



FROM **WATERLOO LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY**

WATERLOO UNIVERSITY COLLEGE - WATERLOO LUTHERAN SEMINARY

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COUNCIL OF CHURCHES' SPOKESMAN

CALLS FOR UNITY

A sense of fellowship and unity is growing among Christians today but the new general secretary of the Canadian Council of Churches feels progress is too slow.

Speaking to a luncheon gathering of seminary faculty members of Waterloo Lutheran University and Twin City clergymen, Rev. Dr. Frank Butcher, Toronto, said: "Frankly, I am not convinced that the Canadian Council of Churches or local councils and congregations across the country have really grappled with the problem."

Dr. Butcher said Canadian churches may regard union as unattainable now but they must find ways to grow in real fellowship.

"All of us grew up in a climate of pretense. We acted as if the other churches were not here. We were all trained in Christian separatism. We now know this type of thinking must pass but we are not prepared to face all the implications."

Dr. Butcher said the ecumenical movement, with its stress on co-operation and unity, challenges the structures, government and teachings of all Canada's denominations. Christians are compelled to admit that there are other churches and that their members are Christians.

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"In January, I was in Nigeria and I talked with the leaders there who are forming a Church of Nigeria. It is the best solution for them. I don't suggest it is the answer for Canada but we must face up to the fact that we are all Christians."

In an interview after the talk, Dr. Butcher said he could sum up his feelings with two questions. Haven't the churches of Kitchener and Waterloo one task and one set of concerns? Are not the things that join them stronger than those that divide them?

Dr. William J. Villaume, president of Waterloo Lutheran University, was host at the dinner.

Among those attending were Rev. Dr. A. W. Lotz, president of the Eastern Canada Synod of the Lutheran Church in America; and Rev. H. H. Erdman, general secretary of the Ontario District, Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod.