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Preface

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James H. Smylie

Editor, *THE JOURNAL OF PRESBYTERIAN HISTORY*

Preface

IN 1967 THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH in the United States of America adopted as its confessional standard *The Book of Confessions*, which included the Confession of 1967. This was an important event in the history of American Presbyterians.

On 21-22 October 1982, a Symposium was held at Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey, to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the adoption of the Confession of 1967. Sponsored by a number of the agencies and institutions of the United Presbyterian Church it was called as an event for pastors, educators, lay leaders and students for the purpose of reflecting on the adoption of the statement and on its contemporary implications. The editorial committee of the *Journal* considers it appropriate to place in the historical record and for wider study, the papers delivered on that occasion. These papers, responses and seminar reports are often historical in character and trace directions of our confessional life over these past fifteen years. They show that "reconciliation," the theme of the Confession of 1967, has been interpreted in terms of "liberation." As Paul Lehmann pointed out at the Symposium, the quest for justice is the "critical point of intersection" between both "reconciliation" and "liberation." The Symposium opens up possibilities for other dialogue by intimating, but not fully exploring, how the whole *Book of Confessions* may be used more effectively in the formation of faith and life in the churches.

The editorial committee of the *Journal* is glad to cooperate with Dieter T. Hessel, Associate for Social Education of the Program Agency, in making these papers available. Furthermore, we wish to thank the various organizations which contributed funds to allow increase of pagination for this issue, and a larger distribution to the churches of the denomination and others interested in the proceedings of the Symposium. These are the Advisory Council on Discipleship and Worship; Church Education Services, the Program Agency; the Vocation Agency; the Council on Women and the Church; and Nassau Presbyterian Church, Princeton, New Jersey.