

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD DURING THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON
MISSION STUDIES IN RÖNNINGEN FOLKEHÖGSKOLE, OSLO, ON THURSDAY
27th and FRIDAY 28th AUGUST 1970.

In the Chair: Professor Hans-Werner Gensichen, Heidelberg;
51 members of the Conference present.

An International Association for Missionary Studies: Professor O.G. Myklebust, Oslo, presented a paper 'Is the time not ripe for the creation of an international association for missiology and related fields of research?'

Proposed by Dr. M. Peltola, Helsinki, seconded by President P.R. Clifford, Birmingham:

"To found an International Association for Mission Studies.
To proceed to appoint a provisional working committee to prepare in co-operation with the Egede Institute a constitution for the Association."

The motion was approved.

Secretary: Professor Myklebust was designated Secretary, and the offer of the Egede Institute to provide free office accommodation and to serve as secretariat was gratefully accepted.

Provisional Committee: The following were appointed as the provisional committee:

Professor Arnulf Camps, O.F.M., Nijmegen, Professor H.-W. Gensichen, Professor O.G. Myklebust, Dr. S.J. Samartha, Geneva, Mr. A.F. Walls, Aberdeen; the provisional committee to designate a chairman from among their number.

Meeting of the Association: Agreed that a meeting be convened in the Netherlands during August 1972, at dates to be determined by the Provisional Committee, avoiding those of the Semaine de Missiologie, Louvain. A preference for three full days of conference was indicated.

Agreed that the meeting make provision for the reading of short papers in groups reflecting members' specialist interests.

Topics suggested as a general theme included: Research and literary production on Mission - a reappraisal; The political dimension of Mission; New ways of realizing Christian structures; New forms of ministry in local churches; Manifestations of secularization in the world's religions; Preparation - a pneumatological and eschatological problem; Are pluralistic missionary situations helping or hindering?; Theologia religionis/religionum, or Theologia et religia/religiones. Determination of a general theme was referred to the Provisional Committee.

Bibliography and Documentation: Mr. Walls reported on a meeting of a group of members concerned with bibliographical, documentation and information services. The group had concluded that there was a need for more information in systematic form about existing resources and services and requested the Provisional Committee to sponsor a questionnaire to this end; urged that institutions compile and exchange lists of periodical holdings; that institutions adopt, after due consultation, a standard form for recording bibliographical information; that a comprehensive bibliography for Mission Studies was desirable, with careful determination of its relationship with existing projects; that institutes should meanwhile seek at least local or national comprehensiveness with a view to exchange of information; and

that future conferences should provide for news and discussion of documentation and other instrumenta studiorum for mission studies.

The report was accepted.

Journal: A need for an international, ecumenical and scientific journal of mission studies was generally voiced. The Provisional Committee were instructed to investigate the possibilities and to consult the editors of the Zeitschrift für Missionswissenschaft and the Neue Zeitschrift für Missionswissenschaft. President Clifford indicated that the Selly Oak Colleges might be in a position to offer editorial resources at an appropriate time.

Conference Papers: President Clifford indicated readiness to approach a publisher with a view to securing publication of the papers given in the 1970 Conference as a pamphlet. Agreed that, failing such publication, the papers might appear in the proposed journal, the authors having full liberty to place them elsewhere.

Personalia. The meeting recorded its disappointment that Professor Arno Lehmann, Halle, had been prevented from attending.

On the motion of Professor B.G.M. Sundkler, Uppsala, a letter of greeting was sent to Professor J. Glazik, Münster, in his illness.

Thanks. The meeting recorded its indebtedness to Professor Myklebust and the Board of the Egede Institute for their hospitality and for the organization of the conference; to Professor Gensichen as conference chairman; to the Principal and staff of Rönningen Folkehögskole, and to the stewards and helpers; and to the Sacra Congregatio de Propaganda Fide and Evangelische Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Weltmission for grants towards expenses.