

**Minden, Montgomery Co. NY**

State of New York  
Montgomery County

Whereas according to an act of the Legislature of the State of New York represented in Senate & Assembly providing for the incorporation of Religious Societies passed April fifth eighteen hundred and thirteen, the members of the first Universalist Society in Minden met at the School House in the village of Fort Plain on the sixth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-three pursuant to public notice duly given according to said act for the purpose of electing Trustees for said society & one clerk & a treasurer[.] [A]t the said meeting Henry Cook & Solomon Sanders Junr. two of the members present were nominated and duly elected by a majority of the members present to preside at said election, & being so organized to preside in pursuance of said act proceeded to elect five Trustees, one Clerk & one Treasurer for the purpose of taking charge of the estate & property belonging to said Society & to transact all affairs relative to the temporalities thereof. We the subscribers do by these presents certify that Jacob Hand, Daniel Gros, John Lighthall, Henry I. Moyer & Henry Cook were duly elected Trustees of said Society, and Solomon Sanders Junr. was duly elected Clerk of said Society and Jacob Hand Treasurer of said Society, and that the Trustees, Clerk & Treasurer of said Society & successors forever shall as a body corporate be called, distinguished & known by the name, style & title of the First Universalist Society in Minden in the county of Montgomery. In witness whereof we the said Henry Cook & Solomon Sanders Junr. have set our hands & seals the day & year last above written.

*Henry Cook* (L.S.)

*Solomon Sanders Junr.* (L.S.)

(Signed) In the presence of John Krake

State of New York  
Montgomery County SS.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> day of January 1834 personally appeared before me Abraham Morrell, First Judge of Montgomery County Courts, John Krake[,] personally known to me[,] who being by me sworn in due form of law, upon his oath says that he resides in the town of Minden in said county & did so reside at the time of the execution of the within certificate, that he saw the within named Henry Cook & Solomon Sanders, Junior[,] both personally known to him[,] execute the within certificate as their voluntary act & deed for the uses & purposes therein mentioned, & that he knows them the said Henry Cook & Solomon Sanders, Junior to be the individuals mentioned & described in the within certificate & who executed the same, & that he at the time of the execution of the said certificate signed his name thereto as a subscribing witness. And I, the said Judge[,] being satisfied that the said John Krake is such subscribing witness & being also satisfied of the truth of all the above matters, I allow the same to be recorded.

*Abraham Morrell*

First Judge of Montgomery County Courts

Recorded 29<sup>th</sup> January 1834

*Geo. D. Ferguson,* Clerk

(Montgomery County) Record of Church Corporations, P.123

Transcribed May 11, 2005 by Karen E. Dau, Rochester NY

**Minden, Montgomery Co. NY**

This indenture, made this 22d day of Sept. in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred seventy-six, Between John D. Wendell of Fort Plain, Mont. County, N.Y. of the first part and Prudence L. Wagner[,] wife of George H. Wagner of the town of Minden, Montgomery County N.Y. of the second part,

Witnesseth, that the said party of the first part, in consideration of the sum of one dollar in pursuance of a deed of trust from her husband to said Wendell[,] to him in hand paid by the said party of the second part, the receipt whereof is hereby confessed and acknowledged, has bargained, sold, remised, and Quit-claimed and By these Presents does bargain, sell, remise and Quit-claim unto the said party of the second part and to her heirs and assigns forever, All that tract or parcel of land situate in the town of Minden, Montgomery County N.Y. lying in the village of Fords Bush on the west side of the highway, bounded as follows: Northerly by the lands now owned by Felix Wagner[,] Easterly by the public highway, Southerly by the lands of William Ehle, Westerly by the lands of James N. Cronkhite, and being the same premises this day conveyed to the party of the first part in trust to convey to the wife of George H. Wagner[,] the party of the second part, Together with all and singular the hereditaments and appurtenances thereto belonging or in anywise appertaining, and the reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders unto, issues and profits thereof and all the estate, right, titles, interest, claim and demand whatsoever of the said part of the first part, either in law or equity, of in and to the above bargained provisions, with the said hereditaments, To Have and to Hold the said premises to the said party of the second part[,] her heirs and assigns, to the sole and only proper benefit and behoof of the said party of the second part, her heirs and assigns forever.

