

POLICIES RELATING TO THE PROPOSED MAGAZINE

ON MENNONITE COMMUNITY LIFE

I. The Need.

A new publication is justified only if it will meet a genuine need.

This need is apparent in the following facts:

1. Inherent in the historic Mennonite Faith and practice is a strong sense of brotherhood and community.

2. Inherent also in historic Mennonitism is the constant translation of spiritual life into practical terms of human relationships.

3. One of the most widely recognized values of the Mennonite way of life in America is the maintenance of a strong social sense in our religion-centered communities.

4. Various forces at work during recent years have tended to the disintegration of the Mennonite community, with consequent loss to our Mennonite idealism.

5. Little has been done deliberately to support and strengthen the Mennonite concept of Christian community life.

6. Existent Mennonite publications touch only incidentally this important area of our Christian living.

7. From several sources has come agitation for a new publication devoted to describing and promoting the Christian and Mennonite way of living in the social and economic areas. We believe there would be a considerable interest in such a publication.

8. A magazine of this type would serve, not only to stimulate community interests among our Mennonite people, but also to ^{publicize} ~~advertise~~ the Mennonite way of life among non-Mennonite people.

II. Subject Matter

1. The new magazine must not infringe upon the areas served by our present publications. It will exist to serve areas of Mennonite living not within the proper scope of the Gospel Herald, the Christian Monitor, and our other periodicals.

2. These areas may be generally described as the secular areas of vocation and everyday living. It will be the purpose to show how the imperatives of Christian character, and particularly of the Mennonite philosophy of life, relate to these secular areas.

3. Particular departments and features shall include those described by ~~Bernley et al.~~ in the Outline Description of a Proposed New Periodical of Mennonite Life.

4. Material published shall be in harmony with the standards of the Mennonite Church. No viewpoint shall be expressed or phase of life pictured or described which will probably be an offense to any significant section of the church.

5. Inasmuch as the concern of this periodical shall be the practical applications of a religious viewpoint in social and economic areas, there shall be a constant watchfulness against the partial emphasis of the modernistic "social gospel;" the theological assumptions of the necessity of a divine work of grace in the heart and the continuing functioning of the Holy Spirit in the production of Christian character shall continually be in evidence.

6. The chief, although not necessarily the exclusive, concern of the magazine shall be the life of the main ("old") body of the Mennonite Church.

III. Style and Appearance

1. Articles shall be written in a popular style, ^{not too long,} so as to have the widest possible appeal among our people.

2. There shall be a liberal proportion of pictures and illustrations, both to attract readers and to more effectively set forth the subject matter.

3. All pictures and articles shall lend themselves to a dignified, sober, and respectful presentation of the various phases of Mennonite life.

4. ~~Only such products shall be advertised as have been investigated and whose advertising will be a service to the churches or the causes advertised.~~ ^{Only such products shall be advertised as have been investigated and whose advertising will be a service to the churches or the causes advertised.}