

REVEREND HARVEY PROCHNAU - Evangelical Covenant

INTERVIEWED:

April 9, 1975

T.43.1

Rev. Prochnau is here in Richmond under the auspices of the Evangelical Covenant Church in North America.

There is no church building at the present as this is sponsored by the Home Missions Department of Chicago, Illinois and under the specific direction of the Evangelical Covenant Church, Canadian Conference.

Reasons for Presence

About a year ago, some interest was made known to the Superintendent who is also Pastor of the Surrey congregation. About 10 people had shown interest in having a ministry in Richmond under the Covenant Church.

Reverend Prochnau was approached as he was a Pastor in Wisconsin and had shown he was interested in being a Pastor with the Evangelical Covenant in Chicago. He made contact with the Director of the Board of Ministries, then was asked by the Superintendent of the Canadian Conference to come out and do Pastorate Development work in Richmond.

He has been here approximately 6 months. He was given a list of those interested and others too.

Development

Meetings on Wednesday evenings at 726 Railway Ave., but group not ready to undertake a Sunday morning service. Have done self-awareness work and Biblical studies. Rev. Prochnau concludes however that the group are not ready to undertake a congregational status and so decision is underway to either search out other people who may be interested or close down - (gives some reasons).

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Doctrine

Covenant position allows great amount of freedom for minister. Is very evangelical and a servant to spreading the Gospel. Certain fundamentalistic doctrines of personal awareness.

Ordination

Reverend Prochnau holds his ordination credentials from the Moravian Church dating back to pre-reformation times, but if he stays with the Covenant he can transfer his credentials. He would continue to use "Reverend".

If he chooses not to continue in Richmond, he would make his name known to Chicago and his name would be submitted to churches wanting a minister. The decision to move on is personal and the Denomination could send someone else in.

Format if there is a continuation

1. Formation of cell groups or KOINONIA (Greek word), then forming into mission groups serving the community in specific needs - elderly or youth. No great desire to centralize in a building.
2. Role of women - no distinction between men and women in administration or ministry.
3. Upkeep - would pay upkeep of minister by yearly type of pledge. Present house is rented by Rev. Prochnau from owner of house, being reimbursed through Denomination.

M. NOBLE