Series C: Interreligious Activities. 1952-1992
Box 39, Folder 3, National Conference of Evangelicals and Jews,
28 February - 1 March 1983.
January 19, 1983

Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum
Rabbi A. James Rudin

I am enclosing Marvin Wilson’s minutes of the meeting I had at Gordon College with him and Professor Thomas Askew regarding the 3rd national conference on Evangelicals and Jews.

As you can see, it was a wide range meeting and we need to meet soon to decide which issues and which speakers we want for the 1984 conference. We also need to talk about budget.

Many thanks.

AJR:FM
Encls.
January 15, 1983
(First Draft for Discussion)

3rd NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF EVANGELICALS AND JEWS
at
Gordon College, Wenham, Massachusetts
February 28, 29, March 1, 1984

Co-sponsors: American Jewish Committee
Gordon College (in conjunction with its Centennial Symposium Series)

Possible Suggested Themes
- Two Faiths Evangelicals & Jews in American Life
- Jewish and Evangelical Christian Heritage in America
- The Jewish and Evangelical Experience in America
- Twenty Centuries of Jewish-Christian Relations
- Evangelical and Jewish Heritage Historical Reflections
- Evangelicals and Jews in American Society The Shaping of Two Faith Communities

Possible Special Guest Speakers
(one or more of the following should be contacted immediately)

Berger, Peter
Graham, Billy
Hatfield, Mark

255 GRAPEVINE ROAD, MASSACHUSETTS 01984 TELEPHONE (617) 927 2300
Johnson, Timothy (M.D. on ABC, TV)
Marty, Martin
Metzenbaum, H
Moyers, Bill
Potok, Chaim
Robertson, Pat
Sider, Ron
Stendahl, Krister
Tuchman, Barbara
White, Theodore
Wiesel, Elie
Editor of Sojourners magazine

Possible Topics for Papers:

1.) EDUCATION

   -The future of private and public education
   -Uniqueness of Christian private education and Jewish private education

2.) THE MEDIA

   -The minister and rabbi in today's films & literature (stereotypes?)
   -Evangelicals, Jews and the Electronic Church
   -The impact of the media upon religion
   -View together Potok's film, "The Chosen" and discuss

3.) LITERATURE

   -The Jewish novel/ the Christian novel
   -Impact of Evangelical & Jewish Journalism
4.) SCIENCE
- Big science and values (technology and morality)
- Medical Ethics: depersonalization, dehumanization, sanctity of life issues
- Test tube babies, genetic control, artificial insemination, abortion etc.
- Nuclear warfare evangelical and Jewish perspectives

5.) FAMILY
- Aging in Jewish and Christian Traditions
- Role of women
- Divorce
- Singleness
- Alternatives to the Nuclear Family
- Impact of Computers on Family Life of Future

6.) SELF DEFINITION
- Who are the evangelicals and how are they changing?
- What is a Jew and how are Jews changing?
- Orthodoxy (Fundamentalism in Judaism and Christianity)
- Comparative Study of Hasidism and Fundamentalism (Christian)
- Impact of Cults upon Jews and Evangelicals
- "Chosenness" in Jewish Thought
- Triumphalism, Evangelicalism and Pluralism
- Resurgent Fundamentalism in Judaism and Christianity

7.) BIBLE
- Role of the Bible in American History (shaping of values)
- Use of the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures) by Puritans and/or Pilgrims.
- Use of the Bible in American public education
- Talmud and New Testament
- Apocrypha in Jewish and Christian Traditions
- Psalms in the Jewish Tradition
- Pentecost in Christian Tradition
- Passover and Lord's Supper: Comparison and Contrast

8.) POLITICS

- Jews and the history of American politics conflict and concord
- The New Religious Right Politics and American Pluralism
- The impact of personal faith in politics Does it make a difference?
- State-religious-value issues and the Supreme Court Decisions
- Foundational societal moral values and public policy decisions

9.) FOUNDATIONAL ISSUES

The 1st Century:
- Church and Synagogue: parting of the ways
- The Pharisees and Jesus
- Jewish Christianity: Origin of movement to current expression

10.) ACCULTURATION AND ASSIMILATION

- The Americanization of the Synagogue and Church
- Intermarriage in Jewish & Evangelical Traditions

11.) COMMUNITY

- Search for Community: Private vs. Community Religion
- Denominationalism vs. parachurch/parasynagogue activities and structure
- The Black Jew and Black Evangelical
12.) HISTORICAL RELATIONS

- Church Fathers on Jews
- Talmudic Attitudes Toward Non-Jews
- Disputations: A Survey of Major Issues
- Marranos: origin and contemporary expression
- Messianic movements: The Sabbataeans
- Martin Luther and the Jews
- Christian Zionism. Gabelein; Lord Shaftsbury etc
- Teaching about the Holocaust
- Anti-Semitism and the New Testament

Agenda for Tomorrow The Future of Evangelical-Jewish Relations

Other Matters:

1) Housing at King's Grant Inn in Danvers, Massachusetts (7 min. from campus)

2) Meals taken on campus in Dining Hall (no students on campus at this time since it is between terms, dining hall, therefore available for possible banquet)

3) Transportation from airport (Logan) via campus van (40 minutes)