

ALL SOULS' TO UNITE WITH CHURCH OF DIVINE LOVE

E. D. Universalist Congregation, However, Is Not to Lose Its Identity WILL ERECT NEW STRUCTURE

Consolidation With Flatbush Organization and Retention of Name,
Happy Solution of Future Problem

All Souls Universalist Church is not to lose its identity, notwithstanding the fact that the property on South Ninth street, near Bedford avenue has been sold to the Catholic Church of Sts. Peter and Paul. At a meeting of the church, held last night, it was unanimously and heartily voted, in a gathering marked by the utmost harmony and good feeling, to unite with the Church of the Divine Love, Flatbush, of which the Rev. Dr. Luther F. McKinney is pastor, which has secured a lot upon which to build a church and retain the name All Souls.

The meeting last night was to consider and vote upon the future of All Souls Church. There were about 100 members present. A. F. Gray presided and Clarence Lyon was secretary. While there were many diverse opinions as to the policy to be pursued, it was evidenced all through the meeting that whatever decision was arrived at would be accomplished unanimously.

At the last meeting of the society a committee was appointed, consisting of the trustees and an equal number of the members of the society, to look into the matter, and sub-committees were appointed from this number to obtain all desired information, first, upon the advisability of locating in the Eastern District; second, upon moving to the Eastern parkway; and third, upon going to Flatbush. The majority report submitted was in favor of going to Flatbush. This report explained that by going to that section and uniting with the Church of the Divine Love, the number of Universalist churches would be cut down by one, which was desirable. There was, the report said, a strong organization of young, earnest people, most of whom had gone from All Souls Church, and it was thought that by All Souls taking its money and its forces to Flatbush and uniting with this people in this growing section, the church would have a greater success than ever before.

The committee regretted that it could not see its way clear to continue in the Eastern District, but it felt if it did so the money and usefulness of the church might be dissipated, and on account of the changing conditions of the district, All Souls Church, instead of retaining its strength and becoming stronger, as it would in Flatbush, would gradually go to pieces. All Souls Church had moved twice before and this proposed removal was only in the way of evolution, which was in harmony with the past history of the church.

Mrs. A. F. Gray presented a minority report in favor of locating on the Eastern parkway. There was considerable opposition, first on the ground that there were few people of All Souls in the neighborhood, and, second, it was not desired to locate where the society would encroach upon two other Universalist churches. Several spoke feelingly about the Eastern District, and there seemed to be a desire upon the part of many to find some way to remain there and succeed; but even members of the committee who had investigated all phases of the case were bound to say that there was very little prospect of success for the church in that section of the borough.

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The vote was then taken, and it resulted in 68 for Flatbush and 10 opposed. Miss Emma Bailey moved to make the vote unanimous and it was enthusiastically carried, the society acting with entire unanimity to take the plant and go to Flatbush.

The following resolutions to authorize the trustees to complete arrangements with the Church of the Divine Love were adopted:

“Inasmuch as the recent sale of its church edifice has made it necessary for All Souls Church to seek a new religious home, and as it is the opinion of its members that the transfer of its funds and activities to, and a merger with, the Universalist Church of Divine Love of Flatbush would be likely to conserve and further most satisfactorily the interests of the Universalist denomination in Brooklyn, it is

“Resolved, That we, the members and trustees of All Souls Church, hereby declare our intention of taking said action if it shall be approved by the members and trustees of the Universalist Church of Divine Love, and we hereby empower our said trustees to submit the proposition for said merger to the members of the Universalist Church of divine Love, and in case of their consent thereto, to arrange all the terms and conditions of such merger, having plenary power therein except that they shall stipulate that the name of All Souls Church shall be perpetrated.”

The feeling was generally manifested that, no matter where the church went, the people would loyally stick by it, and a suggestion was received with great favor that special trolley cars would be engaged to take the people from the Eastern District to the new church in Flatbush, it being regarded as a solution of the problem of distance.

The question was discussed by B. W. Wilson, Julius De Long, Clinton S. Harris, W. D. Faris, A. F. Gray, Fortescue Metcalf, James A. Sperry, Daniel T. Wilson, Miss Emma Bailey, Miss Hogdon, Mrs. A. F. Gray and Walter B. Gunnison.

The Rev. L. Ward Brigham, pastor of All Souls Church, made a feeling address, in which he praised the church and the splendid body of men and women which made up its membership. They had met the crisis which confronted them and solved it without bitterness, without division and in a spirit of harmony, at which he rejoiced. He believed the selection of Flatbush was a wise one and that All Souls Church had a brilliant future before it. He was especially glad, because when he came to Brooklyn, two years ago, he had gone to Flatbush and gathered the young people together who now formed the Church of the Divine Love, but this was before he had any idea that All Souls Church would go there.

Benjamin W. Wilson, president of the board of trustees, made a brief address, full of feeling, and after prayer by the pastor the people adjourned in a spirit of perfect harmony, mixed, however, with some regrets, but with the announced purpose of pulling together to make a prosperous, strong church.

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