There is an aspect of the ecumenical work . . . of fellowship," Murray said. "One must get to know the other man as man."

Rev. Walter Burghardt, Catholic, also of Woodstock, emphasized that "one of the most hopeful signs" of the talks was that the theologians could find a common definition of terms.

TALKED

"We talked. We even understood one another," he said.

The session grew out of informal discussions begun two years ago by Rev. Paul C. Empie, executive director of the National Lutheran Council, and Bishop John J. Wright of Pittsburgh.

"We are not binding our churches," Dr. Empie said today, "but we are representing them."

In their formal statement the scholars agreed "the Nicene faith gathers up and articulates the Biblical testimony concerning the Son and his relationship to the Father."

Rev. Burghardt said they agreed the creed "does reflect Scripture and is derived from Scripture. Precisely how it does is a subject of future discussion."

The theologians said they would discuss more fully the nature of the authority of the Nicene Creed in both churches.

DISCUSSION

"What is it that makes it binding on the whole church?," Burghardt said. "What does make it authoritative?"

Basic differences between the two churches arose on this question during the current session.

Auxiliary Bishop T. Austin Murphy of Baltimore said the next meeting would be in February, probably in Chicago.

The main topic of discussion would be "one baptism for the remission of sins in an effort to see this one baptism in relationship to Scriptures and confessional documents in each of our churches," Murphy said.

The talks will be a "continuation of the problem of the Nicene Creed," he said.

The purpose of the discussions was summarized by Sittler, who said they were viewed as a first step to "possible fulfillment of our Lord's Prayer that they (churches) all may be one."

However, he said, the group realized the "enormous difficulty involved in our prayer."

The talks are sponsored jointly by the United States Catholic Bishops' Commission For Ecumenical Affairs and the United States National Committee Of The Lutheran World Federation.