A Message From the President

This, the second issue of "The New Mexico Architect," will, I am sure, meet with much more approval from the sponsors of the magazine, participants and certainly our readers. Unfortunately the first issue left much to be desired.

Aside from the above statement, my message for this issue will be confined to a summary of the recently held 1959 Annual Conference of the Church Architectural Guild, which was co-sponsored by the Department of Church Building, National Council of Churches of Christ, U. S. A. In cooperation with the Southern California Council of Protestant Churches, Construction Industries Committee, Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and the Southern California Chapter of the A.I.A.

The Conference was held February 17-20, 1959 with Headquarters and all functions at the Hotel Statler, Los Angeles, California. There were over 1400 Registrations, of which were but some 100 Architects. There were approximately 250 exhibits, mounts and models. This display of talent in design was something to behold. Not one mount or model was in the "style" vein of the Classics, Gothic, etc., but were definitely in the Contemporary, which, by the way, is one of the Church Architectural Guild aims, to develop a definite ecclesiastical contemporary.

Awards were made in Ecclesiastical Crafts, commercial exhibitors and Churches, Religious educational Buildings and Chapels. I have the names of all winners and their subjects should anyone be interested in knowing of these men.

Conover Award: Most interesting, The Elbert M. Conover (Founder of the Church Architectural Guild of America) Memorial Award is given annually to a non-architect for excellence in fostering spiritual values in the creation of ecclesiastical edifices. The award is given by the Church Architectural Guild of America. This year it went to the veteran clergyman and editor of Church Management, Dr. William Leach of Cleveland, Ohio.

The Church Architectural Guild of America was founded in 1940 by a group of church architects and denominational leaders. Its cardinal aims are:

"To promote excellence of design in Church architecture and the allied arts.

"To foster greater appreciation of the essentials of church architecture and planning on the part of the church constituency.

"To assist architects without experience in the designing of churches to a better understanding of the essentials of ecclesiastical design.

"To foster the study of ecclesiastical architecture and art, particularly in technical and theological colleges."

The objective of the Department of Church Building and Architecture is to Build Better Church Buildings through counseling, planning, cooperating, coordinating, research, conferences, literature and exhibits. This is done for denominations, building committees, architects who major in church work and interested clergymen.

This pioneering work began in 1934 with the establishment of the inter-denominational Bureau of Architecture. It was spurred on by the vitality of its first Executive Director, Elbert M. Conover, who encouraged the formation of the Church Architectural Guild of America.

Most Sincerely
W. Miles Brittelle, Sr., President
New Mexico Chapter, AIA

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