

f. In 1852 a national conference was held at Albany. It was the first since 1648. Developed subsequently was the National Council..a body without true legislative powers on the local churches but with advisorial and policy directive energies. This 1852 meeting was born out of the need for work on the frontier and out of the failure of the Plan of Union. One of the most immediate results was the American Congregational Union..a feeder to the churches and to missions.

g. Although congregationalism is suspicious of creeds and ordered standards, in 1883 the National Council offered a somewhat shorter and revised edition of the Westminster Confession model as a tool for the church. To this in 1913 was added the Kansas City Confession, so-called, a statement with implications for faith without confessional binding or ideology among other things.

h. In the meantime congregationalism had grown slowly in the midwest with a center of activity at Kansas City. It had lost heavily to the Unitarians in New England (there is a separate section of notes on this in the later traffic of the course) and its major schools (Andover--Hartford) were falling into liberal lines as well (For further data see Gordon: THE LEAVEN OF THE PHARISEES.)

i. In 1931 the congregational churches merged in polity format with the American General Convention of the Christian Church. The new title was the "Congregational Christian Church" and while some churches did not cooperate the rank and file accepted the merger easily.

j. In 1957 the Congregational Christian Church merged with the Evangelical and Congregational Church to form the United Church of Christ (UCC). The body maintains essentially a liberal posture with a small core of evangelicals within. For further reading in simplified and easy form, try Eric Routley: THE STORY OF CONGREGATIONALISM.

3. The Protestant Episcopal Church (Anglican derived)

"The distinctive character of the Protestant Episcopal Church," says Donald B. Aldrich (American Peoples Encyclopaedia), "lies in its inclusiveness, in the authority of its laity, in its adherence to faith expressed in the historic Christian creeds, in its sacramental emphasis, and in the preservation of the historic episcopate." That this general picture is well attested is evidenced in the history of this body during the National age.

a. The church was decimated by the revolution although many of the leaders on the American side belonged to it! The battle was more than one of territorial loyalty or political idea.