

APPENDIX A-2

January 8, 1994

To: May Memorial Board of Trustees

From: John Chamberlin, Jean Hoefler, and Liz Strong

Concerning: Preservation of MMUUS historical records/documents

Take a look in the furnace room and the loft to see how our historical records and documents are being stored. According to Dr. Suzanne Etherington, a professional archivist with expertise in local Syracuse history, we have historically valuable material that is not appropriately stored. Last August she surveyed our archives and later submitted a 14-page report on the significance of our historical material, its present condition, and recommendations for preserving it. Her report indicates that adequate preservation of our records and documents requires new storage equipment and techniques, plus hours of time and special knowledge to organize and maintain useful archives. Excerpts from the report are attached.

In view of our strained finances and need for more volunteers, we believe that the best course for our congregation would be to find a safe repository where these records and documents would receive professional care and be accessible to anyone who has a legitimate interest in their contents.

Therefore, we request the board to please consider passing a motion to:

Offer MMUUS historical records and documents to a safe repository such as Syracuse University Arents Library, or the Syracuse Public Library, or the Onondaga Historical Society.

If we go on as we are, these things will eventually deteriorate to the point of uselessness. If we decide to preserve them ourselves we must spend several thousand dollars to set up an adequate storage system and find people to maintain it.