

NEWS

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

Sponsored Agency of the Historical Council, United Church of Christ

January 1995

Volume 22, no. 2

JOINT MEETING WITH CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society joined together with the Congregational Christian Historical Society on October 15, 1994, to celebrate the Hungarian Reformed heritage of the United Church of Christ at First United Church of Christ, Bridgeport, Connecticut. The meeting also honored the 100th anniversary of the First United Church of Christ. The assembly included members of both societies, members of Calvin Synod, members of First UCC, guests from the area, and 45 persons who came by bus from Southern Conference. Words of greeting were brought to the gathering by the presidents of the two historical societies, Dr. John Payne (ERHS) and Dr. James Haddix (CCHS); UCC Archivist Kay Schellhase on behalf of Dr. Paul Sherry, President of the United Church of Christ; the Right Rev. Francis Vitez, Bishop of Calvin Synod; the Rev. Barbara Kershner Daniel, chairperson of the UCC Historical Council; and the Rev. Dr. Anthony Szilagyi, pastor of First UCC, Bridgeport. After the singing of the Hungarian hymn, "Lift Thy Head, O Zion Weeping," Dr. Szilagyi gave the opening prayer.

Dr. John Payne introduced the first speaker, the Right Rev. Lorant Hegedüs, Bishop of Budapest and Presiding Bishop of the Reformed Church in Hungary, who gave a spirited and stimulating address on the subject, "The Hungarian Reformed Tradition." After an introduction by Dr. James Haddix, Dr. Szilagyi presented an interesting and informative lecture on the topic, "Years of Transition: A Brief History of the American

NEXT ANNUAL MEETING AT TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (ROTH'S), SPRING GROVE, PENNSYLVANIA, OCTOBER 14, 1995

The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society will hold its 132nd Annual Meeting in Spring Grove, Pennsylvania, at Trinity United Church of Christ (Roth's) on Saturday, October 14, 1995. The congregation is celebrating its 230th anniversary this year. The pastor of the congregation, the Rev. Mary Hutchens, will present a paper on the well-known Reformed pastor, Philip William Otterbein, who was once a pastor of Trinity Church. Otterbein would become the principal founder of the United Brethren (now part of the United Methodist Church), although he never left the Reformed Church. Further information concerning this meeting will appear in the July Newsletter.

EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY SPEAKERS' BUREAU

In the July, 1994, Newsletter it was announced that the Board of Directors of the Society had established a Speakers' Bureau which would be available to congregations, associations and conferences to inform and entertain them on historical topics of interest. We repeat on page 4 of this newsletter the list of persons who would be pleased to speak to church groups on the topics named in parentheses. The name of the Rev. Charles A. Maxfield has been added to the list. Persons should contact the speakers directly to make arrangements.

(Cont'd on Page 4)

YEARS OF TRANSITION: A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE HUNGARIAN REFORMED CHURCH FROM 1918 TO THE TIFFIN AGREEMENT

By Anthony Szilagyi

The present status of Hungarian Reformed congregations within the United States is one of fragmentation. These congregations trace their beginnings to the missionary efforts carried out during the last decade of the nineteenth century by various American Protestant denominations. There have been numerous attempts to organize these congregations into one group. It is ironic, however, that while these attempts were intended to be instruments that would bring unity, they actually contributed to further disunity. The period covered in this paper, from 1918 to the ratification of the Tiffin Agreement, is one example.

Today, Hungarian Reformed congregations are disbursed among a number of denominations. The two largest clusters are the Calvin Synod Conference of the United Church of Christ and the Hungarian Reformed Church in the United States. Additional congregations are associated with the Presbyterian Church, while other individual congregations fall under the jurisdiction of various United Church of Christ Conferences and Associations.

Between 1904 and America's entry into the First World War, the majority of Hungarian Reformed congregations in the United States were directly linked to the Reformed Church of Hungary through its Eastern and Western Classes. This was a time when almost every aspect of the immigrants' secular and religious lives was being influenced by the General Conventus located in Budapest. This control, which reflected official Hungarian governmental policy, was launched in 1902 and was intended to address the crisis caused by Hungarian immigration.

In December of 1902 a number of highly confidential reports dealing with the immigration issue were completed under the supervision of the Hungarian Prime Ministry. The reports revealed, among other things, that the number of ethnic Magyars leaving the Hungarian portion of the Austro-Hungarian Empire had reached 33%. It was feared that if this pattern was not reversed, Magyar control within Hungary would be threatened. As a result, the government in Budapest produced a strategy designated "The American Action." The driving force behind the American Action was Magyar survival. The assumption was that even though established in America, Hungarian communities should be viewed as an extension of Hungarian cultural and institutional life. Further, it was hoped that by keeping watch over these communities, a portion would return to Hungary.

