

**THE Unitarian
Universalist Church of Central Nassau**
STEWART AVENUE AND NASSAU BLVD. GARDEN CITY, L. I. N. Y. 11530

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THE PROBLEM - THE OPPORTUNITY

Problem: Without substantial financial assistance from outside the congregation, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Central Nassau may have to revert to fellowship status in mid-1970.

Opportunity: To realize the full potential of Unitarian Universalist impact in central Nassau County, at the heart of the nation's eighth largest metropolitan area. To extend the influence of the County's only historically Universalist society.

BACKGROUND OF THE PROBLEM - HORIZON OF THE OPPORTUNITY

Our church was formed in 1961 by the merger of the Unitarian Fellowship of Garden City (organized 1957) and the Universalist Church of Floral Park (organized 1930).

In 1930 Nassau County's population was 200,000. Today it is 1,445,609. The other Unitarian Universalist societies in the County were organized during this period of burgeoning population.

Our church plant is located practically at the center of the County, at the corner of a well-travelled crossroad.

We built in anticipation of the County's growth --- and in hopes of our own.

Land and buildings cost \$328,000. This was financed by funds received from the Floral Park Universalist Church, \$86,000, and by four mortgages totaling \$242,000.

Our membership peaked in 1967, and has since declined. Principal reason for the decline: the development of a schism within the congregation re the Vietnam war. The then minister resigned. His resignation was followed by the withdrawal from the congregation of practically all the leaders of that period of controversy --- leaders of both sides.

The Rev. Irving R. Murray, D. D., was called to our pulpit in June, 1968. He is now well into his second year with us, the year known to our clergy as "the end of the honeymoon." Dr. Murray is escaping most of that. We are a peaceful, loving congregation. Currently involved in what is proving to be a creative tension with some of our neighbors in Garden City (see accompanying reprint from Newsday, Long Island daily newspaper), we are a united church, wholeheartedly behind the Day Care Center project and fully expecting to realize it. But Dr. Murray has not been with us long enough to have made the impact we are confident he will, on the people and institutions of this County.

Our confidence in his leadership derives from his record in Pittsburgh and in Baltimore. And be it remembered, the metropolitan area in which we are centrally located is larger than either of those cities. From attentions we have now begun to receive from The New York Times, CBS-TV, local press and radio stations, we are sure to be able to offer our program to more and more men, women and children.

Newsday, 12/9/69

Garden City Petition Raps Day-Care Plan

By Lynn Rosellini

Garden City—Residents have gathered about 600 to 1,000 signatures on a petition opposing a proposed integrated day-care center for underprivileged children to be located in a local church.

Residents of the estates section of the village organized the petition drive two weeks ago, when officials of the Unitarian Universalist Church, located at Stewart Avenue and Nassau Boulevard, disclosed plans for the center. The church has applied to the village board of zoning appeals, to which the petitions are directed, for permission to operate the center weekdays from 8 AM to 6 PM and to use part of the church parking lot for a playground. The facility would serve 35 3- to 5-year-old children from areas surrounding Garden City, and would be run in conjunction with the Nassau Social Services Department and Adelphi University. Residents declined to say who was circulating the petitions, but said that from 600 to 1,000 signatures had been collected.

A door-to-door survey yesterday of residents who live near the church indicated a general concern that the proposed center would lower property values in the largely residential area, and create noise and traffic problems. "I'm not in a position to want a welfare agency next to me," said Dr. Albin R. Hagstrom, a dentist whose home at 111 Euston Rd. is half a block from the church. "Most people feel that putting this sort of thing in the heart of a residential neighborhood is not the solution."

Many occupants of the spacious homes that line Euston Road and Nassau Boulevard refused to comment on the subject of the day-care center. Others were openly hostile, and some, like Mrs. Gladys Hammond, indicated that the real issue is racial. "It's the beginning of integrating Garden City, and I certainly don't think that's good," said Mrs. Hammond, who lives at 118 Nassau Blvd.

"This is a highly restricted area," she continued, "and people here pay high taxes. Once they sneak this in it will ruin property values and just make a mess of everything." Mrs. Hammond said that local homeowners, whose homes she said are worth \$50,000 to \$100,000, were distressed several years ago when "they sneaked in that Jew-

ish church up the street." "I'll do everything I can to keep this thing out," she said.

Peter Hahn, a parishioner at the Unitarian Church and one of the organizers of the day-care plan, said that the church had expected opposition to the plan and that he felt it was clearly based on a racial issue. "Of course nobody will admit it," said Hahn, whose home at 8 Kensington Rd. is four blocks from the church, "but the other reasons given are not really effective." Hahn and his wife also are hosts to one of Garden City's two Negro exchange high school students from the South.

The Rev. Irving Murray, pastor at the Unitarian Church, said that he was optimistic that plans for the center will be realized despite opposition. According to the proposal, children would use two large classrooms in the church building which are normally used only on weekends for Sunday school classes. A small playground would be built in the parking lot behind the building.

