

THE MESSENGER

Official Organ of the Swedenborgian Church

FEBRUARY 1974



PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF CONVENTION

TO ABOLISH THE OFFICE OF GENERAL PASTOR

At the meeting of the General Council on January 10, 1974, it was voted to recommend to the General Convention the adoption of amendments to the Constitution and By-laws to eliminate the office of General Pastor, as recommended by the Council of Ministers, and to refer this to the Committee on Amendments for appropriate form and publication in *The Messenger* in time for consideration at the June 1974 session of the General Convention. This affects Article V, Sections 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the Constitution, and Articles IX and XXIV of the By-laws and a Standing Recommendation.

For many years the Council of Ministers has been considering the advisability of eliminating the office of General Pastor. Because of the requirement that an association consist of at least three societies and employ at least three ministers in order to qualify for a General Pastor, several associations do not have General Pastors. In the United States and Canada we presently have only five General Pastors and most of our associations are not represented. The following amendments, while eliminating the office of General Pastor, provide that the functions presently assigned to the General Pastors be referred to other persons. The function of ordination would be carried out by the president of Convention, which has been the custom for many years. The Council of Ministers recommends that applications for ordination and investiture be referred to the Executive Committee of the Council rather than to the committee of General Pastors. The functions of pastoral leadership which have been provided by the General Pastors can be assigned to the presiding minister of the associations. In most cases the presiding minister and General Pastor are one and the same person. No power is being taken away from associations. They are free to establish any offices and to assign whatever function they wish to those offices. It is recommended by the Council of Ministers and the General Council that the office of General Pastor no longer be a Convention office.

It is proposed that the following Standing Recommendation to Associations be deleted by reason of the elimination of the office of General Pastor:

"The Convention recommends to the several Associations composing this body that, as far as they are able, they sustain their General Pastor or Presiding Minister in the general work of the Church in their Association; and when one Association is unable to support a General Pastor, entirely or in part, that adjoining Associations unite in the support of a General Pastor. (Journal of 1875, Minute 66.)"

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE XX OF THE BY- LAWS OF CONVENTION

It was recommended by the General Council at its meeting on January 10, 1974 that Article XX of the by-laws regarding the Board of Publication be amended to eliminate "the President of the New Church Board of Publication, ex officio," from membership on the Board of Publication. The New Church Board of Publication has been officially dissolved and thus no representation is possible. The amendment would acknowledge this fact of life.

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The proposed amendment is as follows:

There shall be a Board consisting of the President of Convention, ex officio, and four elective members to be elected by the Convention for terms of four years respectively, except that at the Convention at which this By-Law shall be adopted, four members shall be elected for terms of one, two, three, and four years respectively. Said Board shall create, establish, and manage a Department of Publication which shall coordinate, initiate and promote publishing work for the Convention.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE XIV
AND XV OF THE BY-LAWS OF
CONVENTION**

It was recommended by the General Council at its meeting on January 10, 1974 that Convention delete Article XIV and XV of the by-laws regarding the Board of Trustees of the Pension Fund. These amendments would eliminate the office of Board of Trustees of the Pension Fund. In May 1970 the Convention entered into a contract with the Manufacturers Life Insurance Co. to provide pensions for the ministers of Convention. The amounts of the pensions are set by contract and the payments are made directly by the insurance company. All funds previously set aside for pensions have been turned over to the insurance company. The Trustees of the Pension Fund thus have no funds to appropriate and very few responsibilities. It is felt that the General Council can act for Convention in pension matters and that there is no need to continue the office of Trustees of the Pension Fund. The Orphan Fund has been merged with the Pension Fund, and the General Council can act for the Pension Fund Trustees in matters having to do with the Orphan Fund.

To be Deleted:

ARTICLE XIV.—

Board of Trustees of the Pension Fund

The Board of Trustees of the Pension Fund shall consist of the Treasurer of Convention, ex officio, and three members, one minister, one layman, and one woman who shall not be a minister's wife or widow. Beginning with the Convention of 1973,

one member shall be elected annually by the Convention to serve for three years, but members heretofore elected shall continue to serve until the expiration of the terms for which they have been respectively elected. Three members shall constitute a quorum. The committee shall select its own Chairman from its membership, and a Secretary who need not be a member of the Board.

ARTICLE XV.—

Board of Trustees of the Orphan Fund

The Orphan Fund shall be administered by the Pension Fund.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE II
SECTION 3 OF THE CONSTITUTION**

At its meeting on January 10, 1974 the General Council voted to recommend that Article II, Section 3 of the Constitution be amended to provide that a member of the General Council who has been appointed or elected to fill an unexpired term of two or fewer years shall be eligible for reelection. The present provision is that no member of the General Council is eligible for reelection.

PRESENT ARTICLE II SECTION 3

SECTION 3. There shall be a General Council consisting of the President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer ex-officiis, together with four ministers and eight laymen to be elected by ballot by the Convention, one minister and two laymen to be elected each year for terms of four years, the elected members being ineligible for reelection at the Convention session marking the completion of their term of office.

PROPOSED ARTICLE II SECTION 3

SECTION 3. There shall be a General Council consisting of the President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer ex-officiis, together with four ministers and eight laymen to be elected by ballot by the Convention, one minister and two laymen to be elected each year for terms of four years, the elected members being eligible for reelection at the Convention session marking the

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completion of their term of office, except that persons appointed or elected to fill an unexpired term of two or fewer years shall be eligible for immediate reelection.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE V—*The Ministry*SECTION 2. *The Ordaining Minister*

(a) For the spiritual welfare of the church it is advisable that ordination into its ministry be performed with high seriousness by a senior minister recognized as a leader by the membership at large. To this end, a minister who is elected president of Convention shall be invested with the office of Ordaining Minister during his term as president.

(b) In the event that a lay person is elected as president of Convention, then the Chairman of the Council of Ministers shall be invested with the office of Ordaining Minister, during his term as chairman.

(c) Any minister who is serving as General Pastor of a mission area outside of North America at the time the provisions of this section are enacted shall continue to be recognized as a Missionary Ordaining Minister for that area as long as he remains its spiritual leader as determined by the Board of Missions. In the event of the death, resignation, or incapacity of such Missionary Ordaining Minister, a successor chosen by that mission area, and on approval of the Board of Missions, shall be invested as Missionary Ordaining Minister for said mission area during his term of office.

(d) When the president of Convention is a minister and is therefore Convention's Ordaining Minister, the following procedures shall be followed in the event of his resignation, incapacity, or death. Should the president be adjudged incapacitated by Convention or its General Council, said Convention or, in the interim between Convention sessions, its General Council, shall direct that the Chairman of the Council of Ministers be invested with the office of Ordaining Minister until such time as the president is recovered. In the event of the death or resignation of the president, the investiture of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers

shall be for the duration of his term of office, or until such time as Convention shall again have a minister as its president.

(e) In the event that subsequent to the invoking of the provision of section 2(d), or when the President of Convention is a lay person, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers should resign, become incapacitated or die, the Secretary of the Council of Ministers shall be invested temporarily with the office of Ordaining Minister, such investiture to terminate upon the recovery of the Chairman, or in the case of the Chairman's death or resignation, upon the election of a new Chairman of the Council of Ministers, or on the election of a minister as president of Convention.

(f) The ordaining minister shall be empowered to ordain duly qualified candidates for the ministry (cf. sections 1, 7) to issue certificates of authorization to Authorized Candidates for the Ministry and Authorized Candidates for the Lay Ministry (cf. sections 4 and 5), and to confer upon suitable persons for one year, at the request of the society to be served, the title of Lay Leader (cf. 3).

(g) In the event of war or national emergency, or if it is not possible for the Ordaining Minister to travel to a suitable place for the ordination of candidates for the ministry due to political, economic, or other reasons, the Council of Ministers may appoint an ordained minister to act as an Ordaining Minister, pro tem, for specific ordinations authorized by it.

SECTION 3. *The Lay Leader*

To meet particular needs or problems, the Ordaining Minister of Convention may confer upon suitable persons for a term of one year, subject to renewal and to be exercised within the area in which such service was requested, the right to lead in worship; to teach the doctrines of the Church and to officiate at funerals. Such persons shall be known as Lay Leaders.

SECTION 4. *The Authorized Candidate for the Lay Ministry*

(a) A member of the New Church, who has served as Lay Leader of a society or other employ-

ing body for at least one year, showing suitable knowledge and devotion to the New Church, may, at the request of said body and the Ordaining Minister of Convention on recommendation of the Council of Ministers and with the sanction of Convention, be authorized to serve that body as an Authorized Candidate for the Lay Ministry, under the jurisdiction of the Ordaining Minister of Convention. He may lead in worship, teach the doctrines of the Church and officiate at funerals. Where authorization does not lead to recognition as a Lay Minister at the end of one year, the candidacy may be reviewed by the Council of Ministers.

(b) The Ordaining Minister of Convention may, at his discretion, empower an Authorized Candidate for the Lay Ministry to perform a marriage where the laws of the state or province permit, and in specific instances may empower him to administer the Sacrament of Baptism and/or the Holy Supper.

SECTION 5. *The Authorized Candidate for the Ministry*

(a) A member of the New Church

(2) After preparation recognized by the Council of Ministers as adequate, may upon the recommendation of the Council of Ministers, if sanctioned by the Convention, be authorized for one year by the Ordaining Minister of Convention to work within his jurisdiction and under his supervision. He may lead in worship, teach the doctrines of the Church and officiate at funerals. Such persons shall be known as Authorized Candidates for the Ministry. Where authorization does not lead to ordination at the end of one year, the candidacy may be reviewed by the Council of Ministers.