In the years before 1917 many Hungarian Reformed congregations, along with other immigrant institutions, were acting as surrogates for Hungarian interests. A shift in emphasis for these congregations would take place following the war as the Hungarian government sought a new role for them.

As economic conditions in Europe worsened, Hungarians on both sides of the Atlantic realized that Budapest would no longer be in a position to continue to support financially its American congregations at pre-war levels. Therefore, the Hungarian government wanted to use the congregations as a channel through which it could turn American post-war public opinion and foreign policy in its favor. The shift in Hungarian policy caused a sense of unease within the immigrant communities. They were afraid that they would be perceived as an alien surrogate at a time of heightened isolationism and fear in the United States. As this shift in policy developed, it magnified the immigrants' difficult position and induced some of them to hunt out a future of their own.

HISTORY OF HUNGARIAN REFORMED CHURCH (cont'd from page 2)

By 1918 the options for seeking a future detached from Hungary were basically two. One was the establishment of a totally independent synod. The second was a variation of the first. Instead of an independent synod, however, affiliation with an American denomination could be sought.

I have already suggested the major reason that affiliation won out over independence: the political atmosphere in the United States. The red-scare spreading across Europe was being experienced in America. Hungarian immigrant pastors as well as secular leaders were apprehensive that an identifiably ethnic synod would be perceived as a foreign body on American soil. The Dean of the Eastern Classis wrote in a pastoral letter that an independent synod "would not be looked upon favorably by public opinion." There was indeed cause for the Hungarians to believe that a Hungarian synod would be interpreted as un-American. Because of the climate of suspicion in the United States and the inability of an economically destitute synod to aid Hungary after the war, this option was deemed impractical. Therefore, in the early part of 1919 several Hungarian congregations explored the alternative of uniting with an American denomination. This choice, however, was not totally free of difficulties.

Basically, the difficulty centered on which American denomination the Hungarian congregations would join. Naturally, linking with the Reformed Church in the United States was an option. What little influence the Conventus had with its American charges, however, was pressed in favor of union with the Presbyterian Church. The Conventus promoted this intention by leveraging the fact that it had the final authority to release officially its American congregations. To resolve the problem, the Conventus invited representatives from both denominations to visit Hungary.

In July 1920, Dr. Arthur J. Brown of the Presbyterian Church and Dr. James I. Good of the Reformed Church in the United States entered into negotiations in Budapest. The discussions resulted in the Budapest Agreement. In exchange for monetary compensation, the Conventus would release its charges. It would, however, be up to the American denominations to decide "which of them would admit the congregations in question." This agreement was doomed to failure, however.

First, there were the reservations of the immigrant pastors expressed by Zoltan Kuthy, the Dean of the Hungarian Eastern Classis. He wrote, "The General Conventus wants to sell us like cattle to the Presbyterians."

Second, the Board of Home Missions of the Reformed Church in the United States felt that the agreement did not stress the ultimate Americanization of the congregations. It was clear that the Budapest Agreement did not offer a suitable solution to the predicament of the immigrant congregations.

It was also at this time that any talk of union with the Presbyterian Church came to an abrupt halt. The Presbyterian Church issued conditions for union that were unacceptable to Budapest. Fearing that everything would be lost, a new round of negotiations was entered into between the Conventus and the Reformed Church in the United States in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1921. An accord, known as the Lancaster Agreement, was entered into. Whereas the Budapest Agreement did not stress Americanization enough, the Lancaster Agreement had that as its theme. When it became obvious that Americanization would be attempted through the education of the immigrant children, the Hungarian pastors balked. They were not prepared to relinquish their children to a still-strange culture.

HISTORY OF HUNGARIAN REFORMED CHURCH (cont'd from page 3)

Even though the Budapest and Lancaster agreements did not produce the hoped-for results, this period of transition was needed. First, it offered time for the General Conventus to realize that it had to relinquish ultimately any hopes of manipulating its immigrant charges to further Hungary's political interest. Second, it forced the Hungarian-American congregations to concede that any future in the United States would necessitate accommodation to its environment. It seems that only after acknowledging the reality of their situations, could the parties enter into substantive negotiations. These negotiations would result in the Tiffin Agreement in 1921. This agreement permitted the Conventus finally to release its congregations into the hands of an American denomination: The Reformed Church in the United States.

JOINT MEETING WITH CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN HIST. SOC. (cont'd from page 1)

Hungarian Reformed Churches from 1918 to the Tiffin Agreement."

After a break for lunch the Annual Business Meeting of the Society was held in the sanctuary of the church.

