

# Concordia Theological Monthly

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Volume 34

Article 64

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10-1-1963

## Theological Observer

Unknown

*Concordia Seminary, St. Louis*

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### Recommended Citation

Unknown (1963) "Theological Observer," *Concordia Theological Monthly*. Vol. 34, Article 64.

Available at: <https://scholar.csl.edu/ctm/vol34/iss1/64>

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## THEOLOGICAL OBSERVER

### BRIEF ITEMS FROM THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

*Labti, Finland.*—Representatives of seven European Lutheran Free Churches met here July 25—27 for the fourth in a series of conferences designed to foster closer cooperation among the independent church bodies.

England, France, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, and Germany were represented in the discussions of theology and mission methods. Other visitors included Dr. Clemens E. Hoopmann, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Australia, and the Rev. N. J. Ezekiel, general secretary of the India Evangelical Lutheran Church.

All the church bodies are in affiliation with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, which was represented at the meetings by the Rev. Carl A. Gaertner, a member of the Synod's Commission on Theology and Church Relations, and Prof. Martin J. Naumann of Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Ill.

"The Theological Basis of Lutheran Free Church Work in Europe" was the subject of papers by the Rev. Hans-Lutz Poetsch of Bremen, Germany, and the Rev. Marc Splingart of Paris. The representatives also discussed the history, problems, and opportunities of the Free Churches.

The Free Churches first met in London in 1960 with other sessions held in Paris (1961) and West Berlin (1962).

Most of the participants in the meeting here traveled to Helsinki the following week for the Fourth Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation.

*Brainerd, Minn.*—More than a century of work by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in this area is bridged by two recent events here.

Minnesota Gov. Karl F. Rolvaag unveiled a plaque honoring Missionary O. Cloeter

during memorial services at Crow Wing State Park south of here, paying tribute to the clergyman's early efforts among the Indians. Missionary Cloeter established headquarters at Crow Wing after a mission station opened in 1857 at Cabitawigama, 30 miles northeast, was destroyed during an Indian uprising in August 1862. From Crow Wing the missionary made extensive journeys throughout northern Minnesota. The plaque was given by the Missouri Synod's Minnesota District.

Meanwhile the district, upon authorization of the 1962 Synod convention, has divided into Minnesota North and Minnesota South. The Minnesota North District headquarters will be located here. The Rev. A. C. Seltz, a full-time president, is moving here, and Miss Joyce Vogt, a graduate of the parish workers program at St. John's Lutheran College, Winfield, Kans., will become the new office secretary. Mrs. Guy Murphy, a bookkeeper, is receiving training at the Minnesota South office and will begin work here about Aug. 1.

*St. Louis.*—Christian citizens face a dual responsibility in helping the nation overcome the moral crisis precipitated by the racial problem, an official of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has declared.

Dr. Arthur L. Miller, executive secretary of the Missouri Synod's Board of Parish Education, stated, "As citizens we have the civic obligation to work with community, state, and national leaders in dealing with this problem. As Christians each of us has a specific privilege and obligation to bring the power of the Gospel to bear on this problem in our congregation and community."

Focusing on education, he emphasized, "The problem of the integration of church-related schools is simply part of the larger question of integrated congregations."

During the 1962—63 school year there were 4,991 non-white children enrolled in 275 elementary schools operated by Missouri Synod congregations as compared with 2,364 during 1961—62. The increase is chiefly due to the fact that schools formerly affiliated with the Lutheran Synodical Conference in Alabama, Florida, and Louisiana now are included in the Missouri Synod's Southern District.

Of the 4,300 Negroes in Missouri Synod elementary schools, 1,997 are in integrated classrooms. Schools with an all-Negro enrollment serve 2,994 pupils (including 20 other non-whites).

Dr. Miller called upon pastors, parish education boards, school principals, and Sunday school superintendents to provide leadership in developing congregational policy concerning racial integration. He stated that the Christian attitude toward racial equality will affect the congregation's community missionary outreach.

"The concept of the community church will help a congregation bring the Gospel to all the people of its community without regard to race or nationality," Dr. Miller explained. "Some congregations have been doing this for many years. All Christian congregations should follow their example."

The Missouri Synod in 1956 adopted a comprehensive resolution on race relations which stated, "In the execution of Christ's command ('to preach the Gospel to every creature'), no line of demarcation should be drawn relative to nationality, race, or color, for there is no respect of persons with God."

*Washington.*—The church's role in vocational rehabilitation of the deaf was examined by 75 representatives of three Lutheran church bodies during a three-day workshop at Gallaudet College.

Meeting with 25 government officials and educators were 53 participants from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, 12 from

the American Lutheran Church, and 10 from the Lutheran Church in America.

The workshop was made possible by a grant from the vocational rehabilitation administration of the United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare to Gallaudet, a private liberal arts college for the deaf which receives most of its operating funds from the federal government.

A symposium on the training of Lutheran clergymen in the vocational rehabilitation of deaf persons was a workshop feature. Participants also learned of the state-federal program of vocational rehabilitation with emphasis upon demonstration and training, services, and research. Other subjects studied included working with mentally ill or retarded deaf persons, underemployment of the deaf, the role of the rehabilitation counselor, and service to the multiple handicapped deaf.

There are two Lutheran schools for the deaf, both Missouri Synod agencies, in Detroit and Mill Neck, Long Island, N. Y.

Members of the workshop steering committee included the Rev. Harry W. Hoemann, Missouri Synod chaplain at Gallaudet, and the Rev. William P. Reinking, executive secretary of the Missouri Synod's Board for Missions to the Deaf.

#### BRIEF ITEMS FROM THE NATIONAL LUTHERAN COUNCIL

#### THREE SEMINARIES, ONE LUTHERAN, ASSOCIATE WITH STATE UNIVERSITY

*Dubuque, Iowa.*—The Wartburg (Lutheran) Theological Seminary and two other divinity schools here have formed an Association of Theological Faculties with the State University of Iowa in Iowa City.

According to Dr. Robert Michaelsen, director of the SUI School of Religion, the association is unique in its involvement of Catholic and Protestant theological institutions with a state university for the purpose of furthering scholarly study in theology.

In addition to the seminary of the American Lutheran Church, the other two Dubuque institutions in the association are the Aquinas Institute (Roman Catholic) and the theological seminary of the University of Dubuque (Presbyterian).

Dr. Michaelsen said that SUI is one of the few institutions in the nation where it is possible for a student to pursue graduate study in religion under an inter-religious faculty and that it is the only state university in the U.S. offering a doctorate in religion.

The heads of the four institutions forming the association issued a joint statement in which they said that it had been formed to provide a formal channel for becoming acquainted and exchanging ideas of mutual benefit, to strengthen graduate programs currently being offered by the participating faculties and to make the resources of the participating faculties and the institutions they represent more easily available to graduate students.

"Through this association," the statement continued, "it will be possible to admit qualified graduate students from Dubuque institutions into the graduate program of religion at SUI with advanced standing."

"It will also be possible for certain selected members of the faculties in the Dubuque institutions to participate in a limited way in the graduate program in religion at the State University of Iowa."

Dr. Alfred H. Ewald, president of the Wartburg Theological Seminary, said that the new association gives added emphasis to the academic quality in the participating institutions.

The Wartburg president said that SUI has invited Dr. Gerhard Krodel, professor of New Testament at Wartburg, to teach a one-day-a-week seminar course during the second semester of the coming academic year. The church schools in the association will also compile a listing of all their library books

which will be made available to graduate students at SUI on a mail basis.

Although it is believed that this is the first such association in the U.S., Dr. Ewald noted that thought to similar relationships between seminaries and state institutions is being given in other parts of the country.

The association was formed in Iowa after a series of consultations that began in the fall of 1962. The consultations were inaugurated at the suggestion of the State University of Iowa's School of Religion in an attempt to augment its graduate program in religion.

