INTERCHURCH WORLD MOVEMENT OF NORTH AMERICA

Its Origin, Purposes and Plans

Headquarters of the Movement
111 Fifth Avenue
New York City
Interchurch World Movement of North America

Cooperation—Not Union

The Interchurch World Movement was organized for purposes of cooperation, not union.

It is a grouping of missionary, educational and philanthropic organizations within the several communions or denominations and of allied interdenominational agencies. It is not a combination of ecclesiastical bodies.

It has not been proposed that any organization shall merge with any other, give up any of its distinctive features, or surrender any of its rights.

All of these organizations do many things of the same nature. They hold meetings and conventions for the deepening of the spiritual life and the development of interest in the varied activities of the Christian Church. They issue literature and conduct publicity campaigns. They raise money through special drives. They make surveys of the fields at home and abroad, and outline budgets of expenditures.

The question naturally arose: Cannot these organizations group themselves for mutual benefit, study one another's plans and literature, and actually do some things together; for example, conduct a united publicity and financial campaign?

In simple terms, the movement proposes to provide opportunity for its cooperating constituents to conduct their informational and financial propaganda annually at the same time.

In the process of such an enlarged cooperation there may be revealed to some Christian organizations, especially those which are already closely akin, the knowledge that consolidation or combination would produce better results for
the entire cause of the Kingdom of God, and there may be supplementary actions of this character. The effort itself, however, is not directed primarily to these questions, but rather to the more immediate and pressing one of cooperation.

This will involve cooperation in the development of the spiritual resources of the churches, the making of surveys and in the statement of the total needs of the world from the point of view of Protestant Christianity.

Each organization will maintain its own treasury and regulate its own affairs as heretofore. Each organization will pass upon the results of all surveys which affect its own work. The Central Committee will harmonize and coordinate these surveys, and prepare a total budget which will, for the first time in history, outline the approximate responsibility of the Christian Church for the world's welfare.

Desirable and Feasible

Facing the tremendous demands of this tragic hour following the world war, the churches can do no less than follow a course so obviously feasible as that outlined in the foregoing. That they may ultimately do very much more is the prayer of unnumbered disciples of Christ.

There is a great hymn of the church which we all sing with feeling. It contains the lines:

"We are not divided,
All one body we."

The sentiment of this hymn is true so far as the spirit of union is concerned, but the fact remains that we are not only divided ecclesiastically, but we have been so thoroughly divided that we have not been able hitherto always to cooperate along lines of effort that are common to all. It is to reverse this policy, to discover spheres in which, and methods by which, we may work together in our mutual tasks that the

Interchurch Movement has been called into being.

Victory came to the allied armies when the way was found to cooperate under a common leader. Since it was possible for these many allied nations to fight together effectively without destroying their individuality or surrendering their sovereignty, leaders of the evangelical churches believe that it is possible for Christian bodies to work together in the same spirit with great benefit to each and with highly multiplied power in their united appeals and efforts.

Last year seven agencies, organizations and associations, that were conducting war work, pooled their interests and went before the country with a united budget and appeal. The happy results of this effort caused many men and women earnestly to consider and prayerfully to seek for some way to secure a like cooperation on the part of the Protestant churches of America on behalf of their world-wide activities.

First Steps

The call for a conference on this important subject was issued by the Foreign Missionary Board of the Presbyterian Church, South. Representatives of mission boards and allied interests in the United States and Canada were asked to meet in New York City on the seventeenth of December, 1918. One hundred and thirty-five persons responded, representing most of these organizations. Those present were unanimously agreed that the time had come for the working bodies of the several denominations to endeavor so to relate their activities as to present a united front before the world and at the same time secure greater efficiency, with a corresponding increase of influence and power, not to speak of the economies which would naturally result.

As a further evidence that the Spirit of God was moving, the Federal Council of the Churches
at about the same time called a meeting at Atlantic City with a similar purpose in view. Ninety persons responded to this call, and the same unanimity of opinion was expressed as to the church's needs and obligations as in the other assembly.

At the New York meeting a committee of twenty was created, which included many of the outstanding Christian leaders of the United States and Canada. This committee was charged with the task of formulating a preliminary statement that might serve as a working basis for the development of plans for such a cooperative effort as seemed called for. This committee has been singularly successful in bringing together the leaders of the many Christian forces which are moving in the same direction. The result of their work is the Interchurch World Movement, whose organization is outlined more fully on another page.

