

This Indenture, Made this Sixth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seventy eight Between Celestia M. Ballard wife of Nelson Ballard of Cooperstown Otsego County State of New York of the first part, and The Trustees of the First Universalist Society of Oneonta and their Successors in Office of the second part,

Witnesseth, That the said party of the first part, in consideration of the sum of Five Hundred Dollars, to me duly paid, have sold, and by these Presents do grant and convey to the said party of the second part, their heirs and assigns, ^{of} All that Tract or Parcel of Land, situate in the Village of Oneonta County of Otsego and State of New York, described and bounded as follows to wit being Lot A F as laid down on the Street map as made by Jas. R. L. Walling Civil Engineer of his Survey of the opening of Ford Avenue and said Lot A. F. commences for the same in the easterly bounds of said Avenue at a point $181^{\circ} 15' E.$ 60 feet from the angle in said Avenue bounds which point is also the northwest corner of Lot S F as laid down on said map thence $S 88^{\circ} 45' E 82\frac{1}{2}$ to an angle thence $N. 58^{\circ} 50' E 135$ feet to a point established for a corner thence along the line of the house lot of John Cope 25 feet to a corner thence $S. 72^{\circ} 30' W. 103$ feet to an angle thence $N. 88^{\circ} 45' W. 82\frac{1}{2}$ feet to said Avenue bounds thence $S. 1^{\circ} 15' W. 60$ feet to the place of beginning and containing 38 rods of land according to the said Survey be the same more or less. ^{and} And the said party of the first part covenants that the above described lot is free and clear from all incumbrances to and with the parties of the second part.

With the Appurtenances, and all the estate, title and interest therein of the said party of the first part. And the said Celestia M. Ballard does hereby covenant and agree, to and with the said party of the second part, their heirs and assigns and their successors in office that the premises thus conveyed, in the quiet and peaceable possession of the said party of the second part, & their successors in office will forever Warrant and Defend against any person whomsoever lawfully claiming the same or any part thereof.

In Witness Whereof, the party of the first part, hath here-
unto set her hand and seal the day and year first above written.

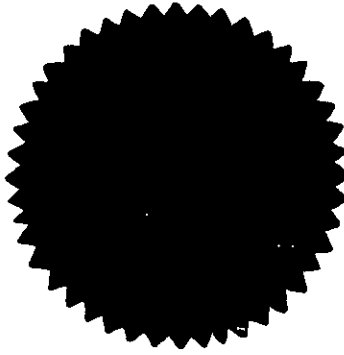
Sealed and Delivered in Celestia M. Ballard L. S.
Presence of S. S. Burnside
STATE OF NEW YORK,
Otsego County. SS.

On this 6th day of September in the year one thousand eight
hundred and seventy seven before me, the subscriber, personally
appeared Celestia M. Ballard to me known to be the same person des-
cribed in and who executed the within instrument, and acknowledged that
they she executed the same.

S. S. Burnside
Notary Public

Recorded, examined and compared with the original, the 18th day of
November, 1878 at 8 o'clock A. M.
..... Clerk.

Otsego County Clerk's Office
STATE OF NEW YORK } ss.
Otsego County



I, ROBERT M. ATWELL, Clerk of the County of Otsego, N. Y., do hereby Certify
that I have compared the foregoing copy of
Deed- Celestia M. Ballard to the Trustees of the
First Universalist Society of Oneonta. Recorded
Nov. 18, 1878 in Liber 180 of Conveyances at page
358.
with the original record.... of the same remaining in this office, and that the
same is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole of said original record.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said
County and Courts, at Cooperstown, N. Y., this 19th
November, 1956.

.....
Otsego County Clerk

By Deputy Clerk.

CC 5 - 5-4-56-2000

This Indenture,

Made the *EIGHTEENTH* day of *JULY* *Nineteen Hundred and*
fifty -seven

Between THE NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION OF UNIVERSALISTS, a religious
a corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York, having an
office at 373 Argonne Drive, Kenmore, Erie County, New York,

party of the first part, and

the FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF ONEONTA of the Village of Oneonta,
County of Otsego and State of New York

party of the second part;

Witnesseth that the party *of the first part, in consideration of*
one and no more *Dollars*

(\$1.00 and no more) 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, its

successors and assigns forever, all that Tract or Parcel of Land,

situate in the Village of Oneonta, County of Otsego and State of New York, described
and bounded as follows to wit being Lot A F as laid down on the Street map as made
by Jas. R. L. Walling Civil Engineer of his Survey of the opening of Ford Avenue
and said Lot A. F. commences for the same in the easterly bounds of said Avenue
at a point 181 degrees 15' E. 60 feet from the angle in said Avenue bounds which
point is also the northwest corner of Lot S F as laid down on said map thence
S 88 degrees 45' E. 82½ feet to an angle thence N. 58 degrees 50' E. 135 feet to a
point established for a corner thence along the line of the house lot of John
Cope 25 feet to a corner thence S. 72 degrees 30' W. 103 feet to an angle thence
N. 88 degrees 45' W. 82½ feet to said Avenue bounds thence S. 1 degree 15' W.
60 feet to the place of beginning and containing 38 rods of land according to the
said Survey be the same more or less.

