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History of the Superintendents Conference

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SUPERVISION AND PROMOTION OF
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BY
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—
MISSOURI SYNOD

HISTORY OF
The Superintendents Conference

Supervision and Promotion of Christian Education

by the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

A. C. STELLHORN

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History of the Superintendents Conference

Background

THE roots of the superintendency of education in The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod reach back exactly one hundred years. It was in 1856, two years after Synod had divided itself into four Districts — the Central, the Eastern, the Northern, and the Western — that the Eastern District entertained a memorial to the effect that Synod institute and elect a general school board for the supervision of the 114 parochial schools. The board was to participate with the President of Synod and the District Presidents in the visitation of schools and to have two days during or after the conventions of Synod, one day during or after District conventions, for its official meetings. The membership was to consist of pastors and teachers.¹ But the memorial either did not reach Synod for its convention in 1857, or Synod took no action.

The Addison Faculty Speaks Up

Because time did not permit a thorough search of our periodicals, it is said with caution that no subsequent action was taken until 1896, 40 years later, when the Addison Seminary faculty, in a memorial to Synod, reported that circuit Visitors were not visiting the schools regularly enough; an investigation had shown that certain schools had not seen a Visitor in 10, 15, 20, or 28 years. "It is obvious," the memorial stated, "that this is a great irregularity and a hindrance to the proper development of our school system." It was this report which more than anything else brought about the establishment of school boards and superintendencies. Synod responded at the time by urging that existing rules and regulations for Visitors be carried out.²

¹ *Bericht des Oestlichen Distrikts*, 1856, p. 27. Quoted by Prof. F. Lindemann in *Ev.-Luth. Schulblatt*, 1906, p. 197.

² *Synodal-Bericht*, 1896, p. 123.

A Congregation Petitions Synod

Things began to move in 1899, when Trinity Church (now Concordia) of Cincinnati, Ohio, through its church council submitted a memorial to Synod, asking it "to institute systematic supervision of our schools through the appointment of special school inspectors, in every District of Synod, if possible." (Synod then had 13 Districts; established a 14th, Oregon and Washington, in 1899.) The memorial, dated March 15, 1899, was signed by eight laymen and the two pastors, Alexander von Schlichten and Alexander von Schlichten, Jr., assistant.³ A halting and hesitating action of Synod was nevertheless fruitful, for it brought a discussion of this matter into the open. In adopting the floor committee's report, Synod said:

We do not regard it advisable to submit this matter to Synod this year, but believe that the *Schulblatt* should first give the matter general publicity so that conferences and District conventions might discuss it.⁴

The "Ev.-Luth. Schulblatt" Airs the Subject

It was as a result of this action that the *Schulblatt* published the Cincinnati memorial, the editor, Pres. E. A. W. Krauss of the Addison Seminary, adding this footnote: "The recommendation published herewith is to open the way for a number of articles whose purpose will be to orientate the readers on the necessity and proper structure of adequate school visitation." He does not use the term "inspection," a term borrowed from German writers and much in use at first by our people.

That ended the *Schulblatt* publicity for the time being. But it was taken up in earnest again in 1906 and 1907. First we find Prof. F. Lindemann, then editor (Krauss had accepted a call to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in the fall of 1905), leading off with a continued article "Ueber Schulinspektion," in which he traces the development of German and American school supervision, lays down certain principles of school supervision within the church, and ends up with recommending the establishment of a Central School Board, with the possibility of local subcommittees and even circuit inspectors. "I am not thinking, first of all, of a general supervisor,"

³ *Ev.-Luth. Schulblatt*, 1899, p. 249.

⁴ *Synodal-Bericht*, 1899, p. 136.

he writes, "According to the wishes of Synod" (resolution of 1899), "the matter (of inspectors) might be instituted and tried out locally." Prior to its publication his article had been submitted to the Pastoral Conference of Northern Illinois, which approved his suggestions.⁵

Teachers Conferences Take Hold

Now followed reactions by teachers conferences. *The New Orleans Teachers Conference* saw the great need and value of a systematic supervision, but found no way of instituting it in the Southern District; asked for further enlightenment in the *Schulblatt*.⁶ *The Rock River Valley Teachers Conference*, meeting at Juneau, Wis., in April 1907, definitely favored the appointment of a "Fachmann" (meaning a teacher) by the Wisconsin District.⁷ The conference had heard a paper by Teacher H. Heiden on the subject. Heiden had written a number of pastors and teachers for an opinion. All replies except two had been very favorable and aroused much interest at the conference. Prof. Geo. Mezger, who presented an essay in the Nebraska District in 1906, was quoted with approval as having said:

The question whether at this time it would not be profitable to appoint special "Fachmaenner" as supervisors of schools has been discussed. This is a recommendation which would be worth considering further. . . . Moreover, a means by which our teachers will keep themselves proficient and make themselves more proficient is school visitation.⁸

The conference did not petition the District to establish such an office, but merely reported its findings to the *Schulblatt*. One thing is significant, however. This was a teachers conference, coming out wholeheartedly for the office. The teachers, more than anyone else, wanted the office and took steps toward its establishment.

⁵ *Ev.-Luth. Schulblatt*, 1906, pp. 193—198; 231—239; 289—292.

⁶ *Ev.-Luth. Schulblatt*, 1907, p. 175.

⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 176. NOTE. Editor Lindemann disliked the restriction to a "Fachmann." In his own article in 1906 he had already stated that also the Board need not consist of only professional people; now he thought the supervisor need not be a teacher, but could be a pastor or even a layman. In any case, however, he should be a capable schoolman.

⁸ *Bericht des Nebraska-Distrikts*, 1906, pp. 51, 50.

The Northwestern (General) Teachers Conference dealt with the subject of "Schulinspektion" at its meeting in Harlem (Forest Park), Ill., July 24—26, 1907, on the basis of a paper by W. Wegener. Says the report:

This important, timely subject of incalculable consequence for the welfare of our Lutheran parochial school kept the conference busy for a large part of its sessions. What blessings may sooner or later accrue from these discussions must be left to the Protector and Preserver of our church and school. We need better school inspection. But how it may be arranged most effectively, the conference thought, needed further consideration.⁹

Here the matter rested again. Krauss had gone to St. Louis, and Lindemann departed this life suddenly on December 13, 1907, at the age of 57. In 1908 Prof. F. Rechlin, active contributor to the *Schulblatt*, once more touched upon school supervision in discussing the principles of the NEA, saying:

The question whether our parochial schools need a closer supervision than that exercised by our pastors has, of late, been frequently discussed, and the friends of a closer supervision seem to be convinced that, although very desirable, its general introduction would meet with many obstacles. Why could we not establish a synodical bureau of education and thus take a step in the right direction? A board of that kind could, like the Bureau of Education in Washington, "be such a source of information and advice" as would be most helpful to our people in conducting their campaigns of extending and fortifying our flourishing system of parochial schools. In the course of time such a board could perhaps give proper advice as to a closer and more helpful supervision of our schools so ardently advocated by many friends of Christian education.¹⁰

The last clause is significant. The entire statement might be considered "prophetic," since subsequent procedure of Synod, in the main, followed the action here suggested. But now the books seemed to be closed again for a period of six years, until 1914.

Synod Takes Action

Synod took action in 1914, 58 years after the proposal of the Eastern District in 1856. And significantly, we say again, the action originated with, and was urged by, the teachers.

⁹ *Ev.-Luth. Schulblatt*, 1907, p. 251.

¹⁰ *Ev.-Luth. Schulblatt*, 1908, p. 374.

In 1913 the *Northwestern (General) Teachers Conference* met in La Porte, Ind., July 23—25. There Jacob Kirsch of Chicago presented a paper on "Einheitlichkeit in unsern Schulen" (Uniformity in Our Schools). The conference report by Gustav Jaeger of Milwaukee does not say that this paper, or its discussion, led the conference to memorialize Synod to establish a general school board and District school boards.¹¹ But that is what happened, according to the La Porte pastor, Rev. P. Eickstaedt, whom the conference had "urgently requested" to publish a report in the *Lutheraner*. He says that the conference took action "as a result of this paper."¹²

The resolution of the conference:

Resolved, That the Northwestern Teachers Conference, through its committee, consisting of Prof. E. Koehler, O. Rusch, O. Kolb, and Jacob Kirsch, present a memorial to Synod which is to contain the following recommendations:

- a. That the Honorable Synod establish a general school board, and encourage the individual Districts to create such school boards also in their areas.
- b. That the obligation of this board be to work toward the uplift and promotion of our schools and toward greater uniformity in our school system.
- c. That the general school board membership consist of the President of Synod, one pastor, two teachers, a layman, and one professor of the (teachers) seminary.
- d. That the composition of District school boards be of a similar nature.

That is the resolution of a conference which in 1907 only realized: "We need better school inspection. But how it may be arranged most effectively needs further consideration." The resolution of 1913 says nothing about superintendents, as had been proposed by the Cincinnati congregation and the Juneau teachers conference. The General School Board, in line with the Rechlin "prophecy," said that later.

A word on the conference committee: Prof. E. Koehler of River Forest was one of the originators of the proposal. O. Rusch of St. Stephen's School in Chicago, chairman of the conference for many years, became secretary of the first General School Board

¹¹ *Ev.-Luth. Schulblatt*, 1913, p. 310.

¹² *Der Lutheraner*, 1913, p. 313.

in 1914, accepted a professorship at River Forest in 1916, and declined a call of the General School Board as its executive secretary early in 1921. O. Kolb became a very active member of the first General School Board and published the first synodical course of study for parochial schools. The brother of Jacob Kirsch, J. G. Kirsch of Crete, Ill., became a member and secretary of the General School Board in 1917.

The Convention of Synod

Then came the 1914 convention of Synod, held in St. Luke's Church, Chicago, Ill., May 6—16. On the third afternoon (Friday, May 8), the teachers present, plus many others from the Chicago area, and professors of River Forest and Seward, a total of over 300, held a meeting. Welcomed by Paul T. Buszin of Bethlehem in Chicago, whom the gathering promptly elected chairman (G. Guetler, secretary), the conference discussed a number of vital topics, among them the establishment of a synodical school board. Prof. E. Koehler presented a paper on the subject, which resulted in "a lively discussion." Outcome:

The teachers conference assembled here recommends an organization for the promotion of our school system and suggests that Synod take the initial steps at this time.¹³

The conference also named candidates for the membership of the board: Theiss of Milwaukee; Rusch, Simon, Kirsch, Buszin, and Kolb of the Chicago area; the faculties of River Forest and of Seward; Brase, Steinkamp, Nickel, Hillmann, Sebald, and Aufdemberge of the Kansas-Nebraska-Missouri area.