The Society is much indebted to the Rev. Anthony Szilagyi and the members of First United Church of Christ for arranging such a festive meeting. We are grateful also to Pastor Szilagyi for taking care of the transportation and housing for Bishop Hegedüs.

SPEAKERS' BUREAU

Rev. Deborah Rahn Clemens (Reformation Roots, Mercersburg Theology)
309 Main St., Souderton, PA 18964 (215-723-1005)

Rev. Dr. Martha B. Kriebel (Immigrant Waves, Colonial Neighbors)
532 Main St., Collegeville, PA 19426 (215-489-4223)

Rev. Charles C. Maxfield (The Beginning of the Women's Fellowship, A History of
Fundraising in the American Church, The Beginning of American Foreign Missions)
Box 1004, Corning, NY 14830 (607-962-6629)

Rev. Dr. R. Howard Paine (Church Mergers, Worship Life of our Church)
762 Tamarack Trail, Reading, PA 19706 (215-777-0679)

Rev. David Rapp (John Philip Boehm, Church leaders in the Eighteenth Century)
4332 Truman St., Whitehall, PA 18052 (215-262-0944)

Rev. John R. Weiler (Nevin Family, General Reformed History)
325 Carver Dr., Bethlehem, PA 18017 (610-876-7930)

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EVANGELICAL & REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OCTOBER 15, 1994

Registration and coffee time began at 9:00 a.m.

President John Payne called the Joint Meeting of the Congregational Christian Historical Society and the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society into session at 9:30 a.m.

This meeting recognized the 100th anniversary of the Hungarian First United Church of Christ and celebrated the Hungarian Reformed tradition in the United Church of Christ.

Words of greeting were given by:

Rev. Dr. John Payne, President of ERHS

Rev. Dr. James L. Haddix, President of CCHS

Ms. Kay Schellhase, UCC Archivist, on behalf of Rev. Dr. Paul Sherry, President of the United Church of Christ

The Right Rev. Francis Vitez, Bishop of Calvin Synod

Rev. Barbara Kershner Daniel, Chairperson, UCC Historical Council

Rev. Dr. Anthony Szylagyi, Pastor, First UCC, Bridgeport, CT.

After the singing of the Hungarian Hymn "Lift Thy Head, O Zion Weeping," Dr. Szylagyi led the opening prayer.

Dr. Payne introduced the Right Rev. Dr. Lorant Hegedüs, Bishop of Budapest and Presiding Bishop of the Reformed Church in Hungary, whose lecture was "The Hungarian Reformed Tradition."

Dr. Haddix introduced Dr. Anthony Szilagyi whose lecture was "Years of Transition: A Brief History of the American Hungarian Reformed Churches from 1918 to the Tiffin Agreement."

After the lunch recess the Annual Business meeting of the ERHS was called to order by President John Payne at 2:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of First Church.

Vice-president Zuck led the opening prayer.

The minutes of the 1993 annual meeting were amended to include the names of Myron Wolf, Treasurer, and Robert Hunsicker and Banks Shepherd, Board of Directors of the ERHS. The minutes were adopted as corrected.

President Payne presented a printed report. He has worked on the Dictionary of Presbyterian and Reformed Tradition and the Living Theological Heritage of the UCC. He noted the financial concerns of the Society and asked for further discussion at the time of the budget consideration.

Archivist Schellhase presented a printed report and included a copy of the 1893 document to the General Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States which reminded the synod of the organization of the Reformed Church in 1793. The UCC Historical Council plans a union catalogue project which will include all UCC-related archival materials. Major funding is being sought for this enormous project.

In response to a question about church mergers and moves which are no longer in the yearbook, Schellhase reported that this information is collected and available in the archives, through

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING (cont'd from page 5)

work by the Rev. Richard Taylor and through the Research Department of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries.

Less genealogical research is being done, partly because church records are available on Mormon genealogical microfilm.

John Payne reported that Pastor Mary N. Keithahn of Belle Fourche, SD is working with others in South Dakota on a musical for young people about women in our faith tradition, particularly Katherine Schütz Zell of 16th century Strasbourg.

Banks Shepherd reported that Southern Chapter met at Spoon's Chapel UCC and Corinth Reformed UCC. Major concerns are the need for space and the ownership of the archival materials. The bus tour brought 45 Southern Conference members to the meeting.

Lowell Zuck reported that Eden Archives works under the supervision of the Eden Archives Committee. The archives has a small endowment and space continues to be a concern. Ruth Rasche has completed her book on the Deaconesses, and it is now published. Dr. Zuck has completed updating UCC material for Religious Colleges and Universities in the U.S.: A Source Book and continues to work on the Living Theological Heritage series. He expressed appreciation to the ERHS for its long-term contributions to the Eden Archives.

