

Herr Pastor and Papa John:  
John F. Brenner - A Michigan District Mainstay

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Senior Church History Paper  
Prof. John M. Brenner  
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## **Herr Pastor and Papa John: John F. Brenner - A Michigan District Mainstay**

In 1964 Diane Linda Lee was confirmed at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bay City Michigan. The pastor who confirmed her had already been in town for some eleven years. The confirming pastor was John F. Brenner. Twenty one years later, in 1985, that same pastor confirmed Diane Lee's son - the author of this paper. Pastor Brenner spent some 37 years at St. John's, Bay City and was the only pastor known by many of a generation of St. John's members.

It is somewhat natural, as one prepares himself to become a public minister of the gospel, to look back upon your own childhood pastor: his example, life, and ministry. Until this interview, this author knew very little about his former pastor's life and ministry - especially his ministry outside the doors of St. John's. What did rub off on this author, however, was Pastor Brenner's example: an example of personal devotion to law and gospel ministry.

The taped two hour interview serves as the main portion of this church history project. Perhaps the interview will be more meaningful to the viewer if the preparatory work for the interview is also included for inspection. The pre-interview work for this project consisted of two main efforts: 1) The perusal of all Nebraska, South-East Wisconsin, and Michigan District Proceedings from 1944 until 1990 and 2) the compiling of a set of questions upon which the interview itself was based. As the interview progressed, Pastor Brenner stressed some questions to a greater degree and some questions were not discussed at all.

### ***A Compendium of District Proceedings References***

In an effort to add to an easily accessible body of history, here are most of the citations - dealing with Pastor Brenner - that were gleaned from the various District Proceedings. All of the following quotations/ references are from the various District Proceedings. They are listed chronologically by year. All page references are provided for easy reference.

- 1944 -

#### **Nebraska District Proceedings**

"Candidate John F. Brenner, having accepted the call of Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Hillrose, Colorado, was ordained and installed by Pastor Milton Weishahn April 30, 1944." (p.

- 1946 -

This installation is noted: "Pastor R. Unke in Zion Lutheran Church, Ft. Morgan, Colorado, by Pastor John Brenner May 12, 1946." (p. 10) Also noted on p. 11, is Pastor Brenner's release to the South-East Wisconsin District. This installation must have been Pastor Brenner's last official act in Colorado as the 1946 Proceedings from South-East Wisconsin will show.

- 1946 -

#### South-East Wisconsin District Proceedings

Pastor Brenner's installation at Christ, Pewaukee, WI is noted: "Pastor John F. Brenner at Christ Church, Pewaukee, Wisconsin, May 19, 1946, by Pastor Ph. Henry Hartwig." (p. 15) This must have been a whirlwind move - from Colorado to Pewaukee within seven days! Pastor Brenner was actually received into South-East Wisconsin District membership on April 23, 1946. (p. 16)

At the time of Pastor Brenner's arrival at Christ, Pewaukee, the congregation consisted of 110 communicants. (p. 4)

- 1950 -

Pastor Brenner's release from the South-East Wisconsin District: "Pastor John F. Brenner, Michigan District, June 24, 1949." (p. 24)

- 1950 -

#### Michigan District Proceedings

John F. Brenner was installed July 17, 1949 at St. John's, Battle Creek, MI. (p. 16) St. John's was a mission congregation, which at the time of Pastor Brenner's installation had some 28 communicant members. (p. 115)

It is interesting to note, that in 1950 there was a called worker *shortage*. (p. 32) This is significant, because at Pastor Brenner's graduation from the seminary in 1944 almost none of his classmates received calls. The called worker situation did a 180 degree turn in only six years.

Also significant in the 1950 Proceedings was a report by the "Committee on African Exploration." Pastor Brenner's father was on that committee. As President Brenner was/is often perceived as being "cold footed" over against missions, this might be of interest. (cf. Appendix #1)

- 1952 -

In 1951, the communicant count at St. John's, Battle Creek was up to 40 with some 69

souls. (p. 104)

From what this author can see, the first district "office" that Pastor Brenner held was a position on the "Vigilance Committee" with K. Krause and J. Westendorf. (p. 116) The Vigilance Committee kept their eye open for note or concern-worthy developments in state legislation. The Vigilance Committee's duties would later fall under the oversight of the District Constitution Committee.

- 1954 -

In reference to the synodical conflict, we read a report concerning Dr. John Behnken of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod: "Dr. Behnken expressed satisfaction that, while the Wisconsin Synod had found the Common Confession inadequate, it had not said it contains false doctrine." (p. 39) It is unfortunate to read this quote. It misses the point: it was what the Common Confession *did not say* that caused concern. Pastor Brenner's father had much contact with President Behnken.

Pastor Brenner was installed into the pastorate of St. John's, Bay City on October 25, 1953. (p. 55) According to the Synod's Statistical Report, St. John's, Bay City had 1300 souls and 890 communicant members at this time. As far as Battle Creek goes, we read that "The old dwelling, used as a parsonage and chapel, has been sold." (p. 61)

It was at this convention that Pastor Brenner was elected to the District Board of Education - an assignment that would entail much work and cause much concern for him in the years to come. (p. 78)

- 1956 -

It was to this district convention, that the District Board of Education brought an urgent report concerning the certification of our Lutheran Elementary School teachers. This report is attached as Appendix #2.

Pastor Brenner was not longer on the Vigilance Committee. (p. 24)

As the Synodical conflict heated up, it is of interest to note that Pastor R. Schaller registered his vote of "nay" to part one of a resolution that said Wisconsin should continue fellowshiping with Missouri. (p. 37) The general pro/con Missouri flavor of the Michigan District will be discussed in the interview.

- 1958 -

The report by the District Board of Education demanded that the 1959 Synod Convention

deal with the certification issue. (pp. 16-17) As one goes through the years of Proceedings, he can see how enduring the problems were with the Michigan State Board of Education.

A motion was defeated by the district for the WELS to convene early in 1959 to deal with the Missouri question. (p. 38) The major reason cited was that the Missouri convention was to be held in May of 1959 - Wisconsin's was in June. It was thought that it would be constructive for Missouri to consider our brotherly admonitions for one more convention.

- 1960 -

The WELS took some more casualties due to the burning WELS/Missouri question. Ralph Schaller and Elmer Boniek withdrew from the WELS. O.J. Eckert was terminated. (p. 8)

It was also in 1960, that the District Board of Education reported that it was actively becoming involved in legal questions concerning our Lutheran Elementary Schools on the state level. (p. 16) Our board maintained that the State Board of Education had only two areas of concern with state and parochial elementary schools: 1) the safety of the students and 2) their preparation for high school. It was in 1960 that Pastor Brenner was elected to another four year term on the District Board of Education. (p. 64) It was also in this convention that the Michigan District memorialized the Synod to establish as "Board of Higher Education." (p. 69)

- 1962 -

These were busy years for the District Board of Education. Attached as Appendix #3 is a brief by Pastor Brenner to "The Committee on Education - The Hon. Alvin M. Bentley, Chairman."

- 1964 -

St. John's Lutheran Church of Bay City, Michigan dedicated their new sanctuary on October 21, 1962. (p. 9)

As fallout from the split with Missouri continued, it was noted that five WELS pastors of the Michigan District received calls into the Missouri Synod. (p. 8)

In the Proceedings for this year, there is a notice that Pastor Brenner resigned his duties on the District Board of Education for personal reasons. (p. 9) Pastor Brenner was replaced by Pastor Jerome Spaude.

