

## Unity -- A New Direction with the 1960s, Part 6

### 1940s and 1950s

#### National Lutheran Council (NLC, 1918-1967)

founded the Lutheran World Convention (LWC, 1923-1947)

then the successor was the Lutheran World Federation (LWF, 1947 Lund, Sweden - )

-“a free association of Lutheran churches” -cooperating in externals

Chaplaincy, Orphaned Missions, Service Centers for **World War II (1939-1945)**, Lutheran World Relief 1945

Columbus Conference, 1941 –Missouri sympathetic;

LCMS in 1952 began what later became the International Lutheran Council(ILC) of confessional church bodies

#### Ecumenical Movement / Unity Movements

2<sup>nd</sup> World Conference on “Faith and Order” (Edinburgh 1937)

Lutheran World Convention’s 1936 statement “Lutherans and the Ecumenical Movement”

World Council of Churches (1948 - ), Most Lutherans joined, ELC(Norwegian) did not, until 1956.

Augsburg Confession, VII – “For it is sufficient for the true unity of the Christian church that the Gospel be preached in conformity with a pure understanding of it and that the sacraments be administered in accordance with the divine Word.”

#### Missions, Home and Abroad

Mission Movements which began in the 1920, and reached a zenith in 1946-1952

Reorientation in World Missions (p.492-493),

Adolph A Brux, charged with heresy (1935, 1938) for praying with other Christians in India 1924

LCMS Pres. Oliver Harms elected in 1962 spoke of Missions,

Billy Graham revivals 1947-2005,

Flight to the Suburbs

Campus Ministries, G.I. Bill brought a flood of veterans to Lutheran colleges

The Rival of Religion in the Fifties

Historical Critical Method(HCM) of Biblical Hermeneutics had become the standard tool for interpretation. The Scriptures were now viewed from their “Christ-centered and soteriological character” as “normative for the faith and life of the church.”

ALC Conf. 1942 Commission on Lutheran Unity (spurred on by Augustana Synod), 1943 Minneapolis –to negotiate and invite all into pulpit and altar fellowship

ULC’s Commission on Relations to American Lutheran Church Bodies, 1944 -concluded on the Minneapolis Theses (ALC), the Brief Statement (Missouri) and the Pittsburgh Agreement (ULC-ALC), that pulpit and altar fellowship could be established among all Lutherans.

ALC Conf. of 1949 proposal for organic union did not materialize until 1960.

1955 ULCA and Augustana issued a call for organic union. Two principles of Unity and Truth.

### **The American Lutheran Church-1960**

It was formed by a union of four of the five members of the American Lutheran Conference

1. American Lutheran Church-1930 (Iowa, Joint Synods of Ohio, Buffalo, Texas)
2. Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELC in 1946-1960, Norwegian LC of America 1917-1946) did not welcome neo-Lutheranism -feared ULCA, and preferred Missouri.
3. The Lutheran Free Church (LFC) joined in 1963, but part withdrew Association of Free Lutheran churches (AFLC)
4. United Danish Ev. Lutheran Church

It was declined only by 5. The Augustana\* Lutheran Synod (Swedish)

### **The Lutheran Church in America (LCA) 1962/1963** - It was formed by a union of

1. ULCA (United Lutheran Church in America 1918)\*
2. The (Danish) American Ev. Lutheran Church
3. The Finnish Ev. Lutheran Church (Suomi Synod)
4. The Augustana Synod (technically called, “The Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod of North America”), began to change in 1931, with a discernable change by 1947.

Organizationally there were three distinct camps “liberal” LCA, “moderate” ALC, and “confessional” LCMS, WELS, ELS, CLC and other smaller Lutheran groups. However, there were actually two factions within every Lutheran body. The Old Lutherans who upheld Biblical inerrancy and sought to re-pristiniate Lutheran orthodoxy and the Neo-Lutherans, who sought contemporary theology with a historical-critical method of interpretation.

The **Lutheran Council in the United States of America (LCUSA 1967-1988)** was an ecumenical organization of American Lutherans, succeeding the National Lutheran Council, it was founded by four Lutheran church bodies: the Lutheran Church in America (LCA), the American Lutheran Church (ALC), the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LC-MS), and the Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (Slovak, merged with LCMS in 1971). The first head of the was John Tietjen (liberal LC-MS)

### **The Ecumenical Movement turns to Dialog**

1957 LWF – desired initiated conversation with Roman Catholic Church,

1959 Pope John called the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vatican Council which began in 1962-1965.

1960 Consultation on Church Union (COCU) – United Presbyterian Church, Episcopal Church, Methodist Church, United Churches of Christ meet to explore the establishment of a united church which would be “truly Catholic, truly Evangelical and truly Reformed.” The Lutherans preferred to be observers, as opposed to participants.

1962 The Presbyterians issued a call to dialog accepted by the LWF and the LCMS

1965-1973 17 meetings between LWF and Roman Catholics

1965-1970 dialogs with Eastern Orthodox, Protestant Episcopal church and the American Jewish Committee

1999 Lutheran World Federation and the Catholic Church's Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU) accepted the “Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification.”