

moral perspectives

Rabbi Irwin Groner

Be wary of changing the U.S. Constitution

Few Americans are aware of a national effort that began in 1975 to change the Constitution of the United States. All amendments to the Constitution so far — The Bill of Rights, The Abolition of Slavery, The Federal Income Tax — have been proposed by a two-thirds vote in each House of Congress and then ratified by three-fourths of the State Legislatures. This process has allowed careful drafting and full discussion of these fundamental changes in our way of life.

No longer content to amend the Constitution by this well-tested method, a highly organized political action group of ultra-conservatives is now seeking to amend the Constitution by a Constitutional Convention.

This option is defined by Article V of the Constitution which provides that Congress "on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the States shall call for a convention for proposing amendments."

THE CURRENT proposal calls for a Constitutional Convention which will draft an amendment requiring a federal balanced budget.

Two-thirds of the several states in this day and age add up to 34. As of today, the legislatures of 32 states have passed resolutions petitioning Congress to call a Constitutional Convention for the creation of a balanced budget amendment. A resolution to this effect, Senate Joint Resolution "E", is under consideration by the Senate of the State of Michigan. This resolution should be opposed for these reasons:

1. It is unclear whether a Constitutional Convention would be restricted to one issue, and it is most likely that it will not be. For example, repeal of basic labor laws, elimination of the income tax, separation of church and state, prayer in the public schools, or other Constitutional issues can be altered, revised, or eliminated at a Constitutional Convention.

WITH MANY well-organized, well-financed single-issue groups pursuing their causes, it is hard to imagine how a Constitutional Convention called to

frame a balanced budget amendment could avoid debating other proposed amendments as well.

A runaway Convention seems likely. It is the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights that have preserved freedom for all Americans since the founding of this great nation. We should vigorously oppose any circumstance that could jeopardize the enduring strength of America's Constitution.

2. The Constitution embodies fundamental law and basic principles and should not be made the instrument of specific social or economic policies. Such policies should be effected properly and thoroughly through Congress or the executive branch. Consider the impact of an amendment on the balanced budget on the Constitution itself.

First, by demanding a balanced budget, the states would impose a fiscal straight jacket upon the Congress that would prevent the legislative branch from using its taxing and spending powers to address national needs in time of economic crisis.

SECOND, such an amendment would grant sweeping new powers to the judicial branch of government. If, for example, Congress doesn't achieve a balanced budget, could a court determine how to achieve that end or could the members of Congress be sued or jailed for contempt if they failed to comply? These are questions without answers because no one has any certain response to these possibilities.

3. This is a time when our nation is in need of recovery from an era of divisiveness, uncertainty and unrest. It would be a serious mistake to take the uncharted course of Article V, a calling of a Constitutional Convention which could lead to a power struggle between the Congress and the other branches of government.

The potential confrontation between Congress and the Convention, between Congress and the Supreme Court, and between the Supreme Court and the states could become a national nightmare.

gerontology

A. Jolayne Farrell

Dear Jo:

My son, daughter-in-law and their two toddlers are arriving from England for a two-week visit. This will be our first meeting with our grandchildren, and I am anxious to have the get-together go well. I recall years ago when our children were the same age we "child-proofed" our home so that our little ones were safe from all the hazards that children of that age get into. Generally, I know what to do, but since times have changed there seems to be so many more hazards around the house these days. Could you comment on this subject in your column.

Mrs. W. R. Dear Mrs. W.

You are so right. "Progress," including new products, can be hazardous to toddlers; not so much in their homes, which are pretty well "child-proofed," but more so in homes that are not geared for the curiosity of this age group.

With some foresight and planning your home can be "child-proofed" and your get-together with your family should go well.

Times have changed since your children were toddlers. New products such as plastic dry cleaning bags and lethal cleaning agents have taken their toll on toddlers.

When "child-proofing" your home, start by taking a general look at all the possible dangers, then go from room to room and evaluate each individual hazard. Check the kitchen, bathroom and garage for cleaners, poisons, pills and medications and store them in a locked cupboard. Childproof safety latches can be purchased at most hardware or baby stores.

Please note that certain plants can be hazardous when eaten. Those particularly dangerous are yucca, nardine, philodendron and dieffenbachia. If toddlers are attracted to small articles such as buttons, earrings, coins and bottle caps. Unfortunately, such items can end up in the child's mouth, nose or ear.

When the children are near the stove, be sure that the handles of the pots are turned inward to prevent scalding.

I hope I haven't been too discouraging in my advice with all the precautionary measures in preparation for the visit of your grandchildren.

Just keep in mind that they are going through an active, curiosity-seeking age. "Child-proof" your home relax and enjoy them.

volunteers

The Oakland County Volunteer Bureau has a current file of volunteer opportunities. Further information about these and other volunteer needs at more than 200 agencies may be obtained by calling the bureau at 642-7272. Any non-profit organization needing volunteer assistance also may call the bureau.

SKI PATROLLER — Cross country skiers are needed by Waterford Oaks County Park for patrolling trails in five-hour shifts during snow months. Volunteers would work one or two shifts per weekend. People age 15 and up with Red Cross Advanced first aid certificates are preferred.

FUND RAISER — Honest, dependable people, 15 and up, are needed by Oakland County Sheriff's Department to work in a booth during Lions, Panthers and Express games.

HANDYPERSON — Man or woman, 18 and up, who is handy with tools is needed to do general household maintenance chores in an adult foster care home by Voice for the Mentally Handicapped. Hours can be arranged to suit volunteer.

GROUP LEADER — If you have a genuine love and caring attitude towards the elderly and are at least 18 years of age, you're needed by Williamsburg Convalescent Center in Farmington, to work with residents in small groups. Time commitment would be at volunteer's request.

The Bibles May Stay in the Church Directory

For Church Directory Advertising Information PLEASE CALL 644-1100 Ext. 217

ST. PAUL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
165 E. Square Lake Road
Bloomfield Hills
12:30-1:00 PM of Woodmont
CHURCH SCHOOL 9:30 AM
WORSHIP 10:45 AM
Nursery Provided
Rev. Guenther C. Brannetter

NORTHWESTERN BAPTIST CHURCH
19421 W. 10 Mile Southfield
10 AM-CHURCH SCHOOL
11 AM-CHURCH SCHOOL
Wed. Prayer Meeting 7 PM
Minister George F. Billman

St. Paul's Lutheran Missouri Synod
20405 Middlebelt at 8 Mile
Farmington Hills • 474-0675
The Rev. