



Arnold E. Kahnert Papers

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The Congregational Conference of Minnesota

525 Lumber Exchange, Minneapolis, Minnesota

REV. EVERETT LESHER, D. D., Superintendent
REV. A. K. VOSS, Assistant Superintendent

REV. J. P. MILLER, D. D., Twin City Superintendent
MR. J. M. McBRIDE, Treasurer

May 28, 1928.

Dear Brother:

In the building and equipping of the Chapel at Fort Snelling, the Congregational Church ought surely to be interested. All the other Protestant denominations have made substantial gifts to this end. We Congregationalists have not as yet contributed one penny. Don't you think we should do our fair share in this enterprise? There are a good many Congregational boys at the Fort and 200 children are enrolled in the Sunday School at the Chapel. Religious work of annonsectarian though of a gripping and practical spiritual nature is as necessary here as among any other group of people anywhere in the world. Doubtless the uplifting and spiritualizing influences of the Gospel of peace and goodwill are more necessary here among the 1500 men in the barracks than among any other equal number of American citizens.

Can your church not make an offering of fifty or one hundred dollars, or even more to this needed work? The Chapel is built, but equipment is necessary and your contribution will go to adequately furnishing the Chapel with this proper equipment.

I earnestly commend this matter to you and to your congregation. I have not been asked to write this letter, but in talking the matter over with Chaplain Rideout, I voluntarily offered to send this request to a few of our stronger churches, in company with his own enclosed appeal.

Very sincerely yours,

Everett Lesh

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MR. J. M. McBRIDE, Treasurer

May 9, 1928

Chaplain Frank C. Rideout,
Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

My dear Brother:

I cannot as yet say just when we can meet with the Board of our Church Building Society on the dates of May 22 to 24, but I shall make arrangements for such a meeting as soon as I can see Dr. Smith, the secretary and will get in touch with you by telephone at once.

I wish it were possible for you to be at Plymouth church on the morning of May 23, then we could interview Dr. Smith and make a date when he and members of his Board could visit the chapel and talk this matter over.

May I hope to see you on the morning of May 23.

Sincerely yours,

Everett Leshur

EL:BA

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MR. J. M. McBRIDE, Treasurer

March 30, 1928

Chaplain

Chaplain Frank C. Rideout,
Fort Snelling, Minn.

My dear Mr. Rideout:

I was sorry not to have met you when you called at our office yesterday. I shall be in the office Monday next, that is April 2. If you can come up, I shall be glad to have a talk with you with regard to the Chapel.

I believe our Congregational Building Society would put in \$1000 in this Chapel, and certainly should encourage it and back it in every way.

Come in and see me Monday if you possibly can and we will get this thing started.

Cordially yours,

Everett Leshor

EL:BA

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REV. J. P. MILLER, D. D., Twin City Superintendent
MR. J. M. McBRIDE, Treasurer

April 4, 1928

Chaplain Frank C. Rideout,
Fort Snelling, Minnesota.

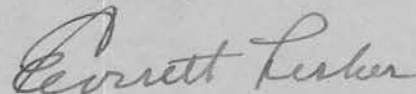
My dear Mr. Rideout:

Since talking with you over the telephone, I have been thinking that unless you wanted to make a trip east to see Rev. James Robert Smith, D.D., of New York, secretary of the Church Building Society, right away, that if you could wait until May, our Extensive Boards, including the Building Society, will have their annual meeting here in Minneapolis, Plymouth Church, May 22 to 24.

Dr. Smith and his whole Board will be here at that time. You can personally see them then and we could arrange to have them visit the Fort and see the new chapel.

If you can wait until that time, I think it would be to your advantage to do so. Kindly let me have your reaction.

Sincerely yours,



EL:BA

FORT SNELLING MEMORIAL CHAPEL AND
COMMUNITY CENTER ASSOCIATION, Inc.

SAINT PAUL :: MINNEAPOLIS

SUMNER T. MCKNIGHT
General Chairman
MINNEAPOLIS

GOV. THEODORE CHRISTIANSON
Honorary Chairman, Minnesota

CARL T. SCHUNEMAN
General Chairman
ST. PAUL

March 23, 1928.

