

REPORT on visit to
Marquette, Michigan Fellowship
February 9, 1961
Ellsworth M. Smith

Walter Kellison arranged this visit through MACLC.

I arrived in Marquette in late afternoon from Traverse City, the main event of the trip being my first crossing of Mackinac Bridge. Beautiful day, 48 degrees, dry roads.

Stayed with my friends, Dr. and Mrs. Kevin Sheard, 356 E. Hewitt.

Kevin, Charles Mighell and I had lunch together at the college, Northern Michigan State. Mighell fairly conventional person, but bright and pleasant. Analytical mind, eager to learn all he can and to plan things well. Cordial.

Dinner that night at the student union again with a dozen or fourteen people present. Then a public meeting at the city library. Maybe 19 people present. I talked ex tempore about Unitarian history and meanings and the discussion was of high quality.

This group is interesting. It has in it two Spiritualists, two Rosicrucians and two Bible fundamentalists. The Mighells and the Sheards and several other people are the hope of the group. People speak of being too busy to give the group the help they's like to give.

I have doubts the group will persist. Yet there is a recognition on the part of some of the members that this is important to them, the only really liberal thing in town. I didn't see the persons who can put a gay sort of confidence into the thing. Serious, dedicated, but not really happy in what they do.

I will keep in touch with the group continuously and suggest program resources to them.

Charles Mighell gets around a good deal, a community relations for the college. Possibly his frequent contacts with Sam Molod of Escanaba, a very forceful and high-spirited person, may help him.

We should get their mailing list for the Messenger.

We should see that they have a copy of Bright Galaxy for sharing.

LETTER OF APPLICATION
for membership in the American Unitarian Association

Rev. Walter D. Kring, Secretary
Board of Directors
American Unitarian Association
25 Beacon Street, Boston 8, Mass.

Dear Mr. Kring:

On Feb. 26, 1961, the Unitarian Fellowship of _____
Marquette, Michigan was organized, with 10 members; the enclosed
set of bylaws was adopted, and the following persons have been elected as officers:

President, Chairman Charles Mighell
or Leader: _____

Address: 1501 Lincoln

Vice-President or
Ass't. Leader: _____

Address: _____

Secretary: Irene Niemi

Address: Granite St.

Treasurer: Ruth Mighell

Address: 1501 Lincoln

Expressing its approval of or general sympathy with the purpose of the Association, it is the desire of this Fellowship to become a member organization of the American Unitarian Association. We herewith enclose a contribution of 10 dollars. It is our understanding that if this contribution is accepted by the Board of Directors before April 30th, our Fellowship will be entitled to be represented at all meetings of the Association by one accredited delegate during the year beginning on the following May 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Mighell
(President or Leader)

Irene Niemi
(Secretary)

Information for the Fellowship Office Records:

We plan to hold meetings of the Fellowship 11 times monthly, on Sunday
(day of the week), at 8 P.M. (hour), at Members homes.

_____ (place.) It is expected that most of the meetings will
be of the following type: Discussion, Guest Speakers

(Worship, discussion, guest speakers, etc.)

Membership Record Unitarian Fellowship of Marquette

1. Charles Mighell	1501 Lincoln	Marquette, Michigan
2. Eleanor Hanson	Lakewood	" "
3. Robert O. Hanson	Lakewood	" "
4. Ruth K. Mighell	1501 Lincoln	" "
5. Kevin Sheard	356 E. Hewitt	" "
6. Wilma Sheard	356 E. Hewitt	" "
7. Irene Niemi	Granite St.	" "
8. Jessica Cox	1104 N. Third	" "
9. Lovena Buxton	Harvey	" "
10. Charles Buxton Sr.	Harvey	" "

UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP
OF MARQUETTE

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. Name.

The name of this organization shall be "The Unitarian Fellowship of Marquette."

ARTICLE II. Purpose.

The purpose of this Fellowship is to further individual freedom of belief, discipleship to advancing truth, the democratic process in human relations, brotherhood undivided by nation, race, or creed, and the cause of a peaceful world.

The Fellowship shall encourage meaningful intellectual, social, and interpersonal relationships among the members. Free, objective, and unrestricted inquiry will be given to any topic which the membership feels has ethical, social, or other implications for human welfare. Fellowship activities may include individual or collective action to express the members' convictions in responsible social action in daily life.

ARTICLE III. Membership.

Any person may become a voting member of this Fellowship who has accepted and signed the Fellowship Bylaws.

ARTICLE IV. Denominational Affiliation.

This Fellowship shall be a member of the American Unitarian Association and of the Western Regional Conference.

ARTICLE V

The regular meetings of the Fellowship shall be determined by the Fellowship itself, or by any person or persons designated by it. The Annual Meetings shall be held each year in the month of April at such time and place as shall be fixed by the Executive Committee. Special meetings may be called by the Executive Committee, and special meetings shall be called at the written request of any five members; the business to be transacted shall be mentioned in the call to the meeting.

ARTICLE VI. Officers.

