

The regular meeting of the church council was held on Wednesday, June 1, 1949 with Mr. Fred Gross presiding and the following members present: Messrs: Strovel, Laukeman, Myers, Jorio, Hofmann, Long, Mueller, LeBrun, Bien and Ermer.

Meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. Lehmann. Minutes of the previous meeting and the Financial Secretary's report were read and approved.

Mr. Schultheis, a member of the committee to form the Constitution and By-laws of the Evangelical and Reformed Church under which rules our church is now governed, has been asked to appear at this meeting in order to enlighten the council as to the significance and effect of the proposed merger between the Congregational Christian Churches and The Evangelical and Reformed Church. Mr. Schultheis, incidently, is an active member of St. Matthew's Church of this City which church has voted to accept the proposed merger.

The two basic points of concern to the Church Council were the merger's ultimate effect on Sacraments and Rites of United Evangelical Church and control and disposition of property of United Evangelical Church.

The Basis of Union under Section headed Practice, Par. "F", states:

"The government of the United Church is exercised through Congregation, Associations, Conferences, and the General Synod in such wise that the autonomy of each is respected in its own sphere, each having its own rights and responsibilities. This Basis of Union defines those rights and responsibilities in principle and the constitution which will be drafted after the consummation of the union shall further define them, but shall in no wise abridge the rights now enjoyed by Congregations."

Mr. Schultheis pointed out that this clearly presupposes autonomy and present constitution. The present laws and rules governing each church will be in effect after the merger.

Paragraph H in the same section states:

"Each congregation, Association and conference has the right of retaining or adopting its own charter, constitution, by-laws, and other regulations which it deems essential and proper to its own welfare. This right includes the holding and operation of its own property."

In the minutes of General Synod - Page 13, Par. C, the following statement appears. "Churches being self-governing fellowships possess autonomy in their own spheres is acknowledged and will be respected." This assures us that Congregations will not be disturbed in their own spheres.

Another point explained by Mr. Schultheis was Section 16 of The Constitution and By-Laws of the Evangelical and Reformed Church which states "If a congregation or a Synod withdraws from the

jurisdiction of the Evangelical and Reformed Church, the property of said congregation or Synod shall revert to the charge and control of the judicatory immediately above, in the case of a congregation to the Synod, and of a Synod to the General Synod. This paragraph shall not apply, however, to congregations which were not on June 26, 1934, subject to or governed by laws regularly enacted and then in force, providing for such reversion of congregational property, etc."

Inasmuch as the Evangelical constitution under which we were governed on June 26, 1934 did not have a reverter clause, we are not affected by this paragraph. It pertains primarily to the Reformed Churches which merged with the Evangelical Churches at this time.

After hearing Mr. Schultheis interpretation of these various rules, the regular meeting resumed.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

Auditing - Books will be audited for next congregational meeting.

Finance - \$3500.00 was transferred from Canton National Bank to Savings Bank of Baltimore.

Calender - Nothing new to report.

Property - Work on steeple has been completed. To look into possibility of replacing tin caps on cornice with brick.
Edward James has been accepted as sexton of the church at a salary of \$35.00 per week.
Motion made by Mr. Myers, seconded by Mr. Ermer that the ladies who have been carrying on this function in a temporary capacity be written a letter of thanks extending the appreciation of the congregation and the Church Council for their past services.

Music - Action taken up under new business.

New Members - Mrs. Emma Kroening - 3825 Hudson St.
Miss Deloris E. Patten - Balto. City Hospitals
Mr. Edward Weisberg - 2047 Braddish Ave.
Mrs. Ruth Koch - 3912 Fait Ave.
Mrs. Evelyn Hamer - 624 S. Quail St.
Mrs. Mary Haas - 3115 O'Donnell St.
Mrs. Mary Wise - 318 S. East Ave.
Mr. Frank Kodetski - 3300 O'Donnell St.
Mr. Jesse G. Francis - 5625 Anthony Ave.
Mrs. Howard Boller - 3440 E. Baltimore St.

Motion made by Mr. Myers, seconded by Mr. Ermer that we accept the above-mentioned into the membership of our church.

New Business - Motion made by Mr. Hofmann, seconded by Mr. Laukeman that a letter be sent to Mrs. Whittliff acknowledging her resignation and expressing gratitude for her

many years of fine service in the church. In addition, the sincere hope that her recovery may be speedy and apologize for the delay in not writing sooner, but explain that this was the first council meeting since her resignation had been received.

Motion was made by Mr. Ermer, seconded by Mr. Myers, that Mr. Donald Rubie be appointed organist to succeed Mrs. Whittliff at the prevailing present salary.

Motion made by Mr. Hofmann, seconded by Mr. Jorio, that we send Mrs. Whittliff a month's salary.

Meeting closed with prayer.

Edward J. Weidel
Secretary