

St. Andrew's United Church of Christ

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RALPH E. WEISSER, D.D., MINISTER
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June 21, 1967

The Pulpit Committee and
Mr. William Single, III,
Chairman, Pulpit Committee
United Evangelical Church
Baltimore, Maryland

Dear Friends:

Your letter of June 14, signed by Mr. Single, in which you extend the invitation to me to become Visiting Minister of United Evangelical Church was very much appreciated by both Mrs. Weisser and myself. I thank you for the confidence which you thus evidence in me. It is our intention to accept the position and I find myself enthused about the possibilities that it offers for further service in the work of God's Kingdom. Since our interview, I have tried to visualize what your congregation and Rev. Rasche are doing and are desirous of doing, and I would like to be a part of that enterprise with you. At the same time your offer should help in making these several coming years more secure and pleasant for us, we believe.

The letter outlined the terms in a very clear manner and in a general way I find them quite acceptable. Certain requests that I made have been met in such a way that I must express my gratitude for those special considerations. I refer to "Medicare Plus" and the "return move" arrangements in particular.

One aspect of things was not known to me at the time of our interview and I presume it was also not known by you. I informed you that the Social Security Administration counts ministerial housing as part of the income when computing how much income is allowable to a retiree. This is true. But I learned just yesterday from the Internal Revenue people in Buffalo that, even after retirement, ministerial housing is not counted as income for Income Tax purposes. Therefore, that part of what you pay me which I would use for housing would not be taxable. I would be saved a very considerable sum, therefore, if you would designate a part of what is paid me as being for housing. I could then report it as such to Internal Revenue.

Another matter concerns the telephone. I was told yesterday by the Social Security people that, under the circumstances, because of it being used a great deal for Church purposes, our home phone rent could be paid directly by the Church and none of this would be counted as part of my income by Social Security.

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In the light of these two considerations I would like to propose this financial arrangement: Pastor Weisser to receive from the Church - \$1600 housing allowance (two-bedroom apartment to be rented by Weissers); \$1100 additional compensation; car expense allowance of 10¢ per mile as outlined in letter; final return move expense as outlined. Church to pay direct: Moving expenses to Baltimore; "Medi-Care Plus" Health-insurance premiums as outlined; telephone bill for Weisser residence.

The only real difference from your original proposal that exists here is the amount for telephone. I would appreciate this being done. At the same time, I would not want to raise this as a major issue.

The conditions of working as outlined are quite acceptable to me. No doubt Pastor Rasche and I would be doing whatever adjusting would be necessary under the general job-description as given. Not everything can be anticipated now, to be sure.

In respect to the turning over of fees, preaching honorariums, etc., this is the way I would want it, in accordance with my own suggestion. I would, however, like to ask that I have the privilege of designating how such individual items would be used, such as for Denominational Benevolences, General Fund of the local Church, etc. Would that be agreeable?

The date of January 1, 1968, or very shortly thereafter, is satisfactory. I do not anticipate any difficulty in being released here at St. Andrew's.

I would assume that I would now be hearing from you people again, and that thereupon my final word of acceptance could be given. During the period of General Synod, June 22 to 29, I can be addressed at the Terrace Hilton Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Yours cordially,

Ralph E. Weisser

copy: Rev. Paul Rasche