

FILE

DEPARTMENT OF UNITARIAN EXTENSION
AND CHURCH MAINTENANCE

February 12, 1957

Minutes

A meeting of the Committee on Extension and Fellowships, together with Department officers and Regional Directors, was held at 9:30 A.M. on Tuesday, February 12, 1957 at 25 Beacon Street, Boston. Present were: Mr. Jenkins, Chairman; Messrs. Campbell, DeWitt, Gibbs, Hoffman, Husbands, Johnson, Killam, Miller, Petursson, Schramm, Shelley, E. Smith, F. Smith, Sutherland; Meses. Amann, Simson.

The minutes of the last meeting, October 9, 1956, were approved as written.

Sub-Committee Report. The sub-committee appointed to consider the program of distant areas, such as Honolulu, was never activated as the members could not be present at this meeting.

Minister-at-Large. After a postponement of the Minister-at-Large program, due to the illness of Grant Butler, word has been received that Mr. Butler will be able to take on his duties beginning in October, 1957, and work through April in this fiscal year.

In the discussion of the Minister-at-Large program, Mr. Campbell reminded the Committee that it must continually look at its standards of admission for new churches in terms of what he called the "margin of success". He referred to some of our earlier experience in gathering new churches where we started with too few people, too little subsidy, and too little time on the organizing effort with a consequence of either failure or long struggle. Mr. DeWitt added that we must be sure; when we start new churches, that they be in areas where the potential is great enough to insure ability to raise a budget and grow in membership.

Fellowships Report. A letter of application for church status from Don Heights, Ontario, Canada was read by Mr. Jenkins. They have a membership of 73 families. They are in good financial condition and are not asking for subsidy. Their present budget is \$5400, and they raised an extra \$3300 for the purchase of a lot of land on which they hope to build this summer. They will be calling Mr. Chidsey as their full-time minister on July 1, 1957. This Fellowship is the combination of the Don Mills and Birch Cliff Fellowships.

On motion made and duly seconded, it was

VOTED: That the Extension Committee recommend to the AUA Board the admission of the Don Heights Unitarian Congregation Fellowship to church status.

Fellowship Applications. Munroe Husbands reported that there were applications from three new Fellowships. They are Waterloo County, Ontario, Canada; Monmouth County, New Jersey; and Storrs, Connecticut.

The Waterloo County Fellowship is centered in Kitchener, Ontario. There are 16 members and they made a contribution of \$5 to the UUA.

The Monmouth County Fellowship had a membership of 37 when they made application for fellowship but now have about 60 members. They made a contribution of \$5 to the UUA.

The Storrs, Connecticut Fellowship has 20 members and they made a contribution of \$10 to the UUA. The University of Connecticut is located in Storrs.

On motion made and duly seconded, it was

VOTED: To recommend the acceptance by the Board of Directors of these three Fellowships; namely, Waterloo County, Ontario, Canada; Monmouth County, New Jersey; and Storrs, Connecticut.

Building Loans to Fellowships. On recommendation of the Extension Committee, the Building Loan Committee met and reviewed the matter of limitations on loans to Fellowships. The limit of \$3,000 was raised to \$8,000 with the number of members required being increased accordingly. Loans under \$3,000 are interest-free and those over \$3,000 are at the rate of one-half at 4½% and one-half interest-free.

Mr. Campbell stated that he was opposed to money being loaned interest-free. It was explained that, according to the Comptroller, loans under \$3,000 would involve too much work in bookkeeping and would cost more than the amount received as interest.

Mr. Campbell made a recommendation that if at any time the matter is re-negotiated, interest should be charged on all loans, regardless of the cost involved in doing so. It was pointed out that if an interest-free loan becomes overdue, it automatically becomes interest-bearing.

Church School Outline. A procedural outline for organizing church schools is being worked on now by the Fellowships office. Dr. Kuebler, Miss Bruner and Miss Wood have reviewed this material and it should be ready and in the mail within a month.

Budget, 1957-58. This budget is \$5,700 less than the one submitted to the Budget Committee, as it had to be cut. The main concern is the list of Fellowships nearing church status which might require assistance. The term "staff priority" means that in a 12 month period, we are prepared to assure some groups that they will get some assistance. The item for "New Work" of \$8,000 is to be spread over the following Fellowships: Honolulu, Pomona (Claremont), Lakeshore (Montreal), Mount Vernon, and Fairfax County.

Lakeshore (Montreal) hopes to get their central church to help them but the central church has already bought land for them. Honolulu would be the big item. There was a long and detailed discussion at the October meeting of the Extension Committee about Honolulu. More money than normal would be needed for this program. Frank Ricker might be available as the minister. Figuring it at \$3,500 for one year's subsidy and travel of about \$2,500 makes a total of \$6,000 to be taken from the \$8,000 total allocated for New Work. After discussion, it was decided that this was too high and the following tentative schedule was made up for the expenditure of the \$8,000 New Work item:

Honolulu	-	\$2,000 (plus \$1,500 travel)
Pomona (Claremont)	-	2,000
Lakeshore (Montreal)	-	2,000
Mount Vernon	-	1,000 (2 yr. program - \$1,000)
Fairfax County	-	1,000 (1st yr. - \$500 2nd yr.)
Total	-	\$8,000

Most of these programs won't start until Fall, hence there is a margin in the budget. It is a matter of selectivity as to where help should be given. We have told Honolulu we would help them in some way. The potential is there for more Fellowships in Hawaii, but this would take time. (The program of aid to Birmingham, Alabama, Edmonton, and Albuquerque was much the same idea of potential being there and things have developed around these areas as hoped for.)

Mr. Hoffman stated that El Paso needs help. They are currently receiving \$2,000 per year and would need another \$2,000. This would total \$4,000 and there is a limitation of not more than \$3,000 going to any church in one year. This much is needed to get a minister of the calibre that they need there. His salary would be from \$6,000 to \$6,500. El Paso has a membership of about 130 and are now paying a minister's salary of \$3,000. The Extension Department has been putting in \$2,400 per year. It was organized in 1935 as a federated (Congregational-Unitarian) church but for the past five years or more has not been affiliated with the Congregationalists. We don't know how much the El Paso church can help themselves. Mr. DeWitt raised the point that all aided churches should be expected to meet some requirements in fund-raising before help is given them. They should be educated in the techniques of fund-raising.

On motion made and duly seconded, it was

VOTED: To approve the First Projected Budget for 1957-58, with the allocation of the \$8,000 New Work item as follows:

Honolulu	-	\$2,000
Pomona (Claremont)	-	2,000
Lakeshore (Montreal)	-	2,000
Mount Vernon	-	1,000
Fairfax County	-	<u>1,000</u>
Total	-	\$8,000

Budget, 1958-59. Under the item "New Work" should be a group worker. There are Fellowships who are feeling discouraged because they are not going on to become churches. The group worker should be a person who could help in this area and could assure a Fellowship of 50-60 members that it doesn't have to be a church but can remain a Fellowship and still be happy. The April edition of the Christian Register is the edition on Fellowships and the matter is touched on in this.

Mr. Campbell stated that this budget is to be submitted to the AUA Budget Committee in February but won't be submitted to the UUA until March. He also noted that the amounts requested were too modest, in his opinion. It was pointed out that there is no increase in staff salaries on the budget. Mr. Schramm thought it unrealistic not to include staff salary increases, so he suggested an amendment be made to the budget.

On motion made and duly seconded, it was

VOTED: That the total of the first three items be considered for salary increases, with a separate item to be added to the budget entitled "Salary Increases" in the amount of \$5,000. There is the assurance that the item "New Work" is a minimum figure and \$20,000 more could easily be used there.

Need for New Ministers. Mr. Campbell brought out the fact that there is a real need for new ministers; especially with the growth of Fellowships and new churches. Also, some churches have grown to the size where they need an assistant minister. The problem is one for the whole denomination, not just the Department of the Ministry. Mr. Johnson stated that the Department of the Ministry hoped to be able to have a pamphlet published calling attention to this need and telling how many trainees are needed. Mr. Jenkins said that the UMA is aware of the need and is in favor of employing a recruiting officer to find young men to study for the ministry. Mr. Jenkins recommended that Mr. Johnson take an expression of good will to the Ministerial Fellowship Committee from the Extension Committee saying that we recognize the problem and are prepared to help in whatever way we can.

Churches Loaning Money to Other Churches. Mr. DeWitt told of the Hackensack, N. J. church needing a loan of \$20,000 and not being able to get it as they couldn't sell their old church building. They requested a \$10,000 loan from the All Souls' Church in New York and the Plandome, N. Y. church. Plandome granted their request. Plandome also offered to loan money to the South Nassau church if they find their pledges are not sufficient.

Fund-Raising Techniques. The problem was brought up of the aided churches becoming indignant when reminded they are aided; however, it was thought they should be reminded of this fact and that the procedures in fund-raising should be spelled out to them so they can help themselves. There should be available more specific detail on fund-raising techniques. Mr. DeWitt reported that the Metropolitan Area Extension Committee in New York conducted seminars on church fund-raising with two professional men teaching the courses. Ten churches were represented with people taking these courses. Out of this might grow a simplified form for teaching these techniques instead of using the Every Member Canvass booklet now available. Mr. DeWitt will investigate the possibility of having a manual made up on this subject. It was decided that if anything develops on this a sub-committee should be appointed to study the result. Frank Smith stated that in August at Star Island there will be meetings on churchmanship and this type program will be included in it.

Papers on Fellowships History. Munroe Husbands reported that three people in the Pacific Coast area have written papers on the history of the Fellowships Program. They are Mrs. Laile Bartlett, Miss Rosemary Thompson of the PCUC regional office, and Mr. Fred Rutledge of Starr King School.

Extension Committee Meeting in May. The question was raised as to whether there should be a meeting of the Extension Committee in May, as this is such a difficult one to arrange both in finding the time and the place to hold it. Mr. Campbell thought there was a need for such a meeting as there will be the matter of the Development Fund to discuss. This is the plan to raise \$4,000,000, a part of which is for extension. The preliminary reports should be in by May, and as we are directly involved in the expenditure of this Fund, there should be discussion on it. A tentative meeting date of Sunday, May 26, 1957 at 2:30 P.M. was set.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 P.M.

NINTH ANNUAL FELLOWSHIP REPORT
for the
Year Ending April 30, 1957

Munroe Husbands, Fellowship Director

* * *

Thirty-eight New Fellowships

Each year, for the past five years, more Fellowships have been organized than in the preceding one. But that which is unusual this year is that at least one Fellowship has been organized in each of our nine Regions.

Western - 10: Joliet, Illinois; Manhattan, Kansas; Big Rapids and Port Huron, Michigan; Albert Lea, Minnesota; Hamilton, Oxford, and Yellow Springs, Ohio; Fox Valley (Appleton-Neenah-Menasha) and Janesville, Wisconsin.

Pacific Coast - 9: The Okanagan (Naramata-Penticton), British Columbia; Berkeley, California; Alamogordo, New Mexico; Klamath County and Portland (East Rose), Oregon; Bellingham, Longview, Moses Lake, and Vashon, Washington.

Middle Atlantic - 5: Monmouth County and South Jersey, New Jersey; Chemung Valley (Elmira) and Northern Westchester, New York; Blair County (Altoona), Pennsylvania.

Thomas Jefferson - 5: Naples and Panama City, Florida; Meridian, Mississippi; Blacksburg, Virginia; and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Meadville - 2: Sudbury and Waterloo County, Ontario.

Western Canada - 2: Calgary, Alberta; and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Southwest - 2: Brazos County and Waco, Texas.

Southern New England - 2: Northeastern Connecticut and Storrs, Connecticut.

Northern New England - 1: Plattsburg, New York (Voted to join Northern New England).

HOW MANY FELLOWSHIP-CHURCHES?

How many Fellowships would have met the requirements for church status this past year if the Extension Department could have assured financial support, will now never be known; a guess is fifteen to twenty. Request after request for assistance was necessarily refused; the Department could make no commitments until it had reason to believe funds would be available. The eight thousand dollars allocated for 1957-58 to assist new churches in securing a minister have been ear-marked for six churches-to-be. (When the

demands for financial aid were less pressing, three thousand dollars was promised each new church for its first year's program.) Our new church potential, with requests for assistance, will not diminish during the coming fiscal year.

Fellowship applications for church status have been received from: Don Heights (Toronto), Canada; Honolulu, Hawaii; Delaware County, Pennsylvania; and one or two others may be received before the A.U.A. Board Meeting, May 29th. In addition, the Kent-Renton Fellowship merged with the almost defunct First Unitarian Church of Seattle, Washington. To date, twenty-two Fellowships have become churches.

MOBILE UNITARIANS

According to statistics, almost a third of the United States population changes its place of residence each year; Unitarians are not excepted. Older, more stable Unitarian societies generally survive an exodus of members and soon recoup their losses; with new societies, a decrease in membership is frequently fatal. Primarily because of this, at least three Fellowships ceased activities this past year:

Fergus Falls, Minnesota, dropped to a low of five members and disbanded.

Fort Meyers, Florida, was a new Fellowship that was unable to replenish its losses.

La Crosse, Wisconsin, was once a strong group. Most of its leaders and many of its members moved away. An attempt was made last fall to revive the group; capable leadership was not forthcoming.

We have been indirectly informed that Macon, Georgia; Ogden, Utah; and Wheeling, West Virginia, have perished - or soon will.

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	0.00
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	182	37	3	7	30	86.29
1957	213	38	4	3	35	94.24
Totals:	213	38	22	38	199	