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Samples of Catechism Revision

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SAMPLES OF CATECHISM REVISION

TO PASTORS AND TEACHERS: —

The Catechism Committee of Synod is herewith submitting to you three samples, or patterns, of a Catechism revision and asks you to indicate your choice. They are designated as Form A, Form B, and Form C and cover the same ground, namely, from the Introduction to the end of the First Commandment.

This inquiry is to assist our committee in determining the general form that our advanced Catechism ought to have. We speak here of an advanced Catechism because Synod has resolved to publish also a shorter and simpler book, to be known as the elementary, or junior, Catechism. By the advanced Catechism we mean Schwan or its equivalent. The chief question before us is whether this book should remain substantially as it is or take on a somewhat different form.

We find a divergence of opinion, but do not know to what extent our pastors and teachers prefer the one or the other. Synod in Milwaukee, 1932, declared for a slight revision of Schwan. On the other hand, the Visitors' Conference at River Forest, 1936,* passed a formal resolution asking Synod and its Catechism Committee to make the book more practical for the instruction of children and adults. Sentiment to this effect on the part of others has been reported to us. Hence we have been advised by the President of Synod

* Three out of four groups. Time did not permit in the fourth group.

to send out samples and ascertain the opinion of the brethren before deciding on, and completing, any given form. If a change is to be made, now is the time to make it.

A new form will no doubt mean a somewhat larger book. But a larger book does not mean a more elaborate course or an extension of the scope; it should mean merely greater value as a text-book, especially to the child.

You are not asked to criticize details, but only to say which of the three samples appeals to you most. If any of the forms is generally preferred, the Catechism Committee will use that form as its general pattern, and the whole Catechism will later be submitted to all pastors and teachers for detailed criticism. We desire to receive many replies. A postal card will do. Try to reply within a week or ten days.

Suggested replies:—

- I prefer Form A, because
- Form B, because
- Form C, because

Any additional remarks are welcomed

Address all communications to

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