The Resolution of Synod

The *Proceedings* of Synod in 1914 show a cautious heading for the section dealing with a School Board: "Allgemeine beratende Schulbehoerde" (General Advisory School Board). But the term "Behoerde" is used, whereas former documents always spoke of "Kommission" or "Kommissionen" or a "Bureau."

The floor committee likewise approached its recommendations with the following cautious preamble:

¹³ *Ev.-Luth. Schulblatt*, 1914, p. 217.

The memorial submitted to the Honorable Synod by the Northwestern Teachers Conference is far from endeavoring to take away or to restrict the rights of congregations or pastors guaranteed them by the Word of God and the constitution of Synod. The congregation is and continues to be the owner of its school and possessor of all the rights incident thereto. The pastor remains the supervisor of his school. The memorial has the purpose of improving the school system of our Synod and of making it increasingly a uniform whole. This effort is all the more important in our time because our school system is in greater danger than ever before, and because the cry of parochial school enemies that the schools of the Missouri Synod are doomed also finds its echo at times in our own circles. Nothing would please the devil more than to deprive us of our school system. It is the aim of the memorial to counteract that tendency.

Then follow the history-making statements:

Therefore the committee of the Honorable Synod recommends the following for adoption:

To elect a general school board at this convention, whose duty it shall be to devise a plan whereby the entire school system of Synod can best be promoted. *Adopted.*

The general board might be composed of the Honorable President of Synod or his substitute, one professor of each of the two teachers colleges, one pastor, two teachers, and one layman. *Adopted.*

Also, it appears advisable that every District elect a committee that will co-operate with the general board and advise with it about the welfare of the school system. *Adopted.*

The *Proceedings* further state: "The appointment of the board members is to be turned over to the President. He shall himself be a member."¹⁴

The membership of the first General School Board:

Dr. F. Pfotenhauer, President of Synod, 1911—35, chairman

Oscar F. Rusch, secretary

Prof. W. C. Kohn, president of River Forest Teachers College

Prof. F. W. C. Jesse, president of Seward Teachers College

Rev. Wm. E. Moll, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Ottomar Kolb, Sr.

F. Ruenzel, Milwaukee, Wis.

Membership of the School Board, 1917—20:

Dr. F. Pfotenhauer, chairman

¹⁴ *Synodal-Bericht*, 1914, p. 174.

J. G. Kirsch, Crete, Ill., secretary, 1917—18
Pres. W. C. Kohn, River Forest
Pres. F. W. C. Jesse, Seward, Nebr.
Adolf A. Grossmann, Milwaukee, Wis., secretary, 1918—20
Rev. Adolf Pfothenhauer, Addison, Ill.
F. Ruenzel, Milwaukee, Wis.

Annual meetings were the rule at first. An undated report by Prof. W. C. Kohn on the first meeting of the board appeared in the *Schulblatt* for March 1915, p. 85. The main business was to see that District boards were appointed. A second report, much longer, by Secretary O. F. Rusch was published in the same journal for April 1916. The board's chief concern by this time was to receive information from District boards. To make this possible, there must be a circuit organization, particularly a regular visitation of schools. "However, that the Visitor alone cannot always do justice to this work, experience has shown. . . . He needs assistance." The board said hesitatingly that it thought there should be a District school visitor or a District visitation committee. The board concerned itself also with a desirable uniformity in various matters, such as course of study, textbooks, beginning of the school year (fall instead of Easter), number of grades, and so on. Many of these were then recommended in its report to Synod in 1917.¹⁵

In that report the board barely touched on District superintendencies. Yet the floor committee picked up the subject and said that it did not risk making recommendations to Synod, "for we are of the opinion that each District should decide this matter according to conditions. But we wish to recommend most emphatically to Synod that it look after a regular, systematic visitation of its schools." Uncertain as this recommendation was, three Districts established superintendencies in 1918, just a year later.

The First District Superintendencies

Long and uncertain, wary and hesitating had been the process, but when the District conventions met in 1918, during the final year of World War I, a few Districts took action; others followed a year or two later.

¹⁵ *Synodal-Bericht*, 1917, pp. 44—50.

Statistically we had what writers and speakers called a "flourishing school system" up to World War I (1914); but now, year after year, the statistics registered great losses, because of war hysteria and anti-German sentiment. Everybody thought we were losing large numbers of regular parochial schools. In a synodical essay in 1918 this writer asserted that, over a given period, Synod had lost about 400 schools and 10,000 pupils, the Minnesota District alone having closed 90 schools in a single year.

But, as later discovered, this loss had been almost wholly confined to all-German part-time schools. Statistician E. Eckhardt later stated: "I doubt that 50 regular schools were closed during the War, and most of these were soon reopened." What had happened since the death of Walther in 1887 was that an ever-increasing number of congregations had established, or changed to, summer schools, Saturday schools, and a great variety of other part-time schools, and had reported them as "Gemeindeschulen," or had been forced to report them as such because the *Statistical Yearbook* had no category for part-time schools. This meant a distortion of the statistics. From 1917 to 1921 the statistician cleared the statistics. To cite a few examples: The Minnesota District had been credited with 301 schools in 1916 (the largest number in Synod), while in reality it had only 122 regular schools; the Atlantic District showed 68 in 1916, but actually had 17. Synod was credited with 2,313 schools and 96,737 pupils, but really had only 1,277 schools and 73,190 pupils. The part-time schools ordinarily taught only the German language and religion in German. These were the schools which dropped like flies during World War I. Sunday school enrollment in 1916 was 85,910; in 1921, 120,625.

An aftermath of the War and war hysteria was (a) the enactment of anti-German laws in 21 states; (b) contemplated state supervision of parochial schools; (c) the organization of campaigns, notably in Michigan and Oregon, to abolish private and parochial schools altogether.

The First Three Districts to Take Action

The *Northern Illinois District*, in session at St. James Church, Chicago, Ill., May 22—28, 1918, was the first to establish a superintendency. It was done upon the recommendation of the District

Board of Education. The board first called Prof. Alb. H. Miller of River Forest, Ill., but he declined the call. It then successfully called Paul T. Buszin of Bethlehem School, Chicago, who began his work October 1, 1918. His official title: German, "Schulinspektor"; English, "Supervisor of Schools."

The *Michigan District* board, in 1916, had recommended circuit supervisors. "A teacher could serve in such an office." The matter of a District man was turned over to pastors' and teachers' conferences. In 1918, with the District in session in Immanuel Church, Bay City, Mich., June 19—25, the board recommended the establishment of a District superintendency. It was so decided by the convention. Rev. Henry Grueber, later a Vice-President of Synod, was elected at the convention to serve in the new office for three years, but he later declined. The board had recommended, and the District decided, that the "Schulvisitor" (here the term "Inspektor" was not used) should be a pastor. Next to be called was former Prof. Oscar H. Reisig of Concordia College, New Orleans, La. In ill health, he had gone to California. Having accepted the call, and on his way to Michigan, he caught the deadly influenza in Chicago and died there October 18, 1918. The call then went to Prof. Friedrich Meyer, principal of Milwaukee Lutheran High School, 1904—18, who accepted and who was installed early in 1919.

The *Central District*, in session at St. John's Church, La Porte, Ind., August 7—13, 1918, was petitioned by the teachers present "to elect two experienced men from among its teachers, who were to devote their entire time to the visiting of schools and who were to be salaried by the District." The floor committee recommended the establishment of the office, but that only one man be elected immediately at this convention. It was so resolved, and the writer was elected on the last day of the convention, August 13. All present were allowed to vote. The writer began his work on November 8 and was installed December 8.

All three of the first superintendents were voted a salary of \$1,500 plus expenses, but the Michigan man also received a monthly rent allowance of \$25.00.

The offices were something new. Nobody had a definite idea what a superintendent ought to do besides visiting and promoting

schools. In Northern Illinois the District board was instructed to draw up rules and regulations. In Michigan the board had general rules ready when the office was established. In the Central District the board (consisting of three teachers, the President, the two Vice-Presidents, and three laymen) were to draw up "tentative rules."

Being new at our tasks, Buszin and the writer suggested a meeting in Chicago in 1919, to compare notes, and invited Professor Meyer of Michigan; but the latter could not come. Buszin was the writer's senior by more than 14 years, and 16 years longer in office as a teacher. What is more, he had been chairman of the meeting attended by more than 300 teachers and professors who recommended the establishment of a general school board at the convention of Synod in 1914. Our two-man meeting may be looked upon as the germ from which sprang the Superintendents Conference two years later.

Additional Districts Established the Office

In 1919, the Iowa District, the South Wisconsin District, and the Western District established superintendencies. Rev. C. H. Seltz was installed in Iowa, October 24, 1920; Adolf A. Grossmann, in South Wisconsin, September 5, 1920; Theo. Kuehnert, in the Western District, June 27, 1920. The number of superintendents had now increased to six.

Being also new at their tasks, with Buszin and the writer "quite experienced" by this time, Kuehnert and Grossmann visited us in turn, and Rev. Seltz sought advice by mail. The need of a conference became more and more apparent.

Executive Secretary of the General School Board

At its convention in Detroit in 1920, Synod was besieged by some eight memorials asking that the General School Board be given a full-time executive secretary.¹⁸ The petitions had been induced by rousing articles published by Prof. Theo. Graebner, in which he pointed out the extreme dangers to our schools and the

¹⁸ The various terms used in calling for such an official were: "General School Director," "Director of the School System," "A Suitable Man to Head a Central School Bureau," "Watchman of Our Parochial Schools," "General Superintendent of Schools," and "Leader of the School Bureau."

need for prompt synodical action.¹⁷ Synod granted the board authority to call (such) a man and instructed its board of directors to make the funds available. Professor Graebner and the memorials had asked for much more. They wanted a central school bureau or bureau of education with various departments established, similar to what we have now in the Board for Parish Education. But Synod was too conservative to take such a big step; even the executive secretary asked for was granted with some hesitation. Upon securing the necessary funds from the Board of Directors, the General School Board issued a call to Prof. Oscar F. Rusch early in 1921.

