

Conference tends toward general confusion, this plan is not acceptable to us." — *Amendment*: "That our General Body consider this matter after a reorganization shall have taken place." (See report, p. 114.)

In view of this resolution your Committee has deemed it useless to continue its activities, but would like to recommend that Synod declare itself ready and willing to take up this matter again, as soon as the Wisconsin Synod is willing to consider this matter further.

Respectfully submitted to Synod by its Committee:

C. H. BECKER.	FRED PRITZLAFF.
A. F. W. FEDDER.	J. SCHINNERER.
AUG. KRINGEL.	E. TATGE.
H. MAUNTLER.	EUG. TETZLAFF.
J. C. MEYER.	O. KAISER, <i>Chairman</i> .
	KARL EISSFELDT, <i>Secretary</i> .

The committee to which this report was referred made the following recommendation:—

"Our Synod has been willing for decades to unite organically with such synods as confess the same faith with us, is willing to-day to do this, and hopes that with the gracious help of God this may be accomplished in the near future. We recommend the appointment of a committee that may be ready to act further as soon as this is agreeable to the Wisconsin Synod."

*Resolved*, To accept the recommendation of the Committee.

*Resolved*, That the General President appoint a committee that shall be prepared to treat with the Wisconsin Synod as soon as the Wisconsin Synod is so inclined.

#### INTERSYNODICAL CONFERENCES.

##### REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

For more than two years intersynodical conferences have been held particularly in the Northwest, which have engaged the attention also of those not directly taking part. One result of these conferences is the following communication:—

St. Paul, Minn., May 10, 1917.

TO THE SYNOD OF MISSOURI, OHIO, AND OTHER STATES:—

We pastors of the Minnesota, Iowa, Ohio, and Missouri Synods, assembled for an intersynodical conference at St. Paul, Minn., should like to submit to Synod the result of our discussions on controverted doctrines in a number of conferences, and enclose documents for this purpose. We should like to suggest that Synod appoint a committee to examine these documents in conjunction with similar committees from the other synods, or that Synod take any other

feasible steps to bring about complete unity of doctrine in the several synods.

Respectfully submitted in the name of the Intersynodical Conference assembled at St. Paul, Minn., May 9, 1917,

by

A. H. KUNTZ,

*Secretary of the Committee.*

We beg to submit the following result of our deliberations:—

Your Committee recognizes the efforts which have been put forth privately by members of our Synod, the Iowa Synod, and the Ohio Synod, as having a laudable and worthy object. The documents which were given your Committee for inspection clearly show that the discussions have not been without fruit.

It is very evident that there exists an earnest and proper desire to remove in a God-pleasing manner the doctrinal differences separating the several Lutheran synods.

On the other hand, your Committee has gained the conviction that these efforts have reached such proportions that they can no longer be considered a private matter.

We believe that a proper estimate of the results achieved cannot be made by Synod at its present sessions, and yet such an estimate should be made by Synod and in the name of Synod.

We believe this should be done at once.

We therefore recommend to Synod that it carry out the suggestion of the communication submitted, and elect a committee which shall examine these documents, be prepared to treat with similar committees representing other Lutheran synods, and offer advice where these efforts are being put forth within our circles.

This report was adopted.

The following committee was elected by ballot: Prof. Mezger, of the Concordia Seminary Faculty; Pastor J. G. F. Kleinhans, President of the Southern Illinois District; and Pastor O. L. Hohenstein, of Peoria, Ill.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

##### COMMUNION WINE AND PROHIBITION.

As recent Federal legislation would make it impossible for the brethren in some States to secure communion wine, President Pfothenhauer, upon request, appointed a special committee, No. 20, to look into this matter and recommend action to this Synod.