The Rev. Mr. Murray said that most of the proposed \$85,000 annual budget for the center would come from the county, with the remainder to be supplied by the church and Adelphi. Most of the children would be assigned to the center by the social services department, which would select cases where parents need day care for their children to work. The children would be transported by bus from Franklin Square, Garden City Park, Hempstead and West Hempstead. A nine-man staff would be supplemented by students of Adelphi's School of Social Work, who would do field work at the center.

The Rev. Mr. Murray stressed that the center would not be a baby-sitting organization but a teaching facility to benefit the children and their families as well as the college students. "It's silly to have beautiful, new rooms like these used only once a week," he said. "Garden City has got plenty of resources that ought to be shared with the poor of the county. I'm confident that the people of Garden City will do the right thing."

Edward F. Wilson, president of the Estates Property Owners Association, whose members live in the area surrounding the church, said that the association had not taken a position on the day-care proposal. However, the subject is expected to come up at the association's board of directors meeting tomorrow night.

And our program has been greatly strengthened. We now have a Church School second to none of its size. Despite budget cuts we have enriched our Sunday Service music with chamber groups, distinguished soloists, and a new, highly talented Organist and Director. In adult education we have offered last year a fortnightly series of discussions of "Black Culture", and this year of "Man in Crisis", of great value to our members and others in the community. We are active in social concerns, with the Day Care Center our major effort at this time.

We have taken the measure, we believe, of the kind of Unitarian Universalist church programming Nassau County needs. We firmly believe the people of the County will respond.

There are four Unitarian Universalist churches in the County now, with a combined membership of 1,129. About a fourth of these are members of our church. But all together we are only 1,129 out of a population of nearly a million and a half! And Nassau County is still growing, even though the rate is expected, of course, to slow down. (Projections call for an increase of about a hundred thousand in the next decade, and then twenty-five thousand in the five years after that.)

The opportunity is accordingly great. But the problem is urgent, and we cannot solve it without help. At the moment (see accompanying figures) we are required to spend on mortgage payments \$0.48 out of every \$1.00 we receive. We have cut our budget to the bone. We cannot realize the opportunity which summons us, without devoting more money than we have, or have any reason to expect to have, to providing the kind of program the opportunity demands.

OUR NEED - YOUR OPPORTUNITY!

We need funds sufficient to enable us to project an expanding, fruitful program for the next five years. We expect the present congregation, with whatever increments of new membership it may enjoy in the months immediately ahead, to continue to support its program generously. We will not ourselves ease up, if we are given additional help.

Specifically, we respectfully request of the New York State Convention of Universalist Churches a five year grant of a maximum of \$9,000 per year, under the following conditions. . . .

- (1) The grant will be subject to review each year; and subject to cancellation at the end of the third year if satisfactory progress has not by then been made.
- (2) The grant will require the congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Central Nassau to raise matching funds as outlined in the accompanying memorandum.
- (3) The grant may be used for any proper expense of the Church, but it is understood that its primary purpose is to permit the continuation and increase of "program" expenses, that is, expenses related to ministerial services, religious education, music, adult education, etc.

(4) It is understood that the Church is applying to holders of two of its smaller mortgages (Community Church of New York, and the North Shore Unitarian Society) to remit all mortgage payments for five years. We hope to be able to use most of the funds thus released to build up a cash reserve for working capital, and, after an adequate reserve is acquired, to apply any additional funds to program enrichment.

The Universalist Church of Floral Park, pioneer of liberal religion in Nassau County, continues in our church. Many of its members and its ablest leaders continue active with us. Your favorable response to this request will both keep alive, and extend the influence of, the Universalist tradition, in this strategically important part of the world.

Universalists had the wisdom to start a liberal religious society here before anyone else. We know you will want us to continue the work begun in 1930, and we hope you may find it possible to help us do so.

Dr. Carl Westman, our Metropolitan District Executive, has asked us to say he will be happy to discuss this request with any reader of this memo. His office phone is 212-LE 2-3626.

FINANCIAL HISTORY

In 1963 with 91 pledges in hand and about \$86,000 in cash, the Church borrowed \$242,000 to erect a building which cost, together with land, \$328,465. A building fund campaign was launched to raise \$75,000 over three years. The campaign was successful. The building fund money was intended to meet yearly mortgage payments of approximately \$21,000 while the Church had an opportunity to grow.

Growth was not rapid enough. In 1967 a second mortgage fund drive was conducted, which raised pledges for \$60,000 over a three year period, almost sufficient to cover mortgage payments.

Despite these two special fund drives, and regular annual, intensive operating budget drives, the Church operated at a deficit from 1965/66 through 1969/70. Cash reserves, \$24,000 on April 30, 1965, have now been completely depleted. Due to a decline in pledging units and to the depletion of the cash reserve, the Church has had to borrow \$5,000 to balance its 1969/70 budget. Even so, estimates indicate another deficit year, and cash balances on April 30, 1970, will be below practical operating limits.

