

NEWS

A federation of 30 American Churches, with 35,500,000 members, formed in 1950 to spread the Christian faith, carrying on the work of thirteen interdenominational agencies at home and abroad. The nation's largest religious body.

from the **NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE U.S.A.**

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NEW YORK, N.Y., July 6 -- Twenty-five church laymen are launching a move to provide support for the nation's church-related colleges. With a Chicago newspaper executive as chairman, a group of business and industrial, labor, educational, and church leaders have organized a National Committee of Churchmen for Church Colleges.

Milburn P. Akers, executive editor of the Chicago Sun-Times has been named chairman of the new national committee. The vice chairman is J. Irwin Miller, board chairman of Cummins Engine Company, Columbus, Ind. Secretary-Treasurer is Hal Lainson of the Dutton-Lainson Co., Hastings, Neb.

"The committee will not do any money raising as such, but sees its task as one of creating a climate of opinion that will encourage gifts to churches and colleges," said Mr. Akers. "To this end it expects to cooperate with the Council for Financial Aid to Education in fact finding and research and to provide leadership that will enable colleges to work together in programs designed to improve the quality of public relationships, fund raising, trustee leadership, and internal life," he declared.

Specifically, the committee will seek to rally the membership of the churches to greater support of their church-related colleges. It will also seek to enlist additional men who will pledge and actively support and give their time and energy to a program of practical college assistance.

The committee will work with the Commission on Christian Higher Education and the department of United Church Men of the National Council of Churches in helping the colleges to help themselves through cooperative activity.

"Colleges will get the best leadership only if men and women with the broadest experience in business, the professions, and public service give time to their problems," he said.

"Since their founding more than 300 church colleges have gone out of existence or have been taken over by the state. In the next ten years the country faces an enormous increase in numbers of students going to college. The state institutions should not be allowed to take all the load of the expansion of college facilities

which this horde of students will require."

Mr. Akers noted that the first 250 years of American history was led by church colleges. "Unless the church colleges advance along with the state schools, they are going to be offering a fading voice in American culture," he stated. "The church must continue to stabilize, refine, and direct that culture. We cannot let a materialistic outlook on life have its way by default of a spiritual outlook that faltered and withered because of neglect by clergymen."

Pointing out that "American culture has been made by its churches and church colleges more than by any other agencies," the newspaper editor declared, "we must go the second mile in propagating education with a soul in it. The church college is needed both to train intelligent laymen for leadership in the church, and to stimulate recruitment of ministers.

"Many of our church colleges have been living on the borrowed time of their professors," he pointed out further. "Whereas purchasing power of doctors and lawyers have been jumped 85 per cent since 1939, that of professors has declined 5 per cent."

The committee is constituted as an independent body that will work with the Department of Christian Institutions of the National Council of Churches.

Other members of the committee are: R. Carter Tucker, Attorney, Executive Committee Member, Kansas City Mo.; Robert B. Anderson, President, Ventures Ltd., New York City; Truman Collins, President, Collins Pine Co., Portland, Oregon; Wilson E. Compton, President, Council for Financial Aid to Education, New York City; Paul Davis, Los Angeles, California; Eugene Exman, Vice-president, Harper Brothers, New York City; Glenn Goble, Brotherhood of Steamship and Railway Clerks, Chicago, Ill.; Robert M. Hanes, President, Wachovia Bank and Trust Co., Winston-Salem, N.C.; J. Clinton Hawkins, Vice-president, Wheeling Corrugating Co., St. Louis, Mo.; L. L. Huffman, Dayton, Ohio; Edwin L. Jones, J. A. Jones Construction Co., Charlotte, N.C.; Lem T. Jones, Russell Stover Candy Co., Kansas City, Mo.; L. Roy Klein, Dallas, Texas; William H. McKinney, Executive Secretary, Men's Work Disciples of Christ, Indianapolis, Ind.; S. J. Patterson, Executive Secretary, Men's Work Presbyterian Church, U.S., Richmond, Va.; Victor G. Reuther, AFL-CIO Administrative Assistant, Washington, D.C.; Nelson A. Rockefeller, Rockefeller Foundation, New York City; Charles P. Taft, Attorney, Cincinnati, Ohio; R. J. Wig, San Marino, California; Robert E. Wilson, Standard Oil Company of Indiana, Chicago, Ill.; Toddie Lee Wynne, Dallas, Texas; and Howard L. Logan, Executive Secretary, Brotherhood of United Lutheran Church in America, New York City.

Ex-officio members of the committee are: Hunter B. Blakely, Richmond, Va.; chairman of the National Council's Department of Christian Institutions and Secretary of the Presbyterian U.S. Division of Higher Education; E. Fay Campbell, Philadelphia, Pa., secretary, division of Higher Education, Presbyterian Church USA; John O. Gross, Nashville, Tenn., executive secretary, Division of Educational Institutions, Methodist Church and three National Council executives from New York: The Rev. Dr. Gerald E. Knoff, executive secretary, Division of Christian Education; Dr. Hubert C. Noble, director of the Commission on Christian Higher Education, and Edwin W. Parsons, director of the Department of United Church Men.

Now executive editor of the Chicago Sun-Times, Mr. Akers has been a newspaperman for 30 years.

He was the son of the Rev. Dr. Edwin Wright Akers, of Chicago, and was educated at McKendree College (AB in 1925). He has worked on the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, the Illinois State Register, Springfield, and on the Associated Press in Springfield, Ill., Chicago and Washington, D.C.

He stepped out of newspaper work in 1937 to take an administrative post under the late Governor Henry Horner of Illinois, and later served as assistant to the Secretary of the Interior in Washington.

Mr. Akers became political editor of the Chicago Sun upon its founding in 1941. He served in numerous capacities on The Sun, including posts as columnist, editorial writer and managing editor.

He became managing editor of The Sun-Times in 1949, and in 1950 was appointed executive editor.

He is a trustee of MacMurray College for Women (Jacksonville, Ill.) and of McKendree College (Lebanon, Ill.).