- 1966 -

Pastor Brenner was elected to a six-year term on the Constitution and Legislation Committee. (p. 10) The old Vigilance Committee had now been absorbed.

It was also in this year, that Pastor Brenner was elected Second Vice-President of the Michigan District. He would on the District Praesidium for eighteen years. (p. 28)

It was to this district convention, that the St. John's Church Council brought a memorial to provide some remuneration to lay convention delegates who were giving up much-needed pay to attend conventions. The memorial was defeated. The Proceedings state: "The privilege of serving as a delegate presents an excellent opportunity for our laymen to serve the Lord unselfishly." (pp. 55-56)

- 1970 -

Pastor Brenner was now the First Vice-President of the Michigan District. As the First Vice-President, he preached at the opening service of that summer's district convention. He preached upon Jude 3: *"I felt I had to write and urge you to content for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints."* At the time of this paper, the faith has been entrusted anew to another generation of fledgling saints who were not even born when this sermon was preached!

Pastor Brenner was a candidate for the Synod's Board of Parish Education. This position, however, was filled by Jerome Spaude. (p. 41)

- 1972 -

Our Savior Lutheran Church of Marlette, MI had meetings with the District Praesidium on matters pertaining to the authority of Scripture, fellowship, and public ministry. Pastor Brenner would have been involved in these discussions. This church eventually left our fellowship. (p. 9)

Pastor Brenner was voted in as the Michigan District's Second Vice-President. (p. 29)

Pastor Brenner's duties on the district's Constitution Committee continued. (p. 42)

- 1974 -

Pastor Brenner was again elected to the district's Constitution Committee - a term lasting until 1978. (p. 10) He was also reelected to the office Second Vice-President. (p. 32)

In the Constitution Committee's report, problems with the State of Michigan were again noted: "A bill regarding: Licensing of teachers (H.5804)." The reason for concern was merited. The 1976 Proceedings note that only 28 percent of the Michigan District's Lutheran Elementary Schools were approved by the State of Michigan.

- 1976 -

Pastor Brenner was reelected Second Vice- President on the second ballot. (p. 32)

- 1978 -

A report is given on p. 21 of the Proceedings entitled: "Proposed Voucher System of Financing Both Public and Private, Parochial School Systems." Pastor Brenner was secretary of the committee that drew up this document. The document was drawn up on account of a referendum to be voted on November elections that would have included the "voucher system" in the Michigan's Constitution. This report is attached as Appendix #4.

Pastor Brenner was again elected Second Vice-President. (p. 32)

p. 61 notes that the proposal to purchase the Campion campus in Prarie du Chien, WI was rejected by the Michigan District. There was an emergency convention later that summer. Pastor Brenner was on the CHE<sup>Floor</sup> committee that recommended to the special 1978 synod convention to *reject* the purchase of Campion. The resolutions of Pastor Brenner's CHE committee can be found attached as Appendix #5.

- 1980 -

Pastor Brenner was reelected Second Vice-President of the Michigan District on the fourth ballot. (p. 62)

The Constitution Committee, which Pastor Brenner was still on, recommended to the convention that our schools stay out of the "Energy Conservation Grants Program." The committee's report stated: "They would be asking for the arbitrary judgment of various state agencies in regard to matters which are (at best) extraneous to the avowed purpose of Christian Education." (p. 38)

- 1982 -

Pastor Brenner was elected Second Vice-President once again - this time on the third ballot. (p. 71)

There is also a report by the Constitution Committee, that sheds official light on the taxation of teacherages situation at St. John's, Bay City, MI: "St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bay City, MI received a favorable ruling from the State Court of Appeals which removed their teacherages from the tax rolls. The question of whether the vicarage should also be removed is still in litigation." (p. 37)

- 1984 -

Pastor Brenner was no longer Second Vice-President. He was replaced by Pastor E. Schultz. (p. 32) Pastor Brenner was thanked by this convention via Resolution #3 of Committee

#4 for his faithful service on the District Praesidium for 18 years and for his service on the District Board of Education and the Constitution Committee.(p. 41)

The Constitution Committee's report noted that "St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Bay City, MI lost its case which would have removed the vicarage from the tax rolls." (p. 40)

- 1986 -

In this Proceedings, there is a report by the Constitution Committee concerning the "suspension of fellowship/excommunication" question in regard to a persistent errorist within our fellowship. This report can be found on pp. 25-26.

- 1988 -

Pastor Brenner is no longer on the Constitution Committee. (p. 39)

St. John's Lutheran School of Bay City, MI celebrated its 100th anniversary on June 14, 1987. (p. 10)

The matters with the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary faculty regarding the suspension/excommunication question met with a God-pleasing resolution. (p. 40)

- 1990 -

Page 12 merely notes that Pastor Brenner retired on July 4, 1990. This writer can recall that his last sermon was an emotional experience for all present. He had been at St. John's, Bay City for 37 years.

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It was on the basis of the Proceedings information given above, that the author drew up a set of questions that served as a guide for the interview with Pastor Brenner. As was written earlier, the interview answered some question in greater depth. Other questions were not touched (and turned out to be rather unimportant anyway).

The interview itself lasted almost two hours. It would be quite impossible to make a complete transcript of it. It would not be totally practical to include all the topics that were covered in the interview. The topics that Pastor Brenner hit hard will be recorded here.

It should be noted that the topics will be dealt with in the order that they came up in the interview, rather than the order in the original set of questions. In this way, it is hoped that *some* of the flavor of the original interview can be maintained on paper. The author highly encourages everyone to spend the time watching the interview, instead of merely spending time with the Convention Proceedings and my personal overview of the interview. With



these things in mind, here are the highlights of the interview:

### *An Interview With Pastor John F. Brenner*

Pastor Brenner took great pride in the fact that the "Northwestern Lutheran" was begun in his father's parsonage.

Pastor Brenner was born in 1917 at 816 W. Vliet in Milwaukee. His father married late and married the janitors daughter - much to the chagrin of some St. John's, Vliet members.

In his early childhood, Pastor Brenner once received a horsey-back ride from J.P. Koehler, who was a frequent guest at the Brenner parsonage. Pastor Brenner also told how E.E. Kowalke was a good friend of President Brenner. Pastor Brenner does not remember relations between Kowalke (faculty) and his father (on the NWC board) being strained as a result of the Watertown case. Pastor Brenner can remember parents of expelled NWC students coming to his father's parsonage with tears in their eyes.

Pastor Brenner says that in *some* respects he is similar to Beitz, because he is worried about present-day *Beamtentum*. Pastor Brenner sees the Protes'tants, fellowship, the synodical controversy, the role of man and woman etc. as all being inner-related. Theology in all of these was side-stepped.

Pastor Brenner attended the preparatory department of NWC even though his father helped develop Milwaukee Lutheran High School. Pastor Brenner graduated from NWC in 1940. He proudly showed off his class ring.

Pastor Brenner's favorite NWC professor was Prof. Schumann. He was known for his "forceful way." Professors Sitz and Westerhaus were other favorites of his. Prof. Kowalke was liked because he "got us through Hebrew." EEK wanted his students to enjoy their sermon preparation. Prof. Kowalke had a stammering problem, but conquered it - a tenacious man!