In order to meet this year's financial crisis, no salary increases were given to the Minister or Secretary; the music budget was cut in half; and one of our two part-time janitors was let go. Due to the music budget slash, we lost our Organist and our Choir Director. We have been extremely lucky to find another talented individual who will act as both Organist and Director.

During this five-year period, mortgage principal has been reduced by approximately \$35,000, offset, in part, by the new debt of \$5,000. Pledging units increased

from 91 to 115, and then fell to the current 100. Average annual pledges (operating and building fund together) have been consistently high: in the \$350 to \$360 area.

THE FINANCIAL PROBLEM

In order to continue to operate as a going church we must have outside financial help. In addition, this year we must once again ask our pledgors to combine their building fund and operating pledges and keep them, at least, at current levels. Normally there is some falling-off at the end of the traditional three-year "extra" building fund pledges (and we have run ours for six years). If we receive outside aid, we must receive it in such a way that no incentives are removed from our own church members to continue their giving.

To solve this problem, we propose a matching grant program. The amount granted in any one year would be tied to

- (1) total pledges made to the Church by its members,
- (2) the increase in individual pledges made, and
- (3) the total cash actually paid on pledges of the prior year.

For the first year (1970/71) the terms of the grant could be as follows: (a) If the Church's pledge drive (March, 1970) results in \$36,000 or more of pledges, a grant of \$7,000 will be paid to the Church. For any amount under \$36,000 in pledges, the grant will be reduced, dollar for dollar; thus if the Church's pledge drive nets only \$35,000 in pledges, the grant will be reduced to \$6,000. (b) For every individual who increases his pledge over the prior year, there will be a bonus grant (up to a maximum of \$2,000) of \$2.00 for every \$1.00 increase in pledge. Thus if individual pledgors increase their pledges by \$1,000 (even though the total pledges fall short of the goal) there will be an additional bonus grant of \$2,000. If individual pledge increases total only \$500, the bonus grant will be only \$1,000.

For the second year (1971/72) the terms of the grant could be as follows: (a) If the Church's pledge drive (held in March, 1971) results in \$37,800 or more of pledges, a grant of \$7,000 will be paid to the church provided the prior year's pledges in the base amount of \$36,000 have been actually received in cash. If actual cash payments for the 1970/71 year have fallen short of the \$36,000 base figure, then the 1971/72 grant will be reduced, dollar for dollar, by such shortfall. In addition, the 1971/72 grant will be reduced dollar for dollar for a shortfall of pledges below the \$37,800 base goal. (b) The same bonus grant for increased pledges will be available, to a maximum of \$2,000.

For the third, fourth and fifth years the same procedure could be used, except that the base goal should increase 5% each year to \$40,000 in 1972/73, \$42,000 in 1973/74, and \$44,200 in 1974/75.

This matching grant plan will enable us to increase the incentives to our own members for giving more generously. We can tell ourselves that if we all maintain

our pledges for next year at this year's level (building and operating fund together, of course), the Church will benefit by \$7,000. If we allow our pledges to fall below that figure, we will lose \$1.00 for every \$1.00 that we fail to pledge. On the other hand, anyone who can increase his pledge over last year will benefit his Church by two additional dollars for every dollar of increase.

Next year (winter of 1971) we will be able to remind our pledgors that unless pledges are paid up before the end of the fiscal year (4/30/71), we will lose a dollar for every dollar not paid. Therefore it will be most beneficial for them to bring their payments up to date.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
Unitarian Universalist Church of Central Nassau

Fiscal Years 5/1 to 4/30	Tentative 1970/71 Note 3	Projected 1969/70 Note 1	1968/69	1967/68	1966/67	1965/66	1964/65
Receipts:							
Pledges	36,000	36,000	38,200	40,200	35,400	35,800	37,600
Other Receipts	<u>16,300</u>	<u>13,300</u>	<u>8,900</u>	<u>5,200</u>	<u>5,700</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
Total Receipts	<u>52,300</u>	<u>49,300</u>	<u>47,100</u>	<u>45,400</u>	<u>41,100</u>	<u>39,800</u>	<u>39,600</u>
Expenses:							
Mortgage Payments	17,300	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000	16,300	--
Building Maintenance	5,800	5,200	6,700	6,100	5,700	4,400	3,200
Minister's Salary and Expense	16,200	15,200	14,300(4)	9,700	11,300	10,200	9,700
Program and Other Expenses	<u>11,500</u>	<u>10,500</u>	<u>13,300</u>	<u>9,500</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>11,000</u>	<u>8,700</u>
Total Expenses	<u>50,800</u>	<u>51,900</u>	<u>55,300</u>	<u>46,300</u>	<u>48,000</u>	<u>41,900</u>	<u>21,600</u>
Net Operating Plus (Deficit)	1,500	(2,600)	(8,200)	(900)	(6,900)	(2,100)	18,000
Cash Balance Beginning	<u>3,600</u>	<u>6,200</u>	<u>14,400</u>	<u>15,300</u>	<u>22,200</u>	<u>24,300</u>	<u>6,300(2)</u>
Cash Balance Ending	<u>5,100</u>	<u>3,600</u>	<u>6,200</u>	<u>14,400</u>	<u>15,300</u>	<u>22,200</u>	<u>24,300</u>

Note 1: 1969/70 figures are projections based on six months experience.