Graduate work in religion has been offered at the state university since the founding of its School of Religion in 1927. The full-time teaching faculty of the SUI School of Religion presently consists of one Jewish, two Roman Catholic, and three Protestant scholars.

Dr. George W. Forell, a minister of the Lutheran Church in America, is professor of Protestant Theology at SUI. He was the first Lutheran to hold a chair of religion provided in 1954 by the Division of College and University Work of the National Lutheran Council with the cooperation of NLC church bodies having congregations in Iowa.

#### NEW LUTHERAN BOOK GIVES INTERCOMMUNION DOCUMENTS

*Geneva.*—A major Lutheran contribution to current discussions concerning interchurch fellowship and intercommunion, edited by the director of the Lutheran World Federation's Department of Theology has been released.

Titled "Church in Fellowship—Lutheran Interchurch Agreements and Practices," the 279-page book is brought out by Augsburg Publishing House in Minneapolis, Minn. A German edition also is to appear shortly.

The work presents a scholarly survey and analysis of significant Lutheran pronouncements—mostly from North America, Ger-

many, and the Scandinavian lands—on altar and pulpit fellowship with Reformed, Anglican, and other churches, as well as sister Lutheran bodies.

Chief contributors are Dr. Fred W. Meuser, professor of historical theology at the Evangelical Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio; Pastor Johannes Meister of Sommersdorf (Bavaria), Germany; and the Rev. Carl Henrik Lyttkens, secretary of the theological sub-committee of the Swedish National Committee for the LWF.

Professor Meuser has dealt with the American churches, Pastor Meister with the German ones, and Pastor Lyttkens with those of Sweden, Finland, Denmark, and Norway. In addition, the editor, Dr. Vilmos Vajta, has concluded the volume with a thorough theological evaluation titled "The Unity of the Church and Holy Communion."

In dealing with the subject, Dr. Vajta has used a completely new terminology "in order to avoid confusion by using the term 'intercommunion' in so wide a sense that in the end no one knows what it actually covers."

The book is the result of a systematic examination of the question which the LWF Commission on Theology has been fostering for the past several years as part of its study program.

#### DEBATE ON WOMEN'S ORDINATION BREAKS OUT AT LWF MEETING

*Stavanger, Norway.*—Lutheran disagreement over the ordination of women unexpectedly broke out in a debate between prominent churchmen at a major Lutheran World Federation meeting here. The exchange took place at the annual enlarged meeting of the LWF Commission on World Mission. Speaking vigorously against the admission of women to the ministry was Dr. Max Lohe, president general of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Australia.

He drew a firm theological defense of

women's ordination out of the chairman of the commission, Bishop Heinrich Meyer of Lübeck, Germany, during discussion of a lecture by the latter on "The Ministry of the Church and its Administration."

In the lecture itself, Bishop Meyer had hinted at his personal opinion with these words:

"(A) conflict dividing even the Lutheran churches arises out of the question whether women can be admitted to, and ordained for, the ministry of preaching and administering the sacraments. There are those who deny this with seemingly Biblical grounds. There are others who from the basis of the Gospel of grace and freedom are convinced that the church cannot withhold this ministry from women because they too are freed by the grace of God in Christ Jesus and called to serve Him and bear witness to Him."

Dr. Lohe protested the use of the word "seemingly." He was later supported by Bishop Fridtjov Birkeli of Stavanger, who said the same word should also have been applied to the argument "from the basis of the Gospel of grace and freedom."

The Australian churchman set forth his church's Scriptural reasons for not opening the ministry to both sexes. Bishop Meyer replied, contending that the ordination of women was in harmony with Gospel doctrine.

#### DR. FRY SAYS LWF "OVERLEAPS" WALLS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST

*Helsinki.*—The Lutheran World Federation was described here as an international organization that has leaped the barriers between East and West to establish "a Christian bond of peace."

