were comfortable with being either Lutheran or Reformed or indeed having both come together into one church, an attractive new possibility at that time.

Small new congregations struggling to find ministers and become organized, in what were then widely-scattered communities, felt the strain of isolation from each other. On September 28, 1840, Louis Edward Nollau, immigrant pastor of the new Evangelical congregation at Gravois Settlement (now Mehlville, St. Louis, Missouri), sent a letter to a group of Evangelical pastors, inviting them to meet October 14 at his parsonage, "simply to afford an opportunity to become mutually acquainted." It is not intended he cautioned, that this will be an occasion for forming a "synod" (many immigrants feared synods at that time), but "some important matters will be deliberated upon, and a covenant of fraternal fellowship will be made."

Five pastors responded: Hermann Garlichs came from Femme Osage, Missouri, Philip Heyer from St. Charles, Missouri, Georg Wall from St. Louis, Karl Daubert (Reformed) from Quincy, Illinois, and Johann Riess from Centerville, Illinois. They met in the hall which separated the two rooms in the log-cabin parsonage. Officers were elected and twenty-four resolutions were adopted.

(Cont'd. on page 6)

HOW THE EVANGELICAL SYNOD BEGAN (Cont'd. from page 5)

Rather than organizing a synod, the pastors decided to establish a pastoral conference called Der Deutsche Evangelische Kirchenverein des Westens (The German Evangelical Church Association of the West). Membership was to consist of ordained pastors, and respective congregations were invited to select lay delegates who would also be given voice and vote in the meetings of the organization. Nine years passed before the first congregation officially affiliated with the Kirchenverein (now St. Paul's United Church of Christ, St. Louis).

Nevertheless, the Evangelicals had come to life in America in 1840, and by 1850 they were able to begin their own Eden Seminary and German-language newspaper, the Friedensbote. Soon a Catechism, a Hymnal, and a Book of Worship were printed officially and strengthened the life of new Evangelical congregations.

A series of successive mergers and unions had begun, as the Evangelical Synod (called that after 1866) built upon their home and foreign mission beginnings to develop a passion for the proclamation of the Christian Gospel in word, deed, and sacrament. Democratic in government, the polity of the Evangelical Synod was a blending of congregational and presbyterian elements, preserving the freedom of local congregations (within an often strongly Lutheran perspective), and yet providing for orderly procedures through representative judicatories and denominational synods of a Reformed type. A unique union church thus arose in 1840 as the German Evangelicals in frontier America developed a new church combining Lutheran and Reformed confessions and structures in a lively, sometimes prophetic way.

SUMMARY: THE BANNER OF THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

Presented to the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, October 1989 by Reinhard Ulrich, Professor of Philosophy, Lakeland College.

My presentation is intended to show that (1) the rapid expansion of the German Reformed Church among German immigrants in the midwest during the second half of the nineteenth century was largely due to a small group of confessional clergy and lay people associated with the Sheboygan (Wisconsin) Classis (founded in 1854) and that (2) the growing immigrant party in the church developed a unique theological position of its own and was not, in any sense, a close ally of the "Old Reformed" opposition to Mercersburg as has been assumed by most historians of the German Reformed Church.

Two major influences shaped Muehlmeier, Winter, Bossard, and Kluge, the clerical founders of Sheboygan Classis and of the Mission House, its theological center: (1) an orthodox Reformed faith based on the Heidelberg Catechism, and (2) the Neo-Pietism of the German Mission Training Institutions (Missionshäuser). All but Kluge had contact with the German Reformed Church at Mercersburg and received part of their theological training there. While they disagreed with Nevin's later extreme views (after Cyprian), only Winter left the seminary for theological reasons. Defending Nevin, Muehlmeier said later that "our dear Dr. Nevin" did what he could to fight the dual threat of New Measures and Romanism and, not surprisingly, ended up on a "slippery road." Muehlmeier kept in close touch with

(Cont'd. on page 7)

SUMMARY: THE BANNER OF THE HEIDELBERG CATECHISM (Cont'd. from page 6)

Schaff, who praised the Mission House as the "school of prophets in the bush" and made a major contribution to the school's library. The Classis categorically rejected New Measures with arguments reminiscent of Nevin's Anxious Bench.

