

The Aftermath of Americanization 1930-1960, Part 5

1932 - Brief Statement –The Ev. Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States.

Following the 1930 merger, The American Lutheran Church(ALC) turned more toward the Norwegian LC and Missouri Synod for fellowship discussion. **By 1938 Synodical Conference disagreements had risen due to Missouri talking to ALC.** In 1938 A Brief Statement and ALC Sandusky Declaration were accepted by Missouri. In 1941, Missouri was continuing its negotiations with the ALC regarding fellowship and doctrinal unity.

World War II – 1939-1945

Area of Cooperation –Lutheran World Convention, National Lutheran Council

1938-1950 – Inter-synodical free conferences were frequent.

Sept 7 1945 A Statement was signed by 44 Missouri Synod pastors

--The Progressives wanted a greater measure of Evangelical practice within the Synod, a definition of fellowship at variance with Synod, and a greater readiness to join other Lutherans (**Moving Frontiers, p.422-424**). This document is the beginning of the emphasis on mission and love.

--**Missouri Synod Convention 1947** will study the issues, A Statement was withdrawn.

--False interpretation of Romans 16:17 (**p.424**)

Common Confession was the next ecumenical document within the Missouri Synod attempted to secure fellowship with the ALC. Part 1 was ratified in 1950 and was generally a good document containing classic Lutheran statements. Part II was ratified in Missouri in 1953, and then adopted by the ACL as well in 1953. Both parts as a whole were accepted in Missouri in 1956 as a “significant historical statement.” The second part is in conflict with the first and departs significantly in the area of fellowship. The other members of the Synodical Conference objected to this document.

In 1949 ULCA did not attend free conferences of Missouri. In 1950s Augustana Synod (who was seeking fellowship with the ULCA) sought organic union with Missouri who refused. In 1956 Missouri declined the invitation to merger with ULCA

The Missouri Convention of 1962 in Cleveland was a turning point (According to Carl S. Meyer, author of Moving Frontiers, published in 1964, **p.431-435**)

ONE - Repudiated harshness and intemperance. We need to teach and act in harmony with Synodical statements. Created the Commission on Theology and Church Relations(CTCR)

TWO - Herbert J. A. Bouman – “unionism” is an imported nonbiblical term. We need to remove the distressing divisions in Christendom.

THREE – Commission on Social Action moves forward on the social implications of the gospel.

The Dissolution of the Synodical Conference

1955 ELS suspended fellowship with LC-MS and withdrew from Synodical Conference in 1961

1959-1961 LCMS had consultation agreements toward LCUSA

1961 WELS suspended fellowship with LC-MS and withdrew from Synodical Conference in 1963

1963 WELS and ELS(formerly the little Norwegian Synod) are in fellowship

-The Church of the Lutheran Confessions (CLC) was formed in 1961 by those in WELS/ELS who thought fellowship should have been severed (not suspended) when doctrinal differences were apparent.

1967 dissolution of Synodical Conference

1960s Unity -- A New Direction -- formation of ALC and LCA

The American Lutheran Church 1960

The ALC was formed by a union of four of the five members of the American Lutheran Conference: declined only by the Swedish (Augustana Lutheran Church)

Danish Lutherans - Grundtvigianism (Nikolai Grundtvig 1783-1872) doubted inspiration and Inner

Mission - small group devotion and lay preaching, joined ALC merger in 1960

Ohio Synod

LFC joined in 1963, part withdrew AFLC

1965 WCLA withdrew

Eielsen Synod (“Evangelical Lutheran Church in America”) est. 1846 by Elling Eielsen, severely pietistic
-An American church adjusted to American ways, divided membership twice, had disappeared by 1960

The Lutheran Church in America (LCA) 1962/1963

union of ULCA, Swedish, and Danish --Finnish Synod

Swedish Lutherans - Augustana Synod - later joined LCA in 1962

The Augustana Synod (technically called, “The Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod of North America”) joined LCA 1962

The Danish Church est. 1872, Grundtvigianism and Inner Mission movement; joined LCA 1962

See Carl S. Meyer "The Historical Background of 'A Brief Statement'" Concordia Theological Monthly 32 (July, August, and September, 1961): 403-28, 466-82, 526-42).

National Lutheran Council on the one hand and Synodical Conference

Two theologies within each.

Some in American Lutheran Conference and Norwegian Lutheran Church were supporters of Biblical Authority and church unity.

United Lutheran Church tried to convince others they were orthodox

-The Minneapolis Theses were a protest against the Washington Declaration.

Thus ALConference and NLConference were of two minds.

Liberalism

Though previously it was previously either reprimand an "orthodox" view of Scripture, or abandon Lutheran confessionalism

-several professors in ULCA seminaries led themselves to be liberated from orthodoxism to a Christ-centered and soteriological view of Scripture, not inerrancy.

-Augustana had moved.

In ALC Iowa, Michael Reu changed his opinion before 1934. By 1943 was advocating Luther taught inerrancy.

Norwegian Lutheran Church did not welcome neo-Lutheranism

Missouri's response was the Brief Statement 1932

Then openness to social ethics and ecumenical movement

ULC and Augustana led the way.

World Council on Faith and Order at Edinburgh 1937

Lutheran World Convention's 1936 statement "Lutherans and the Ecumenical Movement"