Series C: Interreligious Activities. 1952-1992
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OUR
DIVIDED SOCIETY
A CHALLENGE
to
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

NATIONAL CONVENTION
of the
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 23 to 26, 1969

THE PALMER HOUSE
Chicago, Illinois

Send all inquiries to
H. E. Wornom, General Secretary
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
545 West 111th Street, New York, N.Y. 10025
HOTEL RESERVATIONS

The Palmer House is the Convention Hotel. All meetings of the Convention will be held there. The hotel has set aside 300 guest rooms for single occupancy at $11.00 per night; additional single rooms will be available at $12.00; double occupancy rooms at $18.00. These are special rates for R.E.A.'s Convention. All rooms have private baths. Reservations for rooms should be made early and directly with the Palmer House in Chicago, if possible not later than November 15. Rooms at the special rate may be available after that date, but cannot be guaranteed. Early reservations are likely to be assigned better rooms.

In order to make reservations efficiently, use the special Palmer House, R.E.A. Convention business reply card, if it is enclosed with this program. If you do not have the special reservation reply card, then write the Palmer House, Chicago, Ill., and specify that you are attending the National Convention of The Religious Education Association November 23-26, 1960 and ask that you be given the special Convention rates. Also, be sure to specify the time of your arrival and departure.

TRAVEL RESERVATIONS

Make your plane and train reservations early. Since the Convention ends at noon on Thanksgiving Eve, it is essential to have your return airlines or railroad reservation made well in advance of your coming to Chicago.

REGISTRATION, MEMBERSHIP, LUNCHEON

Registrations for the Convention should be made directly with The Religious Education Association (not with the hotel), and remittance for registration fees should be made payable to and sent to The Religious Education Association. Likewise, reservations for the Convention Luncheon ($5.00 per plate) should be made directly with R.E.A. All reservations for the Luncheon and registrations should be accompanied with remittance for the cost thereof. Use enclosed form.

It will be noted below that registration fees for R.E.A. members are less than for non-members. However, non-members who wish to join the Association at the time of registering for the Convention may do so at a special combination Membership and Registration rate of $16.00. Regular membership dues are $10.00. They cover, as does the special combination Convention rate,
a year’s subscription to bi-monthly RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, in which Convention papers will be published. The combination Convention Registration and Membership rate of $16.00 provides a saving of $4.00 on membership and $3.00 on registration, or a total of $7.00.

Rates for Registration, for combination Registration and Membership, and for the Luncheon are as follows:

Registration for Members of R.E.A...........................$10.00

Registration for Non-Members .................................$13.00

Combination Registration Fee and Membership
Dues for Non-Members who join the R.E.A.
at time of registration ...........................................$16.00
(Dues include subscription to bimonthly Religious Education in which Convention papers will appear.)

Convention Luncheon for Members or Non-Members...........................................$5.00
(Reservations must be made and paid for in advance.)

Registration and luncheon reservations should be made as soon as possible by filling our enclosed registration and remittance card and sending it with check or postal order to

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
545 West 111th Street, New York, N. Y. 10025

When you send your registration, please give your full name, complete address, religious and professional connections, and, most important, indicate your first, second, and third choices of the seminars by numbers as given on pages 9 through 11.

THE CONVENTION THEME

Our society is divided into conflicting groups—black and white, poor and affluent, the “new” and “other” generations, the have and have-not nations, etc. Sometimes these groups ignore one another; increasingly they become polarized in confrontation and conflict, sometimes violent, their relations distorted by hate and prejudice. The brotherhood of mankind is denied or held to be utopian.

The curricula of religious education have given little attention to these deep divisions in our society and religious education classes or groups are rarely consciously involved in exploring these divisions in the light of their religious heritage. Often they are committed to institutional behavior which supports such divisions without being aware of what they do, and when aware, they frequently give tacit consent.

But these divisions have become so acute and the basis of their support so contrary to our religious heritage, that religious education must now give major attention to them or remain irrelevant to the great moral crises of our day.

Religious education, by influencing the social understanding and attitudes of children and youth, may play a significant role in reconciling divisions. Conflicting groups may be brought together as part of the religious education process.
PROGRAM

All events and meetings of the Convention will be in the Palmer House.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23:

2:00 p.m. — REGISTRATION for the Convention begins in the West Corridor (lounge) on the 4th floor and continues throughout Sunday and Monday morning.

3:30 p.m. — TEA AND FELLOWSHIP HOUR in the Crystal Room, 3rd floor.

4:00 p.m. — SEMINAR LEADERS MEETING — State Ballroom, 4th floor.