Synod made a change so far as the personnel of the School Board and its location were concerned. "Chicago has too many boards," some said. The nominating committee presented a St. Louis and a Cleveland slate, and the latter was elected, consisting of the following members:

Rev. Theo. Schurdel, chairman
Rev. Geo. Gotsch, secretary
Paul H. Schefft
Geo. Zehnder
Carl M. Zorn, Jr.
Henry Vogel
Judge Geo. Schwan

Judge Schwan, son of the former President of Synod, Dr. H. C. Schwan, met the general demand for an attorney on the board.

A School Conference Called

Meanwhile in Michigan a campaign to abolish all private and parochial schools had gotten under way. Synod's Board was ready to resist but felt handicapped without an executive secretary. The Michigan Lutherans engaged Rev. John C. Baur, executive secretary of the American Luther League, an organization of laymen for the defense of our schools. Rev. Baur proved himself a most capable leader, also later in Oregon. But all our Districts, more or less, had their worries, especially a threatening state supervision of

¹⁷ "Die Krisis in unserer Schulsache." *Homiletisches Magazin*, 1920, pp. 69—80; 137—144.

parochial schools; in addition, the Nebraska, Ohio, and Iowa language cases were tried in the courts and soon carried to the U. S. Supreme Court.

Since early 1919 this writer had spent much time in the Indiana and Ohio legislatures trying to forestall legislation harmful to our schools. By 1920 his main fear was state supervision. Knowing that other Districts harbored the same fear, he suggested to the General School Board the calling of a general school conference to discuss state supervision and to agree on a stand to take and on a uniform procedure. The board reacted favorably, invited the writer to attend one of its meetings to help plan such a conference and a program, and then, in true Missouri-Synod fashion, asked him to present a paper on "State Supervision of Parochial Schools." The conference was held at River Forest, Ill., February 23 and 24, 1921.¹⁸ Present were: representatives of the General and District School Boards, the District superintendents, the President of Synod, and representatives of our seminaries, teachers colleges, and of the Wisconsin Synod.

Organization of the Superintendents Conference

On the day after the School Conference, February 25, 1921, the District Superintendents met in Chicago to organize the Superintendents Conference and adopted the following:

RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE SUPERINTENDENTS CONFERENCE OF THE MISSOURI SYNOD

February 25, 1921

1. *Name:* The name of this body shall be The Conference of District School Superintendents of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States.
2. *Purpose:*
 - a. Co-operation
 - b. Exchange of Ideas and Experiences

¹⁸ For a report on the conference see *Lutheran School Journal*, 1921, p. 179. It contains a description of the precarious school situation.

- c. Mutual Encouragement and Suggestions
- d. Co-ordination of Efforts

3. *Members:*

- a. The District School Superintendents of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States.
- b. The Secretary of Education of the Ev. Luth. Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States, *ex officio*.

4. *Officers:* At every regular meeting the following officers shall be chosen:

- a. Chairman
- b. Vice-Chairman
- c. Secretary-Treasurer
- d. The officers shall constitute the Executive Board. No officer shall be chosen to succeed himself.

5. *Meetings:* The conference shall meet regularly at least once a year.

Special meetings may be called by the Executive Board or upon request of three members.

The chairman shall cause all members to be notified as to the time and place of regular and special meetings.

All necessary expenses occasioned by such meetings shall be equally apportioned.

So far the document. My copy has the notation: "No other minutes."

The charter members were:

- C. H. Seltz, Iowa District, elected chairman
- Paul T. Buszin, Northern Illinois District, elected vice-chairman
- Theo. Kuehnert, Western District, elected secretary-treasurer
- Adolf A. Grossmann, South Wisconsin District
- A. C. Stellhorn, Central District

Sidelights

Who suggested the organization we do not know — probably Buszin. The meeting may have taken place in a room of the Illinois Brick Company, 1717 Conway Building (in charge of Mr. Schlake). Rev. C. H. Seltz, "who had money," set up a box of cigars and was promptly elected chairman. Who drew up the "Rules and Regulations" has been forgotten by now. Buszin asserted that the Secretary of Education was already present, "sitting right there." The

term "Secretary of Education" was new. That this expected official was made a member, ex officio, was taken seriously. He could never vote or hold office until a rather recent change in the constitution. This was to be a conference of District Superintendents.

Executive Secretary Secured

Prof. Oscar F. Rusch declined the call as Executive Secretary of the General School Board. Only a few days after the School Conference the General School Board called this writer. He received the call on March 5, first decided to decline it, but after much urging, including that of the Central District President and School Board, and with much trepidation but trust in the Lord, accepted it on April 5, 1921. It was an extremely hard decision to make, because (a) he regarded himself wholly inadequate; (b) he was in love with the Central District and had served it only two years and five months; (c) the new position was again an entirely uncharted and untried field; (d) the school situation was critical, assailed from without and badly undermined from within.

The First Regular Meeting

This was the atmosphere in which the Conference of District Superintendents met for its first regular session at Holy Cross School, St. Louis, Mo., May 24—27, 1921. It was opened with prayer by chairman Seltz and welcomed by principal Herman F. Bade of Holy Cross School on behalf of the Western District School Board, which congratulated the group on having organized. The minutes then state that the chairman briefly outlined the work of a District superintendent and urged co-operation with one another, "and especially with the general superintendent of schools (official title: Executive Secretary), pledging the support of this conference to the efforts of the General Superintendent and assuring him of the kindest sentiments, the highest esteem, and earnest prayers of the members of this conference as the incumbent of a great office and for a blessed issue of the questions which will engage the attention of our brother worker in God's cause."

The Board of Assignment was in session at the same time, meeting at Concordia Seminary on Jefferson Avenue. "Supts. Stellhorn

and Buszin were requested to express to Synod's chairman of the College of Presidents [new term] the earnest desire of the members of this conference to attend a meeting of the College of Presidents and to be heard on questions of momentous importance to the Lutheran schools."

Other Notes from the Minutes

1. "Sessions to be held as follows: 9:00 to 11:45 A. M., 1:30 to 4:30 P. M., and evening sessions from 7:30 to 10:00 P. M."

2. Clergy certificates for teachers were discussed. The Executive Secretary was encourage to continue his efforts to obtain them.

3. The District Superintendent ought to meet with his President before the calls to teacher candidates are assigned.

4. There was an automobile drive to the new seminary site.

5. A paper by Stellhorn: "The Real Significance of Synod's Endeavor to Maintain, Improve, and Extend Its Parochial School System." The paper was embodied in the minutes. There was no other paper at this meeting.

6. "All agreed that the textbooks for secular studies, now published and sold by Concordia, are inadequate as to method and subject matter." Grossmann was to note all points of the discussion and present them to Mr. Seuel in the afternoon meeting.

7. The methods of the River Forest training school and its possible expansion to eight grades were discussed with Prof. F. Rusch, in St. Louis for the assignment meeting.

8. The reluctance or aversion of young pastors to teach school was discussed, and "it was resolved that Brother Stellhorn or one of the other members of the conference address the seminary student body, or at least the graduating class, these days on 'The Importance of the Christian Day School.'" Chairman Seltz eventually addressed them.

9. There should be a standing textbook committee. Mr. Seuel was present; had little hope of improving the Concordia textbooks. Mr. Bade spoke on the work of "Synod's Literary Board."

10. The secretary was to purchase a book for the minutes, each member to contribute a dollar for his expenses. Stellhorn's paper discussed.

11. Pres. Mayer of Michigan attended for a half hour, "and an informal discussion was held with him."

12. The teachers were to be warned to be extremely careful in adopting textbooks not published by Synod. NOTE. In 1920 the special textbook committee of Synod had already recommended quite a number of nonsynodical textbooks. (See *Synodal-Bericht* of 1920.)

13. Mr. Seuel gave each member a copy of Krauss's *Meine Schuljahre*, and offered "to supply (gratis) each superintendent with a copy of any of Concordia's publications pertaining to school work and Christian training."

14. "Professional books and periodicals for teachers were considered." Grossmann was asked to assign subjects to each member for the purpose of recommending such books and periodicals.

15. Increasing the circulation of the *School Journal* was another topic.

16. "Our Executive Secretary was advised to examine our church publications (*Lutheran Witness* and *Der Lutheraner*), and see to it that also our teachers and their work be given due mention therein."

17. "In order to give our school work its due prominence, it was resolved to request Synod to list in our *Annual* the superintendents of schools and the school boards together with the other officials of Synod."

18. "Are we by virtue of our peculiar office 'ordained ministers of the Gospel'? This question is always the deciding one in the refusal or the granting of clergy rates to teachers. The Executive Secretary is requested to obtain from the respective synodical officials a definite answer to this question."

19. "The alarming teacher shortage was discussed — 108 calls, 38 candidates. We must fill our teachers colleges next fall." But for the present crisis: "Assist our executive secretary in his efforts to regain faithful ex-teachers. Endorse the Western District School Board's plan for training women teachers. Recruit Lutheran public school teachers."

20. Certification of teachers was discussed. No action.

21. Dr. P. E. Kretzmann enlisted the members of the conference for the writing of Vol. 8 of his Concordia Teachers Library: "Special Problems of the Christian Day School."

22. The Smith-Towner Bill in Congress, proposing a Secretary of Education for the President's Cabinet (actually, though, the death of parochial schools), was discussed. What position to take? Executive Secretary "to look into this matter and to inform us as to methods of procedure."

23. "The Executive Secretary was also requested to watch the Sunday school movement . . . continually assuming greater proportions, and even having large Sunday school teachers' organizations with systematic training courses." (Supt. Kuehnert, who wrote these minutes, was a member of the newly appointed Sunday School Committee, authorized by Synod in 1920. The sentiment here expressed was the prevailing sentiment of Synod.)

24. Meeting with the College of Presidents, forenoon of May 27: "Brother Stellhorn briefly, but very clearly, outlined to a most attentive audience the scope of his work and his tentative plans for the execution of same. All the comments made were in the form of expressions of encouragement for him. Very gratifying remarks were made by a number of Presidents about the system of school supervision in their Districts. They regarded the superintendency a most successful institution — hoped that before long all Districts might have superintendents of schools. The appalling teacher shortage was discussed." More students, regaining of teachers, necessary. Western District plan of training women "was lauded." The language laws were discussed.

25. The New York Teachers Conference, backed by teachers in Michigan, had addressed a letter to all teachers, urging them to ask for the right to vote at synodical conventions. "Resolved that Brother Stellhorn write to the brethren in New York, stating our objections to their letter and asking them to retract same; and, in case this be not done, that he send a letter to all teachers, setting forth our stand in this matter."