Being the same premises conveyed by deed dated September 6, 1878 from Celestia
M. Ballard to The Trustees of the First Universalist Society of Oneonta and their
Successors in Office, and recorded on November 18, 1878 in the Office of the County

sale

This deed is executed upon the condition that in case the said First Universalist Society, of Oneonta shall not maintain services in the church building [now] standing on the premises, by a clergyman in fellowship with said New York State Convention of Universalists (hereinafter called the "Convention"), for the period of any two consecutive years, or shall not itself continue in such fellowship for a like period of time, the premises with all improvements thereon shall revert to said Convention, to be held in trust for the following purposes:

First, To manage, sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of said property in the discretion of the Board of Trustees of said Convention;

Second, To apply any income from said property, or any income from the proceeds of the sale thereof, to missionary, educational and charitable purposes of the Convention, under the direction of the Board of Trustees of said Convention; and

Third, To apply the principal sum obtained from any sale of said property within twenty years of the receipt of said property only to the building of a Universalist Church in said Village of Oneonta or in some place in the vicinity of said Village of Oneonta when in the judgment of the Board of Trustees of said Convention, it shall be advisable to do so.

Fourth, After the expiration of said twenty years to apply said principal sum to the missionary, educational and charitable work of said Convention.

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, its successors and assigns forever, subject as aforesaid

That this conveyance is made and delivered by the grantor herein without any previous application to any Judge or Court pursuant to the authority and provisions of Chapter 188 of the Laws of 1862, as amended by Chapter 356 of the Laws of 1880, by Chapter 598 of the Laws of 1902, by Chapter 48 of the Laws of 1905, by Chapter 33 of the Laws of 1907 and by Chapter 231 of the Laws of 1918.

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

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.

ATTEST

Harold B. Gilman
Secretary

NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION OF UNIVERSALISTS

By George A. Kovale
Vice-President

State of New York

County of ERIE

§§.

CITY of BUFFALO

On this Eighteenth day of JULY, Nineteen Hundred and

Fifty-seven before me personally came GEORGE A. KOVAKA

to me personally known, who, being by me duly sworn, did depose and say that

he resides in 49 Berkley Place, Buffalo, New York that he is

Vice-
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 Trustees Directors

of said corporation; and that he signed his name thereto by like order.

Helen E. Mesler

HELEN E. MESLER
Notary Public, State of New York
Qualified in Erie County
My Commission Expires March 30, 1959

JUL 29 1957 9:01 AM
RECORDED
Covenant Against Grantor with Lien Covenant
(CORPORATION)

NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION
OF UNIVERSALISTS
TO
FIRST UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
OF ONTARIO

Dated, July 18th 195

STATE OF NEW YORK
County of Otsego §§.

RECORDED ON THE
29 day of July A.D. 1957
at 9:01 o'clock A.M.
in LIBER 477 of DEEDS
at PAGE 350 and examined

Robert M. Beebe
CLERK

DONALD W. BEEBE
ATTORNEY AT LAW
619 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BLDG.
238 MAIN STREET
BUFFALO 2, N. Y.

15

Constitution and By-laws
of the
First Universalist Society of Oneonta, N.Y.
commonly known as
Chapin Memorial Universalist Church

Preamble---

Believing the church to be a means of promoting Christian culture and consecration as well as the development of spiritual life we hereby associate ourselves as a Christian Church in connection with the Universalist Parish in Oneonta and adopt for our government the following by-laws:

Article I Name

Section I This church shall be known as the Chapin Memorial Church of the First Universalist Society of Oneonta, New York.

Article II Officers

Section I The minister shall be the pastor of the church.
Section 2 The officers of this church shall consist of a moderator, a clerk, a treasurer who shall be elected annually by ballot.
Section 3 There shall be nine trustees elected in 1936 by a majority vote in groups of three for a period of three years; two years; and one year respectively. Thereafter three trustees shall be elected annually for a term of three years or, until successors are elected.

Article III Membership

Section I Expressed assent to the profession of Faith adopted by the Universalist General Convention shall be essential to membership in this church.

Section 2 Such applicant shall be publicly recognized by the pastor upon assent to the profession of Faith and covenant of the church or, in case of illness, the recognition may be private.

Section 3 Any member may withdraw from the church by a written notice to the clerk who shall communicate the fact to the church at the records under proper date.

Section 4 A letter of commendation may be given if requested in such form as the minister or board of trustees may approve.

Article IV Meetings

Section I The annual Parish Meeting for the purpose of hearing reports; and election of new officers shall be held each year on the first Thursday of November in the Parish House. Notice of such meeting, stating the time and place, shall be served personally, or by mail, or by announcement from the pulpit not less than ten nor more than forty days before the meeting; or by publication of such notice once in the Oneonta paper during the week preceeding such meeting. This meeting shall mark the beginning of the year and a canvas of the parish for the budget shall be made during the two weeks preceeding the annual meeting. The fiscal year shall begin on the first day of November of each year.

