

CONGREGATIONALISTS IN "STEP UP" MOVE

Winnetka Church Co-operates in National Movement to Strengthen Church Work

A nation-wide "Step-Up" movement to increase support for the work of the Congregational churches is being launched this month. All members are asked in connection with the annual Every Member Canvass which

will be taken by most of the churches on Sunday, December 9, to "Step Up" to a higher level of giving. The Winnetka Congregational church is co-operating in this movement.

All other costs, it is said, rise annually and the cost of the local and world work of the churches also increases. If progress is not made in giving the churches will fall back in their work. To stand still is to step down. In order for the churches to hold their own there must be a "Step Up."

The "Step Up" movement was ini-

tiated by the denomination's Commission on Missions.

Explain System

Persons now giving ten cents a week are asked to increase to fifteen cents, those giving fifty cents to sixty-five, those giving a dollar to a dollar and a quarter and those giving other amounts to make similar increases.

"The plan," according to Dr. Charles C. Merrill of Chicago, secretary of the commission, "is so simple that it is almost certain to bring a smile when presented in a public way. But if it is followed it will mean greater resources for the local church in its serv-

ice to its membership, to its community and to the world.

"The individual giver is the person whose 'Step Up' is of essential importance. His 'Step Up' will make possible a 'Step Up' for his local church. This in turn if carried out in all or in many of the churches of the state will bring about the 'Step Up' of the state. The states together will make the 'Step Up' for the nation."

The Every Member Canvass has become generally recognized not only by Congregational churches but also in other communions during the last eighteen years as the most business-like and successful method for financing modern church work. Visitors or canvassers in pairs visit every home in a parish. Each person in every home is asked to enlist in the support of the church through a definite pledge, large or small. Experience, it is stated, has shown that the canvass strongly promotes the unity of the churches, "binding the members more closely together in their common loyalty to the task of building Christ's kingdom in the world."

The "Step Up" plan has already been successfully used several years by a number of progressive churches including the Flatbush church, Brooklyn, where the plan originated, and the Broadway Tabernacle, New York. This year all the state Congregational conferences have united with the national Commission on Missions to introduce the plan throughout the country.

Aids Home Missions

In home missionary work the "Step Up," it is said, will mean better support for home missionary pastors serving in communities otherwise without adequate religious ministrations; it will mean more aid for new churches, parish houses and parsonages; it will mean the promotion of more thorough religious education in church, community and college throughout the country; it will mean improved schools and centers for social work among people of the "underprivileged" races in United States; it will make possible more tangible evidence of appreciation to aged and retired ministers for their years of faithful labor.

In foreign work the "Step Up" will open new rooms in Christian schools for hundreds of boys and girls for whom now there are no accommodations; it will provide physical and spiritual healing for many patients who cannot now be received into the mission hospitals; it will extend the influence of the Christian gospel to many thousands of lives.

Churches Must Hold Place

The churches, it is held, must either strengthen their local and their missionary work or lose their rightful place in a growing world. The work is all for one purpose: "to build righteousness, brotherliness and goodwill into the structure of the modern world that the Spirit of Christ may rule."

The total amount which is needed to finance the regular local and missionary work of the 5,548 Congregational churches in the United States during 1929 is over twenty-five million dollars exclusive of the increase which will come through the "Step Up" plan. The amount raised last year by the churches for local expenses was \$22,056,818; the amount raised for regular missionary work was \$3,076,663. The communicant membership of the churches is 928,558.

The missionary work includes the activities of over 3,000 American pastors, evangelists, teachers, physicians, nurses and social workers employed in this country and abroad, and the help of 5,755 nationals employed in foreign countries.

DONATES SCENES

Mrs. Douglas Smith, of 915 Sheridan road, has donated some Venetian and Roman scenes to the Horace Mann school.



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