

To The Members of the Havenick Congregational Society.

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Gentlemen

Circumstances over which I could have no control, & a question unexpectedly submitted to me for decision render it proper that I should submit the following statements to your consideration & action.

1. According to the terms of my settlement I was to receive from you in return for my services \$800 per year with the privilege of a vacation of four weeks each year (during which the pulpit was to be supplied at your expense) while my connexion with the City Mission remained, & when that ceased I was to receive \$1000 per year with the vacation.

During the nearly two years that I have been with you I have not taken the vacations named. By sickness in one case & your kindness in another I have been away from you much more than the two months which they would have given. What I mean then is, that I have paid for the supply of the desk whenever from any cause I have not performed the services myself - so that neither in my sickness, nor in my recent absence have I thrown upon you the expense of supplying the pulpit, for the eight sabbaths of vacation, to which by the terms of settlement I was entitled.

During the present year, I have had only a nominal connexion with the City Mission. I have given it no time or labor, I have received no compensation. At the same time I have received from you only at the rate of \$800 per year. I have been willing, in consideration of my sickness & absence, to go through the year, if I could, at that rate, instead of asking the rate of \$1000, according to the terms of settlement.

During the time I have been with you, from the expenses incident to moving, ~~distress~~ on my family &c. my expenses have exceeded my income by, at least \$200.

In respect to the past I have no complaint to make, nor any change to ask. The facts named however make it incumbent on me to provide in some way, for the future; & to make such provision as will meet my current expenses & enable me to make up past deficiencies.

There is only one way, in which I can do this - viz by rendering you a full fair service as Pastor, receiving therefore the full compensation named of \$1000, & then performing such extra service elsewhere as I can without materially interfering with my duties to you.

Unexpectedly to myself the Board of the City Mission wish me to resume my general oversight of that, & to continue it for a longer or shorter period as ~~the~~ ^{we} ~~may~~ ^{may} respectively think best. I can attend to all the duties that such oversight will require of me, excepting that of presenting the cause annually to the churches, without any essential interference with my duties to you.

I have therefore the following propositions to submit to you - 1. that from the 1st of January next you shall pay me for my services, at the rate of \$1000 per year.

2. that in consideration of my resuming the oversight of the City Mission, I relinquish the four Sabbath vacation to which by the terms of settlement I am entitled - in other words I will take those Sabbaths for the presentation of the City Mission to the churches, meanwhile supplying the desk for you by ~~2~~ - change or at my expense, & in case of absence

at any other time, supplying the desk myself, so that, so long as my care of the mission shall continue, you shall be subject to no expense for the sabbaths I might otherwise take as vacation.

Should these propositions meet your views, I shall feel greatly obliged, & shall take the utmost care to render you a full & fair equivalent of service. If they do not, please say so, & I will make the next best arrangement I can for meeting past & current deficiencies.

Yours truly,
A. A. Phelps.

Letter prepared for Maverick
Society, shown to Sea. Hall,
but not sent to Society.

Oct. 1843.