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JUNE 1972

Conference Call

SAN DIEGO COUNTY
ECUMENICAL CONFERENCE

PHONE 232-6385

TO WITNESS FAITHFULLY AND VISIBLY TO OUR UNITY IN CHRIST

HAS IFSAC A FUTURE?

Only IF judicatories decide there is value in having a body, like that organized to meet the August challenge, continue in operation. It could either be on a stand-by basis, on call to meet special emergencies; or it could meet regularly to develop strategies and actions regarding human needs of concern to all the religious community.

After the Convention was moved from San Diego, Ralph Johnson urged consideration by the Inter Faith Task Force of the continuing need for its existence. Keith Mitchell was asked to form a committee to prepare a proposal. Those working with him are Chris Bennett, John Bingham, Wendy Holman, Richard Shanor, Mel Harter, Jon West, William Montgomery, and Ralph Johnson.

IFTF will meet June 27 in Temple Beth Israel at 8 a.m. to consider the proposal that local judicatories follow the national model of JSAC (Joint Strategy and Action), an autonomous group working in cooperation with NCC that considers various tasks. Then each judicatory decides the nature and extent of its participation. IFSAC (Inter Faith Strategy and Action) could be such a local group cooperating with EC.

SOME LEFT-OVERS

IFTF incurred obligations of $20,500 of which only $12,275 has been paid to date. It is hoped that judicatories will fulfill their financial commitments. Funds received so far have been from national and local United Methodist, United Presbyterian, national JSAC, and Church Women United.

Labor Not Lost

The Republican Convention is not coming to San Diego – what a relief! The Churches through the Interfaith Task Force had made many preparations for the convention. Probably many people feel all of this was done with no benefits for the Church. I believe at least three very significant benefits did come to the Church because of its planning.

1. A new ecumenical spirit was developed within the Task Force that included several religious bodies that are not members of the Ecumenical Conference. These denominational leaders are hopeful that the Task Force will be able to continue to deal with specific tasks relating to metropolitan San Diego.

2. The Churches responded with unity and a compatibility which commanded the respect of city and county officials, and other community leaders, demonstrating that the Church is not dead, but still can be a very vital force in our society.

3. The Churches, through the Interfaith Task Force, were able to relate in a significant way to many youth and young adults previously unrelated to the Church, who have new life styles. New trust relationships developed between the Church and these youth, which hopefully will continue for years to come.

Yes, the convention is not coming to San Diego, but the Churches and Synagogues, in preparing for it, probably have received 80% of the benefits to be realized if it were still coming to San Diego.

Congratulations to the Churches, and especially the members of the Interfaith Task Force, in this creative and unified response.

– C. Richard Shanor

FROM THERE TO HERE

Dr. Robert Mayo of First Presbyterian Church in San Diego has chosen this theme for the opening meditation at **A DAY OF RENEWAL.** Scripture will be from Luke 4:16–21. Bring your Bibles for this period of ecumenical prayer, study, and solitude.

"The Church is on the way out–TO THE WORLD" is the subject chosen by Dr. Ray Ryland of the USD School of Religious Studies to open the afternoon session. President Ralph Johnson will suggest opportunities for cooperative evangelism offered by KEY 73.

THE MEANING OF MISSION
Saturday, July 8 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
St. Charles Priory in Oceanside

"We need to experience spititual ecumenism as we pray together," said Msgr. John Portman, who heads the planning committee. The Benedictines have invited participants to concelebrate the morning mass with them. Those in charge of the small group meetings will be Jackie Williams, Julia Schilling, Wendy Holman, Ann George, Nancy Miller, Irene Dunham, Helen Schregardus, John Huber, John Nicholson, and Mel Harter.

REGISTER NOW since capacity is limited to 120. $3 cost includes luncheon, with a 50¢ reduction if checks reach EC by June 30. Coffee time and fellowship begins at 9:30 a.m. July 8.

ENTERTAINMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Fun and Fellowship

EC will have another theater party planned by Special Events Committee:

Friday, July 21 at 8:30 p.m.
Valley Music Theater, 1340 Broadway, El Cajon
"Oklahoma"

This new professional theater opened with *The Mikado* and was received with enthusiasm. Cast for *Oklahoma* is being selected for opening July 13. All seats will be $2.50. Tickets available at box office (442–0473) or EC.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED will have a bus tour to LAGUNA ART FESTIVAL – Tuesday, July 25. Cost is $8. Call Mrs. Carl Dagley (284–3480) for information.

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

JUNE

15 – at 7:30 p.m. – BOARD OF DIRECTORS at EC.

19 – at 7:30 p.m. – SOCIAL CONCERNS at First Lutheran. Cynthia Challberg will show pictures of wild life in Tijuana slough.

21 – INSTITUTIONAL CHAPLAINS bring lunch to EC. Report on County Chaplain's Advisory Committee

21 – at 2 p.m. at EC – NOMINATING COMMITTEE

27 – at 8 a.m. in Temple Beth Israel – INTERFAITH TASK FORCE to decide on future.

JULY

2 – at 9:30 a.m. LET THERE BE LIGHT on KFMB–TV. Panel headed by Fr. Pinta on youth problems.

8 – DAY OF RENEWAL – 10 A.M. to 4 p.m. at St. Charles Priory in Oceanside.

17 – at 7:30 p.m. in West Room of First Presbyterian Church in S.D. – PLAZA REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT explained.

18 – at 10 a.m. in Ecumenical Center at USD – ECUMENICAL RELATIONS STEERING COMMITTEE

21 – at 8:30 p.m. – "OKLAHOMA" EC Theater Party at Valley Music Theater, 1340 Broadway, El Cajon

July 2–8 – God Bless America Week. Daily prayers suggested at 11 a.m. asking God's blessing and guidance for our nation.

EC Board and Committees only meet on call during July and August. **The Call** will not be published until September.

FALL CALENDAR OF EC EVENTS

September 17 – Ecumenical Conference Sunday
Clergy are requested to bring mission of ecumenism to attention of congregations and to receive special offerings for EC.

September 30 – Fiesta Del Ecumenico – all day at Masonic Temple in Mission Valley. Requests for concessions are being received now by EC. Entertainers needed also.

October 15 – Key 73 mobilization and training at 8 p.m. First Baptist Church at 10th and E Street in S.D.

I was in prison . . . . .

Recruiting and training volunteers to conduct religious services and perform other functions is a major responsibility for County Chaplains: David Ellisor for juvenile institutions, William Mundt for Honor Camps, and Robert Youmans for jail. Jointly they have assisted EC in forming an Advisory Committee which on May 9 approved the following –

Guidelines for Selecting Volunteers

1. Observance of institutional regulations, including security.
2. Motivation for offering services should be carefully examined, what volunteer has to offer and expectation regarding his own rewards.
3. Freedom of expression should not include criticism of other assistance programs or other faiths.
4. A chaplain should respect persons holding beliefs with which he differs.
5. Chaplains should not undertake to offer services outside their field of training and competence, such as that of a therapist.
6. Sensitivity to personal needs and being a good listener are desirable qualifications.
7. Whatever the kind of personal involvement with an inmate, this should only be with full knowledge of the Chaplain in charge.
8. No mail or other items may be carried out for inmates and items may be brought in only with permission from the Chaplain in charge.

Purpose of the institutional chaplaincy, employed or volunteer, is to nurture faith in God which motivates constructive and meaningful living. The public is best served by offering variety in beliefs and interpretations from among persons of different ethnic backgrounds.

Committee Concerns

To form the Advisory Committee, EC invited the three departments, the Chaplains, Evangelical Association, and EC to each name two members with Chaplain Arthur Elcombe as convener. Charles Harlow is now chairman with Donald Webber being the other EC representative.