8:00 p.m. — OPENING ASSEMBLY — Grand Ballroom, 4th floor.

Theme: WHITE RACISM: BLACK DEVELOPMENT

DR. ALVIN PITCHER
Professor of Ethics and Society
Divinity School, University of Chicago

REV. DR. JESSE JACKSON
National Director, Operation Breadbasket
Southern Christian Leadership Conference

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24

9:00 a.m. — SECOND ASSEMBLY — Grand Ballroom

Theme: YOUTH CULTURE AND THE GENERATION GAP

HARRY REASONER and his son STUART, in filmed dialogue—"Pull the House Down," on drugs, sex, race, greed, campus revols, Vietnam

DR. JAMES C. McLEOD,
Formerly Dean of Students, Northwestern University,
will moderate

A LIVE PANEL OF YOUNG PEOPLE

11:15 to 12:15 — SEMINARS — Meeting rooms to be announced

The Convention will divide at this time into 25 or more seminar groups. Each member of the Convention, at time of registration, will choose one of these groups. Each seminar with the same membership and field of work will continue its discussions on Monday afternoon, Tuesday morning, Tuesday afternoon, and Wednesday morning at the times given below.

2:00 to 5:00 p.m. — SEMINAR SESSIONS continued.
8:00 p.m. — THIRD ASSEMBLY —
Grand Ballroom

Theme: AMERICAN WORLD POWER AND
OUR DIVIDED CONSCIENCE

DR. ALAN GEYER,
Editor, Christian Century and recently, Director of
International Relations, United Church of Christ
and
PANEL OF STUDENTS FROM:
Latin America, Southeast Asia and U.S.A.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25

9:00 to 11:45 a.m. — SEMINAR SESSIONS continued.
12:15 to 2:15 p.m. — CONVENTION LUNCHEON
Grand Ballroom

Theme: RELIGIOUS LEARNING THROUGH INVOLVEMENT
IN SOCIAL CONFLICT AND SERVICE

DR. OSWALD P. BRONSON,
President and Professor of Christian Education,
Interdenominational Theological Center, Atlanta

And Panel

DR. RANDOLPH C. MILLER, Moderator
Horace Bushnell Professor of Christian Nurture,
Yale University Divinity School

DR. ROBERTA STEINBACHER,
Associate Director, Project Bridge, Cleveland

REV. ROY COLBY,
Glenview Community Church, Illinois

MGR. ROBERT FOX,
Director, Full Circle Associates, N.Y.C.

A brief business session to elect officers of The Religious
Education Association will precede the address.

2:30 to 5:00 p.m. — SEMINAR SESSIONS continued.

7:30 p.m. — FOURTH ASSEMBLY —
Grand Ballroom

Theme: PILOT PROGRAMS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
IN A DIVIDED SOCIETY

SR. MARGARET ELLEN TRAXLER,
National Catholic Conference on Interracial Justice, Chicago

MRS. JANE WOLFORD,
Director, Institute for Continuing Education,
Archdiocese of Detroit

RABBI BALFOUR BRICKNER,
Associate Director, Commission on Social Action,
Union of American Hebrew Congregations, N.Y.C.

DR. EDWIN McLANE,
Director, Department of Religious Education,
Glenview Community Church, Illinois

REV. VERN ROSSMAN,
Executive Director, Indiana Interreligious
Commission on Human Equality
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

8:45 to 9:35 — SEMINARS — final sessions

9:45 to 10:35 a.m. — FIFTH ASSEMBLY —
Grand Ballroom

SEMINAR LEADERS
will present resolutions and recommendations for action

10:45 a.m. — FINAL ASSEMBLY — Grand Ballroom

Theme: WORKING TOGETHER FOR OUR COMMON
HUMANITY — Celebration and Address

MR. WHITNEY YOUNG,
Executive Director, National Urban League

SEMINARS & WORKSHOPS

Each seminar or workshop group will be concerned directly or indirectly with some or all of the following: (a) the effect of divisions in our society on human relations; (b) the role of religious education in helping people to understand the injustices which bring about divisions; (c) the reconciling task of religious education; and (d) appreciation of our common humanity and the dignity of all men as sons of God.

Each group will try to pinpoint the issues and problems in its field which make for division or reconciliation; consider the place of these issues and problems in programs of religious education for youth and adults; make recommendations for experimentation and pilot projects, and for change in educational structures and programs.

Delegates registering in advance may express a choice of seminars. Each delegate will be assigned to only one seminar according to his expressions of first, second and third choices made at the time of registration. Delegates should remain with the same seminar throughout the convention unless, for some special reasons presented to the registration desk, they might be reassigned.

