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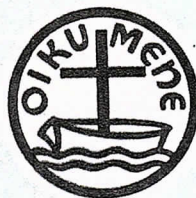
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The  
**EVANSTON**  
**INSTITUTE**  
for  
**ECUMENICAL**  
**STUDIES**

incorporated  
**MARCH 1957**

## WHAT IS THE EVANSTON INSTITUTE FOR ECUMENICAL STUDIES?

The Evanston Institute for Ecumenical Studies is a Christian study and research center. It is concerned with the unity and renewal of the Christian Church, and will provide leadership training for clergy and laity. Here, Christians from different backgrounds will learn to understand one another better by studying, worshipping and living together.

The Institute is also a conference center where Christian laymen will study the meaning of their vocation in the world, and where they will search for the significance of the Christian faith for the problems and decisions of their personal and professional lives.

Scholars will be engaged in year-round research at the Institute, analyzing the grave social and ethical problems which confront our generation and which are of great concern to the Church as a whole. This research will aid the churches in gaining deeper understanding of the problems of our time, and in arriving at creative solutions. The Institute will provide the opportunity for qualified graduate students to assist in the ongoing research. The results of the Institute's studies will be published and widely distributed to the churches, local congregations, and institutions of higher learning. At present, the Institute is organizing an ecumenical library, which will meet a vital need in Christian higher education in this country.

The Institute's Headquarter and conference center is located in Evanston, Illinois 1558 Ridge Avenue.

## WHAT DOES ECUMENICAL MEAN?

The word "ecumenical" means "world-wide" and "one". It is used to describe the essential unity of the Christian Church, regardless of its external divisions. In our day, the ever-growing movement for world-wide cooperation of all Christians, expressed in such organizations as the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches, is called the "Ecumenical Movement".

This movement, greatly stimulated by the awareness of a world on the verge of war and destruction, strives for both the unity and renewal of the Church.

Deeply aware of the danger of uniformity, the Institute seeks new expressions of Christian unity by bringing together the rich diversity which we have in our different Christian traditions, and by exploring new ways in which a Christian voice can be heard in our day.

## HOW DID THE EVANSTON INSTITUTE ORIGINATE?

The Evanston Institute is a direct outgrowth of the second assembly of the World Council of Churches, which met in Evanston in 1954. Delegates asked for the foundation of a center where the problems relating to the theme of the assembly, "Christ the Hope of the World" could be studied more thoroughly. They envisaged an Institute where the Church could carefully study the complex problems of our world and search for constructive answers. The planning and incorporation of the Institute was carried out by a group of local clergy and laymen, together with representatives of the major seminaries and denominations in the Chicago area.



## HOW IS THE INSTITUTE RELATED TO THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

The Institute has the full backing of the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches, yet it is an independent corporation responsible only to its own board of trustees. It will aid in the program of the World Council of Churches by holding preparatory conferences for the Council's assembly delegates, and by carrying discussions of World Council themes to the local congregations.

## WHAT IS THE PROGRAM OF THE INSTITUTE

The Institute will conduct courses and conferences on ecumenical, rather than denominational, lines, and will emphasize the relevancy of Christianity for the modern world. Programs and projects will be concerned with such topics as: religion and mental health, the Church's responsibility in the Middle East, moral problems in the use of atomic power, religion and law, and the unity of the Church in the modern world.

Particular emphasis will be placed on the training of the laity for more effective leadership in the Christian Church, and upon providing practical assistance to denominations in their approaches to cooperation and unity.

## WHAT ABOUT THE FACULTY?

Director of the Institute is Dr. Walter Leibrecht, formerly of the faculty of Columbia University and for the past years a professor of the Harvard Divinity School. Assistant director is the Reverend Sheldon M. Smith, formerly in charge of the Episcopal Church in Highland Park, Ill. Well



*Dr. Walter Leibrecht  
Director,  
Evanston Institute  
for Ecumenical Studies*

established research scholars will be invited on an annual or bi-annual basis to work on special projects. As the needs of the Institute increase, permanent faculty members will be added and will be selected from among the best qualified scholars in their field. Distinguished theologians as well as church leaders and laymen from the Chicago area, and from other parts of the United States, will be invited to be leaders at the Institute's conferences.

## IS SUCH AN INSTITUTE NEEDED?

True fellowship among Christians of differing traditions can be achieved only through understanding and common action. The problems which the world faces today are complex and diverse, from the tyranny of avowedly atheistic countries and ideologies to our own perplexing difficulties. Over all of us there hangs the sword of self-destruction, symbolized by the atom bomb.

It is only as the world speaks to Christianity, and as Christianity, with a deeper understanding of world's problems, answers society, that any meaningful solutions can be discovered. It is the purpose of the Ecumenical Institute to provide the means and the environment where these matters of life and death, which affect us and our children, can be discussed in the light of Christian faith and insight.

### **HOW WILL THE INSTITUTE AFFECT ME?**

The health of any society is determined by the moral and religious values of its people. The Evanston Institute will provide training for people in all walks of life; people who will return to your churches, communities, and neighborhoods better equipped to aid in bringing a Christian perspective to common problems.

In our complex world, each area of life affects every other area. The Institute will be instrumental in bringing Christian values to all of life.

### **IS THIS TYPE OF PROGRAM ALREADY IN EXISTENCE?**

There has been an Ecumenical Institute of a nature similar to the Evanston Institute, which is located at Chateau Bossey near Geneva, Switzerland. This Institute has greatly stimulated the life of the churches in Europe during the past ten years. The need for such an institute in this country has been keenly felt by leading churchmen.

The Evanston Institute will not supplant any existing ecumenical project or program, but will seek to provide, in a truly ecumenical environment, a focus for the training of top leadership, both clerical and lay, for the most effective advance of the ecumenical movement in all of its aspects.

### **HOW IS THE INSTITUTE BEING FINANCED**

The initial budget of the Institute has come from local congregations and individuals in the Evanston-Chicago area. Continuing support and expansion will be sought from charitable foundations, denominations, corporations, and individual congregations.

Individual support is welcomed. Regardless of the amount which you are able to give, the Institute is anxious to have your support in this new venture in Christian living.

Contributions or requests for further information may be sent to:

The Director  
Evanston Institute for Ecumenical Studies  
1558 Ridge Avenue  
Evanston, Illinois