



Daniel Jeremy Silver Collection Digitization Project

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MS-4850: Daniel Jeremy Silver Papers, 1972-1993.

Series II: Subject Files, 1956-1993, undated.

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Western Reserve Association of the United Church of Christ,
correspondence and speech, 1976.



Western Reserve Association

Ohio Conference

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

3209 BROADVIEW ROAD • CLEVELAND, OHIO 44109 • TEL: 749-3116

March 12, 1976

Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver
2841 Weybridge Road
Shaker Heights, Ohio 44120

Dear Rabbi Silver:

May God always be in your actions! Amen!

The Western Reserve Association of the United Church of Christ and the Greater Cleveland Inter-church Council are attempting to introduce a new executive of the Association to the larger religious community. In order to do this we have developed an Ecumenical service of worship, reception and dinner.

We would appreciate your reading a scripture of your choice (there will be two scripture readings) and giving about a five minute welcome (or someone you designate) and then joining us at the reception and dinner.

There are some things we would ask of you which we deem necessary in order for the event to be successful:

1. wear your official attire;
2. call the Association office (749-3116) by Tuesday, March 16, confirming your or your substitute's participation;
3. try to be at Trinity Cathedral promptly at 2:45 P.M., April 4;
4. upon arrival at the Cathedral, seek out Mrs. Joan Campbell who will be the co-ordinator of the Processional and the Recessional.

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Yours in Christ,

Dr. John A. Blackwell,
Assistant Association Minister

JAB/pf

Encl. - Rough Draft of Worship Service

ROUGH DRAFT

TRINITY CATHEDRAL
SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 1976
4:00-5:00 Service
5:00-7:00 Dinner & Reception

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN

HOLY WRIT

PRAYER

HOLY WRIT

LITANY

WELCOME

HYMN

INTRODUCTION OF DR. JACOB WAGNER

RESPONDANT

HYMN
BENEDICTION
RECESSIONAL

Joan Campbell

Dean Williams

Choir

Bishop Hickey

Arloa Tysse-
Church Women United

Rabbi Silver

Rev. Donald Morgan

Bishop Hickey
Rabbi Silver
Rev. Vladimir Berzonsky
Rev. A. Montgomery

Choir

Dr. Donald Jacobs

Dr. Jacob Wagner

Choir
Rev. Robert Z. Lahr
Joan Campbell



March 15, 1976

Dr. John A. Blackwell
Western Reserve Association
3209 Broadview Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44109

Dear Dr. Blackwell:

I will be pleased to participate in the welcome to Dr. Wagner.
I will try to be at Trinity Cathedral a few minutes before four
o'clock. Two-forty-five is completely out of the question because
of my Sunday schedule, but I will be as prompt as I can.

I know that the Christian churches have elaborate getups so please
understand that my appearance in a dark suit is not an act of dis-
respect but simply "my official attire. "

I am sure there will be a Bible on the pulpit. Am I right?

Sincerely,

Daniel Jeremy Silver

DJS:mp



Western Reserve Association

Ohio Conference

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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March 18, 1976

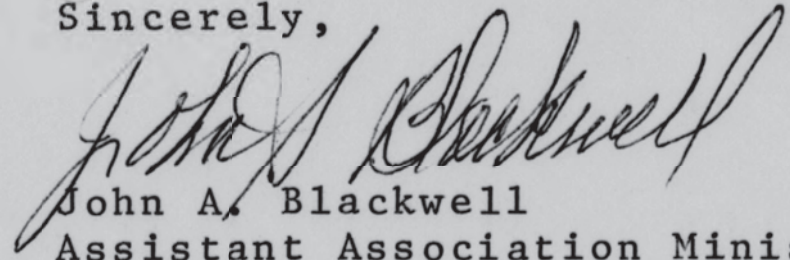
Rabbi Daniel Silver
University Circle
at Silver Park
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Rabbi Silver:

Regarding your letter of March 15, 1976 about your participation in the Ecumenical Service for Dr. Jacob Wagner, the service does not start until 4:00pm, not 3:00pm as stated in our letter of March 12th. If you can arrive at the Cathedral a few minutes before 4:00pm, that is perfectly fine.

We are pleased that you are willing to participate. Thank you again.

Sincerely,


John A. Blackwell
Assistant Association Minister

WESTERN RESERVE ASSOCIATION
3209 Broadview Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44109 (749-3116)

MEMO TO: Rabbi Silver

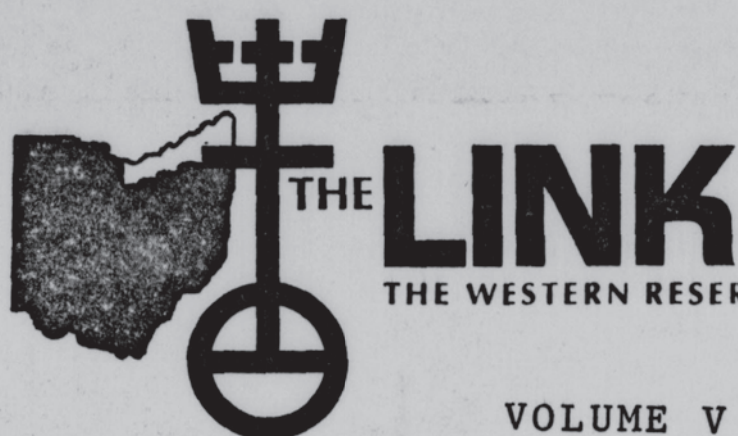
FROM: Dr. John A. Blackwell

RE:

Here is some biographical
information on Dr. Jacob Wagner
which you might find helpful
in giving your Welcome on
April 4th.

Carol Zygmunt, Secretary
to Dr. Blackwell

DATE: 3/29/76



THE LINK

THE WESTERN RESERVE ASSOCIATION • 3209 BROADVIEW ROAD • CLEVELAND, OHIO

VOLUME V - No. 1

MARCH, 1976

DR. JACOB WAGNER TO BE INSTALLED AS ASSOCIATION MINISTER AT 13th ANNUAL MEETING OF WESTERN RESERVE ASSOCIATION



On November 30, 1975, the Western Reserve Association extended a call to Dr. Jacob Wagner to serve as Association Minister.

The call was accepted and while Dr. Wagner begins his ministry on March 1st, his official installation will be held on May 8, 1976 during the 13th Annual Meeting of the Western Reserve Association.

The meeting will be held at Plymouth Church of Shaker Heights located on the corner of Coventry and Weymouth. David W. Rees is the minister.

The Reverend Nathanael M. Guphill, President of the Connecticut Conference, will be the principal speaker at the meeting. Other details are being worked out by the Annual Meeting Planning Committee, chaired by Rev. Rees. As soon as they are finalized, details will be sent to ministers and delegates of the Association.

Dr. Wagner comes to the Association from Faith U.C.C., State College, Pa., where he was pastor. Mr. Wagner, age 53, is known to many here in Ohio. He is a graduate of Oberlin Graduate School of Theology. He is the former pastor of First Reformed Church of Cincinnati and former President of Southwest Ohio Synod, 1959-63. This was an acting Conference of the United Church of Christ just before the present structure. The Synod was composed of 113 congregations and 33,000 members.

At State College, Pa., Mr. Wagner has had an outstanding ministry to the college students. Many students participate in the church life and attend worship service regularly. 15 students have entered the ministry from this church. Each year a Seminary intern is called to assist the pastor.

His denominational participation has been outstanding, beginning with work in his first pastorate in New York City. He has been a delegate to General Synod six times. He served on the Executive Council of U.C.C. 1965-61 and was the Chairman 1969-71. He was a U.C.C. delegate to the Fourth Assembly of the World Council of Churches, Uppsala, Sweden 1968 and the U.S. Conference of the World Council of Churches 1968-74.

(continued)

RECEPTION AND DINNER APRIL 4 WILL INTRODUCE DR. JACOB WAGNER TO ECUMENICAL * * * * * COMMUNITY * * * *

Dr. Wagner will be presented to the Ecumenical Community at a reception and dinner to be held in his honor at Trinity Cathedral, April 4th from 4 to 7 P.M.

The dinner and reception will be open to all representatives of the total church community. More detailed information will be sent to ministers, denominational leaders, and executives of ecumenical agencies.

Ecumenically, Rev. Wagner has been involved interracially, with senior citizens, open housing, United Campus Ministry, State Correctional Institute, Pa., Human Relations Commission of Pennsylvania.

Local Church Vitality, Evangelism, Christian Education, Stewardship, and Search for Faith, rated in the top ten priorities at the Tenth General Synod. These are top priorities in Rev. Wagner's ministry. He looks forward to serving this Association with enthusiasm and dedication.

His wife Gretchen, is a practicing medical doctor surgeon. Their 3 children are John, 22; Ann, 20; and Elizabeth, 17.

* * * * *

M POWER IN SUPPORT OF MISSIONS WILL BE LAUNCHED IN W.R.A.

M Power will be put into action sometime after March 28. It's a program which came out of the Tenth General Synod's action on "Stewards in Support of Missions" and will focus on the needs of mission of the church. Clarence Langer, Chairperson of the W.R.A. Stewardship Committee is spearheading the program for the Association.

Twenty people have already been trained to present this program to local churches. Mr. Langer is presently in the process of recruiting 36 additional ministers, lay-ministers and church members to join the presentation organization. The next training session will be held at First Church, Lakewood, on March 16. Reverend Paul Baumer of the Ohio Conference, Shared Leadership Staff will conduct the sessions.

The M Power program will focus on the urgent needs for local churches to increase their support of the mission program of the United Church of Christ. Only by stronger support can the church respond to the growing need to teach the faith, work for justice for all people, feed the hungry, clothe the naked and visit the sick and imprisoned. M Power will show you how you can do all of these things.

FAIRNESS DOCTRINE ENABLES LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TO PRESENT PRESI- DENTIAL CANDIDATES IN TOWN MEETING FORMAT OVER CHANNEL 25

The Fairness Doctrine, which makes the electronic media available to the public, was a victory of the United Church of Christ, in a battle with the F.C.C. spearheaded by Dr. Everett Parker, Director of the Office of Communication.

There have been many public benefits which resulted from this action of the United Church of Christ. One of the most recent was that it enabled the League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political action organization, to present presidential candidates in an open forum which is conducted like the old time town meeting.

Locally the programs are carried by Channel 25. There are several programs in the series; each will deal with specific subject areas.

The first program was aired live from Boston on February 23 and concerned itself with jobs, inflation and the cost of energy.

On March 1, the program will come from Miami and concentrate on Social Security, Welfare, Medical Care, and Veterans benefits.

On March 29, the program will originate from New York and will deal with Busing, Housing, Education, Crime, Transportation and Race.

Foreign Policy and Trade will be the topics on April 26 and will come from Chicago.

The May 24 forum will be held in Los Angeles and will discuss National Growth and Priorities.

All of the leading candidates have accepted invitations to appear on these programs except Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, and George Wallace.

Dr. Wagner, baruch haba, blessed be He who comes in the name of the Lord. We welcome you to Cleveland. May God give you strength - you will need it.

As a native Clevelander and as a rabbi who has served his congregation for two decades permit me to tell you a bit about your new home - our town. ^{Cleveland} ~~We~~ ^{SUFFER FROM} ~~have~~ all the problems of an aging, depressed, sprawling northern metropolis. Between 1890 and the Great Depression Cleveland was the fastest growing city in the United States and one of the proudest. We were pioneers in centralized social planning and the Community Chest. At one time we had a model and progressive government. Lincoln Steffans in The Shame of Our Cities called Cleveland the only well governed ^{Town} ~~city~~ in the United States. That was a long time ago. Much has changed ~~since the 1920's~~, but little has ^{occurred} ~~taken place~~ that could really be called ~~remarkable~~ progress. We are a town without a center. Our city is divided racially by the Cuyahoga River. Industrial sprawl and carelessness have spoiled our waterfront and our inner city parks. Our river has caught fire. Our air is cancerous. Our streets are littered. When I first came to Cleveland I walked the streets with confidence. No longer. Cleveland will never be confused with the city of God on earth.

Still, there are a number of good things about Cleveland. It is a town with a rich and diverse ethnic and racial heritage and a family town. There are some wonderful people here. One of the nice things about this town is that a number of us from various religious traditions have met with some regularity to share our concerns - in the process we have become friends.

Intra-religious cooperation has gone beyond an occasional pulpit exchange and a neighborhood Thanksgiving morning service, but we have been neither effective nor adept at translating our hopes and prophetic faith into practical

accomplishments. We have made countless pronouncements, but our endless meetings have given birth to few specific and concrete results. During the recent recession we established a number of hunger centers. Well and good - a beginning. We did not manage to translate our concern over hunger into effective state-wide anti-poverty programs.

Krister Stendahl recently suggested that the church must accept a reality in which Christendom is no longer coextensive with western civilization or even the American nation. Today religiously active and committed folk are a minority. The church joins the synagogue in exile. As a synagogue man may I suggest that one can be in exile and still not be impotent or inconsequential. For hundreds of years the Jewish community has retained its decency and continued to witness to God's law though it was ever and always a minority.

Your church and my synagogue share a two-fold task: domestically to establish discipline and a vital faith, a task each of us undertakes privately; the external to witness to the prophetic tradition, not only in words but in works. This is the task we share. Together we must find ways to enable our communities of the devoted to become effective agents of civic betterment.

There is a tendency in these shadowed times for the religious to pull up the drawbridge and to concentrate on evangelism, church vitality and home missions. These challenges need to be faced, but what will we have achieved if we stabilize membership, balance the budget and lose the world?

On behalf of the Jewish community I welcome you to Cleveland.

Yeyasher Kohaha - May God establish the work of your hands.



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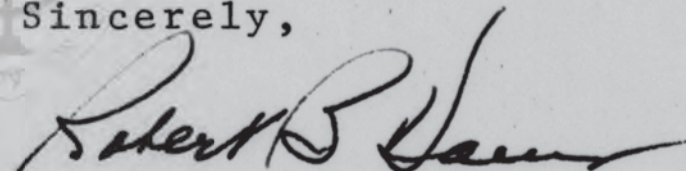
April 28, 1976

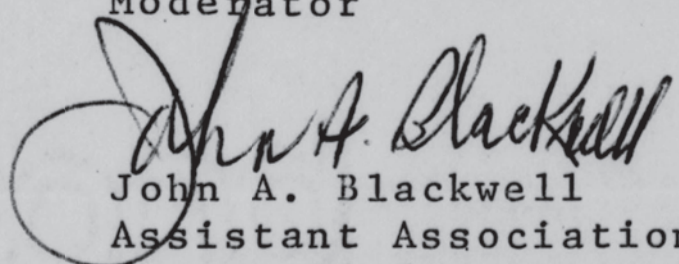
Rabbi Daniel Jeremy Silver
The Temple
University Circle at Silver Park
Cleveland, Ohio 44106

Dear Rabbi Silver:

It is with sincere gratitude that we at the Western Reserve Association along with Greater Cleveland Interchurch Council express our thanks for your part on April 4th in the ecumenical celebration for Dr. Jacob Wagner. You were a part of the group which made it a very worthwhile experience. We especially appreciated your remarks which were direct and to the point.

Sincerely,


Robert B. Davis
Moderator


John A. Blackwell
Assistant Association
Minister