

1118 Central Avenue
Elsie, Wis. 53511

August 30, 1983

Mr. Stan Rubenstein, Director
Henry George School of Social Science
5 East 44th Street
New York, New York 10017

Dear Stan:

Subject: Georgist Clearinghouse for Interreligious Network

Thanks for your August 24, 1983, letter. Bless you for undertaking setting up a religious clearinghouse and network. Attached are the several paragraphs you invited as to what others could do to help and whom to write and contact. Also attached is a photocopy of the carbon copy I kept of the first draft of the proposed 1984 United Methodist General Conference resolution, which I hope you will find easier to duplicate.

You already have a retyped ditto copy of my resolution to the 1983 United Methodist Wisconsin Annual Conference, but I've enclosed a photocopy of the actual copy that was in the packets of the conference delegates. Also enclosed is the four-page presentation I had made March 1-2 to the Conference Board of Church and Society, which (with cooperation of the pastors of First United Methodist Church,) I typed and got 1500 copies run off and drove up to Sun Prairie so that it was included also in the packets of the conference delegates.

My Property Tax Task Force resolution itself did not get voted on at the Wis. United Methodist Annual Conference. I attended the conference as a non-delegate, even sitting through the Evaluation Committee meetings June 1 and 2. On June 3 when the agenda time allocated for Church & Society resolutions came, the three formally endorsed by the Wis. Conference Board of Church and Society took up a lot of time for debate; and then counter-resolutions on the topics (Nestle boycott, nuclear waste disposal, and economic justice) came from the floor, followed by other delegates bringing up resolutions on gambling and homosexuality, and time was shut off for Church and Society before the A.S. District Council on Ministries chairman could get the floor to move for adoption of my resolution. Therefore, the only way my resolution could get before the delegates was the next day, June 4, when budget for Church and Society was considered. The delegates were in no mood to fund anything; one had already moved to freeze ministers' salaries. Since the conference, I have written to the Conference Board of Church & Society chairperson and asked for 45 minutes on the agenda of the October meeting to show "For the Land is Mine," which Woodrow Williams will lend to me. ~~Since~~ I can't get a resolution as a result of a statewide conference task force, I'll make the effort through the existing Conference Board of Church & Society.

Some additional of my religious work is also enclosed, which I hope you will find useful. You are welcome to share it with Jerry Schleicher and Walt Rybeck and Tony Meis. Earlier this year I wrote to the United Methodist General Board of Church and Society and sent my paper, "The Economy and Factors of Production: Land, Labor, and Capital." It doesn't contain much new material to Georgists, since I borrowed much from them, but I hope it provides some new insights to Mr. Ogil.

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August 30, 1983

The "Land Stewardship and Economic Factors" paper was the result of sharing with me by Don Bengers of the "Strangers and Guests" Catholic statement, and subsequent prodding from Bill Newcomb. I sent copies of the "Land Stewardship" paper to all Wisconsin Catholic Bishops, to the American Lutheran Church Office of Church and Society, and to the United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society. Copies of my cover letters are enclosed, drawing their attention to particular paragraphs and sharing additional insights.

Housing was my first effort on the United Methodist Wis. Conference Board of Church and Society, since an agenda and budget item already existed for housing when I came "on board;" and I then set up and coordinated two urban housing seminars in Madison and Milwaukee. My "Housing" research paper was distributed both places. My "Housing Is a Conflict" paper was inserted in the packets of the Wisconsinites from many denominations who attended the 1982 IMPACT Legislative Briefing Day in Madison. The committee was mostly laity who helped me set up the Madison urban housing seminar, and I was invited to be on the program at that seminar, speech attached.

When I did a 1982 program for the United Methodist Women at Beloit First United Methodist Church, "We Are Part of the Earth...Food, Land and Justice," I worked the site tax into my closing remarks (speech attached.) Among the other religious "hats" I wear is vice-president of United Methodist Women at Beloit First United Methodist, member of board of directors of Caritas interdenominational emergency needs organization, member of IMPACT, and member of Bread for the World.

Sincerely,

Madine W. Stoner
(Pres., UPOL-Beloit)

Encls.

August 30, 1983

TO: Stan Rubenstein, NGS of New York, 5 East 44th Street, New York 10017

FROM: Madine Stoner, 1118 Central Ave., Deloit, Wis. 53511

SUBJECT: Item for October newsletter of religious network of Georgists.

at the July 1983 Georgist Conference in California, Madine Stoner of Deloit, Wis., convened a Sunday morning meeting of United Methodists from California, Nebraska, Ohio, and Georgia to devise strategy for submitting a resolution to the 1984 United Methodist General Conference. Madine has since authored the first draft of the resolution on "Stewardship and Economic Justice of Land Use through Property Tax Reform" and sent it to the other nine Georgists at that meeting for their own input and for feed-back from the local United Methodist contacts. After they respond, Madine will revise the first draft to incorporate their suggestions, and mail back to them the second draft of the resolution for approval. Then the United Methodists will solicit signatures of other United Methodists in their own area for the resolution to the General Conference. The signed resolutions are to be collected and submitted to the General Conference petitions chairman by January 1, 1984, or March 1, 1984, latest.

United Methodists interested in being part of this General Conference resolution effort should contact Madine Stoner, 1118 Central Ave., Deloit, Wis. 53511. Assistance is needed to provide input on the first draft of the resolution, to sign or solicit signatures of fellow United Methodists, to lobby delegates from home states to the General Conference, and to write to United Methodist periodicals to provide grass roots support.

Mrs. Stoner is the Southeast District Council on Ministries representative to the Wisconsin Conference Board of Church and Society, and is a member of the Church and Society Committee of First United Methodist Church, Deloit. On her own, she proposed a resolution to the 1983 Wisconsin Annual Conference, and got the backing of her Church and Society Committee in Deloit and of the Southeast District Council on Ministries. The resolution itself did not get voted on, as Church and Society Conference agenda time expired before the S.A. District Council on Ministries chairman could get the floor to move its adoption. All delegates, however, became more informed as not only the resolution itself but also a 4-page Conference Board of Church and Society presentation Mrs. Stoner had made were included in delegate packets.

Georgists of any denomination can help if they live or have relatives or friends in Wisconsin. Wisconsin Property Owners League-Deloit, of which Mrs. Stoner is president, is sponsoring enabling legislation to permit local option site value taxation. Needed are people to contact Wisconsin legislators from their home areas and encourage their site tax legislation support.

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