Section 2 Special meetings may be called by the pastor or upon the written request of any three members providing proper notice be given to each member of the time and place of said meeting. Due notice of all meetings shall be made from the pulpit, or by personal or written notice to each member.

Section 3 At all regular and special meetings duly called the members present shall constitute a quorum. This shall apply to executive board meetings as well.

Section 4 There shall be a trustees meeting once each month.

Article V Communion

Section I A communion of the Lord's supper shall be held at least three times during the year at the discretion of the pastor. Any one so desiring shall be allowed to take part.

Article VI Discipline

Section I All complaints against members shall be made in writing to the Board of Trustees and the Minister. They shall inquire into all charges giving both parties equal opportunity to be heard. In the finding of guilty the sentence shall be temporary or final suspension.

Section 2 If it should be manifestly improper for any member of the board to act in any investigation a substitute shall be appointed by the chairman of the board subject to the approval of the board.

-2-

Article VII Children of the Church School

- Section 1 The members of this church shall foster the Sunday School of the parish by personal membership or labors in its behalf.
- Section 2 The second or third Sunday in June shall be observed as Children's Sunday as recommended by the General Convention.
- Section 3 This church regards it as the duty of all parents to present their children for Baptism or dedication. Especially so is it the duty of the members of this church.
- Section 4 It further expects all members to have their children faithful in attendance at the Sunday School to train them in a consciousness of their Christian obligations and, at a suitable age, to have them apply for confirmation in the church.

Article VIII Duties of Officers

- Section 1 It shall be the duty of the moderator to preside at all meetings of the Parish appoint all committees, unless otherwise ordered, and perform such other duties as naturally belong to his office.
- Section 2 In his absence a moderator protem shall be appointed by a majority vote of members present.
- Section 3 It shall be the duty of the clerk to keep a full and accurate record of all meetings of the church in a book for that purpose. The clerk shall notify all officers of their election and see that all members, or their admission into the church, sign the church roll. The clerk shall have charge of publicity of meetings. The clerk shall have charge of books and papers belonging to church, except such books and papers as it is deemed advisable for the Minister to have. The clerk shall see that all reports of the church and parish required by the State Convention and the General Convention shall be made. The clerk shall prepare an annual report to be read at the Annual Parish meeting, and shall perform all other duties naturally pertaining to his office.
- Section 4 It shall be the duty of the treasurer to receive and have charge of all monies belonging to the church and to keep an accurate report--a complete monthly report to be presented to the board of Trustees at their monthly meeting. He shall present a complete annual report at the Annual Meeting of the Parish.
- Section 5 If and when there are women on the board of trustees they shall be responsible for the preparation of the communion and the planning of the parish suppers. Otherwise the board of trustees shall appoint some responsible person to have charge each time.

Article IX Committees

- Section 1 It shall be the duty of the moderator at the annual meeting to appoint the following committees; each to consist of three members with duties as hereafter described and each committee shall report at the meeting held.
- Section 2 A committee on visitation whose duty it shall be to endeavor to make the acquaintance of all the members of the congregation who reside in their respective districts; call upon every person and exert themselves to unite the parish into one great family.
- Section 3 A committee on the sick whose duty it shall be to visit the sick in their respective districts; provide watches when necessary; do all in their power to render the invalid comfortable and report the cases to the pastor.
- Section 4 A committee on hospitality whose duty it shall be to seek out strangers in the parish; call upon them; introduce them to the pastor and members of the congregation and endeavor to make them feel that they are among friends.
- Section 5 A committee on benevolences whose duty it shall be to devise and put in operation such means as they may deem advisable to reach and help the needy.

Article X Statistics

- Section 1 A book of registry shall be provided in which shall be recorded all dedication, baptisms, marriages, funerals and church admissions, performed or attended by the pastor.

Article XI Amendments

- Section 1 These by-laws may be altered or amended by a two thirds vote of the members present at any regular meeting provided the said alteration or amendment shall have been presented in writing at a regular or special meeting at least one month previous.

DOXOLOGY:

*From all that dwell below the skies
Let songs of hope and faith arise;
Let peace, goodwill on earth be sung
Through every land, by every tongue.*

HYMN OF ASPIRATION:

*Ours be the poems of all tongues,
All things of loveliness and worth,
All arts, all ages, and all songs,
One life, one beauty on the earth.*

COVENANT:

*Love is the doctrine of this church,
The quest for truth is its sacrament,
And service is its prayer.
To dwell together in peace,
To seek knowledge in freedom,
To serve humankind in fellowship,
To the end that all souls
shall grow in harmony,
Thus do we covenant,
with each other and with our God.*

TO OUR VISITORS: You are always welcome here. There are no credal requirements for participation in any of our services, religious education programs, or other activities. We invite you to join us for coffee after the service -- take an orange mug so that we can spot you easily. Please sign our guest book at the visitors' desk in the rear of the sanctuary; and if you would like to receive our newsletter, which will inform you of church events, fill out a yellow card (found above the desk) and leave it there.