26. "It was resolved that we favor the publication of an English book on Christian Training and that we bring this to the attention of Mr. Seuel."

27. "The secretary was asked to prepare a report on this conference for the *Lutheran Witness*.¹⁹ Brother Buszin was requested to write a report for the *Lutheran School Journal*."²⁰

28. "Brother Seltz suggested that our next year's meeting be held at his home, Humboldt, Iowa, beginning May 23." The offer was gladly accepted, but the conference met in River Forest, with the first session in a room of the Illinois Brick Company, 1717 Conway Building, Chicago, and the second at the home of Supt. Buszin with a dinner.

Remarks on the First Regular Meeting

In its ten sessions the conference dealt with an unusual number of issues. They are separately named to show that the conference meant business, as it did in all subsequent meetings. Space forbids that we detail every meeting in the same fashion. The emphasis on teacher recruitment, also in the Board of Assignment and our church periodicals, brought great results: In the fall of 1921 River Forest enrolled 133 new students, and Seward 67 — a total of 200. But also in other respects, the fact that Synod now had a school board with an executive secretary, that all Districts had school boards and six of them full-time superintendents, and that the superintendents had organized for united action, made its impact on a formerly more or less dormant school system; and the school statistics soon began to rise.²¹

It is impossible in this brief history to describe how the people of the Missouri Synod rose up in those days to repel the dangers from without and to arouse an aggressive spirit within. The interested reader need only to browse around in our periodicals of those days to get an idea of their determination. All this was the Lord's doing in a gracious endeavor to maintain and extend for our Synod the precious jewel of a Christian school system.

It is noteworthy that the English language had taken over by

¹⁹ *Lutheran Witness*, 1921, p. 197.

²⁰ Apparently did not appear.

²¹ From 1920 to 1928 the number of schools rose from 1,310 to 1,362; the number of teachers, from 1,954 to 2,303; the number of pupils, from 73,063 to 81,049. The decline had been arrested.

this time. The *Ev. Luth. Schulblatt* had become the *Lutheran School Journal*. While the official language of Synod was still German, the Rules and Regulations of the Superintendents Conference and its subsequent minutes were written in English, with only here and there some passages in German, just to show that the members believed in freedom of speech.

The General Situation in 1921

On March 4 Warren G. Harding and Calvin Coolidge were inaugurated as President and Vice-President of the United States. In the summer of 1923 Harding died in a San Francisco hotel, and Coolidge served as President till 1929, succeeded by Herbert Hoover, 1929—33.

In 1921, the Missouri Synod of 25 Districts (two Canadian, one South American) numbered 1,023,948 baptized and 628,457 communicant members. There were 1,277 schools, with an enrollment of 73,190 children and 1,958 teachers—1,062 men, 320 women, 473 teaching pastors, 103 men students. Saturday and summer schools numbered 712, with 17,000 pupils; Sunday schools, 1,819, with an enrollment of 120,625 (including children of preschool and postconfirmation ages).

At that time the officials of Synod were: Dr. F. Pfotenhauer, President; Rev. F. Brand, First Vice-President and Executive Secretary of Foreign Missions (since 1920); Rev. J. W. Miller, Second Vice-President; Rev. G. A. Bernthal, Third Vice-President; Rev. H. P. Eckhardt, Fourth Vice-President; Rev. M. F. Kretzmann, Secretary (since 1920); Mr. E. Seuel, Treasurer. The only full-time officials were: Pres. F. Pfotenhauer; Vice-Pres. F. Brand; Theo. W. Eckhart, Financial Secretary (since 1920); A. C. Stellhorn, Executive Secretary of the School Board.

The major issues then were: the language question, the relocation of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, the manpower shortage (especially a shortage of teachers), and the precarious school situation. Church services by 1921 were still all German in 659 parishes; more German than English in 954; half and half in 1,010; more English than German in 360; all English in 616. The parochial schools in North America had made more progress. Only 187 out of 1,090 had religious instruction in German; in

*Photograph Album
of Members of
Superintendents Conference*

PRESENT AND FORMER SUPERINTENDENTS



1



2

- 1 Paul T. Buszin
North. Illinois, 1918—40
- 2 August C. Stellhorn
Central, 1918—21



3



4

- 3 Adolf A. Grossmann
S. Wisconsin, 1920—24
- 4 C. H. Seltz
Iowa, 1920—27



5

Charter Members of the Superintendents Conference

- 5 Theodore J. Kuehnert
Western, 1920—27



1



2

1 Friedrich Meyer
Michigan, 1919—28

2 Henry H. Hillmann
Nebraska, 1921—41



3



4

3 Otto E. Schroeter
Central, 1922—31

4 William Nickel
Kansas, 1922—33



5



6



7

5 Bernhard H. Schumacher, South Wisconsin, 1925—

6 Herman F. Bade, Western, 1927—46

7 H. F. C. Mueller, Iowa, 1928—37, and Iowa West, 1937—45



8



9

8 S. J. Roth
Michigan, 1929—

9 W. J. Gernand
Central, 1931—



10



11

10 H. J. Boettcher
Minnesota, 1940—52

11 E. Charles Mueller
Nebraska, 1943—49
South. Nebraska, 1949—



12



13

12 Albert G. Merkens
North. Illinois, 1945—51

13 E. W. Haack
Michigan, 1945—54



14



15

14 August W. Brustat
Atlantic, 1946—49

15 E. H. Bohrer
North Dakota, 1946—53
Minnesota, 1953—



16



17

16 Ernest E. Heuer
Eastern, 1946—53

17 Leonard J. Dierker
Western, 1946—



18



19

18 Remus C. Rein
Michigan, 1947—52
Central Illinois, 1952—

19 Arthur L. Amt
North Wisconsin, 1947—



20



21

20 Adolf H. Kramer
Northern Illinois, 1947—

21 George C. Albers
Central Illinois, 1949—51



22



23

22 Eldor C. Sieving
Central, 1950—51

23 Martin L. Koehneke
Texas, 1950—54



24



25

24 Arthur E. Wittmer
Atlantic, 1951—

25 Arnold C. Erxleben
Kansas, 1952—

NOTE: Photograph of O. H. Reinboth, California and Nevada, 1951—54,
was not available.



26

26 Harold A. Leimer, Western, 1952—



27

27 Arnold C. Meyer, Kansas, 1949—52, and Colorado, 1952—



28

28 Robert V. Schnabel, Central, 1952—



29

29 Erich F. Brauer
South Wisconsin, 1953—



30

30 Harry G. Coiner
Eastern, 1953—55



31

31 Felix A. Rubbert
North Dakota, 1953—



32

32 Henry G. Hartner
California and Nevada,
1954—



33



34

33 Walter L. Barth
North. Nebraska, 1955—

34 Ihno A. Janssen, Jr.
English, 1955—



35



36



37

35 Edward J. Keuer, Texas, 1955—

36 Erwin F. Wiese, Michigan, 1955—

37 Raymond E. Maag, Minnesota, 1956—



38



39

38 Martin P. Studtmann
Southern Illinois, 1956—

39 Ellis Nieting
South Dakota, 1956—

NOTE: Photograph of Carl F. Nitz, Northwest, 1956, was not available.

STAFF MEMBERS—BOARD FOR PARISH EDUCATION



1



2

- 1 August C. Stellhorn
Secretary of Schools,
1921—
- 2 William Luke
Editor of Sunday School
Literature, 1927—32



3



4



5

- 3 Arnold C. Mueller, Editor of Sunday School Literature, 1933—
- 4 John M. Weidenschilling, Editor of Bible Class Materials for the
Young People's Department, 1938—
- 5 William A. Kramer, Assistant Secretary of Schools, 1940—



6



7

- 6 Arthur C. Repp
Executive Secretary of the
Board for Parish Education,
1943—45
- 7 Arthur W. Gross
Editor of Vacation Bible
School Materials, 1945—

NOTE: Photo of Lothar Braeunig, Asst. Ed. of S.S. Materials 1931—44, not available.



8



9



10

8 Oscar E. Feucht, Secretary of Adult Education, 1946—

9 Arthur L. Miller, Executive Secretary of the Board for Parish Education, 1946—

10 Allan H. Jahsmann, Assistant Editor of Sunday School Literature, 1948—



11



12

11 Walter Riess
Editor of Bible Class
Materials for the High
School Department,
1953—

12 Robert J. Hoyer
Editor of Adult Materials,
1954—



14



13

13 Frederick Nohl
Editor of School Materials,
1956—

14 Ralph Dinger
Assistant Editor of Vac-
ation Bible School Materials,
1956—

487 it was in English only; in 416, in both German and English.²² For the other developments see our publications of those years.

Teachers' salaries, in spite of the high cost of living and high prices during and after World War I, were miserable. Of 380 men teachers reporting, 124 were receiving between \$500 and \$1,000 a year (106 of these provided a dwelling); 129, between \$1,000 and \$1,200 (83 of them, a dwelling); 93, between \$1,200 and \$1,500 (14 of them, a dwelling); 33, between \$1,500 and \$1,800, and 1 with \$2,200 (none of these 34 providing a dwelling). Average: those with a dwelling, \$1,015.50 (\$705.18 in 1918); those without a dwelling, \$1,361.56. Average for pastors: with a dwelling, \$1,145.05; without a dwelling, \$1,351.21 (a total of 1,999 pastors reporting).

When this writer took over the superintendency in the Central District, he was receiving a monthly salary of \$89.50 as a teacher (after a recent raise), had three children to support, and was paying off on a house. Then, suddenly receiving \$125 a month from the District, the family did not know what to do with all the money—and especially when the District raised this to \$150 a month in 1920. Having visited a rural teacher with a salary of \$400 a year and a free dwelling in 1918, with four children to support, the writer said he would recommend an increase in salary. "No," he said, "don't do it. I have plenty of money. I make more out of my cows, pigs, chickens, and rabbits than the congregation is paying me." He was a pastor's son.

During and immediately after the War the common lament gained ground: "Es resignieren zu viele Lehrer." (Too many teachers are resigning.) Later the writer analyzed the facts and found that, percentagewise, more pastors than teachers had resigned during the war years. He published the facts in a certain issue of the *Lutheran School Journal*, and, ironically, the first article in the same issue again bore the heading: "Es resignieren zu viele Lehrer."

