

MINISTERIAL RECORD

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When the committee has made choice of a man for recommendation to the church, it is of course proper to give the congregation the essential facts of his record as herein set forth.

As soon as the committee has finished its use of this Record, please without delay, return it to the office which sent it, at the address given above, or to:

Personnel Records Office
Council for Church and Ministry, United Church of Christ
287 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10010

NAME WEISSER, Ralph E.

DATE June 1967

ADDRESS 25 Crossman Avenue, Buffalo, N.Y.

PRESENT POSITION Pastor, St. Andrew's U.C.C., 2205 Genesee, Buffalo, N.Y.

BORN April 13, 1902

BIRTHPLACE Jamestown, Missouri

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION 170 lbs., 5'11". Good health.

EDUCATION Elmhurst College & Washington Univ. (Wash. 1924) A.B.
Eden Seminary, Webster Groves, Mo. 1924 B.D.
Honorary D.D., Eden, '64; Yale Div. Sch. '24-'25; U. of Chi. Div. Sch. 2 summer
Terms & Deering Pastors Sch. 3 wks. '60.

SPECIAL EXPERIENCE 2 yrs. Instructor, Biblical Lit., Elmhurst Coll.; part-time Instructor German S.E. Mo. Teachers Coll.; Lay School Instructor, '62; has written several quarters of Uniform Lesson Material for E&R.

FAMILY Married '29, Martha Braun., Wash. Univ. A.B. '26, Secondary Educ. Teachers Cert. Lois, b. '41. Family health good.

MINISTERIAL STANDING Ord. June 8, 1924, Calif. Missouri, by Evangelical Synod of N.A. Present standing in Western Assoc., N.Y. Conf, U.C.C.

PASTORATES (Statistics usually from the last year in each pastorate)

Churches Served	Dates of each pastorate	MEMBERSHIP			Benevolences	Home Expenses	Salary "P" for Parsonage
		Church Resident	Church School	Youth Societies			
Indianapolis, Ind., 1st E&R	1943-1946	425	300	45	\$3,000	\$12,000	\$2400 P
Minneapolis, Minn., Faith E&R	1946-1952	275	150	30	2,250	9,000	2900 P
Buffalo, N.Y., St. Andrew's U.C.C.	1952	760	406	45	9,350	32,300	6800 P
(Plus: Utilities \$400; Car allow., \$460.)							

OTHER INFORMATION (as to position, salary, type of field, location, etc, desired if making a change) Having reached 65, he is thinking of an assistantship or smaller church. Would consider something on basis of part-time, with compensation geared to pension & social security. Does not want far West. Orientation: The Statement of Faith of the U.C.C. is very satisfactory to him. He holds to Trinitarian Doctrine, considers the Bible to contain God's revealed Word, but accepts the fruits of modern scholarship in respect to such a question as verbal inspiration. Belives in the application of the gospel to modern problems (social, economic, international, etc.) but this must be grounded in sound theology & personal religion. Accomplishments: Leadership in present parish has broader base; people believe more in their abilities; giving has been enhanced; music program improved; curriculum improvements in Church School; undershepherd system introduced. 5 times General Synod delegate; several times denominational delegate to N.A. Area Reformed Alliance; Chairman Chr. Ed. of Synod several years; program Bd. Council of Churches Member Corporation Lancaster Sem., Bflo. Urban Ministry Board.

MINISTERIAL APPRAISAL SUMMARY

Name Rev. Ralph E. Weisser

Date July 1967

General description of people providing information, by letter not by name:

- A: Elder, Presbyterian Church U.S.
- B: Clergyman, fellow-pastor, known 7 yrs.
- C: UCC Clergyman, known 11 yrs.
- D: UCC Clergyman, Conference official, known 12 yrs.
- E: Layman, Methodist Lay Leader.

A. Personal qualities

Physical appearance	slovenly	ostentatious	acceptable <i>a</i>	neat <i>abcde</i>	striking
Health and vigor	sickly	limited	average <i>abd</i>	vigorous <i>ce</i>	rugged
Voice	defect	unpleasant	weak	adequate <i>acd</i>	pleasing <i>abe</i>
Mental acumen	plodding	ungifted	average	alert <i>abcde</i>	brilliant <i>a</i>
Refinement	boorish	clumsy	average	mannerly <i>ad</i>	gracious <i>abce</i>
Friendliness	curt	cold	shy	pleasant <i>ad</i>	sincere <i>abcde</i>
Tact	offensive	blunt	timid	poised <i>ad</i>	diplomatic <i>abcde</i>
Initiative	lazy	complacent	dependent	a leader <i>abce</i>	superior <i>a</i>
Cooperativeness	obstinate	a "loner"	average	agreeable <i>a</i>	team man <i>abcde</i>
Emotional stability	flighty	excitable	sensitive <i>b</i>	calm <i>ae</i>	strong <i>acd</i>

Attractive talents *A: Scholarly approach to problems. B: Gracious, considerate disposition; tries always to be fair. D: Relates to people with great understanding.*

Distracting mannerisms

Physical handicaps

Domestic or social handicaps

Additional comment:

B. Spiritual commitment and life orientation *A: I believe him to be a sincere man, dedicated to the calling of the ministry. His theological views are orthodox as opposed to radical. A humble man with convictions, yet respecting the rights and opinions of others. Stable financial and social responsibility. B: Deep, sincere and warm personal devotion; Christian commitment to the point of taking risky stands that, in my estimation, shame the majority of clergy of his age-group. Liberal theologically; positive pietistic strain. Social-action oriented. Tries always to be fair in judgments of others. Self-deprecating towards himself, yet able to exert himself when issues demand it. Excellent financial & social responsibility. C: A sincere, sensitive, knowledgeable Christian. His life finds its orientation in Christ, and he seeks to serve him at all times. He is open theologically. Undoubtedly he would be basically a Neo-Orthodox. He is generous toward others, and humble about himself. Financial & social responsibility beyond reproach. D: His deep commitment to his office is constantly nurtured by the cultivation of reading, study and prayer. He keeps up with current theological thought with an appreciation for the Bible text which is basic for his views. He appreciates the views and fellowship of other people and relates to them in a most wholesome manner. He accepts his responsibilities in the areas of finance and social opportunities as a part of his pattern for the Christian life. Very good attitudes towards himself and others. Sound financial and social responsibility.*

C. Professional accomplishment

Preaching—content	shallow	profound a	interesting ad	helpful abcd	challenging acd
Preaching—delivery	dull	pedestrian	competent abcd	colorful	inspiring ad
Conduct of Worship	unprepared	dull	dignified acd	devout ab	moving
Order of Worship	very informal	informal	dignified acd	formal abd	very formal
Pastoral calling	seldom	sometimes a	regular ab	often d	very often
Pastoral service	cold	interested a	competent ad	helpful a	devoted ab
Would fit well	inner city	suburb abcd	town abcd	rural b	college ad

	indifferent	dutiful	concerned	competent	expert
Pastoral counselling				abcd	
Youth leadership		a		abd	
Men's work		a	d	ab	
Christian education		a		ad	bd
Enlisting new members		a		abd	
Administration & finance		a		abcd	

	indifferent	dutiful	concerned	enthusiastic	zealous
Denominational loyalty		a	b	ad	c
Ecumenical interest				ad	bc
Missionary concern				abd	c
Social service & action				ad	bc

Specific achievements in church & community: B: Has given excellent leadership in Synod & association & Conf. Christian Ed. Has represented U.C.C. and wider ecumenical interests in Program Bd. of Council of Churches. On Board of Governors of Lancaster Seminary. Reliable and steady supporter of urban programs of the Buffalo Cooperative Urban Ministry. Has provided leadership to his present congregation in an extensive building program and helped develop leadership in the congregation. He has served as chairman of the Synodical Committee on Christian Education.

Additional comment: B: Dr. Weisser and his wife Martha are both concerned and effective people in the ministry of the Church. They lend valuable support to others working with them. They sustain discouragements well and are not deflected by their successes.

D. Wife

Personality	dull	colorless	gracious acd	winsome b	radiant a
Friendliness	curt	cold	shy	pleasant ac	sincere abd
Health	sickly	limited	average abd	vigorous c	rugged
Tact	rude	abrupt	casual	understanding acd	considerate ab
Church interest	indifferent	dutiful	concerned c	enthusiastic abd	bossy

Special talents and interests:
A: Has musical ability and could work well with the women as well as the young people of the church. B: Excellent helper and support to her husband in his work. Develops friendly relations with all people. Enjoys herself in her role of Pastor's wife.
D: She is an excellent Church School teacher for adults.

Additional comment: C: Ralph Weisser is one of those rare ministers who has been able to gain the respect of just about everyone. He has maintained a social concern and balanced wisdom. He is looked upon as a person of experience and continuing growing spirit. D: Both Pastor and Mrs. Weisser have made an excellent contribution to the local church and to the larger fellowship of the Church and community. They are devoted servants of Christ and His Church.