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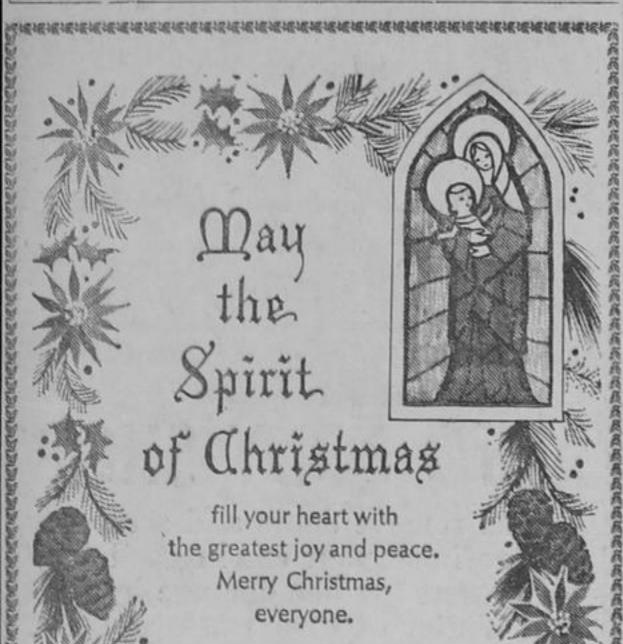
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United Church Prepares For Sweeping Changes

By MARGARET McLEAN Presbytery of the United Church accepted recently a report by Project Planning Associates Limited which will see 35 of the Presbytery's churches closed in the next 20 years, 11 new churches created and eight

enlarged In introducing the report at King City, Rev. Albion Wright, chairman of York Presbytery stated that the church would "not follow minutely every recommendation nor casually cast it aside". It was intended, he said, as a guide to the location and size of churches, the expansion and maintenance of existing churches and the grouping of churches

Population in the area is expected to double in the next 20 years, Mr. Wright noted and the consolidation of industry, shopping centres, schools and recreation areas will have broad effects on the church, socially and phy-

York Presbytery includes all of North Gwillimbury, East Gwillimbury, Whitchurch, Markham, Scott and Uxbridge Townships; large parts of King, Vaughan, Georgina and Reach and small parts of Tecumseth, West Gwillimbury, Scarboro, Pickering and Brock Towncharges. While most of York County north of the Macdonald-Cartier Freeway is included, Thornhill is not, but is part of Toronto Presbytery.

The report, recognizing that the average cost of operating a modern church in a Toronto suburb is \$22,000 per year, plus \$15,000 for capital improvements, pointed out that York Presbytery could have churches comparable to those in Canadian urban areas only if fewer churches with larger membership were created.

This would result in

quate number of lay leaders, well-trained ministers and well designed and inspiring

sanctuaries and buildings. Based on the assumption that Canadian and Ontario economic growth will continue, the report noted that 90% of future population increase is expected in the corridor along Yonge Street. EXPECT RAPID POPULA-

TION INCREASE Based on existing official plans, development is expected to be rapid between 1965 and 1970 in Markham, Unionville, Concord and Thornhill districts, all located at interchanges of proposed controlled-access highways, close to large industrial development, in areas suitable for sewage disposal and with plants either under construc-

tion or authorized. With sewage plants now operating at existing capacity and no plans for new ones, growth in the Richmond Hill and Aurora areas is expected to be slower for the next few years. Newmarket, Aurora, Richmond Hill, Maple and Stouffville are expected to have a smaller percentage of growth. Although Newmarket has a good physical site for development, Aurora and Richmond Hill are more difficult to service with small streams limiting sewage dis-

It was noted that while farm population in Canada as a whole had declined 19% between 1951 and 1961, in Ontario it had declined 25% and in York Presbytery by 27%. The trend was strongest near Toronto where the drop in farm population was 38% in these years, compared to 7% decline in Scott and Georgina Townships.