A number of teachers did indeed resign during the War because of salaries too low to support their families. Low salaries had a bad effect on student enrollment at the teachers colleges and brought on the acute teacher shortage in the early twenties.

²² *Statistical Yearbook*, 1921, p. 133. Report by A. C. Stellhorn in *Lutheran School Journal*, 1922, p. 340.

Increase of the Conference

In 1921 the Kansas District joined the ranks, installing Wm. Nickel of Sylvan Grove, Kans., as its superintendent on April 23, 1922; also the Nebraska District, installing Henry Hillmann of Staplehurst, Nebr., on December 18, 1921. There now were seven District superintendents of schools, eight members of the conference. In the Central District, A. C. Stellhorn was replaced by Otto E. Schroeter of St. Paul's School, Indianapolis, Ind. (the ninth member of the conference), installed December 3, 1922. Both had been principal of the same school. All superintendents, including F. Meyer of Michigan, received regular, permanent calls and were installed. (As stated before, Michigan started out by electing a man for three years.) The Executive Secretary of the General School Board was also formally called but never installed. Installation was to take place after he had changed his residence from Indianapolis to Cleveland, which never happened, mainly on account of a housing shortage.

No new superintendencies were created between 1921 and 1939. Minnesota established the office in 1939 and installed Rev. H. J. Boettcher on June 12, 1940. But changes in personnel took place. In 1924 Supt. Adolf A. Grossmann became Assistant Manager of Concordia Publishing House and was succeeded by Bernhard Schumacher of Immanuel School, Milwaukee, Wis. He was installed on January 18, 1925. In 1927, Supt. Theo. Kuehnert accepted a call to Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, Ill., and was succeeded by Herman F. Bade of Holy Cross School, Saint Louis, Mo. He was installed on August 24, 1927. Both had been teachers at the same school. In 1927 Supt. C. H. Seltz of Iowa took a pastorate and was succeeded by H. F. C. Mueller of Fort Dodge, Iowa. He was called on a temporary basis and installed on July 1, 1928. (The Superintendents Conference voiced its opposition to the temporary basis of this call.) Rev. C. H. Seltz died August 18, 1939. In 1929 S. J. Roth of Elkhart, Ind., succeeded F. Meyer in Michigan, and was installed on August 15, 1929. Meyer had retired in 1928. He died November 5, 1942. On January 17, 1931, Supt. Otto E. Schroeter died of heart failure (the first superintendent to die in office). He was succeeded by W. J.

Gernand of the Luther Institute, Fort Wayne, Ind. He was installed on June 24, 1931. So much for the changes in personnel between 1924 and 1943.

Early Functions of a Superintendent

The early history of superintendencies calls for a word on the functions of a District superintendent of schools. His primary business was schools. But schools may be looked at from many points of view: from a Biblical philosophy of education to the minor details of conducting a school or of a teacher's service. The emphasis, from the very beginning, was not on inspection or investigation but on service — service not only to the teacher but also to the congregation, the pastor, the local school board, and, not to be forgotten, the children. And this service was, at the same time, the best possible service to the community, the District, and Synod. Necessarily, inspection and insight and the best possible information, statistical and otherwise, are required for giving intelligent service; and service necessarily had to include criticism, admonition, and warning where indicated. But the motive throughout was to offer brotherly help. As teachers and others discovered this purpose, they reciprocated with a warmhearted, grateful reception of the office and its incumbent.

When a classroom had been visited, the No. 1 service to be rendered was a private, strictly confidential session with the teacher. For his encouragement and comfort, desirable features were pointed out and lauded; undesirable and faulty matters were tactfully mentioned, and constructive criticism was given. The teacher was often led to point out his own faults and was then shown how to overcome them. The criticisms remained strictly confidential; but the teacher's merits could be freely talked about anywhere. Usually the teacher had many questions to ask.

The superintendent also saw the pastor and talked pertinent matters over with him. Having visited a school, the superintendent usually met with the whole faculty (in the case of larger schools) and with the local school board. He had with him a statistical information form, which was filled out on the spot. Later he would send a letter to the congregation, making such recommendations as had been discussed with the board and the faculty. Having made

the rounds in a circuit, he would also meet with the Visitor. Wherever it was possible, the schools were visited every year.

But school visitation was only one of the superintendent's duties. Some superintendents had the rule of visiting schools for a week or two and then spending an equal amount of time at home, partly to rest up from their exhausting trip, but mostly to attend to correspondence, records, and numerous other tasks required of the office, such as preparing addresses and conference papers, writing articles and reports, or guiding the District boards or committees at work on some project. A superintendent attended many meetings, also those of public school teachers and officials. He worked with congregations not yet having a school, often together with the Visitor. He was called in by congregations or Visitors to help settle certain difficulties. Also he had to do much reading and studying.

Methods, textbooks, the course of study, weekly schedules, the language question, salaries, teachers' work loads, buildings, sanitation, school equipment, room appointments, recommendation of teachers, school visitation by the pastor and the Visitor, the principalship, and many other things needed attention. There was no eight-hour day or forty-hour week. But the superintendent enjoyed fairly long vacation periods, into which were mixed official duties. In all his work and dealings, in his readings and studies, he aimed more and more to be a man of sound principle and to have a clear conception of the Biblical philosophy of education and training, so that he could go out and advise or correct others as a man of authority. Mistakes were made. Here and there a man or some of his actions were disliked; but, on the whole, Synod now had a very efficient system of promoting its parochial schools and Christian education generally. Everything profited from the improving school system.

Office of Executive Secretary Endangered

Early in 1922 the executive secretary of the General School Board received a call to Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, Ill. He had been in his new office barely a year. At about the same time the Northern Illinois District Pastoral Conference resolved to memorialize Synod in 1923 to abolish his office. This resolution

caused quite a bit of consternation among the District superintendents, District school boards, conferences, and individuals, and many communications were received, urging that the River Forest call be declined. It was declined for reasons of conscience. As to the memorial, the executive secretary was advised by some of the superintendents to publish a special issue of the *News Service*, which had been launched in January 1923, and to describe the functions of his office somewhat in detail. This brought about a reversal of the opinion advanced in Northern Illinois. A section of the District conference had another session early in 1923, and, after study of the special issue through a committee, resolved to withdraw the memorial. But the conference was told it was too late. The memorial had already been printed. When the memorial was considered by the floor committee, no Northern Illinois pastors appeared to defend it; but there were numerous other men there to speak against it. The committee, whose chairman was a Northern Illinois pastor, recommended that the office be not abolished; and the convention adopted the recommendation by a noticeably emphatic, unanimous vote.²³

Subsequent Life and Activities of the Conference

1922—1940

Association between the superintendents conference and the General School Board, the teachers colleges, the President of Synod, and Concordia Publishing House was always close. Most annual meetings were held at River Forest and included a joint meeting with the faculty. Many faculty members attended the regular meetings. One meeting was held in Seward, 1934, after which Roth, Gernand, Schumacher, and Buszin came near being killed in an auto accident. Seward had consistently invited the conference long before, promising to board the members free of charge. At least one meeting was held at Concordia Publishing House before 1940, others later. Supt. Meyer of Michigan attended from 1922 on. Mr. Seuel, and later Mr. Grossmann, attended most meetings, and Pres. F. Pfothenhauer was often present for some hours. There was a genuine desire to co-operate with all synodical officials and boards,

²³ See *Eingaben* and *Synodal-Bericht* of 1923. *News Service*, 1923, No. 3-a.

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²³ See *Eingaben* and *Synodal-Bericht* of 1923. *News Service*, 1923, No. 3-a.

and also with the theological seminaries and the editors of our church papers.

At the meetings of the school conference, held annually 1921 to 1923, thereafter triennially, in connection with the conventions of Synod until the early forties, the superintendents always played a leading role.

The superintendents soon came to be looked upon as the chief watchmen, leaders, and advisers in the field of Christian education. The General School Board and its executive secretary constantly leaned upon them for counsel and for reactions to new steps to be undertaken. In turn, the conference, from the very beginning, did not spare its "ex officio member" and the General School Board in executing its numerous recommendations. Every set of minutes is replete with resolutions that the executive secretary or the board be requested to do this or that.

Already in 1921 the General School Board appointed the conference as its official *Textbook Committee*. There was at that time a transition from books provided by Concordia Publishing House for the common school branches to more practical and up-to-date textbooks available from other publishers. There was also a need for recommending professional books for teachers. The work of the textbook committee culminated in several forward steps: (1) a fresh and more effective approach of the schools in general Christian education; (2) an over-all improvement in methods; (3) an attempt from 1924 into the thirties at constructing a modern curriculum; (4) the revision of the Bobbs-Merrill Readers, beginning in 1925; (5) the appointment of S. J. Roth in 1925, then teacher at Elkhart, Ind., as editor of the School Reference Catalog; (6) the revision of the Elementary and the Advanced Bible Histories; (7) the publication of a Music Reader and accompanying charts and manual; (8) the publication of a church history, for which the groundwork was laid in the twenties; (9) the various revisions and publications which followed later, about 45 in number.

Something which may be said to have been done without the unanimous support of the conference was the publication of a General Course of Study. The curriculum referred to above was prepared by a special committee not a part of the conference. It lacked the form of a course of study, consisted only of aims and activities,

and found meager acceptance among the teachers. At first it had been endorsed by the conference, but later there was opposition to it. Sentiment for a course of study was strong. Yet, in 1934, some members of the conference took an uncertain stand. The General School Board, which had favored adopting a course, began to waver. But when Dr. Reu promised Australian Lutherans that we would send them our course of study, and this writer asked the General School Board, "What will you send?" it was resolved to issue a course of study. It was made the main concern of William A. Kramer, called in 1940. The Course of Study was published in 1943.

Other Concerns of the Conference

But the superintendents and their conference had numerous other important things to do. We can name only a fraction of them here. They dealt with a discouraging school situation. Synod seemed complacent or now appeared to rely too much on boards of education and the superintendents, as if Synod were waiting to see what these could do. This difficulty was often touched on by the superintendents and District boards, and it became quite evident at the general Visitors conference in 1936, where we found it difficult to arouse the Visitors once more to a concern for the schools. Again and again it was said: "We have a superintendent and board of education." The solution for which every superintendent and board were striving was to maintain in every individual a feeling of personal responsibility and to create local initiative.