The Response

The preliminary announcement of the purposes and plans of the Interchurch World Movement has called out a response from all parts of America that has seldom, if ever, been equalled. There is a conviction that this movement has come in answer to prayer. It is also looked upon as the natural culmination of the great wave of denominational forward movements which were begun under the pressure of needs greatly multiplied because of the war. The leaders of these movements have been quick to realize that the objectives which they had in mind could be realized in a still larger way by working together. They have been among the first to offer their time, their experience and their hearty support to the work of the Interchurch World Movement that under God's guidance a strong cooperative effort may be developed for the accomplishment of the task which in all its vital essentials is one.

The following boards and societies have already taken favorable action concerning the movement:

Foreign Missions Conference of North America.
Home Missions Council.
Council of Church Boards of Education.
Sunday School Council.
Laymen's Missionary Movement.
Missionary Education Movement.
Federation of Women's Boards of Foreign Missions.
Council of Women for Home Missions.
World's Sunday School Association.
International Sunday School Association.
Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America.
National Home Missionary Society.
United Missionary and Stewardship Committee in the United States.
American Baptist Home Mission Society.
American Baptist Publication Society.
Foreign Mission Board of the Christian Church.
Christian Woman's Board of Missions.
Foreign Christian Missionary Society (Disciples of Christ).
Commission on Missions of the National Council of Congregationalists.
American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.
American Missionary Association.
Congregational Home Missionary Society.
Congregational Church Building Society.
Congregational Sunday School Extension Society.
Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States.
Board of Home Missions Five Years' Meeting of Friends.
Joint Centenary Commission of the Methodist Episcopal Church, North and South.
Foreign Board of the Methodist Episcopal Church.
Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.
Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.
Woman's Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.
Foreign Board of the Presbyterian Church in the United States (South).
Freedman's Board United Presbyterian Church.
Committee of Education and Ministerial Relief of the Presbyterian Church in the United States.
Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in America.
General Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States.
Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in the United States.
Board of Home Missions of the Reformed Church in the United States.
Purpose and Scope

In order that there may be clear understanding regarding the purpose and scope of the movement, it seems best to quote certain sections from the report of the Committee of Twenty as adopted by the several bodies listed in the foregoing:

"To present a unified program of Christian service and to unite the Protestant churches of North America in the performance of their common task, thus making available the values of spiritual power which come from unity and coordinated Christian effort and meeting the unique opportunities of the new era."

"While primarily a Home and Foreign Missionary Movement, the movement is to be broad enough to cover all those interests in the United States and Canada outside of the local church budget which are naturally related to the missionary enterprise through national agencies, denominational or interdenominational."

Survey

A thorough united survey of the home and foreign fields of the world will be made for the purpose of securing accurate and complete data as to what ought to be done by the combined churches to meet the needs of the hour, and of at least the next five years.

Field Campaign

A field campaign will be undertaken to bring before the churches a knowledge of the needs of the community, the nation, and the world, as revealed by the surveys; to arouse the church to the realization of the urgency of cooperative effort in meeting these needs, and also to inspire and complete an organization of the Christian forces competent to undertake an adequate world program. During the field campaign special emphasis will be put upon education, intercession and stewardship, and an attempt will be made to make effective the necessary resources of spiritual power, life and money needed to carry out the world program.

Conferences and Conventions

A vital feature of the entire movement will be that of its conferences and conventions. These will be held throughout the nation for the following purposes:

First: To make known the plans, ideals and program of the movement to all the churches and all the people.

Second: To secure the wider adoption of the principle of cooperative Christian effort among the churches and affiliated societies, in every county, local community, city, and state of the country.

Third: To assist in organizing interchurch committees, councils or federations for the immediate tasks which can only be met by united effort. These will contemplate permanence, in recognition of the growing desire upon the part of the leaders of Christian work for such cooperation and as the most practicable answer to the desire for unity, but will be encouraged and urged, in any event, to meet the demands of the special program of the Interchurch World Movement.

Fourth: To give increasing testimony to the place of the Christian Church as a fundamental agency to make permanent the ideals of an enduring world peace and to help in interpreting the type of gospel message which will contribute most to that end.

Fifth: To enlist and assist in training an adequate force of consecrated men and women to carry out a world-wide five-year program of the Christian Church, which shall be undertaken to meet the necessity revealed by the surveys now being made by the movement.
Several of these conferences have already been held, resulting in intense interest in the movement as a whole, the creation of many interchurch committees in local communities and cities and the strengthening and the enlargement of those already in existence.

So far as possible, the committee will seek to have the movement presented at all the conventions, assemblies, councils and conferences of the churches and allied societies during 1919.

United Budget and Treasury

“A united budget, which shall constitute the financial objectives and which shall be presented to the constituency of the cooperating agencies together with the educational and spiritual objective of the movement [will be established].

