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✠ Concordia Lutheran Conference Archives ✠

That the generations to come might know. Psalm 78:6

Document Worksheet

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Document Summary Description: RESIGNATION OF OWS FROM LCMS WITH 12PT ISSUANCE PAPER + NEWS ARTICLES

File Categories / Tags

ALC—American Luth. Church
ARC—Archives (CLCA)
AST—A Statement 1945
BLK—Bulk Document Scan
BOD—Board of Directors
BOO—Book/Booklet/Tract
BRK—Break from Missouri
CL—The Concordia Lutheran
CLU—C. Lutheran Union
COM—Common Confession
CON—Controversies
COR—Correspondence—Personal
CTE—C. Theo. Education
DGR—David G. Redlin
DJM—David J. Mensing
DOC—Doctrinal Statements
DPM—Daniel P. Mensing
DTM—David T. Mensing
ECH—E.C. Hallstein

EDI—Editorial Comm.
ELF—Electronic File/Doc
EJW—Edward J. Worley
ELM—E. L. Mehlberg
ERS—E. R. Stallings
EPA—Essays/Papers/Analysis
FLC—Fel. Luth. Cong.
FLCN—Fel. Luth. Con. Nigeria
GSH—Good Shep. Lu. Ch.
HDM—H. David Mensing
HWR—Howard W. Romoser File
LCMS—Lu. Ch. Mis. Syn.
LCR—Luth. Ch. of the Ref.
LEG—Legal Documents
MIN—Convention Minutes
MIS—Comm. on Missions
MLN—Melvin L. Natterer
MWD—Mark W. Dierking
NBF—Nimi B. Fyneface
NIA—Nigeria

NON—Non CLC Docs.
OLC—Orth. Luth. Conf.
OLP—Orthodox Luth. Publication
PAS—Passages/Texts
PEA—Peace Ev. Luth. Ch.
PEB—Paul E. Bloedel
PEK—Paul E. Kretzmann
PIC—Pictures
PRB—Paul R. Bloedel
PRE—President Docs
PRM—Phillip R. Martin
PRO—Conv. Proceedings
PUB—Publishing House
RES—Resolutions
RGS—Rom. G. Schurganoff
RJL—Robert J. Lietz
RUS—Russia
SP—Scriptural Publications
SEM—Seminary Docs.
SER—Sermons

SES—Seminary Students
STA—Statistics/Data
STJ—St. John Luth. Ch.
STL—St. Luke Luth. Ch.
STM—St. Mark Luth. Ch.
STS—St. Stephen Wilmot
TRE—Treasurer Docs/Financials
TRI—Trinity Ev Luth. Ch.
UNC—Uncategorized
VIC—Vice President Docs
WHM—Wallace H. McLaughlin
WELS—Wisconsin Synod
???—Research More

OWS 5 CLCA FTG

YEAR TAG

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000017
 Concordia Lutheran Conference Archives (CLCA)

Milwaukee, Wisconsin
January 21, 1955

Dear Pauli and Helen:

This is to inform you that last Monday evening, January 17, in a special voters' meeting Zion Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, decided NOT to sever its affiliation with the Mo. Synod, and therefore I had no choice but to tender my resignation from the church and from Synod, effective immediately.

About 80 voters attended the four-hour meeting, and there was much discussion. I presented each voter with a copy of 12 statements which pointed out why I believed the time had come for the move of separation. A copy of these is herewith enclosed. While some men recognized the errors in Missouri and stated that they deplored them greatly, not one voter agreed with me entirely or saw the wisdom of leaving Synod. I expressed my regret over this fact to the assembly in no uncertain terms.

Especially did the other pastor, Rev. Henry Tesch, clinch matters with his remarks. He stated that he would not advise separation, but taking hope from the outcome of the Synodical Conference convention in Chicago, he believed it best to remain in Synod, to fight the error from within, and to be patient longer, even as the Wisconsin Synod is doing. He felt that leaving now would be "jumping the gun." He said if Synod or Zion itself were to try to muzzle him and tell him what and how to preach, then he would have to leave, but not before that. He also mentioned that whereas certain men were guilty of unionistic practices, yet one dare not charge Synod as a whole with being in the wrong. He also felt that the "Common Confession" was a dead document because of developments at Chicago and in the ALC.

After the motion not to sever with Synod was passed unanimously, I read my letter of resignation to the voters, and this was also accepted unanimously, but they added, "with regret."

The Lord has indeed been gracious in bringing me to this conviction, and while it was not easy to present the matter to Zion or to take the drastic step of resigning, yet the Lord gave me strength, and I hope that some seed was sown in the hearts of those present. Thanks be to God for His sustenance in this trying situation!

What lies ahead only He knows, but we shall face the future unafraid, for He will be with us, He is our Refuge. May He continue to sustain me, keep me loyal to His Word, and be the Strength of my life!

