

To the Executive Board  
Of the New York State Convention of Universalists

May 27, 1931

The parish of the Church of Good Tidings has given due weight to the suggestions of the New York State Board of Universalists as expressed in the letter sent by their representative and secretary, Dr. Leining.

In brief these suggestions are:

1. Sale of the church property if possible to a Negro congregation who have made offer of a \$65,000 sale price, with cash payment of \$20,000, possibly \$25,000.
2. Because of the smallness of the congregation, and its limited financial resources Dr. Leining recommends:
  - a. A joint service with the Church of Our Father, each parish to maintain its identity until a future move has been decided upon.
  - b. Or (and this he personally recommends) a Union with the Church of Our Father.

The Parish of the Church of Good Tidings wishes to reply as follows in the later paragraphs herewith.

Before replying we would, however, bring to the attention of the State Board certain facts which while known to that body will bear repetition:

1. The Church has received annual sums varying, we believe, from \$200. to \$400. for a space of some years, a sum totaling several thousands of dollars. This money has been used to help defray ministers salaries. None has been used for ordinary operating expenses. It is worthy of note that the church valuation is now \$65,000 and is free of encumbrance. The Convention now questions the advisability of continuing this contribution, since the Church of Good Tidings has been unable, because of changing circumstances, to maintain itself and faces a decreased income and a depleted congregation. These facts are true. In the decreased numbers, though, no more true of Good Tidings than of other Universalist Churches of the City of Brooklyn.
2. The Church of Good Tidings, several years ago deeded the Church to the State and upon sale the actual proceeds will be the property of the State Convention. This turnover of property was voluntarily made, although urged by State representatives. We believe our action differs considerably from the procedure of Churches even under the direct guidance of State officials. It is but fair to impress on the State Board that this action showed:
  - a. Appreciation of State aid.
  - b. Loyal Universalist allegiance.
  - c. Willingness to cooperate.

It has been frequently stated that Good Tidings is a "Mission Church." We believe this is hardly true considering

the amounts received from the State. If these yearly amounts are considered in relation to the Church's budget and its own financial returns, they will not, it would seem, place Good Tidings exactly in the category of a dependent.

There are three Universalist churches in Brooklyn - one in Flatbush and two in central Brooklyn. Good Tidings has maintained the only Sunday School in central Brooklyn for about the last five years and has done constructive Y.P.C.U. work as well for the same period, being likewise the only church so doing. While the Flatbush Church is doing considerable work with children and young people, Brooklyn covers a large space. Good Tidings in thus doing work with the coming generation, believed it served not only itself but the State and the denomination. Thus the Church hoped the State would feel its money not unwisely expended, for numbers and money surely are not the measure of the value of a Church.

Replying to Dr. Leining's letter:

1. The Church of Good Tidings will not accept the offer to sell.
  - a. Eight years ago a representative of your board urged sale on the basis that the neighborhood would become Hebrew. The prophesy failed.
  - b. Perhaps the negro prophesy will likewise. The neighborhood is not solidly negro.
  - c. Householders are holding property for increased valuation since increased subway facilities in the neighborhood are promised.
2. The Church does not wish to continue in any other locality. It is too small and its congregation is too scattered.
3. The Church declines to join as a body, or to meet with as a body the congregation of the Church of Our Father. While there are several reasons for this, they are unnecessary of expression here. They are, however, in essence the same reasons which actuated the Church of Our Father to decline a similar invitation from Good Tidings several years ago. What was not wise then would not be wise now. Also in this regard, we would state that the neighborhood of Our Father is not less negro than that of Good Tidings and as a location offers no further opportunity of service to a white constituency.

Therefore, since the above facts are manifest, the Church of Good Tidings desires to maintain its existence and do its work for three years longer. The neighborhood problem will then be settled. At that time it will turn over its property to the convention.