Note 2: Opening cash balance @ 5/1/64 is assumed - so that any cash used to pay for construction is excluded

Note 3: Estimated and tentative. Final budget will be dependent upon results of fund drive and outside help received.

Note 4: Minister served eleven months. His salary to date has been at an annual rate of \$15,000

Number of pledging units	100	110	115	106	94	91
Average pledge collected	360	347	350	334	381	413

Original Cost of Plant

Land	109,665
Building	<u>218,800</u>
Total	<u>328,465</u>

Mortgages

North Shore Unitarian Society of Plandome	20,000
Community Church of New York	20,000
Floral Park Savings & Loan	180,000
Unitarian Universalist Association	<u>22,000</u>
Total	<u>242,000</u>

Original	Balance 11/30/69
20,000	15,436
20,000	15,436
180,000	158,932
<u>22,000</u>	<u>16,902</u>
<u>242,000</u>	<u>206,706</u>

FINANCIAL STATEMENT
Unitarian Universalist Church of Central Nassau

	Tentative 1970/71	Projected 1969/70	1968/69	1967/68	1966/67	1965/66	1964/65
Other Receipts							
Plate	1,200	1,200	1,400	1,600	1,600	1,700	1,000
Special Offering	800*	1,800*	1,600	300	400	200	300
Church School Organizations	1,200	1,200	1,100	1,100	900	900	600
Misc. Donations	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,000	800	600	--
Loans & Grants	2,600	2,600	3,300	1,200	2,000	600	100
	9,000	5,000	--	--	--	--	--
Total	<u>16,300</u>	<u>13,300</u>	<u>8,900</u>	<u>5,200</u>	<u>5,700</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
Building Maintenance							
Janitor & Supplies	3,000	2,500	3,500	3,200	2,900	2,200	1,300
Utilities	2,100	2,000	2,100	2,300	2,100	1,700	1,100
Insurance	700	700	1,100	600	700	500	800
Total	<u>5,800</u>	<u>5,200</u>	<u>6,700</u>	<u>6,100</u>	<u>5,700</u>	<u>4,400</u>	<u>3,200</u>
Program & Other Expenses							
Church School	2,000	1,700	1,400	1,000	600	700	500
The "Advance"	700	700	800	800	1,000	1,000	600
Music	1,700	1,400	3,000	2,600	2,500	2,400	2,000
Secretary	3,000	2,700	2,700	1,600	1,600	1,500	1,500
Uni-Uni Annual Fund	800*	800*	700	1,100	1,100	2,200	2,200
Stationery, Telephone, Postage, Etc.	3,300	3,200	3,000	2,400	3,200	3,200	1,900
Other (Minister's Moving Expense)	--	--	1,700	--	--	--	--
Total	<u>11,500</u>	<u>10,500</u>	<u>13,300</u>	<u>9,500</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u>11,000</u>	<u>8,700</u>

*In both years a special offering is designated for the UUA. In 1969/70 a second special offering to help find funds for music and religious education was received.

Students Back Garden City Center

By Lynn Rosellini

Garden City—High school students said last night that they have gathered more than 200 students' signatures on a petition supporting a controversial integrated day-care center for underprivileged children to be located in a Garden City church.

Organizers of the petition drive said that their aim is to "enlighten" the community on the merits of the proposed center and on the feelings of Garden City's youth.

"When kids come home and sit down at the dinner table they hear their parents say that 'we're not going to let them (the church) bring those niggers in,'" said Jeff Lewis, 16, a junior at Garden City High School. "We wanted to show that youth favor the idea. Maybe this way we can get kids to enlighten their parents about it."

Residents of the estates section of the village have said they fear that the proposed center would lower property

values in the largely residential area and create noise and traffic problems.

The petitions are directed at the village board of zoning appeals, but another student, 16-year-old Greg Brown, said that the real aim of the 20 students who circulated the petitions is to influence the attitude of the community as a whole. The center would be located at the Unitarian Universalist Church at Stewart Avenue and Nassau Boulevard, and nearby residents have strongly opposed the plan.

Brown said that he and some friends, most of them members of the Garden City Community Church, discussed the idea of aiding the day-care proposal in mid-December. On Dec. 22 and 23, he said, they circulated the petitions at Garden City High School, which has almost 5,000 students. Principal Winfield S. Thompson said that, following school policy, he had refused to authorize distribution of the petitions within the school and was unaware that his directive on the matter had been violated. However, he said he felt that "the idea is fine" in principle, if restricted to an out-of-school activity.

Brown said that about 80 per cent of the students he approached favored the day-care proposal. He said that most of those who opposed the plan live near the church. He added that he and his friends probably will circulate the petitions again in hopes of attracting further support.