Martin Franzmann was not known to be a good professor <sup>in Brenner's opinion.</sup> He did a fair job in teaching the basics of Greek, but in the second year classes he began to assign 100 lines of translation a day. Prof. Franzmann would sit in the corner and translate while the students read "Reader's Digest." Franzmann was discouraging to his students. Pastor Brenner was relieved when he had to take "dummy Greek" with Prof. Schumann. Pastor Brenner also called Martin Franzmann a "horrible preacher." Prof. Meyer once told Pastor Brenner that in Franzmann's seminary days, he

had to reject many of Franzmann's sermons, because they were <sup>“</sup>dogmatic lectures.”

At Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Pastor Brenner like Prof. Meyer the best. He was quiet, but would not be played with. He stood in front of class with this Greek text in one hand and a pencil in the other. Pastor Brenner said that his class begged Prof. Meyer to write a dogmatics, but Prof. Meyer said "not in times of controversy." Pastor Brenner said that Prof. Panning reminds him of Prof. Meyer. Prof. Reim was "very precise" and well-liked, <sup>by Brenner</sup> Pastor Brenner's class still had August Pieper for a quarter. Pastor Brenner had to carry Prof. Pieper's pillow and help him on with his coat when it was cold.

Pastor Brenner resented 'Jeb' Schaefer calling President Brenner "less that militantly mission-minded." This does not take into account the financial problems of the Synod during President Brenner's tenure. One missionary owed his grocer \$1500.00 for groceries. Pres. Brenner knew that if we sent missionaries, then we had better support them. Pastor Brenner remembers going to meetings with his father in which they had to decide whether to pay the synod's missionaries or the professors. President Brenner often pictured our missionaries as "being out on the curb" - and felt terrible about it. President Brenner was not against sending missionaries to Africa. He did, however, want to send a team of *four* missionaries. The Brenner's were a mission family. President Brenner's uncle Philip was a pastor in Sault Saint Marie, MI and also a member of the Wisconsin Synod's first mission board. (It should also be noted that in an effort to spare the Synod expense, President Brenner paid for his own secretary out of his own pocket!)

There were no calls when Pastor Brenner's class graduated. Two classmates took calls into the Missouri Synod. Most of his class did teaching assignments. Pastor Brenner's first assignment was to teach grades 5-8 at Calvary, Thiensville, WI. He was replaced by Armin Schuetze. Pastor Brenner left for his first church, Hillrose, Colorado around Easter of 1944.

Pastor and Mrs. Brenner met at his ordination/installation at Hillrose. They were married in 1945.

Pastor Brenner notes that when his dad came to St. John's, Vliet there were 1400 communicants. He said that "his mom brought us up." President Brenner was "always into something." During the summer, there were Sunday evening vesper services at St. John's, Vliet. Many of the area churches - both WELS and Missourians - attended these vespers.

Pastor Brenner, during his seminary years, often served as his father's secretary. He typed

many of the letters that were sent to Dr. Behnken of the Missouri Synod. Pastor Brenner said that when Behnken walked into the room, it was like God walked into the room - for the Missourians that is.

President Brenner didn't like "theological dish rags." Late in President Brenner's life while he was staying at <sup>President's retirement home.</sup> Pastor Brenner's parsonage (410 S. Alp), Dr. Behnken came to pay President Brenner a visit. President Brenner told Dr. Behnken that if he would have stayed in his office and attended to business, Missouri wouldn't have such problems.

In closing about his father, Pastor Brenner said that his father was canvassing the projects around St. John's, Vliet while he was in his late 70's. He was mission minded.

As far as Pastor Brenner's service on the District Board of Education goes, this was *difficult* service. After the Russians launched Sputnik, the State of Michigan started to consider all sorts of educational programs to "catch up with the Russians." Pastor Brenner actually spoke in the State House of Representatives once. His basic premise was for a distinct separation of church and state. The main problem with teachers in the Michigan District was not that they were lazy, but that there was no coordinating of their post-DMLC credits. There were also some problems with the state trying to tax WELS teacherages. The state actually had to pay back the taxes that St. John's, Bay City had paid - with interest. Pastor Brenner's main point: when dealing with government, you have to deal with law. The state is not competent to deal with religious organizations.

Pastor Brenner's stay on the District Constitution Committee was an interesting one, because many of the district congregations were then translating their German constitutions into English. Some of the constitutions made it the duty of the Board of Elders to "take care of the widows." Such things were pretty common.

The Constitution Committee talked with the WLS faculty for about 14 years regarding suspension/excommunication in respect to persistent errorists within our fellowship. Historically (especially in the inter-synodical controversy) suspensions were issued only to remove men from their office while the synod was dealing with them. Suspensions <sup>were</sup> always intended to be temporary. The Michigan District Constitution Committee was worried that the discipline process would stop with *suspension* and would not follow through to excommunication. Pastor Brenner said, with some amount of satisfaction, that the model WELS constitution is to a great degree based upon the one that the Michigan District Constitution Committee devised.

Pastor Brenner said that the real "work horses" of the WELS are the District Presidents. Pastor Brenner was on the District Praesidium for 18 years. He "received quite an education." Even as a vice-president things were quite busy. On a moment's notice, they would travel to Pittsburgh, PA or other places. There were several trips made to the east coast, as the present-day North Atlantic District was then still part of the Michigan District. It was the Michigan District Praesidium that said colloquy men must have at least one quarter <sup>at</sup> Mequon before they could join our ministerium. After 18 years on the District Praesidium, Pastor Brenner refused to run again. This was a type of gentleman's agreement with President Zarling, as they had had a few problems together.

Pastor Brenner said that the greatest challenge for every generation is to "preach the gospel." He also issued a warning to be careful of methods, because they flow out of theology - or lack of it. It is obvious that the Church Growth Movement is a cause of major concern for Pastor Brenner. He also says that a major problem facing this author's generation is "perversion." Ex.: If you preach God's Word, you are a homophobe. The present-day attitude toward marriage is another problem and was the biggest social change during his ministry. He feels that this author's generation will have a "more serious ministry" than what he had - but there will still be joys.

When <sup>P</sup>pastor Brenner got to St. John's, Bay City, he had a problem trying to figure out who belonged to St. John's, as his predecessor was not the best record keeper. Two censuses were issued in his early days at St. John's to try and rectify the records crisis there.

Pastor Brenner preached in English and German, which was a particular strain, as there was no one to help him with the German preaching. The German service was finally discontinued when attendance was down to about a dozen or so.

Pastor Brenner was the chairman of CHE Committee #5 of 1978, that voted to build up the New Ulm campus instead of buying Campion. It was Pastor Brenner's brother-in-law, Conrad Frey, who was a big backer of the Campion purchase. President Frey wanted - more than anything - to get the prep department off of the New Ulm campus due to cramped quarters on Herman Hill. Pastor Brenner noted that the eventual cost of refurbishing Campion was three times more than the actual amount that was presented to the special convention.

When it came time for Pastor Brenner to say what he wanted to say, he wanted people to know that he "loved his ministry." He said that looking back, he can never recall dreading going

to the office in the morning. One vivid recollection of his is when he carried the casket of a still-born baby out to the grave. These people recently thanked him. The ministry was nitty-gritty work, but he enjoyed every minute of it. He wants us to "work hard and enjoy the ministry."

Pastor Brenner's closing thoughts for me were that I was going to step into a synod that is very old. At the beginning we had our problems. We have had ups and downs. He noted that when the synod feels too confident, the Lord sends controversy to drive us back into the Scriptures. There is nothing that is here today, that wasn't an issue yesterday. There is nothing today that doesn't go back to Genesis 3:15. That is a history lesson worth learning. This lesson made a trip to Michigan most worthwhile.