Rejecting New Measures as "ego-centric subjectivism," however, does not imply endorsement of the Mercersburg vision of Protestant catholicity. Muehlmeier recalled that all four of the founders had experienced "awakenings" in the old country. They and many of the lay members of the Sheboygan Classis were churchly Pietists in the continental mode. They had rejected rationalistic revisions of the faith in their native state churches and rallied to the defense of the "ancient Reformed doctrine of free grace" and of "the old firm discipline." These two terms denote the marks of a church truly Reformed as seen by the "Germans." Rallying around the confessions, they rejected the theological and liturgical extremes of both sides in the controversy that divided the German Reformed Church in the U.S. for almost a century. They would have none of the "subjectivism" of New Measures with its Lockian notion of the church, nor did they want anything to do with "Dr. Nevin's Romanizing tendencies" or Schaff's Hegelian visions of Christian unity. They were convinced that the Prussian Union had led to "rationalism" and an erosion of faith in their home land. Congregations founded in this country, therefore, should be "confessional," i.e. Lutheran or Reformed.

They practiced what they preached. The establishment of the Sheboygan Classis as such was a demonstration of the "firm old discipline." Its founders had obtained prior authorization of the proper judicatory of the church, the Ohio Synod, and brought with them their personal transfers of membership from Tiffin Classis, a clear signal of the Reformed penchant for doing things decently and in order. They saw their mission as the church serving the immigrant in the wilderness. Hoisting the banner of the Heidelberg Catechism, they were reminding their countrymen that loyalty to the faith is always commitment to specific belief and particular action. As their influence grew in the church, the influence of the Heidelberg Catechism seems to have grown with it. Muehlmeier, commenting on the work of the Peace Commission (1879), celebrates the Catechism as the symbol of a re-united church:

By the efforts of pious and faithful laborers in the vineyard of the Lord, our church has slowly awakened to remember that it is the church of the Word...Slowly but ever more clearly it has been rediscovering the treasure we have in the confession of the fathers (i.e. the Catechism). A year ago (1879), we were privileged to see its banner lifted high again by our blessed Peace Commission. Finally, thy degradation has been lifted, dear Heidelberger!

(H.A. Muehlmeier and E. Stienecker, Erbauliche und Belehrende Zuege aus der Geschichte der Sheboygan Klassis, Cleveland: Deutsches Verlagshaus, 1880)

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, MAY 4, 1990

The Executive Committee of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society met on May 4 at 11:00 A.M. at the Archives at Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

The president, Dr. John Payne, called the meeting to order and offered the opening prayer.

The Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on October 13, 1989 at Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin were approved as circulated in the January 1990 issue of the "News" (Volume 17, No. 2).

Dr. Payne thanked the Rev. Francis R. Daugherty and presented him with a gift from the Society for his service for one year and three months as "Interim Archivist." Dr. Payne then introduced to the Committee Mrs. Kay Schellhase who began serving on May 1, 1990 as the first full-time Archivist of the United Church of Christ. Members of the Executive Committee were introduced to Mrs. Schellhase.

President Payne reported that Mrs. Edna Hafer had died about two weeks prior to this meeting and that he, Mr. Myron Wolf, Mrs. Florence Bricker, and Rev. Francis Daugherty had attended the Memorial Service at Faith United Church of Christ in Lancaster. A "moment of silence" followed by prayer by Dr. Phil Weiss was observed in memory of Mrs. Hafer.

Dr. Payne reported with gratitude that the Arcadia Foundation had increased its annual contribution to the Society from \$13,000 to \$14,000. He reported that the United Church of Christ Board for Homeland Ministries and the United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership are planning to publish a "Theological Heritage" of the United Church of Christ. Seven volumes are projected for this project. He also announced that the "Mercersburg Society" will meet June 4-5 in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania.

The Rev. Francis Daugherty, Interim Archivist, presented his report in mimeographed form. Dr. Phil Weiss praised the fine and faithful work of the Rev. Mr. Daugherty and voiced our gratitude to him for all that he had done. The report was received with appreciation.

After a luncheon break in the Seminary Refectory, the meeting resumed at 1:00 P.M., with the Treasurer's Report in printed form being presented by Mr. Myron Wolf. The report shows a slight increase in income and also contains a listing of the assets of the Society. It was moved and seconded that the report be received with thanks to Mr. Wolf for his fine work.