In Witness Whereof, the party of the first part has hereunto set his hand and seal the day and year first above mentioned.

*John D. Wendell* [L.S.]

State of New York  
County of Montgomery

On this 22d day of September in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-six before me the subscriber personally came John D. Wendell[,] to me known to be the person described in and who executed the within instrument and acknowledged that he executed the same.

*A. Murray*  
Justice of the Peace

Recorded January 2d, 1877 at 10 hours A.M.  
*W. N. Johnson*, Clerk

Montgomery County Deeds, Liber 95, p.576-7

Transcribed May 6, 2005 by Karen E. Dau, Rochester NY

**Minden, Montgomery Co. NY**

This indenture, made the 15<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year one thousand nine hundred and eight between Prudence L. Wagner of the City of Albany, N.Y. of the first part, and Peter Miller[,] whose post office address is Fort Plain, N.Y. of the second part,

Witnesseth that the said party of the first part, in consideration of Twenty-Five Dollars (\$25.00) lawful money of the United States, paid by the party of the second part, does hereby grant and release unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns, forever, All that tract or parcel of land situate in the town of Minden[,] County of Montgomery and State of New York lying in the village of Fords Bush on the west side of the highway bounded northerly by lands in possession of Wilford Casler[,] easterly by the public highway, southerly by lands of Clark Cotton and westerly by lands owned by James H. Cronkhite at the time of his death[,] and being the same premises conveyed to the party of the first part by John D. Wendell by Quit claim deed dated Sept. 22, 1876 and recorded in Montgomery County Clerk's office Jan. 2, 1877 in Book 95 of deeds page 576.

Together with the appurtenances and all the estates and rights of the said party of the first part in and to said premises, To have and to hold, the above granted premises unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever. And the said Prudence L. Wagner does covenant with the said party of the second part as follows: That the said Prudence L. Wagner will forever warrant the title to said premises.

In Witness Whereof the said party of the first part has hereunto set her hand and seal the day and year first above written.

*Prudence L. Wagner* [L.S.]

State of New York  
County of Albany

On this 20<sup>th</sup> day of January in the year one thousand nine hundred and eight before me, the subscriber, personally appeared Prudence L. Wagner[,] to me personally known to be the same person described in and who executed the foregoing instrument, and she acknowledged to me that she executed the same.

*Lucy H. Buchanan*  
Com. of Deeds, Albany N.Y.

[The identity and authority of Lucy H. Buchanan were verified on 20 Jan 1908 by John Franey, clerk of Montgomery Co.]

Recorded on the 24 day of January 1908 at 4:10 P.M.

*H. Wagner*, clerk

Montgomery County Deeds, Liber 157, p.294

**Minden, Montgomery Co. NY**

This indenture, made the eleventh day of April in the year one thousand nine hundred and ten between Peter Miller and Katharine J. Miller his wife of the first part, and George D. Cronkhite, George P. Bellinger and Isaac Zoller as Trustees of the Second Universalist Parish of the Town of Minden, N.Y. of the second part,

Witnesseth, that said parties of the first part, in consideration of one dollar (\$1.00) lawful money of the United States, paid by the parties of the second part, do hereby remise, release and forever quit-claim unto the parties of the second part, their successors, heirs and assigns forever, all that Tract or Parcel of Land, situate in the Town of Minden, County of Montgomery, and State of New York, lying in the village of Fords Bush on the west side of the highway; bounded northerly by lands in the possession of Welford Casler; easterly by the public highway; southerly by lands of Clark Potter; and westerly by lands of which James H. Cronkhite died seized; and being the same premises conveyed to said Peter Miller by Prudence L. Wagner by Warranty Deed dated January 5<sup>th</sup> 1908 and recorded in Montgomery County Clerk's office January 24, 1908 in Book 157 of Deeds at page 294. This lot is to be used in connection with and as part of the parsonage lot of said church parish, and is not to be sold off from the same or separated therefrom, or used except as part thereof; and no building shall ever be erected thereon except as is consistent with the proper use of a church parsonage lot,

Together with the appurtenances and all the estate and rights of the parties of the first part in and to said premises, To have and to hold, the above granted[,] bargained and described premises unto the said parties of the second part, their successors and assigns forever.