The assertion was made by the Rev. Dr. Franklin Clark Fry of New York in his presidential address at the opening plenary session of the LWF's Fourth Assembly.

Lutheran churches, he told the delegates gathered in the main hall of the University of Helsinki, are "prepared in spirit to reach

out to brethren everywhere in a search for the fuller oneness of all who call Christ Lord in the midst of a hostile world, on the basis of a common adherence to Him who is and who teaches the Truth."

Dr. Fry, who is president of the Lutheran Church in America, a denomination of 3,200,000 members formed last year by a four-way merger, is completing a six-year term as head of the Federation.

Stressing that "these are days when Christ is vibrantly alive and expects His people to be creative," the church leader declared that "the challenge, the test, is on our side, in how responsive we are to Him."

Praising the record of the Lutheran World Federation as "a useful instrument for Christ's kingdom," Dr. Fry added:

"In a day when the isolation of churches from one another is hopelessly outdated by the rapid currents of history, the LWF has enabled stronger churches to undergird the weak, it has saved minority churches from the defeatism of seeming to stand alone; in it we overleap, as is so sorely needed, the barriers between East and West and are establishing a Christian bond of peace."

The retiring president of the LWF pointed to some examples of the LWF's concern for others through its global program of inter-church aid, material relief, refugee resettlement and special projects.

"It has held out food and clothing to Palestinian Arabs, provided vocational opportunities in Hong Kong, extended medical aid in Algeria, and facilitated community development projects in many of the developing areas of the world, giving witness in every place that our God is the Father of all," he said.

"In an age of uprooting of peoples, more than 100,000 have seen and felt the active compassion of Christ as our (Lutheran) World Service has assisted them to new homes overseas, homes not only for their bodies but for their souls."

#### FINNISH LEADER WELCOMES 4TH ASSEMBLY OF THE LWF

*Helsinki.*—The President of Finland told the Lutheran World Federation here that "it calls for greater faith and inner strength" to treat as human beings and neighbors rather than enemies and rivals those whose "whole outlook is different" from one's own.

"This is what we must learn," declared Dr. Urho Kekkonen, "if we, the human race, want to avoid fatal disruptions and the ravages of nuclear war."

Dr. Kekkonen warned that "pure terror of destruction is not enough to cross the barriers that separate the peoples of the world in our times."

Referring to Finland as a borderland between East and West, the President said this fact has not led only to wars, destruction and sufferings, but "it has meant new opportunities and given us new strength."

Finland's position as "bridge-builder between East and West," Dr. Kekkonen stressed, does not mean that "we should intrude ourselves as mediators in disagreements between great powers."

#### 11 CHURCH BODIES ADMITTED TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE LWF

*Helsinki.*—Eight African and three European churches with a combined constituency of more than 1,600,000 were received into the membership of the Lutheran World Federation at its Fourth Assembly here.

It was the largest list of applicants the federation had considered since it was organized at Lund, Sweden, in 1947.

Overwhelmingly favorable action by the assembly on all 11 applications raised the federation's roster to 73 church bodies in 38 countries, representing a combined membership of more than 52 million Lutherans who comprise the third largest confessional family after the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox.

The admission of the 11 churches was recommended by the LWF Executive Committee, which through a subcommittee had thoroughly studied each application to determine eligibility for membership.

The African churches are located in Ethiopia (two), Southern Rhodesia, South Africa (two), South-West Africa, and Tanganyika (two).

The new European members are the Lutheran Churches of the Latvian and Estonian Soviet Socialist Republics of the USSR and the Church of Eutin in Germany.

All three of the former Baltic states—Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania, now incorporated into the USSR—are represented in the LWF by churches in exile, with headquarters respectively in the United States, Sweden, and Germany.

Following announcement of the results of the voting, representatives of the new member churches were formally seated as delegates to the LWF's Fourth Assembly here.

When the membership applications were presented for approval, questions were raised from the floor of the assembly concerning the Lutheran churches in Latvia and Estonia.

