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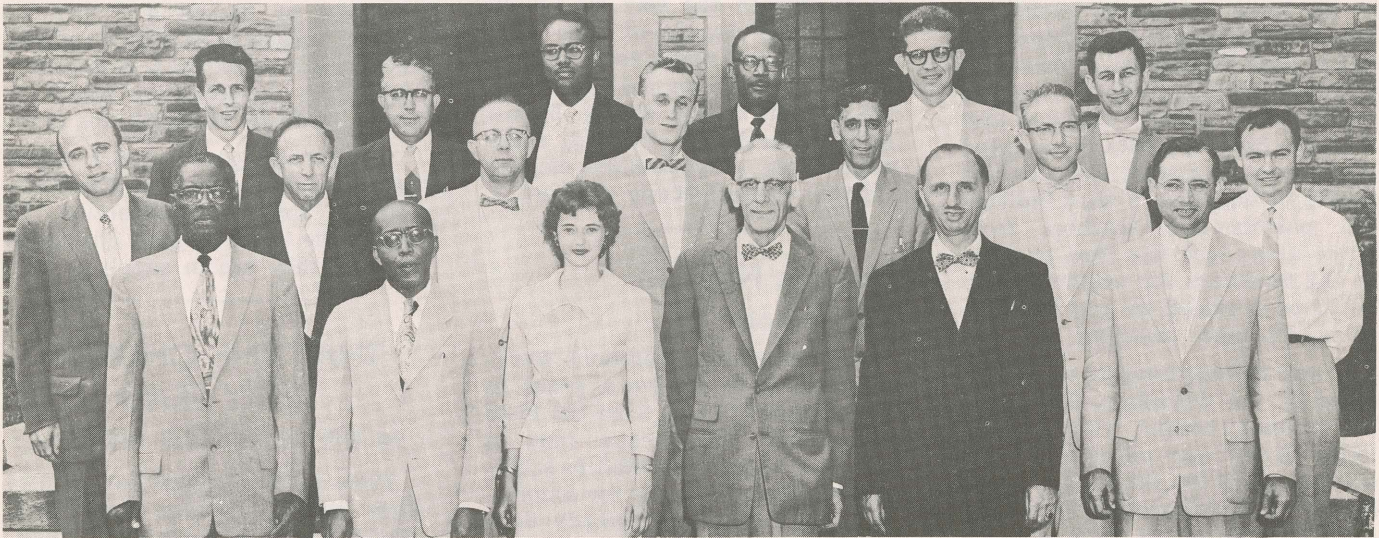
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THE VANGUARD

... THE CHURCH IN HUMAN RELATIONS

Volume 4, Number 7-8

August - September, 1957



HUMAN RELATIONS WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

Left to right:

Front row: Mr. N. Sandifer, Kansas City, Mo.; The Rev. DeWitt Robinson, New Orleans, La.; Miss Doris Fitz, Kansas City, Kans.; Dr. Andrew Schulze, Director of Workshop, Valparaiso University; The Rev. Walter Heyne, St. Louis, President of LHRAA; the Rev. Arrold Twenhafel, Alton, Ill.

Second row: Prof. David Schuller, Concordia Seminary; The Rev. John Oppliger, St. Louis; Dr. Martin H. Scharlemann, Concordia Seminary, Associate Director of Workshop; The Rev. Orville Jank, Kansas City, Mo; The Rev. Lester Charles, St. Louis; Mr. Darrel Kautz, Luther High School South, Chicago; The Rev. Henry Fingerlin, Indianapolis.

Third row: The Rev. Paul E. Schulze, St. Louis; Prof. Walter Juergensen, Concordia Teachers College, Seward, Neb.; The Rev. Robert King, Youngstown, Ohio; The Rev. J. T. Skinner, Memphis, Tenn.; The Rev. Paul Schuessler, Chicago; The Rev. Dale Lichty, St. Louis.

Absent when picture was taken: The Rev. John J. Hicks, St. Louis; The Rev. Hubert May, St. Louis; The Rev. Karl H. Meyer, Kansas City, Kans.

A LOOK AROUND

By Martin H. Scharlemann

This month's edition of our column is devoted entirely to the Human Relations Workshop conducted at the end of June on the premises of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. Our aim will be to interpret this Workshop in terms of its significance for our church.