Each group will have four or five sessions: Monday, November 24, 11:15-12:15 and 2:00-5:00; Tuesday, November 25, 9:00-11:45 and 2:30-5:00; Wednesday, November 26, 8:45-9:35. The Wednesday morning session is optional.

Each seminar will have a chairman, recorder, and three or more resource leaders. This leadership panel for each seminar will determine its agenda and procedures and guide its discussion.

The numbered (1-30) topics, along with the lettered (A-E) categories under which seminars are grouped, as given below, suggest only some of the content to be covered in each seminar. The full agenda will be announced at the first meeting of each seminar on Monday morning, November 24. The agenda may be revised as discussion proceeds, in order to deal with major concerns expressed by members of the group.
At the time of going to press with this program, we could give only those chairman and many resource leaders have been invited but their acceptance not confirmed. The full list of leaders and recorders will be announced later.

The Convention reserves the right not to offer a seminar if there is not sufficient registration for it.

The seminars which have been planned are:

A. Seminars on Relations Between Whites, Blacks and Other Minorities, and on the Challenge to Religious Education to Understand and Improve These Relations.

1. White racism—Institutional, cultural, personal

Chairman:

REV. HARLEY COOK,
Director, "Toward an Open Society" program,
Community Renewal Society, Chicago

2. Black religious experience

Chairman:

DR. CHARLES SHELBY Rooks,
Exec. Director, Fund for Theological Education,
Princeton, N.J.

3. Black power and separatism

Chairman:

DR. M. L. WILSON,
Pastor, Consent Ave. Baptist Church, N.Y.C.,
Chairman, National Committee of Black Churchmen,
President, Council of Churches of the City of N.Y.

4. Black and brown economic development

Chairman:

MRS. BRENNETA HOWELL (invited)
Coordinator, Chicago Economic Development Corp.

5. Spanish Americans

Chairman:

REV. JOHN D. RING,
Exec. Director, Archdiocesan Latin American Committee, Chicago

6. Housing and environment

Chairman:

REV. HOWARD W. SMITH,
Assoc. Director, Chicago Conference on Religion and Race
7. Quality and/or integrated education—elementary and secondary

Chairman:

RT. REV. MSCR. JAMES C. DONOHUE,
Director, Division of Elementary
and Secondary Education,
U.S. Catholic Conference, Washington

7a. Higher education and minorities

Chairman:

REV. ROLLINS LAMBERT,
Pastor, St. Dorothy's Church, Chicago
Recently, Campus Ministry, U. of Chicago

8. Civil rights, the police and courts

Chairman:

MR. PETER FITZPATRICK,
Chairman, Chicago Commission on Human Relations,
Past President, Illinois Bar Association

9. Health and welfare

Chairman:

MR. MONROE B. SULLIVAN,
Exec. Director, Chicago Conference on
Religion and Race

10. Employment

Chairman:

To be Announced

B. Seminars on Youth Culture and Protest, the
Values and Milieu of the Establishment and the
Approach of Religious Agencies to Youth.

11. Breakdown of family life and permissiveness in the home

Chairman:

DR. DONALD BARRETT (invited)
Sociology Dept., University of Notre Dame

12. Nature and relevance of school and college life and curriculum to the values of youth and needs of society

Chairman:

DR. JAMES C. McLEOD,
Professor of Religion and formerly Dean of Students,
Northwestern University

13. Youth alienation from and protest against the establishment and middle class culture including church and synagogue; humanistic versus capitalistic values and the generation gap

Chairman:

PROF. MAURICE FRIEDMAN,
Dept. of Religion, Temple University, Phila.
14. Playboy sex, mutual affection sex and bible sex
Chairman:
REV. GEORGE HAGMAIER, C.S.P.,
Paulist Institute for Religious Research, N.Y.C.

15. Drugs for escape or religious experience
Chairman:
WALTER PAHNKE, M.D.
Director of Clinical Sciences,
Maryland Psychiatric Research Center,
Author, Drugs & Mysticism

16. Search for new forms of community and new religious values
Chairman:
REV. DONALD R. CAMPION, S.J.,
Editor, America, N.Y.C.