With love from us all,

Ottomar



WHY I BELIEVE IT IS TIME TO SEVER AFFILIATION WITH THE MISSOURI SYNOD

1. Because during the last ten years the Missouri Synod has faltered in its firm stand on the Word of God and by the development of a liberal tendency has become a unionistic body.
2. Because the document "A Statement", which appeared in 1945, drawn up by 44 clergymen of Synod and containing false doctrine, was never officially retracted, although it was withdrawn from discussion.
3. Because the "Common Confession," adopted by Synod in 1930 and re-affirmed in 1953, is inadequate for settling differences between the Missouri Synod and the A L C and is in part out of harmony with Scripture.
4. Because false teaching exists in Synod with reference to the doctrines of church fellowship, verbal inspiration, the Antichrist, objective justification.
5. Because in cases of unionistic practices on the part of clergymen, professors, and officials, which have been a public offense, no effective disciplinary action was taken.
6. Because the Boy Scout movement, once rejected by Synod, is now practically sanctioned, and the result has been to create confusion among our churches and lay people.
7. Because Synod officials have interfered in congregational affairs, and have caused faithful pastors to be ousted from their God-given offices without valid Scriptural reasons, thus perverting the Biblical doctrine of the divine ministry and of the divine call.
8. Because the Synodical Conference conventions in Detroit and Chicago did not settle the issues involved, but placed them in the hands of faculties, pastoral conferences, etc. for further discussion, thus delaying their settlement for perhaps several years, while the leaven of false doctrine continues to work among both clergy and laity.
9. Because to ignore the above-mentioned departures from the Word of God would be a sin against the clear direction of Scripture:
 Rom. 16:17 - Mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned, and avoid them.
 2 Cor. 6:17 - Come out from among them and be ye separate!
 Titus 3:10 - A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject!
 1 Tim. 6:3-5 - If any man teach otherwise and consent not to the doctrine which is according to godliness, from such withdraw thyself.
10. Because to remain in Synod under present conditions would make one partaker of its sins. 2 John 10:11 - He that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds. 1 Tim. 5:22 - Neither be partaker of other men's sins. The situation has developed where a stalemate is evident and compromise of the truth gain nothing by remaining in Synod.
11. Because, while it is a fact that we should be patient in dealing with error, yet the time comes when patience is no longer a virtue, for "charity rejoiceth in the truth" (1 Cor. 13:6), and Scripture nowhere states that patience is required when men tolerate or persist in their error.
12. Because Article XVIII of Zion's Constitution indicates the necessity of a separation when Synod no longer holds to its principles of doctrine and policy as laid down in its Constitution of 1847.

C. W. Schaefer, pastor
 Zion Ev. Lutheran Church
 Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Pastor Resigns Post Over Synod Dispute

Fails in Attempts to Get Church to Quit Missouri Group; Cites Growing Liberalism

The smoldering dispute in the Lutheran synodical conference has broken out here with the resignation of a Missouri synod pastor after an unsuccessful attempt to get his congregation to withdraw from the Lutheran church - Missouri synod. The Rev. Ottomar W. Schaefer, associate pastor of Zion Lutheran church, 2030 W. North av., resigned at a special meeting



Pastor Schaefer

of the congregation Monday night. The resignation was accepted unanimously.

Pastor Schaefer said Thursday that his action was the result of the controversy in the synodical conference over Wisconsin synod charges of "unionism" on the part of the Missouri synod.

Objects to Action

The Wisconsin synod has objected to the Missouri synod's adoption of the common confession, a joint statement of doctrine with the American Lutheran church. It also objects to the Boy Scouts and the military chaplaincy, both of which are tolerated in the Missouri synod, and to joint prayer with others, permitted by the Missouri synod in some cases.

The Missouri and Wisconsin synods are the largest members in the synodical conference.

"I believe that the Missouri synod has faltered in its firm stand on the word of God and by the development of a liberal tendency has become unionistic," Pastor Schaefer said.

Cites Scripture Passages

"I base that on passages such as Romans 16:17, 'Mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned and avoid them.'"

"Another passage is II Corinthians 6:17, which says, 'Come out from among them and be ye separate.'"

Pastor Schaefer said he had discussed his difference with the Missouri synod to some extent in meetings of church societies, the church council and the congregation. At his request, a special meeting of the congregation was called for Monday night.

He proposed that the congregation declare itself independent. To protests of church members that this would isolate the congregation, he replied that the action might induce other congregations to follow.

Vote Against Move

About 80 members present voted unanimously not to sever relations with the Missouri synod.

"After that I had no alternative but to tender my resignation, effective at once," Pastor Schaefer said.

Pastor Schaefer, 36, came to the congregation in 1945 as an associate to the pastor, the Rev. Henry C. Tesch. Pastor Schaefer is married and has five children. He said Thursday that his plans were indefinite.

Synodical conference rules will not permit a call from another church in the conference, he said. Pastor Schaefer said that "technically" he could apply for admission to the Lutheran Orthodox conference, but he was not committed to such a course.

Opposed to Withdrawal

The Orthodox conference was organized as a new synod in 1951. Most of its members had been in the Missouri synod but dropped out for doctrinal reasons. The conference has one congregation in Milwaukee.

Pastor Tesch said that he agreed with Pastor Schaefer "in principle" but was opposed to withdrawing from the Missouri synod.

"There have been elements of

liberalism in the Missouri synod," he said. "However, in my mind I distinguish between individuals and groups and the synod itself. I am not accusing the Missouri synod of being liberal.

"I deplore that the synod has adopted the common confession because in my mind it is inadequate, but I would not go along with Pastor Schaefer in saying that the Missouri synod had taken action not in harmony with scripture."

Zion Lutheran church was founded 71 years ago and has about 1,400 communicants. It is the fourth largest Missouri synod congregation in Milwaukee.