*File
Congregational*

Chaplain Frank C. Rideout,
Fort Snelling, Minn.

Dear Chaplain Rideout:

Here is a copy of a letter I got
today from Dr. Dewey of the Plymouth Congrega-
tional Church.

Although it doesn't sound particu-
larly encouraging, I believe it would be a good
plan for you to attend the May conference at
Austin, Minn.

Yours very truly,

Sumner T. McKnight

FORT SNELLING MEMORIAL CHAPEL AND COMMUNITY CENTER ASSOCIATION, INC.

OFFICERS

COL. W. E. WELSH, <i>President</i>	SUMNER T. MCKNIGHT, <i>Treasurer</i>
CARL T. SCHUNEMAN, <i>Vice-President</i>	S. M. SHEPARD, <i>Ass't. Treasurer</i>
CAPTAIN FRANK C. RIDEOUT <i>Secretary</i>	LIEUT. JAMES A. NOTESTEIN, <i>Ass't. Treasurer</i>

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(Committees as of January 1, 1926)

COPY

March 22, 1928.

Mr. Sumner T. McKnight,
1236 McKnight Bldg.,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Dear Mr. McKnight :

Referring to your recent communication relating to the campaign for funds to complete the financing of the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel, I write to say that the proposal made to the Plymouth Church was discussed at a recent meeting of our Board of Trustees and Prudential Committee, and I was directed to reply to you, suggesting that the most appropriate way of approaching Congregational churches would be through the meeting of the Minnesota Congregational Conference which will be held at Austin, Minn., in the second week in May. It was thought that it would be useful to have Chaplain Rideout himself present the appeal of the Chapel Association to the delegates from the churches then assembled. The Congregational Conference is clothed with no authority to assess the churches, but a strong appeal might result in stirring interest in some of the churches which would yield financial returns. You may best make the arrangements for such a presentation by Chaplain Rideout through Dr. Everett Leshner, Superintendent of the State Conference, 525 Lumber Exchange, Minneapolis.

Let me add that while we of the Plymouth Church do not see how we as a church could make any contribution, at least in the near future, for our Sundays allotted to special collections are already provided for through 1928, individual members of the parish have already given to this project, with which all of our people can be bit in warmest sympathy.

Trusting that these suggestions will be of value to you in indicating a fruitful line of procedure with respect to Congregationalists of the state, I am

faithfully yours,

(Signed) H.P. Dewey

HEADQUARTERS, FORT SNELLING, MINNESOTA.

OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN

March 30, 1928.

Rev. Everett Leshar, D.D.,
525 Lumber Exchange,
Minneapolis, Minn.

My dear Dr. Leshar:-

I am enclosing herewith copy of a letter which I received a few days ago from Mr. Sumner McKnight. Mr. McKnight has been very anxious with all the members of the Board of Directors of the FORT SNELLING MEMORIAL CHAPEL AND COMMUNITY CENTER ASSOCIATION to complete the chapel without much more delay. He wrote Dr. Dewey concerning a donation and this is the reply.

It may interest you to know that we have now received donations from the following in the amounts stated: Baptists, \$2,000.00; Lutherans, \$2,000.00; Episcopalians, \$1,000.00; Universalists \$1000.00. All these gifts have come from national funds, that is from the Home Mission Societies. In addition to this the Methodists last week, through their Minneapolis Ministers organization asked for the sum of \$1,000.00. The Presbyterians will present an appeal through Dr. Harshaw to the national Home Mission Board next week. In order to be represented in the Chapel other religious bodies have raised funds in local churches as follows: Christian Science, \$500.00; Jewish \$300.00, and Unitarian about \$2,000.00. The latter church raised about \$3,000.00 among the members of Unity Church of St. Paul.