(b) The Ordaining Minister of Convention may, at his discretion, empower an Authorized Candidate for the Ministry to perform a marriage where the laws of the state or province permit and in specific instances may empower him to administer the Sacrament of Baptism and/or the Holy Supper.

SECTION 6. *The Lay Minister*

(a) After a person has served at least one year

as an Authorized Candidate for the Lay Ministry of a Society, Convention may, at the request of said society, or other employing body, and the Ordaining Minister of Convention, and on recommendation of the Council of Ministers, recognize him as a Lay Minister under the jurisdiction of the Ordaining Minister of Convention, and authorize said Ordaining Minister to install him as such for such time as he shall serve that body or a specifically designated geographical area. The service of installation shall take place in that specific area.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE IX-*The Council of Ministers*

SECTION 1. Application for the ordination of Ministers or other matters relating to the office of the ministry, may be first received and considered by the Council of Ministers without previous reference by the Convention; and its reports on such matters as require immediate action shall be privileged.

ARTICLE XXIV-

Board of Conciliation and Disciplinary Proceeding

There shall be a Board of Conciliation consisting of five members; whose terms of office shall be the same as that of the President. Two members of said Board shall be laymen appointed by the President, two shall be ministers appointed by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, and the Vice-President of the General Convention who shall act as Chairman.

Whenever any dispute, irregularity, or question of conduct shall arise affecting the peace or welfare of General Convention or any of its constituent bodies, boards, committees, associations, societies or members, or that may be deemed contrary to the Charter, Constitution, or By-laws of General Convention, if the good offices of the minister and the officers of the association have not proved effective, the President or the General Council shall refer such incident to the Board of Conciliation; or any member, society or Association may apply to said Board for relief or determination to the end

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that such Board shall use its best endeavors to compose and settle such incident, or failing to effect a settlement shall render a judgment as to the disposition thereof, after hearing the accusations and considering the facts.

Should such Board of Conciliation be unable to effect such composition or settlement, it shall render its report or judgment to the General Council, with such recommendations as it may deem appropriate in the premises. The General Council, as the Executive Committee of the General Convention, shall take such actions and issue such directions as it shall deem suitable. Anyone aggrieved by said report or judgment shall have the right to appeal the decision to the General Council, and as a final resort to seek reconsideration by the General Convention.

The General Council may take original jurisdic-

tion and it may consider and act without reference to said Board of Conciliation or other body. In any event, said General Council as the Executive Committee of General Convention is empowered to take such steps as it shall deem necessary; and it shall report the same to the next following session of General Convention.

ELIMINATE the following Standing Recommendation

The Convention recommends to the several Associations composing this body that, as far as they are able, they sustain their General Pastor or Presiding Minister in the general work of the Church in their Association; and when one Association is unable to support a General Pastor, entirely or in part, that adjoining Associations unite in the support of a General Pastor. (Journal of 1875, Minute 66.)

WOMEN IN THE MINISTRY

by Gladys Wheaton

We are all called to be a church, and we of the New Church know that this means we are called to receive the good of love and the truth of faith from the Lord both individually and collectively. Men and women must share this reception with each other. Without this no church is possible and no growth is possible for a church is a church according to its marriage of good and truth.

In general a man is symbolic of the truth of faith and a woman is symbolic of the good of love. This symbolism derives from the creation of the male as born to become understanding and the female as born to become will. Each enjoys both will and understanding, but one or the other predominates. The marriage of the two produces one angel, that is, two cooperative beings with one will and one understanding which provides for the balanced reception of love and wisdom, good and truth in the will and the understanding.

The effect of unbalance is evident in our organiza-

tion. The understanding faculty has produced a witness to the world of books and pamphlets. We seem to feel it important to communicate our concepts about the Lord with words only. Missing are the social services to be derived from our concepts. For instance, our unique psychology which is useful for dealing with mental problems, able to be useful with physical problems and able to suggest a system of education whose emphasis is regeneration and also our unique concept of community which can promote group cooperation based on appreciation of one another's function in the world from knowing this function to be necessary and valuable.

Our level of love must be enlarged from a love of rational concepts only to a love of seeing those concepts in action. This requires female energy and the fullest out-put possible. When this happens the men will find their wills activated the way our women have had their understanding stimulated. The result will be a church that is indeed receptive of love and wisdom from the Lord with individuals who are more fully becoming images and likenesses of Him.

