

BALTIMORE FEDERATION, UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

FINANCIAL REPORT

May 1, 1963 - April 30, 1964

RECEIPTS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Church Assessments | \$ 2948.48 |
| Church Advertising | 109.00 |
| Consistorial Conference | 119.00 |
| Festival of Faith | 711.50 |
| Reformation Service | 153.23 |
| School of Religion | 90.50 |
| Sunday Evening Forums | 315.31 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$ 4447.02 |

DISBURSEMENTS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Church Advertising | \$ 425.75 |
| Church Extension | 2500.00 |
| Consistorial Conference | 116.00 |
| Contingency Fund - - - - - | 58.73 |
| Festival of Faith | 409.42 |
| Postage | 33.21 |
| United Church Bulletin | 285.87 |
| Reformation Service | 206.70 |
| School of Religion | 64.65 |
| Sunday Evening Forums | 230.00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$ 4330.33 |

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RECAP

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Cash on hand, May 1, 1963 | \$ 856.60 |
| Total Receipts | <u>4447.02</u> |
| | TOTAL 5303.62 |
| Less Disbursements | <u>4330.33</u> |
| Cash on hand, April 30, 1964 | \$ 973.29 |

BALTIMORE FEDERATION, UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

PROPOSED BUDGET

1965

SCHOOL OF RELIGION

(Contingency Fund for advance
publicity, postage, etc.) \$ 100.00

CHURCH ADVERTISING

(To cover those churches that ap-
pear in our block ad who are
unable to carry the cost. This
also includes the cost of our
heading.) 750.00

CHURCH EXTENSION

(Partial support of salary for Mr.
Clayton Wallace, working in
the Baltimore-Washington Area
to assist in Church Extension). . . 2500.00

UNITED CHURCH BULLETIN

(Our publication issued six times
a year and circulated among the
Congregations of the United
Church of Christ) 450.00

POSTAGE 100.00

CONTINGENCY FUND 100.00

TOTAL BUDGET \$ 4000.00

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BALTIMORE FEDERATION
1962 - 64

The present basic purpose of the Federation is to provide the churches of the Baltimore area with an agency to create, correlate, and unify joint programs and activities which might bear witness to our common faith. The following report indicates how we in the Federation have sought to carry out this purpose during the last two years.

1. Conducted Sunday Evening Forums - monthly educational meetings on topics of contemporary concern.
2. Planned the annual Consistorial banquet - meeting.
3. Conducted the annual School of Religion - a six-week school (one night per week) offering Bible study, social action, theology, church history and Christian Education methods courses.
4. Sponsored a block-ad in the Sunpapers' religious notices each week.
5. Participated in church extension work in the Baltimore-Washington area by contributing \$2,500 each year to the salary of Mr. Wallace and assisting in community surveys for new churches.
6. Published the United Church Bulletin, a paper containing news of our area churches.
7. Through committees made studies and reports on Minister to Metropolitan Mission and Association constitution.
8. Sponsored M O R E and Reformation service.
9. Helped new mission starts with services and supplies.
10. Acted as a forum for information about the United Church Home, Lancaster Seminary, and Maryland Council of Churches.

The work of the Federation has been progressing, but slowly and haltingly. Part of the explanation lies in the nature and structure of the Federation. When our new conference comes into being it is expected that the nature and structure of the Federation will change substantially. Looking forward as well as backward, I submit the following recommendations:

1. A committee be appointed to continue study of the proposed Association Constitution and, when the time comes, persons from this committee represent the Federation at the Conference Constitutional Convention.
2. A committee be appointed to begin planning for youth activities in the Baltimore area. Last week youth at the Chesapeake Regional Rally voiced their approval of such plans. The same might be done for adult work.
3. The work of the Christian Education Committee be coordinated with the work of the Christian Education Associates.
4. Each church endeavor to pay the full Federation apportionment and support the Sunday Evening Forum, School of Religion and other Federation activities.
5. Each church which receives requests from institutions and

organizations for special funds or programs try to coordinate these requests with the Federation to avoid duplication of effort and conflict in dates.

I wish to thank all who have served in the Federation during the last two years. May God bless you for what you have done and will continue to do for His Kingdom here on earth.

Respectfully submitted,

L. Richard Batzler

L. Richard Batzler

REPORT OF THE SUNDAY EVENING FORUM

BEGINNING WITH OCTOBER 1963, WE WERE ABLE TO PRESENT A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS FOR THE SUNDAY EVENING FORUM GATHERINGS.