LWF President Franklin Clark Fry, who presided, explained that the Executive Committee had carefully examined criticisms made by churches-in-exile of the two countries who are members of the LWF, but had found nothing in the LWF constitution which would bar the Latvian and Estonian churches from seeking membership.

"Even though the Executive Committee fully understands the difficulties which this can create for the churches-in-exile, it is apparent that the churches in Estonia and Latvia cannot be satisfactorily represented through churches-in-exile," Dr. Fry said.

The Rev. Alexander Veinbergs, president of the Latvian church-in-exile, told the assembly that the LWF should create a special commission to study the problem of churches

in the Baltic nations. No motion to that effect was offered, however, and the assembly proceeded to ballot on the applications.

#### WORLD MISSION COMMISSION ADOPTS RECORD BUDGET

*Stavanger, Norway.*—The largest program budget in the history of the Lutheran World Federation's Commission on World Mission was adopted at the annual meeting of CWM which closed here on July 25.

It calls for a total of \$800,000 in assured grants for church-related projects in Asia and Africa and an additional \$250,000 of fresh funds that will be sought to meet other needs in those areas. The amount of \$280,000—one-third of the assured part of the budget—will be for the federation's Voice of the Gospel shortwave radio station in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

#### ASK STUDY OF POSSIBLE LWF TIES WITH INTER-CONFESSIONAL CHURCHES

*Stavanger, Norway.*—The question of a possible relationship between the Lutheran World Federation and churches of mixed confessional character or background was raised at the annual enlarged meeting here of the LWF Commission on World Mission.

Participants voted on July 24 "that the LWF be requested to study the question of what kind of relationship it should establish, if any, with churches which are partially Lutheran and partially non-Lutheran, and with Lutheran churches which are likely to enter into union with non-Lutheran churches."

The request reflected a concern expressed by churchmen of some Asian and African countries where Lutherans are involved in unity talks that may lead to interconfessional church mergers. South India and Tanganyika are prominent among the places where such talks are going on.

On the other hand, there are already a number of churches in different parts of the world with a mixed heritage including Lu-

theran traditions. By far the largest churches of this kind are the union churches of Germany.

#### OFFERING AT LWF ASSEMBLY GOES TO QUAKE RELIEF

*Helsinki.* — The Department of World Service of the Lutheran World Federation moved swiftly to assist victims of the series of earthquakes in late July in the Macedonian city of Skoplje, Yugoslavia.

Relief funds were provided by an offering of nearly 4,000 Finnish marks (approximately \$1,200) from delegates and visitors attending the opening service of the Fourth Assembly of the federation on July 30.

Reports from Skoplje indicated that nearly 1,000 persons had lost their lives in the earthquake that struck at dawn, destroying 85 percent of the city's homes and driving half of its 170,000 residents into the streets.

#### VATICAN COUNCIL DELEGATION OF LWF RAISED TO THREE

*Helsinki.* — Three delegate observers will represent the Lutheran World Federation at the second session of the Vatican Council which is to open this autumn, the LWF Executive Committee decided at a three-day pre-assembly meeting here.

They are Dr. Kristen-Ejnar Skydsgaard, professor of systematic theology at the University of Copenhagen, Dr. George A. Lindbeck, the federation's inter-confessional research professor, and Dr. Vilmos Vajta, director of the LWF Department of Theology in Geneva.

The Executive Committee action was in response to an invitation received from Augustine Cardinal Bea, chairman of the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity. The death of a pope and election of a successor made necessary a fresh convocation of the council and invitation of non-Roman Catholic observers.

At the first session of the council, Profes-

sors Skydsgaard and Lindbeck were the federation's delegate observers. However, Dr. Skydsgaard was unable to remain in Rome for the entire session and Dr. Vajta served as his alternate.

Both Dr. Skydsgaard and Dr. Lindbeck have been very closely related with the LWF's inter-confessional research program. The Danish dogmatician was, for the first two years of the program's existence, its staff leader, with the title of research professor.