In Witness Whereof the said parties of the first part have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written,  
In the Presence of J. L. Moore

*Peter Miller* [L.S.]  
*Katharine J. Miller* [L.S.]

State of New York  
County of Montgomery

On this 11th day of April in the year one thousand nine hundred and ten before me, the subscriber, personally appeared Peter Miller and Katharine J. Miller his wife, to me personally known to be the same persons described in and who executed the foregoing instrument and they severally acknowledged to me that they executed the same.

*Joseph L. Moore*  
Montgomery County Judge

Recorded on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of April 1910 at 8:55 o'clock A.M.

*H. Wagner*, clerk

Montgomery County Deeds, Liber 162, p.522

February 27, 1947.

Rev. Warren B. Lovejoy,  
6 Washington Street,  
Fort Plain, N. Y.

Dear Rev. Lovejoy:

I have your letter of the 25th inst. Our records indicate that the Second Universalist Parish of the Town of Minden, N. Y., in the spring of 1942 had a deposit of \$1,441.76 in the National Bank at Fort Plain, which represented or was known as the Peter Miller Fund. This was turned over to the Convention as a Trust Fund for the Church of the Messiah at Fort Plain, and with the addition of what I imagine is interest, was so recorded on the Convention's books as \$1448.97 on June 16, 1942. There are two other small amounts also shown, to-wit, \$3.25 on March 22, 1943 "From sale of old metal @ Minden Church", and \$50.00 on June 30, 1944 as "Sale old Parsonage", which our files indicate was the Parsonage at Minden. This makes a total of \$1502.22 from original sources in answer to your first question.

I have what purports to be an uncertified copy of the Will of one Peter Miller. From this it seems that the Second Universalist Parish of the Town of Minden was named as a legatee. You probably have access to a copy of this will, but I refer you to the Fifth paragraph which sets up a \$1000 Trust for the Minden Parish with a John I. Zeller of Little Falls as Trustee. I believe Zeller was or is an attorney. Anyway on his death the Trust was to end and the Parish was to have the principal of the Trust itself. I have nothing to show what the actual situation was. Also in the Eleventh paragraph of the will \$1000 was left outright to the Minden Parish, after the death of the Testator's widow, Catherine Miller. Neither of these bequests mentioned the Ladies Aid Society of the Minden Parish. In this same paragraph however I notice two more \$1000 trusts to Zeller the same as above mentioned, one to the Parish itself, and the other to the Parish but to be expended under the direction of the Ladies Aid.

I have no other information about the Peter Miller estate, and suggest that you check the Will yourself. You could see it in the Surrogates Office if a copy is not handy.

I trust the foregoing will be of help.

Very truly yours,

Donald W. Beebe,  
Treasurer.

## Music at the Service

MRS. ANN FAILING CRONKHITE, Organist  
KENNETH G. BAUMGARTNER, Director

♦♦♦♦

### Choir

MRS. LEWIS BIRK	GAIL ACHENBACH
MRS. JULIUS FAILING	SHEILA DESMOND
MRS. WALTER FOX	ANITA KING
MRS. GLEN LUMLEY	JOYCE TIMMERMAN
MRS. DONALD NEACH	HAROLD CRONKHITE
MRS. GRACE SMITH	ROGER CRONKHITE
MRS. HAROLD TIMMERMAN	ALAN DIEFENDORF
MRS. IRVING VAN ALSTYNE	JAMES LONGALE

♦♦♦♦

## Music at the Reception

MRS. WILLIAM VAN WIE, Pianist

♦♦♦♦

### The Committee

MR. and MRS. VICTOR DIEFENDORF  
MR. and MRS. HARRY BAUDER  
MR. and MRS. CLARENCE DUGGLEBY  
MR. and MRS. DONALD NEACH  
MR. and MRS. GEORGE CRONKHITE  
MR. and MRS. ROGER CRONKHITE  
MRS. GRACE SMITH  
MRS. ANNA M. AYERS, Honorary

# Church of the Messiah Universalist

Fort Plain, New York



Service of Installation  
of the  
Reverend Lyman Achenbach  
Minister

Monday Evening, April 25th, 1949  
8:00 o'Clock

# Order of Service

PRELUDE

INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER—

**Rev. Howard B. Gilman**

St. Paul's Universalist Church, Little Falls

HYMN No. 30

RESPONSIVE READING (Congregation Standing)

We are gathered together to give voice again to the vision that has glorified human association throughout the ages. We aspire to love justice, to long for the right,

To love mercy, to assist the weak, to pity suffering, to forget wrongs and remember benefits.

To love the truth, to be sincere, to utter honest words,

To love liberty, to wage relentless war against all slaveries,

To make this earth a happy home for all mankind,

To love the beautiful in art, in nature, to cultivate the mind,

To be familiar with the mighty thoughts that genius has expressed, the noble deeds of all the world,

To cultivate courage and cheerfulness, to make others happy,

To fill life with the splendor of generous acts, the warmth of loving words,

To discard error, to destroy prejudice, to receive new truths with gladness,

To cultivate hope, to see the calm beyond the storm, the dawn before the night, to do the best that can be done.

**This is the way of truth, this satisfies the mind and heart.**

—Robert G. Ingersoll

ASCRPTION (Congregation Standing) ----- Choir

SCRIPTURE READING—

**Rev. John S. MacPhee**

Church of the Reconciliation, Utica

BARITONE SOLO—

**Kenneth G. Baumgartner**

SERMON—"The Basic Needs of Man"

**Rev. Ellsworth C. Reamon, D. D.**

Betts Memorial Universalist Church, Syracuse

THE ACT OF INSTALLATION—

**Mr. Clarence Duggleby**

Chairman, Board of Management.

Address to the Minister-elect.

The Installation and Pledge—

**We, the congregation of the Church of the Messiah in Fort Plain, do hereby install you as minister of this church. On our part we solemnly pledge ourselves, so far as in us lieth, to walk with you in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in all the ways of God, known or to be made known to us.**

The Minister's Response

THE PRAYER OF INSTALLATION—

**Rev. Fred C. Leining, D. D.**

Superintendent, New York Universalist Convention

ANTHEM ----- The Choir

THE CHARGE TO THE MINISTER—

**Rev. Fred C. Leining, D. D.**

THE WELCOME TO THE CENTRAL MOHAWK VALLEY ASSOCIATION—

**Rev. Clinton A. Moulton**

First Universalist Church, Dolgèville

THE WELCOME TO THE COMMUNITY—

**Rev. Herbert H. Mahl**

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Fort Plain

HYMN No. 72—"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" ----- Luther

BENEDICTION—Rev. Lyman Achenbach

POSTLUDE

•••••

The congregation is invited to attend the reception to Mr. and Mrs. Achenbach in the social room following this service.

Date sent: Tue, 11 Feb 97 16:56 EST  
From: Frank Helman <FHELMAN+awcag@WALTER\_CONSTON\_ALEXANDER\_ &  
To: SCOTT <scott@cs.rochester.edu>  
Copies to: JILL CARTER <gillian@caa.admin.nyu.edu>  
Subject: It never rains but it pours -Reply

It may be too late for us to do anything in Fort Plain. The law relating to dissolutions is different from that on mergers.

In a dissolution proceeding, a petition is presented to the court having jurisdiction, listing the assets of the congregation and the proposed disposition thereof; if the court approves the petition, that is the end of it. No notice to or approval of the "governing religious body" is required.

In a merger (which is referred to in the statute as a "consolidation"), on the other hand, each church involved must separately present a petition to the court and obtain the consent of its "governing religious body," if any. Thus we can block a consolidation but not a dissolution.

Yet another provision of law dealing with "property of extinct churches" allows a "governing religious body" to declare a church over which it has jurisdiction extinct if the church has either (a) failed for two consecutive years next prior thereto to maintain religious service according to the discipline, customs and usages of such governing body, or (b) has had less than thirteen members paying annual pew rent or making annual contributions towards its support. The governing religious body may take over all the property of the extinct congregation and either manage it or dispose of it and apply the proceeds to its stated purposes. In the case of a congregation that is "hanging on by the skin of its teeth," for example, the Convention could take title to the property but allow the congregation to continue to use it. If the congregation folds, the Convention already has title to the property; if the congregation revives, the Convention has the option of giving the property back.

What it boils down to is this: since it cannot be predicted in advance if a congregation will dissolve or consolidate, the only way we can preserve our options is to take a more proactive role by actively monitoring the activities of our member congregations -- especially the weak sisters -- so that we will be in a position to declare them extinct and take over their property, if we so choose, before they decide to dissolve.

I will check to see if there are any reported decisions dealing with the Bristol or Herkimer (or other) churches.

Regards, Frank.



# This Indenture,

Made the *thirteenth* day of *September* Nineteen Hundred and  
Fifty-one,

*Between* NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION OF UNIVERSALISTS,

a corporation organized under the laws of New York State, having an office  
at 373 Argonne Drive, Kenmore, Erie County, New York,

*party of the first part, and*

PAUL S. BOUCK, of Minden, Montgomery County, New York,

*party of the second part,*

*Witnesseth* that the party *of the first part, in consideration of*

One and more dollars-----(\$1 and more Dollars)

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ lawful money of the United States,

*paid by the party of the second part,*

*does hereby grant and release unto the party of the second part, his*

*distributees and assigns forever, all THAT CERTAIN PIECE OR PARCEL  
OF LAND being in the Town of Minden, County of Montgomery, State of  
New York and bounded as follows:*

Commencing at the Northwest corner of the church lot in  
the center of the public highway leading past said church and running  
thence along said church lot South 69° 30' East 4 3.5/100 chains  
North 17° 15' East 3 71/100 chains to a stake; thence North 69° 30'  
West 4 3.5/100 chains to center of aforesaid highway, thence along  
center of highway South 17° 15' West 3 71/100 chains to the place  
of beginning, containing one and one-half acres of land, the same  
being more or less. And the said party of the second part hereby  
agrees to build and keep in repair the fences on the North and East  
sides of said lot.

The above-described premises being the same premises con-  
veyed by John H. Keller and wife to Abram Devendorf and others, as  
trustees of the Second Universalist Society at Ford's Bush, dated  
November 2, 1868 and recorded in the Montgomery County Clerk's Office  
on June 7, 1869 in Book 84 of Deeds at page 505.

Also conveying hereby the so-called Universalist Church  
lot lying immediately south of the above-described premises and  
north of the property now owned by the party of the second part and  
occupied by him as his residence.

Also, ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND situate in the Town of Minden, County of Montgomery and State of New York, lying in the village of Ford's bush on the west side of the highway; bounded northerly by lands in possession of Wilford Casler; easterly by the public highway; southerly by lands of Clark Cotten; and westerly by lands of which James H. Cronkhite died seized; and being the same premises conveyed to said Peter Miller by Prudence L. Wagner by warranty deed, dated January 15, 1908, and recorded in Montgomery County Clerk's office, January 24, 1908, in Book 157 of deeds at Page 294.

The last above described premises being the same premises conveyed by Peter Miller and wife to George D. Cronkhite and others as Trustees of the Second Universalist Parish of the Town of Minden, dated April 11th, 1910, and recorded in the Montgomery County Clerk's Office on April 19, 1910.

This deed is executed and delivered by the party of the first part herein without any previous application to any court or judge thereof, pursuant to the provisions of Section 8 of Chapter 33 of the Laws of 1907.

It is intended by this deed that the party of the first part, as the governing religious body of all churches of the Universalist denomination within the bounds of the State of New York, conveys all its interests in and to the foregoing described premises.

Together with the appurtenances and all the estate and rights of the party of the first part in and to said premises,

To have and to hold the premises herein granted unto the party of the second part, his distributees and assigns forever.

And the party of the first part covenants that it has not done or suffered anything whereby the said premises have been incumbered in any way whatever.

And That the grantor will receive the consideration for this conveyance and will hold the right to receive such consideration as a trust fund to be applied first for the purpose of paying the cost of the improvement and will apply the same first to the payment of the cost of the improvement before using any part of the total of the same for any other purpose.

In Presence of

35 cents  
Dr. Stamp  
attached  
&  
Cancelled

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

Fred C. Leving  
Secretary.

In Witness Whereof, The

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

NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION OF UNIVERSALISTS,

By Ralph W. Stoddard  
President.

Com

State of New York }  
County of ERIE } SS..

CITY of BUFFALO.