- OCTOBER, AT GRACE CHURCH - PANEL PRESENTATION - "THE UNITED CHURCH CENTER" - 48 ATTENDED
- NOVEMBER, AT ZION CHURCH - DR. WILLIAM DUNN - "WHAT'S COMING OUT OF ROME" - 110 ATTENDED
- DECEMBER, AT MESSIAH CHURCH - PANEL PRESENTATION - "THE HEALING MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH" - 55 ATTENDED
- JANUARY, CANCELLED BECAUSE OF SNOW
- FEBRUARY, AT BETHANY CHURCH - MISSIONARIES - MR. & MRS. PHILIP WILLIAMS - 115 ATTENDED
- MARCH, AT IMMANUEL CHURCH - DR. LEWIS MADDOCKS - "CIVIL RIGHTS AND RACIAL JUSTICE THROUGH THE EYES OF THE CHURCH AND GOVERNMENT" - 56 ATTENDED
- APRIL, AT ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH - POLYHARMONIA OF ELMHURST COLLEGE 135 ATTENDED

THE AVERAGE ATTENDANCE FOR THE FORUM WAS 87.

| <u>OFFERINGS</u> | <u>MONTH</u> | <u>EXPENSES</u> |
|------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| \$22.85 | OCTOBER | \$ 20.00 |
| 54.55 | NOVEMBER | |
| 36.06 | DECEMBER | 15.00 |
| CANCELLED | JANUARY | |
| 62.10 | FEBRUARY | 25.00 |
| 32.05 | MARCH | 20.00 (GRACE CHURCH EXPENSES) |
| 107.70 | APRIL | 150.00 (ELMHURST CHOIR) |
| <u>\$315.31</u> | | <u>\$230.00</u> |
| BALANCE | \$85.31 | |

THESE MEETINGS BRING TO BALTIMORE SPEAKERS AND SPECIAL GROUPS OF GREAT VARIETY AND INTEREST. THEY ARE TO PROVIDE FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, THROUGHOUT THE CITY AND SURROUNDING AREAS, AN OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME INFORMED, TO DISCUSS PERTINENT TOPICS WHICH SHOULD CONCERN ALL CHRISTIAN PEOPLE, AND TO FELLOWSHIP WITH PERSONS BEYOND THE LOCAL CHURCH.

IT IS THEREFORE DISCOURAGING TO NOTE THAT OUT OF A POSSIBILITY OF 24 CONGREGATIONS ATTENDANCE REMAINS QUITE LOW!

MORE THAN EVER BEFORE WE MUST STRIVE TO WORK TOGETHER AS A UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN THE BALTIMORE AREA.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Henry Kointh
CHAIRMAN

The members of the Committee on the Minister to the Metropolitan Mission present this report to the delegates of the Baltimore Federation, U. C. C.

We were appointed in September of last year by the President of Potomac Synod to work with the Washington members of the Middle Atlantic Conference Committee on the City Church, and held the first of our joint sessions in October. As we explored together our possibilities, and needs in the realm of metropolitan coördination and strategy, we concluded that the two metropolitan areas represented should have separate men to carry out the responsibilities envisioned, though it might seem desirable for the sponsorship and financing of both to be coördinated, in the interest of stimulating a coöperative spirit among our churches in Baltimore and Washington. We are given to understand now that the Washington group has already under consideration a definite program, which would place a staff member in one downtown church and bring him into working relationship with the other congregations.

On our side, it is our recommendation that the United Church in Baltimore be provided with a minister for its metropolitan strategy. As the background of our need for such a person, we point to the isolation of our churches from one another and from their communities, our failure to break through racial and class structures with the good news of Christ's Gospel, and our out-of-touch relationship to the social, welfare, and planning machinery of our city. But, as to a detailed job analysis, it would be difficult and unwise to project a blueprint of the Metropolitan Minister's function. His office demands a certain spontaneity and responsible freedom. Moreover, we stress that the minister is not to be thought of as an administrative worker within our Federation (Association). He should not be saddled with duties which hamper his proper service to the pastors, congregations, and Church. That service is encompassed in, but not exhausted by, the following areas of responsibility:

1. He would encourage congregations to develop relevant ministries in their communities;
2. He would work with the congregations in developing a metropolitan strategy for the whole area;
3. He would be a friend to pastors, offering counsel and encouragement;
4. He would maintain a relationship to officials in the city and county providing liason between Church and government;
5. He would look to the establishment of vocational groups, ie., Christian fellowships established around the common tie of occupation or profession;
6. He would institute training programs for the laity;
7. He would work with other Church groups, coöordinating our efforts in common concerns.

Now, as to financing this program. We understand that \$6,000 is available from the denomination's Board of Homeland Ministries. Envisioning a \$12,000 budget (salary, car, office help) leaves \$6,000 to be raised from other sources (Synod, Federation).

If the projected realignment of Synod is passed at the Spring Meeting, it will be impossible for us to ask that the Minister to the Metropolitan Mission be included as a staff person of the new conference. So we then should have to provide for the office within our local budget, if we desire to have it. However, if the realignment proposal is rejected we should like to move for acceptance of the proposal as made herein, to be financed from Synodical funds.

Finally, as to the temporal consideration, we urge that the office of minister to the Metropolitan Mission be established for a three to five year period and evaluated at the end of two years to assess its value and discover where it has been effective, where it may be strengthened. Then after the three to five year period we would hopefully be in a position to decide whether to continue or to terminate the office.