The Rev. Irving Murray, pastor at the Unitarian Church, said that the students' activity was unexpected and added, "I think it's just great."

The center would be located in unused Sunday school classrooms at the church, and would serve 35 children from areas surrounding Garden City. It would operate weekdays from 8 AM to 6 PM. The church congregation is expected to vote Jan. 11 on a \$7,000 expenditure to construct a playground on the church parking lot.

NEWS OF LONG ISLAND

For Daily Home Delivery Call Nassau 433-1220 Suffolk 543-4141

DAILY NEWS, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1969 * 67

Care Center Gets Nick's Backing

By WILLIAM MURTHA

The Rev. Irving Murray, pastor of the Unitarian Universal Church, who plans to establish a day care center in his church, over the opposition of neighbors, had his hopes buoyed considerably yesterday.

He won the support of two religious groups in the community and of County Executive Eugene H. Nickerson.

In a letter to Peter Hahn, a member of the committee working within the church to establish the center, Nickerson said:

"It appears that there are some who have expressed opposition to your plan. I would remind them that in so doing they are opposing children — the very children who most deserve our compassion and support."

The minister also won the active support of the Garden City Clergy Fellowship, which represents all eight churches in Garden City, the village's one synagogue, and the Laymen's Ecumenical Council, whose members represent all the churches.

He is opposed by a group of residents in the vicinity of the church, at Stewart Ave. and Nassau Boulevard, who are circulating petitions which assert that the day care center would bring increased traffic and noise to the

community.

Murray has denied this, asserting that he plans to use only two mini-buses morning and evening, and that only 18 of the 35 pupils he proposes to enroll will be in the play area in the parking lot at any one time, and then for only a few hours a day.

In announcing the lay groups' intent to support Murray when he appears before the village board of zoning appeals which meets in February, Donald Serrell, Chairman of the committee, said:

"People in Garden City have to wake up to the fact that we have disadvantaged people living nearby and that we can do something to help them."

Newsday

Tuesday, January 6, 1970

The New York Times

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1969

bob cromie



A Tale for Christmas

● A FRIEND OF MINE from New York spotted a story in the papers there which struck him as peculiarly apropos for Christmas time, filled as it was with the spirit of brotherhood and good will and Christian charity. So he sent it along.

The story concerns Garden City, L. I., where the Unitarian Universalist church, in cooperation with the Nassau county department of social services, announced plans for opening an integrated day care center for underprivileged children. This drew howls of rage and protest from overprivileged adults.

It seems that if 35 youngsters between the ages of 3 and 5 [all but four of them black] are permitted to attend the day care center between the hours of 8 a. m. and 6 p. m. daily, property values will slide. This seems absurd at first glance, but I suppose there's always the chance that one of the little tykes might slip out at lunchtime and buy one of the nearby houses, which range in value from 50 to 100 thousand dollars.

Anyway, opposition to the plan, which depends on permission being granted by the village zoning board, began when the Rev. Irving Murray, pastor of the church, with innocent friendliness, invited residents of the area to a Sunday tea to tell them of the proposal. All but two or three of the tea-drinkers immediately went into shock and began "circulating petitions among those living in what is described in the New York Times story as a neighborhood "of expensive homes set back on spacious well-kept lawns."

● MOST OF THOSE opposing the project refuse to discuss their reasons, but one woman, who lives only a few doors from where this dangerous experiment in kindness may take place, gave his views in admirably forthright fashion.

"It's the beginning of integration in Garden City," she said, "and I certainly don't think that's good. Once they sneak this in it will ruin property values and just make everything a mess."

She described her neighborhood as a "highly restricted" one, denied that racism had anything to do with her own feelings, and compared the furor over the possible influx of children to that which took place some 10 years ago when residents of the same area tried to prevent the construction of the Garden City Jewish center.

Her fellow homeowners, she said, were most unhappy "when they sneaked in that Jewish church up the street."

● THE REV. MR. MURRAY said the Unitarian church had suggested the day care center because both President Nixon and Robert Finch, secretary of health, education and welfare, had urged churches to become involved in such work. He added that the program had been approved by the Garden City Clergy fellowship and the Laymen's Ecumenical council, which represents the city's eight churches and the synagogue.

As I say, this is a story that warms the heart, restores your faith in humanity, and makes you want to sing carols and stop perfect strangers on the street [if they're the right color] and wish them a Merry Christmas.

A DAY-CARE PLAN STIRS L.I. WRATH

Integrated Church Center Fought in Garden City

Special to The New York Times

GARDEN CITY, L. I., Dec. 11—Plans by a church here to operate an integrated day-care center for underprivileged children on its premises have angered many residents of this affluent community.

Concern that the influx of a number of black children into this virtually all-white community would have an adverse effect on property values has resulted in a petition opposing the center. Its backers say they have "600 to 1,000" signatures.

The day-care center for 35 children between the ages of 3 and 5 was planned by the Unitarian Universalist Church with the cooperation of the Nassau County Department of Social Services. The Adelphi University School of Social Work is expected to participate in the program.