On this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of August, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-one, before me personally came RALPH W. STODDARD,

to me personally known, who, being by me duly sworn, did depose and say that he resides in 92 East Girard Blvd., Kenmore, New York; that he is the President of NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION OF UNIVERSALISTS, the corporation described in, and which executed, the above 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 Directors of said corporation; and that he signed his name thereto by like order.

*Donald W. Beem*

DONALD W. BEEM  
Notary Public, State of New York  
Qualified to Exp. Ch. of Issue of appointment  
by Governor August 20, 1952

NOTARY PUBLIC

*County Clerk's Cert. Attached*

**NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION OF UNIVERSALISTS**

Covenant Against Grantor with Lien Covenant (CORPORATION)

NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION OF UNIVERSALISTS

TO

PAUL S. BOUCK

Dated, \_\_\_\_\_

19 51

STATE OF NEW YORK

County of \_\_\_\_\_

SS.

RECORDED ON THE

day of Aug. 19 51

at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock M.

in LIBER \_\_\_\_\_ of DEEDS

at PAGE \_\_\_\_\_ and examined

CLERK

**Minden, Montgomery Co. NY**

This indenture, made the eleventh day of April in the year one thousand nine hundred and ten between Peter Miller and Katharine J. Miller his wife of the first part, and George D. Cronkhite, George P. Bellinger and Isaac Zoller as Trustees of the Second Universalist Parish of the Town of Minden, N.Y. of the second part,

Witnesseth, that said parties of the first part, in consideration of one dollar (\$1.00) lawful money of the United States, paid by the parties of the second part, do hereby remise, release and forever quit-claim unto the parties of the second part, their successors, heirs and assigns forever, all that Tract or Parcel of Land, situate in the Town of Minden, County of Montgomery, and State of New York, lying in the village of Fords Bush on the west side of the highway; bounded northerly by lands in the possession of Welford Casler; easterly by the public highway; southerly by lands of Clark Potter; and westerly by lands of which James H. Cronkhite died seized; and being the same premises conveyed to said Peter Miller by Prudence L. Wagner by Warranty Deed dated January 5<sup>th</sup> 1908 and recorded in Montgomery County Clerk's office January 24, 1908 in Book 157 of Deeds at page 294. This lot is to be used in connection with and as part of the parsonage lot of said church parish, and is not to be sold off from the same or separated therefrom, or used except as part thereof; and no building shall ever be erected thereon except as is consistent with the proper use of a church parsonage lot,

Together with the appurtenances and all the estate and rights of the parties of the first part in and to said premises, To have and to hold, the above granted[,] bargained and described premises unto the said parties of the second part, their successors and assigns forever.

In Witness Whereof the said parties of the first part have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written,

In the Presence of J. L. Moore

*Peter Miller* [L.S.]  
*Katharine J. Miller* [L.S.]

State of New York

County of Montgomery

On this 11th day of April in the year one thousand nine hundred and ten before me, the subscriber, personally appeared Peter Miller and Katharine J. Miller his wife, to me personally known to be the same persons described in and who executed the foregoing instrument and they severally acknowledged to me that they executed the same.

*Joseph L. Moore*  
Montgomery County Judge

Recorded on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of April 1910 at 8:55 o'clock A.M.

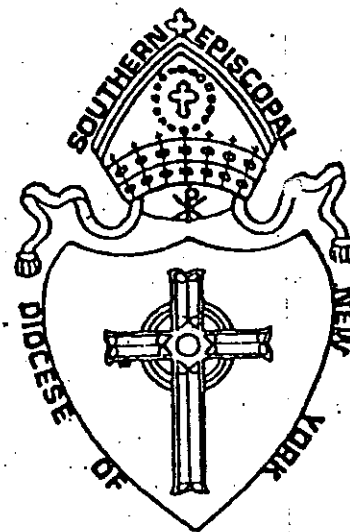
*H. Wagner*, clerk

Montgomery County Deeds, Liber 162, p.522

Transcribed May 6, 2005 by Karen E. Dau, Rochester NY

Missionary Diocese  
of New York

P.O. BOX 188  
FT PLAIN N.Y.  
13339



To the Board of Trustees and Congregation of the Church of the Messiah,  
Universalist Church, Fort Plain, N.Y.

