

(5) Continuing Lutheran bodies:

(a) The Wisconsin Synod originally formed in 1850 and a developed schism in 1850.

(b) The Evangelical Lutheran Synod...formed about 1917 out of the older Norwegian Synod.

(c) The Lutheran Brotherhood, a "free" Lutheran church (means non-synodical control) developed in 1900 out of the free church movement in the midwest. The Brotherhood actually favors a presbyterian polity and is strongly evangelical and missionary minded. The Seminary is a Fergus Falls, Minnesota and the group has a much larger membership in third world countries than in the parent United States.

c. Concluding Summary:

In recent years the United Lutherans and American Lutherans were leaders in ecumenism and this helps explain their merger. The Missouri Synod has maintained a more evangelical character and has avoided such merger or compromise of essential character. At present then the Lutheran bodies are generally either those of the main church, the Missouri Synod, or one of the smaller synods. There are about six altogether as opposed to 25 at the turn of the century. The Lutheran bodies have not shown the same degree of declension in size as have some of their modern counterparts somewhat due to the loyalty of the membership and also the aggressive growth pattern of some of the more evangelical members. And this is a quick summary of Lutheranism in the national period...I feel a bit guilty about not giving more details but not enough guilty to do it.

8. The Unitarian Segment

Unitarianism has been a small force numerically but a large force in ecclesiastical influence and that is why we accord it a place in these discussions. It has not been a major denomination but due to the level of personnel in American life its ideas have far outweighed its size. The whole history of the liberal and modernistic movements cannot be understood without it although it is not the only force in those moves, of course. Our survey is just that...a few names, dates and the general direction of the group.

a. Background:

Unitarianism, in its purer form, is a recast of the Arianism of the earlier centuries and the theological ideas of Paul of Samosata, among others. The modern form was shaped in Poland after the teachings of Socinius (with a European expression in