Opposition to the proposed center started about two weeks ago when the Rev. Irving Murray, pastor of the church, invited neighbors to a Sunday tea to tell them of the plans and to answer questions.

Hearing Due in February

The church has applied to the village Board of Zoning Appeals for permission to operate the center weekdays from 8 A.M. to 6 P.M. and to use part of its parking field for a playground. A hearing by the board will be held in February.

Mr. Murray said that all but two or three of the persons at the tea opposed the plan and said they were going to circulate petitions in the neighborhood of expensive homes set back on spacious, well-kept lawns.

He said that all but four of the children would be referred to the center by the county Department of Social Services and that he expected that most of them would be black. The other four would be white children from Garden City whose parents would pay for the center's program.

While many of the residents living near the church, which is at Stewart Avenue and Nassau Road, decline to discuss the center, Mrs. Lewis Hammond, who lives three houses away from the church, expressed strong opposition to the project.

'It's the Beginning'

"It's the beginning of integration in Garden City," she said in an interview in her spacious home with two Cadillacs parked in the garage, "and I certainly don't think that's good."

Mrs. Hammond described the neighborhood as a "highly restricted area" with homes in the \$50,000 to \$100,000 class. "Once they sneak this in it will ruin property values and just make everything a mess," she said.

She denied that racism was the real issues in the opposition to the center, but added that "if they brought all colored children in it would decrease property values." Her husband said "it would just open the door."

Referring to a bitter fight about 10 years ago when residents objected to the building of the Garden City Jewish Center nearby, Mrs. Hammond said local homeowners were distressed when "they sneaked in that Jewish church up the street."

Mr. Murray said the Unitarian Universalist Church proposed the day-care center because President Nixon and the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare had suggested that churches become active in such work. The children would be transferred to the church in buses from surrounding communities.

He added that the program had been approved by the Garden City Clergy Fellowship and the Laymen's Ecumenical Committee, which represents all eight churches in the community and its only synagogue.

Garden City Day-Care Suit Weighed

Mineola—State Supreme Court Justice Bernard Meyer reserved decision yesterday on the appeal by the Unitarian Universalist Church in Garden City of a village ruling against a proposed day-care center.

Attorneys for the church argued that it was entitled to operate the center under the church's permit for religious use without the special-use permit that was denied by the village zoning board of appeals in February. They said that the church applied for the permit "only after the appropriate village officials refused to inspect petitioner's premises and issue the necessary safety certification required for state approval of the center."

Village Attorney George L. Hubbell Jr., however, said that the day-care proposal "is neither a church or a religious use," a point made by the zoning board in its ruling. Hubbell did not

dispute each of the church's arguments, but, he moved to dismiss the case, in part on the ground of non-religious use. Meyer reserved decision on the motion. A decision on the case is expected in several weeks.

The attorney for the church, Vincent J. Mutari, and American Civil Liberties Union attorneys Mark Cherno and Steven Hyman challenged the ruling as "arbitrary, capricious, unreasonable and frivolous." They said that the zoning board's findings that the center would create traffic congestion and would lower surrounding property values "cannot be considered in passing upon an application for a permit by a church or school, since it has been determined that the contribution to the public welfare made by these institutions outweighs any detriments of this nature."

The church also maintained that the

board's ruling on the day-care center is unconstitutional because it prohibits the free exercise of religion and because it discriminates against poor and underprivileged families and blacks and other minority groups. They said that nursery schools which charge tuition and thus "are limited to the white and more affluent members of the community" were operated by churches throughout Garden City.

Seven clergymen from five Garden City churches submitted papers endorsing the center. But the two largest churches in the village, St. Joseph's Catholic Church and the Episcopal Cathedral of the Incarnation, were not represented. However, Episcopal Bishop Jonathan B. Sherman has expressed support of the center, and the Interracial Relations Council of the Rockville Centre Diocese has contributed funds for the suit.

Many of the arguments put forth by attorneys for the church were the same as those put forth by church spokesmen at a public hearing on the center attended by 700 persons early in February. The proposed center for 35 youngsters, most of whom would be black, has generated controversy in the village since the church applied for an operating permit in November.

The center would serve preschool children from 8 AM to 6 PM weekdays so that their mothers could work or get training for jobs.

One result of the controversy over the center was the formation of a group of its opponents who said that they would try to help provide day-care centers for other communities in the area that would have been served by the facility. The group has said delays have prevented progress on fund raising and site consideration.

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Garden City Blocks Day Center

By Lynn Rosellini

Garden City—The village board of zoning appeals unanimously rejected yesterday the application of a local church to operate a day-care center for children, mostly black youngsters from neighboring communities. Both sides in the controversy predicted a court battle.

The board ruled that the proposed center would "tend to depreciate the value of the property in the neighborhood and will alter the essential character of the neighborhood."

The Rev. Irving Murray, pastor of the Unitarian Universalist church, said, "I have to believe that we were turned down because we planned to bring poor, black children into Garden City. It's tragic that the zoning board was put under this kind of pressure from residents."