OUR CHURCH: Founded in 1877, we are an independent congregation affiliated with the Unitarian Universalist Association. Our church is run by the membership, which entirely supports the financial demands as well. We are people of diverse beliefs, joined by a unity of spirit. Together we search for answers to life's mysteries. Encouraged by one another and aided by the liberal ministry and a free pulpit, we seek out these truths and spiritual insights. If you find that we are the kind of church community you want both to be part of and to help shape in your own way, we urge you to join us by signing the membership book...

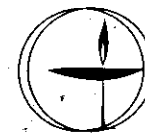
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: We believe that children grow their own religion by reflecting sensitively upon the wide range of experiences which make up their daily lives. We encourage them to recognize their own worth and that of others; to become aware of the natural and social world in which they live -- and their responsibility to it. We help them to discover their cultural and religious heritage and we urge them to realize the spiritual dimensions of their own lives...Classes are open to all visitors who wish to attend.

Sunday Service and Church School
at 10:30 AM.
Nursery Care Provided

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF ONEONTA
12 Ford Avenue
Oneonta, New York 13820
Phone: (607)-432-3491



Minister: Rev. Andrew C. Backus, Ph.D.



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
OF ONEONTA



*Love is the doctrine of this church,
The quest for truth is its sacrament,
And service is its prayer...*

ORDER OF SERVICE
October 20, 1985

"Though our knowledge is incomplete, our truth partial, and our love imperfect, we believe that new light is ever waiting to break through individual hearts and minds to enlighten our ways."
-Napoleon W. Lovely

Prelude: "Nocturne #5" John Field

Opening Words

*Opening Hymn #14-n: "Morning Has Broken"

Kindling of the Light

*Doxology, Covenant, and Hymn (see back)

Children's Worship: "The Wump World"
Bill Peet
a story told by Nancy Smalley

Welcome and Announcements

Offertory "Op. 72, #2" Felix Mendelssohn

Joys and Concerns

Meditation, silent then spoken

Reflection: "To a Wild Rose"
Edward MacDowell

Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

Sermon: "Pulling Wool and Getting Goats"
by Andrew C. Backus

*Closing Hymn #53-n: "Unrest"

*Closing Words

Postlude

*please stand

IN RE TODAY

The entire Church School will be busy making colorful and individually decorated mobiles and rehearsing old and new songs to sing at the Nursing Home next Sunday. Our teachers this week are John and Valerie Kern and Emily Kirsch.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct. 20 (today!) CONGREGATIONAL MEETING at 12:15 PM -- a report from Finance
CROP WALK starting at 2:00 PM from the Lutheran Church

Oct. 21 Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary

Oct. 26-27 Saint Lawrence U.U. District Fall Conference in Syracuse

Oct. 26 ALL-CHURCH BON FIRE AND SING-OUT!!!! on Franklin Mountain, 7:00-9:00 PM

Oct. 27 Sunday Service at 10:30 AM
"Tying Us Together"
a service about the Ribbon of Peace by Molly Swain and others

International Pot-Luck Luncheon,
12:3-2:30 PM -- bring an ethnic dish!

Social Responsibility Committee meeting at 7:00 PM in the Meeting Room

A COFFEE HOUR follows the service provided by Alice and Dick Siegfried. Please join us!
A TALK-BACK will take place at 11:45 AM in the Choir Loft. Please feel free to come and go and participate to any extent.

Participants in the service are Andy Backus, Minister; Jennifer Horne, lighter of the Chalice; Lorie Horne; and Nancy Smalley. Music is provided by Lynne Valentine, Music Director.

Ushers are Stan and Judy Weisberger. The chancel table was arranged by Alice Siegfried.

WE ARE...

salespeople . . . gourmet cooks
nurses . . . authors
carpenters . . . singers . . . skiers
sailors . . . editors
campers . . . plumbers . . . potters
real estate agents . . . parents
bikers . . . farmers
scientists . . . social workers
cafeteria managers . . . poets
doctors . . . insurance adjusters
dreamers . . . homemakers
craftspeople . . . dog groomers
administrators . . . children
agnostics . . . upholsterers
theists . . . retirees . . . students
Christians . . . non-Christians
conservatives . . . travelers
Biblical scholars . . . pragmatists
psychologists . . . linguists
photographers . . . midwives
engineers . . . hairdressers
psychics . . . business people
artists . . . religious people

. . . and we'd like to get
to know you, too.

