

The Messenger

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SWEDENBORGIAN CHURCH

JUNE 1983

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you; not as the world gives do I give unto you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

John 14:27

Peace has in it confidence in the Lord, that He rules all things, and provides all things, and that He leads to a good end. When people have faith in these things, then they enjoy peace.

AC 8455

People want peace so badly that one day governments are going to have to step out of the way and let them have it.

Dwight Eisenhower

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NOMINEES

For Election at Convention '83

PRESIDENT: Rev. Calvin Turley
Newton, Mass.
(Mass. Ass'n.)

VICE PRESIDENT: Mr. Fred Perry
Jackson, N.H.

SECRETARY: Mrs. W. (Ethel) Rice
Brockton, Mass.
(Mass. Ass'n.)

TREASURER: Mr. August Ebel
Bethesda, MD
(Mid-Atl. Ass'n.)

GENERAL COUNCIL (four year terms)

Minister: Rev. David P. Johnson
Bellevue, WA
(Pac. Coast Ass'n.)

Lay Members: Hampton Schock
Roxboro, NC (S.E. Ass'n.)
Susan Wood
Marathon, O. (Ohio Ass'n.)

BOARD OF EDUCATION: (one 3 year term)
Margery Shelley
Saginaw, MI
(Mich. Ass'n.)

BOARD OF PUBLICATION: (one 4 year term)
Rev. Paul Zacharias
Kitchener, Ont.
(Can. Ass'n.)

BOARD OF MISSIONS: (two 4 year terms)
Rev. William Woofenden
Sharon, MA
(Mass. Ass'n.)
Doris Tafel
Drexel Hill, PA
(Mid-Atl. Ass'n.)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: (Two to be
nominated, one to be elected for a five-year term.)

Ray Guin
E. Bridgewater, MA
(Mass. Ass'n.)
Lisa Reddekopp
Kelowna, B.C.
(West Canada Conf.)

(Ineligible Associations: New York, Pac. Coast,
Illinois, Kansas, Mid-Atl.)

AUGMENTATION FUND COMMITTEE:

(one 5 year term)
Marion Mull
Pawnee Rock, KS
(Kan. Ass'n.)

COMMITTEE ON ADMISSION INTO THE MINISTRY: (two 1 year terms)

Elizabeth Johnson
Bellevue, WA
(Pac. Coast Ass'n.)
Paul Zacharias
Kitchener, Ont.
(Can. Ass'n.)

S.S.R. BOARD OF MANAGERS: (three 3 year terms)

Rev. Ron Brugler
Pittsburgh, PA
(Ohio Ass'n.)
Nancy Perry
Jackson, NH
Eric Allison
Kitchener, Ont.
(Canada Ass'n.)

Respectfully submitted,
Cecile Werben (N.Y.)
Betsy Young (Pac. Coast)
Richard Baxter (Illinois)
Eric Zacharias (Kansas)
Corinne Tafel (Mid-Atl.)

THE MESSENGER

JUNE 1983

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Paul B. Zacharias, Editor

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NEW MESSENGER EDITOR APPOINTED

Late in March Convention's Department of Publications met in Washington D.C. for a regularly scheduled meeting, but one item on the agenda was given top priority—the selection of a new editor from the four applications received. Following lengthy and very thoughtful deliberations, Jim Lawrence, a Senior Student at the Swedenborg School of Religion, was appointed to assume the editorship of the *Messenger*.

Jim Lawrence is a graduate of the University of Texas in Austin, and studied at Brite Divinity School in Texas before embarking upon his studies at the Swedenborg School of Religion in Newton. He has written extensively for a number of High School and College campus publications; was offered a journalism scholarship by Baylor University; and a number of his articles have appeared in a wide variety of publications. Lawrence expects to be ordained into the General Convention ministry in the summer of 1984, and is looking forward to serving a parish as well as editing the *Messenger*. He thoroughly enjoys every aspect of writing and editing; he is eminently qualified for the position; and we anticipate many years of solid, steady editorial leadership from Jim Lawrence.

The new editor plans to spend most of September and October in Kitchener, where he will fulfill his New Church field experience requirements working at the Church of the Good Shepherd. During that time he expects to be intimately involved in every phase of parish activity, plus working side by side with the present editor in seeing the October and November issues of the *Messenger* through the press. Beginning with the December issue, the editing, printing and mailing of the *Messenger* will emanate from the Boston area. This means that from October 15th, 1983 and following, all *Messenger* correspondence should be sent directly to: Jim Lawrence, 48 Sargent St., Newton, MA 02158.

The Department of Publications has also asked the present editor to remain on the scene as co-editor through June of 1984, to serve as a resource person in an ongoing advisory capacity. Thus, from December, 1983 through June, 1984, Paul Zacharias and Jim Lawrence will be co-editors of the *Messenger*, but the editing, printing and mailing of the magazine will originate in greater Boston.

P. Z.

CONVENTION '83 CALLS

Kemper Road Center for Religious Development and the Ohio Association of Swedenborgian Churches look forward to seeing you at Convention 1983 in Wilmington, Ohio. Wilmington College, a Quaker institution, will serve as the center of activities. Much will be happening that week and you are invited to participate in all Convention activities.

There will be a Pre-Convention Conference which begins on Saturday evening, June 25th. Lorraine Sando and Laura Lawson are the leaders for this workshop. It will continue through Wednesday morning. This Conference will help you get in the groove for the rest of Convention.

Another workshop begins on Sunday, June 26th. This is a Music Workshop led by Muff Worden. Different forms of music are becoming increasingly more popular for us in the various worship experiences. Appreciation for and actual participation in church music will be the order of the day.

The Council of Ministers and the Ministers Spouses will each hold their own meetings from Monday morning, June 27th, through Wednesday noon, June 29th. The Council, besides the routine business agenda, will spend a good amount of time on Convention's theme, *Peace, Let it Begin With Me*. The Spouse's group, with the assistance of outside leadership, will continue their supportive and nurturing work.

Do you get the flavor? Much has happened already and Convention sessions have not even begun! Make sure you are a part of this year's activity by getting your reservations in. Do it now!

In connection with our theme of PEACE, all churches and groups are encouraged to make and bring a Peace Banner to Convention. Peace is not something that is done in Washington D.C. or Moscow, but begins in the heart and in our homes. What will your church's Peace Banner depict?

Children, young people, adults—what a wonderful program and time has been planned for everyone. Meetings, outings, singing, visiting, sharing, worship, eating, swimming, being. The costs are quite reasonable this year with children under 11 only \$8.75 each per day for room and board.

Come and be with other Swedenborgians at Convention '83 as we continue the process of building peace in ourselves, in our Church and in the world.

Richard H. Tafel, Jr.
Host Minister

BIOGRAPHIES

FREDERICK G. PERRY

Vice President

I look forward to moving further into the 80's and to change and progress for Convention. To help in this direction, I wish to continue to serve as Vice President and to be involved with several of its important committees.

After being on the staff of Arthur D. Little, Inc. for 34 years as a chemical engineer and management consultant, I retired as of July 1st, 1981, and moved permanently to our house in Jackson, New Hampshire. Nancy and I are now finding time for our other interests—home improvement projects, gathering wood and burning our wood stoves, tennis, skiing, and our work for the church.

ETHEL RICE

Secretary

A life-long Swedenborgian, and the wife of a New Church minister, I feel privileged to have made the Church a vital part of my life. Besides assisting in the work of the Cambridge Society, I am active in two women's groups in Brockton and in the Massachusetts New Church Women's Alliance. I have served as President of the Resource Group since its inception, an organization open to both men and women of the Cambridge Society, dedicated to the promotion and encouragement of ideas to enhance the work and influence of the Society.

Elected Recording Secretary in 1968, I am completing my fifteenth one-year term.

AUGUST A. EBEL

Treasurer

Incumbant treasurer completing his seventh one-year term.

Retired from U.S. Navy with rank of Captain.

Member of Washington Society.

Treasurer of Swedenborg School of Religion.

Member of Board of Trustees of Urbana College.

Age 62 and in good health.

SUSAN WOOD

I have been a member of the Swedenborgian Church since 1972 when my husband Marvin and I were married at Kemper Road Center. Since that time I have served as a member of the board of directors for five years, and am currently serving my third (non-consecutive) term as board president. I have been active in the Ohio Association as well, and have been vice president for the last two years.

On a more personal note, I have, for the last 6½ years, worked for non-profit, social service agencies and have been business manager for the last three years in an agency that has grown from a staff of 7

and an annual budget of \$180,000 to a staff of 39 and a budget of \$600,000. As a result, the management and development of new programs, and the putting of fiscally feasible ideas into reality are things I am quite familiar with.

This position also offers flexibility in working hours, and I have always been able to attend all church related events.

Finally, I would like to encourage as many of you as possible to attend convention this year at Wilmington College, hosted by Kemper Road Center. I look forward to seeing all of you there this June.

HAMPTON SCHOCH

Although affiliated with the Philadelphia Church since 1939, job relocations have meant being an isolated Swedenborgian since 1948. Contact was maintained through the Philadelphia Church Bulletins and since the 1960's, visits to us in North Carolina from the Rev. Ernest Frederick of Swedenborg House in Deland, Fla. For the past five years attendance at Convention has been possible due to work schedule adjustments and recent early retirement from the position of Vice President of Manufacturing for a division of a large textile company.

With time available to serve through the General Council it is felt the experience and problems of being isolated may be useful in contributing to the growth of the Church in the New Age.



DORIS TAFEL

The following experience, I feel, should help me make a positive contribution to the work of the Board of Missions:

Philadelphia Church:
Served as Assistant Treasurer and secretary to the Pastor.

Swedenborg Book Center:
Presently office manager and secretary of the American New Church Tract & Publication Society, the owners of the Swedenborg Book Center.

Middle Atlantic Association: Secretary for twenty years.

Alliance of New Church Women: Two terms as President and in June of this year will complete nine years as Treasurer.

General Convention: Member and secretary of the Pension Board until it was disbanded.



Church Women United of Greater Philadelphia: Chairman of the Finance Committee for two years. Treasurer for four years. Became President on January 1, 1983.

Member of the Governing Board of CWU in Pennsylvania and represent our denomination on the Common Council of CWU in the U.S.

I have always been interested in missionary work and would like very much to serve my Church on the Board of Missions.

DAVID P. JOHNSON

David P. Johnson grew up in the church in Philadelphia, Pa., obtained his degree in Business Administration from Drexel University and spent several years in business. After graduating from the "New Church Theological School" in 1942 he served a year as Authorized Candidate at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Kitchener. He was ordained there in 1943 and served as Pastor for 20 years. Moving to Seattle to join "Team Ministry" of "Project Link" in 1963 he has continued as Pastor there.

Through his career in the ministry he has served as Secretary of the Council of Ministers, on the General Council, President of Convention from 1956 to 1962 and has had, therefore, first hand knowledge of all Convention's Boards and Committees. Under his administration the Boards of Education and Publication were formed and the basic steps toward establishing the Central Office were taken.

David Johnson served on the faculty of the Swedenborg School of Religion from 1962 to 1970, the latter seven years of which were at the Field Center in Bellevue, Washington.

From 1963 he obtained special training as a Pastoral Counselor, has been a member of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors since 1966 and a Fellow in that professional organization since 1976.

At present David Johnson continues his Pastoral Counseling on a part time basis as well as being Pastor of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Seattle. The latter post will be assumed by his colleague, the Rev. Paul Martin Grumman at the end of this church year. However, he will continue his pastoral counselling and be available to Paul and the Church as may be needed.

ELIZABETH L. JOHNSON

I grew up in Philadelphia and graduated from the Philadelphia Normal School in 1935. I was introduced to the New Church through the League, and later confirmed. Following my marriage to David P. Johnson, and while he attended the Theological School in Cambridge, Mass., I worked with him at the Newtonville Church, teaching Sunday School and assisting in League activities.

Through the 21 years of my husband's pastorate in Kitchener, Ontario, I was active in the life of the church—teaching Sunday School and singing in the

choir, as well as participating in the two women's groups. Being mother to six children was also an essential part of my experience.

Moving to Bellevue, Washington brought new developments. As a "team wife" I participated in all the professional leadership training. I was associate leader with my husband of spiritual growth groups. With the other "team wives" I designed special programs for the wives of student ministers during their field training.

In 1972 I returned to college and earned a degree in Social and Human Services at Bellevue Community College. Subsequently I worked for five and a half years at the Seattle/King County Division on Aging. I was associate producer of a weekly television program for senior adults. Having retired in 1980, I am now director of an educational program for older people sponsored by Bellevue Community College.

MARION MULL

I am age 59, a homemaker, assistant farm book-keeper and community volunteer worker. I am a graduate of Emporia Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education.

I am a lifelong active member of the Pawnee Rock, Kansas, New Jerusalem Church. I have held numerous offices in the local Ladies Service Alliance of the Church and am a Sunday School teacher.

Currently I am a member of the nominating committee for the Alliance of New Church Women.

I have attended several New Church Conventions and enjoy the fellowship with Swedenborgians from all over the country. If elected to the Augmentation Fund Board, I plan to attend its meetings if at all possible and hope to be of service in carrying out the business of this body in Convention.

MARJORY HILL SHELLEY

I am a member of the Swedenborgian church in Detroit. Being raised in a New Church Sunday School has had a great impact on my adult growth, and I feel a firm conviction that such an education is one of the most important things our church has to offer.

Other areas in education connected with the church in which I participate include teaching classes at the Almont New Church Assembly, where I have served as president for three years; the "Satellite Group" of the Detroit church, which provides fellowship and Swedenborgian learning experiences for out-state members and their children; and assisting with music and instruction for the children's program at Convention in 1981 and 1982.

As a certified teacher, and a mother with young children, I have a great interest in education, and as an "isolated" church member, I feel an even stronger need for the connection and usefulness that the various educational programs in the church can offer. I would be glad to make any contribution I can to the furthering of our church's educational goals by serving on the Board of Education.

ERIC ALLISON

I was born in Ohio and received my B.A. from Urbana College in 1972. I graduated from the Swedenborg School of Religion in 1977 and was ordained at Convention in San Francisco that year. I served the New Church society in LaPorte from

1977 - 80; then traveled overseas to visit our churches in New Zealand and Australia for four months. I began working with Paul Zacharias in a team ministry in the Church of the Good Shepherd in Kitchener, Ontario in March, 1981, and still continue in this work. As a relatively recent graduate of S.S.R. "I know a lot of the things that I wished I would have learned when I was there and would like to see improvements in the practical side of the program." I know the School has improved in many ways since I left and I would find it exciting to be involved in this process.

RON BRUGLER

I am currently completing my first term on the Board of Managers of the Swedenborg School of Religion. During this period I have learned a lot about the workings of this important institution of our church. I hope that I will be given the opportunity to put this knowledge to use in a second term.

The most important knowledge that I have gained from my first term is the realization that in order for the Swedenborg School of Religion to fulfill its educational mission, three primary areas require the Board's continuing attention. The first is the necessity that the faculty have the freedom within the educational structure that being a professional educator requires. The second is that our member

churches have the assurance that we are maintaining the highest degree possible of professional competency within our clergy. The third is that the educational goals of the individual students be attended to as much as possible.

My first term has taught me that achieving a balance within these areas is not always an easy or clear task, yet I can say that I have tried to do this. If you are familiar with the work that I have done, I hope that it meets with your approval. If you are not familiar with me or my work, then I hope that you will take the opportunity of getting to know me at convention. I believe that I have, and will continue to fulfill my responsibilities as a member of the Board of Managers if given the opportunity.

PAUL ZACHARIAS

I have served as pastor of the New Church societies in Elmwood, Mass., Portland, Oregon, and presently into my 20th year in Kitchener, Ontario. During my ministry I have served Convention in many capacities, including six years as Chairman of the Council of Ministers, two terms on General Council, several years on the Board of Missions, and have edited the *Messenger* for 8 years. All of these experiences have been invaluable in shaping my concepts of ministry, and I feel I can make a worthwhile contribution on the Committee on Admission into the Ministry and the Board of Publications.

PEACE IN OUR TIME

*Ernest O. Martin
Palos Verdes, California*

The peace movement is gaining momentum as groups of people throughout the world speak, write, witness, lobby and testify to their concern over the actions of the governments of the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic in moving pell mell toward destruction of human life on planet earth.

Those involved in the peace movement cannot be dismissed as "peaceniks." Adherents include physicians, physical and social scientists, retired military leaders, former cabinet members, legislators, educators, and clergy and laity of all faiths.

During the last few weeks the following documents have come across my desk: 1) a special issue of the Radcliffe Quarterly on "Nuclear Disarmament before It's Too Late," with a lead article entitled, "War and peace in a nuclear age: the future of the human experiment is in our hands." 2) the current issue of the Harvard Divinity Bulletin featuring an address by Professor Gordon D. Kaufman on "Nuclear Eschatology and the Study of Religion." 3) the March 15 issue of "Context", published by church historian Martin E. Marty,

devoted completely to "The Challenge of Peace." 4) an address by the Rev. William Sloane Coffin on "Blessed Are the Peacemakers." 5) the testimony of former Senator J. William Fulbright on "The Delusions of Military Power."

I share with you some of the most startling and frightening and challenging statements from these documents:

Anne Harrington in the Radcliffe Quarterly wrote: "In 1945 when the United States dropped the first atom bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, warfare, as terrible as it had been throughout history, no longer meant only the destruction of tribes, or countries, or peoples; it could mean also the obliteration of civilization. Surely, we thought, such a threat would be the deterrence that would end war for all time. No nation would be suicidal enough to undertake a nuclear conflict. But Dr. Strangelove lives . . ."

Professor Kaufman, speaking before the American Academy of Religion, said: "The end of history which we in the late twentieth century must contemplate—an end brought about by nuclear holocausts—is conceived

primarily not as God's doing but as ours. Moreover, it is not part of a grand plan bringing about the salvation of humanity; it is, rather, the extinction—the total obliteration of humanity. Not only the ending of all our individual hopes and aspirations—a finality which each of us individually must face as we contemplate our own deaths—but an ending of all hopes and aspirations, indeed of all hopes and aspirers, of all future generations who could carry on the quests and projects, the values and the meanings, the institutions and ways of life in which humankind has invested so much over many thousands of years."

In his special issue of "Context," Dr. Martin E. Marty deals with the subject of "deterrence" and quotes President (General) Eisenhower: "There comes a time, possibly, when a lead is not significant in the defensive arrangements of a country. If you get enough of a particular type of weapon, I doubt that it is particularly important to have a lot more of it." Khrushchev: "The United States may be able to destroy us two times over; we're still capable of wiping out the United States, even if it's only once." Theodore Draper, for both sides: "Only once has any meaning; there would be nothing to destroy the second time. If only this plain, sober, fairly simple fact of nuclear life could be dinned into the heads of policymakers or, failing that, shouted from the housetops, we might be saved from all the terrifying twaddle that assails us."

The Rev. William Sloane Coffin: "Synagogues and churches must take the lead in bringing the enormous pressure on the government to pursue a policy of peace. They must take an activist role in changing the fabric of the international order. It is the duty of religious groups in this country to be the servants of the world, not withdrawn from it."

Senator Fulbright reminded us of the testimony of Admiral Rickover to a Congressional committee: "We're spending too much on defense . . . I think we will probably destroy ourselves . . . We are in danger of arming ourselves into oblivion."

The Roman Catholics bishops' pastoral letter on "The Challenge of Peace" has been chosen by Religion Newswriters, Religious News Service and "Christian Century" as the top news story of 1982. As the bishops hone and debate it and prepare it for final distribution, the pastoral letter may well be the top religious news story of 1983.

Discussing the bishops' pastoral letter, Dr. Marty wrote: "Some critics say the church is purely spiritual and the bomb is physical, thus talk about it is out of their competence. The

bishops ignore that, spotting heresy as quickly as did the early Christians. Some say that clerics lack competence on this subject. So do the editors who charge that. There has been a great demystification of experts in our time. When have they been right? What privileged knowledge about weaponry does one need to speak on the moral issues?"

The peace movement is spreading and is especially strong in Europe. An editorial in the London Daily Mirror declared: "Already the two great powers have the weapons which could turn the world into a desert and its peoples into grains of sand. More they do not need . . . Building up the world's military strength has weakened all of us economically. Money poured into preparations for war has been lost to the prosperity of peace. West and East have the technology to kill each other 30 times over. But they lack both the resources and the will to save a third of the world from starvation. We have over-kill but we don't have over-save."

The simplistic moralism adopted by the U.S. administration infuriates people throughout the world. Sir Solly Zuckerman from Great Britain asks: "Is it that Reagan's amateur strategists are really representative of Americans? Are typical Americans so consumed by their hatred of Russians and so ignorant of the nature of destruction that they are prepared to hazard the continuity of Western civilization in order to further their personal prejudices in a fantasy about nuclear war?"

Professor Gordon Kaufman closed his address to the American Academy of Religion with this challenge: "We must work with far greater effectiveness toward stopping the nuclear arms race and, indeed, toward a total nuclear disarmament; we must find a way of breaking the back of the system of sovereign nation-states; we must reorient our priorities of consumption and distribution of the world's goods; we must stop poisoning our environment; we must find a way to live with one another productively and justly on this earth, and without warfare among major political units. These, and many other social and political and economic imperatives, rest particularly heavily upon those of us who live in America, the foremost consumer of the world's goods, the most powerful of the nuclear super-powers, and perhaps, at this particular moment, the most domineering and threatening nation in the world. It is really the possible annihilation of humanity that we are talking about, and this above all we each must find some way of addressing, if we are to take up our full responsibility as persons in today's world. But whether in our professional capacities or simply as ordinary women and

men, I think there is no question that the possibility of nuclear holocaust is the premier issue which our generation must address. Let us, then, get on with it.”

At our convention session in Irvine, California, on July 2, 1982, we resolved to declare the week of May 23 - 29, 1983 as “Pursuing Peace with Justice” week, that it might be used as a time for prayer, worship and discussions related to peace.

We also voted to ask member churches to devote one service each month prior to May 1983 for the purpose of studying peace. Whether a formal service on Sunday morning is the best time to study peace is questionable, but there is no question but that the subject of peace must be addressed by all of us, while there is yet time.

“A MESSAGE OF PEACE TO THE WHITE HOUSE”

In February Convention President Calvin Turley received a request from Trinity Peace Project of New York City to sign a petition asking that a USA/USSR mutual nuclear freeze resolution be sent to the White House. Because of our democratic-congregational church structure it was decided that signing such a resolution, with an affirmative

Convention vote, would go beyond the jurisdiction of the office. On this basis the request was denied.

As Convention’s Peace Task Force Chairperson I would like to provide an opportunity for every Swedenborgian, as an individual without representing Convention, to express your desire for world peace to our U.S. President.

I encourage all those committed to following our Lord’s path as peace makers, to consider endorsing the enclosed message of peace to the White House. This message of peace was authorized by the Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, (SANE), located in Washington D.C. SANE was formed more than twenty-five years ago. Its governing council is ecumenical in composition. Two familiar names on their advisory council are Dr. Benjamin Spock and Mrs. Coretta Scott King. SANE is a non-profit organization and has worked to save the Nevada flats in the 1950’s from pollution and radiation resulting from nuclear testing. For more information write to David Cortright, Executive Director, C/o National SANE, 711 G. Street S.E., Washington D.C. 20003. Please send your endorsement to this address.

Rev. Susan Turley-Moore
Peace Task Force Chairperson

TO: President Reagan

I AM OPPOSED to Pentagon preparations for the U.S. to “prevail” in a “prolonged” nuclear war with the Soviet Union.

As you yourself have said, “There can be no winners in a nuclear war.” So why must we spend billions of dollars more preparing to “prevail”?

I urge you to seek an agreement with the Soviet Union for an immediate freeze on nuclear weapons, as the first step toward substantial mutual arms reductions.

Name

Address

City

State Zip

Almont New Church Assembly 1983 New Church Family Camp July 23—Aug. 6 in Almont, Michigan

Swedenborgian fellowship, worship, recreation, and renewal—for all ages. Continue an old tradition, or start a new one, by joining us for this year’s session.

Theme and activities this summer will center

around our newly completed, enlarged waterfront area, which includes swimming beach, fishing dock, boating facilities, and lakeside amphitheater.

We’d love to welcome you!

For information, contact: Rev. Ron Brugler, superintendent, 246 Lafayette, Pittsburgh, PA. 15214 OR Marjory Shelley, registrar, 125 Reynick, Saginaw, MI 48602.

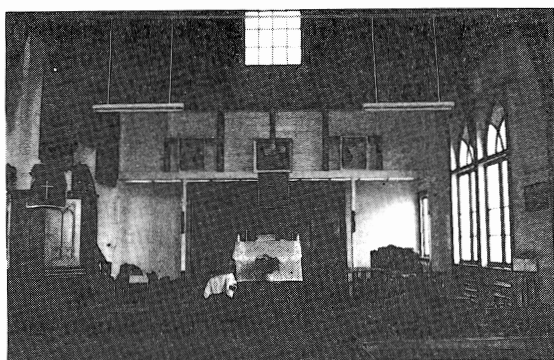
GUYANA THE BEAUTIFUL

(Part II)

Calvin and Marilyn Turley

In addition to the grace of the many participating ministers and friends, we were all especially honored and pleased by the attendance of the Prime Minister of Guyana, Ptlomy Alexander Reid, O.E.; Elaine M. Harper, Deputy Commissioner of Police for Guyana, and a personal representative from the Mayor of Georgetown. We don't doubt that there were many others present whom we should here acknowledge, but attendance was so great that we can no more than offer our thanksgiving for so many who cared enough to enrich this day by their presence.

Monday to Thursday of our visit was full from morning to night as we sought to join in the spirit of celebration as Guyana recognized its thirteenth anniversary as an independent nation, visit the village of Yarrowkabra, and visit as many government officials as possible. We were graciously received by everyone. As we traveled through the varied landscapes of city streets, country roads and official visits with government officials, we came closer to the life of Guyana. It is a life that pulsates with goodwill, hope and growing national pride in its multi-racial heritage and culture. Guyana is a poor country working through difficult and trying times as the people move to develop the resources of the land and move toward self-sufficiency.



Interior of the Georgetown New Church

During our stay there were many opportunities to speak with the members of the congregation, both individually and in groups. In this way, we came to know and to share with our brothers and sisters the love, concern, and pride they have for their "CHURCH ON THE CORNER WITH A CORNER FOR ALL." A few points covered are highlighted here.

1. A mutual valuing of women who are accepted as equal and hold responsible positions of leadership in the life of Guyana and the church. Women ministers in the church, as well as women in all positions of all secular positions, are an accepted and valued part of Guyanese culture.

2. Free education for all through college is being established in Guyana. This is one area where we can help—books of all kinds, in good condition, are greatly needed. One of the hopes of our church in Georgetown is to establish a lending library.

3. The congregation has just received the Books of Worship from the Wayfarers Chapel. We spent time discussing the order of service and were pleased to hear that Convention's acceptance of freedom guided by our Swedenborgian perspective was alive and well in Guyana!

4. Discussion revealed that their "Women's Alliance" is locally known as the "Bible Study Group." It is through this group that they express their Swedenborgian, Christian love via study, service and social activities. Their interest is high in establishing continued contact with the Women's Alliance of Convention.

5. There are positive ways American Swedenborgians can assist our Guyanese sisters and brothers. It is our hope that we will be able to establish a dependable "life line" so that our efforts will be helpful in building a strong and useful church in Guyana. You will be hearing more about this opportunity through the pages of the *Messenger* and through personal letters.

6. We discussed both the need and the opportunity for the training of additional ministerial leadership for Guyana. Preliminary discussions explored the possibility of one of their laymen coming to the Swedenborgian School of Religion.

This report would be grossly incomplete if we did not share a bit more about our trip to Yarrowkabra, the site of the mission work of our church in Georgetown. Yarrowkabra is a small village some forty miles outside of Georgetown. On Wednesday, we travelled there to dedicate a new building which was to have been built out of poles cleaned of their bark and woven brush to close in the walls. We arrived to discover the building was not in place, but THE LIVING CHURCH WAS! In a small shed near the church building site we found about ten

men, most of whom were handicapped, many of whom were in wheelchairs. They were the guests of the small congregation of Yarrowkabra, having been invited out from Georgetown so that they might enjoy the fresh air and a refreshing change from the nursing home they lived in. The day proved to be another spiritual highlight of our visit. We talked and all bore witness to the goodness and love of the Lord. We sang songs, prayed together and then we were given the gift of song by Ivan Sommersell, one of the men in a wheelchair. The beauty and clarity of his voice, singing the praises of the Lord in the quiet of the place, was nourishment for the soul. We will remember, with thanksgiving, the sacredness of our time together in Yarrowkabra.

That evening we returned to Georgetown and a delightful farewell service at the church. Again we sang, we prayed and we shared, and again we were recipients of the love and good-

will of the people. They showered us with gifts for our homeward journey, and we have brought them all home with us—the gifts, the joy, the goodwill, the hope and the love. And, the greatest of these is LOVE.



Children at Yarrowkabra holding dedication plaque for new building.

The Board of Missions Reports

by Eric Zacharias

The Rev. Christian Mania was ordained into our ministry last summer in a service held on the beautiful Wayfarers Chapel grounds during our convention. Following this, he and his family took up residence in an apartment at Apollostrasse 2 in Zurich. It was his plan to begin his ministry working alongside the Rev. Friedemann Horn serving the New Church in Switzerland and in Germany.

A recent report from Rev. Mania indicates that a busy schedule quickly evolved. It is my privilege to share a few highlights of that report with *Messenger* readers.

"Every other Thursday evening is our Bible Study group. In the last two months of 1982 we have been talking about "Symbols of Change", or "Symbols of Transformation in the Bible." These evenings take a lot of preparation since we include poetry, slides or pictures, music, etc.

On the weekend from October 28th through November 1st Friedemann and I went to Berlin. We had one worship service together, including Communion. I have a slide show on America and visited some of the people—especially the younger members of the congregation. Some 50 - 70 people came to the activities.

On December 20th, we had our church council meeting in Kreuzlingen. I could talk a lot about that but I want to keep this report

rather short (it actually was a report of five pages single-spaced good reading). Much planning about the future has been going on there and our next meeting took place on the ninth of January. This was even more concrete and successful than the first. The people are open to change.

On the 14th and 15th of January the Boulvin family gave us a visit. This was a very nice and fruitful time. (Philippe was ordained in September of 1979 and serves the Church in Lausanne).

From the 5th to the 13th of February I have been in Berlin. Here the lecture program included one on Swedenborg and Jung, a lecture for a group of some 55 people on dream interpretation, a movie and slide show about America and lots of visits in people's homes and hospitals. . . . The city of Berlin shocked me. The whole city is a kind of island in the midst of communistic East Germany, without any country around, without any agriculture, etc. The economy is drastically going down . . . the city can live only with the tremendous support being given by West Germany.

Some further plans and things on my schedule: in the next two months I have seven preaching dates. One of the Sundays is planned entirely for the smaller children. A new friend of mine is a teacher for undergrads, and he loves children. His idea is to have a kind of workshop with them. So I wrote neat invitations in calligraphy to the kids and parents—offering a whole day with them, including worship, a potluck lunch and maybe a walk at the lake or in the woods.

On February 22nd Lame Deer is going to give a lecture in our house, on "American Indian Spirituality and the Belief in Afterlife." Then on March 1st, Friedemann is going to give a lecture on "Christian Spirituality and the Belief in Afterlife." On the following three Thursdays we are going to have a lecture and seminar on the theme, "This life and the life beyond—opposite or correlation?"

On March 27th, we are going to have another church council meeting in Kreulingen. In the week from April 11th through the 16th, Sybille, Florian and I will drive to South France to see the Duvivier family (Patrick was ordained also during the 1982 convention). And on the 24th of April we are going to have our big annual European New Church Association Conference in Zurich.

With all our love and warmest feelings towards you and our beloved Church in your country."

Committed to Preserving New Church Books

I was watching a John Wayne movie on TV. There was Big John with his gun trained on the bad guy, and standing to one side was another fellow, who also had his gun drawn but had not yet decided which side he was on. John Wayne looked him in the eye and said, "Smith: commit yourself, because until you are committed you are only taking up space."

For me those were very strong words, because once you commit, you can be seen; then your intentions and actions are known. In New Church terms, it is the time when you start to bring your thoughts out into the externals or actions. When you commit, you have to get on with it. A friend said to me that he is a committed Christian. And I can see that he is, because he constantly tries to bring his love of the Lord and the neighbour out into the open. You could say: to commit to something is to know where the end is; and New Church teaching tells us that ends are first in things. Who can go anywhere if he doesn't know where he wants to end up?

Claiming to be a New Church person is, to me, making a big commitment: in committing to a life of love to the Lord and the neighbor. But, it's not a commitment at all, unless you bring it out into your actions.

We use the word "commit" very freely, but, by looking it up in the dictionary, I find it is a very meaningful word indeed, one that should not be just thrown about, but thought upon deeply before being applied to the heart.

Why all this talk of commitment? Because, while I was in England at the New Church College in 1982, I made a commitment to those who were there that I would set for myself the task of republishing priceless New Church collateral books that are no longer in print. It was my conviction that these works by New Church people, which further explain the truths of our teachings, *cannot* be lost. To get a number of these books back in print is my commitment. I say it now to you all: in order to set about to do this I have registered as a corporation not for profit the name "New Church Collateral Publishing," and in addition have set up the necessary accounts and complied with Australian legal requirements. There is as yet no committee, as I feel a committee may allow the responsibility to be spread; one could say, may allow "the buck to be passed."

Well, to get these books published is my commitment, my responsibility overall. BUT, I DO NEED HELP, YOUR HELP, both financial and spiritual. I have produced a "Supporter of Reprinting New Church Books" kit, that further points out the need to republish these books. Among other things, the supporters' kit has in it a lovely lapel pin that shows you are a supporter of this effort. I have been sending these kits out to New Church ministers. All you have to do is ask your local minister if he can supply you with one of these kits; and then join our World Organization by sending a donation of your choice.

I do ask for your commitment to help. If your minister doesn't have the supporter kits, write to me direct and I'll send you one.

Leslie Sheppard
P.O. Box 45, Woolloongabba
Queensland, 4102
Australia

Comments From The Almont Christmas Retreat

There are coherent plans and good possibility for world survival.

Andrew Dole
Mt. Hermon, MA

Meeting new people. Learning new things. Having fun learning New Games. Just being here was significant!

Nicole Moore
Dimondale, MI

At this retreat I have met many people from all over the country. I think that it is important

(cont'd on pg. 125)

FEMININE CONNECTIONS

Perry S. Martin, Editor

Sponsored by Alliance of New Church Women

At a Los Angeles Clergy Seminar on the Human Costs of the Nuclear Arms Race, I met a number of women who are spending their full time and energies working for peace. One of them offered to come to our house and show a film, NO FRAMES, NO BOUNDARIES, which covers the nuclear armaments issues, showing the roots of conflict, and leaves the viewer with a sense of hope. Another, Lenore Ray, agreed to write an article for Feminine Connections on how she got involved in her peace work.

With some reluctance I went to an all-day seminar on "The Human Costs of the Nuclear Arms Race—Psychological, Economic, Spiritual." Yes, of course I'm in favor of reversing the arms race. Nuclear proliferation can only increase our insecurity and fears for the future of the human race. There is no such thing as a safe margin of superiority. And why should any other country want us to have it? But listening to the frightening statistics only makes me feel more helpless. What can I do?

I was impressed by the room—there were large round tables with attractive tablecloths, providing a space which encouraged us to sit down with our coffee and talk with the others who had come with the same concerns. Easy to meet people, and the people were friendly. What surprised me was the participation of so many women. The program was a clergy seminar, and there are not yet that many women in the professional ministry; all the speakers were male. Yet a lot of women were there. The questions they raised, the things they talked about pinpointed the human, the personal aspects of the problem.

"I'm working hard for the nuclear freeze. How do I talk with love and understanding to my family who are opposed?"

"I'm not interested in statistics. To me the basic question is, do the Russians really want to annihilate us? What for?"

"Suppose the unthinkable happened and the Soviets struck first? Would there be any point in retaliation?"

This last question took my breath away. I have already accepted the premise that a limited nuclear war is not possible, controllable, winnable, survivable. Indeed, then, what would be gained by retaliation? The military mind,

used for centuries to dealing with battles, soldiers, gains and losses, is no longer applicable. There is nothing to win in a nuclear war. We are talking about a different kind of morality.

Einstein said that the theory of relativity has changed everything except our thinking. Psychologist Carol Gilligan in her book *In A Different Voice* (Harvard University Press, 1982) states that the sense of morality seems to develop differently in women than in men—on a different axis. She disputes the suggestion of Lawrence Kohlberg, with whom she worked at Harvard, that women's morality is stuck on a lower level than men's. Kohlberg's theory resulted from a questionnaire developed in a longitudinal study of 84 boys. Gilligan maintains her studies show that while men tend to emphasize rights and rules, women focus on responsibility and relationship—not on what one shouldn't do to others, but rather on doing for others. Moral questions are not problems in logic, but in personal relationships. As women develop, their sense of responsibility requires learning to care for one's own self *and* others.

What then can we do to care for ourselves and others, to help perpetuate spiritual life on our planet earth?

1. We can keep ourselves educated so that we are able to talk intelligently and with conviction. We have been psychologically numbed by the horrible possibility of a holocaust. We can raise our own consciousness to accept the reality that we cannot win and survive a nuclear war. I have a year-old grandchild, a second one due in the autumn. I wonder what is to be their future.

2. Since, lamentably, many people are often more concerned with their pocketbooks than with moral and spiritual questions, we can take the trouble to understand the economic effects of the arms race. A huge military budget leads to higher government deficits, feeds inflation as the government competes for raw materials and capital, and actually results in lower employment, since the money and resources are poured into the relatively high technology, low labor-use industry of sophisticated weapon production.

3. We can use our time and energy to raise the consciousness of those with whom we are in

contact. I write this article to share with you my conviction that we must not stand helplessly by as the arms race brings humankind closer to the possibility of mass destruction.

4. We can learn to understand our own fears and anger, our inner need for an enemy, someone to blame. We can bring up our children to appreciate cooperation as well as competition, to learn to accept their own fears and anger, so that they can live in harmony. We can teach them reverence for God's creation, the earth and all who dwell on it.

5. We can learn to understand those who are different from us. We can see that we, innocent as we may believe ourselves, may pose a threat to them. It is possible to conceive that the more we arm ourselves with nuclear weaponry, the more frightened others may be of us?

Thus we begin to see a larger picture. We begin to struggle with complexities, rather than rest lazily on simple answers. We look beyond the short term advantages and conveniences to the possible future of the world. My children's generation does not really expect that they and their children will survive this nuclear age. How then are they to make their life decisions?

And what has this to do with our religious life? Is this a secular issue? There are no secular issues any more. We know that we are all a part of creation, all interrelated and mutually dependent, that all religion relates to life. We love to say we "believe in Divine Providence; that providence provides us with freedom to kill if we choose."

For a start, we might set aside a part of each day to ponder, to meditate, to pray (choose your own mode) on how we may be instruments of peace, in our families, our work, our church, our community, our world. Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

Perry S. Martin

A World Beyond War: What One Person Can Do

The technological genius of the human mind has made war obsolete. Full scale nuclear war would destroy civilization as we know it and could cause the extinction of life itself. In the past we have attempted to avoid this final war by an ever-escalating weapons race. Public opinion is now recognizing that we are reaching a point of no return. The production of nuclear arms must stop and the massive stockpiles must be reduced.

The only lasting solution to the threat of extinction is for the human species to see that we are beyond war. War can no longer resolve

differences between nations. We are technologically beyond war already. What must now move beyond war is the human mind. The precedent for such a shift in thinking has been established. There was a time when slavery was an institution supported by powerful religious, economic and political forces. People could not have imagined society existing without slavery. Yet, today, we are beyond slavery.

The first step beyond war comes with the perception that war is obsolete. We must then decide to embark upon a process which will unfold before us as we work together. No one can describe today precisely what a world beyond war will be. But we do know that the attitude required of individuals and nations is one of goodwill, inclusiveness and concern for the well-being of all. Having this attitude and participating in this process will enable us to build together a world beyond war.

It has required thought, time and effort on my part to come to an understanding of this vision, and to see that one person working with a spirit of goodwill can make profound changes. I would like to share the steps that I went through in coming to this realization.

At first, I was filled with doubt about what just one person could do, but I decided at least to educate myself about the choices we, as a people, had before us. I began by reading about the reality of what happens in a nuclear war. There is much literature available on this subject, but one of the most comprehensive books I read was *Fate of the Earth* by Jonathan Schell. This first stage of education was a shock to my system. I experienced many emotions, predominately sadness and fear, which was a natural part of facing a problem of this magnitude. But I continued to read and question and it became absolutely clear to me that the reality of nuclear war was so horrible that I could not support the use of nuclear weapons against anyone, not even my worst enemy. I also saw that by continuing the arms build-up, we were not contributing to our security, but were, in fact, helping to bring about the very thing we feared — nuclear war.

The result of this educational process was to recognize that as long as we as people held in our minds that war was a possibility, it would, in fact, happen. All of the developments on this planet were first perceived in the minds of visionary people. If change is to come about, it must first be held as a possibility in our minds. I began to see that if enough (not all) people recognized that our planet was beyond war, then we could start to develop creative alternatives to resolving conflict.

The motivation to move out to others came easily with the insight that change was possible

(cont'd on pg. 123)

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION ANNOUNCES PRE-CONVENTION CONFERENCE 1983

Saturday, June 25 to Wednesday, June 29

at

Wilmington College, Ohio

— *PEACE — LET IT BEGIN WITH ME!* —

*Leaders: Lorraine Sando, Laura Lawson,
Dance and Movement Therapist, and others.*

Because of requests from participants, the conference this year has been extended an extra day to allow a more relaxed time for growing, exploring and learning in the "beloved community". The conference will begin just after the evening meal on Saturday, and end just before noon on Wednesday.

The theme is *Peace — Let it begin with me!* We will explore the theme through consideration of the following questions:

1. How do we personally create conflict and peace within ourselves and our relationships?
2. What can we do to move toward inner and outer peace?
3. What can our church offer as guidance?
4. How can we use this knowledge in our daily lives?

Small personal growth groups have always been an integral part of pre and post Convention Conferences. Prior participants acknowledge that these groups generate love, energy, insight, growth and meaning. Here, people can share their struggles, joys, pain and aspirations and find acceptance and renewal.

In the larger community group, a variety of structured experiences will be used to facilitate our explorations and growth. The possible experiences will include prayer, art, music and song, guided meditation, doctrinal discussion, movement and exercise, dreamwork and healing. Participants talents and resources will be welcomed as we build our beloved community.

Your leader Lorraine Sando is a psychotherapist, art therapist, artist and creativity consultant. She is well known in Convention having served on General Council and staffed 9 pre and post Convention Conferences. Others will join Lorraine in leadership roles.

The cost will be \$20.00 registration plus \$18.75 per day for room and meals.

Please send your registration immediately to Rachel Martin, Executive Secretary, Board of Education, 48 Sargent St., Newton, Mass., 02158. Make checks for \$20.00 payable to the General Convention of Swedenborgian Churches.

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Phone _____

Accommodations desired:

Registration times at Wilmington College

Saturday, June 25th from 4 to 6 p.m.

First session begins at 7:30 p.m. on June 25th.

LATE FLASH!

A new and special addition to the P.C.C. will be the Wilmington, Delaware CLOWN MINISTRY. They will present a dialogue on our theme "Peace in Life."

Book Review:

The Universe Within: A New Science Explores the Human Mind, by Morton Hunt. New York, Simon and Schuster, 1982; 415 pp., \$18.75.

The "new science" of the subtitle is known as "cognitive science" and the book is a fascinating survey of the present state of research into the workings of the human mind. For Swedenborgians who have been distressed by the popularity of strict behaviorism, it is heartening to see how much hard evidence has been gathered that demonstrates its inadequacy.

Separate chapters deal with the physical structure of the brain, memory, logic, classification, mental development and language, problem-solving, creativity, and comparison with the computer. There is an abundance of illustrative detail supporting a consistent clarity of presentation, which makes the book both readable and informative.

It should be noted that cognitive science is not a study of the whole person, but restricts itself to "the understanding." Questions of value or motivation—of "the will"—are given little attention. This limitation helps explain the attitude that "the soul" is an unnecessary hypothesis (pp. 53 ff.). It is also clear that "the soul" that is being dismissed is not, from our point of view, clearly understood. However, mental processes are treated as real and coherent; and this represents a major step away from behavioral materialism.

Symptomatic of this is Hunt's appreciation of the non-literal. "Metaphor is thus not merely an ornament of writing, a beautifying cosmetic laid on the surface of thought; rather, it is a process by which we see more, and more deeply (p. 290)." When we add his insistence that propositional logic has severe limitations, his recognition of the proper uses of generalization, and his appreciation of the "intelligence" of the unconscious, the result is a far less mechanistic view of the human being than we normally associate with scientific inquiry.

It is particularly encouraging to find an acceptance of hereditary aspects of mind. The present scientific consensus is that while there is no innate information, the brain is "pre-wired" to accept certain kinds of information and to process it in particular ways—for example, to see sequences in terms of causal connections (p. 180). Mental development is then the result of an interaction between a given mental nature and an environment. The touchy question of innate individual differences, which has been sadly politicized in recent decades, is

given little attention: in regard to sex differences, there is the intriguing observation that "... researchers are coming to believe that there is somewhat more difference between the right and left hemispheres in the male brain than in the female brain (p. 149)." This does suggest a difference in thinking, but a subtle one.

Some idea of the informational value of the book can be gained from the extent of the bibliography of works cited—well over three hundred. For anyone who does have a serious interest in current research into mental processes, Mr. Hunt's work provides an excellent introduction. To Swedenborgians to whom science and religion are partners rather than rivals, it offers an opportunity to test theories against carefully gathered data, and to gain a more detailed understanding of that arena where so much of our conscious living takes place.

George F. Dole

A World Beyond War: (cont'd from pg. 121)

and that through education on a personal basis, I could help to develop the vision of beyond war in people's minds. I started with my family and simply shared what I had discovered about the reality of nuclear war and the vision of what was possible if people changed. I then talked with friends, educators and influential people I knew. I wrote letters to congressmen, newspapers, magazines and television stations. There were many tools available to help me in the education of others—films, books and pamphlets. I organized small group meetings in my home and invited speakers from such organizations as Physicians for Social Responsibility, Sierra Club and Common Cause. I encouraged my friends to do the same.

Everyone was not responsive. Some people vigorously disagreed, but overall people were interested and grateful to be given the information and opportunity to do something themselves.

Within one year, I probably make contact, directly or indirectly, with 1000 people, maybe more. In addition, the educational process itself pulled me out of any feelings of sadness and gave me a tremendous sense of hope in the future and connection to all people everywhere. I experienced directly how powerful each of us can be when we work wholeheartedly for something greater and higher than ourselves. I am reminded of the words of the poet, Matthew Arnold: "If ever the world sees a time when people shall come together purely and simply for the benefit of mankind; it will be a power such as the world has never known." Each of us does make a difference.

Lenore Ray

The Swedenborgian New Age Pioneers Announce Their 1983 West Coast Workshop

We don't plan to just talk about regeneration—we plan to do it! We will be practicing techniques and exploring lifestyles which people have found effective in getting into, and progressing along, the process of regeneration. These include diet, exercise, meditation, worship, music, group discussions, and various healing techniques. We will also seek a theoretical understanding of Swedenborg's concept of regeneration and of the various practices and techniques which we will be using. Particular emphasis will be given to inter-personal sharing and establishing a true sense of community.

We will camp together in the beautiful Santa Cruz mountains. The campsite is a short walk up a steep trail through a grove of redwood trees. The camping conditions are primitive and we will share the daily responsibilities such as cooking and cleaning.

The workshop is open to people 17 to 150 years old, regardless of religious affiliation. The fee for the nine day session is \$100., although some scholarship money will be available.

Please come! Share what you have learned and experience what others have to offer. Make new friends and deepen existing friendships.

Theme: Regeneration — Personal and Social Change

Dates: August 13 - 21

Staff: Rev. Paul Martin Grumman, M.A.

 Rev. Horand Gutfeldt, Ph.D.

 Rev. * Rachel Martin, M.A. (* expected to be ordained at convention)

In addition to these staff members, other experienced participants will lead particular sessions. We can all look forward to great macrobiotic feasts as Margaret Schnitzen has agreed to plan the menu again.

Although the daily schedule will vary in response to the group's needs and desires, as well as to accommodate shopping trips and outings to the beach, the following is an example of a typical day's schedule: 7:00 a.m.—Breakfast; 8:00 a.m.—Tai Chi as exercise, meditation and way of life; 9:00 a.m.—Regeneration through exploration of personal heavens and hells; 11:00 a.m.—New games, volleyball, hiking, etc. 12:00 noon—Lunch; 12:30 p.m.—Personal quiet time; 1:30 p.m.—Worship experience; 2:00 p.m.—Regeneration through various healing techniques, and Learning to recognize and utilize the spiritual influences in our lives; 4:00 p.m.—Free time; 6:00 p.m.—Dinner; 7:30 p.m.—Music, dance, or mythological story telling.

APPLICATION

1. Name, address, phone number.
2. Why do you want to participate in this program?
What particularly interests you?
3. What, if any, appropriate knowledge, skill, practice or technique would you like to share with others at the workshop?
4. Would you need scholarship assistance to attend this workshop?

Applications and any questions should be sent as soon as possible to: Paul Martin Grumman, 17614 182 N.E., Woodinville, WA 98072. 206-788-6916.

CALLING ALL LEAGUERS!

BE AN ASSOCIATION LEAGUE REP TO CONVENTION

At the request of your League President, the General Council of Convention voted \$800 to continue for this year the Association League Representative to Convention Program which has been sponsored by the Board of Education for the last three years.

Under this program, each of our 13 Associations is asked to pick one of its Leaguers to send to convention as its League Representative. The General Council will pay room and board at convention for that Leaguer, and the Association is asked to assist with travel.

In the past three years, this has helped give us some of the biggest conventions for the League in a long time. It has helped to get Leaguers there from all across North America, and it has given us 4 of the 10 Regional Officers who have been elected since the program began. So you can see why I made a special effort to keep it going!

To make this effort more worth the money spent, General Council has asked that Leaguers who are sent to convention as their Association's rep do something in return to add to the convention. They have suggested "that young people who receive financial aid in attending convention be asked to assist in carrying the luggage of older convention goers, and to serve, if asked, with pre-convention child care." I think we can handle that!!

But I would also like to see our Association Reps add something to our League meetings at convention. To make them an actual *representative* of their Association, I am now asking each Leaguer sent under this program to come with some ideas about what the League could be doing in his/her Association. She/he should be prepared to talk about what, if anything, has been happening in the past year, and what could happen in the coming year. And I will ask each Association Rep to write something about this for *Clear Blue Sky* either before he/she comes or during convention.

The General Council and the Board of Education have made it clear that they aren't just going to give 13 kids a "free ride" to convention. If we want this program to continue, it will have to serve a real use to Convention and the League besides just getting more teens to go to convention.

So if you're interested in the League, and would like to represent your Association at convention—and *especially* if you would like to run for Regional Officer (and aren't one already)—you should let your Association know soon that you would like to be its Representative.

To do this, write a letter to your Association's President and/or Secretary, or the addresses given after this article. Also, if you belong to a local Church, talk to your minister and Church officers. In your letter and when you talk to people about it, it would help if you stated briefly *why* you want to go to convention as their League Representative. Remember that they are supposed to be helping with your transportation, and they'll be much more likely to want to send you if they know that you'll be helping the Association by being at convention!

As soon as you know you've been chosen, you should write me so that we can inform the General Council what Leaguers it will be sponsoring.

Last year we had 9 Association Reps. Let's see if we can top that record this year! Why don't *you* apply to be your Association's Representative?!!

Lee Woofenden
699 West Shore Dr.
Guemes Island
Wash. 98221

Comments (cont'd from pg. 119)

to meet new people, and retreats like this allow us to make new friends and have fun.

Stefani Schneiderman
East Lansing, MI

I learned that you have to be able to meet new people and to learn to get to know and accept people that you don't know. You can't just stay in one little group or else you will never make any new friends or meet anybody new. I also learned that you have to communicate with each other and share thoughts and ideas or else nobody will get to know anybody else.

Sharon Lau
Lansing, MI

We must accept everyone and if we have trouble with some, we must help ourselves and them to accept each other rather than pulling each other farther away.

Scott Penabaker
Warren, MI

PRE CONVENTION MUSIC WORKSHOP

Things are gearing up for a great two days of music in Ohio, and we reiterate that to be a part of this workshop you do not need to have more than interest in church music, though it will be a bonus if you can carry a tune!! If you are an advanced musician, we will be happy to have you join us at several levels. We will cover both old and new music, vocal and instrumental, and there will be ample chance to participate in a variety of music during the workshop and during Convention week itself. When we have received your registration form, we will let you know what music we'll be doing for Convention services, in case you would like to plan ahead for some practice before you come. See you soon!!

PRE-CONVENTION MUSIC WORKSHOP — EARLY REGISTRATION FORM Wilmington College, Wilmington, OH June 26 to June 28, 1983:

NAME PHONE
STREET
CITY STATE/PROV. ZIP

..... I plan to attend the pre-Convention Music Workshop.

..... I will arrive at the College at
(state time and means of arrival)

..... I play, and will bring, this instrument
(piano and organ are provided...)

..... I sing, and will bring my voice. My range is

My musical ability is: (please check one or more)

- | | |
|--|---|
| Rank beginner | Able to read simple music |
| Shower singer | Able to read medium music (hymns, etc.) |
| Comfortable singer | Able to read advanced music |
| Fairly advanced singer | Experienced in improvisation |
| A beginner on instrument | Competent on my instrument |
| Experienced in church chants | |
| A member of a choir or instrumental organization | |

Name of organization

..... I write music. (Please bring along relevant pieces!!)

I am particularly interested in this facet of church music:

.....

Additional comments:

.....

**** Please enclose check or money order, MADE OUT TO: General Convention of Swedenborgian Churches, for \$15.00 non-refundable registration fee, with this form and mail both to: Muff Worden, SSR, 48 Sargent Street, Newton, MA 02158. NO LATER THAN JUNE 15.

**** Room and board charges will be the same as for Convention. Please indicate if you will
will not share a room, or if you have a room-mate in mind already:

..... (please name room-mate)

**** Convention's registration fee is in addition to the above workshop fee.

ATTENTION ALL GRANDPARENTS: (and parents too!)

Have you been thinking about what special gift to give to your grandchildren (or children)? How would you like to give a gift that is all of the following:

- New Church (Swedenborgian)
- Individualized
- Includes as many as 23 other playmates and 13 adults
- Inexpensive
- Educational
- Very fun
- An much, much more

What I'm talking about is sending your loved ones to CAMP BLAIRHAVEN this summer! Camp Blairhaven is a co-ed, New Church, children's camp, owned and operated by the Massachusetts New Church Union. It is located right on Plymouth Bay in S. Duxbury, Mass. Our facilities include two buildings: 1) the main house, which includes the dining and kitchen areas, a living/meeting room, the girls dormitory, and our arts and crafts room, and 2) the barn, which house the boys dorm upstairs and indoor recreation space downstairs. Out front is a large lawn area and our beach.

We have a camper/staff ratio of approximately 2:1, so your campers will receive plenty of individual attention. And our staff will see to all the campers' physical and emotional needs. Plus we have a doctor on call 24 hours a day only five minutes away in case of emergency.

Session One (for ages 8 - 10) runs July 10 - 23. Session Two (ages 11 - 13) is from July 24 through August 6. The rates and fees for 1983 are \$50 per week plus \$15 educational and recreation fee for a two-week camper or \$10 for a one-weeker. There is also a non-refundable \$5 registration fee.

If you are interested in registering your grandchildren (or children) for Camp Blairhaven 1983, or if you'd like to find out more about it, please write to either of the following:

Mass. New Church Union
79 Newbury St.
Boston, MA 02116

Trevor George Woofenden
Director, Camp Blairhaven
32 South Main Street
Haydenville, MA 01039

ALLIANCE OF NEW CHURCH WOMEN

Dear Friends:

Greetings to all of you with the hope of seeing you in Ohio on the campus of Wilmington University in late June. I hear that our Alliance program will tie in with the theme of Peace but to date have not received any details.

As proposed earlier in the *Messenger* article by our Mite Box Chairman, are you making the small Mite Box favors with a theme centering around Guyana? This enthusiastic and interesting New Church group will be the recipient of our donations this year. The theme can be the Guyana flag colors—red, yellow and green, the Yarrowkabra flower, or whatever you choose. We will be welcoming Shandrena Fraser, wife of Llewellyn Fraser, who will represent their newly formed Alliance in Georgetown.

Also welcome to all the other Alliance groups who have formed or reorganized this past year. Good news from San Diego for one!

There will be several recommendations to discuss during our meetings, i.e., a change in the By-Laws, Article 6, Section I — I regarding the Mite Box; new Editor's format and a possible increase in National dues. Copies of the Constitution will be on hand but *please bring your copy* along to the meeting.

Get orders for Pins or Tie Tacs from your alliances as we hope they will be on hand again.

Please send in names of new officers, especially Secretary's name and address, to our Secretary Margaret Kraus.

Hope to plan some "rap" sessions to exchange ideas with all local alliances, ways of raising money, how your churches or communities have been helped through the "Strength of New Church Women", your affiliations with Church Women United, and to discuss any other ideas or questions you have. A time to get better acquainted in an informal atmosphere. Jot down any suggestions—bring them with you. There were no money raising events this year in the Alliance. The proceeds of the Quilt went toward travel expenses of Mrs. Fraser to Convention and Marilyn Turley to Guyana.

Now is the time to send your local Alliance Mite Box donations to Marge Ball, Chairman.

Good luck with your Mite Box favors. Our group is making small money bags of green felt with yellow and red felt triangles on either side.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Mareta P. Saul,
President.

ADVANCE CONVENTION REGISTRATION

SWEDENBORGIANS LIVING THE LIFE OF PEACE

Wilmington College, Wilmington, Ohio

June 29 - July 3, 1983

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____

☐ I will need to be met at Dayton ☐ or Columbus Air Terminal

Accompanied by:

Children

Name

Relationship of Child

Age of Child(ren)

Name	Relationship of Child	Age of Child(ren)
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Give date, hour and name of airline, bus line or specify other mode of transportation. Please be specific on details of arrival and departure if you are expecting to be met at Dayton, Ohio airport. For East Coast delegates arriving via Peoples Airline, we can arrange to meet incoming airline flights between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and midnight only, at the Columbus, Ohio Air Terminal. A charge of \$7.50 each will be made for bus service from and to air terminals. These charges will be payable on your bill.

Mode of Transportation: _____

Arrival Date and Time: _____

Departure Date and Time: _____

Wilmington College is located on the Eastern edge of Wilmington, Ohio. The city of Wilmington is close to Interstate 71 and 35 miles from Dayton, 50 miles from Cincinnati and 60 miles from Columbus, Ohio. Greyhound maintains bus service through Wilmington from Cincinnati and Columbus. There is no train service convenient to Wilmington, Ohio.

RATES

Room and Board (per day) Double Occupancy \$18.75 per day. Single rooms (very few available and on a first come first served basis until gone) \$28.75 per day.

CHILDREN'S RATES

Children under 11 years old (on their last birthday) using sleeping bags of their own, in parents room (no bed or linen supplied) will be charged at a rate of \$8.75 per day for room and board.

Included in room and board charges is the additional banquet charge.

Included in Registration Fee charge are meeting room rentals, use of swimming pool and helps defray in small part the overall Convention expense. This year the Registration Fee of \$15.00 applies to everyone including ministers and spouses, except children 11 years old or younger. This change was necessary to help meet the escalating Convention costs. The Registration Fee goes up to \$25.00 after May 1st, so get your registration in early.

Children 4 to 12 will be enrolled in the Children's Program. Children 4 years of age and under will be provided with baby sitters. Parents are responsible for escorting their youngsters through the meal periods in the Cafeteria and for their conduct while in the Cafeteria.

Send to: 48 Sargent St., Newton, Mass. 02158

STATISTICAL TABLE

ASSOCIATIONS	Societies		Ministers		Members
	Active	Inactive	Ordained	Lay	Active & Inactive
Canada	1		2		146
Connecticut	0	0	0	0	11
Illinois	5		1	1	178
Kansas	3		1		188
Maine	3		2		310
Massachusetts	6		7		417
Michigan	1		1		66
Middle Atlantic	3		2		271
New York	2		1	1	106
Ohio	5		4		113
Pacific Coast	7		7		335
Southeast	2		2		114
Western Canada Conference	7		2	4	238
Gulfport Society	1		0	0	21
S.N.A.P. Society	1		0	0	17
Guyana	1		1		80
TOTALS	48		33	6	2611
MINISTERS					
Serving Churches			27		
Serving Elsewhere in U.S. and Canada			5		
Serving Abroad			10	42	
Inactive			10		
Retired			7	17	
TOTAL MINISTERS				59	

WRITER'S WORKSHOP

August 26-28, 1983

Blairhaven, South Duxbury, Mass.

Facilitator: Vivian Blevins, Ph.D.
 Cost: \$100 per person, includes
 registration, room and board

This workshop is designed to develop writing and production competencies needed by persons who are responsible for church publications and information. The sessions will emphasize production of materials and creativity in approaching the writing task as well as content.

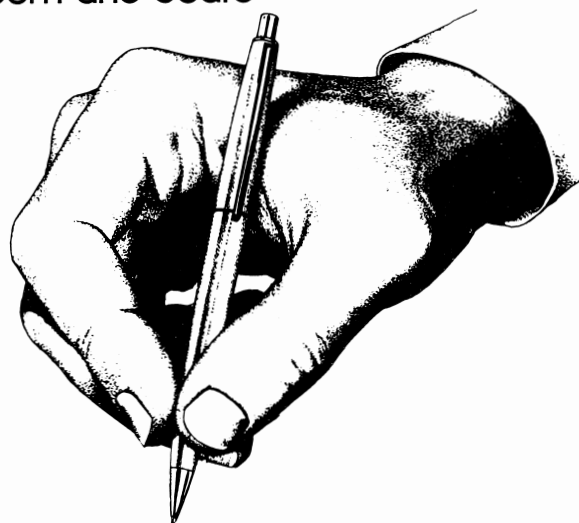
Session One: News Releases for the Press and Radio

Session Two: Brochures, Flyers, and Posters

Session Three: Newsletters

For more information contact:

Roger Paulson
 General Convention Central Office
 48 Sargent Street
 Newton, Mass. 02158
 phone: 617-969-4240



WE GET LETTERS

Limericks Invited

Dear Paul:

I am inspired (?) by reading the Limericks appearing in the Feb. 16, 23 and March 2 *Christian Century* (as a Martin Luther and Ecumenical Limerick Contest) to write one on Swedenborg as follows:

Swedenborg, scientist, scholar and seer
Assessor of Mines and of Sweden a peer
With angels he spake
While fully awake
And made life after death abundantly clear.

Gustave Bischof
Lititz, PA

We would be delighted to receive more Swedenborgian limericks. No prize; just the honor of seeing your name in print!

Disappointed in the Peace Page

Dear Editor:

(Editorial note: The writer lists the main themes of all Peace Pages in recent Messengers, then continues:)

Why have I gone to the trouble of re-reading all the Peace Pages for a whole year and listing them above? I am a Newchurchman. Born and raised in the Church. My first Convention was in May 1914 at Cincinnati and I have attended many more across our country and Canada since then. To me it is very sad that I have to report this. Have you noticed that our doctrines have not been mentioned and Swedenborg's name has not appeared on any Peace Page? Swedenborg had a lot to say about Peace and War. The Swedenborg Foundation saw fit to publish a 16 - page booklet in 1940 entitled "War and Peace". It contains many quotations from the writings. Where have our ministers been this past year? Don't they read the Peace Page? A number of articles written by Quakers, who refuse to fight when our country is threatened, should have aroused them. I thank Al Bateman for his very informative article in the March *Messenger*. It didn't make the Peace Page, but he did quote from the writings. My last thought is this: "If you are going to shake hands with the Devil be sure you have a powerful weapon in your back pocket."

Gib Heddaeus
Pittsburgh, PA

Nuclear Deterrence Necessary

To the Editor:

The article in the March *Messenger* by Al Bateman entitled "The Other Side", is, in my opinion, an accurate assessment of our present

nuclear position. Also, his statistics and Swedenborgian perspective on the nuclear weapon issue is as good an accounting, if not more accurate, than some of our highly paid authorities would have us believe.

The present claim by the Russians, that the U.S.A. cannot be trusted in the present nuclear arms race is ridiculously pretentious, if not preposterous; this is borne out by Mr. Bateman's statement: "Remember that at one time the U.S.A. was the only nuclear power. Had we been power-hungry we could have taken the whole globe."

What a shame that our diplomats continue to overlook such a profound truth in their nuclear negotiations with the Russians; or is it conquest rather than conviction that is their ruling love?

John Powerly,
St. Petersburg, Florida

Likes Big-Little Guy Concept

Dear Messenger Readers:

What a relief to read Al Bateman's page on Peace. It was so good to know that I am not alone out here, thinking an arms freeze would send many nations under hopeless occupation by their stronger more aggressive neighbours.

To Susan Turley-Moore and Paul Zacharias: If there is a big guy and a weak guy the big guy soon dominates the little guy unless there is another big guy standing by with motives of love.

Also, I couldn't find a page in this issue about the Word as interpreted by Swedenborg. I hope we don't get so involved wrangling over the Peace Page Issue that we forget what we're all about.

If you want to read what Swedenborg has to say about war you will find it in DIVINE PROVIDENCE, 251 and 252.

A. M. Ford,
Downing, Wisc.

Playing Foolish Games

Dear Mr. Zacharias:

I am writing to thank you for publishing that wonderful article written by Sue Turley-Moore, "The Nuclear Threat—A Parent's Point of View". I quite agree with her excellent views. It's all too true, this game our nation seems to be playing with some of the other countries of the world. We seem to be playing things in the hands of a few foolish government officials.

I enjoy reading the *Messenger* and read every word written there. Thanks once again for an excellent paper. "The Peace Page" is really one of my favorite features.

Karen Duffy
East Stoneham, Maine

CONVENTION PROGRAM

Following is a proposed schedule for the business sessions of the 1983 convention, to be held at Wilmington College, Wilmington, Ohio:

Wednesday, June 29, 1983

- 7:30 p.m. Opening of the convention
- Worship Service
- President's Address

Thursday, June 30, 1983

- 9:45 -
- 12:15 Business Session
- 10:30 a.m. Report of the Nominating Committee
- 10:45 a.m. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee
- 3:30 -
- 4:30 p.m. Business Session

Friday, July 1, 1983

- 1:45 -
- 2:45 p.m. Business Session
- Nominations from the Floor

Saturday, July 2, 1983

- 9:45 -
- 12:15 Business Session
- New Church Youth League Report
- 10:15 a.m. Elections

* * * * *

The General Council has voted to recommend the following to the Convention:

Constitutional Amendment: Additional paragraph to Article IV, Section 3:

"In determining delegate strength and in selecting delegates, only those bodies shall be included which are in good standing with Convention. Good standing shall be forfeited if a body, without the express consent of the Council of Ministers, employs a minister who is not on the Roll of Ministers, as defined in Article V, Section 5 below."

Standing Resolution:

"The Building Fund may make low-interest loans to any minister on the Active Roll of the Council of Ministers, for a down payment on a residence, provided there is demonstration of practicability and need under criteria adopted by General Council. Should such minister cease to be on such Roll, the balance of the loan shall be due and payable within ninety days."

FROM CHURCH RECORDS

BAPTISMS

BRIGHT—Trent Lee, infant son of Tracy and Debra Bright, was baptized into the Christian faith in the Pawnee Rock New Church on April 10, 1983, the Rev. Eric Zacharias officiating.

SMITH, SMITH, SMITH, JOHNSON, MULHERIN, MULHERIN, MULHERIN—Curtis James and Jennifer Elizabeth, children of Steven and Alice Smith; Jessica Lee, daughter of Paul and Brenda Mulherin; Carrie Marie, daughter of Robert and Dorothy Johnson; and Steven Lee Smith, Brenda Francina Mulherin and Miriam Elizabeth Mulherin were baptized into the Christian faith in the Fryeburg New Jerusalem Church on April 10, 1983, the Rev. David Rienstra officiating.

KENYON—Keith Franklin, son of Mark and Sue Kenyon, was baptized into the Christian faith in the La Porte New Church on April 17, 1983, the Rev. Gardiner Perry officiating.

TEDFORD—Nancy Elizabeth (Roberts) Tedford was received into the Christian faith

through adult baptism in Yucaipa, California on April 13, 1983, the Rev. Andre Diaconoff officiating.

CONFIRMATIONS

Wanda Bowerman, Heather Lehman, Kathy Lederman and Adele Cuthbertson were confirmed into the faith of the New Church on Sunday, April 17, 1983, in Kitchener, Ontario, the Revs. Eric Allison and Paul Zacharias officiating.

MARRIAGES

McINTOSH—McCALLUM—David McIntosh and Brenda McCallum were united in marriage in the Church of the Good Shepherd, Kitchener, Ontario on April 30, 1983, the Revs. Eric Allison and Paul Zacharias officiating.

McCUTCHEON—LISHMAN—Craig McCutcheon and Nancy Lishman were united in marriage in the Church of the Good Shepherd, Kitchener, Ontario on April 30, 1983, the Rev. Paul Zacharias officiating.

DEATHS

COFFEEN—Ruth Andrew Coffeen, 85, a life-long member of the New Church in La Porte, Indiana, died on April 19, 1983. The resurrection service was held in La Porte on April 22, the Rev. Eric Allison officiating.

HATHEWAY—Donald H. Hatheway, a member of the Boston Church of the New Jerusalem, entered the higher life on April 11, 1983. A memorial service will be held on May 29th, at the Boston New Church, the Revs. George Dole and G. Steven Ellis officiating.

NEWTON—Jane Eaton Newton (Mrs. Howard A.) died February 28, 1983, aged 99. She attended the Bridgewater, Mass. New Church Sunday School in 1886 and continued a member of that church until her marriage in 1910, when she moved away. Recently she was a member of the Connecticut New Church group.

PORTER—Barbara (Mrs. Charles T.), nee Worcester, a great-granddaughter of the Rev. Thomas Worcester, died on April 18, 1983. A memorial service was held in Waltham, Mass., on April 30, the Rev. G. Steven Ellis officiating.

McMILLIN—Ada Maxine McMillin, wife of George McMillin, passed away in Las Vegas, Nevada on April 19, 1983. The resurrection service was held in Bloomington, California, on April 23, the Rev. Andre Diaconoff officiating.

HOYT—Jean Heydon Hoyt, 85 passed away in San Diego, California on April 15, 1983. A memorial service was held in the Riverside New Church on April 20, 1983, the Rev. Andre Diaconoff officiating. (Jean Hoyt was a familiar and much loved friend in Convention circles. We are pleased to share with you the following excerpts from her memorial service by Andre Diaconoff.)

Jean Heydon Hoyt 1897 - 1983

Our coming together here today is our response to Jean's life and to her presence with us. Now, she has gone before us into the world of the spirit, closer than ever to the Lord of life. She enters that world not a stranger, for she has experienced it, known it, and helped an uncounted number of people to know it through her life. She would say to us here today, "Be of good cheer. I am waking up to the eternal Springtime of love, wisdom and vital energy of our Lord and Saviour, who has guided me to this day and to this dwelling place. He said, 'I am the resurrection and the Life', and, 'I am the way, the truth and the life.' " We know and we believe that "love is the life of man," and that all human life is a pilgrimage from Genesis to Revelation.

Jean has helped us all to know and to respect humanity as the family "in the image and likeness of the Lord." She entered wholeheartedly into the worship and many services of our church, in the General Convention, the Women's Alliance, and in New Church societies, east and west. She never gave up studying, exploring, serving, and so growing in spirit. There was in her a sense of search with sympathy for all humanity.

"For here we have no lasting city, but we seek one to come. Through him then let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God that is the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name." (Hebrews 13: 15, 16)

It was more than "fruit of lips" with Jean. Early and late it was also the "fruit" of skilled, sensitive nursing hands. She grew in the art and skill of nursing in the ranks of the nursing profession in New York. She eventually became a teacher and supervisor of nursing. In later years she helped with nursing at Urbana College, and in California she took part in Split Mountain Camp activities.

She traveled widely to other places on earth, yet remained a beloved and very present mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. A poem preserved in her family reads:

Life changes all our thought of heaven;
At first we think of streets of gold . . .
But in the afterward of years
It is a more familiar place.
A home unhurt by sighs or tears
Where waiteth many a well-known face,
With passing months it comes more near
It grows more real day by day
Not strange or cold but very dear
A glad homeland not far away.

The Lord said, "That where I am, you may be also."

ANNUAL MEETING N.C.T.S. CORPORATION

The Annual Meeting of the New Church Theological School Corporation will be held at Wilmington College, Wilmington, Ohio, on Friday, July 1, 1983, at 2:45 p.m., to elect officers and to transact such other business as may properly come before it. This notice serves as an official call to that meeting.

Harvey M. Johnson, Clerk
Corporation of the New School
Theological School