From Philadelphia Church bulletin:

OUR DAILY BREAD

25th Anniversary

Hearty congratulations are extended to the Tract Society on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the publication of "Our Daily Bread." This monthly booklet of sermons and readings and prayers was the creation of our pastor (Rev. Richard H. Tafel) who has been its sole editor, except for the three years when the Rev. Brian Kingslake served as co-editor while our pastor served Convention as President. Some idea of the devotion and labor that have gone into this publication may be visualized in terms of its 1300 sermons, 9100 prayers and 9100 selected readings from Swedenborg—all edited and proof-read. Beginning with less than a hundred paid subscriptions, its circulation is now over fourteen hundred, going not only to the North American continent but throughout the world. A large percentage of our readers are people outside our church, so it is an effective missionary of our Lord's Second Coming. The Tract Society members wish to here publicly congratulate the editor on his superb work and thank him for what we consider a true labor of love in the Lord's vineyard.

VISIT OF THE REV. AND MRS. OBED MOOKI

We are looking forward to a visit from the Rev. and Mrs. Obed S. D. Mooki, leaders of the New Church of Southern Africa. Mr. and Mrs. Mooki plan to arrive in New York on May 2, and journey to Boston on May 4. Mr. Mooki will preach at the morning worship service at the Boston Church on Sunday, May 5. Members of the Massachusetts Association will be invited to the service and to the reception following.

Mr. and Mrs. Mooki will be guests of the Swedenborg School of Religion during the week of May 4. They will return to New York on May 10 and be guests of the New York Association at the annual meeting on May 11. Mr. Mooki will participate in the worship service at the New York Church on May 12. On May 13 they will be guests of the Swedenborg Foundation at their annual meeting.

During the remainder of May and June, Mr. and Mrs. Mooki look forward to visiting many of our church centers throughout the United States and Canada. They expect to return to South Africa soon after the adjournment of the convention sessions at Urbana College on June 23.

If your church would like to entertain Mr. and Mrs. Mooki in May or June, please write to the Rev. and Mrs. Clayton Priestnal, 114 East 35th St., New York, N. Y. 10016.

Following is a copy of the letter recently received from Mr. Mooki, expressing his appreciation for the grant received from the Women's Alliance and looking forward to their visit with us.

"It was with very very great pleasure that I received and read your letter of the 8th November yesterday, and also to receive from you, on behalf of the Women's Alliance of the General Convention, the very generous gift of \$1,815.31.

"As you stipulate, this money will be used for the Building Fund of our College, which has already been declared unfit by the Health authorities, and which should be demolished.

"You will, I know, be interested to know that our last Conference here decided to call upon all members to subscribe a Rand each towards this project, as it was quite obvious that, as the old saying goes, 'The gods help those that help themselves.' The whole Church here will be greatly encouraged by this large and magnanimous gift, and they will be spurred on to do more for themselves, despite the many many difficulties that beset them.

"PLEASE convey our most hearty thanks to the Women's Alliance in the United States and in Canada, and tell them that we very greatly appreciate the wonderful gift that they so generously made to us. May the LORD Jesus richly bless them 'In their going out and in their coming in, from this time forth, and even for evermore.'

The Church in the U. S. A., Brother Martin, which you lead, is doing great things for us in Africa. The coming visit to your hospitable shores by my wife

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The Messenger invites letters and short articles from readers. Letters of over 250 words, if accepted, may be edited for space requirements.

Open

SWEDENBORG HOUSES

The Board of Education invites you to participate in a program of providing overnight accommodations for young people of the church who may be traveling through the United States and Canada.

We are living in a mobile society, and young people in particular like to travel. In their travels they may pass through cities and towns where we have church societies. In many cases they would appreciate the hospitality of a night's lodging and an opportunity to visit with fellow church members.

To provide safeguards for travelers and hosts, we suggest the following plan: if a young person in one of our churches should plan to travel, and he might want to spend a night or two in the home of a church member, he should consult his minister. If the minister can personally vouch for the good character of the young person, he may give that person a directory of Convention churches and ministers, and write a letter of reference "to whom it may concern." If a young person should write, telephone, or visit a minister and ask for temporary housing, the minister should ask for identification and double-check by calling the minister of the young person. When identity is established, the minister is urged to arrange housing through members of his church. There is no responsibility toward friends who may be accompanying the young traveler. This decision will be left to the individual ministers. In churches where there is no resident minister, the church president will be asked to act in place of the minister.

Letters will be sent to all ministers or church presidents asking for their cooperation in providing hospitality for young travelers in the church. Please speak to your minister if you are willing to make your house available as a "Swedenborg House" and to entertain Swedenborgian travelers. If you have questions or suggestions regarding this plan, please write to Mrs. Marilyn Turley, Board of Education, 48 Sargent Street, Newton, Mass. 02158.

