

were effected and the Federalized churches were given more strength and energy (federated is the better adjective). The run of activities was not such to make evangelicals happy although many of them in the older denominations cooperated for the peace of the church and some interpreted the historic movements in a very optimistic way.

(6) Moves to a new body...

Early in the 1940's there came rumblings of a need for a new body comprised along more mobile lines and with a broader outreach. The older council found the number of committees cumbersome and struggling in purpose. The commission masses had become practically unworkable. It was thought that a new body could unite all commissions, committees, etc., on a single basis with a simplified form of government for much greater progress. The need was joined in the creation of the National Council of Churches.

b. The National Council of Churches 1950

(1) Historical note:

The National Council was formulated in December, 1950 with meetings at Denver (1952) and Evanston (1954). It was the replacement and heir of the Federal Council. It prepared to meet on a triennial basis and was headquartered with an office in New York.

(2) Organization:

Profiting from the problems of the Federal Council, the National Council adjusted its organization so as to avoid the multiplicity of commissions in which the individual character and independency of verdict almost made separate cell councils. It established a more workable medium in the following way:

--the general assembly...constituted by delegates of member denominations and select persons although only the former group had voting privilege...

--a general board that met three times per year and having a select membership established by the assembly. This group holds interim power but cannot change the constitution or by-laws.

--a secretariat, headed by a general secretary and originally consisting of four functioning subdivisions:

Christian Life

Christian life and work (mission)

Christian Unity (home missions!!)

Overseas Ministry (foreign missions)