Predicted land use was based on site inspections, interviews with municipal and provincial officials, suitabilty of site for anticipated development, location of existing and anticipated sewage treatment plants, the report

In the Aurora, Oak Ridges, King City, Sharon and Mount churches nearly full every

Sunday, large choirs, an ade- Albert districts, it was felt nearness to existing or future that dominant factors in future development would be topography and drainage; peripheral development only was forecast for Schomberg. Sutton and Uxbridge.

No definite prediction was made for development in the areas, already designated future residential, of Steeles Avenue district, Thornhill East, Richmond Hill South and the western portion of the Thornhill area, as it was felt that development here could not be isolated from the general spread of Metro.

However, three possibilities were mentioned for these areas: either they may be found less suitable for development than other areas adjacent to Metro and would therefore grow slowly; they may be equally as attractive as others and grow more rapidly with a possible 50,000 population in the Steeles district, 30,000 in east Thornhill; 14,000 in south Richmond Hill and 22,000 in west Thornhill; or the proposed Highways 404 and 407 may bring rapid development with 75,000 in Steeles district, 45,000 in Thornhill east, 20,000 in south Richmond Hill and 34,000 in Thornhill west in the next 20 years. It was felt that the possibility of rapid development in these areas is considerable.

PLAN 21 CHURCH DISTRICTS In the light of the foregoing, Project Planning Associates evolved 21 church

districts in the presbytery centered on Aurora, Cedar Grove, Georgina Island, Goodwood, Keswick, Kettleby, King, Maple, Markham, Melville, Mount Albert, Newmarket, Oak Ridges, Queensville, Richmond Hill, Stouffville, Sutton, Unionville, Uxbridge, Wesley and Zephyr.

A three and a half mile radius from church sites was used, increasing to five miles in rural areas. Individual churches were evaluated in terms of existing acreage, resident membership, average attendance, seating capacity, condition of buildings,

population centres and potential for expansion.

mum sized church should have 257 members, with a 300 seat church on at least two acres of land; a 500 seat church would require three

a three-acre site be acquired at Concord for a 1,000 member church with a seating capacity of 550. At Goodwood, it was recommended that the present two-acre property be increased to four; at King City, the present 2.1 acre site be increased to 2.5 acres; that an additional 3.1 acres be added to the present 3.1 acre site at Maple; that the present 3.5 acres at Oak Ridges also be doubled; that at Richmond Hill, a further 1.5 acres be added to a present 8-acre site, a further 3 acres be added to the second site, now 5.1 acres, and that a third site of 3 acres be acquired; at Richvale, a 2-acre site be acquired and at Victoria Square, three acres be added to the present 3-acre site.

that the following churches be closed: Ashworth, Ballantrae, Bethesda, Box Grove, Brown's Corners, Calvary, Cherrywood, Dunkerron, Epsom, Ebenezer, Fifth Line, Headford, Hope (already closed), Hartman, Laskay, Lemonville, Locust Hill, Melville, Mount Pisgah, Mussellman's Lake, Pottageville, Ravenshoe, Siloam, Sharon, Stouffville, Snowball, Sandford, Temperanceville, Teston, Udora, Utica, Virginia, Vroomanton, Wesley and Whitevale.

New churches were recommended, at Aurora, Concord, Kettleby, Markham, Newmarket, Richmond Hill, Richvale, Stouffville and Wesley. Expansion of eight churches at Cedar Grove, bert, Schomberg, Sutton,

Unionville and Victoria Square, was also recom-

It was felt that the mini-

TO ACQUIRE NEW SITES

Brown's Corners would not It was recommended that be able to compete.

well placed. CHARGES

It was also recommended

Keswick, Maple, Mount Al-

Corners Church, it was noted that the Metro official plan calls for development south and west of the intersection of Highways 404 and 407 (proposed) and if this development takes place, three new churches would be needed in the area in the next 30 years and it was felt that

With respect to Brown's

However, if the development does not occur of spreads easterly, this church could probably remain in ex-

With respect to the closing of the Headford church, while it was found to be a fine church in good condition, it was felt that Victoria Square church was larger, more centrally located and better suited to be a district church, Similarly, it was felt that Ebenezer church was not

END THREE POINT

As well as accepting the report of Project Planning Associates Limited, at the November 23 meeting, the presbytery also accepted a recommendation of its Planning and Development Committee that three point charges no longer be considered acceptable and that the congregations of Goodwood, King City, Sandford-Zephyr, Victoria Square and Whitevale be prepared to eliminate these by June, 1967.