Salary equalization was and is a primary concern and adjustments are going into the new County budget. Joint training of volunteers is under consideration. Work is being done on an outline of chaplain services and functions.

FAIRNESS IN EDUCATION

In response to a communication from Rabbi Morton Cohn regarding a school teacher being allowed time off for a religious holiday observance, the Ecumenical Relations Steering Committee gave lengthy consideration to this matter. Kenneth R. Treat and Julia Schilling were asked to research this and the new guidelines for San Diego City Schools regarding religious holidays.

The following statement was approved by the EC Board May 18. It has been presented to San Diego City and County School administrators. Individuals are welcome to forward it to other school districts.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

We view our purpose as that of suggesting guidelines for the observance of holidays in Public Schools that will be fair to everyone. In a secular and pluralistic society it is essential that those arms of the State which have an element of compulsion about them (such as the public schools) operate in strict fairness to all concerned. Absolute justice is no more possible here than in any other area of life; however, society is obliged to attempt this goal to whatever extent possible.

Religious observance and instruction is the obligation of the family and the churches or synagogues. The intrusion of the State into this area has never been of any assistance to the sincere practice of religion. With this idea in mind, we propose the following suggestions:

1. We recommend that all teachers in public schools be given a specified number of days entitled "personal convenience leave." This may be used for sickness, emergency, or religious observance, etc., at the individual's discretion. This will put an end to the present practice in which teachers are forced to "call in sick" to observe some religious holidays.

2. We approve the new practice of designating vacation periods as "Winter" and "Spring" rather than "Christmas" and "Easter."

3. The question of "religious" observances in school is a little more difficult since the boundaries are not "neat" (e.g., the Pledge to the Flag contains the phrase "under God").

Religious observances intended as worship or indoctrination in public schools are obviously unjust as well as illegal and should be discouraged. On the other hand, it is impossible to teach adequately about our nation's and civilization's cultural heritage without reference to religion. Religion is a fact of human experience and cannot be ignored in any program of education. We can do no better than to fall back on the old distinction between "teaching religion" and "teaching about religion." The boundary is not sharp, but at some point we have to rely on the good sense and fairness of principals and teachers. We draw attention to the opinion of Supreme Court Justice Brennan who wrote a concurring opinion in the Schempp case in 1963:

The holding of the Court today (striking down devotional Bible reading in public schools) plainly does not foreclose teaching about the Holy Scriptures or about the differences between religious sects in classes in literature or history. Indeed, whether or not the Bible is involved, it would be impossible to teach meaningfully many subjects in the social sciences or the humanities without some mention of religion. To what extent, and at what points in the curriculum religious materials should be cited, are matters which the courts ought to entrust very largely to the experiences officials who superintend our Nation's public schools.

FROM MAY 20th

EC Board Report

Msgr. John Portman presided with Dion Hurt giving the invocation. William Brizendine was present in place of Jackie Williams, who has been hospitalized. Best wishes were offered John Portman on being named Administrator for The Immaculata. Regrets were expressed that John Russell and Rex Wilson are moving to other parishes.

John Huber leaves in August for a sabbatical in Strasbourg and Geneva. Kenneth Treat was named new chairman for Committee on Ecumenical Relations.

Treasurer Pitman reported April receipts of $2,563 and expenditures of $2,600. Old Globe benefit netted $490. Report of giving by churches was distributed to judicatory representatives, which updated to June 1 is as follows:

	1971	June 1, 1972	
Catholic (19)	$3,770	$150	(3)
Christian (8)	683	430	(5)
Episcopal (10)	922	376	(4)
Lutheran (LCA 7)	1,413	345	(2)
(ALC 3)	212	100	(1)
United Church of Christ (18)	2,154	638	(7)
United Methodist (17)	4,512	878	(11)
United Presbyterian (12)	3,335	695	(6)
Others (3)	247	234	(3)
Observers	0	0	
(97)	$17,248	$3,846	(42)

Regular monthly contributions are appreciated, particularly during the summer months.

