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NEWS RELEASE

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Note to Editors: The Roman Catholic Bishops' Commission on Ecumenical Affairs and the United Presbyterian Commission on Ecumenical Mission and Relations announces a joint press conference to be held following one-day discussions on July 27. The press conference will be held at 4:15 p. m. at the Georgetown Presbyterian Church, 3115 P Street, N. W.
(Signed) The Rev. Vincent A. Yzermans
National Catholic Welfare Conference
The Rev. Frank H. Heinze,
United Presbyterian Office of Information

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 25---- A preliminary meeting to discuss the development of future relations between the Roman Catholic Church and the United Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. Will be held here Tuesday, July 27, from 10 a. m. to 4p. m. in the Georgetown Presbyterian Church, 3115 P Street, N. W.

The third set of conversations between Roman Catholics and Protestant denominations, the Roman Catholic-United Presbyterian gathering will mark the first time that women have been included in official delegations of the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches. Three women--one Roman Catholic, two United Presbyterian--will be official members of the two delegations.

The 11-member Roman Catholic delegation will be led by the Most Rev. Ernest L. Unterkoefler, Bishop of Charleston and secretary of the Conference of American Catholic Bishops. Leading the United Presbyterian group will be Richard L. Davies, Washington, D. C., chairman of the

denomination's Committee of Ecumenical Relations.

The slated talks between Roman Catholics and United Presbyterians is the third such discussion to be held this summer on the national level. Roman Catholic delegations have met twice with representatives from the Lutheran and Episcopal churches.

The landmark meetings between Roman Catholics and Protestants have been initiated since the establishment of the American Roman Catholic Bishops' Commission on Ecumenical Affairs shortly after the Second Vatican Council issued its historic Decree on Ecumenism last year.

That document asked Roman Catholics to enter more fully into conversations with the members of other communions, referring to the achievement of Christian unity as one of the principle hopes of the Second Vatican Council.

The decree urges inter-confessional conversation, which will "promote justice and truth, concord and collaboration, as well as the spirit of brotherly love and unity."

"The development of such relationships in the United Presbyterian Church," Mr. Davies said, "is to make it possible for the world more readily to recognize Jesus Christ as Lord."

Just two months ago the highest governing body of the United Presbyterian Church, meeting in Columbus, Ohio, adopted a policy statement on relations with Roman Catholics that urges the denomination's 3.3 million members to enter into closer association with Roman Catholics "that God's will for His Church may be sought together."

"The most enduring and meaningful sharing of insight and experience must take place where people meet people, where Roman Catholics and Protestants bound in mutual citizenship and community concerns have too often been strangers to each other's faith," the statement says.

It also urges Presbyterian congregations "to explore new and adventurous ways in which the unity of the church may be discerned and its full heritage comprehended.

"No timidity or provincialism of spirit should keep us from ventures in dialogue in the intimacy of community life where theoretical generalization

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must give way to personal encounter and understanding," the statement notes.

at the same time, the General Assembly laid down the following "ground rules for profitable conversations":

- Each partner must believe that the other is speaking in good faith.
- Each partner must have a clear understanding of his own faith.
- Each partner must strive for a clearer understanding of the faith of the other. This implies: (a) his willingness to interpret the faith of the other in its best light rather than its worst; and (b) a continual willingness to revise his understanding of the faith of the other.
- Each partner must accept responsibility in humility and penitence for what his group has done, and is doing, to foster and perpetuate division.
- Each partner must forthrightly face the issues which cause separation, as well as those which create solidarity.
- Each partner must recognize that all that can be done with the dialogue is to offer it up to God.

ST Stephen, Denver, Mass.

Representing the Roman Catholic Church, in addition to Bishop Unterkoefler, at Tuesday's meeting, will be the Rev. Maurice Schepers, O.P., ~~Dominican House of Studies, Washington, D.C.~~; The Rev. Killian McDonnell, O.S.B., St. John's University and Abbey, Collegeville, Minn., the Very Rev. Henry Beck, professor of church history, Immaculate Conception Seminary, Darlington, N. J. and pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Lyndhurst, N. J.; Donald Farrell, program director, National Council of Catholic Men, Washington, D.C.; Dr. Leonard Swidler, professor of history, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pa.; and editor of the Journal of Ecumenical Studies; the Rev. Christopher Kiesling, O.P. and the Rev. John V. Thomas, O.P., both of the St. Rose Dominican Priory, Dubuque, Ia., and professors at the Aquinas Institute of Theology, which recently has joined in the formation of Association of Roman Catholic and Protestant faculties; the Rev. George Tavard, chairman of the Department of Religion, Mount Mercy College, Pittsburgh, and consultant to the Vatican Council's Secretariat for Christian Unity; and Miss Margaret Mealey, executive director of the National Council of Catholic Women, Washington, D.C.

Also participating will be the Very Reverend William W. Baum, Washington D.C., executive director of the American Catholic Bishops' Commission on Ecumenism.

Representing the United Presbyterian Church, in addition to Mr. Davies, who is president of Klein and Saks Management Consultants, Washington, D.C., will be:

The Rev. Dr. John T. Middaugh, pastor of Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church, Baltimore, Md.; Mrs. Walter R. Clyde, Pittsburgh, chairman of ecumenical relations for United Presbyterian Women; Parke A. Dickey, Owasso, Okla., head of the Department of Earth Sciences at Tulsa University, Tulsa, Okla.; the Rev. Joseph L. Roberts, Jr., pastor of the Elmwood Presbyterian Church, East Orange, N. J., all members of the Committee on Ecumenical Relations.

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Also, William P. Thompson, attorney from Wichita, Kan., and moderator of the church's 177th General Assembly; the Rev. Dr. Norman A. Horner, Dean and Professor of Missions and Evangelism, Louisville Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; the Rev. Robert McAfee Brown, Professor of Religion, Stanford University, Stanford, Calif.; the Rev. Dr. Roswell P. Barnes, Wyalusing, Pa., former executive secretary of the World Council of Churches; Dr. Margaret Shannon, New York, Associate General Secretary for Relations of the Commission on Ecumenical Mission and Relations; and Dr. Smith.

Note to editors: This press release has been prepared jointly by the information offices of the National Catholic Welfare Conference and the United Presbyterian Church.