

ה"ב

13 Massapoag Lane
Sharon, Mass. 02067
June 6, 1972

Dear Rabbi Lamm,

Thank you for your letter, and for your good wishes for our minyan. After only two months, with G-d's help, one new Orthodox family has already come into Sharon. We hope it will be the beginning of an influx. There are few places in eastern Massachusetts where a family of moderate means can bring up children in a non-urban environment and still have access to a halachic minyan.

One of the tasks that will confront us for some months to come is continuing publicity. At this early stage, many in Greater Boston are still not aware that there is an Orthodox minyan in Sharon, while others are waiting to see if the plant is hardy enough to take root.

We spread word of our existence through weekly notices, word of mouth, and week-end guests. We have found, however, that a news item, such as the enclosed one which you saw as a press release and which appeared on the front page of the Jewish Advocate in Boston, is far more effective. I therefore feel it is very important in coming months to place follow-up releases in the news pages.

Rabbi Louis Finkelstein of the Conservative seminary, whose son-in-law was my college roommate and who has been a good friend to me over the years, has also written me a fine letter about our minyan, and it occurs to me now that if you will permit me to quote from your letter, and if Rabbi Finkelstein gives similar permission regarding his, I can put together the sort of release that will be most helpful. I trust it is obvious that our minyan group is not desirous of publicity for publicity's sake, but only as a means to the initial momentum on which establishment of an Orthodox community here will depend. An Orthodox rabbi and a Conservative rabbi, both of great stature and both commenting on the Sharon project, is exactly the kind of thing that will prompt the editor of the Advocate to give us prominent space.

May I have tentative permission to quote from your letter of May 3 in a news release, subject to my submitting a complete draft of the release to you for your approval? The sentences I wish to use are as follows:

"I took special delight in learning the unusual way in which you have managed to establish an Orthodox minyan in a Conservative environment. From a mere 'presence' to a 'minyan' to a full 'shul'... May the next step be a fully functioning and vital Orthodox community."

"Despite all the difficulties, I think it is marvelous that this new Orthodox group should have been born out of friendship instead of in controversy."

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(Your allusion to controversy that might have occurred but did not, I feel not only does not hurt the comment, but provides a realism that adds to its force. I hope I may retain your words exactly as you wrote them.)

The passage in Rabbi Finkelstein's letter which I am asking his permission to quote is as follows:

"It was a particular pleasure to receive the pleasant announcement about what is being done in Sharon for the Orthodox Jews by the Conservative Congregation. I certainly want to congratulate all those involved on the way in which the situation is being handled."

It is also my hope that Rabbi Shmuel Labovitz, who received Semicha at the Chaim Berlin Yeshiva and who has been consulted frequently by my friend Mr. Arnold on behalf of our minyan, will give permission to be quoted as to the minyan's halachic correctness.

I am sure that you frequently receive requests for the use of your name and that you must be circumspect. Moreover, neither of us ever intended at the time that our correspondence should be anything but private. Yet, because continued exposure is so crucial to the success of our minyan in its embryonic stage, I hope you will see fit to let me go ahead with a draft, which will not be used unless you and all the persons quoted approve.

With warmest good wishes,



Myron S. Kaufmann

enclosure

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In Sharon

Conservatives Help Form Orthodox Congregation

In an unusual and perhaps unprecedented move, the Conservative congregation in Sharon has taken steps to facilitate the establishment of an Orthodox one.

As a result of a unanimous vote of its ritual com-

mittee, Temple Israel of Sharon has authorized a plan whereby some of its own members volunteer for an Orthodox Sabbath-morning minyan on a temporary basis, until enough Orthodox families affiliated with this group move into the town to establish their own minyan.

The Orthodox minyan is held weekly on a separate floor of the temple while the regular Conservative service goes on as usual in the sanc-

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tuary.

The action was taken after temple members learned that some Orthodox families in Sharon had for some time been seeking to persuade like-minded families to settle there, but without success.

The stumbling block had been that few Orthodox people in the Boston area wanted to move to Sharon until after this Orthodox minyan is established, at least for Sabbaths.

A spokesman for the group said that as soon as there are ten Orthodox families in Sharon to affiliate with this group they will form their own congregation and apply for a Young Israel charter. The temporary minyan is intended to tide over the early arrivals until that time.

Conservative backers of the Temple Israel move expressed the opinion that any increase in the number of observant Jews in Sharon will benefit Jewish life in the community as a whole.