Approval was given to have the executive director attend the National Consultation for Ecumenical Staff at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin June 25–30. Special Events Committee was asked to explore making available bumper stickers with an ecumenical message.

PLANNING PROGRESS

Leslie Atkinson and Howell Foster conducted three team building sessions for cooperation among judicatory executives. Foster is National Executive for New Churches and Extension for LCA and will be available to San Diego church planners on a part time basis. Dr. Shanor reported that EC has a verbal contract with Rancho San Diego for new town planning of social services. EC has retained Ronald Green for this task, working on a per diem basis with EC being compensated for administrative costs.

PROCLAMATION

Sister Monica Clark reported that INSIGHT films produced by Paulists will be shown beginning June 11 on KOGO–TV Sundays at 10 a.m. and on Oceanside CATV.

CONFERENCE COMMUNICATORS are being recruited by Kay Beth Kunsaitis (465–3815) to contact each member church about DAY OF RENEWAL July 8 and showing of EC film story.

RELIGION IN AMERICAN LIFE which produces and distributes materials nationally and locally through all media was given EC endorsement. Program was outlined to the Policy and Procedure Committee by Dr. H. Newton Hudson, Secretary to the Business Advisory Council for RIAL from New York City.

ENDORSEMENT OF KEY 73

This is a broad-based design to allow Christians in the U.S. and Canada to join other Christians to make known the Good News of Jesus Christ. Presently more than 100 denominations and Christian groups are involved and should result in tens of thousands of local congregations becoming engaged in witnessing and proclamation.

Working cooperatively or singly, a simultaneous, forceful and clearly made proclamation of the message and meaning of Christ can change the course of our civilization. EC offers its services to provide materials and serve as a catalyst for this effort.

To share with every person in North America more fully the claims and message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

To employ every means and method of communication for the Gospel that may enable men more readily to respond to the Holy Spirit.

To apply the message and meaning of Jesus Christ to the issues shaping man and his society in order that they may be resolved.

To develop new resources for effective evangelism by the participating churches.

To assist the services of congregations in becoming more effective as redemptive centers and witnesses of God's redeeming power in the world.

EC ROLE AND SERVICES

This will be to assist in preparations of congregations and judicatories, providing materials and calling such training sessions as they or ministerial associations shall request. Film and literature outlining procedures are available at EC, including "Bridges of Understanding" for $1.25.

The Rev. Kenneth R. Treat, headmaster for All Saint's Episcopal School, is the new chairman for the Ecumenical Relations Steering Committee, replacing the Rev. John Huber. He has both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Sacred Theology (from General Theological Seminary and the University of the South). While serving St. Timothy's in Jacksonville, Florida, he was a member of the Department of Missions for the Episcopal Diocese. He has been a chaplain in the U.S. Air Force.

The Rev. Priscilla Chaplin, Administrative Director of the Southern California Council of Churches, spoke at North San Diego CWU meeting June 2 on her experiences as a clergywoman. Following her graduation from Union Theological Seminary, she was the third woman to be ordained by the United Presbyterians and the first to serve a parish. She was first chairman of the General Assembly's Special Committee on the Role and Status of Women in the Church when it was organized in 1967.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY
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SAN DIEGO COUNTY
ECUMENICAL CONFERENCE
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SAN DIEGO, 92101
232-6385

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Vice President
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Secretary
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Financial Secretary
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Treasurer
Rev. Melvin H. Harter
Executive Director

MISCELLANY

Many thanks to the **Episcopal Clericus** for inviting EC executive to meet with them June 13 to discuss EC programs. Same is being done by **Institutional Chaplains** meeting at EC June 21 for lunch. New members of this Association are Chaplains at VA Hospital – John J. Kelley and Leonard Dorman; at the Jail – James Peterson; and director of Episcopal Community Service – Herbert C. Lazenby.

