

COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL

January 30, 1964

Dr. S. E. Coen  
19 Viola Rd.  
Longmeadow, Mass.

Dear Dr. Coen:

I just received the Kodimoh bulletin this morning and read about your election as President of the Synagogue.

Although I am quite busy because of my impending trip this week-end to South Africa, I want to rush to express to you my sincerest and most heartfelt congratulations.

I have heard a great deal in the past several years of all the work and service you have done for Kodimoh, and I know therefore that this honor is fully deserved. I am confident that, with the help of God, you will help maintain the high standards of Kodimoh and devote all your energies to that end.

I need not tell you that Kodimoh has always been my "first love." However modest my contributions to it may have been, I regard as most important of them the idea that Kodimoh can advance socially, quantitatively, and architecturally without in the least bit sacrificing its religious integrity, that it can be a completely Orthodox Synagogue and yet one of the foremost synagogues in the country. I know that there are those who do not see things in that way. I know, however, that in your hands Kodimoh will remain worthy of the hopes and prayers of so many people, and true to its own distinctive loyalties to Torah.

Accept, therefore, once again my most heartfelt wishes for a highly successful and distinguished tenure.

Mrs. Lamm joins me in these wishes and we both ask to be remembered to Mrs. Coen.

I hope to return from Africa at the end of the month, please God. Perhaps if you are in New York shortly after that time, you will let me know and I will be delighted to spend some time with you.

Cordially yours,

RABBI NORMAN LAMM

NL:ff

CC: Mr. I. Strick