C. Seminars on Our Moral and Religious Concern for America’s Military and Economic Power.

17. America in Vietnam and Third World nations
Chairman:
DR. STAUFFER CURRY,
Director, Interfaith Activities,
Fellowship of Reconciliation

18. Military expansion versus the war on poverty
Chairman:
MR. JAMES HARRIS,
Exec. Director, National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice, Chicago

19. The draft and conscientious objection
Chairman:
REV. L. WILLIAM YOLTON,
Exec. Director, Emergency Ministry on Conscience and War, Ph.D.
United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., Philadelphia

D. Seminars on Learning for Living

20. Learning through art, dance, music
Chairman:
To Be Announced

21. Sensitivity training
Chairman:
MRS. CARMAN ST. JOHN HUNTER,
Assoc. Director, Service to Dioceses
Episcopal Church, New York
22. Education to counter racism

Chairman:

SR. OLIVIA BARRETT, R.S.M.,
Education Consultant, Illinois Commission on
Human Relations, Chicago

23. Learning through involvement in social
conflict and service

Chairman:

REV. C. ALBERT KOOB,
Exec. Secretary, National Catholic Educational
Association, Washington

24. How to form values which transcend social
conflict and create community despite
differences

Chairman:

To be Announced

E. Workshops

25. Producing guidelines or syllabi for social
action projects on

a. race relations
b. generation gap
c. American world power

(Leadership to be chosen to fit needs of registrants)

26. Evaluating audio-visuals and other media
for social action communication

Chairman:

REV. WILLIAM E. WIMER,
Director, Office for Audio-Visuals
United Church of Christ, Phila.

27. Guidelines on discovery of social needs of
a church group or neighborhood

Chairman:

DR. GARY ONIKI (invited)
Director, Research and Planning,
Community Renewal Society, Chicago

28. A project to get a religious publisher to
produce curricula more relevant to blacks
and the inner city

Chairman:

To be Announced
29. Evaluating religious curricula for youth in terms of relevance to social conflict

Chairman:

REV. MARK J. LINK, S.J.,
St. Ignatius High School, Chicago
Author, Youth in the Modern World

30. Guidelines for training religious educators for fostering religious learning through involvement in social change

Chairman:

REV. RAYMOND LUCKER,
Director, Dept. of Education,
U.S. Catholic Conference, Washington

CONVENTION PROGRAM COMMITTEE

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Chairman of the Board of Directors of The Religious Education Association; Editor-in-Chief,
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U.S. Catholic Conference, Washington, D.C.

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Audio Visuals, Div. of Christian Education,
United Church of Christ, Boston

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New York Theological Seminary, New York City

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Dept. of Religious Education, Fordham University,
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Rev. A. J. O'Leary, O.P. (Alternate for Fr. Mainelli),
Center for Studies in Religious Education, Chicago

Prof. Marcus Priester, Dean,
McDermott Theological Seminary, Chicago

Rev. John Sheerin, Editor, Catholic World,
New York City

Rev. Dr. Grant Shoemaker, Secretary for Christian Education,
Div. of World Mission, The United Methodist Church,
New York City

Rabbi David W. Silverman, Director,
Dept. of Special Education, Teachers Institute,
Jewish Theological Seminary, New York City

Rabbi Jack Spiro, Director,
Commission on Jewish Education, Union of American
Hebrew Congregations, New York City

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, Director,
Interreligious Affairs Dept., American Jewish Committee,
New York City

Dr. Marvin Taylor, Dean,
St. Paul School of Theology, Kansas City

Sr. Rose Albert Thuring, Academic Coordinator,
Institute of Judeo-Christian Studies, Seton Hall University,
So. Orange, N.J.

Dr. Lee Edwin Walker, Assistant General Secretary,
Board of Christian Education, United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., Philadelphia

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September 19, 1969

To Members of the Program Committee for the National Convention of R.E.A.:

Out of the thinking done by the two long meetings of the Program Committee, several meetings of the Executive Committee and much work by the R.E.A. office, the enclosed program for our National Convention emerged. On the whole, the program represents gratifying success in achieving what finally seemed desirable to the Executive Committee.

We now need to make the Convention and its program widely known to religious leaders and educators across the country. The R.E.A. office and cooperating agencies will mail invitations to over 10,000 individuals. However, more effective in encouraging attendance will be personal invitations extended by R.E.A. members and Program Committee to their colleagues and acquaintances.

I hope that each of you will do this and will promptly request a quantity of the programs to go with such invitations. Please let us know how many by the enclosed reply card.

We hope, of course, that all members of the Program Committee will attend the Convention. If you have not already expressed a preference for the seminar in which you wish to participate, please let us know by the card your first and second choice.

In advance, my thanks for your kind cooperation.

Gordially yours,

Herman E. Wornom
General Secretary

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National Convention · 67th Year · Palmer House, Chicago · 23-26 November 1969
“Our Divided Society: A Challenge to Religious Education”