Then there was the "growing menace" of the Sunday school — a menace, not in itself, but because it had divided Synod into factions and in numerous cases replaced other part-time agencies and also many a school. If you favored the Sunday school, you were regarded (rightly or wrongly) an "enemy" of the school; and if you favored the school, you were regarded (rightly or wrongly) an "enemy" of the Sunday school. This was a historical development. Synod had always favored the school and, from its seminaries down to the laymen, frowned upon the Sunday school. In their concern about the Sunday school the superintendents merely reflected the sentiment of Synod itself. In those days, and up into the thirties, if anyone in a gathering, such as the Visitors conference in 1936,

spoke for the schools, someone was sure to say, "But the Sunday school is also a very important institution." This factional attitude began to be eliminated only after 1932, when the interests of both agencies were united in one Board, the Board of Christian Education. The historical mistake had been to create two boards. Once made, it took years of argument and effort to remedy the situation that had developed. The writer suggested a single board to the first Sunday school committee in 1922, but all efforts on the part of the General School Board, conferences, including the superintendents conference, and memorials to Synod in 1923 and 1926, failed to bring about a complete amalgamation until 1932.

In 1927 the Sunday School Board called *Rev. Wm. H. Luke as secretary of Sunday schools*, and the superintendents conference changed its constitution to admit him as a member. Meanwhile, since 1924, the General School Board and the Sunday School Board held annual joint meetings, some of them attended by the superintendents conference. The "factions" were getting acquainted. Co-operation was the watchword. In their first joint meeting in 1924 the boards, though separate entities, recommended single boards of education for the Districts and congregations. Gradually the superintendents of schools developed into superintendents of Christian education, with responsibility for all phases of parish education. As it should be, the schools, of course, remained their chief concern.

The deliberations of the superintendents conference included intensive studies of doctrine, of the Biblical principles of education, and of the call of the teacher and the superintendent. One of the superintendents once overreached himself in an otherwise excellent paper by declaring that the Gospel is the only means of training. The conference spotted the error, agreed with Lindemann in his *Schul-Praxis*, and insisted: "The Gospel is the only means of salvation and the only source of spiritual life and strength, but not the only means of training." An Iowa District committee had given unsound reasons for calling a superintendent for a limited time only. The superintendents and the General School Board sought to correct the error. A reviewer had criticised a synodical essayist (a pastor) for saying that the schools are a matter of conscience with us;

the superintendents, through the General School Board, outlined in what respect the schools are indeed a matter of conscience.

The conference concerned itself with pastor and teacher training, teacher recruitment, a year's vicarage for teacher-training students, a correspondence course for teachers, the training schools, division of duties among local teachers, transfers of teachers, school statistics and teachers' records, the activities of the superintendent, procedures in school promotion, uniform plans of action, conferences and conference programs, and numerous other subjects.

Notable Events

In 1921 Supt. P. T. Buszin and the writer served on a subcommittee of the Synodical Survey Committee (the equivalent of our present Board for Higher Education), to discuss the establishment of a Ladies Seminary, a matter referred to the Survey Committee by Synod in 1920. We argued against establishing such a seminary and instead recommended the building of high schools. This suggestion was adopted by Synod in 1923.

In 1923 the U. S. Supreme Court rendered its famous ruling in the Nebraska, Ohio, and Iowa language cases, thereby nullifying anti-German language laws in 21 states — the first setback for the agitators opposed to our schools.

In 1925 came the second favorable ruling by the Supreme Court, this time a nullification of the Oregon Compulsory School Law. In addition, two vicious campaigns in Michigan to outlaw private and parochial schools had failed, and Stony Plain, Alberta, despite an unfavorable ruling of the Canadian Supreme Court, had succeeded in maintaining its school, largely through the efficient operation of the school by Rev. Henry J. Boettcher.

In 1926 the General School Board asked Synod for an assistant to its executive secretary. Synod denied the request. It also denied an executive secretary to the Sunday School Board, as it had done in 1923. Instead, Synod elected a General School Board from the Chicago area, and the Executive Secretary moved his office to Forest Park (in 1930 to Oak Park), Ill.

In 1927 and 1928 the General School Board was represented at the hearings of the House Committee on Education in Wash-

ington, D. C., to oppose the Smith-Towner Bill. Many of its backers among the Ku Klux Klan and Masonic lodge meant to deal the private and parochial schools a hard blow. In 1928 the board's spokesmen were Rev. F. J. Lankenau and the writer. In opposing this bill the superintendents had, from the beginning, attacked the procedures employed.

In 1929 Synod resolved on a partial amalgamation of its two general boards—the General School Board in the Chicago area becoming the Committee on Schools and the Sunday School Board in the St. Louis area, the Committee on Sunday Schools. The title of Executive Secretary of the School Board was changed to Secretary of Schools. In 1932 a single board of Christian education was elected in the St. Louis area, with instructions to call an executive secretary. My office was moved to St. Louis in December 1932. The board did not call an executive secretary until 1943, when Rev. Arthur C. Repp became the incumbent.

Also in 1929, the President of Synod was instructed to appoint a Catechism Committee for the purpose of improving the synodical Catechism. He appointed eleven men, among them Supt. Wm. Nickel, Supt. Otto E. Schroeter, Rev. Wm. H. Luke, and the writer. The committee finished its work in 1941, when five members had died and two resigned, leaving four men, two of them favoring the acceptance of the finished product, the other two opposing its adoption by Synod. Three of these four have since departed this life.

Deaths Among the Superintendents

- Otto E. Schroeter, Central District, 1922—31; January 17, 1931.
- Wm. H. Luke, Secy., Sunday Schools, 1927—32; October 11, 1932.
- Wm. Nickel, Kansas District, 1922—33; March 10, 1935.
- C. H. Seltz, Iowa District, 1920—27; August 18, 1939.
- A. A. Grossmann, South Wisconsin, 1920—24; February 19, 1941.
- H. H. Hillmann, Nebraska District, 1921—41; March 21, 1941.
- Fr. Meyer, Michigan District, 1919—28; November 5, 1942.
- P. T. Buszin, Northern Illinois, 1918—40; September 9, 1944.
(Part-time work till 1942.)
- H. F. Bade, Western District, 1927—46; July 28, 1953.
(Part-time work till 1949.)

Recent History

We are now reviewing the period from 1940 to 1956. The Superintendents Conference in 1940 consisted of the following members:

- H. F. Bade, Western District, since 1927.
- H. J. Boettcher, Minnesota District, since 1940.
- P. T. Buszin, Northern Illinois District, since 1918.
- W. J. Gernand, Central District, since 1931.
- H. H. Hillmann, both Nebraska Districts, since 1921.
- H. F. C. Mueller, Iowa District, since 1928, Iowa West since 1937.
- S. J. Roth, Michigan District, since 1929.
- B. Schumacher, South Wisconsin District, since 1925.
- A. C. Stellhorn, Secretary of Schools, since 1921.

Nine full-time men. The office of the Secretary of Schools was in Indianapolis, Ind., 1921—26; in Forest Park and Oak Park, Ill., 1926—32. It was moved to Concordia Publishing House, Saint Louis, Mo., in December 1932. The meetings of the conference were held mostly in St. Louis since 1940, for about 18 years at Concordia Publishing House and since 1951 at the Lutheran Building. Occasionally a meeting was held at River Forest or Seward.

A Turning Point in Organization

By December 1946 these District superintendents and staff members of the Board for Parish Education were placed on the membership roster of the Superintendents Conference:

New Offices:

- August W. Brustat, Atlantic District, 1946—49.
- Ernest E. Heuer, Eastern District, 1946—53.
- E. W. Haack, Assistant, Michigan District, 1945—54.

Replacements:

- Albert G. Merkens, Northern Illinois District, 1945—51. (Took the place of P. T. Buszin, who died 1944.)
- L. J. Dierker, Western District, since 1946. (Took the place of H. F. Bade, who retired 1946.)
- E. Chas. Mueller, both Nebraska Districts, 1943—49; Southern Nebraska since 1949. (Succeeded H. H. Hillmann, who died 1941.)
- (H. F. C. Mueller, Iowa West, since 1937, retired 1946.)

Staff Members:

Arnold C. Mueller, Editor, Sunday School Materials, since 1933.

J. M. Weidenschilling, Assistant Editor, since 1938.

Wm. A. Kramer, Assistant, School Office, since 1940.

Arthur L. Miller, Executive Secretary of the Board, since 1946.

Arthur W. Gross, Editor of VBS Materials, since 1946 (began 1945).

Oscar E. Feucht, Secretary of Adult Education, since 1946.

(Arthur C. Repp, Executive Secretary of the Board, 1943—45.)

North Dakota established the first combination office of District executive secretary of missions and education in 1946 and installed Rev. E. H. Bohrer in that office on September 22, 1946. He attended the 1946 conference.

In view of the increasing educational personnel in the Districts and in Synod, the superintendents conference, heretofore consisting only of full-time District men and the secretary of schools, reorganized itself under a new constitution submitted by the latter²⁴ in its meeting on December 17—19, 1946, and included the following in its regular membership, with the right to vote and to hold office:

"All full-time Educational Executives and their Assistants who are in the service of District or General Boards of Parish Education of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod."

The term "full-time" includes also combination offices, like that in North Dakota, where the incumbent's concern embraces education.

Advisory members are: the President of Synod or his representative; the heads of the training schools at River Forest and Seward and the professors in charge of education at the theological seminaries; the chairman or any members of Synod's Board for Parish Education; the chairman or any member of a District board; the Executive Secretary of the Board for Higher Education; a representative of the Association of Lutheran Secondary Schools; and the heads of various departments of Synod and of Concordia Publishing House on special business.

²⁴ The constitution was tentatively adopted in 1948, and final adoption, with a few minor changes, followed in 1949. But the reorganization occurred in 1946.

