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Five Churches Will Not Join United Church

South Oakland county's five Congregational churches intend to remain Congregational for an indefinite period, according to Dr. George V. Bohman, of Royal Oak. This is despite the formation of the United Church of Christ by delegates of the General Council of Congregational Christian Churches and of the general synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church in Cleveland this week.

The First Congregational church of Royal Oak, Community Congregational church of Lathrup Village, First Congregational church of Pontiac, and North Congregational church of Southfield have unanimously voted to maintain their independent position as autonomous Congregational churches. The Birmingham Congregational church also voted to protect its free position for an indefinite period.

These churches see in the Basis of Union, which will govern the new United Church, a Presbyterian type of government that threatens the rights of independent Congregational churches, Dr. Bohman said.

HE ADDED THAT in the meeting in Cleveland last week, the Congregational delegates lacked the power to unite the Congrega-

tional churches, ministers, and members. This is recognized in the resolution to form the United Church, which limits the Congregational part of the new denomination to the General Council. In New York, a suit has been filed in federal court, with the Pontiac church one of the plaintiffs, to declare null and void those parts of the Basis of Union which seem to assume that churches, members, ministers, and official agencies can be united without their specific consent.

At least twelve of the 25 churches of the Detroit Congregational association have passed some kind of resolution making entrance into the United Church dependent upon each church's satisfaction that all its present rights and freedoms are protected, according to Dr. Bohman, a trustee of the association.

The chairman of the board of trustees of the Detroit Congregational association, George E. Gullen, Jr., Detroit, points out that the Association voted on June 9 at a meeting in the Royal Oak church to stay free of entanglements with the United Church until legal questions could be determined and formal votes taken on future policies.

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DR. BOHMAN SAID that few, if any, Congregational churches in this area will actually join the United Church in the near future. Several which have taken no recent actions are protected by negative votes on the proposed United



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Presbyterian Mission Church Breaks Ground

One of the three new Presbyterian churches of Birmingham, the ground for a new chapel and educational hall Sunday, after their 11 a.m. worship service.

The new Presbyterian church is at 1605 Welch road, Walled Lake, on a 20 acre site purchased by the Presbyterian church and the board of church extension of the Detroit Presbytery.

The latest Presbyterian chapel began, Sunday, October 21, 1956, with ten families attending the worship service, and 29 children enrolled in church school. Today there are 65 families attending church, 12 children in church school, and the Sunday church school. Rev. William L. Rieker is minister of the church.

The mission church's present chapel is a dog kennel, renovated by the Young Cagles' club of the Birmingham church.

DR. W. GLEN HARRIS, minister of First Presbyterian church, gave the ground breaking address. Mrs. Nelson A. Miles, a recent member of the First Presbyterian church, and a member of the steering committee, gave the invocation. Dr. Harold P. Fredrick, Stated Clerk of the Detroit Presbytery, and director of the board of church extension.

Ground was broken with an old fashioned plow pulled by members of the congregation, representatives from the various Sunday church school classes, participants from the Presbytery of Detroit, and elder representatives from Presbyterian churches of Birmingham and other Oakland communities.

Following the ceremony was an all church picnic held on the church grounds.

Holy Name Teens Sponsor Dance Saturday Night
Everybody's invited to the Holy Name Teen Hi club's dance Saturday night, says Joe Fremont, acting as spokesman for the high school age young people of Holy Name church.

Brooks brothers will provide the music for the "Birmingham Bounce", from 9 to 12 at Birmingham Community House. There'll be refreshments.

Ray Lyons is chairman.

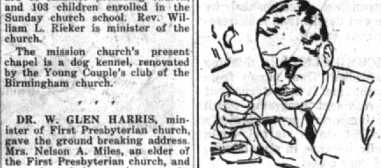
New Organist Is Jerry Smith
At the organ of the Congregational church of Birmingham for the summer is Jerry Smith, of Pontiac. He replaces A. Shanley Ross, who resigned as organist, after he accepted a position with an out-of-town bank.

Yocal music at the church this summer as the choir vacations will be provided by soloists Mrs. William R. J. Coughlin and Michael Sommer.

First Methodist Changes Schedule
Starting Sunday, the summer schedule becomes effective at First Methodist church, Maple and Pleasant, Birmingham. Both morning worship and church school will meet at only one hour, 10 a.m. The schedule continues through Labor day Sunday, Sept. 4. The Sacrament of Communion will be observed at morning worship Sunday, with a baptismal service at 3 p.m.

God reigns, and will "turn and overturn" until right is found supreme—Mary Baker Eddy.

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