

*Church
Lovers*

X-From: AFReese [REDACTED] Tue Aug 3 14:33:50 1999
Return-Path: <AFReese [REDACTED]>
From: AFReese Jr [REDACTED]
Date: Tue, 3 Aug 1999 15:32:56 EDT
Subject: Appeal of Decision
To: Lynn Owens-whalen [REDACTED] (Lynn Owens-Whalen),
aupshal [REDACTED] (Alan Upshall), daw [REDACTED] (D.A. Williams)
CC: ellis [REDACTED] (Ellis Jones)

All,

In a 26 July 1999 e-mail message, Ellis J. Jones, in his position as Co-Chairperson of the 1999 Minneapolis Venue Committee, submitted an appeal of a decision made during the mid-year meeting of 15 May 1999 in Niagara Falls, Ontario. According to Ellis, the Board decided not to allow the use of colored envelopes to identify contributions of WNGGA attendees to the collection during the Sunday church service.

I have not been able to find any reference to a decision on this matter in the minutes provided me. Even if a decision was made, and I'm not questioning the fact, in the absence of a quorum, no decision could be valid unless ratified by the Board. The Board has not been asked to do so.

All of that is background.

In messages between me and Ellis, I have determined the following:

The Sunday church service is not a WNGGA service. It is the regular 11:00AM church service of the Central Lutheran Church. There will be a Welsh-English preacher, three Welsh hymns, and time for the WNGGA Memorial Service immediately following the sermon. We are not paying for the organist, renting an organ, or other expenses normally incurred when the WNGGA service is held in a hotel ballroom.

We are paying \$1,400 for the use of church facilities for the singing sessions, the inter-session meal, as well as extra security.

In response to my question "Is this potential income critical to the venue?" Ellis responded "Not to support expenses but it is critical if we are to make a contribution to Cytun in Wales."

In response to my question "What is Cytun?" Ellis responded "Cytun: Churches Together in Wales was inaugurated in 1999 following the Inter-Church Process and as a successor to the Council of Churches in Wales (established in 1956)."

I asked "Who decided to make a contribution to Cytun? Since this has an impact on net proceeds in which the WNGGA has an important interest, shouldn't this be subject to approval by the Board of Trustees? If not, what is to prevent venue committees from making contributions in all directions? What part does the WNGGA play in the contribution subject? I don't know or may have missed incidents of this type in the past. Does this break new ground requiring a WNGGA policy?"

Ellis responded: "The decision to send money to Cytun was made by the local Committee. This has been common practice. In 1987, the St. Paul Venue Committee sent funds to Oxfam."

I asked Ellis "Please give me your opinion on the likely reaction of the church officials to the envelope collection you propose". Ellis responded "The church approves of the use of the envelope system which has been proposed."

Since I am not familiar with the action in 1987 in St. Paul, and any discussions on the Board relative to it or that it has been a common practice I believe this should be an agenda item during our meeting in Minneapolis.

I have gone to this length to make sure you are aware of the important

considerations. However, I do not want to delay action any further and I recommend that we authorize the use of special colored envelopes to identify collection received from WNGGA members during the Sunday morning service in the Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis.

Please let me have your approval or disapproval by return message, if possible.

Alf

I am not familiar with the action in

MEMO + + + MEMO + + + MEMO

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TO: Col. Reese, President (FAX: [REDACTED])
Alan Upshall, Vice President (425-488-7288)
Ellis J.

FROM: 1999 Minneapolis Venue Committee, Ellis Jones, Co-Chairperson

DATE: July 26, 1999

SUBJECT: Appeal of Decision

This memo is a direct appeal of a decision made at the May 15 meeting of the Board of Trustees concerning plans for the Minneapolis National. The decision concerned WNGGA persons using colored envelopes for their collection at the Sunday church service.

Time did not allow a full discussion and a review of the facts in this particular situation and we feel the decision to not allow envelopes was made without an understanding of the situation in which the venue committee finds itself.

The Sunday church service is not, **repeat NOT**, a WNGGA service. It is the regular 11:00 a.m. Lutheran church service at Central Lutheran Church. It will have the full liturgy of the regular service, their regular procession preceding the service, their church choir will be singing, their church organist will be playing, their people will be ushering. It is their service. We will not be paying the organist, renting the organ, or other expenses incurred when the service is held in a hotel ballroom.

In negotiations with them, they have agreed to have a Welsh-English preacher, three Welsh hymns, and time for the Memorial Service immediately following the sermon. On the matter of the collection, it was understood that their people will give through loose change and/or white envelopes. No provision was made for WNGGA to have any of the offering. Therefore, we asked them for permission for WNGGA persons to give specifically to the Minneapolis Venue Cytûn cause by placing money in a colored envelope. At the end of the service, the colored envelopes would be sorted out and Central Lutheran would take the rest.

