



THE FEDERATED CHURCH
OF
GRANVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

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The Federated Church of Granville, Massachusetts, is located at the junction of Routes 57 and 189 in the center of the community which is 9 miles southwest of Westfield and 6 miles west of Southwick.

The major church building is a typical New England landmark of Colonial white clapboard design. The interior of the sanctuary is simple with an arched choir loft behind the pulpit platform and a lower platform for the communion table. The sanctuary seats approximately 150 and a small balcony seats about 50.

An addition called the "chapel" provides a room for church school and group meetings, dining facilities for 88, and a modern kitchen. Three rooms in the basement accommodate some of the church school classes and a church-time nursery. An Allen organ purchased in 1961 enriches the music program. Two furnaces with a forced hot air system provide plenty of heat when necessary.

A building program has been voted by the parish and is in early stages of development. This plan includes strengthening the foundation, supplying more basement classrooms under the sanctuary and enhancing the beauty of the sanctuary.

The parsonage is situated adjacent to the church facing a newly-acquired Town Green. It is an eight-room house with baths upstairs and down and a small basement for storage. It is heated by a forced hot water system with baseboard plumbing.

Membership of the church is approximately 200 with an average of 60 attending regularly. Two Pilgrim Fellowships meet

Sunday evenings with about 30 in the Junior group and a Senior group of ten or a dozen. There is a very active Ladies' Aid group which with suppers, bazaars and other events contributes materially to the financial support of the church. The choir has been favorably compared with much larger groups.

The church has no indebtedness and no mortgage on any of the property. The current budget is set at \$11,286.00.

In 1938 The Granville Baptist and Congregational churches formed a federation. Each parish holds title to its own property, which is maintained by a joint executive committee. A special committee is now investigating the formation of a United Church to complete the progress toward unification begun when the federation was formed. This committee is currently meeting with a consulting attorney to determine the legal aspects of the unification. A Congregational church building on the top of Granville Hill has been used for summer services.

An executive committee conducts the business of the Federated Church. Half of these members are elected by each denomination to serve five-year terms in rotation.

The spiritual life of the church is under the guidance of a board of deacons, also equally representative of the two congregations, and recently expanded to include eight members. Deacons assist in the service of Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month.

An active faculty of volunteers presents a planned lesson program to eight Church School grades and a Kindergarten. Programs, family nights and pageants have been features of the re-

ligious education program.

The Town of Granville has a population of about 900 and is a quiet country village where one can see some of the most scenic views of New England. It is situated in hill country south of the Berkshires and just north of the Connecticut line. While it is nearer Springfield, Mass., than Hartford, Conn., both cities are easily reached from Granville and a Massachusetts Turnpike exit is located in the neighboring city of Westfield, where a state College is located.

Granville has a small drum shop which made drums for the Union Army during the Civil War and now produces toy drums and gifts. A box shop has expanded to make fruit boxes, industrial pallets and many other lumber products. The major agricultural products are apples and blueberries. Many thousands of bushels of apples are stored in refrigerated storehouses to be eaten all winter long and many sore backs result from picking or "scooping" thousands of crates of blueberries.

Much of Granville's land is watershed for the Cobble Mountain Reservoir which supplies much of the water for the city of Springfield. A smaller Westfield reservoir is also located in Granville.

The Federated Church is the only church in the community center. A Congregational church in West Granville five miles to the West is used during the summer months and members are invited to worship with the Federated Church during the rest of the year. The Federated Church facilities are often used for such community activities as suppers, showers, fellowship dances, teas and

receptions.

The Town Hall "On the Hill" is the center of almost all town activities, busy with town business meetings, classic "Town Meetings," Scout, sportsmen's club and other meetings, square dancing classes and dances, card parties and occasional lectures films and locally produced plays.

The Village school, less than a quarter mile from the parsonage, has a recent four-room addition and houses Grades 1 through 8. Educational standards are high and the facilities include a modern cafeteria and a gymnasium available to townspeople for cold-weather sports activities. Grades 9 through 12 attend Westfield schools by bus. A small elementary school maintains six grades in West Granville.

The town boasts a good library, well stocked with books and well used by students as well as adults. It is located near the church as is the Grange Hall, another popular gathering place.

Even when snow is deep Granville roads are well maintained and are usually in better shape than those of surrounding communities. Complete shopping facilities are available in three adjacent communities and air transportation is available at Bradley Field 15 miles to the south. Granville has its own post office with a rural delivery route, a medium sized General Store, two garages and a service station. A Volunteer Fire Department has served the Town for many years. A new ambulance has just been purchased to replace a much-used older model. It is manned by volunteers, a majority of whom are employed and live in the village. A Public Health Nurse is also available

and a thorough immunization program has been instituted in recent years.

Although the town of Granville has a small population and is spread over a large area, we think it is a wonderful place to rear a family and a wonderful place to live and serve our God and fellowman.