

[Macedon, Wayne Co. NY]

36 Edmonds St.
Rochester N. Y.
Sept. 18th, [19]33

My dear Mr. Leining,

Your letter just received and I hasten to reply.

The matter of the Macedon [annual] quota [to the NY State Convention of Universalists] has been a matter of quite a little misunderstanding and I do not wonder that you are curious.

When I first went to Macedon I expressed my surprise to Dr. Walker [of the Convention] that Macedon seemed to be unrecognized on the quota lists and he agreed to look into the matter, but he never seemed to get around to it. The Macedon people themselves could not shed any light except that for years they had not been asked to pay any.

At the State Convention in Perry several years ago, I brought up the matter and Dr. Tomlinson of [?] gave an explanation. He said that years ago the State Convention faced some kind of a deficit involving something like \$2500. Lyman Bickford of the Macedon church agreed to make up the deficit on condition that the Macedon church never be asked for an annual quota in the future. In other words Lyman Bickford endowed the Macedon church quota—a rather generous quota. I cannot say as to whether the Convention records substantiate this action or not as I have no official confirmation. Perhaps you can look it up for me sometime.

You ask about my factory work. Well, after about two years of flickering it finally went out last Spring, so far as I am concerned. I have been promised a recall “when and if etc.” But I am still waiting.

After closing for a five week vacation we resumed services at Macedon a week ago yesterday. The few that we have left are having a struggle to keep things going. We try to keep our expenses paid by putting the deficit on my supposed salary. When I was working I did not mind it and had planned to wipe it out at the end of the year as a present to the church, but things have come to such a pass with me that I cannot afford even to think of such an action.

In the death of Mrs. May a few months ago we lost our organist and one of our most enthusiastic leaders. There is nothing to hold the young people in the village and they leave as soon as they can get away. I have lost four of my most active and promising in the last year.

The church cannot afford a full time pastor and their only hope of having regular services for the “remnant” is to get some fellow like myself to hold them together. Of course you hear this same story over and over again and I know it makes your heart ache as it does mine.

I am trying to get together a little contribution for the Pension Fund and will send it in to you, as I do not feel that I can spend the money to come to the Convention.

The Mrs. is well and it is much to her credit that I have the opportunity to continue on hopefully in the battle.

Sincerely
John O. Bennett

From the original letter in the files of the NY State Convention of Universalists