The issue as we see it is whether or not we can encourage our WNGGA persons to contribute to Cytûn through the use of the colored envelopes at the church service. When WNGGA has its church service in a hotel ballroom, it (WNGGA) has full control of the service including the entire collection and there is no need for special envelopes.

In this case, however, on behalf of the Venue Committee I convey to you that we feel very strongly that those WNGGA persons who want to make a contribution during the church service should be allowed to do so in such a way that the funds will come back to the Venue

We ask that the decision be reversed and that our original plans be allowed to stand--distributing a colored envelope through registration to be brought to the church service. We await your response as soon as possible.

c: Mae Anderson, Trustee
Mary Morris Mergenthal, Venue Co-Chair

X-From_: AFReeseJ [REDACTED] Wed Jul 28 12:05:29 1999
Return-Path: <AFReese [REDACTED]>
From: AFReese [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, 28 Jul 1999 13:03:54 EDT
Subject: Re: Appeal of Decision
To: ellis [REDACTED]

Ellis,

I raised the issue of what we are doing for the church since you made such a point, in the third paragraph of your message, of all the things the church is doing for us and that the "service is not, repeat NOT a WNGGA service". We are having the advantages of "not be paying for the organist, renting the organ, or other expenses incurred when the service is held in a hotel ballroom".

All of the things you cited in your latest message on what we are doing for the church are somewhat intangible benefits we will be giving in exchange for the tangible benefits we receive.

You did not answer my important question "Is this potential income critical to the venue?"

I need this answer so that we can gauge the importance of this decision as compared to the possibility of a bad impression developing from our taking our collection without any tangible thanks to the church for the use of their facilities.

I need assurances that the above is not likely to occur. Assurances can only come from you as Co-Chairperson or from those most closely associated with negotiations with the church.

Alf

To: AFReese [REDACTED]
From: Ellis Jones <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Appeal of Decision
Cc:
Bcc:

Col. Reese:

Yes, the letter can be sent on in its entirety. As Mae and I attempted to explain in the May 15 meeting, the income from the offering is planned for Cytan. No offering--no contribution to Cytan.

Am not sure about your question--What are we doing for the church? We are holding the Gymanfa Ganu there, we are bringing to the morning church service a larger number of persons than they would normally have on Labor Day Sunday, we are giving visibility to the church through all mailings that have been done. What else?

Ellis Jones

At 09:01 AM 7/28/99 EDT, you wrote:

>Ellis.

>

>I will review the minutes. I don't think whatever happened during the meeting
>in Niagara can be considered a decision since there was no quorum. I seem to
>recall it more of an advisory action. I do know that it was not circulated by
>me as a decision that had to be confirmed by Board of Trustees.

>

>In view of the above, I will circulate subject to the Executive Committee for
>a decision. However, if I include all of your comments on what the church is
>doing and what we are not doing, it may lead to a conclusion that we should
>not interfere in any way with the church's collection. What are we doing for
>the church? What should we do in recognition of the use of their church and
>their agreement to include interests during the service? Should I exclude
>parts of your message when I go to the Executive Committee?

>

>Is this potential income critical to the venue?

>

>I just read Alan's response to you. Please take no action on this until I
>have completed the action described above.

>

>Alf

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>

X-From_: aupsh[REDACTED] Sun Jul 25 11:56:42 1999
Return-Path: <aupsh[REDACTED]>
X-Originating-IP: [206.159.10.81]
From: "Alan Upshall" <aupsh[REDACTED]>
To: ellis[REDACTED] afre[REDACTED]
Cc: aupshall@hotmail.com
Subject: morning service
Date: Sun, 25 Jul 1999 16:56:09 GMT

Dear Ellis

While I have problems with the use of envelopes, from your description it seems as if we have few options to ensure that the WNGGA receives the contributions of its members who attend. I see these options as:

1. Use of envelopes as you suggest
2. Request a proportional return of the collection from the church
3. Not worry about the collection and allow the money in lieu of rent.

Of these, the last is essentially a nonstarter since no venue can afford to eliminate a revenue source.

The second requires some administrative calculation of numbers of each group present or a deduction of the average taken by the church at its normal services and the remainder given to us.

The first as you say is a practical way to separate the groups, but of course it is almost certain that we will not recover all of the donations since a proportion of our members will inevitably forget and put money into the tray.

In the light of your explanation I would support the use of envelopes. However, I would suggest the following: Accompanying (stapled to) the envelope in the registration package there should be a short note headed 'IMPORTANT, please read this'. Accompanying text should indicate that this year the collection will be done by envelope, the color red denoting WNGGA members and that registrants must remember to place their offerings inside the envelope. Money not in such an envelope will not come back to WNGGA to support the service expenses. This should also be stated in the program on the page outlining the Sunday morning service to serve as a reminder. It would also be very useful to have ushers outside the church doors with red envelopes for those who have forgotten.

Alan

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