Dear Sir:

Your reprint of a newspaper article on Yarmouth Port struck a responsive note, for my father, the late John C. Perry, was born in the parsonage of that society December 29, 1870. His father, the Rev. John P. Perry, was born in 1819. He entered Dartmouth in 1838, and upon graduation preached for the Congregational church as a licentiate, having chosen not to go to seminary because of the expense and also his failing eyesight. He had progressive myopia. In 1848 he was refused ordination in the Congregational church because of his Swedenborgian beliefs, some of which had come to him before he ever read anything of Swedenborg. In that year he went to Boston to attend a Congregational meeting, and said one of the hardest things he ever did in his life was to gather courage to ring Thomas Worcester's door bell. He soon changed to the New Church, and spent a year at Lowell at an assignment which included teaching several New Church children. Beginning in 1850 he spent three years as pastor of the New Church at East Bridgewater, which is now called Elmwood. Here he was ordained in the New Church; here he met Caroline Thacher and married her, but was called to Yarmouth as soon as the Yarmouth people heard of the wedding. They lived in the house with Henry Thacher, but Henry was married and had children, and needed the whole house; since Caroline Thacher's two children died at or soon after birth, they bought another house, which became the parsonage.

After Caroline died, my grandfather married Emma Rusch, who had been a teacher in Miss Peabody's kindergarten in Boston, but was then a governess in one of the Thacher households. They reared three children. My father was the oldest.

When he was about half a year old, the family left Yarmouth Port, and were a year in Waltham, where my grandmother was a matron, but a second son was born the next summer, so the family moved to the family home in New Ipswich, N. H. When

Forum...

my grandfather's eyes got so bad he could not follow the service, but could preach from his notes, the young Rev. Mayhew was sent to assist him; soon the eyes got worse, and my grandfather decided to leave. He lived in New Ipswich until 1886.

I do not know about his device for planting pine seeds, but it is possible he took it to New Ipswich with him.

Alice Perry Van Boven

URBANA STUDENT IN ITALY

Urbana College has expanded its educational program with a variety of off-campus possibilities—in Ohio, California, even Italy. The following article was written by Sue Turley, a Swedenborgian student at Urbana College and a participant in the "Summer in Italy" program.

The trip to Italy was not only a joyful time in my life, but also a rewarding educational experience. The family I stayed with while in Italy, the Zampis, showed me much warmth and kindness.

The Zampi family lives on a very small farm in Italy with a modest income. They have no electrical appliances, nor do they have an endless supply of hot water or the general comforts of home most Americans take for granted.

The relationships among family members, relatives and friends are important to the Italian people. By living with the Zampi family I learned that it is possible to live a life of fulfillment and contentment, regardless of one's income.

In America we seem to over-emphasize the values of possessions, as if they can bring us happiness. The Italians spend their evenings with family and friends. It is not important there to have seen the latest flick or to pass time at meaningless parties. Instead, life's meaning is found in the faces of friends.

I, myself, had forgotten the importance of friendship and how much my family actually means to me. From my eye-opening experience in Italy, I have returned to the States eager to spend time with my family. I, like many other young people, had rejected those closest to me because of differences.

In Italy, the family ties are strong; perhaps too strong, for tradition holds a strong chain around many young Italians. However, there is love and true concern for each other there, shown in everyday living.

The arts play a large role in the life-style of the Italians. Outdoor concerts—classical music is very popular and there is always a great turn-out for musicals—operas, and museums are always packed and being enjoyed by all.

The Italians take pride in their beautiful cities. The atmosphere in Rome or Florence is warm, relaxed and happy. It is common to see people of all ages and entire families together enjoying their evenings in discussing politics, religion, world communication and other subjects of social-consciousness.

Of course, Italy has its share of problems. Pollution is a threatening situation, and the government has been unstable for some time. Money is scarce for the average person, and yet enjoying life comes rather easily to the Italians. It was inspiring to meet people so able to cope with the many obstacles of day-to-day life.

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and me is further proof of this. We are doing every thing in our power here to make it possible to get there next May, and the letters you sent are useful. If the Immigration officials here want anything more, I shall let you know.

Your sincere and very true friend in the Lord's New Church,

Obed S. D. Mooki

A.N.C.L.

YOUTH OF THE WORLD FOR

SWEDENBORG

by Barb Casper

In September, 1973, the Ohio Association held its Annual Meeting in Cleveland. I still had a lot of enthusiasm left from Convention, and I was determined to try to bring back spirit to the League. I asked the officers of the Ohio Association if the Leaguers could hold meetings at the same time. They thought it was a great idea. They appropriated funds for our expenses and cooperated in every way. We helped lower the expenses by sleeping in the Church and fixing our own breakfasts.

We invited Leaguers from the Ohio and Michigan Associations. Those present were: Diane and Debbie Winter, Judy Dennis, Glen Bestor and myself from Cleveland; Lynn and Marcia Albright from Norwalk, Ohio; Ted and Mike Gutfeldt from Urbana; John Tafel from Cincinnati; Mindy Jester from Indianapolis; David Fekete, Lynn Zimmerman, Terrie Crenshaw, Lorraine Stefanson and Allen Penabaker from Detroit. Ruth Brandau from Detroit was our adult sponsor.