In the first instance, the very fact that this Workshop was and could be held at all is of the utmost importance, it would seem. Workshops develop only when specific needs are seen and felt. Some

years ago nothing of this kind could have been undertaken if for no other reason than that, from an official point of view, there was no problem. It took the social crisis of the past half decade to alert our leadership to the fact that the question of race could no longer be ignored if the church were to carry out her primary task of gathering in God's people. In fact, in 1956 our Synod went so far as to express a concern for this area of life and work. The Human Relations Workshop was planned and designed to follow through on some of the principles expressed at the St. Paul convention.

Secondly, the varied backgrounds and interests of the persons attending the Workshop are of no small moment. Invitations to this Workshop went out to the professional people of our church and to the clergy of other denominations living in and around St. Louis. A number of scholarships were offered from a grant made by the Field Foundation in the amount of \$1400. This sum enabled the Lutheran Human Relations Association of America to provide for adequate library facilities and other supplies. In this way the persons who attended for the week of June 24-28 had the opportunity

to become acquainted with most of the best books and pamphlets available to them from the numerous individuals and organizations actively at work in the field of race relations.

A total of twenty-two persons registered for the Workshop, representing both the preaching and teaching professions of our own Church as well as the ministry of other church bodies at work in St. Louis. In almost every instance the people in attendance came from communities where the problems of integration were felt to be very acute. Chicago and Kansas City were ably represented. And surely it augurs well for the future of our church that individual pastors and teachers from these areas took the time to come to the Seminary for whatever help could be provided by way of joint discussion and planning.

If any specific insights were provided by the Workshop, they could be grouped around two general items. Every one present got the chance to see the size of this problem of racial integration in America. Furthermore, all those who attended were introduced to an understanding of the nature of the church's task in our society. In fact, it is this second matter that probably constitutes the greatest constructive contribution to our church life from the agitated soul-searching resulting from the complicated problems of integration. Once again individuals are taking a good look at their Scriptures to see what it has to say to our particular generation on the subject of the church's responsibilities.

If any expressions of regret are in order, it would be this that some of the other areas of our church life were not represented. We are thinking of a city like Detroit, for instance, where we face some of the most complicated aspects of racial integration. Possibly, however, this absence can be corrected in time for the next session of the Workshop, scheduled for the last week in June 1958. It may be necessary to invite specific individuals to the next Workshop in the interest of breaking down what might be called an allergy to attending education sessions designed to meet specific needs.

In the meantime, we can only pray that our heavenly Father will be merciful in granting us more time to come to grips with what is most certainly the decisive issue facing our church, if it is really to carry on the prophetic office of Jesus our Lord. At no point does the seriousness and sincerity of our proclamation reveal itself more clearly than just here. This is a burden that rests heavily on all of us. For in the way we handle the knotted tangle of race relations we shall make clear the degree to which we take to heart the task given the church by her Lord: to gather in from all races, nations, and tongues. Kyrie eleison! Christe eleison! Kyrie eleison!

Editor's Note on Workshop

The 1958 Human Relations Workshop too is to receive a grant in the amount of \$1400 from the Field Foundation. The greater part of this sum is to be devoted to scholarships. Some requests for scholarships for 1958 have already been received and filed. In order that the Workshop might be effective and productive of the best results where they are needed most, professional church workers, pastors, teachers, deaconesses, et al, working in parishes in changed or changing communities are encouraged to apply for scholarships; they are encouraged to do so at an early date.

Scholarships in the amount of \$25, sufficient to cover all Workshop costs exclusive of travel, are to be offered to those living within a radius of 100 miles of St. Louis. Fifty-dollar scholarships will be available to those living beyond that radius.

The 1958 Workshop will be held June 23-27. Requests for scholarships may be sent to the Lutheran Human Relations Association of America, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Ind.

THIS ISSUE

The August issue of **The VANGUARD** is being sent gratis to all pastors of the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North

America. The cost of this mailing is to be taken out of the fund of the Field Foundation grant for 1957.

We should like to call the attention of those pastors who are not on our regular mailing list to the fact that, should they desire to receive **The VANGUARD** regularly, they may subscribe to it at a cost of \$1.00 a year; or, they will automatically receive a year's subscription by becoming a member of the Lutheran Human Relations Association of America. A membership and subscription blank is found on Page Three of this issue.

