

CONSULTATION ON ONE
ALL-CANADIAN LUTHERAN PUBLICATION

P R O C E E D I N G S

INTERNATIONAL INN
Winnipeg, Manitoba

SEPTEMBER 27, 1973
9:30 to 4:30

CONFERENCE

A LUTHERAN PUBLICATION FOR CANADA

September 27, 1973
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

INTERNATIONAL INN
Winnipeg, Manitoba
786-4801

PROPOSED AGENDA

OPENING DEVOTIONS:- Rev. N. J. THREINEN

INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND RECORDER

PRESENTATION OF BACKGROUND MATERIAL LEADING TO CONFERENCE - W.A. SCHULTZ

COMMENTS FROM EACH JURISDICTIONAL UNIT ABOUT WHERE IT STANDS NOW ON
THIS SUBJECT - September 1973.

EACH PRESENT PUBLICATION SHOW ITSELF AND COMMENT

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

- NEED FOR ONE PUBLICATION
- DESIRE FOR ONE PUBLICATION
- OFFICIAL SUPPORT FOR ONE PUBLICATION
- WHAT KIND
- ALTERNATIVES
- JURISDICTIONAL PUBLICATIONS
- FINANCING

DRAW UP CONSENSUS RESOLUTION AS A REPORT/REQUEST TO THE
JURISDICTIONAL UNITS.

ADJOURN.

P R O C E E D I N G S
FOR THE CONSULTATION
ON ONE NATIONAL PAN-LUTHERAN PUBLICATION

Opening Devotions

The Rev. Norman J. Threinen opened the Consultation with a short devotion.

Introduction of Participants

All participants representing their respective publication and jurisdictional units were present. A complete list is recorded on Exhibit "A".

Elections

The group elected the Rev. Norman J. Threinen as Chairman of the Consultation and Mr. W.A. Schultz as Recorder.

Background

Mr. Schultz made a brief presentation of the events leading up to this consultation, beginning with the action taken by the Lutheran Council in Canada at its Sixth Annual Meeting, February 2-3, 1972. He then detailed the various responses and actions by the respective jurisdictional units of the church.

This material is found as Exhibit "B" to these proceedings.

Jurisdictional Unit Comments

Each jurisdictional unit and publication then commented about its own publication and where it stands presently on the subject. These comments are summarized as follows:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada - it was pointed out that the Convention of the church had directed the Board of Communications to seek one publication for all Canada.

"THE SHEPHERD" - is some 50 years old originating from an Evangelical Lutheran Church publication called "Hyrden" - circulation 8,000 - subscription basis - approximate annual cost \$35 - \$40,000.00 (including salary) - 11 issues per year - printed in Calgary - content is 1/3 ELCC; 2/3 National and Inter-National.

Central Canada Synod - LCA - it was noted that a 1970 Convention resolution was referred to the executive board calling for an investigation of various alternatives for joint publications.

"CIRCLE 'N DOT" - circulation 8,000 - mailed in bulk to 79 congregations - annual cost \$2,500.00 - 51 x 4-page issues per year - printed in Regina - wrapping and mailing done by volunteers.

Eastern Canada Synod - LCA - the publication committee of the Canada Lutheran at a recent meeting established as first priority, one all-Lutheran publication; and second priority, an insert in the LCA publication "The Lutheran".

"THE CANADA LUTHERAN" - circulation 21,000 - mailed to the home of every synodical member - annual cost \$20,000.00 - 10 issues per year - content is designed to be synod house organ - printed in Kingston - mailed by an addressing and mailing service.

Western Canada Synod - LCA - the publication committee noted that its first priority was an all-Lutheran publication; second priority an all-LCA publication; third priority any other arrangements of joint publications.

"THE WESTERN CANADA LUTHERAN" - circulation 6,000 - mailed in bulk to congregations - annual cost \$2,700.00 - 10 issues per year - content, 3/4 synodical, 1/4 non-synodical - printed in Vancouver.

Alberta-British Columbia District - LC-MS - there has been no action requested - taken to change the negative resolution of the District Convention. Any decision will have to be made in conjunction with the Manitoba-Saskatchewan District.

Manitoba-Saskatchewan District - LC-MS - no apparent change from the stated reaction in Exhibit "B". Again, any decision with respect to the Canadian Lutheran must be made in conjunction with the Alberta-British Columbia District.

"THE CANADIAN LUTHERAN" - circulation 3,400 - on a subscription basis - no subsidy from the Districts - 12 issues per year - content, 3/4 house organ for the two Districts; 1/4 non-district - printed at Humboldt, Saskatchewan - editor looks after own mailing list.

Ontario District - LC-MS - there apparently is discussion in the District that there needs to be some better medium of communication, and that there perhaps needs to be some change in the present use of the supplement in the "Lutheran Witness".