Greetings:

I am presenting this letter of intent in response to previous meetings and dialogue relative to the transfer of the Church of the Messiah to the Southern Episcopal Missionary Diocese of New York. The purpose of transfer being the establishment of a diocesan center to encompass the following:

- One: St. Michael's Archangel Diocesan Center and Church of the Messiah.
- Two: The Dioceses of New York Anglican Clinical Studies program.
- Three: St. Michael's Societal University program, (a division of Holy Trinity College and Seminary, Nashville, TN.)
- Four: St. Lukes Family Counseling Outreach Program.
- Five: Diocesan Education Program for the enhancement of the Laity.

All of these programs are dependent upon the appropriate legal transfer of the church property to the Southern Episcopal Diocese of New York.

Whereas, the appropriate transfer of property being legally instituted, the Southern Episcopal Diocese of New York will insure and protect the following for the benefit of the religious nurturing of the Universalist Church of the Messiah, Fort Plain, New York.

One: That the Universalist congregation will be entitled to the inclusive use of the church property for all events that they may desire with respect to appropriate scheduling and that the Universalist will enjoy full autonomy of their religious expression without any interference from the S.E.C.

Two: That the Universalist congregation will retain its present time of weekly worship of Sunday religious services to be continued at

en o'clock a.m.

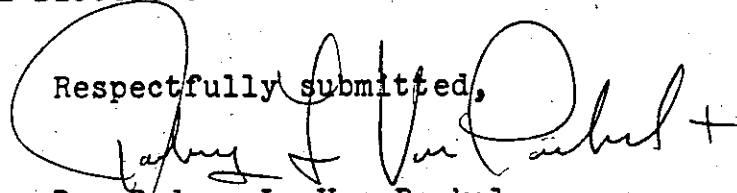
Three: That the Universalist congregation's present contract with the Senior citizens center will be respected and remain the same when the church is transferred to the Southern Episcopal Diocese of New York.

Four: That all programming for St. Michael's Diocesan center be open to the inclusiveness of the Universalist Congregation.

Five: That all legal fees procured relative to the transfer of church property be assumed and paid for by the Southern Episcopal Diocese of New York.

Six: That restoration and financial obligations of providing the ongoing maintenance of the church property upon transfer be the sole responsibility of the Southern Episcopal Diocese of New York.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Dr. Rodney L. Von Packal  
Dean, Missionary Diocese  
of New York

May 21, 1997

Dear Jill,

Received your letter of April 21<sup>st</sup> and you have it correct, as of June 23, 1996. The Universalist Church of the Messiah, Fort Plain had their last church service. The membership of the congregation has declined to around 30 members of which only about 10 attended church services, and many of whom are elderly and or no longer living in Fort Plain area.

We had our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Laying of the Cornerstone May 2, 1896 - May 2, 1996. The Church is located on corner of Mohawk + Center St. Fort Plain, N.Y.

Influence of the Universalist Church in this section of the Mohawk Valley dates back to 1825, but it wasn't until 1832 that "The First Universalist Church Society of Minden" was organized. The new frame church at the corner of Mohawk + Center St. was dedicated on Christmas Day, 1833, the first church to be erected in the village of Fort Plain, which had been incorporated only a yr. earlier.

By 1874, it was found necessary to remodel the building + rededication services were held. Again in 1880 the building was enlarged + remodeled. As the yrs. passed the old building was found to be inadequate + by



1896 plans for razing the old edifice and erecting the new building had been completed. Laying of the cornerstone + its dedication occurred during the pastorate of Rev. Herbert W. Carr.

The church served as a liberalizing force in the community during those years, 1879-1900 of the Clinton Liberal Institute in Fort Plain. The institute was under the management of the Universalist denomination + a majority of its boarding students were from Universalist families. Church attendance was required + the congregation in those days was augmented by over 100 boys and girls from the hill.

Our last minister was Rev. James Thomas, Treasurer Robert Moyer, President of the Board William Van Wie.

If any questions call 518 - 853-4838

Yours truly,

Shirley E. Van Wie

4056 St. Hwy 5S

Fultonville

N.Y. 12072



FORMER UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
FORT PLAIN, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, NY  
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