

Fact:

One third of all Hungarians live in Romania, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Western Europe, North and South America, and Australia.

## Calvin Synod Serves Hungarian Diaspora

The Calvin Synod was organized in 1939 as part of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Although functioning now as a conference of the United Church of Christ with offices in Hammond, Indi-

ana, it is unlike the other 38 conferences. It encompasses 42 churches of the Hungarian Reformed tradition located in nine states: Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

Also unlike other conferences, its executive is a bishop. He is Arpad L. Beretz.

Calvin Synod membership for 1973 was 5,867 with 1,273 enrolled in church schools. Four regional classes, comparable to associations, have offices in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (Central Classis), Perth Amboy, New Jersey (Eastern Classis), Cleveland, Ohio (Lakeside Classis), and Chicago, Illinois (Western Classis). The dean of each classis serves in a similar capacity as an association minister.

Approximately one million Hungarians now live in the United States. It is estimated that from 10,000 to 15,000 are members of the United Church of Christ. Of the 110 Hungarian Reformed

CALVIN SYNOD

1974

Churches in the United States and Canada, more than half of those located in the U.S. are part of the United Church of Christ.

Bilingual services are conducted in almost all the churches affiliated with the Calvin Synod, one in Hungarian and another in English each Sunday. The official organ of the synod is the bilingual monthly magazine called the *Calvin Synod Herald (Reformatusok Lapja)*. A newsletter, printed in Hungarian with a summary in English, is also distributed on a regular basis.

In addition to financial support of United Church of Christ national agencies and programs, Calvin Synod churches also contribute to projects of special interest to Hungarians in this country, such as an orphanage, a home for the aged, and refugee programs. A youth camp and summer schools provide a realistic means to foster unity and preserve Hungarian culture and language among young people.

Calvin Synod churches also invest on a voluntary basis in diverse projects overseas, such as flood relief in Hungary and Argentina, gifts of heart-lung machines, paper for printing a new Hungarian Bible, and support for Hungarian Reformed churches in South America.

John Butosi, pastor of the Hungarian Reformed Church (United Church of Christ) in South Norwalk, Connecticut, feels that the work of the Calvin Synod itself is a specialized ministry.

"Our existence as Calvin Synod and our ministry to the Hungarian Reformed diaspora [geographically scattered churches] are intertwined," he explains. "It is one realistic way to practice unity among scattered Hungarian Reformed people in the United States. The lessening of UCC financial support to some of our diaspora churches makes this ministry even more imperative for us."

In March, members of the Calvin Synod Council and the Bishop's Council of the Hungarian Reformed Church in America agreed to form a new body to be called The United Hungarian Reformed Church. Under this plan, congregations and judicatories will remain members of their present church bodies; pastors and their ministries will be mutually recognized. The new structure will be governed by a United Bishops' Council, which will include at least six members from each denomination.

Ann Francis

"A.D. 1974," Philadelphia, Pa.

October

P. 63-64