President Payne presented the budget. The Arcadia Foundation has greatly lessened its support, and income from the UCC Executive Council was reduced. Radical cuts in the expense side of the budget had to be made. Memberships by Conferences, Associations, congregations, organizations and individuals are strongly encouraged.

It was moved, seconded and voted to receive the reports as presented by the officers.

The Rev. Richard Schellhase presented the report of the Nominating Committee, chaired by the Rev. Vernon Firme.

President: John B. Payne
Vice-President: Lowell H. Zuck
Secretary: Mary E. Hutchens
Treasurer: Myron E. Wolf
Archivist: Kay Schellhase
Board of Directors at Large:

Lawrence R. Bolick	David H. Rapp
Florence Bricker	Scott Sanders
Deborah Rahn Clemens	Banks Shepherd
Robert G. Hunsicker	Frank Stearns
David H. Rapp	Mark Steiner

These persons have agreed to serve one-year terms in 1994-95. It was moved, seconded and voted that the nominees presented be elected as the slate for 1994-95. President Payne thanked the Rev. Mr. Firme and Mrs. David Hondel of Waynesboro, Pa., for their work as a Nominating Committee.

ANNUAL MEETING (cont'd from page 6)

1995 ERHS Annual Meeting, October 14, 1995, Trinity Roth's UCC, R.D. 4, Spring Grove, PA
1996 Annual Meeting, Trinity UCC, Canton, OH
1997 Annual Meeting, St. Andrew UCC, Lancaster, PA
1998 Annual Meeting, St. Peter UCC, Houston, TX

Dr. Barbara Brown Zikmund reported on the Living Theological Heritage series of seven volumes. They are to contain general introductions, documents and brief introductions providing the settings of the documents. John Payne is working on Vol. 2, and Lowell Zuck and Beth Nordbeck are working on Vol. 4. Pilgrim Press is publishing the William Bradford series in American Religious History, under Dr. Zikmund's general editorship. She asked for suggestions of works that are out of print but of interest in the general field of church history and that might be reprinted in this series.

The lectures by Dr. Anthony Szilagyi at the meeting in Bridgeport and by Dr. Barbara Brown Zikmund at the Historical Council lunch during the 1995 General Synod will be published in the next UCC Historical Council booklet.

A suggestion was made that the back of the Newsletter be used as "copy sheet" for distribution to local church members.

The new ERHS brochure was distributed.

The Rev. James Mohr gave the benediction, and President Payne declared the meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Hutchens, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY, OCTOBER 14, 1994

Present: Larry Bolick, Banks Shepherd, David Rapp, Robert Hunsicker, James Mohr, Florence Bricker, Kay Schellhase, Lowell Zuck, Mary Hutchens and John Payne. Regrets were sent by Myron Wolf, Deborah Rahn Clemens, Mark Steiner, Frank Stearns, and Scott Sanders.

President Payne called on Robert Hunsicker for the convening prayer.

The April minutes were corrected to read in the Eden Archives Report "organized by Gerald O'Connor's brother." David Rapp moved and Banks Shepherd seconded the adoption of the minutes as corrected. The motion carried.

The reports of the president, archivist, Southern Chapter and Eden Archives, all of which are included in this newsletter, were presented and briefly discussed.

President Payne presented the budget. He reported that income remained steady in 1994 with the exception of the Arcadia Foundation grant. In response to John Payne's letter to her in September, expressing gratitude for past Arcadia Foundation gifts and requesting continued

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (cont'd from page 7)

support, Marilyn Steinbright responded that the Arcadia Foundation can no longer make regular annual donations to ERHS. She indicated, however, that ERHS can expect a grant of \$4000 in March, 1995. We have a deficit of \$2,750.22 in current expenses, and there are bills outstanding for the costs of the annual meeting and brochures.

The Board was informed of a projected cut in support by the denomination from \$4,400 to \$3,000. Conference and Association contributions need to be strengthened. New and renewed memberships need to be increased.

Several cuts have occurred. Other than Diane Rimert, who is a regular part-time assistant, no part-time assistants are being employed by the ERHS. The Eden subsidy has been deleted and other budget categories have been reduced.

The board discussed possible sources of funding such as a registration fee for ERHS Annual meetings and the establishment of an endowment to which local churches could contribute.

Kay Schellhase clarified the membership categories. Membership in ERHS is a direct contribution to the ERHS, while UCC Historical Council memberships are divided equally between ERHS and CCHS.

Kay Schellhase proposed that copies of the new leaflet be placed in Conference mailings and that President Payne write an accompanying letter for inclusion. This issue will be discussed at the spring Board Meeting.