If you have any questions or needs,
call:

Rev. Andrew C. Backus, Minister
432-3491
Rev. Lyman Achenbach, Minister
Emeritus 432-6362
Ms. Jennifer Millett, Director of
Religious Education 432-2740
Mr. George Misner, Chairman of the
Board of Trustees 746-3844
Ms. Margaret Hathaway, Moderator
of the Church 432-8810

History of the Church

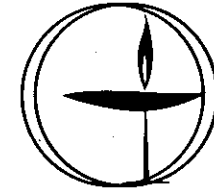
Founded in December, 1877, with a desire to "promote Christian Culture and Consecration," the church believed in a loving God to whom all people could be ultimately reconciled. Fifteen years later, the present brick building was dedicated as membership increased. In 1941 the steeple was hit by lightning but was not replaced.

In June, 1961, the congregation voted to accept new bylaws agreeing to be affiliated with the American Unitarian Association and the New York State Convention of Universalists. This followed the merger of the two denominations nationally. Acknowledging its Judeo-Christian heritage, the congregation desired "to study and practice religion in freedom and fellowship."

In 1966, benefiting from a generous bequest, the church was able to modernize the building's interior and improve the facilities for the Church School. The new minister, Rev. James Wentz, attracted new members by his personal witness against the Vietnam War. Then in 1977, the church celebrated its 100th birthday, along with the installation of its first woman minister, the Rev. Lisa Wiggins.

Twice since 1976 the church has functioned without a minister by relying on members of the congregation to create and conduct services. The present minister, the Rev. Andrew C. Backus, Ph.D., was called in June, 1983. He is a graduate of the Harvard Divinity School and has been a practicing chemist.

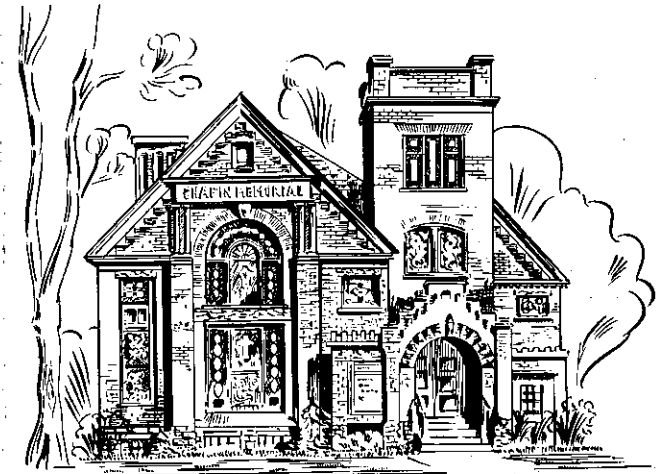
The Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta, although relatively small compared to some churches in Oneonta, remains a strong voice for liberal religion and social concern in the region.



WE WANT YOU
TO KNOW
OUR CHURCH...

The Unitarian Universalist Society
of Oneonta

12 Ford Avenue
Oneonta, New York



Founded 1877

Our Covenant:

Love is the doctrine of this church,
The quest for truth is its sacrament,
And service is its prayer.
To dwell together in peace,
To seek knowledge in freedom,
To serve humankind in fellowship,
To the end that all souls
shall grow in harmony,
Thus do we covenant,
with each other and with our God.

ON ALL DAYS

We practice our religion, for it is one that sanctifies the everyday. The deepest insights are often discovered in the most mundane of circumstances, and often in the midst of and in conversation with other people. Fellowship in our church is both a great deal of fun and, at the same time, the most serious of activities.

Together, we...

sing around a campfire . . . dance
discuss death and dying . . . hike
ice skate . . . build theology
consider bylaws . . . canoe
hold potlucks . . . discuss movies
roller skate . . . make stone soup
watch birds . . . enrich our marriages
walk for hunger . . . sell rummage
share life histories . . . barbeque
play ping pong . . . discuss books
attend concerts . . . picnic
write puppet plays . . . camp out
repair our building . . .
cross country ski . . .
exchange goods and services . . .
discuss Unitarian Universalism . . .
. . . and more!

All of life is our religion; and none of it can be ignored.

Individually we refuse to turn our backs on common sense and observation for the sake of easy answers to death or the quest for meaning.

We are not only tolerant of all theological views; we seek to understand them for the sake of stimulating our religious growth.

Socially, we find that we care about all peoples and seek justice everywhere -- often leading us to action.

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY IN WHICH TO SEEK SPIRITUAL GROWTH...

IF you are eager to consider religious questions with others who are not always certain they have all the answers...

IF YOU WOULD LIKE THE FELLOWSHIP OF OTHERS FOR CELEBRATION AND WORSHIP, DISCUSSION AND EDUCATION, FRIENDSHIP AND MUTUAL SUPPORT...

IF you want your children to be helped to develop their own religious beliefs...

IF YOU WISH TO PRESERVE AND EXTEND THE TRADITION OF PERSONAL FREEDOM AND HUMAN DIGNITY AGAINST THE DANGERS IT FACES TODAY...