"ONTARIO DISTRICT SUPPLEMENT" - circulation 6,000
- subscription basis along with "The Lutheran Witness" - 24 issues per year - content is a house organ for the District.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

There was considerable discussion as to the objectives for one all-Canadian all-Lutheran publication. These objectives have been distilled into Item "A" of the "Editorial Policy" adopted by the Consultation. (see Motion #1)

Some concerns noted during discussion were:

- the fate of the present "house organs". It was agreed that fears with respect to house organs must be allayed. It was agreed that the decision would be up to each jurisdictional unit. Resolution of this concern could cover the range from total suspension of the present house organ in order to use the new publication; to an insert in the new publication; to maintaining the present situation; and possibly other alternatives.
- this new publication should be a vehicle to air both sides of an issue.
- the role of such a publication in the matter of inter-Lutheran unity was raised. It was suggested that the provision of information about Lutheran Unity would be an acceptable function, but that the promotion of Lutheran Unity would not be acceptable. It was suggested that while a publication would not "promote" Lutheran Unity, the exchange of information, hearing of issues, etc., could create a climate for Lutheran Unity.
- the question was raised as to whether the publication should be "independent" or whether it should come under the aegis of the Lutheran Council in Canada. At this point, most of the discussion centered around the pilot project. It was suggested that the Lutheran Council presently was not equipped with sufficient staff or resources to undertake such a project. Consequently the suggestions for the pilot project seemed to favour an independent status.
- there seemed to be general agreement that in order to "sell" one Canadian publication that there would have to be a product which could be examined and used. Hence the motion adopted recommends a pilot project.

- there was discussion as to strategy to be used in accomplishing a pilot project. It was suggested that jurisdictional units might suspend some issues of their publications and put funds into the pilot project. There seemed to be agreement that decisions of that kind would have to be left to the jurisdictional unit.

Motion No. 1

It was Moved by the Rev. Ray Schultz and Seconded by Rev. Ralph Dipple that

WHEREAS: We feel the Lutheran Churches of Canada can benefit from an all-Lutheran cross-Canada publication, and

WHEREAS: We feel the churches need some visual demonstration of such a possible publication, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That we request the:-

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada,
the Central, Eastern and Western Canada
Synod of the Lutheran Church in America,
and the Alberta-British Columbia,
Manitoba-Saskatchewan and Ontario District
of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to
provide funds to produce three 'pilot'
issues of an all-Lutheran cross-Canada
publication, and be it further

RESOLVED: That the above mentioned paper demonstrate
the attached editorial policies and objectives.

Editorial Policy

NATIONAL PAN-LUTHERAN PUBLICATION

A. The periodical shall seek to further the following purposes and objectives:-

1. To inform Canadian Lutherans about

- a). Events and developments within Canadian Lutheranism.
- b). What is happening in the Lutheran Church in other regions of Canada as well as that in which they live.
- c). The activities of the Lutheran church throughout the world.

- d). The actions, work and stance of other Christian Churches, which may be of importance to Lutherans.
 - e). Canadian Lutheran reaction to world events.
 - f). Current Christian thinking with respect to national issues of ethical and moral concern, both social and personal.
 - g). Special and/or innovative ministries.
2. To provide inspirational and devotional materials arising from and adapted to the Canadian situation.
 3. To develop a greater measure of Christian churchmanship on the part of Canadian Lutherans.
 4. To encourage the development and use of Canadian talent in the fields of writing, graphics, cartoons, etc.
 5. To use available resources to the best possible advantage.
 6. To cultivate better liaison with the public media on behalf of the Lutheran Church in Canada.
 7. To establish a national Lutheran presence in (the) Canadian Church Press.
- B. The editorials and articles must be in agreement with the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. Total content shall be consistent with Christian principles.

The Consultation then prepared a "proposal" to accompany the foregoing motion, but to provide some of the thinking of the group with respect to management and financing. The proposal is seen at Exhibit "C".

Motion No. 2

It was Moved, Seconded and Carried that

To send the resolution on a National Pan-Lutheran Publication to each of the jurisdictional units and to request from them:-

- a). Agreement in principle.
- b). Names of the persons to serve on the Board of Publication.
- c). Designation of the amount of funds available for the pilot project.

Motion No. 3

It was Moved, Seconded and Carried that

To request the Lutheran Council in Canada
to finance the costs of the first Board
of Publication meeting.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

W. A. Schultz,
Recorder.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

REV. FERDY BAGLO
REV. RAY L. SCHULTZ

--- WESTERN CANADA SYNOD, L.C.A.
(Western Canada Lutheran)

DR. OTTO A. OLSON
REV. K. LAWRENCE PETERSON

--- CENTRAL CANADA SYNOD, L.C.A.
(Circle 'N Dot)

REV. CLYDE W. WENTZELL
REV. DONALD W. KRANZ

--- EASTERN CANADA SYNOD, L.C.A.
(Canada Lutheran)

REV. NORMAN J. THREINEN
REV. KARL KRAHENBIL

--- ALBERTA-BRITISH COLUMBIA DISTRICT, LC-C.
(The Canadian Lutheran)

REV. WILLARD EIFERT
REV. KARL KRAHENBIL

--- MANITOBA-SASKATCHEWAN DISTRICT, LC-C.
(The Canadian Lutheran)

REV. RALPH DIPPLE
MR. ERNEST RONNENBERG

--- ONTARIO DISTRICT, LC-C
(Ontario District Bulletin)

REV. DON G. SCOTT
REV. OSCAR SOMMERFELD

--- EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF CANADA
(The Shepherd)