We held meetings on Saturday. Many ideas and plans came from our discussion. The best idea was to change our name. American New Church League was too common. Besides, that word "American" in front of it makes people think of the United States only. Where does that leave Canada? Ruthie put on her thinking cap and in the middle of another topic announced, "Youth of the World for Swedenborg . . . And you can shorten it to YOWS!" That was it! It was great! We could even contact YOWSERS (Leaguers if you must) in Europe and get together with them.

After we tossed a lot of ideas around, we decided that our little group of sixteen had better get planted firmly on the ground first. We decided that we'd have to meet every other month so as to strengthen the unity that was just getting started. But that takes money, so we agreed to work in our own churches to raise it and to collect dues. We

have quite a bit of money now, and in addition, the Ohio and Michigan Associations very generously allocated money in their budgets for our trips.

We also elected officers for our region. The results were:

Diane Winter, President
 Ted Gutfeldt, Vice-President
 Terrie Crenshaw, Secretary-Treasurer
 Lynn Zimmerman, Editor
 Barb Casper, Co-ordinator

In November we were invited to La Porte, Ind. to give a church service. The topic was *The Five Senses*. Five of the YOWSERS had never been part of a church service before, and it was a great experience for them. We received a warm welcome from the people there which made our stay very pleasant. We slept in the Church, of course.

Before we knew it, it was almost January and we had to meet again—this time in Detroit. This was a smaller group with only Cleveland and Detroit represented. Sleeping accommodations were the same.

Saturday morning we talked with Rev. Orthwein about what our religion means to us and how we could explain our doctrine to someone when asked. It was interesting and many suggestions were thrown around.

After lunch we went to Cranbrook's Institute of Science. We saw the Planetarium exhibit and later browsed around the rest of the exhibits.

That night we held a YOWSER meeting. We decided to have a meeting near March 1 to make plans for a meeting on Memorial Day week-end. The reason we're having a meeting to plan a meeting is because in May we hope to have a big International YOWSER Retreat at Almont. We want everyone to come. If you think you might make it, please write to:

Lynn Zimmerman
 92 Oakdale
 Pleasant Ridge, Mich. 48069

or

Barb Casper
2087 Rossmoor Road
Cleveland Hts., Ohio 44118

We would appreciate responses before the first of March. Put your return address on the letter or envelope so that we can send you more details once the plans have been made.

I have heard many complaints from kids about the need for more unity. It won't happen without you. This is your chance to get involved!

GOING TO CHURCH

I didn't feel like going to church last Sunday. That is an unusual statement for me, but it was true. I had spent the entire week-end skiing and partying with friends and the last thing I wanted to do was get up early Sunday morning and go to Sunday School and church. I had convinced myself to sleep in that morning, but somehow I woke up early and reluctantly decided I might as well go since I was already up.

Fortunately for me, that was one of my better decisions I'd made that week. When I arrived at the church I was happy to see the familiar and friendly faces of the "Sunday School Regulars." Just being among other church members seemed to perk me up. After Sunday School I went upstairs to the church and was greeted by three unfamiliar faces standing in the doorway. One of the members told me that these three girls were from Toronto and they wanted to know if there was a communion service they could participate in that morning. He had told them no, but that they were welcome to stay for the service and asked David Fekete and me to encourage them to stay. So we went over and talked to them and found them more than willing to stay for the morning service.

At this point I began to think of what I would have missed if I had decided to skip church that morning. First of all I would have missed the fellowship of our New Church members. To me, one of the nice things about our church is its size. Although many people are disappointed that our numbers have not increased significantly, I find a feeling of

closeness and warmth in our congregation. Another experience I would have missed was meeting the three girls from Toronto. After church we had a chance to talk with them and discovered that they were visiting in Detroit over the week-end and had planned on going to their own church in the city. The bus they were to take never came, and since the bus stop was directly across the street from our church they came in for the service. I know we didn't convert them to New Church thinking in one service, but we had a chance to share ideas and perceptions, which I think is invaluable to all of us.

Last of all, I would have missed an excellent sermon by our pastor, Walter Orthwein. His topic that particular morning dealt with a topic which happened to have particular significance to me. Needless to say I would have missed a great deal had I gone with my first decision to skip Sunday School and church that morning. Incidences like this make me realize how lucky I am to belong to a church like ours where things like this can happen.

Karen Keith

SWEDENBORG SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING

The Seventy-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Swedenborg Scientific Association will be held in the auditorium of Pendleton Hall, Bryn Athyn, Pennsylvania, on Saturday, April 20, 1974 at 8:00 P. M.

Brief reports and the election of President and members of the Board of Directors will be followed by an address by Dr. Fernando Caracena, Chairman of the Physics Dept. at Metropolitan State College, Denver, on the subject, "The Finer Things of Nature."

All members and friends are cordially invited.