In a very real way, my afternoon in Saginaw was what the writer to the Hebrews had in mind when he wrote: "Remember your leaders, who spoke the Word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:7-8)

Mich. Dist. Proceedings  
1950 p. 49

Appendix  
#1

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### REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON AFRICAN EXPLORATION

May 10, 1950

The General Synodical Committee  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Brethren:

The Committee, appointed to study the report of the African Exploratory Commission, submits its report in the following resolution which was adopted unanimously:

"Of the fields visited by the Exploratory Commission, Northern Rhodesia seems to offer the most favorable conditions for starting a new mission, but we believe it advisable to postpone our decision in this matter until the October meeting of the General Synodical Committee for these reasons:

1. We believe it advisable to confer with a representative of the Nigeria field.
2. We are confronted with an appeal on behalf of a struggling German Free Church Mission in South Africa.
3. We are troubled with a man-power situation and financial shortages.
4. We are concerned with conditions prevailing in the Church at large."

Your Committee:

JOHN BRENNER, *Chairman.*

CONRAD FREY, *Secretary.*

ARTHUR HAACK.

WALTER PANKOW.

NORBERT PAUSTIAN.

WILLIAM STELLJES.

ARTHUR VOSS.

12	15	13
19	15	13
48	18	20
3	—	3
7	—	3
2	—	2
42	6	2

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660.35	180.30	142.20

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8 communicant members.  
16 married, 3 buried, and

onary-At-Large

Zones

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unstadt, Kr. Lichtenfels,  
orst b/Oldenburg, Duethé/  
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er, Moelme b/Hildesheim,  
berg, b/Kiel, Scharme, Kr.  
rshausen, Kr. Hannover,  
n, Kr. Lichtenfels, Westen,  
zen, Krs. Nienburg/Weser.  
or A. Schlender was absent

He conducted 124 public  
services in homes, adminis-  
trated. He performed 18  
baptisms. Fourteen children were con-  
firmed. Pastor A. Schlender has  
souls.

orts have been printed  
will make for uniformity

e it cheerfully. As we  
the Savior's reassuring  
in you. As the branch  
t abide in the vine, no  
— Herein is my Father  
so shall ye be my dis-

mitted,  
Executive Secretary.

# Appendix #2

than just listen to a report such as this and give a quiet nod of assent. We must be determined to return home with zeal and firm resolve to promote the Christian Education of our children. We must be determined to encourage those congregations which have parochial schools to foster and efficiently conduct their schools and not to hamper them by disinterest and lack of support. We must be determined to encourage those congregations who as yet have not founded their own parochial school to put such a program into their long-range planning.

Your Board was happy to receive numerous requests for information, data and laws from congregations who are planning to open parochial schools. Grace Lutheran School of Berton Harbor has completed the first year of its existence and Peace Lutheran Church of Livonia plans to open its school this coming fall. Others are in the planning stage.

It is the avowed aim of each congregation and your Board of Education to make our existing schools the most efficient and the best. To that end our School Visitors have faithfully made visitations to all our schools in the District. We feel that these visitations have proven most beneficial. To help to bring further information to our local boards of education, your Board has been sending out bulletins from time to time which we hope will serve to help these congregations in the administration of their schools.

Our interest in the program of Christian, elementary schooling must, of necessity, extend beyond our local parishes and district. We must be very much aware of those who have dedicated themselves to the teaching and conducting of our schools. We must give our wholehearted attention to the existing problem of training and supplying teachers for our schools. This involves both our Synod's budgetary needs and also its program of trying to solve our extreme shortage of lady teachers. For that reason we invite your full attention to the Report of our Synod's Board of Education.

This year your Board was made aware of proposed State Legislation that would certainly hamper and harm our schools. At present the Michigan State Board of Education has a new Code of Certification of teachers in its hands. This code has many bad features with which we cannot agree either as far as the practical application of the code is concerned or as far as our philosophy of education is concerned. Your Board studied the new code and has sent an official protest to the State Board of Education. Your Board has sent copies of its protest plus a copy of the proposed code to all the congregations which conduct parochial schools. Present report has it that the proposed code has been tabled temporarily because of the protests received from educators in all parts of Michigan.

## Statistics

At the present time the congregations conducting parochial schools report 3,150 children of school age. They report 2,280 of these children attending the parochial school. At present we have 26 schools in our District which are taught by 65 teachers. Though many factors such as distance from the school and the lack of transportation hinder many members from sending their children to our parochial schools, we hope that all of the congregations will be working towards the goal of increasing the percentage that now does attend. At present this percentage totals 66%.

1956 MI District Proceedings  
Report of the District Board of Education  
— 17 —

## An Important Matter

This year your Board of Education is compelled by circumstances to present a matter to this Convention which will demand consideration and action in the very near future. Everyone is acquainted with the fact that the State of Michigan has a fairly stringent code for the certification of teachers both in the elementary and secondary schools.

This code was adopted in 1936 and applies to all teachers. The Law reads, "No person shall teach or give instructions in any of the regular or elementary grade studies in any private, denominational or parochial school within this State, who does not hold a certificate as would qualify him or her to teach in like grades of the public schools of the State." (1138—pp 388-553; also 1136—388-551; 1137—pp 388-552; 1139—pp 388-554; 1140—pp 388-555).

Our District remained somewhat aloof over against this code until 1940, when a few public school superintendents in certain areas made inquiry into the status of some of our teachers and required a certificate from them. At that time the District Board of Education studied the matter thoroughly with Prof. C. Schwepe of D.M.L.C., New Ulm, and urged all of our teachers to take steps towards obtaining a State certificate, outlining the procedure necessary.

Meanwhile D.M.L.C. took steps to provide additional subjects in its curriculum to satisfy the needs of our teachers in order that they could comply with the State code. Due to other changes and the addition of the fourth year, our Dr. Martin Luther College is now a full fledged teachers' college and grants the Bachelor of Science in Education degree.

It can be stated that most local public school officials have not bothered us to inquire into the status of our teachers under this code. Perhaps this has come about due to the fact that they have sufficient problems of their own in complying with the code. But the code stands, and in subsequent correspondence with the State Board of Education at Lansing the following opinion was given us, "All teachers of children of compulsory school age in Michigan must have a certificate, valid for the position in which they are employed." This thought was reiterated to your present Board in 1955 in an interview with the State Consultant on Higher Education and Certification. In all fairness, your Board wishes to report that it has noted that the State demands no more of our teachers than it does of its own.

Your Board has been striving to help the teachers of our District in complying with this Code. D.M.L.C. has also instituted Summer Sessions to provide our teachers with the opportunity to finish their education and eventually receive their Bachelor of Science in Education degree.

One problem, however, has faced us since this Code was enacted in 1936, and that is the fact that the State Board has not been too willing to accept the credits of D.M.L.C. because it is not an accredited school. Your Board decided to wait to see if the additional year at D.M.L.C. would help to raise our status in the eyes of the State Board of Education and that our credits from D.M.L.C. would be accepted at face value. We had the opportunity to test our theory in 1954 by applying for a full Provisional Certificate (granted to graduates with the B.S.E. degree) for one of our four

year male graduates. Our application was turned down because the school is not accredited.