“It is clearly understood that the united movement shall not displace or interfere with the autonomy and responsibility of administration of the cooperating agencies, and it is urged that all funds should be sent as far as possible directly to the treasurers of such agencies from their natural constituencies, but in view of the necessity of provision for receiving and distributing any funds that might be contributed to it without being sent through denominational treasurers a central treasury [will] be established to which funds given for the united budget, but contributed through ordinary church channels may be reported by the cooperating agencies, and through which donors who so elect may contribute directly to the united budget.

“The functions of this central treasury shall not be administrative but to assemble and report the financial facts connected with the campaign, disburse funds for the common expenses of the campaign, and serve as a clearing house between the cooperating agencies in order to insure to each its pro rata share of the funds secured, as agreed on in advance by its percentage in the united budget.”

Financial Drive

A united financial campaign will doubtless be projected in the spring of 1920, or whenever in the judgment of the leaders of the movement the churches are sufficiently prepared to secure the funds shown by the surveys to be needed to carry through the world program on an efficiency basis.

Expenses of the Movement

The movement will be financed out of the funds secured and not by direct assessment upon participating bodies.

Plan of Organization

1. National

(1) A General Committee of approximately one hundred and fifty;
(2) An Executive Committee of twenty-one;
(3) A Canadian Council, to which will be referred questions involved in the movement that are peculiar to the Dominion of Canada.

2. Divisional, State and Local

The organization, throughout the country in each division, state, county, and local community, of the Christian forces into some form of interchurch committee or federation.
April 9, 1919.

President, Mr. Harry Pratt Judson,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

We take great pleasure in inviting you to be present and to participate in the "Inter-Board Conference" to be held at Cleveland, Ohio, April 30--May 1, in connection with the "Interchurch World Movement of North America. You are more or less familiar with the "Interchurch Movement", but the enclosed pamphlet will help to refresh your mind with the fundamental principles involved.

We have no hesitancy in urging your attendance at the Conference notwithstanding the tremendous pressure of engagements in these busy months, for we firmly believe the issues involved are so vast that nothing can be of more importance than this United Conference of the Secretaries and Members of the great missionary, educational and philanthropic societies representing Protestant Christianity.

The Conference is brought forward to try as far as possible to get unified wisdom upon the following questions:

First, To review, interpret and strengthen the proposed plans and program of the Interchurch World Movement.

The general proposal of the Movement has been heartily adopted by many Boards, as indicated in the pamphlet, and gives promise of rendering an immense service to the common cause of Jesus Christ throughout the world, but the plans are still in a formative period and will be brought before the Conference that suggestions concerning changes may be made where necessary for the largest success.

Second, To study unitedly the problems of the Christian Church in our own Nation in view of the era of reconstruction and its attendant social unrest.

Many groups representing various societies and types of people and messages, have been meeting upon this question, but the hour seems opportune for a conference of this character representing all of these to face squarely the whole issue so far as it seems possible.
April 6, 1939

Dear Mr. Harry Frank Guggen

President, 1. C. U. G. H.

Office, 111

We are glad to invite you to participate in the "International Conference" to be held at Cleveland, Ohio, April 30-May 1, in connection with the "Inter-

American World Movement of North America," but the enclosed pre-

liminary will help to refresh your mind with the fundamental prin-

ciples. Further details will be sent by return mail.

We have the pleasure of inviting you to attend the annual conference of the executive committee at these current months, for we firmly believe the issue in-

volving will be one of the most important ever of our members in the United Conference of the Reorganization of the National and Nationalistic cooperative societies in the various countries of the world.

The conference is planned to focus on the following discussion:

INCREASE THE KNOWLEDGE and understanding of the Inter-American World Movement.

2. The general program of the movement has been prepared in the light of the existing conditions and the objectives of the various national and international associations. The purpose of the conference is to plan the fullest participation of the world, but the plans are still in a preliminary stage and will be presented before the conference that will take place at some future date.

3. To study the needs and opportunities for the cooperation of the various national and international associations.

4. To determine the objectives in view of the various objectives of the Conference.

May our group of representatives at the conference and their members have our full support in this enterprise, and may the full delegation assume the responsibility for the results of this enterprise, as it seems necessary.
Third, To study unitedly the problems of the Christian Church in its New World responsibility and opportunity.

In the presence of an hour which has opened every tribe and nation, occidental and oriental, to the renewed message of the Gospel of Christ, as its permanent hope of enduring peace, the Conference will seek to bring into review a program of united effort which will secure the maximum result and reduce loss to the minimum.

Fourth, To give particular attention to the best method of assembling and using effectively the surveys proposed by the Interchurch World Movement.

These points are only suggestive of the many vital Christian questions which warrant such a united gathering of America's most responsible Church leaders.

