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Shepard-Young
pastoral exchange
that began

Pilgrim =
Argyle/Central URC
Both
relationships

The Reverend John Young is the pastor of the Argyle Street United Reformed Church in Bath. He is the Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Churches and is serving Pilgrim Congregational Church (United Reformed) this summer. Mr. Young is a graduate of Edinburgh University and the Bradford Theological College, Manchester. He has served as tutor and lecturer at several colleges and as chaplain to students at the universities in the neighborhood of his last three pastorates. One of the leaders of the United Reformed Church that resulted from a merger of English Congregationalists and Presbyterians in 1972, John Young headed the new denomination as moderator in 1977-8. Currently he serves on a task force reviewing national church priorities and resources for the 1980's and as clerk of his provincial synod.

John and his wife Marion expect to be joined by their daughter, Claire, for part of their stay in Duluth. They will live in the Royal Shepard home and serve Pilgrim Church from approximately June 15 to September 1. They then expect to spend about two weeks touring. They would welcome an opportunity to visit the conference headquarters to learn about local, regional and national church organization and about programs for children and youth.

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The Reverend John E. Young, pastor of the Argyle Street United Reformed Church in Bath, England and former Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church will be serving Pilgrim Congregational Church (UCC) on an exchange basis this summer. Mr. Young is a graduate of Edinburgh University and of the Bradford Theological College, Manchester. He served Congregational Churches in Yorkshire, Hull and Liverpool prior to assuming the Bath pastorate, one of the stronger Congregational churches in the United Kingdom, seventeen years ago. He has served as tutor and lecturer at several colleges and as chaplain to students at the universities in the neighborhood of his last three pastorates. One of the leaders of the United Reformed Church that resulted from a merger of English Congregationalists and Presbyterians in 1972, John Young headed the new denomination as moderator in 1977-8. Currently he serves on a task force reviewing national church priorities and resources for the 1980's and as clerk of his provincial synod.

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Pilgrim Congregational Church of Duluth

2310 EAST FOURTH STREET

DULUTH, MINNESOTA 55812

TELEPHONE 218-724-8503

ROYAL F. SHEPARD, JR., TH. D.
Minister

ELSIE JEAN AUSTIN
Director of Christian Education

June 9, 1980

Dear members of the Young Reception Committee,

I have put together a very brief calendar of events regarding the Young's stay in Duluth and enclosed it in this mailing. In addition to the activities specified on the calendar, Dorothy will be working to achieve maximum church attendance during the summer and Nancy will be coordinating social activities on an on-going basis. Laura will, hopefully, introduce John Young to local clergy. I may be calling some of you when we discover the kind of job that Claire Young will be seeking.

Please review the enclosed calendar and call me if you notice any omissions or errors. Also, please call me if you become aware of anything we may have overlooked in preparing for the Young's visit. I can be reached at work (726-7245) weekdays or at home (724-7407). I am hopeful that any additional arrangements can be handled without another meeting of the Committee.

Thanks for all your past and future contributions toward making the Young's visit to Duluth rewarding to them and to Pilgrim.

Sincerely,

Denny Falk
Denny Falk

DF/cl
Encl.

TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Re John Young's Ministry at Pilgrim

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Committee Involvement</u>
June 14	Youngs arrival in Duluth	Nancy Fifield may meet Youngs in Twin Cities; Ginny King will meet them at Duluth airport; Dorothy Belt will orient them to Shep's home and provide meal if desired.
June 15	Youngs in church	Denny will ask Laura Loving to introduce Youngs briefly.
June 16-21	Youngs oriented to Duluth; John Young oriented to church activities.	Ginny, Dorothy and Nancy orient to Duluth; Laura orient John Young to ministerial functions. (Worship Committee may assist.) Cliff can be contacted regarding banking, etc.
June 22	John Young's first Sunday leading worship. Welcoming reception	Formal introduction of Mr. Young during Sunday service (Denny). John Fochs and Denny Falk will arrange reception following service
June 25-29	Possible trip to National Youth Event at Carleton College in Northfield; continuing orientation to Duluth and Pilgrim.	Denny will describe possibilities to Youngs.
June 27 11:30-2:00	John Young will give the invocation for Duluth Summer Festival of the Arts (tentative)	Karen Griffith will contact.
Mid-July	Trip to Twin Cities-- visit conference offices, meet T.C. ministers, visit United Theological Seminary (?)	Denny and Lois Heller will discuss with Youngs.
July 23-24 (or Aug. 13-14 or July 30-31)	Visit Pilgrim Point Camp	Denny and Lois will discuss with Youngs.
September 2-3	Youngs will visit New York and National Office.	Denny and Lois will discuss.