During the past two years your Board has redoubled its efforts to comply with the State Code without requesting the accreditation of D.M.I.C. We have tried every avenue possible or suggested without success. We are therefore not able to acquire certification for our New Ulm graduates because the college is not accredited. This means that though our four year graduates have their degree and others, through summer sessions, obtain their degree, they must then first continue in some accredited graduate school and complete six semester hours of acceptable graduate credit ('B' average or equivalent), and then apply for certification. We believe that this is not only against our policy but makes unfair demands upon the teachers called into our District.

Your Board therefore finds itself in an untenable position. It cannot gain full certification for our teachers. The Law demands certification. The ultimate result will be that we must either have our teachers trained in accredited colleges or place them in the vulnerable position as unqualified teachers. Any school, according to State Code, that employs unqualified teachers is subject to the penalty of being closed by the State.

This is not only discouraging to your Board but to our teachers and our schools. We have a rather well founded feeling that this has discouraged some teachers from other States from accepting calls into our District. This condition, in addition to the teacher shortage, could well block the opening of new schools in our District and hinder the continuance of those already in existence. The fact that our District Parochial School System has now grown to 26 schools, 65 teachers and an enrollment of 2,280 pupils, and since more schools are in the planning stage or are about to be opened, this matter takes on very significant proportions and certainly demands immediate consideration and action.

## FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION — MICHIGAN DISTRICT

We considered first of all whether or not the State is overstepping the bounds of its constitutional authority and is infringing upon our rights by its code.

We find that our State considers compulsory education a necessary part of its work of promoting good order and protecting the welfare of its citizens. This in itself does not militate against our faith. Though it demands compulsory education, the required curriculum for elementary schools contains nothing that we do not, or cannot teach with a clear conscience. The State readily grants the right to denominational groups to conduct their own parochial schools; to teach the required subjects with, and according to their own religious tenets. Though the dangers of real infringement upon the field of the Church in carrying out its own program of elementary education according to its Christian Philosophy, is always present, we are, at the moment, not faced with such an infringement. It is selfevident that we must face and oppose all encroachments upon our rights when they present themselves.

As Christian citizens we have the guiding principles presented to us in the Scriptures, Romans 13:1-7, "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God . . . ." and I Peter 2:12-17, " . . . Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake. . . ."

In answer to anyone who might suggest resistance or demands a test case, we can only point out — 1) Legally — we have not one point in the existing State Code which would present us with a case which would stand before the State Supreme Court, 2) We find no actual infringement on our religious liberty which would compel us "to obey God rather than men." Therefore we feel that we are bound to obedience by Rom. 13:1-7 and I Peter 2:12-17.

Your Board has also made a study of accreditation. It has been in correspondence with the Universities of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. It has studied the policies, regulations and criteria for the approval of secondary schools of these universities and the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. It has corresponded with Bethany Lutheran College conducted by our sister Norwegian Synod, which is accredited with the University of Minnesota and is planning to be accredited with North Central.

Your Board has found that our Synod, according to its own policies has been following similar standards and criteria:

1. In establishing its curricula and academic standards;
  2. In taking great strides to provide our secondary schools with adequate plants and educational facilities in its very comprehensive building program;
  3. In setting up a full, four year teacher training course and establishing a full teachers' college, demanding that male teachers complete this course and obtain the Bachelor of Science in Education degree;
  4. In encouraging our college instructors to continue their education (in accredited, graduate schools) by which many of them have already received their Masters or even higher degrees;
  5. We note also a report in the Syllabus, "Your committee instructed to study the advisibility of granting the B.D. degree at the (Theological) Seminary is convinced that our Seminary ought to confer this degree *in order that it might be recognized by listing agencies as a school which does work on a graduate level and is entitled to confer a B.D. degree* and therefore recommends: That the Board of Control and the faculty of our Seminary issue the B.D. degree to all graduates who have satisfactorily completed the prescribed course of study."
- Your Board has also found that accreditation has changed in aspect and philosophy to a great degree since original studies were made by various individuals, committees and faculties within our Synod. Though accreditation at that time presented certain "dangers" which caused Synod to adopt a policy adverse to accreditation, it is admitted that these were "dangers" only and not direct infringements. Present day criteria have erased many of these "dangers."

In its study of accreditation, your Board examined the policies, regulations and criteria governing the approval of secondary schools. In



General there seemed to be nothing which would infringe upon our philosophy of education. Only one point seemed to suggest a problem and that is the requirement for the head or administrator of our college. Here also, we feel that there is possible room for concession on the part of the accrediting association. We concede that the possibility always exists, that in the execution of policies and regulations a point could arise that would prevent us from wishing to be accredited. This, however, cannot be established until an actual application for accreditation of Dr. Martin Luther College is made, and a board of visitation of an accrediting agency has made its evaluation and presents its report or findings.

Since we are in a serious position, we feel that action in this matter must be taken in the very near future. Our Synod must take action no later than 1957. Since also your Board is unable to obtain full certification for our teachers that have obtained their training at D.M.L.C., and, since it finds itself unable to proceed in this untenable position, the following recommendations are respectfully submitted:

1. That the Board of Education — Wisconsin Synod study the problem at hand and examine the matter of accreditation of D.M.L.C. and report its findings to the May, 1957 sessions of the General Synodical Committee. (Note: This Board has agreed and resolved to do this in its meeting May 21.)
2. That the Michigan District urge our Synod to authorize the Board of Regents or Control of Dr. Martin Luther College at New Ulm, Minnesota to apply for accreditation of the college.
3. That the Board of Regents or Control be granted the power to gain accreditation for D.M.L.C. if the visitation committee of an accrediting agency, in its evaluation of D.M.L.C. does not demand anything that would basically involve a change in our philosophy of education.
4. That the Chairman of the Board of Education — Wisconsin Synod and the Chairmen of the Boards of Education of such Districts who are faced with the problem of teacher certification be present when the evaluation and recommendations of the accrediting agency are studied and acted upon.

JOHN F. BRENNER, Chairman  
PAUL NEWMAN  
WILLIAM ARRAS, Secretary

## REPORT OF THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

Brethren:

During the past biennium four editions of the Michigan District News Bulletin were prepared and distributed among the pastors and teachers of the District. Though each edition of the News Bulletin was well received, it became increasingly more difficult, during the past year especially, to obtain the information necessary to publish the news while it was still news. In the opinion of your committee, this is mainly due to the fact that the various District department heads, to whom we had to look for help, are too busy with the work of their own departments to take time to provide us with the information needed. Therefore we respectfully suggest that the District Publicity Committee be disbanded.

JAMES L. YOGT, Chairman  
WILLIAM KRUEGER  
HANS A. SCHULTZ

### Action by convention:

The report is not adopted.  
Resolved, that the Publicity Committee continue publication of the "District Bulletin."

## REPORT OF THE AUDITING COMMITTEE

The Auditing Committee has audited the books of the District Treasurer from July 1, 1954, to June 30, 1956, and found them in good order.

We urge all pastors to advise their treasurers to send blue slips to the chairman of the Auditing Committee monthly.

J. A. DE RUITER, Chairman  
IRVIN W. WEISS  
MILTON SPAUDE

### Action by convention:

The report is adopted.

## REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICE

During the past biennium your Director of Student Service sought to aid the pastors and congregations of our District in keeping the young people of our congregations who attended non-Synodical Conference schools of higher learning in close contact with the church and their Lord during the time they were away from home.