Should any pastor desire copies of this or other issues of **The VANGUARD** for free distribution, he may have them without charge as long as they are in supply.

THAT THE CHURCH MAY LEAD

TO THE '58 INSTITUTE THEY CAME

From all sections of our country they came — from New York, North Carolina, Louisiana, Michigan, California, Washington, and about fifteen other states. They came to the little town of Valparaiso, Indiana, to Valparaiso University. The occasion was the Eighth Annual Valparaiso University Institute on Human Relations. Most of them were members of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod.

Among them were men and women, young and old. One of them was a white pastor of Southern background who is leading his Southern congregation of Caucasian constituency to become color-blind in their fellowship in the church.

Another pastor from a large Northern metropolitan center was present. He has a hard row to hoe; his all-white parish, by reason of poor leadership in the past, is worse than apathetic toward the acceptance of those of another color who are living in the community of the church.

A social worker was there. He came from the Twin Cities. He is concerned about the **plight of our American Indians and the respon-**

Time and space will not permit us to speak of others who attended — of a young couple from Iowa who invited four Negro children less favored than their own to share their farm home with them for a number of weeks; of a graduate of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis who is to work in a Southern community where he knows it will be hard for him to bear witness to Christ in every area of life and not suffer persecution at the hands of those who want to "keep the Negro in his place"; of another Seminary graduate who is soon to go to Korea, to live and work and worship with people of a different race and culture; of the second Negro to be graduated from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis since World War I, who must face the cold hard fact that our churches as a whole are not ready to receive him merely as a Christian minister, but always as a Negro minister.

Heavenly Experience

The Institute was a most cosmopolitan gathering of men and women from every section of our country and with varied backgrounds and interests — a legislator, university professors, an attorney, social workers, pastors, high school teachers, business men, farmers, mechanics, laborers, housewives. All came to the Institute. They knew the theory of the oneness of all believers in Christ; but they received evidence at the Institute that Christianity is not theory only; it is real. Motivated by the Gospel, people can work and live and worship together. Of course, two and a half days is not a long time. Nor is time itself very long when compared with eter-

nity. Then we shall live and worship together in peace and harmony. But they now know by experience what heaven is like, for this living and working and worshipping together, oblivious of caste and race, is a heavenly experience.

Race Problem — An Opportunity

They have now returned to their homes. If an occasional sermon on the subject, the exchange of pulpits of white and Negro pastors on Brotherhood Sunday, the passing of good synodical resolutions will help to turn the race problem into an opportunity for the Church, what should two and a half days of living, working, and worshipping together do for the 175-odd persons who attended the Institute? These people cannot be the same any more. They must and they will give evidence in their lives of the experience they had at Valparaiso July 26-28. They will speak up and do what is required of them to help overcome racial discrimination wherever it may raise its ugly head in the community, the home, and the church.

Oh Yes!—The Program

The leading theological presentation was by Dr. Thomas Coates, now Professor of Religion at the newly organized Senior College of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod. His essay on "The Communion of Saints", with its proper application to the times in which we are living and more specifically to the world-wide race issue confronting the church in every aspect

of its modern outreach, provoked a lively and intelligent discussion on the part of laymen as well as theologians in the audience.

The essay of Dr. Long of Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn., was on the subject, "Housing for Minority Groups as it Affects the Life and Structure of the Church." This essay dealing with what is perhaps the most crucial aspect of the race problem in our country, at least north of the Mason and Dixon Line, was indeed apropos. The essay gave those in attendance many sociological facts with which to confront those back home who are always ready to bring out the parade of stereotypes about what is supposed to happen to property and property values when minority group members move into the community.

The program included a never-to-be-forgotten banquet address, a challenging sermon, two down-to-earth panel discussions, and two of the best short race relations movies thus far filmed.

Of Little Faith

Some of us had feared that interest in an eighth Institute would possibly begin to wane, that it would be hard to prepare and present a challenging, new program, that it would be difficult to sustain the interest of friends who had attended institutes before and to gain the interest of others. Some of us thought that the Workshop on Human Relations which we had helped to organize and to execute at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in June might have a tendency to lessen interest in the Valparaiso Institute. But we were happily mistaken on all counts.

LUTHERAN HUMAN RELATIONS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana

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