

EIGHTH ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP REPORT  
for the  
Year Ending April 30, 1956

Munroe Husbands, Fellowship Director

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THREE NEW CHURCHES

Due to the rapid growth of liberal religion, it became evident a few years ago that each dollar in the Extension Department budget would have to do more work. Two of the three Fellowships that achieved church status were strong enough to accept a reduced subsidy; the third asked for no financial assistance at all. The two are South Peel (Toronto) Canada, and North Shore (Chicago) Illinois. Westwood, California raised locally a budget of almost thirteen thousand dollars. A total of 18 Fellowships have now grown into churches.

Two other Fellowships, working through the Department of the Ministry, have called full-time resident ministers, they being Burlington, Iowa and Midland, Texas. Each expects to achieve church status in a year or two.

ANOTHER RECORD

More Fellowships were organized in the last twelve months than in any year since the program was begun in 1948. By regions they were formed in the following communities:

Pacific Coast - 15: Anchorage, Fairbanks and Sitka-Mt. Edgecumbe, Alaska; San Diego, Sonoma County and Westwood, Calif; Boise and Pocatello, Idaho; West Hills (Portland), Oregon; Las Cruces, New Mexico; Logan and Ogden, Utah; Everett, Pt. Angeles-Sequim and Yakima, Washington.

Thomas Jefferson - 8: Florence, Alabama; Ft. Myers, Lakeland, Melbourne and Tampa, Florida; Fredericksburg and Waynesboro, Virginia; Macon, Georgia.

Middle Atlantic - 5: Annapolis and Bel Air, Maryland; Morristown and New Brunswick, New Jersey; Rockland County, New York.

Western - 4: Grand Junction, Colorado; Great Falls, Montana; Casper and Laramie, Wyoming.

Meadville - 2: East Aurora, New York; East Shore (Cleveland), Ohio.

Southwest - 2: Lafayette, Louisiana; Abilene, Texas.

Northern New England - 1: Hanover (Dartmouth College), New Hampshire.

TRAVEL

The Fellowship Director made three major trips last year covering a distance almost equal to a voyage around the world. The financial backing of the Laymen's League enabled us to make contact and organize Fellowships in the Alaskan Territory and also visit the Mexico City Fellowship. In the Fall meetings were held with potential and existing Fellowships in the Southeast. A short jaunt was made at the end of January in the Middle Atlantic States, and in the Spring the trip was concentrated in the Ohio River Valley area. The Director was a guest speaker at two Fellowship conferences and two sub-conferences in New England.

## FELLOWSHIP IDEA HAS TAKEN HOLD

More and more, the idea of forming small lay-led Unitarian societies is receiving active support throughout the denomination. Using the materials developed at headquarters, an increasing number of churches are taking the initiative in organizing Fellowships in communities in their area; both the ministers and church laymen are providing leadership. Not only will this add to our growth, but it has a healthy effect on the churches. If from the outset the new Fellowships were brought into a cooperative relationship with the nearby churches, the mortality rate of Fellowships would be much lower.

## LEADERSHIP IS STILL THE ANSWER

Eight Fellowships ceased to exist this year due to the fact that good leaders were not developed or to the departure from the community of the capable ones. It is impossible to build leadership through correspondence, and without a nearby church with minister and laymen to help the new group over its difficult periods, Fellowships can wither and die.

Mobile, Alabama never attained any real strength. It came into existence with the minimum membership and failed to develop a strong program, thus did not attract new members. Several persons visit nearby Fairhope on occasion.

Bellflower-Lakewood, Salinas and Vallejo in California have all been inactive this past year. Here again strong and devoted leadership was not developed or else it moved away.

Savannah, Georgia certainly should support a strong and active Unitarian group. Leadership was poor. A fresh start should be made here.

With Topeka, Kansas we have lost contact. Just recently we were informed that the President moved away almost a year ago and his father has forwarded our mailings to him.

Great Falls, Montana was a most isolated society. New this past year, it made a good start and then most of its leaders moved away. Two of the families are now active in other groups, but the Fellowship is no more.

Superior, Wisconsin is across the river from Duluth, Minnesota, in which there is a Unitarian church. The Fellowship existed for about two years, attracted some new people and then voted to disband but attend the Duluth church.

## STATISTICAL REPORT

Affiliated Fellowships on May 1st		F E L L O W S H I P S			Net Gain Unitarian Societies	Average UUA Contrib.
		Organ-ized	Became Churches	Died		
1948	00	00	00	00	00	00
1949	22	22	00	00	22	\$24.65
1950	50	30	1	1	29	27.86
1951	61	20	2	7	13	36.88
1952	89	34	2	4	30	43.37
1953	110	26	2	4	23	47.00
1954	131	29	7	4	28	58.52
1955	155	32	1	7	25	76.77
1956	181	37	3	8	29	86.29

Totals: 184 230 18 35 199

## UNITED UNITARIAN APPEAL

The average contribution per Fellowship to the Appeal was increased by almost ten dollars this past year. The Western Conference increased by an average of thirty-five dollars; the Thomas Jefferson by twenty-seven. The drop by the Pacific Coast can be attributed to some extent to the formation of fifteen new groups, for Fellowships do not contribute as generously in their first year of existence. This is the first time that all the regions assumed full responsibility for the Fellowship Appeal contributions. On the whole a good job was done.

Fellowship Contributions to the Appeal by Regions  
April 30, 1956

Region	FELLOWSHIPS			Contributions		Average 1955
	Old	+	New = Total	Total	Average	
Southwest	16	2	18	\$1,895.25	\$105.30	\$89.31
T. Jefferson	26	8	34	3,224.57	94.84	67.75
Pac. Coast	42	15	57	4,900.20	87.32	107.84
Western	37	4	41	3,484.18	87.10	52.20
Meadville	12	2	14	993.78	70.98	77.04
Mid. Atl.	9	5	14	838.99	59.93	59.12
Unassigned	1	0	1	50.00	50.00	50.00
N.N.E.	0	1	1	43.00	43.00	000
W. Can.	1	0	1	16.50	16.50	10.00
	144	37	181	15,446.52	86.29	76.77

## MINISTER-AT-LARGE PLAN

The A.U.A. Board has approved the Extension Department plan wherein a Minister-at-Large will be employed to work with the larger Fellowships, to help them reach a 90-100 family membership and achieve financially independent church status. Under this program and the snow-balling interest in Fellowships all over the continent, this new fiscal year should prove a very successful one.

PARTIALLY  
CONFIDENTIAL

SPRING FIELD TRIP

March 20 to April 7, 1956  
Munroe Husbands, Fellowship Director

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At the end of the 1955 Fall trip, it appeared as though financial limitations would prevent a Spring trip. However, it was determined after the February Board meeting that a somewhat shorter trip would be feasible. Plans were made, although the shortness of time prevented as detailed a preparation as usual.

March 20 - Elmira, N.Y. Left Boston immediately after the northeastern seaboard blizzard had spent its fury. Was met at the hotel by Rev. Ralph Helverson and three of his parishioners from Ithaca. The meeting, fairly successful, attracted about twenty-five people, with 18 signing. John L. Joy, 307 Grant St., Elmira, is the Chairman of the Temporary Steering Committee, and Mrs. Fred Barton, 334 Imperial, Painted Post, N.Y., is Secretary. Ralph spoke briefly, assuring the group of the sincere interest of the Ithaca Church in its progress. A Fellowship will develop.

March 21 - Williamsport, Penna. Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops Orchestra was performing and this was real competition. Just six attended the meeting, with all signing and stating they knew of others who definitely would be interested. With the Temporary Chairman, Wallace R. Duyer, 1516 Warren Ave., and Temporary Secretary, Mrs. Louis C. Cate, 422 Rural Avenue, they believe a Fellowship can be started; it is possible one may. As with all groups, I left a list of the names and addresses of local people who had expressed an interest in Unitarianism.

March 22 - State College, Penna. Stopped at Penn State to talk with Dr. Anton Kovar, President of the Fellowship. He believes our Fellowship there to be leaning over backwards to be conservative sociologically. Assured me he and other members of the Fellowship would be glad to speak before Williamsport and Altoona if their services were requested; we are taking them up on this.

- Altoona, Penna. In 1930 the population of this city was 82,000; in 1940, 80,000, and in 1950 it is 77,000. As Unitarian Fellowships are difficult to form in retrogressive communities, it was a pleasant surprise to have 16 attend the meeting. Two persons, stating they were "orthodox", left at the conclusion of the talk; one young man was a member of the First Church, Philadelphia, and of the remainder twelve signed. Temporary Chairman is Dr. Gregory Sarr, 716 Pine St., Hollidaysburg and the Secretary, Mrs. Charles L. Britt, R.D. #2, Box 86, Altoona, from whom we have already received correspondence indicating progress and optimism.

March 23 - Johnstown, Penna. Almost a complete failure here. Four local people and a delegation of five from the Pittsburgh Church (Unitarian Extension Committee) comprised the audience. Johnstown, too, has experienced a declining rate of population, decreasing 2,000 each decade since 1930. Two new Church of the Larger Fellowship members and possibly another two are the only tangible results of this meeting.

March 24-25 - Charleston, W. Va. At the suggestion of the Boston office, the Charleston Fellowship assumed the responsibility of sponsoring a two-day Fellowship Conference; it was highly successful. Something less than 75 was the number of delegates attending from Charleston, Huntington and Morgantown, W. Va., Roanoke, Va. and the Chairman of the Board and his wife from Marietta, Ohio. Charleston had recently leased and renovated a quonset hut, dividing it into three main sections: foyer, large auditorium, kitchen and bathroom in the rear. The paint was hardly dry. Carl Cavender (Charleston Chairman) did much of the planning and

served as master of ceremonies, keeping the program moving at all times. The program was as follows:

- Saturday:
- 1) Welcome and introduction of Fellowship officers (brief word from each).
  - 2) "History of Unitarian Fellowship Movement" - M. H.
  - 3) Coffee-coke break
  - 4) Discussion groups (together, not separately)
    - a) "Fellowship Advancement" - M. H.
    - b) "Program Problems and Solutions" - Walter Felty, Huntington
    - c) "Fellowship Financing" - R.D. Webb, Charleston
    - d) "Religious Education" - Mrs. Eleanor Gibbard and children, Morgantown
  - 5) Relaxation break
  - 6) Reports from Fellowships - all represented, including Marietta Church
  - 7) Large, hot, delicious meal!
  - 8) Report on Released Time Controversy in Morgantown - E. Gibbard
  - 9) Devotional Program - Keith Smith, Charleston
  - 10) "How Honest is Religion?" - M. H.
  - 11) Discussion
  - 12) Retire at homes of Charleston hosts

- Sunday:
- 1) "Shall we Unite? How? Who?" - Yes (i.e., decision to form a W. Va. Conference)
    - a) Official Newsletter? - Yes
    - b) Annual Conference? - Yes
    - c) Summer Conferences? - Yes. Where? - ?
    - d) Program Cooperation? - Yes
    - e) Joint Projects? - Yes
  - 2) Church Service, "Liberal AND Religious Unitarians" - Dr. R. H. Vining (layman), Montgomery, W. Va.
  - 3) Lunch - at homes, as guests of Charleston
  - 4) Parting advice and comments

A half dozen years ago there was no Unitarian society in the state of West Virginia; now four Fellowships together have conducted one of the most successful conferences it has been my pleasure to attend.

March 26 - Portsmouth, Ohio. Attendance of 22, including Rev. Ellsworth Smith of Cincinnati and the Extension Chairman of that church, and four or five people from Chillicothe, 47 miles away. One woman said, "I proudly declare myself a Methodist," for which she was commended, and 13 signed. The temporary leaders are: Arthur Pickelheimer, 502 Broadway, Portsmouth, Chairman, and Mrs. Phyllis Swan, 2057 Russell Ave., West Portsmouth, Secretary. A Karl Beu, 35 Tecumseh Drive, Chillicothe, expressed an interest in exploring the possibility of organizing a Fellowship in his community. Are following up.

March 27 - Yellow Springs, Ohio. Meeting held on Antioch campus the night before finals and the college quarter ended. If a Fellowship results here, it will be a pleasant surprise. Fifteen or more attended, with eight signing, and the Temporary Secretary is Mrs. Cecil C. (Frances) Holland, Route 1, Box 290-D, Yellow Springs. Several people argued that the mental atmosphere at Antioch is so religiously liberal that there is no need for a Unitarian group. Fact of the matter is that those of orthodox conviction are the ones who seem to be and think themselves on "the outside."

March 28 - Urbana, Ohio. Met with nine members of the existing Fellowship and with five visitors from our group in Springfield. Urbana has had tough sledding; the local Presbyterian minister had declared publicly that the Unitarian group was composed of Communists. The Fellowship insisted and got a public retraction, but retractions seldom outweigh the original statements. Members have gone quietly ahead with their programming. They were instrumental in introducing a fellowship weekend at which foreign students from nearby colleges and universities spend a weekend each year in the homes of local persons. The local citizens became interested and the Fellowship has now turned the activity over to the community. Negro and white, Jew and Gentile citizens participate in the program, and guest students are selected, irrespective of race, national origin or religion. This has had a unifying effect and increased the understanding of differences within the community. The Fellowship was instrumental also in organizing a League of Women Voters chapter with the present President a Unitarian. The Fellowship is interracial. With the assistance of Rev. Lewis McGee, the Springfield Fellowship reported that steady progress has been made this past year.

March 29 - Oxford, Ohio. Over 40 students from Miami University and a dozen faculty and townspeople attended the meeting. There is an L.R.Y. group on campus with but 5 or 6 members. Most of the students were sincerely interested or curious about Unitarianism, but the young leader of the youth group failed, in my opinion, to take advantage of the opportunities presented to him. Nine persons signed and there was indication that a somewhat larger number is interested. No students were encouraged to join in the Fellowship; nor were they strongly dissuaded. John H. Eicher (faculty advisory for L.R.Y.), Chemistry Dept., Miami U., is the Temporary Chairman, and Mrs. John A. Kirkpatrick, 313 No. Poplar St., Oxford, is acting Secretary. The minister and Extension Committee Chairman of the First Church in Cincinnati attended the meeting.

March 30 - Hamilton, Ohio. On November 18, through Rev. Ellsworth Smith, the Ohio Universalist Convention invited our office to join with them in forming a Fellowship in Hamilton. Each was to contribute \$2500 toward the project. We declined as (1) the A.U.A. Extension Committee, following the mandate of the vote of the societies and of the Joint Session in Andover, agreed that any merger at the present time should be "above the parish level," not below it; and (2) the annual budget of the Fellowship Office at that time was \$2300 with which it was expected a minimum of 25 Fellowships would be organized. The Universalists were encouraged to proceed on their own. Then, after a two and one-half years' lapse with no initiative taken by either denomination and with members of the First Unitarian Church of Cincinnati living in Hamilton requesting that a Unitarian Fellowship be formed, communications were exchanged with Rev. Ellsworth Smith, and it was agreed that there was a real need for a Unitarian group in Hamilton. Plans were made accordingly. Eighteen attended the meeting, including the minister and three parishioners from the Cincinnati First Church. (Mr. Smith is a bear for punishment.) Thirteen signed, excluding a local judge (and wife) who said he was "right with us but wished to consider it further." The temporary officers are: John W. Simmons, 933 Gail Avenue, Fairfield, Ohio, Chairman, and Mrs. Fred Ellis, 1195 Clovernook Drive, Hamilton, Secretary. Other persons known to be interested could not attend.

March 31 - Cincinnati. Ellsworth Smith had a Saturday evening party (gab-fest) with visiting fireman and local parishioners - most enjoyable.

April 1 - Carbondale, Ill. Left Cincinnati fairly early Sunday morn for Carbondale, where I was to conduct an evening Easter service. This Fellowship has come alive and really grown. Rent an unused county school building; have a good growing church school; hold regular services each Sunday morn and an evening dis-