We shall report first of all on our work for the school year 1954-55. Replies were received from 68 pastors to our inquiry whether any of the young people of their congregation were attending non-Synodical Conference schools away from home. The tabulation showed that there were 86 such young people. Of these 35 were attending Michigan State University, 17 the University of Michigan, 8 a college in Kalamazoo, 6 were attending school in Mt. Pleasant, 4 were studying at Ohio State University, and 3 each at schools in Houghton, Big Rapids, and Detroit. The remaining 17 were attending schools in various parts of the country.

These young people were directed to the nearest congregation of our Synod, whenever this was feasible. If no Wisconsin Synod congregation was located in the city, they were directed to a congregation of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, if one was available. In cases where no Synodical Conference Lutheran church was located in their city, their names were turned over to the Lutheran Spiritual Welfare Commission, which placed them on its mailing list. All of the young people on our records were supplied with the Portals of Prayer at regular intervals. We also supplied the pastors of our Synod or of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod with the names of the young people attending school in their community and urged the pastors to contact them.

We regret to report that we did nothing for our young people during the past school year 1955-56. When the Synod adopted the memorial Re: Student Service Commission last summer and designated the Lutheran Spiritual Welfare Commission to do this work, we assumed that this Commission would at once begin to discharge this work at least on a limited basis during the past school year. By the time it became apparent that we were wrong in this assumption, we felt it was too late to initiate any work of our own. It now appears that the Lutheran Spiritual Welfare Commission will not discharge this work either in the coming school year, unless

teachers. This total includes an addition of 8 lady teachers. Our enrollment reached a total of 2,897 pupils compared with 2,766 reported in 1960.

#### School Visitors

The Board of Education has appointed the following to serve as school visitors: Circuit: 1. Orlan Dorn, 2. A. W. Schleef, 3. Gerald Cudworth, 4. Jerome Birkholz (Mr. Birkholz has accepted for one year only), 5. Donald Zimmermann has been appointed to replace Leslie Kehl who has accepted a call into another District 6. Ronald Manthe, 7. Erwin Humann. Our school visitors have been carrying out their work faithfully with ever increasing effectiveness. According to the opinion of our visitors, the latter is due to the visitors' workshop which is conducted by the Board of Education-Wis. Synod.

#### Teacher Certification and State Control

Thus far we have been fortunate in being able to comply with the State's teacher certification requirements. This, however, is not an indication that we have been successful in influencing the State Department of Public Instruction regarding its codes or its control over our non-tax-supported schools. The present code will cause us a great deal of difficulty in gaining teachers for our District who will be able to fulfill the minimum requirements of the State Code. The code demands that a teacher must have 120 semester hours to begin teaching in the State. A permit is at present being granted. But this permit will only make it possible to certify some of the teachers for three semesters.

The proposed new code, to go into effect perhaps by 1964, will demand a Masters Degree for teachers from Kindergarten through Eight. Your Board has been trying to avail itself of every avenue possible to bring our cause before the State Department of Education and also before our legislators, before the latter by letters and telegrams when certain bills came up before the Senate or House. We also gained a hearing before the Committee on Education of the Michigan Constitutional Convention. We sought to suggest that the Constitution be written in such a manner that the State Board and State Superintendent would have control over tax-supported schools only. At this writing, we still have not received a copy of the new State Constitution and therefore cannot tell whether or not we were able to influence the Committee on Education. Frankly, we are not optimistic. (A copy of our presentation before the Con-Con Education Committee is attached for your information.)

Your Board made a study of the State Certification Code in which it came to the conclusion that the State's control over teacher training requirements for private, non-tax-supported schools is unconstitutional. We are awaiting an opinion from an attorney regarding our findings. The opinion we seek is 1. Whether or not the State's code is unconstitutional and 2. Whether or not sufficient cases of precedent can be found that would give us grounds for a successful case before the State Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, your chairman has also presented this matter to the Synod Board of Education. A special meeting was held recently with the Chairman of the Board of Education of the Nebraska District. The situation in Nebraska is, at the moment, more serious than ours. The Nebraska Board was advised to gain legal counsel. While our meetings were in session, the Nebraska District's legal counsel informed us that another Church group had taken the case to the Nebraska State Supreme Court. The general principles involved are identical to ours. This case is being followed closely and the transcript and records of this case will be obtained for our information. Our Synodical

Council minutes of May 16, 1962 declare, "Possible litigation involving our teacher candidates moved the Conference of Presidents and the Board of Trustees to approve a resolution of the Board of Education that we authorize engaging legal counsel if necessary." We are now awaiting the outcome of this Supreme Court Case in Nebraska because any decision pro or con will have far reaching effect as far as a case in our State is concerned.

Your Chairman has also been in touch with numerous private and denominational groups. Some of these wrote their agreement to our opinion before the Con-Con committee. A recent meeting with the headmasters of these private schools and the head of a Lutheran high school did not prove as successful as we had hoped. Federal Aid or possible Federal Subsidy to private and parochial schools has caused some of the denominational groups and the private groups to softpedal their demands on the State. The reasons are, of course, obvious.

Your District and Synod Boards of Education are fully aware of the seriousness of the situation and are making preparations for any case where one of our teachers or schools is attacked by the State Department of Education. Our Synod officials realize that they will have to subsidize the District or Congregation in case a legal battle develops.

May the Shepherd of the sheep keep us mindful of our privileged responsibility toward our program of Christian education both on the elementary as well as on the secondary level, and protect His Church against any and all that would hinder our work among our Synod's youth!

John F. Brenner, Chairman

William Arras, Secretary

The Board of Education-Michigan District

Pastor John F. Brenner, Chairman

Prof. William Arras, Secretary

Pastor William Krueger, Secretary for Certification

Teacher A. W. Schleef

Mr. Ervin Ott

Mr. George Bock

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November 17, 1961

The Committee on Education

The Hon. Alvin M. Bentley, Chairman

Michigan Constitutional Convention

Constitution Hall

Lansing, Michigan

To The Honorable Members of the

Committee on Education:

#### By Way of Introduction

The Board of Education-Michigan District represents the Michigan District of the Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod. The Michigan District membership consists of one hundred congregations with thirty-nine thousand seven hundred forty-four souls. Twenty-eight of our Congregations conduct parochial elementary schools which are staffed by a total of eighty-one teachers. The total enrollment numbers two thousand six hundred seventy-eight pupils. We conduct a high school which has an enrollment of three hundred thirty-three students and is staffed with fourteen instructors.

#### Suggested Changes to the Constitution

It would seem that Article XI, sec. 2 and 6 would be clarified by certain changes that more clearly define the area of responsibility of both the Super-

intendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education. Our suggested changes are underscored.

Sec. 2. . . . He shall have general supervision of tax-supported public instruction in the state. . . .

Sec. 6. . . . The state board of education shall have general supervision of the state normal college and the state normal schools, and the duties of said board shall pertain to tax-supported public instruction and shall be prescribed by law.

### **The Place of the Church in the Field of Education**

The Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod has been active in the field of education both on the elementary as well as on the secondary level for over a century. It conducts preparatory or high schools, a liberal arts college, two teachers' colleges and a theological seminary. Individual congregations conduct their own elementary as well as high schools.

Christian parents of our Lutheran Synod, as responsible citizens cherishing their civil liberties and constitutional rights to educate their children as their personal responsibility, have always sought to supply all that is legitimately sound in education, and which is desirable and wholesome in the social, economic, political environment in which our children will take their place in life. The members of our church have done, and are doing this at their own expense without any financial aid from the State.

Throughout their history, our Christian schools have compared favorably with the schools of their day. Further evidence is found in our teacher training program and the modifications in that training program which have been made from time to time and are still under consideration. Our interest in supplying whatever is required for good elementary, as well as secondary education is also borne out by the excellent new school buildings, new additions and improved equipment with which our schools have been fitted out during the past decade; by the elementary school achievement tests which have been given during the past two decades and by the results obtained.

Historically, various denominations pioneered in the field of education both on the elementary, as well as on the secondary level in our country. Our country owes much to denominations for fundamental leadership in education. The Church can by no means be considered an interloper in the field of education, but by the very nature of its calling will be actively engaged in education which includes the secular subjects.

### **The Position of the State in Education**

The State, for its function of maintaining peace and order for the general welfare of society government, particularly also democratic government, has a legitimate interest and stake in the education of the youth of the commonwealth. The State, therefore, enters the field of education to provide education for those who either do not have private or denominational facilities available, or who do not care to avail themselves of such facilities. The State thus enters into a field with others who are legitimately engaged in education. The State cannot therefore consider itself the supreme authority in matters of education. It can, by permission of the citizens of the commonwealth, set forth regulations relating both to teacher training as well as curricula for elementary and secondary schools within its own system. This is a matter of good order. Other school systems, private or denominational, under direction of constituent members, impose such regulations and standards that achieve the high level of education for which such private and denominational schools

have long been noted. Private or denominational schools have never fostered nor espoused mediocrity in education. The products of private and denominational schools have ably and successfully taken their place in every field of endeavor in our country and abroad.

### **The Church Supervision of Its Own School System**

Every denominational school has, as its self-evident aim and goal, the purpose of providing a sound education permeated, directed and guided by the religious tenets and philosophy of that denomination. Thus it becomes necessary that teachers be, in our case, members of the Lutheran Church, educated not only in the necessary fields of academic and professional subjects but also thoroughly founded in the doctrines of the Holy Scriptures and proper methods of teaching the Holy Scriptures. To this end we conduct our own teacher training colleges. Our teachers are ministers of religion and they are also recognized as such by the Federal Government in its Selective Service Act. Our field of teacher supply is therefore limited to teachers of our faith and trained by our colleges.

It therefore is obvious that only our Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod can properly supervise and control its own schools, establish teacher qualifications and training requirements, for it alone can administer its own philosophy of education. To this end the constituent members of said Synod have established its Board of Education and District Boards of Education.

These reasons are the basis of our proposal, that the area of responsibility of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Public Instruction be limited to the tax-supported schools of the State. Not to do so would permit eventual suppression of parochial school systems or even their destruction (as was attempted in Michigan in 1920 by seeking to make parochial elementary schools unlawful). Not to limit the area of responsibility of State officials in education permits the State to enter into and to interfere with the work of the Church.

We thank you most sincerely for giving us the opportunity to express our opinions in the matter.

Respectfully,

The Board of Education-Mich. Dist.  
John F. Brenner, Chairman

### **REPORT OF THE AUDITING COMMITTEE**

The books of our treasurer, Mr. Erich Koeplin, were audited and found to be in excellent condition. The audit covered the period from July 1, 1960 to June 30, 1961. The audit covering the present fiscal year has not been done yet, but will be soon.

Milton Spaude, Chairman      Norman Maas      Victor Thierfelder  
Adopted.

### **REPORT ON STUDENT AID**

1960-61

1 student, a married man attending our Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, received living cost allowance of.....	\$3,300.00
1 student, a vicar, received rent allowance of.....	825.00
2 students at M.L.S. received room and board assistance of.....	262.50
3 students received travel allowance of.....	295.12

\$4,682.62

1978  
Subject: Area Lutheran High Schools

We, likewise, with joy note that the 12th area Lutheran high school, California Lutheran High School, opened in September, 1977. This fall the 13th area Lutheran high school, Arizona Lutheran Academy, will open. The Pacific Northwest Lutheran High School Association has also voted to open this fall. As we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of area Lutheran high schools, we note that a number of other areas are considering the establishment of such schools.

Subject: Teacher Certification  
Resolution 1

WHEREAS more and more of our schools and teachers are meeting state requirements for certification, and  
WHEREAS the labors of Mr. Werner Roekle have been instrumental in achieving this; therefore be it

Resolved a) that we commend our teachers and schools for their efforts in meeting the state requirements, and be it further Resolved b) that we thank the District Board for Parish Education and Mr. Roekle for their time and efforts in this matter, and that we thank St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Saginaw for giving Mr. Roekle the time to do this work.

Resolution 2

WHEREAS the state is moving toward enforcement of the certification regulations, and  
WHEREAS certification is to the benefit of our teachers and schools; therefore be it

Resolved, that we strongly encourage our teachers and schools, which are not yet in compliance with the state requirements, to complete their requirements as soon as possible.

Resolution 3

WHEREAS the cost to the Synod for the Summer School Certification Program is considerable, and

WHEREAS this program is of benefit to our congregations; therefore be it

Resolved, that our congregations be heartily encouraged to assume as much of this expense as possible.

Subject: The Voucher System  
Resolution

WHEREAS there will be a referendum in November of 1978 to amend the State Constitution of Michigan which would provide a voucher system for the financing of all forms of public and private education; and

WHEREAS we have always sought to uphold the principle of the separation of Church and State; and

WHEREAS state aid may result in state control; and

WHEREAS we find ourselves in agreement with the statement of the Special Committee, which is appended; therefore, be it  
Resolved, That we endorse the report of the Special Committee; and be it further  
Resolved, That our congregations warn their members of the inherent dangers which are in this proposed change by disseminating this report.

#### A STATEMENT RE: PROPOSED VOUCHER SYSTEM OF FINANCING BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, PAROCHIAL SCHOOL SYSTEMS

It has been brought to our attention that a petition is being circulated in our State that seeks to put on the Nov. 1978 election ballot a proposal to amend the State of Michigan Constitution that would change the manner of financing the K-12 Public Education System.

The main thrust of this proposal is to ban property tax income as a source of funds to operate the public school system. The State is to finance its educational system through other taxation, including personal income tax. The State would then issue a "voucher" to parents for each child and these vouchers would then be redeemed at the school of their choice. The State would designate the cash value of such a voucher.

We do not feel it proper as a Church to voice a political judgement or opinion as to the manner in which the State finances its educational system. However, our concern is aroused by the fact that this proposal of the voucher system includes making this system of financing available to parents whose children attend private and parochial schools. In short, it proposes giving State Aid to these private and parochial schools. This general idea was included in another proposal called "Parochial Aid" a number of years ago. This proposal was defeated in the general election.

Your committee has studied the proposed amendments to the State constitution and materials being distributed by proponents of the plan who call themselves, "Citizens For More Sensible Financing of Education." In our study of these materials we have been guided by our principles of separation of Church and State. Our findings are as follow:

1) The proposed amendments are of such a general nature that they do not spell out the implementation of the voucher system. This will make it necessary for the legislature to enact laws that will spell out procedure to govern this system before it can go into effect. No one knows that these laws will be.

2) When the State provides funds it must of necessity follow that it can, will, and must control not only method of procedure but also eligibility requisites for these non-public, private, and parochial schools. (In the previous "Parochial Aid" proposal, the law proposed would have seriously interfered with the conduct of parochial schools if they chose to accept such State aid.)