Additional District and Staff Members Since 1946

Arthur E. Wittmer, Atlantic District, succeeded A. W. Brustat, 1951.
 O. H. Reinboth, Calif.-Nev. District, Executive Secy., 1951—54.
 Hy. G. Hartner succeeded Reinboth, 1954.
 Eldor C. Sieving, Central District, Assistant Supt., 1950—51.
 Robert V. Schnabel succeeded Sieving, 1952.
 Geo. C. Albers, Central Illinois District, Executive Secy., 1949—51.
 Remus C. Rein, Michigan District, Assistant Superintendent, 1947—52;
 succeeded Albers in Central Illinois, 1952.
 Arnold F. Meyer, Kansas District, Executive Secretary, 1948—52; Colo-
 rado District, since 1952.
 Harry G. Coiner, Eastern District, succeeded Heuer, 1953—55.
 Ihno A. Janssen, Jr., English District, Executive Secretary, 1955.
 A. C. Erxleben, Kansas District Superintendent since 1952.
 Erwin F. Wiese, Michigan District Assistant Superintendent since 1955.
 E. H. Bohrer, Minnesota District Counselor since 1953.
 Raymond E. Maag, Minnesota Dist. Counselor in Education since 1956.
 Walter L. Barth, Northern Nebraska Executive Secretary since 1955.
 Felix A. Rubbert, North Dakota District, succeeded Bohrer in 1953.
 Carl F. Nitz, Northwest District, Executive Secretary, 1956.
 Arthur L. Amt, North Wisconsin District Superintendent since 1947.
 A. H. Kramer, Northern Illinois Superintendent since 1947.
 Ellis Nieting, South Dakota District Counselor, 1956.
 Erich F. Brauer, South Wisconsin Director of Education since 1953.
 M. P. Studtmann, Southern Illinois District Executive Secy., 1956.
 M. L. Koehneke, Texas District Counselor in Education, 1950—54.
 Ed. J. Keuer succeeded Koehneke in 1955.
 Harold A. Leimer, Western District Assistant Supt. since 1952.
 A. H. Jahsmann, Associate Editor, Sunday School Materials, since 1948.
 Walter Riess, Editor, Junior Bible Class Materials, since 1953.
 Robert Hoyer, Editor, Adult Education Materials, since 1954.
 Frederick Nohl, Editor of School Materials, 1956.
 Ralph Dinger, Asst. Editor, VBS Materials, 1956.

Summary of 1956 Conference Membership

District men engaged entirely in education	15
(Including a vacancy in the Eastern District, the number is 16.)	
District Executive Secretaries, responsible for education	8
Staff members, Board for Parish Education	12
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Total of regular conference membership	35

The 1956 roster lists seven times as many members as that of 1921, when five men organized the superintendents conference. With the advisory members, the conference is annually attended by some 45 to 50 men — a large gathering.

Change of Complexion and Activities

The superintendents conference, still called by that name in 1956, is a far cry from that small group of nine men gradually accumulated from 1921 to 1940, or the five charter members in 1921, or the two (Buszin and the writer) who, in 1919, felt the need of conferring and comparing notes in new, unexplored positions. The conference has grown into a large group with a diversified concern, including every phase of parish education. It exemplifies Synod's own change of policy in the promotion of Christian education, to wit:

In the beginning, Synod thought only of schools, lower and higher, and of a thorough preparation for confirmation, in the education of its members. The synodical promotion of such education was made the particular responsibility of the President of Synod and the seminaries for the training of pastors and teachers, including the church papers and professional magazines. This was early extended to the District Presidents and the circuit Visitors. Locally, of course, every pastor, teacher, and church member was responsible. According to its *Handbook*, and in the minds of its officials and people, the original promotional responsibility still rests where it was placed in the beginning, and the highest goal is still the education of the church members by means of schools, lower and higher.

To draw school boards, general and District, into the promotional effort, was so new an idea to Synod in 1914 that it stepped most cautiously and hesitatingly — and even more so when full-time educational executives for such boards were suggested (the Districts or the circuits might experiment with the idea). That the first concession was confined to the establishment of *school* boards was entirely natural, because Synod, up to that time, had officially sponsored only schools and confirmation instruction. All other agencies and forms of education had sprung up and spread without synodical promotion. Even in 1920 it was with considerable

reluctance that Synod instructed its President to appoint a Sunday school committee. It is, therefore, wholly natural that the first boards should have been *school* boards, and the first executives, *school* superintendents.

But as Synod can be said to have changed its policy in the case of schools and Sunday schools in its own promotional endeavor, it can likewise be said to have changed its policy regarding the promotion of all other phases of parish education by means of a general board and District boards of education and their present numerous executives, which constitute the superintendents conference. Committing to boards and their executives the promotion of Christian education, while leaving basic responsibilities where originally placed, Synod has exemplified the modification and improvement of its past practice.

Early Forms of Extraschool Education

The numerous phases of parish education with which the superintendents conference and the boards are dealing today have their roots, at least in part, far back in the history of Synod. There were Bible classes. There was adult education—for instance, when Rev. Carl Ludwig Geyer at Carlinville, Ill., studied the rhythmic chorale and synodical essays with his members; or when the members of Trinity in St. Louis had practically memorized the Augsburg Confession and other parts of the Confessional writings. There were Saturday and Sunday schools—for instance, when Theol. Candidate J. F. Buenger, teacher of Trinity Lutheran School in St. Louis, 1840—44, used to go on horseback out to what is now Immanuel, Olivette, Mo., teach the children on Saturday, preach on Sunday, and question the children in religion during the service. The congregation had no school at the time. And when later on missionaries had many stations to serve, summer schools and various other forms of education were employed. Thus, when the very extensive Minnesota District in 1916 was credited with 301 “parochial schools,” it had in fact only 124 regular schools and a multiplicity of other forms and agencies (outside of Sunday schools). The difference today is that all phases and forms of parish education are recognized as needing assistance, guidance, and promotion, and are much more numerous.

Even the first superintendents, before 1940, had developed into superintendents of education, with general responsibility in education, especially since the partial and complete amalgamation of the General School Board and the Sunday School Board in 1929 and 1932. It began when the first joint meeting of these boards in 1924 recommended single boards of education for the Districts and the congregations and was fairly well developed by 1931. An example of the development is the fact that the Minnesota District in 1939 (after years of deliberation and hesitation) established the office of District Director of Education and called Rev. H. J. Boettcher in 1940. A contributing factor in the development before 1940 was the School Conference, which, since 1929, was called the Educational Conference because of its widened responsibility. But the more distinct development came since 1940, during which period Synod and the Districts made their boards and executives responsible for the promotion of all phases of parish education.

How did all this affect the schools? For one thing, they remained a special object of promotion. All are agreed that this should be so. The factions of years ago have, thank God! disappeared. In the second place, largely because of the groundwork of boards and superintendents since 1914 and in the early twenties, the school system was, by the grace of God, well sustained during the economic depression of the thirties and has seen its greatest expansion since 1940. While it may seem that school promotion must be greatly curtailed now that boards and superintendents have such a multiplicity of concerns, and without question no longer receives full-time attention, the fact remains that the expansion of the school system has been concurrent with the multiplication of educational duties. No doubt, the impact which Synod and the Districts have made on parish education in all its aspects has, directly or indirectly, promoted education by means of schools; and this includes our growing system of local secondary schools, ten of which were founded since 1940.

And what about all other phases of Christian education? Although no department considers its work finished by any means and although there is in Synod much room for improvement, it can be said without fear of contradiction that truly great improve-

ments have been made all along the line. And the improvements have extended also to the training of pastors and teachers. As compared with the past, Christian education is given much more attention at our theological seminaries; and the teachers are being prepared not only for their primary work in the schools but also for efficient work in other forms of education.

In Conclusion

The development of synodical supervision and promotion, as briefly sketched in these pages, is again something which makes the Christian exclaim: "What hath God wrought!" Yes, the Lord used His human instruments, but it is He who guided and inspired Synod and the Districts to do that which lies before us today as an open book of His grace and providence in the field of Christian education within Synod. Our hearts are raised in deep gratitude to Him, and we pray that everything may serve to please Him, glorify His holy name, and benefit countless immortal souls in time and eternity.

Appendix

DEVELOPMENT OF DISTRICT OFFICES OF SUPERINTENDENT

ATLANTIC DISTRICT — established the office of Executive Secretary of Education in 1945.

Rev. August W. Brustat was installed on October 10, 1946, and served until 1949, when he took a new pastorate.

Dr. Arthur E. Wittmer was installed on January 21, 1951.

CALIFORNIA-NEVADA DISTRICT — resolved at its June 1951 convention to establish the office of Executive Secretary of Education, Missions, and Stewardship.

Rev. O. H. Reinboth was installed in June of 1951 and served until 1954, when he accepted a pastorate.

Rev. O. H. Reinboth was installed in June of 1951 and served until 1954, when he accepted a pastorate.

Rev. Henry G. Hartner was installed on October 12, 1954.

CENTRAL DISTRICT — established the office of Superintendent of schools at its convention August 7—13, 1918.

Teacher A. C. Stelhorn was elected at this convention, began work on November 8, 1918, and was installed on December 8, 1918. He served until April 5, 1921, when he accepted the position of Executive Secretary of Synod's General School Board in which position, since 1929 known as that of Secretary of Schools, he is serving at the present time.

Teacher Otto E. Schroeter was installed on December 3, 1922. He served until the day of his death, January 17, 1931.

Teacher W. J. Gernand was installed on June 24, 1931.

The office of Assistant Superintendent was established apparently in 1949. Teacher Eldor C. Sieving was installed on May 26, 1950. He served only one year, accepting an instructorship at St. John's College, Winfield, Kans., in 1951.

On June 17, 1952, Teacher Robert V. Schnabel was installed as Assistant Superintendent.

CENTRAL ILLINOIS DISTRICT — created the office of Executive Secretary of Missions and Education in 1949.

Rev. G. C. Albers was installed on July 1, 1949. He served until 1951, when he accepted a pastorate.

Rev. R. C. Rein was installed on March 2, 1952.

COLORADO DISTRICT — resolved at its June 1951 convention to establish the office of Executive Secretary of Education, Missions, and Stewardship.

Rev. Arnold F. Meyer was installed on June 15, 1952.

EASTERN DISTRICT — established the office of Secretary of Parish Education in 1945.

Rev. Ernest E. Heuer was installed on March 31, 1946, also serving as assistant pastor of Gethsemane, Buffalo, N. Y., and as part-time director of the Lutheran Laymen's League. He served until 1953, when he accepted a pastorate at Trinity, Lockport, N. Y.

Rev. Harry G. Coiner was installed in September 1953 and served until September 1955, when he accepted a professorship at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

ENGLISH DISTRICT

Rev. Ihno A. Janssen, Jr., was installed as Executive Secretary of Stewardship and Parish Education on January 23, 1955.

IOWA DISTRICT — established the office of Superintendent of Schools in 1919. Rev. C. H. Seltz was installed on October 24, 1920. He served until 1927, when he took a pastorate. He died on August 18, 1939.