Morna Hyatt, Secretary

Urbana College Course

IMAGES OF WOMAN

Women and Their Bodies; Women and the Law; Women and the Church; Psychology and Women; Marriage, Children and Career—these are some of the topics to be discussed at Urbana College this quarter in a new course entitled “Images of Woman: The Shaping of Feminine Roles.” This interdisciplinary humanities course is an introduction to some of the basic areas of creativity and conflict for women today.

The idea for this course arose from the need, felt by beta faculty members and students, to try to discover for themselves what women could and should become in our changing society. There is no text which can answer this question: insight must come from a sharing of each person's experience in being a woman or in relating to women.

Students have given the following reasons for taking the course:

—“To learn who I am and to gain some objectives for myself.”

—“To find out what the woman's role is, or more importantly, what she thinks it is.”

—“To find alternatives to traditional roles of housewife and mother and the chance of survival in these roles.”

—“To discover other women and their ideas and to discover my own ideas, and how to deal with certain feelings of confusion about my position in society—to discuss, to learn, to love and to understand—awareness.”

Dr. Mary Kay Klein, coordinator, representing philosophy; Dr. Dorothea Harvey, religion; Vivian Blewins, literature; and Cindy Gutfeldt, psychology, will lead this class, but expect the students to be teachers too, so that everyone will learn from everyone else.

Several guest speakers and special events have been planned for this course during Winter Quarter.

Diane Liff, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Section of the State Attorney General's Office, will discuss legal barriers to women's full equality, employment problems, marital and divorce issues, criminal law, and the value and effect of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment.

Sr. Jean Franks of Ohio Dominican College and Dr. Dorothea Harvey of Urbana College will discuss women's position in relationship to religion and traditional church structures.

The Dayton Panel of American Women will speak on problems they have encountered with racial and ethnic prejudice, as well as with prejudice against women.

The class will attend and discuss Wright State's theatre production of Ibsen's “A Doll's House.”

Two sessions will be devoted to women and their bodies. Dr. Naoma Green, an obstetrician/gynecologist, will speak on sex, birth control, and abortion. The following week, Caroline Sheffey of La Leche League, Bonnie Longo from the Trained Childbirth Association, and one of the midwives from the Simpson Center in Springfield will speak on pregnancy, childbirth, and lactation.

Several of the women professors at the college will speak on the problem of trying to combine marriage, career, and a family.

Statistics

BIRTHS

On January 28th in San Francisco, Shelly Lynn was born to Terry and Leslie Burgon.

To Philip and Lorna Emery, congratulations on the birth of a baby boy, Leon Izaiah. The Emerys are members of the Fryeburg Church.

Rebecca Elisabeth was born to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Shelly Jr. of Saginaw, Mich. on January 30th.

BAPTISMS

On January 20th Carl Joshua Swedenborg, infant son of Frank and Barbro Greene of Belvedere, Cal. was baptized by the Rev. Erwin D. Reddekopp.

On January 27th, the Rev. John Jeffery baptized Shane Allan Joshua, son of Al and Carol Kirbyson of Labrador, and grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Doug Gilchrist of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Miss Terrie Crenshaw of the Detroit Society was baptized on January 20th, the Rev. Walter Orthwein officiating.

The Rev. John Jeffery baptized his grandchildren David John Duncan and Tracy Karen, son and daughter of John, Jr. and Audrey Jeffery at their home on January 27th.

Jennifer Margaret Tafel, infant daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. F. Robert Tafel, was baptized at the Wayfarers' Chapel on November 17th, the Rev. Harvey A. Tafel officiating.

CONFIRMATIONS

Mrs. Mary Blair was confirmed into the Swedenborgian Church on December 23rd at the Wayfarers' Chapel, the Rev. Harvey A. Tafel officiating.

Mr. Henry P. Giddens of West Palm Beach was baptized and confirmed into the Swedenborgian Church on October 1st. Mr. Giddens is a long-time reader and student of the Writings and is now a member of the West Palm Beach group.

MARRIAGES

James Christie and Mildred Purdie were joined in marriage by the Rev. Paul B. Zacharias at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Kitchener, Ontario on December 26th.

Robert Tilley and Miriam Silvera were married on October 20th in San Luis Obispo, Cal. Miriam is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Douglas, Sr. of San Luis Obispo.

Kemper Road Center in Cincinnati, Ohio announces the marriages of Cary and Carol Woodward

on January 12th, and Paul and Lenore Eckhoff on January 28th.

Married in Fryeburg: on February 2nd, Stanley Harold Colby and Rhonda Vicki Bartlett; and on January 13th, Jeffrey Scott Lowell and Melanie Ellen Rogers.

DEATHS

Mr. William M. Moody of Oakland, Cal., a member of the San Francisco Church, passed into the spiritual world on January 3rd. The funeral service was held on January 5th. He is survived by his widow, Mary.

Mrs. Miriam Van Waters of the Boston Church passed into the spiritual world on January 18th.