# WORKER TRAINING

campus where it works closely with the college in a concentrated effort to meet our immediate and critical need for pastor students; therefore be it

e) That the Campion campus be acquired with the understanding that Northwestern Preparatory School phase out its teacher training program within a three-year period beginning with the 1979-80 school year and direct all its efforts to the recruitment and training of pastor students as was done before 1975; and be it further

f) That we thank and praise our God for His marvelous grace that He honors us with the privilege to be workers together with Him in His Kingdom; and be it finally

g) That we, who pray the Lord of the harvest to bring forth laborers into His harvest, encourage and recruit students for all our worker training schools, sincere in our intent to do all in our power to bring into effect that for which we pray.

## IMPLEMENTING RESOLUTIONS

a) That the school at Prairie du Chien be called Martin Luther Preparatory School; and be it further

b) That the board of control elected by the Synod in the 1979 regular convention be composed of three representatives (pastor, teacher, and layman) of the Minnesota District, three representatives (pastor, teacher, and layman) of the Western Wisconsin District, one pastor of the Northern Wisconsin District, and one pastor of the Southeastern Wisconsin District, and be it further

c) That the men elected to these positions in the 1979 convention be instructed at their constituting meeting to determine by lot their terms of office so that in the Western Wisconsin and Minnesota Districts only one officer's term of that district expires each biennium, and that at each regular convention of the Synod two respectively three members shall be elected to this board; and be it further

d) That the present board of control of Martin Luther Academy serve until the new Martin Luther Preparatory School board is properly constituted, and that in the intervening year the CHE be responsible for implementing synodical resolutions regarding the school at Prairie du Chien; and be it further

e) That the Synod adopt the policy of including in takeover and operational costs the financing of possible bus purchase or leasing and a program whereby students would be offered at reasonable fares weekend transportation in various directions; and be it further

# WORKER TRAINING

f) That the Synod adopt enabling resolutions to provide for or dispose of faculty housing as the needs may dictate; and be it further

g) That the Synod request the Mission Board of the Western Wisconsin District and the General Board for Home Missions to convert the exploratory group at Prairie du Chien into a mission congregation, with a school, taking advantage of the proposals submitted by the Commission on Higher Education regarding facilities; and be it finally

h) That the Synod authorize the Commission on Higher Education to operate within the 1978-79 proposed budget of \$108,000 for the Martin Luther Preparatory School campus and that the total of \$108,000 be included as takeover costs chargeable to the Educational Institution Building Fund.

## ADDENDUM:

Floor Committee No. 5 refers back to the Commission on Higher Education for consideration at the 1979 Convention the following matters: Memorial 78-6, the resolution re Northwestern Lutheran Academy and "Projected Cooperation Relationships with Area High Schools" (Report to Ten Districts pp. 23-25).

Pastor Richard K. Pankow, Chairman  
Pastor Daniel H. Koelpin, Secretary

## Report No. 2

Reference: CHE Supplementary Report April 1978  
Subject: Purchase of Campion Property at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin

## Resolution No. 1

WHEREAS, 1) The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod in its 1977 convention strongly reaffirmed the unique and proven advantages of its preparatory school system in the training of its future pastors and teachers; and

2) Martin Luther Academy is unable to fulfill its desired role of producing a sufficient number of students for Northwestern College and Dr. Martin Luther College because of the crowded conditions on the New Ulm campus; and

3) Northwestern Preparatory School has demonstrated that it is unable to recruit many students for its two track program at its present location; and

4) The Commission on Higher Education proposes to purchase the Campion property at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin for the eventual amalgamation of Martin Luther Academy and Northwestern Preparatory School on this property; and

5) The Prairie du Chien location seems to be geographically removed from the prime Martin Luther Academy recruitment area and also from the prime Northwestern Preparatory School recruitment area; and

6) The amalgamation of Martin Luther Academy and Northwestern Preparatory School on the Campion property

# WORKER TRAINING

would reduce the number of synodical preparatory schools and would hamper the production of the increased number of pastor and teacher students needed at Northwestern College and Dr. Martin Luther College in the next two decades, needs which have been clearly projected by the CHE (cf. 1977 Proceedings pp. 55-57); and

- 7) The Martin Luther Academy Board of Control has obtained architectural estimates for a new facility on Campus II at New Ulm which includes two dormitories, a dining/student union facility, classroom/administration building, and a gymnasium, all without furnishings, for a cost of \$4,756,000; therefore be it

Resolved, a) That the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod continue to recognize the value and importance of the specialized training provided by our preparatory schools and continue to utilize them to the fullest extent; and be it further

Resolved, b) That the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod reject the CHE proposal to purchase the Campion property for use as a preparatory school of our Synod; and be it finally

Resolved, c) That the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod authorize the erection of new facilities for Martin Luther Academy on Campus II at New Ulm, Minnesota, according to the building plans and cost estimates outlined by the Martin Luther Academy Board of Control.

## Resolution No. 2

WHEREAS, 1) The supplementary report of the Commission on Higher Education (cf. Proceedings, 1977, p. 57) projects a maximum need of 2393 students in our academy system by the year 2000 and a minimum need of 1827 students; and

WHEREAS, 2) The amalgamation of Northwestern Preparatory School with Martin Luther Academy would result in only three academies; and

WHEREAS, 3) The projected maximum student need would be 800 students per campus and a minimum projected need of 610 per campus; and

WHEREAS, 4) If four academies were maintained by the Synod the maximum projected student enrollment per campus would be 580 and the minimum projected enrollment would be 450 per campus; and

WHEREAS, 5) The dual track curriculum at NPS has offered a more natural and social environment on campus (cf. Memorial 78-4); and

WHEREAS, 6) The dual track program has facilitated the recruiting of students for NPS; and

WHEREAS, 7) The dual track program on the Northwestern campus has resulted in only the first request for a women's

# WORKER TRAINING

WHEREAS, 8) The projected growth of NPS on the present Northwestern campus does not appear to threaten the campus with overcrowding in the near future (cf. Memorial 78-4); and

WHEREAS, 9) The phased development of the dual usage of the Northwestern campus provides the Synod with the opportunity of maintaining four academies without a great outlay of capital expense; therefore be it

Resolved, a) That the NPS dual track program on the Northwestern campus be maintained; and be it further

Resolved, b) That NPS and NWC continue to share the same campus; and be it finally

Resolved, c) That the CHE and the Board of Trustees together with the NWC Board of Control present a master plan for developing and maintaining NPS in the Watertown area.

Rev. John F. Brenner  
Rev. Roger Pn. Drews  
Rev. Durant P. Shook  
Rev. Richard D. Yecke  
Mr. Russell Kennedy  
Mr. Robert C. Richeart  
Rev. Ervane F. Vomhof  
Rev. Oliver H. Lindholm  
Teacher John H. Gronholz  
Rev. L. L. Pautz  
Prof. H. Schmitker

## Report No. 3

Reference: CHE Supplementary Report April 1978  
Subject: Purchase of Campion Property at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin

## Resolution No. 1

WHEREAS, 1) The present situation of overcrowding at New Ulm is our most serious concern; and

WHEREAS, 2) The shared campus at New Ulm has proved itself to be unworkable and unable to be resolved by merely adjusting schedules and the use of facilities on that campus by MLA and DMIC; and

WHEREAS, 3) The Commission on Higher Education has recommended that we purchase the Campion property in order to alleviate these conditions; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Campion property be purchased at this time at the agreed price.

## Resolution No. 2

WHEREAS, 1) The closing of the former Wisconsin Lutheran College has placed the entire burden of teacher preparation upon the Dr. Martin Luther College facility; and

WHEREAS, 2) The crowding on the present DMIC campus would be