Dr. Lindbeck, who is on leave from a chair of historical theology at Yale Divinity School in New Haven, Conn., became his successor in July 1962. Dr. Vajta has headed the federation's theological department in Geneva for about a decade.

#### TRAVEL BAN KEEPS ORDASS, OTHERS FROM LWF ASSEMBLY

*Helsinki.* — Bishop Lajos Ordass, former head of the Hungarian Lutheran Church and current first vice-president of the Lutheran World Federation, was not permitted by the Budapest government to attend the federation's Fourth Assembly here.

Dr. Ordass, who was obliged to retire under state pressure in June 1958, had intended to take part in the assembly and an Executive Committee meeting immediately preceding it, but was unable to obtain an exit visa.

Also denied permission to leave Hungary was Bishop Zoltan Turoczy, a colleague of Bishop Ordass.

Bishop Turoczy, who was thrice forced out of office by the Budapest government and is now living in retirement, was awarded the honorary doctor of theology from the Faculty of Theology at the University of Helsinki in absentia.

The Hungarian Lutheran Church, however, was represented by its full complement of six delegates, headed by Bishops Lajos Veto and Zoltan Kaldy.

It was reported here that almost two-



thirds of the delegates and official observers from the Lutheran churches in the East Zone of Germany had not received permission to travel out of the country by the beginning of the LWF Assembly.

Of 61 representatives expected from the German Democratic Republic — 24 delegates and 20 official visitors from four member churches and 17 official visitors from four non-member churches — 34 had received exit visas and 27 had not.

Observers here pointed out that past experience on church conferences has been that those present and those prevented from leaving the GDR usually balance each other out in number.

On the first roll call at the opening plenary session of the assembly on July 31, the Lutheran Church in Thuringia was the only one of the East Zone churches fully represented. It has five delegates and three official visitors, headed by Bishop Moritz Mitzenheim.

Hardest hit by the travel ban was the Lutheran Church of Saxony. Of 12 delegates and six official visitors, only four delegates and three visitors had been granted visas. Among those present from Saxony was the leader of its delegation, Bishop Gottfried Noth of Dresden.

The Lutheran Church of Mecklenburg had three of its four delegates present, including Bishop Niklot Beste, and three of its seven official visitors.

The Lutheran Church of Pomerania was represented by three of its four delegates, among them Bishop Friedrich-Wilhelm Krummacher of Greifswald, and all four of its official visitors.

#### LWF PROTESTS TRAVEL BAN ON EAST GERMAN DELEGATES

*Helsinki.* — The Lutheran World Federation strongly protested the denial of exit

visas to nine East German churchmen who had been named delegates to the LWF's Fourth Assembly here.

Delegates at the assembly's third plenary session overwhelmingly approved the following resolution presented by the business committee:

"The Lutheran World Federation believes that the right given by God to every man to religious freedom ought to include the right to attend an international assembly of Christian churches to which his church has designated him as a delegate."

The assembly voted to place in the record the names of the missing nine delegates:

Dr. Albrecht Hachtmann, president of synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mecklenburg.

The following delegates from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony:

Horst Ditter, Eibenstock, Erzgebirge, a layman; the Rev. Willy Gerber, Dresden; the Rev. Fritz Heidler, director of the Lutheran Church Office in East Berlin and director of stewardship and men's work in the East German churches of the EKD; Dr. Kurt Johannes, Dresden, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church Office of Saxony; Miss Hanna Kahl, Oberfrauendorf, secretary for youth work.

Also, Dr. August Kimme, Leipzig, director of the Leipzig Mission Society and secretary for ecumenical matters in East Germany; Dr. Samuel Kleemann, Radebeul, member of the LWF Commission on Education and head of the theological department of the church office; Dr. Reimer Mager, Dresden, synodical president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Saxony, executive secretary of the Confessing Church (*Bekennende Kirche*) in Saxony and vice-president of the German Evangelical Kirchentag.