

Possession of property was a key feature in these disputes since the synods claimed title. It was ruled, however, that titular authority was not in the synodical hands and until the constitution could be corrected a number of churches left the Presbyterian bodies and kept their properties. Some are still in litigation but where there were no financial entanglements the departures were fairly simple.

(e) Miscellaneous reactions (separatist)

/1/ Within the Episcopal community:

The Reformed Episcopal church (discussed earlier) removed itself from the mother denomination and continues as a strongly evangelical communion in the Anglican tradition with its own hierarchy. The Episcopal Orthodox church, formed in the 1960's and largely operative in the south remains small. Two other small groups have emerged but there has been no large reaction.

/2/ Within the Lutheran communion:

The Lutheran Brotherhood while not essentially separatist has come into that mold. A small reactionary element has emerged following the Lutheran mergers of 1988 but the group is more one of continuity than separatism.

/3/ The Bible Churches

There are several in this bracket (several groups of) and they represent churches that either individually departed from some modern unbelief area or began fresh in some place as a modern unbelief reaction. The best known in our area is the IFCA but there are other bodies such as the Associated Gospel Churches, etc. Many churches called "Bible church" are unaffiliated with any of these groups. Some have limited connexions but most represent a turn away from the liberal and ecumenically minded molds.

/4/ The Independent churches

These are represented by congregations with all sorts of polity backgrounds and many of them carrying the old denominational name but remaining aloof from other joinings. They prefer that "independence" to being part of a structure. You will see "Independent Presbyterian", "Independent Lutheran", "Independent Methodist" from time to time.

/5/ New denominations:

Several have been formed. Some are charismatic. Most are reactionary along these lines.