No further information was available about the Speakers' Bureau. John Weiler has asked that information on the Bureau be in the next newsletter.

The 1995 Annual Meeting on Saturday, Oct. 14, 1995 will be at Trinity UCC (Roth's), Spring Grove, Pa. One of the speakers will be the pastor of the church, Mary E. Hutchens, who will discuss the work of Trinity's famous former pastor, Philip William Otterbein. The 1996 Annual Meeting will take place at Trinity UCC, Canton, Ohio. The program is not yet established for this meeting.

New Business:

Charles Maxfield has written to propose a book which would contain all texts of UCC documents.

In a letter to the president Christopher Niebuhr proposed that research be conducted on the Cleveland UCC national offices building.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary E. Hutchens, Secretary

CORRECTION TO UCC HISTORICAL COUNCIL ANNUAL HISTORICAL LECTURES BOOK
On page 1, line 6 of Paul Sherry's lecture, "Reinhold Niebuhr in His Time and Ours, " the name of Niebuhr's mother should be corrected to "Lydia."

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

After a fine meeting at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Chicago last year where we heard two outstanding addresses, one by the Rev. Frederick R. Trost on the Evangelical tradition in the Northwest and the other by Dr. Klaus Penzel on the private life of Philip Schaff, we look forward to another excellent annual meeting at First United Church of Christ, Bridgeport. The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society is pleased to be joining with our sister organization, the Congregational Christian Historical Society, to celebrate the Hungarian Reformed tradition and the one hundredth anniversary of First Church. This will be the first such joint meeting of the two societies and we hope that it will inaugurate more concelebrations. We are delighted to have as our principal speaker, the Most Reverend Lorant Hegedüs, who will inform us concerning the riches of the Hungarian Reformed tradition. In addition, we are pleased that the pastor of First United Church of Christ, the Rev. Anthony Szilagyi, will lift up the American Hungarian Reformed experience.

Under the auspices of the UCC Historical Council the two societies cooperated also in the publication of the first United Church of Christ Historical Council Annual Historical Lectures. That was the first publishing venture of the Historical Council since the Historical Intelligencer in the early 1980's. If the publication of these annual lectures continues, it will in part fill the need for a UCC historical journal. We are most grateful to the Rev. James Haddix, president of the Congregational Christian Historical Society and pastor of All Souls Congregational Church, Bangor, Maine, for the editing and the production of these first two annual historical lectures.

Other publications of UCC historical material with which I have been involved are progressing well. The six biographical essays concerning nineteenth-and twentieth-century Reformed Church leaders--William Hoy, David Schneder, James Wagner, Robert Moss, Bela Vassady, and Louis Gunnemann--have been submitted to Intervarsity Press for inclusion in the proposed Dictionary of the Presbyterian and Reformed Tradition. Barbara Brown Zikmund, general editor of the series, The Living Theological Heritage of the United Church of Christ, has informed me that Volume 2, The Reformation, has been sent to the publisher, Pilgrim Press. Other officers and members of the two societies are hard at work on their respective volumes in this series. A beautiful brochure announcing the series was printed by the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries in time for distribution at Faith Works in July.

Kay Schellhase, who functions primarily as UCC archivist but also secondarily as ERHS archivist, has provided news of the archives in her report. For myself and other researchers on the UCC Living Theological Heritage project, I should like to express our gratitude to members of the staff who have provided us with assistance. I am particularly grateful to the Rev. Kathleen Chesnut for all the work of typing and editing of my manuscript she did before she left us to assume a pastoral post in Iowa. Other researchers have been helped to locate materials and to have them photocopied for possible inclusion in their volumes. I am pleased also that some of our priceless collections have been reprocessed for better preservation and easier usage by patrons, such as the Japan mission materials and the Emanuel V. Gerhart manuscripts. Other collections stand in need of similar treatment, and we are hopeful that we may be able to secure grants and volunteers to make the reprocessing possible.

As indicated in Myron Wolf's report, our financial situation this year is not as rosy as it has been. We did not receive our usual annual donation from the Arcadia Foundation. In response to a letter from me, the foundation has informed us that it will no longer make annual contributions to the society, but it will provide a grant of \$4000 in March, 1995. We are

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT (cont'd from page 9)

extremely appreciative of the generous support which the Arcadia Foundation has given us for the past two decades. That support has undergirded the society's programs and put us on a firmer financial footing than once was the case. We shall need to seek more funding from individuals and churches in order to be able to carry on our work of preserving the Evangelical and Reformed heritage and making it better known so that it may instruct and inspire the ministry of the church in the present. We shall all need to be ambassadors for the society, informing persons, churches, associations, and conferences of our work and encouraging them to support us. The other officers and I will be pleased to receive from the members any suggestions as to how we can expand the base of our membership and of our support. To assist with the spreading of the word about the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, we have had a new brochure printed. Copies of the brochure will be ready for the Bridgeport meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