I do hope that the Congregational~~ist~~ Church will come in and help us. It seems that you ought to in view of some facts which I would like to call to your attention:

(1) Eight years ago the Chaplains Corps of the Army was organized with a Chief of Chaplains at the head. Colonel John T. Axten one of your Congregational Chaplains was appointed Chief by the President - THE FIRST CHIEF OF CHAPLAINS. In this way your body was signally honored. Chaplain Axten has done a piece of work of which his denomination and all others are proud.

(2) Twenty three Chaplains of the U.S. Army lost their lives during the World War. The only minister from the Northwest, as far as I can find out, was the Rev. Harry Diman who was commissioned a Chaplain from the First Congregational Church of Minneapolis. In view of this fact, and in view of the fact that such a wonderful Memorial is being established here in Minnesota, his service and his sacrifice should not be forgotten. No finer opportunity will ever come to do this.

In my opinion the National Board of Home Missions of your Church will be proud and glad to make a contribution to this worthy un-

undertaking if the matter is put up to them as it ought to be.

I would be glad to make a trip to New York to visit the officials of your Body if your denomination will furnish me with the proper credentials. And, I rather hope that you will not wait until after the May gathering mentioned by Dr. Dewey to take this matter up. We hope to have the building completed and dedicated before the end of June. We can do this with just a little more help and that is why I have made my appeal urgent and insistent.

Very sincerely yours,

Frank C. Rideout
Chaplain, U.S.A.

cong.

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FORT SNELLING, MINNESOTA. DECEMBER 6, 1927.

Rev. Everett Leshar,
Congregational Headquarters,
525 Lbr. Exchange, Mpls., Minn.

My dear Dr. Leshar:-

Through the co-operation of the Minnesota Officials of the Baptist Denomination a gift of TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS came recently to the Fort Snelling Memorial Chapel Association, without any conditions attached, to enable us to go on with the building operations. The gift came from the American Baptist Home Mission Society. Prior to this many of the Baptist Churches of the twin cities had made generous contributions to the project.

A recent census of the denominational affiliation of the personnel of Fort Snelling shows that the Baptists stand fifth in numerical strength. In all the history of the garrison there have been but two Chaplains of the Baptist denomination on tours of duty here. Perhaps it will be many years before there is another.

In view of this fact and in consideration of the fact that there are perhaps not less than 100 Congregational boys at Fort Snelling, it seems but reasonable to expect that your denomination will want to see the speedy and successful conclusion of this worthy undertaking. This bit of pioneer work on the part of Minnesota citizens will go far to redeem every army post in America from its poverty of religious equipment. A precedent is being established here.

We need at least \$10,000.00 to go on to completion. I covet for the other denominations and especially for the Congregationalists, who⁸⁸ history has been one of glorious traditions, a fuller share in the undertaking, and I am writing to ask that this matter be placed before your executive board with a view of giving me such credentials and letters of introduction as will enable me to present the matter to the proper authorities. Or, perhaps you will want to do this direct.

The Chapel will be a religious contribution to the entire Northwest. It will serve the larger interests of the entire Kingdom of God.

"A Center of Friendliness"

The Community Church

(CONGREGATIONAL)

Morningside Road and Grimes Avenue

MINNEAPOLIS

4003 Morningside Rd.

Chaplain Rev. F.C. Rideout

Dec 10 1925

H. Snelling

acknowledged
Dec 11, 1925

Dear Bro.:- At a meeting of the Twin City Congregational Ministers' Association held recently the following Resolution was passed:-

"Whereas we have learned that the active raising of funds for the purpose of building a chapel at Fort Snelling is going forward under the Leadership of Mr. Sumner T. McKnight Be it resolved that we the members of the Twin City Congregational Ministers' Association express our hearty sympathy with the project; our earnest hope and prayers for the success of the Undertaking; and our appreciation of the services of those who are raising the funds and the generosity of the subscribers.

And be it further resolved that we instruct our secretary to send a copy of these Resolutions to Mr. McKnight and to Chaplain Rideout."

I am most sincerely Yours
Francis J. Price

Secy. of Congregational
Ministers' Association
of Twin Cities.

