

- The first synod was constituted in 1793...with about 180 churches and about 15,000 members.
- Educational institutions were begun in Carlisle (1825) Mercersburg (1837) and Lancaster (1871). Mercersburg was the center of the Schaaf/Nevin influence and Lancaster is the only one continuing today.
- The Heidelberg Confession and Catechisms were (are) the doctrinal standards
- in 1863 a merger with the German Reformed Fellowship created the Reformed Church in the United States of America. This body had essentially a presbyterian type polity
- in 1934 a merger with the Evangelical Reformed Synod (largely Prussian in origin) produced the Evangelical Reformed Church.
- 1957 saw the merger with the Congregational Christian Church and the formation of the United Church of Christ.

Needless to say there have been a few small groups grow out of these bodies and when the mergers occurred not all of the churches in the committing bodies found it necessary to join. Many of the older Reformed churches became independent and some of the Congregational churches chose not to give up their independence.

The bodies discussed in this section of notes produced a number of other schools and seminaries and developed a strong corps of followers in the midwest. But in general the group was ethnic in character and any tour of the old cemeteries of the fellowship makes that abundantly clear. This ethnicicity (is that how it is spelled?) is not apparent in the composition of the present body.

c. The Presbyterian Bodies:

The ethnic make-up of this body is interesting...the Scots/Irish generally being the more radical and committed to a very strict doctrinal construction and the English/American being less formal and broader in general intent. The nationalistic expressions often enter into the formal debate of the church but the polity associated with Presbyterians generally allowed the groups to coexist.

- The first of the modern presbyterian workers in the colonies was Makemie who was active on the Maryland shore before 1700.
- Under his leadership a presbytery was formed in 1706. There were about nine separate presbyterian entities but most of them found repose in this sanctuary. The group grew so that in 1716 a synod was founded with four presbyteries. This work was greatly enhanced by the arrival of scads of Scotch-Irish immigrants.
- From 1741 to 1758 there existed a schism...the "Old side/ New Side" division. I will elaborate on it in class.