John B. Payne, President

REPORT OF THE ARCHIVIST

Those of you who use "In Mission," the UCC Calendar of Prayer, will be aware that our joint meeting with the Congregational Christian Historical Society is mentioned on October 15, the very day of our meeting. In addition, the work of the UCC Archives is lifted up on June 25, the official birthday of the denomination, and the entry for Wednesday, June 29, is devoted to the work of the Calvin Synod. As we participate in our meetings and listen to the papers prepared for us this weekend, I hope we will feel a sense of belonging to the church as a whole and of being held in the prayers of UCC members who cannot be with us.

In the press of business last year, we neglected to bring to your attention a very significant anniversary in the life of the Reformed Church. On April 27, 1793, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, the first Synod of the German Reformed Church in the United States of America was organized, marking the official establishment of a body independent from the Classis of Amsterdam in Holland, which had been providing financial support, books and ministers for the Germans who came to this country before the American Revolution.

During the colonial period, the German Reformed Churches had been organized in a Coetus, a word of Latin derivation. In 1793 they began instead to use the word Synod, derived from the Greek. Both words have the same meaning: a coming together, in this case, for the purpose of conference and action in their common interest by members of the assembled group.

In 1893, at the meeting in Reading, Pennsylvania, of what was by then known as the General Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States, the Standing Committee on the State of the Church submitted a report (printed in the Synod minutes for that year) in which they celebrated what had occurred one hundred years earlier. One hundred years later, at the meeting of the General Synod of 1993, the president of the United Church of Christ, successor denomination to the Reformed Church, was the Rev. Paul H. Sherry, who comes from the Reformed tradition and is strongly influenced by it.

While I continue to spend most of my time on UCC-related records, projects and meetings, I also supervise the daily operations of the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society. With the assistance of part-time staff members, we produce the two yearly newsletters, keep our bills

REPORT OF THE ARCHIVIST (cont'd from page 10)

paid, answer genealogical research inquiries, assist patrons who visit the collection, reprocess records, advise local churches on preservation of their records, and make our listing of church and pastoral records more accurate.

Diane Rimert, faithful part-time archives assistant who turns her hand to any task required and who has been with us for five years, is the stable element in the staffing situation. Kathleen Chesnut, who filled in so ably from May 1992, until December 1993, has been elected the pastor of two UCC churches in Iowa. Three LTS students helped us through the spring semester and the summer. Patricia Minnick reprocessed the papers of E.V. Gerhart, and Judith Farrell and Michael Eckroth answered genealogical inquiries, did special projects, and assisted visiting researchers. Michael worked in the archives three days a week during the summer, when Diane is able to be here only one day each week. We continue to have the services of an excellent volunteer who has, however, worked primarily on UCC records.

Although the number of persons visiting the archives to do genealogical research steadily declines (201 compared with 225 for the first nine months respectively of 1994 and 1993), we have encouraging figures to report for memberships in the Society. At this time last year we had only 70 memberships, while our 1994 memberships number is 114. That improvement may be due in part to the reminder letter that was sent last November, and we will repeat that mailing after the Historical Council appeal has gone out this October.

We continue to reprocess Reformed Church and Evangelical and Reformed Church records for better preservation and access. The E.V. Gerhart papers are a good example of the kind of work entailed in these efforts, and a description of that project is found in the July 1994, newsletter. As time permits, the files of the E and R Board of International Missions are being reprocessed. One group of these files takes up more than sixty feet of shelf space, and many of the cartons filled with routine correspondence that has no historical value and should have been discarded fifty years ago. Weeding files such as these not only makes them into a more valuable resource but also frees much-needed space in the archives.

A most interesting and valuable resource has come into the archives through the efforts of ERHS Board member Mark Steiner, who taped an oral history interview of Ms. Jane Cable, long-time companion of Ms. Florence Partridge, Executive Secretary for its entire life-span of twenty-one years of the Women's Guild of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. The interview reveals much about the lives of the two women, including their lesbian relationship.

Another addition to the collection is a group of letters written to the young John Williamson Nevin by family members. Nevin's great-granddaughter gave the letters to the Rev. John Weiler, who donated them to the ERHS.