The Church of the Good Shepherd has just lost two of its members. Mrs. Elsa Rothaermel passed away on January 15th, and her resurrection service was held on January 17th. Mr. Nicholas Schmidt passed away on January 26th, and his resurrection service was on January 28th. The Rev. Paul B. Zacharias of Kitchener, Ont. officiated at both services.

Vincent Almond of the Edmonton Church passed into the spiritual world on Wednesday, February 20th. Funeral services were held on February 23rd.

The Brockton Church reports the deaths of three of its members: Mrs. Louise B. Newsom on October 16th; Miss Clara A. Howard on December 13th and Mrs. Bertha S. Chamberlain on February 14th.

Mary Gunn Wunsch of West Lebanon, N. Y., wife of the late Rev. William F. Wunsch, died on January 31st. She is survived by one son, four daughters, six grandchildren and three great grandchildren. A memorial service for both Mr. and Mrs. Wunsch will be held on March 22nd at the Swedenborgian Church in New York City at 2:00 P. M.

Mrs. Edith R. Brink of the Michigan Association passed into the spiritual world on November 4th at the age of 94. Services were held in Capac, Michigan.

Cont'd. on page 30

STATISTICS, cont'd. from page 29

Mrs. Winifred Guest Anderson of the Detroit Society passed away on December 25th. The Rev. Walter Orthwein officiated at the services.

There was a Resurrection Service on October 13th for Steven R. Marquis of Fryeburg, Maine.

Mr. Walter Lloyd Zacharias Latimer of Calgary, Alberta, passed suddenly into eternal life on September 27th, as the result of a traffic accident. He was 38 years of age. Surviving him are his wife and three children. His wife's uncle, the Rev. Henry Reddekopp, officiated at the service.

DR. CHARLES FLYNN LECTURES at SSR

Students and faculty at Swedenborg School of Religion explored some new and useful insights into the strengths and characteristics of Convention on the weekend of March 1, with the help of one of the church's newest and most perceptive friends, Dr. Charles Flynn.

Currently on the faculty of Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, Dr. Flynn is a sociologist who has studied the Swedenborgian Church at considerable depth, using the particular perspectives of his professional discipline to delineate and interpret aspects of our church and its life that may prove most helpful in understanding and planning for the future in which present students expect to be ministering.

Dr. Flynn made many friends in the church when he attended the ministers' meetings and the Con-

vention at Urbana College in 1971, tape recording many discussions and countless interviews in the course of his data-gathering study. The doctoral dissertation, based in part on data gathered then, was the focus of discussion during his visit to SSR.

Several issues raised by the thesis, which had been discussed earlier by faculty members and others who had read it, were clarified in dialogue in which he explained the sociological methodology that uses terms in a special framework that modifies their apparent meaning in lay usage—particularly the "ideal types" which defined the continuum of "role identifications" among clergy, the "personalist—doctrinalist" dichotomy that has been widely discussed and even more widely misunderstood. Clearer pictures of the church emerged for almost everyone.



SSR students had chances before and after the lecture-discussion to review Dr. Flynn's data and conclusions with him. Here he explains a point to David Rienstra and Gladys Wheaton.

**Board of Education's Adult Work Committee's
3rd Post-Convention Conference**

RESOURCES FOR REGENERATION

Urbana College, from Monday noon, June 24, thru Friday evening, June 28

Staff: Dr. Dorothea Harvey, Director; Ms. Marilyn Turley, Registrar; Dr. Calvin Turley, Facilitator's Leader; and selected participants in Conference.

Cost: \$12.50 Registration Fee per participant (no registration fee for non-participating children), plus room and board at the same rate as Convention (approximately \$10 per person per day).

PROGRAM

Reflecting the process of Regeneration, the program will emphasize experiences of particular resources for regeneration, followed by theological reflection on the experiences. Full-group sessions will be alternated with meetings of small groups devoted to specific resources (e.g., meditation, artistic expression, Bible or doctrinal study, etc.), with both the membership and leadership of the small groups being chosen by the participants themselves.

Participants will live in Urbana College dorms and have access to swimming pool, gym and tennis courts. Baby-sitting will be provided without extra cost.

We need you—what can you offer to the conference? We are establishing a “tradition” of full participation and contribution of all people attending the conference. What can you offer?

**The Swedenborgian Church
48 Sargent Street
Newton, Mass. 02158**

Send registration to:

Application dead-line April 29

.....
Registration—Post Convention Conference

Name _____

Children _____

(names and ages: use back of sheet if necessary)

Address _____

Phone _____

Make checks payable to:

General Convention – Board of Education

Arrival in Urbana _____

date

mode of travel

Departure _____

date

I would like to offer a specific
contribution to the conference:

I would like to be a facilitator of
a primary group. ☐ If yes,
I would see my group functioning
in the following manner, as a resource
of regeneration.

**THE MESSENGER
FEBRUARY 1974
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