The Report of the Southern Chapter, prepared by the Rev. Banks D. Shepherd, President of the Southern Chapter, was presented in printed form in Rev. Shepherd's absence. It was noted that a new history "Catawba: The Story of a College", by Dr. Francis Dedmond, has just been published and that Dr. Dedmond has made copies available for the Southern Chapter to distribute to college and seminary libraries. It was moved and seconded that this report be adopted. It was noted that Rev. Shepherd's presence at this meeting was missed.

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, MAY 4, 1990 (Cont'd. from page 8)

Dr. Lowell Zuck, Librarian of the Eden Archives, submitted his report concerning the Eden Archives. He also passed out copies of three conference newspapers that are promoting the Annual Meeting of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society that is to be held in St. Louis in October.

Dr. Zuck reported that recently there has been a growing number of German visitors to the archives. He noted that there has been an increased funding for the Eden Archives and expressed a hope that in the future the Archives might become self-supporting. He also reported that there seems to be an increasing interest in church history and in the "roots" of the United Church of Christ. A motion was made, seconded and carried that the report be received.

Plans for the Annual Meeting of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society in St. Louis on October 12-14, 1990 were discussed. Discussion on a time for the Executive Committee to meet was held. It was noted that the Executive Committee will meet at breakfast on October 13. The group will stay at the new Conference Center on the Eden campus. The Historical Council of the United Church of Christ will meet just prior to the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society meeting in St. Louis.

The 1991 meeting of the Society is to be held on October 19 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania at Bethany United Church of Christ with papers by Rev. David Rapp and David Schattschneider, Dean of Moravian College. The Rev. David Rapp will assist with the arrangements for that meeting.

Equipment needs for the Lancaster Archives were discussed. Mrs. Kay Schellhase will assess the needs. It was noted that several new deposits of materials have been received in the Archives. There was some discussion on the relationship of the ERHS and the UCC Archives since both are housed in the same place.

It was reported that the papers from the last Annual Meeting in Wisconsin will soon be available for publication in the Wisconsin Conference publication, On The Way. It was also decided that Dr. Zuck will prepare material for the promotion of the 1990 Meeting. An article on the new archivist will also be included in the next "News."

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank W. Snider, Sr.
Secretary

SCHEDULE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE
EVANGELICAL SYNOD OF NORTH AMERICA AND THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EVANGELICAL
AND REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY, OCTOBER 12-14, 1990

Friday, October 12, 1990

6:30 P.M. Banquet at St. Paul United Church of Christ
115 West "B" Street, Belleville, Illinois

Saturday, October 13, 1990

7:00 A.M. Meeting of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society
Board of Directors at Eden Conference Center

9:00 A.M. Lectures at Eden Theological Seminary
475 E. Lockwood Avenue, Webster Groves, Missouri

9:00 A.M. - Dr. Fred Trost
10:00 A.M. - Dr. Lowell Zuck

11:15 A.M. Meeting of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society

11:45 A.M. Lunch at Eden Seminary Commons

1:00 P.M. Bus tour to institutions and historical sites

5:30 P.M. Supper at Femme Osage for those on bus tour

Sunday, October 14, 1990

Morning Participants attend local United Church of Christ churches

3:00 P.M. Anniversary Service at St. John's United Church of Christ
11333 St. John's Church Road, Mehlville, Missouri

Please see page 11 for Registration Form

Registration Form

I enclose payment for my participation in the special events surrounding the 150th Anniversary of the Evangelical Synod of North America.

<u>Friday, October 12</u>	Total
Banquet for _____ persons at \$7.50 each	_____
<u>Saturday, October 13</u>	
Lunch for _____ persons at \$4.50 each	_____
Bus Tour for _____ persons at \$8.00 each	_____
Supper for _____ persons at \$6.00 each (for those on bus tour only)	_____
Total Enclosed	_____

Tickets will be mailed to you together with a complete schedule of events. Please make check payable to Eden Theological Seminary.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Please return this form by September 24, 1990 to Development Office, Eden Theological Seminary, 475 East Lockwood Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63119

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please enroll me as a member of the ERHS and CCHS for 1990. 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, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115.