At each Annual Meeting there shall be elected a President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer and all other officers the Fellowship deems advisable, all of whom shall hold their offices for one year and until their successors have been elected and qualified, and who shall perform the duties usually pertaining to these offices. These officers shall constitute the Executive Committee. A nominating committee shall be chosen at the Annual Meeting.

The Executive Committee shall have general charge of the property of the Fellowship, and the conduct of all of its business affairs and the control of its administration, including the appointment of such committees as it

may deem necessary. It may fill vacancies and persons so chosen shall serve until the next Annual Meeting. All officers shall be members of the Fellowship.

ARTICLE VIII. Fiscal Year.

The fiscal year shall end April 30.

8

ARTICLE VIII. Amendments.

These bylaws, so far as allowed by law, may be amended, or replaced, at any meeting of the Fellowship by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting. Notice of any proposed change shall be contained in the notice of the meeting.

ARTICLE IX. Dissolution.

Should this Fellowship cease to function and the membership vote to disband, any accrued assets of the Fellowship will be assigned to the American Unitarian Association to be used for Unitarian extension.

Any person may become a voting member of this Fellowship who has accepted and signed the Fellowship Bylaws.

ARTICLE IV. Denominational Affiliation.

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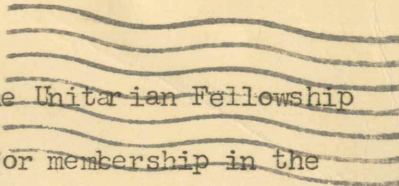
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I approve the application of the Unitarian Fellowship
of Marquette, Michigan for membership in the
American Unitarian Association.

Date:

Mar. 17 '61

(Signed)

Elsmore Smith

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



Fellowship Office

25 Beacon Street

Boston 8

Mass.

AMERICAN UNITARIAN ASSOCIATION

25 *Beacon Street Boston 8, Massachusetts*

April 17, 1961

Mr. Charles Mighell
1501 Lincoln
Marquette, Michigan

Dear Mr. Mighell:

I am very happy to inform you that at the meeting of the Board of Directors of the American Unitarian Association held in Boston, Massachusetts, on April 11, 1961, it was voted to approve the application of and to receive into membership in the Association The Unitarian Fellowship of Marquette, Michigan. Accordingly, you will find enclosed the proper credential card and an Absentee Ballot for the lay delegate of your Fellowship together with instructions for balloting at the forthcoming Organizing Meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

The terms of the membership are set up by the Department of Extension and Church Maintenance. We are very pleased that this action has been taken and that your Fellowship becomes one of the more than three hundred such groups scattered throughout the United States and Canada.

It is our sincere hope that your Fellowship will grow in membership and strength.

Our cordial greetings to you. We wish you the finest success in all your endeavors.

Faithfully yours,

Walter Donald Kring
Secretary

WDK:CET

CC: Munroe Husbands

MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

Nov.7, 1961

Mrs. Berris Reid
Unitarian Universalist Association
25 Beacon St.
Boston 8, Mass.

Dear Mrs. Reid:

I am writing in reference to the copy of a letter to a Mr. Wilkinson stationed nearby at K. I. Sawyer A. F. B., which you sent me.

From it I learned he is interested in contacting the Fellowship in Marquette.

First, if belatedly, I must inform you that our Fellowship President, Mr. Charles Mighell, did indeed pass away last July 6th. at University of Michigan Hospital from complications following carbon monoxide poisoning which resulted in poor circulation in his legs, which had to be amputated. The shock was too much for survival. The Mighell's little 3 year old Debby died in her sleep June 24th when the family was spending its first night in a home of a U.M. professor with whom they had exchanged residences for the summer terms. Mr. Mighell intended to study at U.M. and this other professor came to Marquette to teach during the summer term, occupying the Mighell home. It has been reported furnace cleaning men had put the flues in wrong so that fumes were not carried out when Mr. Mighell turned on the furnace that night upon arrival; as I recall it was a cold and rainy night. Mrs. Mighell suffered shock and was hospitalized for some time. However, last week I was pleased to hear she is in charge of twenty five schools in the Ann Arbor, Mich. area where they have special classes for retarded children, so it would seem she has found forgetfulness in work.

Needless to say our Fellowship lost a very active couple. Then too, the Cox family left town and Mrs. Cox was very active in both the Fellowship and Sunday School. Since becoming inactive in June we have not met at all. We do plan to meet Dec. 17th at Dr. Sheard's home and try to meet atleast once a month for the winter months. I notified Mr. Wilkinson of this meeting date.

Just how many we can count on to attend is problematical. Another of our members had a nervous breakdown. She too was one of our best informed members. Now there remains only the Sheards who have a Unitarian background. Well, we shall try to keep the liberal viewpoint from fading out for OH! how this town needs it.

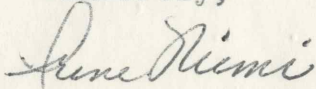
MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN

We have quite a few Negro families at the Air Base and expect 300 single boys when the base reaches full operational activity. Already there was a small race riot in Negaunee, our neighboring town. As a result, the Negro personnel is pretty much restricted to the base, which is 30 miles from any town. When they do come in they are not permitted to stay any longer than it takes them to transact their business. Is anyone lifting their voice? No! The North is just as prejudiced as the South. We Unitarians surely have our work cut out for us. Even a letter in the local press would carry some weight.

