

Negroes Facing Loss of Church in Foreclosure Suit
Nazarene Congregation Owes Universalist Body \$60,738—Unable to Pay

The Negro congregation of the Nazarene Congregational Church is about to lose its building at Grand Ave. and Lefferts Place because of inability to pay to the Universalist Church of Our Father a first mortgage of \$58,750 and accrued interest of \$1,468.75.

“If they want to talk business on reasonable terms, we are willing to go along with them,” John G. Murray, president of the board of trustees of the Universalist Church, declared today. “So far they have shown no disposition to get together on the matter.”

A referee, for which the Universalists applied to foreclose, and advertise the property for sale, is expected to be appointed this week in Supreme Court.

Pierrepoint Davenport of the Flatbush Congregational Church, one of three laymen appointed to attempt to forestall the action, said: “It seems too bad after this comparatively poor congregation had raised more than \$60,000 for a building to house the institution they loved that they should be thrown out into the street by another Christian institution.

“In these times most banks, realizing the drop in values, are willing to make some concessions to those who purchased in boom times, but there seems to be no such disposition on the part of Murray’s group.”

Henry L. Brant, attorney for the Universalist Church of Our Father, in commenting on the foreclosure suit, said today:

“When the Nazarene Church defaulted its interest payment last January we made overtures to them, offering to reduce the interest payments. When they informed us that they intended to give the church up we suggested they give us a deed and we would give them an option to reclaim the property on payment of the accrued interest.

“The only proposition they were interested in, however, was that we should reduce the principal 50 percent, which we could not do. So there was only one thing left—to start a foreclosure suit.”

According to the Rev. Dr. Walter H. Rollins, executive secretary of the Congregational Church Association of New York City, the only actual concession made to date by the mortgagors was a 1 percent reduction in the 6 percent interest rate when the mortgage fell due and a new one was made.

“The Congregational group is trying to get us to reduce the interest rate to 2½ percent, which we will not do,” Murray declared. “They have offered to give a new mortgage for \$25,000 and a cash payment of \$5,000, but we will not accept that.”

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Nazarene Church Is Sold for \$1,000 at Public Auction
Colored Parish, Mortgage Payment Overdue, Loses Edifice in Foreclosure

The unusual scene of a church, complete with its chapel, kindergarten, kitchen and parsonage being auctioned off for non-payment of mortgage interest took place yesterday when the Nazarene Congregational Church, which stands at the corner of Grand Ave. and Lefferts Place, was hammered down for \$1,000 at the Real Estate Exchange, 189 Montague St.

The property, which was sold six years ago by the First Universalist Society of Brooklyn for \$117,500, went to the plaintiff, which was represented by Henry C. Brant, on an initial and final bid of \$1,000.

The defendants had originally paid \$58,750 in cash for the property, and given a first mortgage of equal amount to the former owners. Since a year ago no interest payments had been made by the congregation, but previously a total of \$21,000 had been paid.

Dr. Jesse E. Morrland, chairman of the board of trustees of the Congregation, which is colored, announced that the society had vacated the premises and would for the time being hold its regular services in the Carleton Avenue Y. M. C. A.

The church was built in 1880 and had a seating capacity of about 800. The Universalist Society has been negotiating to find tenants for the property and hopes to persuade the Nazarene Congregation to continue occupying it on a rental basis.

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