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Series VII: Personal Miscellaneous, 1908-1989, undated.

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Green, Rabbi Alan, 1946-1947.

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Congregation Emanu El

RABBIS

ROBERT I. KAHN ALAN S. GREEN, D. D.

October 17, 1946

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544 FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
HOUSTON 2, TEXAS

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I know that you are acquainted with the fact that I am leaving Houston. I do so with deep regret. Our congregation has now reached 700 families in two years, and its enthusiasm is a positive contagion. The response of the people has been most rewarding, and I carry away the satisfaction of proving that a Liberal Reform with sympathy for the needs and aspirations of K'lal Yisrael can sweep back the tide of Jewish snobbishness, isolationism and "salvation by low visibility".

I know of your deep interest in me. Dr. Freehof has mentioned to me your desire to have me come to Cleveland to build a new congregation; and I appreciate and cherish your high regard. I have communicated with Max Schrayner and Maurice Eisendrath indicating that I would be interested in considering this seriously. So far I have not had any word from Maurice.

There must also be other possibilities. I would deeply appreciate your help in finding another suitable place where I can continue to work for a liberal, deeply-Jewish Reform.

Frances joins me in warmest greetings and best wishes for success in your great work, and for strength and health and satisfaction for your, Mrs. Silver and the boys, during the coming year.

Cordially yours,

Alan

P.S. You may be interested in what happened here. The congregation elected both of us as rabbis to serve on equal basis, both last December and again this May, with Bob's consent and without his raising any issue. We worked together without dissent and with great success. People complimented our team-work and Bob had publicly and privately expressed his happiness at working with me. Recently Bob surprised me with the demand that I be his subordinate in title and salary and that "he write the policy and I carry it out". He told a few key leaders of the Board that unless he had his way he would leave. They were upset and asked me to give in to him. I conceded that he could have the final say in any difference in major policy, and agreed even to take the title co-Rabbi, but refused to go further. The leaders sympathized with my refusal but felt that their first obligation was to Bob since he was elected Rabbi first. I told them therefore that I would find another position as soon as possible, and that they should not raise the issue further since it would only stir up a bitter fight and jeopardize the harmony and strength of this congregation which I have given so much to build up.

ALAN S. GREEN, D. D.

RABBI

CONGREGATION EMANU EL

544 First National Bank Bldg.

HOUSTON 2, TEXAS

January 3, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Welcome home. I hope that the difficult deliberations of the Congress will help us move toward the desperately needed goal.

I wanted to write and tell you that I have been in touch with Maurice Eisendrath regarding my relationship to Cleveland. I have told him that I am going to try to secure a settled pulpit if possible. In the mean time I told him to feel free to go ahead with someone else if he so chooses, for Cleveland.

Columbus and Dayton are open at the present time and I have hopes that I will be able to secure one or the other. My name has been recommended formally to Columbus by Dr. Morgenstern. It has been brought before the Dayton pulpit committee in an informal way. If you would care to put in a good word for me with someone whom you feel close to on one or both of these congregational boards, I would deeply appreciate it.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

Alan

ALAN S. GREEN, D. D.

RABBI

CONGREGATION EMANU EL

544 First National Bank Bldg.

HOUSTON 2, TEXAS

April 3, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

As Mr. Weitz has probably informed you, I have accepted the task of building up a third Reform congregation in Cleveland. I look forward to it with a great deal of enthusiasm. It's a great and exciting venture, and my conversations, at length, with Mr. Weitz and Judge Bernon last week showed me that these leaders understand not merely the outer conditions, but the inner spirit which the new venture must have if it is to succeed in the sweeping fashion that it must.

I outlined some possible topics of discussion for our meeting on April 7th, in order to crystallize my own thinking and to stimulate others to jot down their ideas and queries. I am enclosing a copy. It is not an official agenda for the meeting.

We were not sure, when I was in Cleveland, that you would be able to be present at the meeting. I certainly trust that you will be able. When I last phoned Rabbi Eisendrath he was awaiting word from Mr. Weitz that you will be present. I trust that that word has come by now.

Both Frances and I are quite excited about the prospects of our life in Cleveland. It should offer us so many opportunities; among them is the chance to renew more frequently the very pleasant associations which we have had with you and Mrs. Silver.

Frances joins me kindest personal regards to you both.

Cordially yours,

Alan

ALAN S. GREEN, D. D.

RABBI
CONGREGATION EMANU EL
544 First National Bank Bldg.
HOUSTON 2, TEXAS

April 17, 1947

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver
The Temple
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am sorry that you could not
be at our meeting when I was last in Cleveland, and
that I was unable to see you on that trip. As you
know everything is set and I am winding up my affairs
here and will be in Cleveland on the first of May.
Frances and I are quite excited about the venture.

Looking forward to seeing you soon,

I am



Sincerely yours,

Alan

SUBJECTS THAT MAY BE CONSIDERED AT MEETING OF APRIL 7TH:

I. Agreement between established temples to encourage formation of new Reform congregation in Cleveland:

- a. To give spiritual support by speaking of it from pulpit and temple publications; and by urging their members to encourage the unaffiliated to join it.
- b. Established congregations shall inform new applicants for membership of the third congregation and encourage them to join it. They might also have literature and membership applications at their offices.
- c. Established congregations shall explore possibility of helping make available cemetery privileges to members of new cong.
- d. Financial contribution to be made, during the first year.

This will be dependent upon:

- 1) Estimation of new congregation's budget.
- 2) Outlining manner of meeting it:
 - a) Contribution of the Union.
 - b) Contribution of the congregations.
 - c) Estimate of amount that can be raised through dues.
- e. Help of financial nature that may be asked for if needed, beyond the first year.
- f. Setting up the Temporary Board:

(Suggested outline as basis of discussion:)

 - 1) The Temporary Board shall be composed of fifteen members, five to be chosen by ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ the committee of The Temple from ~~xxx~~ the members of the Temple, and five similarly by the committee of the Euclid Avenue Temple. These ten shall appoint five others from persons belonging to neither congregation. These last five shall be persons interested in helping and in belonging to the new congregation. The first ten, however, shall be perfectly free to choose whether or not to remain members of the new congregation once the permanent board is elected.
 - 2) The Temporary Board shall have power to appoint to its committees anyone whom it deems wise.
 - 3) The Temporary Board shall be privileged to augment itself by appointing additional board members.
 - 4) It shall be empowered to choose the name of the new congregation if it deems wise.
 - 5) It shall set the date for the incorporation of the new congregation and the election of the Permanent Board to succeed it. It is contemplated that such date be in December.
- g. The new congregation is to be an independent congregation, whose actions are to be decided in the beginning by the Temporary Board, and later by the incorporated congregation and board.

- h. Since no institution can advance without clear purpose and program, we consider it appropriate to declare that the new congregation will seek to foster the spirit of Reform Judaism, and to win wider membership to its ranks. It considers Reform as a movement that consciously fosters the adjustment of Jewish observances and education to the needs of each new age in order thereby to preserve Judaism as a living moving force in the life of the whole Jewish people. The new congregation shall strive to deepen the personal religious faith of its members; to lead them to acknowledge and fulfill their obligation to worship and observe Jewish religious customs regularly; to encourage them to participate in all movements that hold promise of improving the conditions of life ~~for~~ locally and elsewhere, and especially of bringing rescue, rebuilding and security for the sorely tried people of Israel; to deepen the knowledge of Judaism and of the Hebrew language; to enrich Jewish observances by the utilization of Jewish traditions in joyous modern form; to encourage a sense of the unity of the Household of Israel and a friendly fellowship among all who may be attracted to the religious and other activities of the congregation, regardless of differences of opinion that may exist among them on Jewish national, political, and secular issues.

The new congregation will also lend its support to all worthy efforts to preserve and extend the influence of Judaism as a religion, and will, through its own efforts, and in cooperation with other Jewish religious organizations, strive to increase the proportion of the Jewish people who are active participants in the Synagogue and its activities.

II. Matters of procedure:

- a. Suggested names for the Temporary Board.
- b. Date of the first meeting of the Temporary Board.
- c. Suggestions that may be transmitted to that Board:
(These may or may not ~~xxx~~ be brought up at the meeting)
 - 1) Location of the Temple.
 - 2) Manner of winning members.
 - 3) Finding office space.
 - 4) Finding a house for the rabbi.
 - 5) Recommending an Executive Secretary.
 - 6) Recommending a Music Director.

TEMPLE EMANU EL IN THE MAKING
ON THE HEIGHTS

1905 Lee Rd.

June 17, 1947

Dr. AbbaHillel Silver
The Temple
Ansel Rd. at 105th St.
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Rabbi Silver:

I am enclosing a list of the Board Members of the Heights Board of Education. I understand that the Heights Temple some time ago was privileged to use Coventry School. After that the Board voted never again. There were problems with the janitor and with the erasure of things from the black boards, etc.

I know the petty details that can cause trouble, since I dealt with them in Houston for three years, successfully. There is no reason why we shouldn't be able to solve them here, too. I wrote a full letter to the Heights Board explaining the purposes of our new congregation, the needs, and I enclosed a news article which included the statement which you personally had made on behalf of the Temple. If there is any influence that you believe you can exert, you know it will be appreciated.

Cordially yours,

Alan
Dr. Alan S. Green

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS BOARD OF EDUCATION

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MRS. JOHN L. PRICE 3214 Berkshire FA 1218

WARREN H. SMITH 2580 Wellington YE 2067

Bus. PR 4437

*President —
Bldg Ed.
Cleve Hts.*

*1
will be back
June 30th*

