

Formula of Concord

History

February 27, 1531 Formation of **Smalcaldic League**

April 1531 The Apology was completed.

May 1531 **Melancthon** continues to work on it.

-First time Augsburg and Apology published together

April 1532 The Apology was publicly approved. -The Smalcaldic league signed both AC and Ap

1532 Religious Peace of Nurnburg signed. (Religious tolerance, if help against Turk)

June 2, 1536, the pope published a bull convoking a general council at Mantua on May 3, 1537.

December 11, 1536 Elector John Frederick of Saxony commissioned **Luther** to revise the Articles of Faith and make a report for the Smalcald League before January 25.

January 3, 1537 **The Smalcald Articles** were completed.

February 1537 the meeting at Smalcald

--The **Appendix (the Power on the PP)** was written at Smalcald by **Melancthon**, after Luther got very sick.

--The Lutherans decided not to attend the General Council (See Reader's edition p.255-258)

1539 The Catholic Counter Reformation begins

1540 Luther refused to have any contact with John Agricola due to his insincerity and duplicity

1541 Melancthon publishes the *Variata* of the Augsburg Confession (that is, the Altered Augsburg Confession). He changes Article 10 which allows Calvin's view of Lord's Supper.

1545-1547 Council of Trent, Sessions 1-8 – Council against Protestantism, clearly defined an official theology of works-righteousness and the Biblical canon

1546, Feb 18 Luther Dies

1546, June 26 Pope and Emperor have a secret agreement to compel the protestants by force to follow the decrees of the Council of Trent

1546 -Maurice. Duke of Saxony, had also made a secret agreement with the Emperor

1547 April 24 Smalcaldic League was defeated by Charles V at the Battle of Muhlbert,

-With the help of Elector Maurice of Saxony, John's cousin

-John Frederick taken captive. Although sentenced to death, his sentence was commuted.

1547, May 23, The Emperor occupies Wittenberg

– Maurice of Saxony, cousin of John Frederick, was given control of Saxony. Also he has control of the two universities of Leipsic and Wittenberg

--The sons of Frederick were given control of Weimar, Jena, Eisenach, and Gotha. The University of Jena was founded by the sons of John Frederick in 1547 (while John Frederick was in prison). Landgrave Philip of Hesse, father-in-law of Maurice, surrendered and was taken captive.

- 1548 **The Augsburg Interim** drawn up by 2 Romanists and 1 Lutheran (John Agricola)
- A temporary agreement between German Catholics and Lutherans at the Diet of Augsburg 1547-1548.
 - As a compromise doctrine no one liked it. The Lutherans rejected it. It was condemned by the pope, rejected by papists, yet forced with violence on portions of Protestant Germany.
- 1548, May 15 the Augsburg Interim was proclaimed by the Emperor as the law of the land. It was to regulate the land, until everything was settled by the Council of Trent
- Initially Maurice was opposed to it, as was Melanchthon
- 1548 May 18 Maurice informs Emperor he was not able to introduce the Augsburg Interim
- 1548 Dec 22 Elector Maurice commissions the Wittenberg and Leipzig theologians to compose a substitute document. **The Leipzig Interim** chiefly composed by Melanchthon was adopted.
- The Leipzig Interim was a compromise document “in order to escape persecution and desolation of the churches by adhering to the doctrine of justification, but yielding in matters pertaining to ceremonies, etc.”
- 1548-1555 Adiaphoristic Controversy** – The reintroduction of Romish ceremonies...
- 1549 **The Leipzig Liturgy** (based on The Leipzig Interim)
- Philip of Hesse submits to Interim.
 - John Frederick does not. The Emperor then deprives him of Luther’s Writings and his Bible.

The Augsburg Interim

It was, however, essentially papal. For the time being, indeed, it permitted Protestant clergymen to marry, and to celebrate the Lord’s Supper in both kinds, but demanded the immediate restoration of the Romish customs and ceremonies, the acknowledgment of papal supremacy *iure divino*, as well as the jurisdiction of the bishops, and the adoption of articles in which the doctrines were all explained in the sense of the Catholic dogmas, and in which truth and falsehood, in general, were badly mingled. Transubstantiation, the seven sacraments, and other papal errors were reaffirmed, while Lutheran tenets, such as the doctrine of justification by faith alone, were either denied or omitted. (p. 95)

Schaff remarks: “It was the mistake of his [**Melanchthon’s**] life, yet not without plausible excuses and incidental advantages. He advocated immovable steadfastness in doctrine [?], but submission in everything else for the sake of peace. He had the satisfaction that the University of Wittenberg, after temporary suspension, was restored and soon frequented again by two thousand students. [The school was closed May 19 and reopened October 16, 1547.] But outside of Wittenberg and Saxony his conduct appeared treasonable to the cause of the Reformation, and acted as an encouragement to an unscrupulous and uncompromising enemy. Hence the venerable man was fiercely assailed from every quarter by friend and foe.” (*Creeds* 1, 300.)