July 1, 1928, Teacher H. F. C. Mueller was installed, and he served until 1937, when the District was divided, and then served in the Iowa District West until 1945, being installed on September 1, 1937. After teaching school from 1946 to 1949 he retired. At present living in Lotts Creek, Iowa. Neither District has a superintendent at the present time.

KANSAS DISTRICT — established the office of Superintendent of Schools in 1921.

Teacher Wm. Nickel was installed on April 23, 1922. He served until 1933, when he resigned. He died March 10, 1935.

The office of Executive Secretary was established in 1948. Rev. Arnold F. Meyer was installed in this office on February 15, 1948. He served until 1952, when he accepted the call to be Executive Secretary of the Colorado District.

In 1951 the District established the office of Superintendent of Parish Education. Mr. Arnold C. Erxleben was installed on August 28, 1952.

MICHIGAN DISTRICT — office of Superintendent of Schools established at its convention June 19—25, 1918.

Prof. Friedrich Meyer, principal of the Milwaukee Lutheran High School, was installed on the first Sunday after New Year, 1919. He served until 1928; died November 5, 1942.

Teacher S. J. Roth was installed on August 15, 1929.

In 1945 the office of Assistant Superintendent was created. Teacher E. W. Haack was installed on August 26, 1945. He served until 1954, when he accepted a teaching position at Our Redeemer, Muskegon, Mich.

The office of second Assistant Superintendent, especially for its part-time agencies, was established in 1946. Rev. Remus C. Rein was installed on August 24, 1947. He served until March 2, 1952, when he became the Executive Secretary of the Central Illinois District.

On January 2, 1955, Teacher Erwin F. Wiese became the Assistant Superintendent of the District.

MINNESOTA DISTRICT — created the office of Director of Christian Education in 1939.

Rev. H. J. Boettcher was installed on June 12, 1940. He served until the summer of 1952, when he became Superintendent of the Lutheran High School Association in Chicago, Ill.

Rev. E. H. Bohrer was installed on October 4, 1953, as District Counselor.

On September 21, 1954, it was resolved to call a Counselor in Parish Education and to appoint Counselor Bohrer as Co-ordinating Counselor.

Teacher Raymond E. Maag was installed on January 15, 1956.

NEBRASKA DISTRICT — created the office of Executive Secretary of Christian Education in 1921.

Teacher Henry H. Hillmann was installed on December 18, 1921. He served until his death on March 21, 1941.

Teacher E. Charles Mueller was installed on August 9, 1943, after having carried on the work for some time prior to this date while still teaching. Mr. Mueller served both Districts until 1949 and then the Southern Nebraska District to the present time.

The Northern Nebraska District resolved in 1949 to establish the office of District Executive Secretary. Rev. Walter L. Barth was installed in August 1955 as Executive Secretary of Stewardship and Education.

NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Rev. Carl F. Nitz was installed as Counselor of Stewardship and Education on April 15, 1956.

NORTH DAKOTA DISTRICT—established the office of District Executive Secretary of Missions and Education in 1946.

Rev. E. H. Bohrer was installed on September 22, 1946, and served until 1953, when he accepted the position of District Counselor of the Minnesota District.

Rev. Felix A. Rubbert was installed at the convention of May 31—June 4, 1953.

NORTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT—resolved in 1945 to create the office of Executive Secretary of Christian Education.

Teacher Arthur L. Amt was installed on August 25, 1947.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT—established the office of Superintendent of Schools at its convention of May 22—28, 1918.

Teacher Paul T. Buszin, installed October 1, 1918, served until retirement in 1940; part-time until 1942. Died September 9, 1944.

Rev. Albert G. Merkens, installed May 20, 1945, as Director of Christian Education, served until 1951, when he accepted a professorship at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.

The office of Assistant Director of Christian Education was established apparently in 1946. Teacher Adolf H. Kramer was installed on April 20, 1947.

SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT—established the office of Executive Secretary of Parish Education, Missions, and Finances in 1956.

Rev. Ellis Nieting was installed on May 27, 1956.

SOUTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT—established the office of Superintendent of Schools in 1919.

Teacher Adolf A. Grossmann was installed on September 5, 1920. He served until 1924, when he became Assistant Manager of Concordia Publishing House. He died February 19, 1941.

On January 18, 1925, Teacher B. Schumacher was installed.

At the District convention of June 23—27, 1952, the office of Executive Secretary of Parish Education was created. Rev. Erich F. Brauer was installed on October 11, 1953.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT—voted in 1949 to establish the office of Executive Secretary and reaffirmed its resolution in 1951.

Rev. Martin P. Studtmann was installed on January 22, 1956.

TEXAS DISTRICT—established the office of Counselor in Parish Education in 1949.

Rev. Martin L. Koehneke was installed on August 29, 1950, and served until 1954, when he accepted the presidency of Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, Ill.

Teacher Edward J. Keuer was installed on August 16, 1955.

WESTERN DISTRICT—established the office of Superintendent of Schools in 1919.

Teacher Theo. J. Kuehnert was installed on June 27, 1920. He served until 1927, when he accepted a professorship at Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, Ill. He is now retired.

Teacher Herman F. Bade was installed on August 24, 1927, and served until 1946, retired from office; part-time until 1949. Died July 28, 1953.

On September 15, 1946, Teacher Leonard J. Dierker was installed as Superintendent of Christian Education after having served as assistant in education and stewardship in the District since 1944.

The office of Assistant Superintendent of Christian Education was established in 1951. Teacher Harold A. Leimer was installed on September 7, 1952.

PRESENT AND FORMER DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS

Name	Years Served	District
Albers, Rev. George C.**	1949-51	Central Illinois
Amr, Mr. Arthur L.	1947—	North Wisconsin
Bade, Mr. Herman F.*	1927—46	Western
Barth, Rev. Walter L.**	1955—	Northern Nebraska
Boettcher, Dr. H. J.	1940—52	Minnesota
Bohrer, Rev. E. H.**	1946—53	North Dakota
Bohrer, Rev. E. H.**	1953—	Minnesota
Brauer, Rev. Erich F.	1953—	South Wisconsin
Brustat, Rev. August W.	1946—49	Atlantic
Buszin, Mr. Paul T.*	1918—40	Northern Illinois
Coiner, Rev. Harry G.	1953—55	Eastern
Dierker, Mr. Leonard J.	1946—	Western
Erxleben, Mr. Arnold C.	1952—	Kansas
Gernand, Mr. W. J.	1931—	Central
Grossmann, Mr. Adolf A.*	1920—24	South Wisconsin
Haack, Mr. E. W.	1945—54	Michigan
Hartner, Rev. Henry G.**	1954—	California-Nevada
Heuer, Rev. Ernest E.	1946—53	Eastern
Hillmann Mr. Henry H.*	1921—41	Nebraska
Janssen, Rev. Ihno A., Jr.**	1955—	English
Keuer, Mr. Edward J.	1955—	Texas
Koehneke, Rev. Martin L.	1950—54	Texas
Kramer, Mr. Adolf H.	1947—	Northern Illinois
Kuehnert, Dr. Theo. J.	1920—27	Western
Leimer, Mr. Harold A.	1952—	Western
Maag, Mr. Raymond E.	1956—	Minnesota
Merkens, Dr. Albert G.	1945—51	Northern Illinois
Meyer, Rev. Arnold C.**	1949—52	Kansas
Meyer, Rev. Arnold C.**	1952—	Colorado
Meyer, Prof. Friedrich*	1919—28	Michigan
Mueller, Mr. E. Charles	1943—49	Nebraska
Mueller, Mr. E. Charles	1949—	Southern Nebraska
Mueller, Mr. H. F. C.	1928—37	Iowa
Mueller, Mr. H. F. C.	1937—45	Iowa District West
Nickel, Mr. Wm.*	1922—33	Kansas
Nieting, Rev. Ellis **	1956—	South Dakota
Nitz, Rev. Carl F.**	1956—	Northwest
Rein, Rev. Remus C.**	1947—52	Michigan
Rein, Rev. Remus C.**	1952—	Central Illinois
Reinboth, Rev. O. H. **	1951—54	California-Nevada
Roth, Dr. S. J.	1929—	Michigan
Rubbert, Rev. Felix A.**	1953—	North Dakota
Schnabel, Mr. Robert V.	1952—	Central
Schroeter, Mr. Otto E.*	1922—31	Central
Schumacher, Mr. B.	1925—	South Wisconsin
Seltz, Rev. C. H.*	1920—27	Iowa
Sieving, Mr. Eldor C.	1950—51	Central
Stellhorn, Dr. A. C.	1918—21	Central
Studtmann, Rev. Martin P.**	1956—	Southern Illinois
Wiese, Mr. Edwin F.	1955—	Michigan
Wittmer, Dr. Arthur E.	1951—	Atlantic

* Deceased

** Part-time

STAFF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD FOR PARISH EDUCATION

AUGUST C. STELLHORN — became the Secretary of Schools on April 5, 1921.

WILLIAM LUKE — was installed as Sunday School Editor on June 12, 1927. He served until his death on October 11, 1932.

LOTHAR BRAEUNIG — served as Assistant Sunday School Editor from August 1, 1931, to November 15, 1944. At that time he left to accept a call to St. John, Denver, Iowa.

ARNOLD C. MUELLER — became Sunday School Editor on August 27, 1933.

JOHN M. WEIDENSCHILLING — joined the Sunday School Office in 1938.

WILLIAM A. KRAMER — was called as Assistant in the School Office in 1940.

ARTHUR C. REPP — began work in June 1943 and was installed as Executive Secretary of the Board on September 19, 1943.

OSCAR E. FEUCHT — was installed as Secretary of Adult Education on February 10, 1946.

ARTHUR W. GROSS — began work at CPH as Assistant Editor of Materials, May 1945, and was installed as Vacation Bible School Editor on February 10, 1946.

ARTHUR L. MILLER — became Executive Secretary of the Board for Parish Education in 1946. He was installed on September 29, 1946.

ALLAN HART JAHSMANN — was installed as Associate Editor of Sunday School Literature on November 7, 1948.

WALTER RIESS — began work as Junior Bible Class Editor on November 21, 1953. He was installed on November 29, 1953.

ROBERT HOYER — was installed as Editor of Adult Materials in September 1954.

FREDERICK NOHL — was installed as Editor of School Materials on February 5, 1956.

RALPH DINGER — began work on June 25, 1956, as Assistant Editor of Vacation Bible School Materials.