Minister, wife, find Duluth like Bath



Marion and the Rev. John Young at Pilgrim Congregational

BY SHARON NOVOTNE
Of the News-Tribune staff

When the Rev. John Young climbs into the pulpit at Argyle Street United Reformed Church in Bath, England, he's used to seeing a sprinkling of American tourists.

Americans come to Bath to take The Cure, immersing themselves in 120-degree mineral spring-fed baths, sought to soothe away aches and pains of rheumatism and arthritis since Roman colonists discovered Bath's steaming swamps in the first century.

Young has called Bath and Argyle Church, a pillared Georgian edifice built in 1789, home for 18 years. But this summer, he and his wife Marion made their first trip to America, to Duluth and to Pilgrim Congregational, swapping pulpits, homes and cars with Pilgrim's pastor, the Rev. Royal F. Shepard.

"We've had blue skies in Duluth. It's like a permanent holiday here for us. I read England is having the wettest, coldest summer since 1910," laughed Young, 63, wondering if Shepard's sabbatical at Argyle has been as pleasant and rewarding as his.

"Duluth and Bath differ to a degree, but are much the same," Young said.

Near ports of Hull and Bristol on England's southeast coast, Bath is comparable to Duluth in population and industry — tourism, a regional hospital center, college and government services. Differences are more pronounced in a comparison of churches.

"Only one-tenth of the population belongs to a church in England. We have fewer members, more non-members. We call them adherents. Church membership has been declining the last 100 years in England," he said. "The church (in England) lost most young people in the 1960s — the Anti-Age.

The pendulum has not swung back."

"The church is making a real attempt to modernize worship," said Young, admittedly dubious about such extremes as disco music to attract youthful members. "We've gotten rid of the thees and thous. But unless there is pressure to change, the church is caught."

As family life of church members changes, the church must try to respond, said Marion Young. At Argyle, the women's guild has evening meetings to accommodate working women. And there's free, church-sponsored child daycare for single parents.

Argyle Church represents a union of English Congregationalists and Presbyterians, which was implemented in 1972. Young currently serves on a task force reviewing national church priorities and resources for Britain in the 1980s.

Such a union is representative of a movement in Britain to form regional evangelical coalitions to coordinate church efforts, fortify the position of churches as a whole and attract members. For example, Baptists, Methodists, Church of England members and other denominations would accept each others' members and ministers.

"There is a nationwide interest in evangelism. By division, the churches have failed to spread the message. A covenant to unite could mean much more success in sharing Christianity," said Young.

Britain is battling a 20 percent-plus inflation rate today and church stewardship is suffering, too. Churches once depended on financial sustenance of wealthy English families, said Young, and "the mass of folks hardly gave at all." Inflation has become the great leveler of British incomes and church funds aren't as plentiful.

"It is a great problem. Giving in England is not as generous as it is here," said Young, a graduate of the University of Edinburgh in Scotland who "worked in London among the down-and-outers" during World War II.

The Youngs have found the standard of living lower in England compared to that in America, even in church.

"Some churches (in England) don't even have phones. People put up with things as they are at church, as it's always been. In America, people want the level of living at church the same as at home — like carpeted floors," said Marion Young, 59.

Even Britain's frequent labor disputes have touched Argyle Church. Journalists at Bath's local newspaper are on strike. Among their demands is a proposal that Bath's ministers, who share the weekly writing of a column, join the journalists' union.

On a recent visit to a Minneapolis church, the English minister encountered his first church computer. "We have a typewriter, a mimeograph machine in Bath. But I've never heard of a church having its own computer," said Young, incredulously.

A Pilgrim Church member jokingly said churches "would be getting computers to do sermons soon." Young laughed, somewhat unconvinced. "Computers couldn't visit the sick. Well, I suppose patients could switch them on for a special message."

Next Sunday, the Pilgrim congregation will bid the Youngs good-bye and Young will preach his last sermon here. On Sept. 1, they leave "the straight tree-lined streets and spaciousness" of Duluth to return to Bath.

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Staff photo

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