

Report of The Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ

The first annual meeting of the Central Atlantic Conference of the United Church of Christ was held at Hobbs College, Frederick, Maryland on June 9, 10, 11, 1965. United Evangelical Church was represented by three full time delegates, Rev. Titus Lehmann, Mrs. Paul E. Banersfeld, Mrs. Charles W. Jetz, and by Pastor Paul A. Rasche who could not be present at all the sessions because of commitments ^{here} at the church. Our church is part of the Chesapeake Association which includes the Baltimore - Delaware churches. The Central Atlantic Conference consists of churches from Washington, D.C., part of Virginia, northern and southern New Jersey, ^{Delaware} and Maryland. This was the first conference meeting under the new organizational set up and is to be an annual affair.

The meeting opened with a communion service on Wednesday afternoon in the Coffman Chapel. This was a very vibrant and meaningful way to begin the Conference sessions.

The conference was then called to order by Mr. Ashby C. Bladen, as Moderator and the Rev. Paul B. Lusk as associate moderator. These two men did an excellent job in keeping the meetings on schedule and carried on in good order.

The Rev. Bernie Zerbel, in his report as president

of the Board of Directors gave an encouraging and enlightening account of the short life of the Conference so far. (His report is included with this report.)

The budget for the year 1966 was presented and discussed. ~~It totaled more than eight hundred forty thousand dollars.~~ A report of this budget is included herewith. The treasurer reminded that although the report is for more than 40% of the year, receipts total less than 30% of the budget.

Dr. Randle Elliott, president of Hood College, extended greetings at the evening meal. He reminded those present to talk up Hood College as the college ^{to attend} for the young women of the churches of our denomination. Episcopalians are now in the majority of the girls attending.

The Wednesday evening service was the service of installation of the Rev. Francis Xavier Pirazzini as Conference minister of the Central Atlantic Conference. This was indeed a high light of the entire conference. The Rev. Pirazzini is the son of an Italian Protestant minister. He grew up in the atmosphere of a New York City mission which had been started by his father. We were impressed by this young man - both by his sermon and by his actions. We hope to have a copy of his address later on and will share it with you. Our good

wishes go with the Rev. Dr. Pirazzini in his new work. An outdoor reception was held after the service for Rev. Pirazzini and his family.

Dr. James A. Smith, Chaplain of Hord College conducted the worship services on Thursday and Friday mornings. He spoke of the fire of Pentecost and of the fire which Abraham had built upon which he was to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice. The fire of Pentecost - the gift of the Holy Spirit; the fire of Moriah - the test of Abraham's faith.

On Thursday morning the Rev. Fred S. Buschmeyer, secretary of the executive Council, United Church of Christ spoke. He brought a message from the executive council. He pointed out that the world expects us to reveal God's will in this age. He also noted that we of the United Church of Christ have ^{preserved} the right and obligation of every local church to be an authentic, genuine expression of the church universal. We have dared to go beyond denominational family lines and have crossed lines of national and cultural division as the United Church of Christ.

The standing committees of the Association each gave a detailed report. Copies of these are included with this report.

Three associate conference ministers were elected. They will serve ^{along} with the Conference Minister in their respective districts.

A drama entitled "The Sandpile" was presented in

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outdoor theatre at Hood. It consisted of three episodes - concerning human relations, concerning God and prayer, ^{and} concerning death, with Christian emphasis on each. After the drama there was swimming in the college pool for those who cared for it and refreshments and fellowship in the snack bar.

On Friday morning the 1966 Budget was adopted.

Resolutions pertaining to national issues of immigration, legislative re-apportionment and fair housing laws were discussed and acted upon. Copies of these resolutions are included herewith, also.

The conference closed with lunch. The meals at Hood College were well prepared and tempting and were served with quickness and dispatch by ~~the~~ young people of Frederick. The fellowship, the meeting of new people, and the feeling of being part of the larger work of our church made attendance at this conference a very satisfying and rewarding occasion.

We appreciate the opportunity to attend this conference as delegates from our church. It was a very fine experience and, through the various reports, we hope we have shared it with you.

May Getz
Alberta B. Bowersfield