

*we may think about answering this before May 21 and point out his error and mistakes - Mrs. Warren could help us write the letter, giving his mother a copy -*



YALE UNIVERSITY

920 Yale Station  
New Haven, Connecticut  
May 8, 1961

The Elders  
Strathmoor Church of Christ  
14500 Greenfield Road  
Detroit, Michigan

Dear brethren in Christ,

On Sunday, May 21st, I will be received into the Protestant Episcopal Church by receiving confirmation from the Bishop of Connecticut. Thus I can no longer remain a communing member of the Strathmoor Church of Christ. This letter is to seek to communicate to you, as my dear friends and teachers in the Lord, my reasons for this action.

I have considered the possibility of becoming an Episcopalian for a long time now. I have been often with the Lord in prayer over the subject, and have done extensive reading in the Bible and historical accounts of the Christian church, and have finally decided that this is what God wants me to do. It might help to say what I feel I am not doing. I am, I feel, in no way separating myself from the body of Jesus Christ, which is his church. It is not for me the question of leaving a "false" church for a "true" one. The church being the total sum of those who trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, and live their lives by his commandments, who have been redeemed from their sins, I am still in the church. In joining the Episcopal church, I will fellowship with people whose faith is essentially that of those I have loved in the church of Christ. I am making only an organizational change.

Why then do I change my denominational affiliation? It is because I feel that the faith of the Episcopal Church affirms the gospel of Christ in such a way that I can work effectively in it, bringing the glad news of God's Christ to those who need it desperately. As I read the Scriptures more and more, and see what their essential meaning is, I find more and more that the Episcopal Church teaches this essential meaning, and teaches it in such a way that I am brought closer to Christ by believing it.

In no way do I feel that I am cutting my ties with the saints I have known at Strathmoor. As I said in my sermon last July, I cannot find the words to tell you how much you have meant to me in my Christian progress. I first came to know the Lord and his will for my life among you, and you helped me to grow up in Christ. Particularly, I am grateful for the extensive training in preaching which you allowed me to receive, and the freedom you



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allowed me in teaching and writing. In brief, the entire foundation or bed-rock of my knowledge of the Christian faith is to be found at Strathmoor Church. As editor of the Youth Paper, president of the Youth Fellowship, and student preacher I gained invaluable experience, for which I often thank God. Nor do I intend to cut off my communication with those to whom I owe so much. I expect to attend the Church of Christ often with my grandmother, mother, and sister, all of whom are faithful members of Christ's church.

*Note he mentions his grandmother first*

My plans to enter the Episcopal Church also involve simultaneous plans to study for the ministry of the Episcopal Church. The promise I made to God that I would preach his gospel will be carried out---a promise which you helped to strengthen. As a minister of the gospel in a section of Christ's Church, I will look upon you all as my co-laborers in the vineyard of the Lord---helping to bring the message of God's love to those who have never heard it, and have never learned the blessedness of existing in Christ Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

*Robert Morris*