...you may want to learn more about our church,

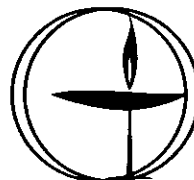
The Unitarian Universalist Society
of Oneonta

12 Ford Avenue
Oneonta, New York

Ph. 432-3491

Unitarian Universalism

A free faith, rooted in a 200-year tradition in this country of liberal religion, we are a community of open-minded individuals joined in a search for religious insights into the toughest questions in living. We are people of diverse beliefs. In our midst are those discovering anew what "church" can mean in our modern times as well as those who are life-long Unitarians or Universalists.



ON SUNDAYS...

We gather for SERVICES at 10:30 AM in the sanctuary.

We come, drawn by one another
and by the hope
that we might discover
the hidden meanings;
that we might once again
trust a mystery.

From pains and pressures
from problems and plans
we lift ourselves out,
and join together
to share a corner of time,
and to make it sacred.

We celebrate life --
in all its unexpected pleasures
and its dashed hopes;

We celebrate love --
in all its power to heal
and its promise
of a false simplicity.

We participate in the CHURCH SCHOOL for our children. It is held concurrently with the worship service.

We believe that children grow their own religion by reflecting sensitively upon the wide range of experiences which make up their daily lives.

We encourage them to recognize their own worth and that of others; to become aware of the natural and social world in which they live -- and their responsibility to it.

We help them to discover their cultural and religious heritage and we urge them to realize the spiritual dimensions of their own lives.

Classes are open to all visitors who wish to attend.

Whereas, after due deliberation and discussion, it appears to be to the best interests of this First Universalist Society of Oneonta to deed its Church property in Oneonta to the New York State Convention of Universalists, the governing religious body of all Universalist Churches in New York State, now therefore it is

VOTED, that this Society by proper and sufficient deed convey its Church site, and the Church building and improvements thereon, situated on Ford Avenue, in the Village of Oneonta, Otsego County, New York, to the New York State Convention of Universalists, and it is further

VOTED, that the Trustees of this Society, and each of them, are hereby directed and empowered to execute in the name of this Society such deed and other instruments as may be necessary to carry out the foregoing, and to deliver same to the said New York State Convention of Universalists.

I, *Jean Tremper*, Clerk of the First Universalist Society of Oneonta do hereby certify that the foregoing preamble and resolutions were adopted at a meeting of the members of said First Universalist Society of Oneonta at a meeting duly called and held at the Church in Oneonta, New York on *July 7* 1957, and that I have compared same with the originals thereof as recorded in the minute book in my custody and find them to be true and complete copies thereof.

Dated *July 7*

1957

Jean Tremper
Clerk

February 22, 1964

Mr. Richard K. Siegfried, President
The Universalist Society of Oneonta
Oneonta, New York

Dear Mr. Siegfried:

The Executive Board of the Convention recently voted that aid to churches as a function of the New York State Convention of Universalists be abolished.

This action means that the sum of \$41,00 which the Oneonta Church has been receiving each year will no longer be paid. This action takes effect immediately.

In past years this sum had come from the Voluntary Trust funds which also have been abolished by the Board of the Convention.

If I may be of any help in answering any question you may have please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Robert W. Sterling

Ms. Suzanne Armstrong, President
Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta
12 Ford Avenue
Oneonta, NY 13820

Subject: NYSCU Trust Accounts

Dear Suzanne:

You are no doubt aware that the New York State Convention of Universalists (NYSCU) holds \$5,907.81 in a trust account for your church. The funds, co-mingled with those of nine other churches, are presently invested in a certificate of deposit which will come due in June of 1994. All income from the CD is paid to the several churches each year in amounts proportional to their part of the total trust.

The NYSCU Executive Board believes that decisions as to how such funds should be invested are more appropriately made today by the individual churches. At the October 1991 Annual Session of the NYSCU the Executive Board proposed and the delegates approved the transfer of trust funds back to the individual congregations.

It is our present intent to transfer these funds to you in June 1994 when the CD becomes due. Because the funds now earn 8.62 percent interest, we do not believe it to be in the best interest of the several churches to cash it in at this time.

These funds were left in trust for endowment purposes and should be used to establish an endowment for the church or to increase your existing endowment.

We will keep you abreast of any actions, intended or actual, that we take in this matter.

Best wishes,

Harold H. Burkart



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY
OF ONEONTA, NEW YORK
BUILT 1894

INWARD SPRINGS

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periodical.

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THE NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION
OF
UNIVERSALISTS

**A Brief History
of the Unitarian Universalist
Society of Oneonta**

1877 - 1994

**A Brief History
of the Unitarian Universalist
Society of Oneonta**

1877 - 1994

**Compiled by Ethel McGuinness in 1977
as part of the centennial celebration**

**Brought up to date
by Carol Robbins and Elvira Frewert**

* * *

**The First Quarter Century
1877-1902**

- September 28, 1877 The First Universalist service was performed in Oneonta, NY.
- December 14, 1877 First Universalist Society met at Lyceum Hall to found a church.
- January 14, 1879 The first church building, a wood frame structure costing \$3,000, was dedicated at 12 Ford Avenue. The first pastor, Rev. L. F. Porter, served from December 12, 1877 to April, 1881.
- July 24, 1893 The motion was made to appoint a building committee to obtain a location and build a new church.
- January 28, 1894 A committee on dedication of the new church was elected, consisting of David Whipple, Prof. and Mrs. Percy I. Bugbee, and Mrs. William Morris.
- April 2, 1894 The second (and current) church, a red brick structure, was dedicated on the same site as the original frame building. The church was named "Chapin Memorial" in honor of Rev. E. H. Chapin, D.D., of New York City, a prominent Universalist preacher of the era. The brick church was built at a cost of \$10,000, and was the only church in Oneonta with Tiffany-style stained glass windows. The minister was Rev. E. F. Temple.
- 1895 - 1903 Several other ministers served for varying lengths of time, including Rev. L. L. Greene of Wakefield, MA (paid \$1,400), who served for 7 years.

* * *

**The Second Quarter Century
1903 - 1927**

June 28, 1903

Rev. George E. Huntley of South Framington, MA, accepted the position of pastor of Chapin Memorial Universalist Church at a yearly salary of \$1,200.

1903

In his annual report, Rev. Huntley recorded that he had made about 500 calls, and reported a general improvement in attendance.

November, 1904

A special service of rejoicing was held to commemorate the burning of the note which represented the last indebtedness of the Chapin Society.

September, 1905

The value of the church property was set at \$8,000. Members numbered 74. Rev. Huntley resigned his position.

October, 1905 - 1908

The new pastor was Rev. W. D. Porter of Shelburne, MA. He was followed by Rev. U. S. Milburn of Gloversville, NY (paid \$1,200), who became pastor in 1908.

* * *

**The Third Quarter Century
1928 - 1952**

1930's

During the Depression years, the annual financial reports usually showed a deficit. Several Universalist churches in the Mohawk area closed for lack of funds. Annual reports showed membership in 1931 at 85; in 1932 it dropped to 73. By 1935 the number was down to 55.

1931 - 1934

Dr. Percy I. Bugbee, Principal of Oneonta Normal School, acted as chairman of the Board of Trustees.

1934

The minister's salary was set at \$1,667.13.

- 1935 Mr. Charles A. Wyman accepted the pastorate. His term of service, lasting about 6 years, was a very active period for the church.
- 1936 The parish house was reconstructed, the church was remodeled, and an electric organ was installed. The annual parish meeting and supper had 45 in attendance, and included an impressive communion service preceding the supper.
- 1937 A committee was named to create a booklet to celebrate the 60th anniversary.
- 1938 The report of profits from the Minstrel Show was \$142.80. A congratulatory letter on the cooperative spirit of the church was read by Fred C. Leining, State Superintendent.
- 1939 Rev. Wyman reported that 63 new members were taken in during his pastorate, making 121 members in all. Plans were discussed for the State Convention of Universalists to be held at Chapin Memorial Church.
- 1941 The tower of the church was struck by lightning during a hard electrical storm the evening of November 1st. Efficient work by Oneonta firemen kept the damages both by fire and water to a minimum. Later, in repairing the tower, it was voted not to replace the spire.
- August, 1942 Mr. Wyman tendered his resignation to accept a position at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Lawrence, MA.
- 1943 A plaque was installed, bearing the names of those in service in World War II: David Forest Wilber, Merton A. Blanchard, Richard McHale, Alson D. Jones, Ernest Kramer, Stephen Kirley, Walter MacFarlan, and Charles Lathrop.

* * *

**The Fourth Quarter Century
1953 - 1977**

- October 12, 1955 The motion was passed to ask Rev. Fiske to resign by January 1, 1956. He was later asked to stay until May 1st.
- June, 1956 A discussion was held on the advisability of deeding the church property to the State Convention.
- November, 1958 Rev. John Edwin Price became minister. He served until 1960.
- July 7, 1957 The parish voted to deed church property to the State Convention.
- May, 1958 The motion was made to have Mrs. Lawrence play the organ about 15 minutes before and after the church service.
- 1958 A very active Community Teen Club was organized by Mr. Price. Meetings were held in the Blue Room (in the basement). There were 465 members, of all denominations.
- February 17, 1959 Mr. Gilman, the State Superintendent, was asked to come and explain the unification of the Unitarian and Universalist churches at the next family night supper.
- April, 1959 The parish voted on the Unitarian Universalist merger. 27 ballots were cast; 7 for, 20 against.
- March 15, 1961 The first contract was given to Rev. S. Hunter Leggett, to last through June 30, 1962. His term continued until 1964.
Many new members were anticipated due to the growth of the colleges.
- June, 1961 At the congregational meeting, significant new by-laws were adopted. Despite the vote against merger in 1959, the church had moved closer to the principles of the

Unitarian Universalist Association.

The new by-laws stated that the church "shall be a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association and of the New York State Convention of Universalists."

- 1964 - 1965 There was no minister.
- 1965 - 1966 Rev. Robert S. Hoagland served as minister.
- December, 1966 Rev. James Wentz of Brookline, MA was asked to become minister of Chapin Memorial. His salary, housing and benefits totaled \$9,000.
- 1966 - 1974 Many changes in the physical plant of the church took place: the division of the basement into rooms for Religious Education, the closing of the balcony, the relocation of the minister's study and a room for the Executive Secretary, and the bringing of the kitchen to the main floor.
The changes were made possible by a \$50,000 gift from Miss Ethelyn Doolittle.
- 1970 The church directory listed about 175 members and friends. The children of the families totaled 193.
- 1976 Mr. Wentz left for a position on Long Island. Activities were continued by the congregation. The church remained very active, with many church and social activities.
- 1976 - 1977 The church had no minister. It functioned under the leadership of the Board of Trustees, the Religious Services Committee, and a volunteer R. E. Director.
- September 30, 1977 The church celebrated its 100th anniversary, along with the installation of Rev. Lisa Wiggins, its first woman pastor.
- 1979 - 1983 Rev. Wiggins left in 1979 and the church once again functioned without a minister.
In the fall of 1982, Rev. Tony Larsen served as minister-on-loan for about 6 weeks. His tenure here inspired the congregation to start a search for a permanent pastor.
- October 23, 1983 Rev. Andrew C. Backus installed as minister.

**Ministers
of the Unitarian Universalist
Society of Oneonta
1877 - 1994**

L. F. Porter	1877 - 1881
H. K. White	1881 - 1884
B. B. Brunning	1884 - 1885
E. F. Temple	1885 - 1889
J. C. F. Crumbine	1889
C. E. Hall	1890 - 1891
W. L. Stoye	1891 - 1892
E. F. Temple	1892 - 1896
L. L. Greene	1896 - 1903
G. E. Huntley	1903 - 1905
W. D. Porter	1905 - 1908
U. S. Milburn	1908 - 1911
G. D. Walker	1911 - 1912
C. H. Hokerk	1912 - 1913
L. C. Nichols	1913 - 1917
W. M. Gaskin	1917 - 1918
G. D. Walker	1918 - 1919
S. D. Butler	1919 - 1921
J. A. Judge	1922 - 1926
W. F. Gray	1927 - 1928
H. E. Rouillard	1929 - 1930
H. S. Tigner	1931 - 1934
F. C. Leining	1934 - 1935
C. A. Wyman	1936 - 1942
G. A. Bascombe	1942 - 1946
R. H. Bird, Jr.	1946 - 1947
J. S. Alcock	1947 - 1954
A. R. Fiske	1954 - 1956
J. E. Price	1956 - 1960
S. H. Leggett	1961 - 1964
R. S. Hoagland	1965 - 1966
J. R. Wentz	1966 - 1976
L. A. Wiggins	1977 - 1979
A. C. Backus	1983 - *1994
* J. L. Quarles	*1995 - *1994-1995

* S. O. Howard
Interim Mini

* added by M. Swamp Webster
06/06/00

RESOLUTION
OF
THE NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION OF UNIVERSALISTS
TO TRANSFER REAL PROPERTY TO UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALISTS SOCIETY OF ONEONTA, INC.

At the annual meeting of the New York State Convention of Universalists an issue concerning the title to 12 Ford Avenue in the City of Oneonta, County of Otsego, State of New York, was raised,

WHEREAS, the New York State Convention of Universalists conveyed said property at 12 Ford Avenue in the City of Oneonta, State of New York, to the First Universalist Society of Oneonta, by a deed dated July 18, 1957,

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta became a successor in interest to the First Universalist Society of Oneonta, in or about June of 1961.

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta, Inc., a religious corporation, formed under the religious corporation law of the State of New York, was formed on June 20, 2001, and is a successor in interest to the Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta.

WHEREAS, an unincorporated society cannot hold title to real property.

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta, Inc., is desirous of mortgaging 12 Ford Avenue in the City of Oneonta, County of Otsego, State of New York, but has been advised that the title to said property is imperfect, clouded and unmarketable.

WHEREAS, the New York State Convention of Universalists is desirous of providing the Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta, Inc., clean title to 12 Ford Avenue, Oneonta, New York.

NOW UPON A MOTION DULY MADE, that the New York State Convention of Universalists transfer title of 12 Ford Avenue, City of Oneonta, County of Otsego, State of New York, to the Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta, Inc., and the motion having been seconded and carried, it was,

RESOLVED, that the President, Secretary and Treasurer are separately authorized to sign a deed and any other documents required to transfer title of 12 Ford Avenue, City of Oneonta, County of Otsego, State of New York, to the Unitarian Universalist Society

of Oneonta, Inc., provided the deed recites the reversion language that the property shall revert to the New York State Convention of Universalists should the Church not be used for religious services for any two consecutive years. Only one of the above named officers shall be required to sign the deed and ancillary documents.

Dated: November 1 2001
Albany, New York

THE NEW YORK STATE CONVENTION
OF UNIVERSALISTS

By, Gale Alexander
President