This brief statement of our thinking and recommendation has been prepared for your information and for discussion at the Federation Dinner meeting in May. We encourage you to involve fellow members of your parishes in thinking about this project. For obviously it can only be undertaken and sustained effectively with the interest and cooperation of our people, who sincerely desire to see the Church of Jesus Christ fulfill her mission in the world. To that end is this proposal submitted.

United Evangelical Church

(UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST)
EAST AVENUE & DILLON STREET
BALTIMORE 24, MARYLAND
December, 1963

PAUL A. RASCHE
PASTOR

CHURCH OFFICE
BROADWAY 6-0393

TITUS LEHMANN, D.D.

PARSONAGE
BROADWAY 6-0521

Dear Friend:

I am writing to you, the secretary of your Consistory or Church Council, in behalf of our United Church Center at Harundale Mall, a new venture in the beginning of a church and community work in the Harundale section on Ritchie Highway, which will soon be constructed within and as a definite part of the Harundale Mall Shopping Center. This new United Church Center will not solely be the responsibility of the local congregation which happens to be formed at that spot, but rather the responsibility of all our United Church of Christ folk in the Baltimore area.

One of the members of our committee, appointed by our United Church Ministerial Association for the promotion of the United Church Center, has probably been in touch with your pastor within the recent weeks, putting upon his mind this same matter.

We are concerned about two major items in relation to this Center, which incidentally we hope to have in operation by March 1, 1964.

The first is that the story of our United Church Center be gotten into all of our churches in the larger Baltimore area. Therefore we are asking you as secretary, to place this upon the agenda of your Consistory or Council meeting for the January meeting.

In fulfilling this desire, we are hopeful that your Council will give to the United Church Center the opportunity of sending a speaker, with pictures of the Center, into your congregation. His presentation can either be a 5 or 10 minutes one in some worship service; or at congregational meeting, or a meeting of men and women together. Please call Rev. Mr. Richard Bayard, 766-1282 for arrangements. Either he or a trained laymen of his congregation will be ready to visit with you.

The second major item about which we are concerned is the support for this work from the local congregation.

The cost of construction of the Center in one of the areas of the Mall itself is being taken care of by the Mall Management, to be paid off as rent. We seek funds for the provision of the equipment and furnishings for the Center. We have a total need of about \$5,000.00, of which some \$1,000.00 has already been given by 5 of our churches. This is a fine beginning, but more help is needed, and soon, if we are to meet our March 1 date.

May we leave these two major requests in your care at this time, feeling sure you will deal with them fairly - that from your church will be forthcoming an invitation that this story may be told; that interest may be engendered; that some funds may be forthcoming from your church. We will be deeply appreciative of your concern early in 1964.

Respectfully,
The Ministerial Committee,
Paul A. Rasche, chairman

THE PARABLE OF THE USHERS*

Uttered by the Bishop of Bergenfield

It came to pass on a certain Sunday morning that some people were sent of God to attend a church. Because of its imposing structure and friendly exterior they selected South Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Early arrived at 10:50. There was one usher on hand. (There should have been four at 10:45.) This one usher was very busy in small talk with some friends and never noticed the new arrivals, who stood for a moment, slipped into the last pew and hoped they were in the right place.

Mr. and Mrs. Ontime and a child arrived at 10:57. There were now two ushers - but they were both at the same door discussing the television show of the night before. One of them rushed over to the arrivals. He dropped bulletins into their outstretched hands and retreated to resume his conversation. Mr. and Mrs. Ontime looked at each other, then looked about confusedly and finally selected a pew toward the rear of the east or west side.

10:59 - The church was now fairly well filled but there were good seats toward the front. Three ushers were present, but one door was still unattended. At this point Mrs. Newcomer arrived. Without a smile or a word of greeting an usher stiff-armed her with a bulletin and then stood there like a statue. Mrs. Newcomer stood on tiptoe and looked over the heads of the congregation to see where there was a seat available. Finally, timidly, she moved down an aisle, hoping not to attract too much attention.

11:05 - And Mr. Late arrived in a flurry of haste. Four ushers were now covering the doors - each with his eyes glued to the hymn book. Mr. Late walked down an aisle and slipped into a seat without a bulletin.

Now it came to pass that because some ushers of South Church did not come on time, did not seat people, (especially strangers) did not smile a welcome and often did not notify the chairman when they could not serve, the strangers formed unkind opinions of South Church which were somewhat modified by the orderliness with which the offering was received.

It further came to pass that after the service these people went back to their homes and talked over the back fence and by telephone. They said the church was beautiful, the service was nice, the choir was good, the sermon was tolerable, but they preferred a church that had ushers that ushered. And thus it was that they went not anymore to South Church.

LET HIM THAT USHERS REALLY USH.

*This parable was written and distributed by Fred H. Wirth, minister of Old South Church, Bergenfield, New Jersey.