

Faith and Order movement (1919-1957)

World Conference on Faith and Order, Lausanne, 1927

Second World Conference on Faith and Order, Edinburgh, 1937

The idea for a conference on the faith and order of the church was first proposed at the World Missionary Conference of 1910, by Bishop Charles H. Brent of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the USA. Over the next decade, the Episcopal Church pursued the vision, until, at a preliminary meeting at Geneva, in Aug. 1920, an ecumenical Continuation Committee was appointed to plan an official assembly. When the Continuation Committee met again at Stockholm, in 1925, it chose 1927 for the official assembly date, and Lausanne for the site of the meeting. The Lausanne conference occurred as planned and, before it closed, provided for another Continuation Committee to carry on its work. Apart from the hiatus of World War II, the Continuation Committee met almost annually until 1948, when, at the first meeting of the World Council of Churches (WCC) in Amsterdam, Faith and Order was transformed into a Commission of the WCC.

As complement to the Life and Work movement, whose purview was practical questions of social reform and action, the Faith and Order movement pondered the diversities of belief, liturgical practice, polity, and ministry among the denominations of Christianity. Its aim was never so much to erase these differences, as to present and understand them, in hopes of furthering good will and cooperation among the several Christian strands. The Ecumenical Library's archival documentation of the movement comprises pamphlets and booklets published by its various committees and offices. This collection holds Faith and Order material published up until 1948. For subsequent publications, issued by the Faith and Order Commission of the WCC, see the library's archival holdings for the World Council of Churches. Some of the material, published in more permanent book form, is cataloged in the library's circulating collection, and can be found by searching the computer catalog under appropriate headings.

#1 [box]: The World Conference on Faith and Order, Lausanne, 1927: The Conference and its preliminaries

1. The World Conference for the Consideration of Questions Touching Faith and Order: Report of the Deputation to Europe and the East, 1919 [this report was submitted to the Episcopal Church's Commission on the World Conference on Faith and Order, by a five-member deputation charged with raising interest among European churches in the world conference.]
2. Report of the Preliminary Meeting at Geneva, Switzerland, August 12-20, 1920: A Pilgrimage toward Unity, published by the Continuation Committee [of the World Conference on Faith and Order].
3. Printed letter from Robert H. Gardiner, Secretary of the Continuation Committee, accompanying the Report of the Preliminary Meeting...
4. The World Conference on Faith and Order: A Compilation of Proposals for ChristianUnity, published by the Continuation Committee, 1921.
5. Subjects Committee Papers: Circulated in Preparation for the World Conference on Faith and Order, pub'd by the Continuation Committee, Sept. 1923
6. World Conference on Faith and Order: Fifth Series of Questions for Preliminary Discussion, Suggested by the Subjects Committee: The Sacraments, published by the Continuation Committee, January 1925.
7. Draft Agenda for the World Conference on Faith and Order, prepared by the Continuation Committee at Stockholm, Aug. 15-18, 1925, pub'd by the Continuation Committee, Sept. 1925.
8. Christian Unity in the Light of the Social Purpose of the Church: A Memorial to the Lausanne Conference, August, 1927 [from a conference entitled, "The Church and Ministry in the Light of the Social Purpose of the Church], July, 1927.
9. World Conference on Faith and Order: Being a Reprint of Articles from Lausanne, Switzerland, Aug. 3-21, 1927, by Frederick A. Wilmot,

Religious Editor of the Providence Journal and the Evening
Bulletin, 1927. [2 copies]

10. Reports of the World Conference on Faith and Order, Lausanne, Switzerland,
August 3 to 21, 1927. [Sept. 1927, 24 p.; 2 copies]
11. Reports of the World Conference on Faith and Order, Lausanne, Switzerland,
August 3 to 21, 1927 [Jan. 1928, 28 p.; 3 copies]
12. The Conference at Lausanne, by Frances Parkinson Keyes, reprinted
from Good Housekeeping, Dec. 1927 [May 1928, 16 p.; 2 copies]
13. The World Conference on Faith and Order, 1927, by William Temple,
reprinted from the Official Yearbook of the Church of England, 1929.
14. Three Great Books on Lausanne [flier, 1 sheet]

#2 [folder]: Records of the Continuation Committee, Lausanne conference

1. Records of the Continuation Committee of the World Conference on Faith and
Order: Maloja, Engadine, Switzerland, Aug. 27-30, 1929.
2. Records of the Continuation Committee of the World Conference on Faith and
Order, High Leigh, Hoddesdon, England, Aug. 18-21, 1931.
3. The 1936 Meeting of the Continuation Committee held at St. George's School,
Clarens, Switzerland, Aug. 31-Sept. 3, 1936.

#3 [folder]: Report of the Executive Committee of the Continuation Committee, Lausanne Conference

Report of the Executive Committee meeting held at the Hotel Pavillon
Franklin, St. Germain, Paris, Feb. 9 and 10, 1937. [1 folded sheet]

#4 [folder]: Questions for Study of the Continuation Committee, Lausanne Conference

1. Questions for Study on the Nature of the Church, The Church's Ministry, The

Sacraments, based on Reports III, V, VI of the Lausanne Conference of 1927 [Dec. 1929, 2 copies].