As a matter of fact, however, **the Leipzig Interim**, too, was in every respect a truce over the corpse of true Lutheranism. It was a unionistic document sacrificing Lutheranism doctrinally as well as practically. The obnoxious features of the Augsburg Interim had not been eliminated, but merely toned down. Throughout, the controverted doctrines were treated in ambiguous or false formulas.

Openly the people, his own former subjects included, showed their contempt for his {**Maurice**} person and character. Everywhere public sentiment was aroused against him. He was held responsible for the captivity and shameful treatment of Philip of Hesse and especially of John Frederick, whom the people admired as the Confessor of Augsburg and now also as the innocent Martyr of Lutheranism. Maurice, on the other hand, was branded a mameluke, condemned as a renegade and an apostate, despised as the traitor of Lutheranism, and abhorred as the “Judas of Meissen,” who had sold his coreligionists for an electorate.

1549-1575 Osiandristic and Stancarian Controversy – taught Christ was our righteousness, only according to his divine nature

1551-1562 Majoristic Controversy – If good works are necessary for salvation...

1551-1552 Council of Trent, Sessions 12-16 resumes

1552 Maurice turns against Charles V and drove him from Innsbruck

1552, April - Maurice enters Augsburg to free it from Roman oppression.

1552 August 2 - **Peace Treaty of Passau,**

1552 Jochim Westphal publishes a treaty exposing Calvinist leanings on Lord's Supper

1553 July 9, Maurice is killed

1555 Sep 25, **Peace of Augsburg** gives religious freedom in Germany but only to Lutheran Protestants the principle *Cuius region, eius religio*

1555-1560 Synergistic Controversy – that man by his own powers cooperates in conversion...

1556 Charles V. abdicates his throne (dies Sep 21, 1558)

1560-1574 the Crypto-Calvinistic Controversy – Philippists sought to supplant Lord's Supper teachings and the majesty of the human nature of Christ with Calvinist teachings

1560 Philip Melancthon dies April 19

Corpus Doctrinae Philippicum of 1560

-which included three creeds, Variata of AC, Apology, The Repetition of the Augsburg Confession of 1551, The *Loci Communes*, The *Examen Ordinandum*(1554) Reply to the Bavarian Articles, Refutation of Servetus, Reply concerning the Controversy of Stancar.

1560-1575 Flacian Controversy – original sin is not an accident but the substance of man

1561 **Naumburg Conf** fails (rejects 2nd ed. AC and Ap.)

1562-1563 Council of Trent, Sessions 17-25 closes

1565-73 Examination of the Council of Trent by **Martin Chemnitz.**

1574 Crypto-Calvinists unmasked in Wittenberg with publication of *Exegesis Perspicua...*

1574 Swabian Concord published

1574 Torgau Conference called by Elector August I for Lutheran Unity

1576 Formula of Concord Epitome (the Torgau Book)

1577, June 15 Formula of Concord Solid Declaration completed at Bergen Cloister, Magdeburg

Formula of Concord

-written by Jacob Andreae, Martin Chemnitz, Nicholas Selnecker

-primarily against the Calvinists

-and the Controversies among the Lutherans

Formula completed in 1577. Gather books of confessional nature

Book of Concord

Printing of book started in Summer of 1578 (with the publication date of June 25, 1580)

April 1579 Completed first draft of Book of Concord

1578 to 1580 Signatures of 8,100 theologians, 86 cities and territories etc.

June 1579, Preface to book of Concord written by Andreae was approved

April 1580 final drafts were completed.

June 13, 1580 Elector Prince Ludwig of the Palatinate
-Catalog of Testimonies, not labeled Appendix

June 25, 1580 Book of Concord of Lutheranism, Dresden Germany

Chemnitz speaks of two editions of the 1580 German Book of Concord (one with an errata sheet).

1584 Latin edition in Leipzig Germany

-a 1580 translation was widely criticized, so in 1582 Selnecker worked on it again.

-A special conference in Quedlinburg in Dec 1582- Jan 1583 to approve latin translation.

Editions listed in Reader's Edition, p.xxii

Saxon Visitation Articles (App C)

Brief Exhortation to the Confession (App B)