La Mesa United Methodist Church recently conducted special financial appeal for EC. . . . Wendy Holman replaced a well worn copy of EC Directory with a new one at Mission Bay Visitor's Center. . . . Downtown Ministerial Association is preparing a directory on meeting times for use in hotels and distribution in apartments. . . . William Montgomery is conducting an experimental ministry for apartment dwellers in beach areas.

Padre Hidalgo Center at 2277 National Avenue was dedicated by Bishop Leo T. Maher on its May 18 opening date. John Hurtado is director for this service to Spanish speaking people which will provide counseling, legal aid, immigration assistance, leadership training, health and referral services.

Peace Operations Center is working from phone number of John and Margaret Williams, 296-4000. . . . New ministerial association presidents are John Tincher for Clairemont and John Lee for Poway-Rancho Bernardo. . . . North Park and Escondido groups are considering ecumenical Vacation Church School programs for this summer. Latter community has begun training to launch its own FISH program. . . . La Jolla Churches conducted a **Walk for Brotherhood** May 21 to benefit SOFA.

Armed Forces Y in San Diego is providing hostel facilities on space available basis. . . **Job Training Opportunities** are being offered by County Schools through Regional Occupational Program. Call 278-6400 (224). . . . For information about classes in Modern Hebrew, call Helix Adult School office at 463-8717 after 1 p.m. . . . Excellent information on **Farmworkers' Movement** in January **Grapevine** is available from JSAC office, 475 Riverside Drive, New York 10027. **Corle** office at same address has document on Catholic membership in NCC available. Also **Church Financial Statistics for 1971** is available. . . . . Gift of illuminated cross is offered by Church of Religious Science (280-2400).

Special Program Offerings: Mustard Seed Players at P.B. Presbyterian Church 273-9312). David Yantis for contemporary worship, call 262-8671; Martin Luther King tapes for $6 from SCLC, 334 Auburn NE, Atlanta 30303; EC slide film story.

Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels serving the Hillcrest-Mission Hills area. Packers work from 1 to 2 p.m. and drivers from 4:15 to 5:30 p.m. Also more shut-ins can be served. Call Bessie Barnes, coordinator, at 297-3260. Many other kinds of service can be used by the **County Volunteer Services** (279-8300, Ext. 367).

Summer Camp opportunities being offered include **Conference on World Mission** at Asilomar July 28 to August 1. Some scholarships are available from American Bible Society.

Summer Ministries is accepting donations of scholarships and youth applications for a variety of summer experiences. Call 286-8080.

Brotherhood USA for high school youth is offered August 13-20 by NCCJ. For application or scholarship information call 232-6113.

Christian Family Movement Area 14 Seminar '72 at Stanford University June 17-18.

San Diegans need help hosting 40 French travellers July 23-26. Call Macy at 224-5169.

Choral Conductors' Guild '72 Convention at Whittier College June 16-17.

DEATH PENALTY NOT DEAD

In a crucial vote May 2 on the Deukmejian measure, it fell 2 short of the 2/3 required. Proposal is to put on the November ballot a Constitutional Amendment to override the Supreme Court's February 18 ruling that outlawed the death penalty. San Diego Senate votes were Jack Schrade and Clair Burgener, YES; James Mills, NO. Measure can still be reconsidered.

Now signatures are being sought on an initiative measure to have a November vote which might legalize this "cruel and unusual punishment."

CONFERENCE COMMUNICATORS held their first meeting May 8 as luncheon guests of Marge Harter with Ireme Johnson and Amy Wayte assisting. Plans were made to contact clergy of member congregations to secure commitment of key lay leaders to become channels for information on EC programs. Back row left to right are Frances Carson, Marie Lint, Marge Harter, Julia Schilling, Monica Clark, Wendy Holman, and Arlene Hales. In front are Joyce Faggot and Kay Beth Kunsoitis, chairman, who is recruiting more volunteers. Mary Portman was also present.