

Protestant Convention Sets Union Discussion



Dr. George W. Buckner Jr.

Major Churches To Take Part

By EMMA RIVERS MILNER

Major denominations will make religious history in December by talking over in conference the possibility of Protestant Church union in America.

Dr. Gaines M. Cook and Dr. George W. Buckner Jr., both of Indianapolis, will attend the conference, Dec. 14 and 15, in Greenwich, Conn.

The meeting, as leaders explained in the invitation to the denominations, is not just another to inspire a closer co-operation between churches of different denominations.

Various gatherings both in America and on a world scale have been promoting a working together of Protestants for many years. A result of the gatherings took form in the World Council of Churches with headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

To Explore Possibilities
In Greenwich, leaders announce, they will make "exploration" in the field of an eventual corporate union of the Protestant denominations. They hold out no promise or expectation that the denominations will take the momentous step of merging into one great Christian church immediately following their conference.

But spokesmen do express the hope that they will "bridge" the Protestants along a little way, a step, toward union. They make quite a distinction between the words "unity" and "union." Protestants have found unity in the Federal Council of Churches, the International Council of Religious Education and various other co-operative interdenominational bodies.

But it is the lack of union, the fact of the many divisions in the Protestant Church, that is causing frequent comment in the secular press. Frequent mention also is made of the threat of communism to Christianity and the fact that Protestantism, because of its divisions, cannot speak with one voice.

Interested denominations have been planning a study-investigating conference, a "get-together," such as the Greenwich one, for three years. They state that what is said there next month may furnish the beginning of a whole generation's work and advancement toward a united Protestantism.

The Disciples of Christ Church and the Association for Christian Unity of the Disciples of Christ are sending Dr. Buckner, Dr. Cook and four other persons from different parts of the country to the conference. Dr. Buckner is the editor of World Call Magazine and Dr. Cook, executive secretary of the Disciples of Christ International Convention.

Others to Attend
Other denominations which have signified that they will authorize representation are: The Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.; the Church of the Brethren and the Evangelical and Reformed, Methodist, Protestant Episcopal and Moravian Churches.

Invitations went to all communions affiliated with the World Council of Churches and also to the Southern Baptists. The Congregational-Christian denomination in 1946 started the movement for such a gathering as the December one. The Disciples of Christ the same year seized the suggestion and asked the Federal Council of Churches to make inquiry among its affiliates as to which of them would like to take part.

Finally leaders sent out a call for a conference in Greenwich which says in part: "We convene a plenary session of representative American churches to study the possibility of closer unity among communions already in sufficient accord, in essentials of Christian faith and order, to give promise that such a conference will be fruitful."

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Church Sales May Require Licenses

Needed If Event Is Off Own Property

Religious and social service groups break a state law when they operate certain money-making projects off their own properties without a license.

Frank Finney, administrator of the state license division of the State Department of Revenue, has been making an effort to inform churches, the PTA and similar organizations of their obligations to the State Revenue Department.

If an organization of a church holds a bazaar, rummage sale, fish fry, spaghetti supper or similar project for profit, off its own premises, it then becomes a store. The state law says that the group must obtain a license which costs \$3.50 for a year. The \$3 go toward the license proper and the 50 cents for filing.

Six Months for \$2

According to the same rate, a license for six months is \$2. The \$1.50 is for the license proper and the 50 cents for filing.

All departments and societies of a group such as a PTA or a church may operate under one license. Thus the Ladies' Aid, the Men's Club, the young people's society and any other department of a certain church may all use the one license. Groups wishing a license after July 1 pay the fee for a six-month license.

New Catholic Chapel Started in West Lafayette



Excavation for the new St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel at West Lafayette began shortly after Monsignor Emil Schweier, pastor of St. Mary's Cathedral, Lafayette, broke ground for the structure Tuesday. Discussing plans for the building, which will be completed late next year, are Walter Scholler, Lafayette architect; Luke Thaman, Sidney O., president of the Purdue Newman Club; Father Thomas O'Connor Heilman, pastor to Catholic students at Purdue University; Msgr. Schweier and Henry Wolf, Logansport contractor.

Two-Day Religious Retreat To Be Conducted at Butler

Church laymen and women with specialists in the field of sex education will discuss "Sex in a Christian Social Order" next Friday and Saturday on the Butler University campus.

The meeting will be in the form of an interdenominational religious retreat sponsored by the Indianapolis Church Federation in Butler's Sweeney Chapel. The Indianapolis Council of Churchwomen and the YMCA will assist the federation in the meeting.

Dr. Roy E. Dickerson, executive secretary of the Cincinnati Social Hygiene Society, will serve as retreat leader. He is a member of the commission on marriage and the home of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, of the national committee on work with high school youth of the national council of the YMCA and of the Ohio Commission on Children and Youth.

Will Start Friday

The retreat will open at 5:45 p. m. Friday with registration and fellowship. Dinner will follow, with G. E. Middleton, chairman of the retreat committee, presiding. Dr. Dickerson will speak at 7 p. m. on "Today's Needs and the Church's Program." Discussion will follow.

The films, "Human Growth" and "Human Reproduction," will be shown at 11 a. m. Saturday to demonstrate the use of audiovisual aids in sex education. Reuben Behlmer, head of the department of physical education in Technical High School and apolis YMCA, will give the consecration message and benedictions. Dr. Leroy F. Burney, state health commissioner, will lead the discussion.

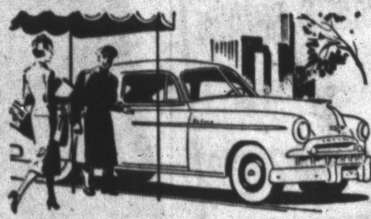
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By DAN

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