

Pastor's Report to the Quarterly Conference

EAGLE METHODIST Charge I. Dean Jordan Pastor April 8, 1952

The Pastor of the Eagle Methodist Charge herewith submits the following report to the Fourth

Quarterly Conference (or ~~Annual Church Conference~~) held at Eagle, Wisc. 4-8 1952

MEMBERSHIP

Since the last report May 4 1952, the following changes have been made in the Membership Record:

TOTAL FULL MEMBERSHIP LAST REPORT—ACTIVE AND INACTIVE 149

ADDITIONS: Received from Preparatory Membership and on Profession of Faith 7

Received from Other Denominations

Received by Transfer and Reinstated 5

Total Additions 12

Gross Total 161

LOSSES: Removed by Death 0

Removed to Other Denominations 0

Removed by Transfer 4

Otherwise (Give reason, ¶¶ 135-39, 974) 0

Total Losses 4

TOTAL ACTIVE MEMBERS 132 }

TOTAL INACTIVE MEMBERS 25 } TOTAL FULL MEMBERSHIP 157

(Names of all persons involved in the changes in membership must be listed immediately below arranged according to heading in the above report. After membership data and names are reported, the Pastor should be guided in completing his report by the *Discipline*, ¶ 352 § 20, using as many extra sheets as may be needed to present a full report.)

Received on Profession of Faith:

Mrs. William Beierle, Eagle, Wisc.

Mr. Roy Lippert. Eagle, Wisc.

Miss Dorothy Bovee. R.R. Eagle, Wisc.

Mrs. John Hall. Eagle, Wisc.

Mr. John Hall. Eagle, Wisc.

Mr. Lyle Swartwout. Eagleville, Wisc.

(over)

Mrs. Lyle Swartwout. Eagleville, Wisc.

Received by Transfer:

Mrs. I. Dean Jordan. Eagle. From Hemenway Methodist Church, Evanston, Illinois.
Mr. Jack Schober. Eagleville. From Waukesha First Methodist Church.
Mrs. Jack Schober. Eagleville. From Kewaunee Congregational Church.
Miss Barbara Smith. Palmyra. From Palmyra Methodist Church.
Mrs. Gerald Baker. R.R. Eagle. From North Prairie Methodist Church.

Members Lost:

Mr. William Roeglin to Wesley Methodist, Milwaukee.
Mr. Howard Baker and to Midwest City, Oklahoma.
Mrs. Howard Baker. Church unknown.
Mr. Jerry Crawley. to Palmyra Methodist Church.

For the rest of this report see attached sheets.

PASTOR'S REPORT
to the Fourth Quarterly Conference
April 8, 1952

EAGLE METHODIST CHURCH
Eagle, Wisc.

The general state of this church is good with certain weaknesses. The people are receptive to new ideas. They are alert to their role in the conduct of church affairs - in administration, evangelism, and worship - and they are alert to their role as a Christian witness in community affairs. They are aware of their obligation to support the church financially.

About half of the Official Board are active in their concern for the wise administration of the Church. There has been marked improvement in their control with the adoption of monthly reports to the board from the organizations of the church. This is a new idea here, and there is generally one or more reports missing, but these are usually handed in later. In the course of a few more months this should be a soundly established practice.

The people are alert to their responsibilities in the evangelistic outreach of this church. They are ready to aid, and do aid, their pastor in locating new people. They are ready to cooperate with him in reaching these people. In all fairness, they have not received as good leadership from their pastor as they deserve.

The choirs under the direction of Mrs. Dexter Badinger are flourishing. I am especially pleased with their cooperation in singing new hymns and adapting to changes in the order of worship - of which there have been several. The youth choir is providing an excellent opportunity for the incorporation of youth in the church program. *164 different hymns in 2 years.*

The W.S.C.S. has-eee, under the presidency of Mrs. Stella Joliffe, has cooperated very commendably with the Official Board in the conduct of church financial affairs. It has provided regular, religious and social fellowship for its members. It has not done much to attract new members, but this is partly counterbalanced by its cooperation with the W.S.G. which has a much wider field of recruitment than the W.S.C.S.

The W.S.G., under the presidency of Mrs. Jane Helland, has improved remarkably. From an organization having tenuous connections with the church it has become an integral part of the women's work of the church. These ladies have become increasingly aware of their ~~importance~~ ability and power and importance and have taken a larger part in the work of the church. The conduct of meetings have improved. It has been of great help to the pastor in reaching new people in the community. This organization is quite weak in its ability to plan a program or activity well enough in advance to have it carefully prepared and skillfully executed. They are not yet fully aware of their abilities.

The work of this church among the men of the community has been very poor. The establishment of regularly ushering has helped integrate them in the work of the church. Of course men play an important part in our Official Board, and, also in the Finance committee and Board of Trustees.

The work of the church among the youth of this community has worsened noticeably, except for the choir. The MYF we had at the beginning of the year is now defunct.

The work of this church among the post-High School, unmarried youth is non-existent. It is badly needed. The people are largely unaware of the need, I believe.

We are handicapped in the development of programs for these groups by unawareness of the needs, inertia, lack of leadership and lack of funds.

Our Sunday School has conducted an active program throughout the year, but it has reached a critical juncture. The Rev. Mr. John White has pointed out to us that we cannot do an adequate job unless we make better use of our facilities in order to eliminate overcrowding. In the work of the Sunday School the people of this church seem to subscribe to the dangerous idea that as long as the S.S. is crowded it is doing a good job. They fail to realize that an overcrowded, poorly organized Sunday School will create an antipathy to the work of the church - to Christ himself - that will permanently injure the youth so influenced. There needs to be vigorous and constructive thinking at this point.

Another point in connection with our Sunday School is that it is now carrying as big a load of pupils as it can handle under the present arrangements. At least it could not handle all the youth who have attended at one time or another who are still within the Sunday School age limits. This means that unless new arrangements are worked out the evangelistic outreach of the church must be sharply curtailed. The chief drawing card of our church is its Sunday School. If that Sunday School is already overcrowded, there is no purpose of contacting new people. We cannot tell such new people "We'd like to have you in the church, but we can't care for your children." If we did tell them this directly, or indirectly, they would take their children and themselves to another church.

The beauty of the nave and chancel of the church has been increased by redecorating and ~~new~~ adding new altar cloths. The housekeeping of the church has not ~~been~~ kept pace with the redecoration. The upstairs (nave and chancel) is neatly maintained, but the basement is ignored. Because we have one basement to serve as dining hall, Sunday School, and recreation area, keeping it in order is a job. The organizations need to be admonished that they must leave the basement orderly after using it. We must all cooperate with our janitor to see that it is routinely and carefully cleaned - just as we keep our houses clean. (I am sorely distressed at its present dirty and disorderly appearance.)

The work of the church has been hindered, too, because it has been necessary for Mrs. Jordan to work. This has greatly reduced the number of afternoons the pastor has had available for pastoral work. The attitude of the church people toward this arrangement, which is inconvenient to all, has been very generous. I would like to add an accolade where it is due - to my wife. Her assistance in the course of her work as nurse at Waukesha Memorial Hospital has been of great value to this church.

Now for some answers to disciplinerquestions.

We have one Sunday School meeting each Sunday morning. There are no weekday meetings of pupils except for an occasional party. There are no meetings for Young people. There is one fellowship meeting - Family Night which is the first Sunday of each month. This is attended by whole families. There is usually an attendance of from 20-30 men, women and children. There have been no vacation church schools. (I would like to recommend at this point that the Church School Board give serious consideration to: 1) released time education for our youth; and 2) establishment of a Sunday School at Eagle Lake. I am not sure these are workable ideas, but I am sure they should be given careful consideration.)

The pastor has made 10 talks to children. These talks have become a regular part of the Sunday morning service. We have been encouraging our Sunday School pupils to stay for church. This encouragement, plus the sermons for youth seem to be having some effect.

There were weekly meetings of the MYF, except for Family Nights, each Sunday night until the first of the year. Beginning in March the pastor has taught a youth Sunday School class, but this has not been attended by the youth as we would like it to be attended. (I would like to recommend that this church, and any church, free its pastor from regular Sunday School teaching so that he can aid in the supervision of the Sunday School.)

I have conducted five membership classes for adults during this Lent, and three such classes for youth.

Because of the limited time I have for calling I have set this priority in my calling:

1. The ill.
2. Necessary administrative calls.
3. The confined.
4. Evangelistic and community
5. Regular members.
6. The inactive members.

I do not think my calling has been adequate. There have been 286 pastoral visits of all kinds. This compares with 171 of last year. I have not used the church school rolls in pastoral visitation. When calling program is properly established I hope to make use of it. In this respect it would help if the Sunday School roll were prepared according to families as well as by classes.

I do not know the number of subscribers to our church periodicals. I wish to record that I have been converted from an antagonist of the Christian Advocate to a regular reader.

For collections for benevolences see the Financial Secretary reports

For missionary education see W.S.C.S. and Sunday School Superintendent reports. I try to keep in the forefront of my sermons the world-wide outreach of the church.

Our financial system is based on pledges subscribed during a Loyalty campaign each June. It is noteworthy that ~~our income has been~~ almost over a third of our income this year was not pledged. This is partly explained by the low pledges last year.

We have observed Layman's Sunday with five laymen in charge of the service. The five laymen are: Kenneth Williams, Sam Foster, Levi Baker, Paul Trupke and Dexter Badinger, Sr.

I plan to concentrate my attention in the future upon reaching new people and incorporating them into the church, and upon enlarging the Sunday School and educational program.

May I list here for the record some of our more tangible accomplishments:

1. Church redecorated by the W.S.C.S.
2. New altar cloths and candelabra donated by W.S.G.
3. The candlelighters are a gift of Mrs. Eliza Meredith.
4. The pulpit Bible has been beautifully rebound as a memorial Gift to Mr. Emil Schmidt.
5. A large picture of Christ by Solomon was given to the Sunday School in memory of Mr. Robert Roberts.
6. The parsonage was rewired by Mr. Sam Foster.
7. An Octenial was planned and executed. 266 people attended our two special services. Bishop Northcott and Mr. Akbar Abdul-Haqq were featured guests. Bishop Northcott presented a pulpit hymnal to the church.
8. Parsonage painted inside by Mr. & Mrs. Vic Rohde's paint & helped to paint
9. Parsonage piano by Miss Dorothy Raduechal
10. Sunday School curtain partitions by Miss Dorothy Raduechal.
***** & Beatrice Raduechal
11. Water heater & Cooking Stove by the church.
12. Parsonage Refrigerator by Mrs. Lena Huber
13. App. a year's supply of candles for church by Mr. & Mrs. Harold Chapman
14. Cooking stove for church kitchen donated by Mr. & Mrs. Levi Baker.