Spokesmen for the church, which had applied for permission to conduct the center, said that they would begin action immediately to appeal the ruling in State Supreme Court. Opponents of the center have said they will appeal any adverse decision, indicating the possibility of a lengthy legal battle.

The five-man zoning board said in a 12-page decision that it had received "literally thousands of communications" on the application. The board ruled that the proposed center does not qualify for any of the special uses permitted by the village zoning ordinance for R-12 zoning, "the highest type of residential zone in the village," which governs the church site.

The board found that the center would not qualify as a philanthropic or charitable institution, permitted by the ordinance, because it would be financed by the state, operating through the county's Department of Social Services. Although it would "seem to qualify" as a school under the state education laws, the board said, the center would actually not be the type of school covered by the ordinance, which excludes nursery schools and day camps. Noting that proponents of the application had argued that nursery schools are conducted by churches in the village, the board said that the center would be different in nature from the nursery schools, which operate for fewer hours, provide fewer services and are not "separate governmentally supported entities."

The board also said that a playground to be constructed on the church's parking lot would create noise and would be "inherently dangerous to the children themselves."

PRESS, Editorial, 3/2/70

Rejection In Garden City

The Garden City Village Board has turned down the Central Nassau Unitarian-Universalist Church's request to run a day care center for 35 non-resident disadvantaged (and predominantly black) pre-school youngsters.

In doing this, the board denied the children's mothers a desperately needed chance to work and to lift themselves above the poverty level. It denied the little ones a chance to overcome their disadvantages through pre-school training. And it denied the church a chance to fulfill its proper role of helping the less fortunate.

In a 12-page decision, the board concluded that the 35 children, plus the needed minibus transportation, would cause so much noise, annoyance and inconvenience that nearby properties would be devalued.

Yet the site is on Stewart Avenue at Nassau Boulevard, an intersection which echoes daily to the racket of 40,000 cars and trucks and is only a block from the Long Island Railroad tracks. Just how these 3 to 5-year-olds could materially add to that decibel level the board did not explain.

In taking this action, Garden City has distinguished itself by being the only one of 35 municipalities throughout the state to turn down a Unitarian day care center. The 34 other municipalities apparently felt that caring for needy youngsters was legitimate church business not likely to disturb unduly the surrounding community.

Charity, Section 501.1

"While the education activities proposed . . . would seem to qualify it as a 'school' within the meaning of Section 216 . . . nevertheless the Board finds that it is the type of school for which a permit under the conditions presented is specifically excluded by the provisions of Section 212.4 of the Ordinance . . . Proceeding then to Section 501.1 (10) (e), namely, 'philanthropic or charitable use or institution,' we must look into the nature of the proposed . . ." (etc.)

Prejudice and property won over the claims of humanity in Garden City Tuesday as the village zoning board, under a dense smokescreen of legalisms, of which the above is but one example, denied a request by the Universal Unitarian Church to operate a day-care center for 35 poor children from surrounding communities.

The board listened to all the arguments and finally elected to side with such ennobling sentiments of the human spirit as those expressed by Mrs. Gladys Hammond ("They sneaked in that Jewish church up the street. I'll do everything I can to keep this thing out.") and by the most outspoken of the church's opponents, Alan Forman, whose impassioned defense of his besieged neighborhood reached its intellectual and moral zenith when he accused the church's supporters of "vile motives."

The Unitarians asked a simple thing: to use their church property during the week, when it is normally empty, for the benefit of 35 children five years of age and under. They were opposed by people who constantly bludgeoned the facts with exaggerations (arguing, for example, that the noise of the children playing and of the two mini-buses that would transport them to and from the church would be too much to take at an intersection—Stewart Avenue and Nassau Boulevard—which is traversed every day by more than 40,000 vehicles). Their petition was denied by a zoning board that does not hesitate to demolish private homes to provide additional parking spaces for commercial interests. They were refused what other churches (some of whose ministers and parishioners courageously came to their support) have long been granted in Garden City: the right to carry on a weekday program of education on church property, in residential areas.

What it came down to, in the Board's meticulously reasoned 12-page decision, was this: "The Board . . . does find that the proposed use will tend to depreciate the value of property in the Village, will be detrimental to the neighborhood and will alter the essential character of the neighborhood . . ." And what it translated to, was this: The church directors were turned down, no matter what the reasons and ordinances cited, because the children they wanted to help would be from other areas, and most of them would be black.

What happened in Garden City is happening elsewhere on Long Island, as witness the fierce reaction in Levittown to plans to establish a day-care center there. But because Garden City is such an affluent community, an act of contempt for a handful of disadvantaged children stands out as a stark and stunning denial of love and justice. It all seems a portent of the times, a depressing revelation of the parochial values of a privileged white majority which seems capable of affording everything but human compassion.