2. Questions for Study on the Unity of Christendom and the Relation thereto of Existing Churches, based on Report VII of the Lausanne Conference of 1927. [Feb. 1930]

#5 [box]: Commission Reports to the Edinburgh Conference, 1937

1. Report of the Theological Committee [appointed by the Continuation Committee], 9th August 1931: The Theology of Grace. [Nov. 1931; This is the official agenda paper for Section I of the Edinburgh Conference]
2. Notes for the Use of Section I of the Edinburgh Conference [studying the subject The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, prepared by the Theological Secretary, Canon Hodgson; in English, French, and German; May 1937; 3 copies]
3. Report of Commission II on The Church of Christ and the Word of God [April 1937]
4. Report of Commission III, appointed by the 1927 Continuation Committee in preparation for the Second World Conference to be held at Edinburgh in 1937: The Ministry and the Sacraments [Feb. 1937; 2 copies].
5. The Meanings of Unity [report no. 1 prepared by the Commission on the Church's Unity in Life and Worship (Commission IV) ..., drafted by Angus Dun, April 1937]
6. The Communion of Saints [report no. 2, prepared by the Commission on the Church's Unity in Life and Worship (Commission IV) ..., drafted by Gaius Jackson Slosser, April 1936]
7. The Non-Theological Factors in the Making and Unmaking of Church Union [report no. 3, prepared by the Commission on the Church's Unity in Life and Worship (Commission IV)...., drafted by Willard Learoyd Sperry, April 1937.]

8. [Report no. 4, A Decade of Objective Progress in Church Unity, 1927-1936, is cataloged in the circulating collection of the Library].
9. Next Steps on the Road to a United Church [report no. 5, prepared by the Commission on the Church's Unity in Life and Worship (Commission IV) ..., drafted by William Adams Brown, April 1937.]

#6 [box]: Publications of the Edinburgh conference

1. Who's Who at Edinburgh 1937?, 1937. [in English, French, and German; 2 copies, one of which lacks pages 105-108.]
2. Report of the Second World Conference on Faith and Order: Submitted for the Consideration of the Participating Churches, Aug. 1937. [2 copies]
3. Report of the Second World Conference on Faith and Order: Submitted for the Consideration of the Participating Churches. American ed., Nov. 1937. [4 copies]
4. Second World Conference on Faith and Order: Affirmation of Unity [1 folded sheet; 4 copies]
5. An Act of Thanksgiving to Almighty God [closing service of the Edinburgh conference, held in St. Giles' Cathedral, Aug. 18, 1937]
6. The Edinburgh Litany, for the Reunion of Christendom [as used in St. Giles' Cathedral, Aug. 1937, led by Bp Azariah of Dornakal, India]
7. Common Acts of Worship from the Second World Conference on Faith and Order, Edinburgh, Aug. 3-18, 1937, and from the United Service in St. Paul's Cathedral, London, on Aug. 29, 1937, for the Delegates to the Oxford and Edinburgh Conferences. [4 copies]
8. Psalms and Prayers [World Conference on Faith and Order, Edinburgh, 1937; in English, French, and German]
9. Conference Hymn Book: A Selection of Hymns drawn from Communio [Universal Christian Council for Life and Work, and World Conference on Faith and Order; in English, French, and German; Oxford Univ Pr]

10. World Conference on Faith and Order: List of Publications [undated, 1 folded sheet]

#7 [folder]: Responses to the Edinburgh conference

1. Studies in Church Unity: With Primary Reference to the Report of the Second World Conference on Faith and Order, Edinburgh, 1937, by Angus Dun, Joint American Committee of the American Sections of the World Conference on Faith and Order and the Universal Christian Council of Life and Work, 1938 [2 copies]
2. Edinburgh--1937: A Report to Triennial Meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary [to the National Council, Cincinnati, Ohio], by Elizabeth S. Stebbins. [undated]
3. Further Statement on the Report of the Second World Conference, Edinburgh, 1937: Received and Generally Approved by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 1940.

#8 [box]: Publications of the Continuation committee of the Edinburgh Conference

1. Statements Received from Churches on the Report of the Edinburgh Conference (first series), issued by the Continuation Committee, 1939.
2. Statements Received from the Churches on the Report of the Edinburgh Conference (second series), issued by the Continuation Committee, 1940.
3. Programme for the Meeting of the Continuation Committee to be held at St. George's School, Clarens, Switzerland, Aug. 21 - Aug. 24, 1939.
4. The 1939 Meeting of the Continuation Committee, held at St. George's School, Clarens, Switzerland, Aug. 21-23, 1939.
5. Treasurer's Report [to the Continuation Committee], April 30, 1939.
6. Secretary's Report for the Period Aug, 1939 - Oct., 1941 [to the members of

- the Continuation Committee], 1941.
7. Secretary's Report, 1942-1943 [to the members of the Continuation Committee], 1942.
 8. Report of the American Section of the Commission on Intercommunion, submitted to the Continuation Committee, 1942.
 9. Rules and Customs of Churches Concerning Intercommunion and Open Communion, issued by the Secretariat [of the Continuation Committee]
 10. 1946, The Executive Committee [of the Continuation Committee] at Geneva on February 20th, issued by the Secretariat [in English, French, and German]

#9 (folder): Misc. Publications of Faith and Order

1. Twenty Paragraphs about the World Conference on Faith and Order, published by the Secretariat [5 issues, dated Sept. 15, 1925, Jan. 1928, Dec. 1928, Nov. 1929, Oct. 1930].
2. Twenty Paragraphs about the World Conference on Faith and Order, followed by a Loan Library List of Recent Books Relating to Christian Unity, published by the Secretariat [2 issues, dated Feb. 10, 1926, Sept. 21, 1926]
3. Loan Library List, printed for the Secretariat [dated Mar. 1928]

#10 [box]: North American Faith and Order Conference [Oberlin 1957]

1. Press releases from the WCC, April 26, 1957-September 9, 1957
2. A Guide to Christian Unity, by George Hunt, 1958
3. Conference profile