

February 15, 1961

Dr. Albert C. Outler
Perkins School of Theology
Dallas 5, Texas

Dear Albert:

In the February 8 edition of the Christian Century, Bishop Gerald Kennedy wrote an article which doubtless you have seen and carefully examined, entitled "The Church and Unity." It seems to me extremely urgent that some responsible ecumenical theologian should make a clear response to this very disturbing piece. I know you well enough to know that I can never predict what your response to this sort of thing might have been. But I feel it incumbent upon me to simply drop you this note appealing to you, as one who has been deeply involved in ecumenical conversations, to answer the serious (albeit familiar and often obsolete) questions he raises anew.

Well, that is the purpose of my letter to you.

I would like to have a chance to have a long conversation with you about many things. This is an extremely demanding and challenging situation. I have found myself to be in some edifying conversations with students and faculty here, especially on the question of baptism. I have been made to feel very much at home. I have often found myself unprepared to enter into the kind of real dialogue the situation demands.

We think of you often. Edrita and I are preparing for a new arrival due in the next six weeks. I may be coming to Ft. Worth April 22-24, and perhaps I could drop in for a chat that weekend.

Yours cordially and sincerely,

Thomas C. Oden

TCO:sf