THE Unitarian Universalist Church of Central Nassau
STEWART AVENUE AND NASSAU BLVD., GARDEN CITY, L. I., N. Y. 11530 • PHONE 516 CH8-8855

IRVING R. MURRAY, D.D.
MINISTER

September 16, 1970

Mrs. Warren Smadbeck
211 Central Park West
New York, New York 10023

Dear Violeta:

Thank you so much for your letter of September 9.

We did win a favorable decision from the New York State Supreme Court, Nassau County Section, copies of which we are having xeroxed, and I will send you several when we have a supply.

The Judge's decision directed us to prepare an order for his signature. This has been done. The order presumably will be served on the Village authorities tomorrow.

The Village will then have one month in which to file notice of appeal from the decision - appeal, of course, to some higher court.

If the Village serves that notice, they can tie us up in litigation for at least another two years, if that is their wish.

However, that seems to me unlikely, given the tenor of public opinion beyond the Village, as evidenced, for example, by the enclosed editorials from our two Long Island dailies.

We should know definitely by October 15 or thereabouts, and perhaps sooner, if the Village Board votes definitely not to appeal, and if this information is released to us.

We are, meanwhile, going to operate on the assumption that the Village Board will let us go ahead. That is to say, we shall probably within the next two or three weeks begin interviewing possible staff members, and getting bids on the necessary work to be done to prepare our grounds and plant for the operation of the Day Care Center. We won't sign any contract, until we know we definitely have a green light. But we hope to be in a position, as soon as October 15 rolls around, if the Village has done right by us! - to move directly ahead as quickly as possible.

This would mean, of course, that we would need the grant ~~so~~ generously given us, soon after October 15, if the Village permits us to go ahead.

If you need further details, please let me know. Meanwhile, please understand how deeply we appreciate this sympathetic interest!

Hope you had a good summer, and that your fall is off to a good start.

Ever sincerely yours,

Irving R. Murray

IRM:sw
Encl:

THE Unitarian
Universalist Church of Central Nassau

STEWART AVENUE AND NASSAU BLVD., GARDEN CITY, L. I., N. Y. 11530 • PHONE 516 CH8-8855

IRVING R. MURRAY, D.D.
MINISTER

September 29, 1970

Rev. Harry Thor
Unitarian Universalist Church
183 Riverside Drive
Binghamton, New York 13905

Dear Harry:

I am taking the liberty to mimeograph this letter, so that you may readily share it, if you desire to, with the members of the State Convention Board at Saturday's meeting. I shall be available at my office, number above, throughout the morning, if you care to phone. I enclose, also, 15 copies of reprints of editorial comment on the recent decision by Judge Meyer of our New York State Nassau Section Supreme Court.

I understand someone representing himself to be a member of this church, who in fact is not a member, has raised with you the question of separation of church and state, alleging that our Day Care Center involves a violation of that sacred principle.

We first heard this criticism from those opposing our project who had also told us, and I quote, "We don't want nigger kids in our neighborhood."

The project is being undertaken under instructions from our Congregation that any excess of income over actual, out-of-pocket expenses be returned to the County Department of Social Services, if feasible, or to the day care center movement - by a gift to some other day care center. The Day Care Center will reimburse the church for all actual additions to our costs arising out of the Day Care Center's operation. We expect neither to make a profit nor to sustain a loss in the Center's operation. Our congregation has directed our officers and Trustees to see to it that this is so.

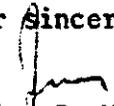
In the case before Judge Meyer we were represented by Vincent Mutari and two lawyers from the American Civil Liberties Union, which organization, I guess we all know, is scarcely likely to support anyone in a violation of the principle of separation of church and state.

There can hardly be any such violation in having the County contract with us for the care of children. Needless to say, we will not be offering any religious instruction. The goals we will seek, and the methods we shall employ, are fully detailed in documents submitted to you earlier.

I appreciate your letting me know this question had been raised again, and I am grateful too, for your making a fresh inquiry.

With warmest personal regards.

Ever Sincerely yours,


Irving R. Murray

IRM:sw

New York State Convention of Universalists

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OFFICE OF SECRETARY AND STATE SUPERINTENDENT
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

March 10, 1947

Floral Park

To the Trustees of Universalist Churches
of New York State:

The Executive Board has instructed me to ascertain whether
Universalist properties in New York State are adequately insured.
Several fires in New England have burned our churches to the
ground and they were not adequately insured.

I shall greatly appreciate your answers to the questions below
and please use this sheet in reply, mailing the same to me.

Best wishes,

Frederic Leining

Name of Church & Community *Floral Park*

Value of church edifice when constructed? \$ *8000 ±* Date *1931*

Amount of Insurance \$ *12,000* Cost per year \$ *50.00*

Is the edifice deeded to the State Convention? .. *No* *25 20*

To whom is Insurance payable *Church*

Does your society own a parsonage? *No* Date of Construction

Amount of insurance \$ Value \$

Cost per year \$

Is the building deeded to the State Convention? —

To whom is the insurance payable?

Signed by

W. Sherman

Church office

Modulator

We doubled our insurance in June 1946

W.S.