The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, like many agencies associated with the "mainline" Protestant denominations, faces a future of dwindling financial resources, with all the consequent loss of staff and program. As we adapt to these new realities, I trust that we will be ever more conscious of our purpose and devoted to the preservation of what is best in our tradition.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Schellhase, Archivist

SOUTHERN CHAPTER REPORT

Since the last meeting of ERHS, the Southern Chapter has participated in two church anniversary celebrations. On October 30, 1993, we joined Spoon's Chapel UCC (formerly Christian Church) at Asheboro, holding our annual meeting there in connection with their centennial. On May 21, 1994, we were represented at a history fair held by Corinth Reformed UCC, Hickory, NC, as part of their 125th anniversary celebration. (This is the home church of the late Dr. R. V. Moss, Jr., former President of Lancaster Theological Seminary and the United Church of Christ.)

Two things have hampered work at our archives in the past year. One, a persistent leak in the Catawba College Library roof, has rendered a third floor room we had hoped to use to store non-current materials unusable. This makes more urgent our need to sort and dispose of anything we have which is already on deposit elsewhere. Second, our archivist, Mrs. Jacquelyn Sims, has been serving as acting director of the Catawba College Library. This has limited the amount of time she could spend in the archives. However, she managed to secure some student help in cataloging and filing. Needless to say, she has been unable to progress as rapidly or as far as she would like on preparing a summary of our holdings as requested by our Southern Conference Minister, Dr. Rollin Russell. There is a positive aspect in each of these situations. Mrs. Sims thinks that another room in a non-leaking section of the third floor of the Catawba College Library might be available to us for temporary storage. And there is the prospect of some good student assistance in the archives in this school year.

We have not yet resolved the question of who owns the materials in our archives. This question arose when the administration of Catawba College asked us to sign a statement absolving them of any liability in case of loss or damage to materials stored there. We felt that we had no choice, since we pay no rent for the use of the facilities.

On a bright note, the Rev. Alan Miller, Associate Conference Minister for the Western N.C. Association toured our archives and expressed a keen interest in what we are trying to do. He felt that he might be able to help unearth additional funding for our archival work. (Already, our largest single source of support is a line item in the WNC Association budget.)

This year we have 45 people from North Carolina attending this meeting of ERHS as part of our annual historical bus tour. The bus tours were begun in 1975 by the late Rev. Frank Snider to encourage attendance at the 250th anniversary celebration of the first German Reformed communion in America at Falkner Swamp Church in Pennsylvania. Each year we think could be our last tour, but our loyal followers continue to encourage us to plan for the succeeding years. We owe much gratitude to the Revs. Nelson Weller and Larry Bolick for doing the detail work that makes the bus tours possible. The Rev. Harold Holste, Secretary of the Southern Chapter, is a part of the tour this year for the first time.

Our chapter's next annual meeting will be on Saturday, November 12, 1995, at St. James UCC, Mt. Pleasant, NC, in connection with their centennial observance.

Respectfully submitted,

Banks Shepherd, President

EDEN ARCHIVES REPORT

The work of the Eden Archives continues steadily under the supervision of an Eden Archives Committee of twelve persons related to the Seminary and to the ERHS.

In addition to Mrs. Ahme Quist and myself, who are present in the Archives on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, this past semester three Eden Seminary students worked as research assistants with funding aided by a Lilly grant for two of them and a special gift from the UCC Missouri Conference for Heide Walker, who spent ten hours per week preparing records and inventories for the Archives of special interest to the Missouri and Southern Illinois Conferences. Elizabeth Brueseke and Lenore Kure performed somewhat similar tasks, the former making use of a word processor provided for the Archives by the Seminary Development department. The two students each worked five hours per week in the Archives.

The continuing education department of the Seminary presented a notable event in memory of H. Richard Niebuhr in the fall of 1994, including presentations by Roger Shinn, Gustav Niebuhr of the New York Times, and a dramatization by Oscar Nussman.

I lectured to the Eden Board on January 26, 1994, at the celebration of the Seventieth Anniversary of Eden's move to Webster Groves and the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of Samuel Press' inauguration as President.

Ruth Rashe continues to be of help to archival work and denominational historical concerns in our area. We work together also on the Heritage Committee of the Missouri UCC Conference.

Long-range seminary planning at Eden Seminary includes concern about limited space in the Eden-Webster Libraries, including the Eden Archives.

The presence of the ERHS at St. Paul's UCC in Chicago, Ill. has helped to encourage historical work in that area. A historical conference in October 1994 at St. Paul's UCC, Elgin, Ill. celebrating the Reformation and led by Eugene Wehrli and myself had to be cancelled however, for lack of registrations.

The continuing education department of Eden Seminary looks forward to UCC Archivist Kay Schellhase's seminar in October 1994, on: "To Save or Not To Save: An Archival Question".

I have completed up-dating an introduction and bibliography on UCC colleges, universities, and seminaries for Garland Publishing Co. to be published in the fall of 1994 in a book entitled Religious Colleges and Universities in the U.S.: A Source Book, ed. by Thomas C. Hunt.