The Congregational Conference of Minnesota

525 Lumber Exchange, Minneapolis, Minnesota

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REV. A. K. VOSS, Assistant Superintendent

REV. J. P. MILLER, D. D., Twin City Superintendent
MR. J. M. McBRIDE, Treasurer

December 8, 1927

Captain Frank C. Rideout,
Fort Snelling, Minn.

My dear Captain Rideout:

I have your letter with reference to the gift of the Baptists toward the completion of the Chapel at Fort Snelling. That is a fine gift and I wish we were able to duplicate it.

I shall be very glad to bring this matter to the attention of my Executive Board at our very first meeting which will come sometime this month. I doubt very much if we as a Conference can give a direct gift to the Chapel at this time as our benevolence money is coming in slow and we, ourselves, are behind.

I think you must have the list of our Twin City churches and of course, you are at perfect liberty to appeal to these churches for such help as they may be able to give. I should think you would get some substantial support from them.

Sincerely yours,

Everett Leshen
B.A.

EL:BA

HEADQUARTERS, FORT SNELLING, MINNESOTA.

OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN

December 9, 1927.

My dear brother Lasher:-

I fear that I did not make it plain to you in my former letter that the gift from the Baptists came as the result of the interest and recommendation of the Baptist Convention of the state of Minnesota.

The gift was from the Baptist Home Mission Society of NEW YORK CITY. That is the head office is in N.Y. The Society represents the Northern Baptists.

It may be of interest to you to know that Bishop Lock is endeavouring to secure a gift from the Methodist Church Extension Society, Philadelphia.

We have made an appeal to the churches, individual, of all denominations. The attempt to secure a Fort Snelling Sunday failed in Minneapolis. St. Paul churches did splendidly.

The fact is that we have raised over \$30,000.00 for the Chapel in St. Paul, while Minneapolis, churches, firms, patriotic organizations, and individuals have only given about \$20,000.00 in all. Mpls. newspapers refuse to print this fact.

There has been some very sullen opposition in Mpls. I think I know, but I may not have the real solution. You doubtless remember that the Catholics withdrew from the project, and it is being built by Protestants. One minister said to me, "If I assist you in that project, I will be supporting militarism". Strange argument, to be sure.

For the sake of the boys, the children (220 of them) and for the sake of the Kingdom, I hope that the Christian forces will assist us in putting this thing over in the near future. I still believe it a most worthy object for help from the national bodies of Christians, and I believe that all the larger bodies will help as the Baptists have done, if they are properly approached.

Yours very sincerely,

Chaplain, U.S.A.

HEADQUARTERS, FORT SNELLING, MINNESOTA.

OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN

April 11, 1928

Rev. Everett Leshar, D.D.,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

My dear Dr. Leshar:-

I have your letter and I thank you for the suggestion. I believe that it will be as well for me to wait, as you suggest, until the meeting here in May.

I took the opportunity and liberty of reading your letters to members of our Board of Directors at our meeting last Saturday.

With the encouragement that ^{they} ~~it~~ contained together with encouragement from other sources, they went ahead and ordered the balance of the furniture for the main auditorium of the Chapel.

I do hope that members of your organization will come out here, as the Baptists, Methodists and Lutherans and Episcopalians have done. I am sure that the building itself will convince them.

At the convenience of your officials I shall hope for an opportunity of appearing before them, or if it can be arranged for all to come out to the Chapel I can tell them the story there. Will you be kind enough to plan all this for me.

Very sincerely yours,

Chaplain, U.S.A.

The Congregational Conference of Minnesota

525 Lumber Exchange, Minneapolis, Minnesota

REV. EVERETT LESHER, D. D., Superintendent
REV. A. K. VOSS, Assistant Superintendent

REV. J. P. MILLER, D. D., Twin City Superintendent
MR. J. M. McBRIDE, Treasurer

April 11, 1928

Chaplain Frank C. Rideout,
Fort Snelling, Minn.

My dear Chaplain Rideout:

I really think it would be to your advantage to wait until the meeting of our Extension Boards here in May when I will arrange to have Dr. Smith and members of the Board meet you and visit the chapel.

I feel quite confident that this will go through.

Very truly yours,

Everett Leshu

EL:BA