

CHURCH AND STATE

A Social Document of the
ULCA



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

A Series of Statements of the United Lutheran Church in America, 1924, 1961

In 1924 the Fourth Biennial Convention of the ULCA authorized the appointment of a committee to prepare a statement on "the relationship of Church and State." (Minutes, 4th Biennial Convention, ULCA, p. 273.) After a sixteen-year history the committee requested that it be discharged on the ground that it was inadvisable for the Church to make a pronouncement: on this question at a time when many changes were taking place "in the forms of government in states where the Church is now established...." (1940: Minutes, 12th Biennial Convention, ULCA, pp. 396-97.) The committee was respectfully discharged.

In July 1961 the Executive Board of the Church authorized the Board of Social Missions to appoint a commission "to undertake a study on church and state relations in a pluralistic society." (Executive Board Minutes, July 13-14, 1961, pp. 346.47.)