

*Faith Congregational  
United Church of Christ*

2030 MAIN STREET  
HARTFORD, CT 06120

REV. DR. WILLIAM J. BUTLER

RECEIVED  
JUN 17 1994

Connecticut Historical  
Commission

PHONE: (203) 547-0820

June 14, 1994

Ms. Cora Murray  
Historian  
Connecticut Historical Commission  
59 South Prospect Street  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Ms. Murray:

Faith Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, will celebrate it's 175th Anniversary, October 2, 1994 through October 9, 1994.

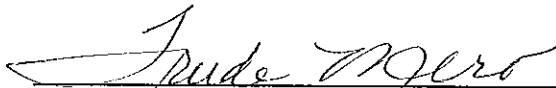
Your name has been submitted for inclusion on the Advisory Committee for this Celebration.

A synopsis of our church history is enclosed for background information. If you approve, your name will be included on the anniversary stationary and in our 175th Anniversary booklet.

A response by June 28, 1994 would be appreciated.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

  
Trude Mero, Co-Chairperson

  
Gail Martin, Co-Chairperson

Rev. Dr. William J. Butler, Pastor

TM:mm

enclosure

FAITH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
2030 Main Street  
Hartford, Connecticut 06120

Reverend Dr. William J. Butler, Pastor

Since its humble beginnings in the Conference Room of Center Church in November of 1819, the Faith Congregational Church membership has been a constant advocate for religious, social, economic and educational advancement for African-Americans in Hartford and the State of Connecticut.

Soon after establishing the Talcott Street Church in 1826, we began to prepare the way for others by:

- . opening the first school for African-Americans in Hartford (1833);
- . organizing a petition to the Connecticut Legislature asking for the vote for African-Americans (Deacon James Mars);
- . actively being agents for the Underground Railroad guiding fugitive slaves in Hartford;
- . following Rev. James W.C. Pennington's leadership as he lead the anti-slavery crusade and created the Union Missionary Society seeking funds for the Amistad captives return to Africa. Hartford Public Library has included Rev. Pennington among its 10 prominent residents of Hartford's past who have been nominated for its 1994 Commemorative Plaques.

Over the years, this proud and courageous heritage has served as an inspiration and mandate that we continue the legacy. Our members, imbued with the teachings and the spiritual values learned at Faith Church, have maintained that mantle as exemplified by the following who were elected or appointed as the first persons of color to the following positions:

- . DANIEL FLETCHER: Manager, Hartford Housing Authority.
- . FRANK T. SIMPSON: Executive Director, Human Rights and Opportunities Commission, State of Connecticut.
- . JOHN C. CLARK, JR.: Councilman, City of Hartford.

- . BOCE W. BARLOW, JR.: Municipal Court Judge; Senator, State of Connecticut.
- . GERALDINE JONES: Music Teacher, Board of Education.
- . HOWARD BROWN: Deputy Banking Commissioner and Banking Commissioner, State of Connecticut.
- . JOHN C. STEWART, JR.: Fire Chief, City of Hartford.
- . BARBARA DeBAPTISTE: First Black woman Moderator, United Church of Christ, Connecticut Conference.
- . WALTER "DOC" HURLEY, SR.: Walter J. Hurley Scholarship Foundation, Inc.
- . CONNIE GREEN: Female graduate, University of Connecticut Law School.
- . WILLIAM JONES: Treasurer, United Church of Christ, Connecticut Conference.
- . A. LEE MARTIN: Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy, Hartford Police Department.

Our Church's connection to its rich and proud legacy lays the groundwork for its current endeavors and creates a vision for a glorious future. Under the leadership of Reverend Dr. William J. Butler, we are striving in all our endeavors to internalize and demonstrate the love God taught us in Matthew 25:26, "I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in."



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

June 20, 1994

Ms. Trude Mero  
Ms. Gail Martin  
Co-Chairpersons  
Faith Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
2030 Main Street  
Hartford, CT 06120

Dear Ms. Mero and Ms. Martin:

In response to your letter of June 14, 1994, I would be pleased to serve on the Advisory Committee for the 175th Anniversary Celebration of Faith Congregational Church.

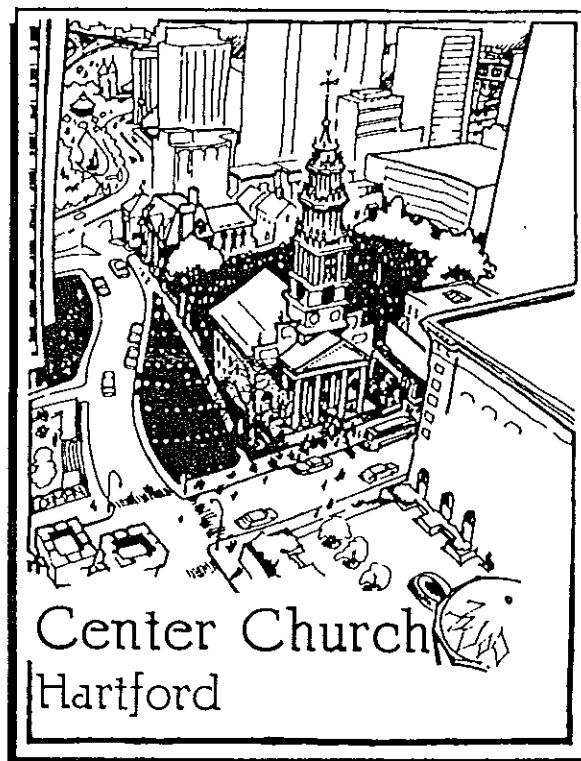
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cora Murray".

Cora Murray  
Historian

CM:nlw

# Congratulations Faith Church



From the 1819 founding of Faith Church in the conference room of Center Church here in Hartford to the 1994 rededication on this 175th anniversary, we give thanks to God for the faithfulness of your journey and the continuing convictions we share in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

J. Alan McLean, Minister  
The First Church of Christ in Hartford