

Germanness: The German Evangelical Syod of North America and the Espionage Act of 1917

Book Background: Germanness on Trial: the German Evangelical Synod of North America and the Espionage Act of 1917 is an examination of the crisis experienced by a small German-American Protestant denomination at the time of the anti-German hysteria that accompanied World War I. It includes a thorough examination of the trials of two pastors for violating the Espionage Act. It then explores the struggle within the denomination on how to cope with the tsunami of anti-Germanism.

Biography: Rev. Dr. Charles A. (Chuck) Maxfield III. Born in Fall River, Massachusetts on Feb 3 1946. He attended Penn State University. After graduation from Penn State (B.A. 1966), he went to Lancaster (PA) Theological Seminary to become a minister for the United Church Of Christ. Chuck served churches in Maine, Vermont, New York, and Massachusetts before moving to North Dakota in 1980. From 1980-1990 Chuck served multiple churches in North Dakota, most notably the Sioux Parrish, a group of five churches in five different small towns in North Dakota. While there, he became a strong advocate for lay ministry and lay leadership education in the church. He felt that every member of the church has gifts to help the church, and he helped give guidance and training. He was a founder of the “Order of Franciscans” in 1983. After that, he attended Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia where he earned his Ph.D. in Church History in 1995. After serving several churches in New York state, Chuck retired (briefly) from the ministry and became a teacher. He taught World History at State University of New York (SUNY)-Cortland and at several other universities and served several different churches in New York and Pennsylvania.

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