Here I have taken up much too much of your time.

With best wishes I remain,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eric Niemi".

Mrs. Eric Niemi

November 10th, 1961

Mrs. Eric Niemi
Granite Street
Marquette
Michigan

Dear Mrs. Niemi:

Thank you for your long and informative letter concerning the fate of the Marquette Fellowship.

It was quite a shock to us here to learn of Mr. Mighell's tragic death, and now you inform us that they also lost their three year old daughter. Mrs. Mighell has indeed borne a lot and it is pleasing to learn that she is trying to forget by devoting her time to retarded children, who must need so much help.

With the loss of the Mighell's and the Cox family we can understand why the Fellowship has become inactive. From a letter received this past week from Mr. Wilkinson, it would seem that there are several families on the Air Force Base who are interested in a Unitarian Fellowship. If this is true, there should be enough interested persons to reactivate the Fellowship. I am sure Mr. Wilkinson will relay this information to you at the December 17th meeting. Thank you for informing him of the meeting.

The Negro problem in the North is not altogether unfamiliar to me. You see, I too am a Negro. Here in Boston we have had a couple of recent teenage riots but so far, there has been nothing that could not be handled by the law. However, the question of where we live etc, still cannot be completely ignored.

Nice hearing from you and your letter was certainly appreciated. Do keep us informed from time to time as to your plans and progress, and if this office can be of assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

Sincerely

Mrs. Berris Reid
Secretary
Fellowship Office

Box 277 4042 AEMS
K.I. Sawyer AFB, Mich.
March 25, 1962

Unitarian Universalist Association
25 Beacon Street
Boston 8, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Husbands:

I have some dissappointing new to relate to you, and your office! Our efforts in getting the Marquette Fellowship reactivated have proved fruitless. As you know we had a meeting just before Christmas and we had another meeting date set for the middle of January, well we crossed or meeting time and place, in connection with Dr. Sandell speaking at the meeting and since I knew him I wrote and explained that a few complications had set in and the meeting was postponed. I hated to tell him this, for I was hoping we could smooth things out in the time we had left before the meeting, but instead of taking the chance, we asked if we couldn't arrange another meeting date that would permit him to leave Hancock and speak at our group, concerning how the Hancock Fellowship got their start, and giving us any pointers to follow and watch the pitfalls. I thought this would help us greatly, but that fell through! I have been working a little with the other Unitarians and Universalists here at the base, attempting to start a group of just base personnel. Since the Marquette persons don't really show any enthusiasim any longer, there is positively no sense in trying to force them into joining a Fellowship they really don't have their heart into. They say they don't have the time and most of the previous members are pretty busy with the college, which doesn't leave them much time, but if they really wanted this Fellowship, I should think they could find an hour or two one night a week to meet. What our downfall was, I feel at any rate, was lack of delegation of authority, we had not appointed a chairman, I was acting as a secretary, between Dr. Sandell also with you. But the chance of meeting with the town people is out of the question, unless we could raise the interest and enthusiasim!!

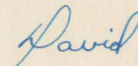
I will let you know how we progress here on base, and if we can't make any head way, the only alternative for myself and my future wife, a daughter of a Universalist minister, is to join the " Church of Larger Fellowship " and go on from there.

I'm sorry I haven't written earlier to you concerning the Fellowship here in Marquette, I felt that I had failed some where and didn't want to admit, cause getting this started up again meant so much to me. It was a bitter disappointment, but as I grow older and more mature, and wiser, I'll learn to accept these disappointments and take it in stride.

As I said perviously, I'll keep in touch, a little more frequent if make some progress on base with the Fellowship. I'd really appreciate any advic that would help us in keeping the interest up, among the members, any advice at all, concerning getting the Felloship started. I've been reading the phamphlets over that you sent me, they will help.

Wish us Luck.....

Very Truly,



David Wilkinson

March 28th, 1962

David Wilkinson
Box 277 - 4042 AEMS
K.I. Sawyer A.F.B.
Michigan

Dear Mr. Wilkinson:

Thank you for your letter to Munroe Husbands concerning your efforts to reactivate the Marquette Fellowship.

We are sorry that so far your plans have not materialized, and with you hope that sometime in the not too distant future enough interested persons can be found to start afresh. We still have Mrs. Neimi on our mailing list to receive all mailings (including many program materials), going out from headquarters. If she is not putting these mailings to any useful purpose you might wish to get in touch with her to see if she would pass these on to you for use on the base.

In the meantime I would suggest that you join the Church of the Larger Fellowship. Enclosed is a folder describing this and an application form. If you know of others on the base who might be interested in this Church send us their names and addresses and we will put them on the two month trial mailing list of the CLF, after which time they are invited to join.

Sincerely

Mrs. Berris Reid
Secretary
Fellowship Office