My work continues with Elizabeth Nordbeck on preparing volume four in the Living Theological Heritage series for Pilgrim Press.

We in the Eden Archives express appreciation for the opportunities given us to be of service to the United Church of Christ, especially in the context of its meaningful and hopeful heritage. The long-term contributions to the Eden Archives from the ERHS have been especially appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Lowell H. Zuck, Director

THE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF THE UCC
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES
JANUARY 1, 1994 - DECEMBER 31, 1994

	INCOME	
Executive Council -- UCC		\$3,500.00
Conferences: Penn West	\$100.00	
Wisconsin	250.00	
Penn Central	<u>500.00</u>	850.00
Associations: Hudson-Mohawk, NY	50.00	
Susquehanna, NY	50.00	
Lancaster, PA	<u>1,500.00</u>	1,600.00
Memberships		2,036.00
Life Fees: Rev. W. Jorris Beckmann		250.00
Historical Council Financial Campaign		4,383.02
Interest on Investments		2,649.97
Visitor Fees		935.00
Misc. Income: Copies, Rentals, Books, Etc.		420.00
Special Projects		850.00
Gifts:		
Bethany UCC, Bethlehem, PA	50.00	
Church of the Apostles, Lancaster, PA	150.00	
Faith UCC, Lancaster, Pa.	350.00	
Ruth B. Frantz (J.B. Frantz Memorial)	100.00	
Elvin Groff, Douglasville, PA	50.00	
Dr. Earlin & Rev. Anna Lutz, Quakertown, PA	100.00	
Rev. Robert & Ruth Nace, Peterborough, NH	100.00	
Dr. John B. Payne, Lancaster, PA	100.00	
Rev. David Rapp, Whitehall, PA	150.00	
St. John's Ref. Church, Lebanon, PA	50.00	
St. John's UCC, Slatington, PA	125.00	
St. Luke's, Kittanning, PA	100.00	
Rev. Mark Steiner, Berne, IN	50.00	
Robert Steward, Saline MN	75.00	
Rev. Stephen Sziarto, Slanesville, WV	225.00	
John R. Weiler (Memorial for Ralph S. Weiler)	100.00	
Myron Wolf, Lancaster, PA	50.00	
Womens' Guild, Our Saviour's UCC, Ripon, WI	100.00	
Zion UCC, Le Sueur, MN	93.90	
Others (less than \$50 each)	<u>299.15</u>	2,418.05
TOTAL INCOME		<u>\$19,892.04</u>

(Cont'd on Page 15)

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES (Cont'd from page 14)

EXPENSES	
Payroll and Payroll Taxes	\$8,007.74
Supplies	837.95
Equipment	585.64
Printing	1,492.18
Postage	807.25
Telephone	450.36
Miscellaneous	227.79
Special Projects	990.25
Meetings and Travel	4,040.41
Insurance	210.00
Eden Subsidy	<u>4,500.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>\$22,149.57</u>
Deficit for the year ended Dec. 31, 1994	<u>\$2,257.53</u>

THE EVANGELICAL AND REFORMED HISTORICAL SOCIETY UCC

BALANCE SHEET

12/31/94

ASSETS	
Checking Account-- Core States Hamilton Bank	\$5,375.25
Money Market Account-- Core States Hamilton Bank	\$50,446.31
Certificate of Deposit--Sovereign Bank	\$4,402.02
GMC Memorial Endowment--Hamilton Bank C/D	\$1,001.00
Wellington Fund	\$1,008.00
St. Paul's Preservation Trust--Hamilton Bank C/D	\$3,000.00
United Church Foundation	<u>\$25,000.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$90,232.58</u>

LIABILITIES AND PRINCIPAL

Principal--12/31/93	\$92,490.11
Less Deficit: 1/1/94-12/31/94	<u>\$2,257.53</u>
PRINCIPAL	<u>\$ 90,232.58</u>

Respectfully submitted,

Myron E. Wolf, Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please enroll me as a member of the ERHS for 1995. Enclosed is my check for the following amount:

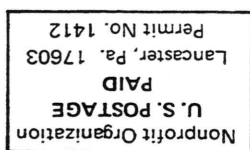
<u>MEMBERSHIPS</u>	
_____ Donor \$25	_____ Sponsor \$100
_____ Student \$ 7	_____ Institution \$50
_____ Life \$250	

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

Please detach, include check made payable to: Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society, and mail to ERHS, 555 W. James Street, Lancaster, PA 17603.

If you wish to be a member of both the Congregational Christian and the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Societies, make your check payable to the UCC Historical Council and mail it to: UCC Historical Council, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115.



The Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society UCC
555 West James Street
Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17603
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED