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The Unitarian Universalist Church

OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

639 MAIN STREET 14301

February 27, 1980



Rev. William D. Beaudreault
5621 Montemalaga Drive
Rancho Palos Verdes, California 90274



Dear Rev. Beaudreault,

Further to our letter of February 2nd, we are sending our packet of information for your review.



Our packet provides an overview of our church, the character of the congregation, some of our hopes and some of our concerns. We have tried to compile and present realistic and true information so that you can start to know us and assess us.

In particular, we believe we have a solid core of congregational spirit which will enable us, with proper leadership, to meet the challenges Mr. Thomas Martin has outlined in his statement as President of The Board of Trustees. It is hoped that this congregational spirit can also be directed to the problems and needs of the surrounding community.



The ministerial salary package we are able to offer is as follows.

Salary	\$ 8,325.00
Life and disability insurance	200.00
Pension	1,200.00
Professional expenses, car, books conferences	1,800.00
Maintenance allowance for parsonage utilities, heat, phone	1,500.00
Total	<u>\$ 13,025.00</u>

In addition to the salary package, we offer the parsonage which is described elsewhere in this packet. We place a value of \$4,200.00 annually on it, based on current rental revenue.

The congregation will pay the cost of moving the Minister to the parsonage in Niagara Falls, New York



Church: (716) 285-8381

Rev. J. Donald Johnston, Minister Emeritus

February 27, 1980

The Minister shall have an annual vacation of one month during which he/she is free of all professional responsibilities. The Minister shall have a second month free of routine responsibilities, but shall be on call for emergencies and meetings as required.

The tradition of a close and cordial working relationship with our Minister is well established in our church. It is with some pride that we put our names to this document.

We look forward to receiving your packet.

Yours sincerely,




Marvin Melnyk, Chairman, Search Committee
Betsy Morrow, Co-Chairman, Search Committee
Elinor Leighton
Linda Lovejoy
John Peterson
Hans Popp
David Rosenberg

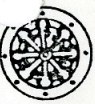


The Unitarian Universalist Church

OF NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK


639 MAIN STREET 14301





Our Ministerial Search Committee asked me to prepare this brief commentary on our church as seen from my position as President of the Board of Trustees. Like many other Board Presidents in similar situations I am anxious to convey something, both fact and spirit, about who and what we are, as well as what we strive to be.



Our congregation was founded in 1920, and our cornerstone is dated 1921. Although we are by no means preoccupied with our past, we are justifiably proud of being present to serve in this geographic area for 60 years as of this Spring, and we fully intend to celebrate that event. Our older members describe years of church prosperity as well as more modest times, a reflection of cycles of the industrial economy of this area. Our present congregation of 102 active members and 25 inactive members would probably agree with me that although we are not on a prosperity "peak", neither are we near (or approaching) a financial or membership valley. Prior to the arrival of our last minister about 5 years ago it was feared by many that the closing of the church was inevitable. Yet, many of us were determined that too much was at stake and we brain-stormed and planned, and organized ourselves, changed a few things, and with our excellent minister's guidance and good sense of direction we saw a definite financial and membership improvement. Our current members and friends who contribute time, ideas and/or money are aware of what was required to help us arrive at our present situation. But all of us also realize that we must sustain this drive, and that a minister is the ingredient which is fundamental to our continued success.



I have reviewed this relatively recent history because to me at least it is this awareness of how we have "helped ourselves" that distinguishes us as a group, and is a major factor in our strong sense of community. Even so, "community" does not force any conformity of religious/philosophical views, but rather a compatibility and a definite willingness for each to do what he or she can to preserve and develop what we have.



No church has all of its financial problems resolved in these times. Our plan is to expand membership sufficiently in 1½ years to be able to abandon our present reliance upon the proceeds of a once-a-week Bingo game. This plan will require considerable effort and membership committee direction; of course a suitable minister would be invaluable in this important undertaking. We have plans in motion to expand our advertising efforts into nearby suburbs of Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Ontario and Lockport, New York and to expand our present mailing list of over 200 families.

Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Kennedy, Minister

Church: (716) 285-8381

Study: (716) 282-1421

Rev. J. Donald Johnston, Minister Emeritus

We have shown improved average pledging levels in recent years and our membership seems responsive to our needs to cope with inflationary costs of increases in salaries, supplies, maintenance costs, and a church school budget.

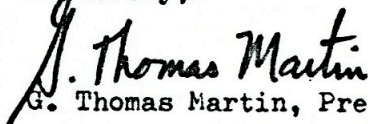
We recently hired one of our members as a part-time paid administrator; she pursues the innumerable non-ministerial details that no one ever realized that a minister does! To maintain our present sense of continuity as an organization and to meet the many membership expectations, we felt this was a necessary action.

Socially, we have several activities such as a good volleyball team, an active book discussion group, a holistic living group, a theatre party group, and perhaps a few that are unannounced. Picnics, pot-luck suppers, talent nights, corn roasts, dinner parties, swim parties, and even an occasional kite flying contest pop into our lives from time-to-time. We even make our monthly church work parties a quasi-social matter.

Our Board meets monthly, but also responds to spur-of-the-moment situations; we seem to have the full support of the membership. Our style is to "process" information, but also to be decisive. We review a monthly financial statement, receive various committee reports, and discuss current trends and events along with our Administrator and Committee convenors.

From this I hope that you can surmise some of our character. I hesitate to even attempt to describe the type of minister we would want, but it obviously must be someone who desires to complement our aspirations of continued existence as a religious community of "seekers and developers of religious values". We possess many talents as individuals but we also work well together as a group. We are proud of our ability to have mustered ourselves under somewhat trying conditions, but also realize the unique flavor that a minister can supply in his/her interaction with us. I present this as a challenge, not unlike those being offered by other congregations at this time. Each congregation is unique, and I am hopeful that this letter reveals some of the spirit (as well as the facts) that you too seek in a congregation.

Sincerely,


G. Thomas Martin, President