There are being invited officers of the national judicatory bodies of all the evangelical Protestant denominations in the United States and the officers and members of the Boards of Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Church Erection, Ministerial Relief, Religious Education, Young People's Work and Temperance, and presidents of denominational colleges and seminaries. The editors of all Church papers and the officers and members of interdenominational bodies are also being invited.

We cannot give you all the details of program and arrangements at the present time; they will follow later.

It is of the utmost importance that you, as the President of one of our Christian Colleges, should be present at this conference. We make this personal appeal to you because of its supreme importance. We ask also that you bring with you to the conference, the President of your Board of Trustees. No separate letter of invitation is being sent to the President of your Board of Trustees.

We personally believe this conference will be one of the epoch-making ones in the history of the Christian Church and feel confident that you will desire to have a share in it.

Cordially yours,

S. Lee Jayler
A. C. Green
Fred B. Smith
Compulsory to Note: "To study militarily the problems of the Christian

Church in the New World responsibility any opportunity.

..." In the presence of an event which pares decay every stripe

and nation, especially and actively to the menace message of

the Ceylonese. The only effective key to the combined effort of

the Conference must hold to prevent interval between a program of

which objectives will bear the maximum restraint and reduce

force to the minimum.

"... Work to give particular attention to the best method

of assembling and using the territory the remains beyond the

Intercolonial World Movement.

These points are our suggestion of the many others.

Christian Democrats who want work and a united effort of

America's most responsible Christian leaders.

There are being gathered officers of the national clergy.

We cannot give you all the details of programs any-

Laymen's at the present time; they will follow later.

It is of the utmost importance that you as the President

or one of our Christian Colleges, spiritual leaders of this con-

ference, we must agree to accept a sacrifice of the

conference. The President of your Board or Trustee. No separate

letter of invitation is being sent to the President of your

Board of Trustees.

We respectfully pledge this conference will be one of the

boon-making ones in the history of the Christian Churches and

feel confident that you will agree to pave a place in it.
Chicago, April 15, 1919

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 9th inst. is received. I regret that my engagements will not permit me to be present at the meeting April 30 and May 1 in Cleveland. Certainly the subjects to be discussed there are of great importance, and I hope that useful results will be secured. I may say that the President of our Board of Trustees is in California, and will not be home until late in May.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. S. Earl Taylor
920 Broadway, New York City
Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 30th inst. is received. I regret that my engagements will not permit me to be present at the meeting April 20 and Ney I am afraid may certainty the subject of my recommendations will be seconded. I may say that the President of our Board of Trustees is in California and will not be home until July in May.

Very truly yours.

H.F.T. - P.

Mr. E. Kely Taylor
250 Broadway, New York City
Pres. H. P. Hudson  
Chicago University  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear President Hudson:

The London financial editor of the New York Evening Post in his article cabled on Saturday, January 10th, made this very significant statement:

"There is a growing feeling that the only hope of checking the Bolshevik spirit throughout the world lies either in a stronger suppression by the leading Governments of the revolt against law and order, or in a genuine religious revival.

"This statement, while startling, reflects not the opinions of excited politicians or religious fanatics, but the views of hard-headed business men."

Our contact with the American press, as well as with leaders in various lines, convinces us that this judgment is widely shared. Apparently men are coming to feel very strongly that there can be no final solution of our present world problems which does not take into account those great spiritual forces which were so fully recognized by our American forefathers, and which made the American Republic possible; and that we must recognize the supreme importance of the individual life, and the duty of men to incorporate in their lives the Golden Rule with respect to the lives and rights and property of one another.

I shall appreciate it very much if you can take a moment from your busy day to give me a brief expression of your own opinion on this important question.

Very truly yours,

S. Earl Taylor
I am writing to express my strong support for the project on the United Nations. I believe it is vital for the future of international relations and cooperation among nations.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]
February 16, 1920

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 11th instant is received. There is no one thing which will modify the situation in the world, but many things together, it seems to me, must be brought to bear. No doubt criminal attempts must be checked by governmental authority. At the same time a general quickening of spiritual life and a personal conscience will be above all things most effective, I believe.

Very truly yours,

Mr. S. Earl Taylor,
Interchurch World Movement
111 Fifth Avenue,
New York City.

HPJ: JN
Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 15th inst. is received.

There is no one whom I wish to have with the exception
in the world. But many times together it seems to
must be prepared to bear. No doubt, therefore, some
must be accorded to good. No government authority, or the same

time's renewal, dislocation or abridgment, life and a
person's conscience will go. And so many more effects.

Very truly yours,

Mr. Geo. A. Taylor
Injunction Matter, New York
III Pitch Avenue
New York City.

HRC.