1. It respectfully requests in aid from the convention an advance of \$10,000, its entire plant serving as security. This will help pay an adequate salary to a minister. This money may be raised upon the property and may be paid in three yearly installments, if desired. At the expiration of the time the State will have a clear gain of many thousands of dollars especially if property increases in the City of Brooklyn. At any rate it will be well reimbursed for its help to a church whose desire has been service to its constituency and which has thus served



*Copy*

UNIVERSALIST  
CHURCH OF THE GOOD TIDINGS  
STUYVESANT AVENUE AND MADISON STREET  
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK

FEB 21 1945

February 20, 1945

Mr. Louis Amin Ames, Trustee  
N. Y. State Convention of Universalists  
25 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N. Y.

Received from the Fourth Universalist Society  
of Brooklyn, N. Y. a check of the Peoples Institutional  
Methodist Church for the sum of \$8,000.000, deposit on  
signing a contract to purchase the property of the Fourth  
Universalist Society of Brooklyn, N. Y.

Kindly forward the above check to the treasurer  
of the N. Y. State Convention of Universalists, the sum  
to be held in custody for the Fourth Universalist Society  
of Brooklyn, N. Y. Acknowledgment of the above is duly  
appreciated.

*F. H. Sigler*  
F. H. Sigler, Secretary

Please sign copy inclosed.

*Louis Amin Ames.*

Return  
to  
FCL

THIS INDENTURE made in Syracuse, State of New York, on the            day of February, 1945, by THE NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION OF UNIVERSALISTS, a religious corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the Laws of the State of New York, having its principal place of business at 526 Cumberland Avenue, Syracuse, New York, party of the first part, and THE FOURTH UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF BROOKLYN, a religious corporation organized and existing under and by virtue of the Laws of the State of New York, having its principal place of business at 90-29 190th Street, Hollis, New York, party of the second part;

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, in and by a certain indenture of deed bearing date the 20th day of July, 1925, and made, signed, sealed, acknowledged, and delivered by the party of the first part to the party of the second part, and recorded in the Office of the Register of the County of Kings on the 22nd day of September, 1925 in Liber 4574 of Conveyances page 205, the party of the first part did grant and release unto the party of the second part certain property described as follows:

ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, in the County of Kings, City and State of New York, bounded and described as follows:-- BEGINNING at the corner formed by the intersection of the Southerly line or side of Madison Street with the Westerly line or side of Stuyvesant Avenue; running thence Southerly along the Westerly line or side of Stuyvesant Avenue, sixty (60) feet; thence Westerly parallel with the Southerly line or side of Madison Street, and part of the way through the centre of a party wall one hundred (100) feet; thence Northerly parallel with Stuyvesant Avenue sixty (60) feet to the Southerly line or side of Madison Street, and thence Easterly along the Southerly line or side of Madison Street one hundred (100) feet, to the point or place of beginning.

and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid deed provided that as a part of the consideration of the conveyance it was understood

and agreed that the party of the second part would make no conveyance of the aforesaid described premises nor execute any mortgage covering the aforesaid described premises without the consent of the party of the first part; and

WHEREAS, the party of the second part, has applied to the party of the first part for its consent to convey the aforesaid described premises to the People Institutional Methodist Community Church, Inc., a religious corporation, for an adequate consideration;

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION of the premises and the sum of One (\$1.00) Dollar and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, the party of the first part does hereby approve and consent to the conveyance of the aforesaid described premises by the party of the second part to the Peoples Institutional Methodist Community Church, Inc.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the party of the first part has caused its corporate seal to be affixed hereto and these presents to be signed by its duly authorized officer, the day and year first above written.

THE NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION OF  
UNIVERSALISTS

By Benjamin B. Hursey  
President

STATE OF NEW YORK )  
COUNTY OF *Westchester* ) SS.:

On the *10* day of *March*, 1945, before me came *Benjamin B. Stacey*, to me known, who being by me duly sworn, did depose and say that he resides in *3871 Walden Ave Bronx N.Y.*; that he is the President of NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION OF UNIVERSALISTS, the corporation described in and which executed the foregoing instrument; that he knows the seal of said corporation; that the seal affixed to said instrument is such corporate seal; that it was so affixed by order of the board of trustees of said corporation; and that he signed his name thereto by like order.

GEORGE HOLDER  
NOTARY PUBLIC, New York County  
N.Y. Co. Clk's No. 144 Reg. No. 282H6  
Commission Expires March 30, 1946

*George Holder*