This White Minister Can Teach Biased Negroes Of Germantown Needed Lesson
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By ART PETERS, Staff Writer

White people are moving away from German-town because Negroes are moving in, but a white Episcopal minister has defiantly announced that he has "no intentions" of moving his 104 - year - old church to the suburbs despite the protests of some members of his congregation. . . And some Negro residents of Germantown should be as liberal to-ward Negroes as this white clergyman has proven himself to be.

All over Germantown white residents are posting "For Sale" signs on their front lawns and rushing to escape before Negroes "take over," but the Rev. W. Hamilton Aulenbach, rector of Christ Church and St. Michaels, declares his church will stand at its present location "for another 104 years" if he has anything to do with it.

EXPERIMENT SUCCESSFUL

Furthermore, the pastor says, "We've been able to experiment with integration and it has succeeded. We have Negro adults on our communicant list. Fine Negro families have helped us as ushers. We've tried not to stress the integration problem at all. We've tried to treat people as people."

These remarks by the pastor are particularly significant in view of the fact that even some Negroes don't want other Negroes to move into Germantown.

A group of Germantown Negroes recently organized a protest committee objecting to the erection of low-cost housing there because, they claimed, such a development would bring low-income Negroes into the area.

The Rev. Mr. Aulenbach, whose church recently was bequeathed a $70,000 legacy, has made it plain that he would use the money to improve the present Sunday School building or use it—with another $100,000 to be raised—to construct a new unit.

"We (the church officers) believe this legacy was left to be used right here," he declares. "Some people have said the Episcopal Church is a suburban church and doesn't care about the city and its population. But we're here as an Episcopal Church to refute that.

'I BELONG HERE'

"I personally wouldn't move to a suburb," he continued, "although I don't have anything against a suburb, but I belong here.

"I believe with the apartments around here and with plenty of people there is a great opportunity."

"We're just going to stay put," Dr. Aulenbach, who has been rector of Christ Church and St. Michaels for the past 19 years, says emphatically.

The 59-year-old rector recently made his sentiments about staying in Germantown known to members of his parish when he wrote a letter replying to some proponents in his church who favor moving to the suburbs because of the changing neighborhood.

NEGROES AGAINST NEGRO

The rector would probably be

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Can Teach Negro Lesson

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amazed to learn however that a group of Cliveden St. Negroes share the same prejudices as some of his white parishioners. When a Negro truck driver attempted to move into a Cliveden St. house recently, his Negro neighbors attempted to force him to leave the block because, they said, he disgraced them by parking his moving van in front of his house.

The Rev. Mr. Aulenbach had made it clear that he believes race and class distinction is wrong. On the subject of running away to escape the changing environment, the rector says such thinking is "negative."

"Why should city churches run?", he asks. "Financially, we had one of our best years last year. Our Sunday School attendance has increased. Our morning congregation, despite many people moving to the suburbs, has increased."

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