

Wayland (Loon Lake), Steuben Co.

ANOTHER NEW CHURCH

We have delayed the announcement of a new church and a new Universalist enterprise until the papers were actually signed and there could be no upsets. The New York State Convention of Universalists for several years has had the ambition to arrange attractive summer programs in its churches which are located in vacation sections. It has urged the church in Henderson to do this but the local society has not yet responded to the suggestion. A similar situation exists in North Salem. The church at Bemus Point has offered special programs with good results.

The honor of discovering a new field for a Universalist Church goes to Kenneth Downey of our church in Hornell and he is the man who is the moving spirit in so many projects. He is the man who brought eighteen to church with him in his determination to have his church grow. The Downeys for years spent their summer vacations at Loon Lake which is a few miles south of Wayland, 15 miles from Hornell. On the west side of the road, near the Downey Cottage, is the little white church, built about one hundred years ago. The papers have been signed and Mr. Downey had them with him at the Association meeting in Hornell.

This church was of the independent type and has had no services for many years. The roof has required the need of a new center beam and parts of the ceiling and floor need replacement. These repairs will be made by Messrs. Downey, Pierce, Nesbit and others of our Hornell church. It is expected that these repairs will be completed in July and services will begin in August with Dr. Ellis E. Pierce of our Hornell church in charge. Through the generosity of Mr. Downey, a lovely summer parsonage with garden and small orchard is available for the minister.

The agreement with the local trustees of the property is that our church in Hornell leases the property and will be responsible for all repairs and upkeep. The lease continues as long as religious services are held at least two months of each calendar year. No further rental is required. Should other religious bodies desire occasional use, this right will be granted.

There is a large summer community on the shores of the lake, composed largely of Hornell residents. The section carries a large farming population of a liberal type and this gives opportunity for a permanent Universalist church. It is planned that the minister of our Hornell church shall serve this church at Loon Lake.

Empire State Universalist, Cortland NY, July-August 1944