

REPORT OF PASTOR OF VISITATION FOR 1969

Being thankful to God for opportunity to continue to stand beside the pastor and people of United Church in a common ministry, I submit the following brief report for the year 1969.

In the field of visitation, which takes the major block of time given, I have again visited several hundred people. I come to the homes as a representative of the church, seeking especially to make people aware of our interest in them and their welfare, frequently inquiring as to reasons for absence from services, and also, in many instances reminding individuals and families of their membership responsibilities. Frequently there arise what might be described as counselling situations, when I seek to be of help mainly through listening and through pointing out the resources God provides for individuals and families. Some calls have been on active families, when in their neighborhood, when appreciation is expressed for their interest and support. Pleasant experiences certainly do predominate in connection with the visits, and I think we can see some positive results in increased participation.

A second major responsibility has been in connection with adult programming (Lay Life and Work). On Laity Sunday we heard of the lay involvement in one of the very active congregations of a neighboring city and on that Sunday as well as in certain follow-up sessions some new areas of Christian concern and effort have been explored by groups of interested people. Suggestions have been forthcoming for increased use of our building in community work...A new Stewardship Committee and a Youth Committee have been constituted..An eight-week study group on Christian doctrine is beginning, following upon one of the suggestions made on Laity Sunday...Suggestions of a previous Task Force led to the plan of publishing names of those in hospitals, and to plans for building a more family-like spirit in the congregation as a whole.

During Pastor Rasche's vacation I took over general pastoral responsibilities, and have assisted in various ways in the services of worship. I have participated in various activities of the Canton Christian Council as well as in ~~#####~~ meetings of the denomination.

Mrs. Weisser and I are deeply appreciative of the many kindnesses we experience and the opportunity of becoming acquainted with a widening circle of United Church people. I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Rasches, to the other members of the Church staff, the Church Council and other co-workers for encouragement and comradely associations.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph E. Weisser