The committee reported:—

"With reference to the legislative paragraph that concerns us: 'That no letter, postal card, circular,' etc. (see Public—No. 380—

64th Congress H. R. 19410, pp. 12, 13), the Postoffice Department at Washington has given the following advice under date of June 12, 1917:—

“This Act makes unmailable all matter containing advertisements or solicitations for orders for intoxicating liquor, without exception, concerning the use to which it is proposed to put such liquors, and the Department will accordingly be compelled to regard as unmailable all such matter, irrespective of the person addressed, or the purpose for which the wine is sold, when addressed to territory covered by the Act, on and after July 1st next.”

“Since such a law would make it impossible for pastors and congregations in dry States to obtain communion wine, your Committee recommends that the following letter be at once dispatched to the President of the United States:—

“Milwaukee, Wis., June 23, 1917.

“Hon. Woodrow Wilson,  
President of the United States,  
Washington, D. C.

“DEAR SIR:—

“We, the undersigned, official delegates of the congregations constituting the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States, representing over one million souls, assembled in Triennial Convention at Milwaukee, Wis., petition Your Honor to assist us and others in gaining relief in the following matter:—

“According to an opinion rendered by the Post Office Department through its solicitor on June 12, 1917, signed by Mr. W. H. Lamar, Section 5, of Act of Congress, approved March 3, 1917, bearing title: Public No. 380, 64th Congress, House Bill 19,410, ‘makes unmailable all matters containing advertisements or solicitation for order for intoxicating liquors without exception, concerning the use to which it is proposed to put such liquor,’ ‘the Department will accordingly be compelled to regard as unmailable all such matter, irrespective of the person addressed, or the purpose for which the wine is sold, when addressed to territory covered by the Act, on and after July 1st next.’ The opinion by Mr. Lamar, by reason of questions, literature, and stationery submitted, also makes it appear that not even a bill of lading for wine shipped upon private and unsolicited orders could be sent through the mail. This clearly makes it a practical impossibility for our and other Churches and pastors, in many of the dry States covered by the Act, to secure sacramental wines, which is our only interest in the matter. But this is of vital import to us, since it is one of our religious tenets, and a belief based upon what we are convinced is a Biblical and hence a divine command, that in the celebration of the Lord’s Supper nothing but wine,

*i. e.*, fermented grape-juice, may be used. It has been universally conceded that under the First Amendment, Congress may enact no Law interfering with the use of wine in any Sacrament, or making it impossible to secure wine for such purposes.

“Since the law is to go into effect July 1st of this year, we beg of you immediately to bring to the notice of Congress this interference with the religious liberty, constitutionally guaranteed to our and other Churches, and to secure the introduction of an amendment to the above-mentioned Act, allowing the mails to carry such mailing-matter as is unconditionally necessary to enable the Churches, one and all, to secure the wine needed for sacramental purposes.

“Yours most respectfully,

“WM. SCHOENFELD, *Chairman.*

“H. SCHROEDER, *Secretary.*

“VAL. KERN.

“K. KRETZSCHMAR.

“A. H. DELETZKE.

ACTION.—The above letter was transmitted to President Wilson by telegraph and by mail. Also, upon further recommendation of the committee a protest was prepared, to be forwarded to members of Congress, of like wording as the above letter, and with the following paragraph added:—

“We also beg to inform you that our entire Synod through its delegates, assembled in convention at Milwaukee, Wis., from June 20th to June 30th this year, forwarded a petition of like intent and purport to the President. We respectfully ask you to bring this petition to the knowledge of the Senate and the House of Representatives.”

Of this petition 9,000 copies were printed and distributed at Synod, so that each delegate should have three copies for each congregation in his circuit.

#### REPORTING THE SYNOD.

Synod adopted two recommendations of a committee:—

1. That henceforth the General President appoint a special Press Committee of not less than three persons some months before the convention of Synod, whose duty it shall be before, during, and after the convention to supply correct information to the press, and to endeavor to prevent the publication of incorrect statements.

2. That hereafter the regular way of bringing a summary report of Synod’s proceedings to our congregations be the one adopted this year, to wit, that a special number of the *Lutheraner* and *Lutheran Witness* be published after the convention; and that congregations be advised to order a copy for every family. In this way also new subscribers might be secured for these periodicals.