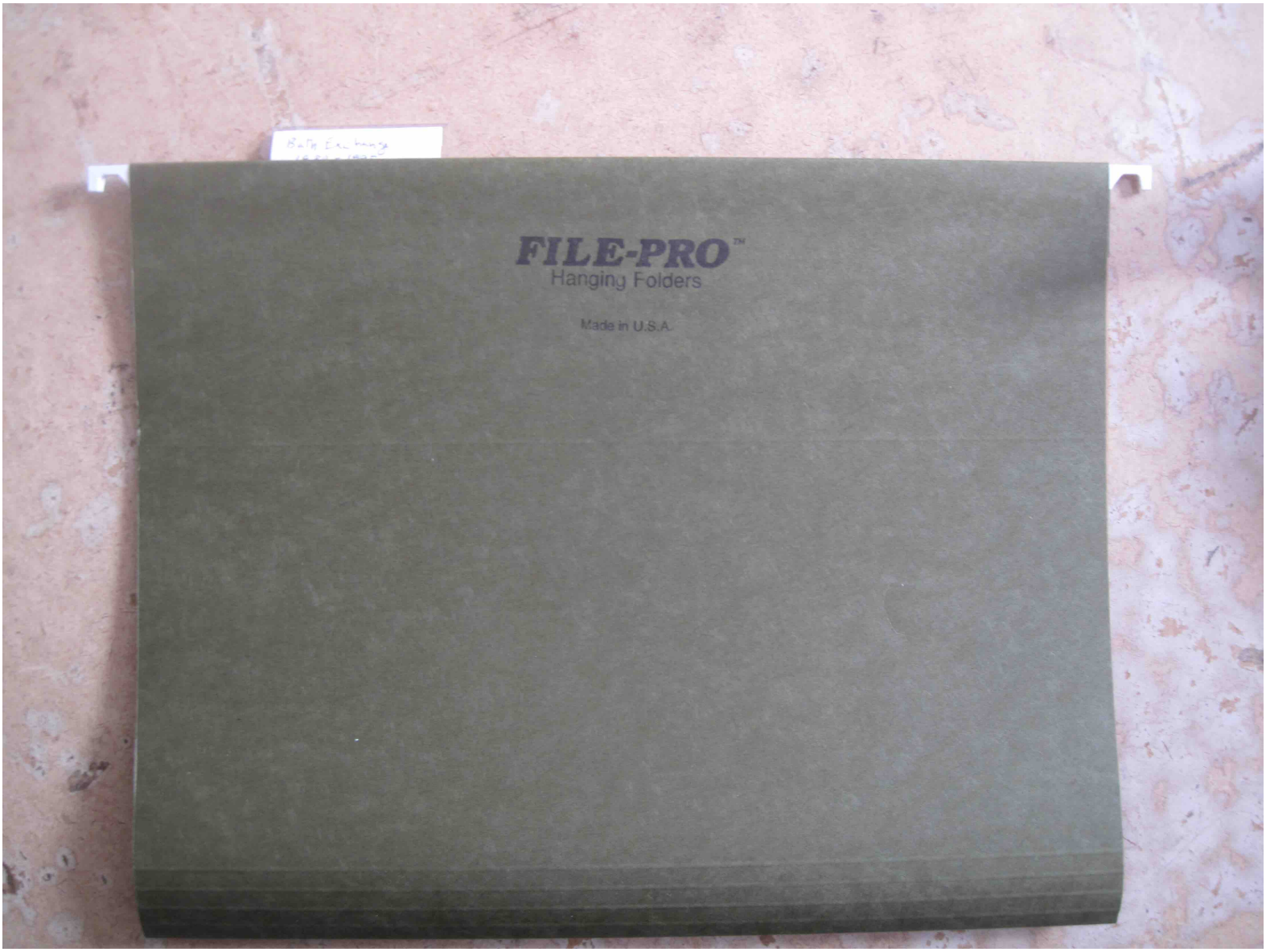
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7/25/99
Commissioning of Pilgrim group to Bath

In 1980, nearly 20 years ago, Royal Shepherd and John Young had a successful international sabbatical pulpit exchange between Central united Reformed Church in Bath, England, and Pilgrim Church here in Duluth. Thus began what has proved to be an enduring friendship between our two congregations.

This week our tradition of biennial visits back and forth continues as sixteen Pilgrims and family members begin their nine day visit to Bath. Their visit is more than sightseeing a picturesque and historic region of England. It is more than socializing with friends old and new. It represents our long-held desire to reach out to one another in friendship, nurturing bonds so important to understanding we're part of a family of God's people that reaches far beyond our doors and the usual circle of our lives.

To you who travel to Bath as members of our pilgrim family: Go in peace and safety. Go with greetings and love to our friends of Central Church. Be enriched - and, by all means, have plenty of fun and enjoyment. It will be offered you in full measure! God be with you. Bon voyage

Now, let's all sing a new hymn by Brian Wren, popular hymn writer in our partner United Reformade Church of the UK. "We are your people... Spirit of grace, you dare make us Christ to our neighbors of every culture and place." Hymn #309

July 22, 1999

To the Members of Central United Reformed Church
Bath, England

Dear Friends in Christ:

On the occasion of this tenth exchange visit between our two congregations, the members of Pilgrim Church, Duluth, greet you in love and friendship!

Each of our visits has brought new experiences, forged enduring friendships, and reminded us all of our oneness in faith.

In this spirit after two decades our visits continue with enthusiasm and with gratitude that the Big Pond indeed is very bridgeable!

Blessings to you all in your life and ministry in Bath!

In friendship,

Jack Kemp
and the family of
Pilgrim Congregational Church
(United Church of Christ)
Duluth, Minnesota, U.S.A.