It was also agreed that immediate land acquisition be considered at Aurora, Concord, Markham, Newmarket, Richmond Hill and Richvale.

When a pastoral vacancy occurs at any of the churches recommended to be closed, the planning and development committee (one of which is to be elected for all congregations) will consult with the Presbytery Planning and Development Committee in addition to the Pastoral Relations Commit-

The Presbytery Planning and Development Committee consists of Rev. Binnington, chairman, Rev. A. A. Lavis, Unionville, Rev. A. R. Wright, Markham and Del Booth, lay representative, of Kettleby.

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Before The Magistrate

Threatening Couple With Beating Brings Conviction For R. Hill Boy

Threatening the father and A Toronto youth, Gerald mother of his alleged girl friend Winiarski, 19, who was remandresulted in a Richmond Hill ed two weeks ago for decision youth being ordered to post a on his defence counsel's argu-\$500 bond to keep the peace for ment in a preliminary hearing a year when he was convicted on a charge of possession of last week in Magistrate's Court, burglar tools, was committed to

The charge of threatening trial. against Dayne Morley, 18, of 7 Winiarski and Nicholas J. Rockport Crescent, also stated Abella, 21, also of Toronto, who that he uttered the remarks: was committed on the same of-"C'mon out of there and I'll fence during the opening hearbeat you and your wife up," to ing, were picked up by Vaughan Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Hills, 441 Township Police September 22, Elmwood Avenue, after hanging near the Thorncrest Motel in around their store for most of Concord, about 2.30 am.

the evening of November 16. A nearby service station had Mr. Hills testified that Morley been broken into earlier and a had been bothering his 14-year- pry bar, which was later found old daughter and had been told to have similar markings on to stay away from the premises, as that of the station door, was However, he had continued to found in Winiarski's car. come around, and on the night Winiarski said the bar belongin question had come to the ed to him and that he carried store run by the Hills on Elm- it for protection, having re-

the threat several times through Magistrate Hollinrake said the accused's admission of own-Mrs. Hills said she had been ership was sufficient evidence frightened of him for five to place him on trial for pos-

wood Avenue, and had uttered cently been beaten up.

months." She said the accused session. had always been "hanging around" the parking lot or some other part of the apartment

building they lived in. In his testimony, Morley said he had been seeing the Hills daughter since August. He said he had not threatened the complainant. The latter had told him the previous evening he would "take him apart," so he was calling around now to give

him the chance. William Morley, father of the accused and a school teacher in Aurora, said he had had some previous trouble with his son, but felt he could "control him"

Morley, who is at present on probation on a charge of theft, does not attend school and has been unemployed most of the

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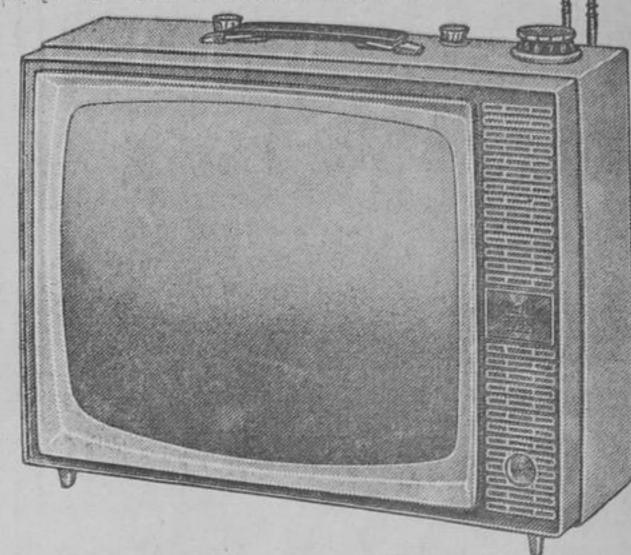
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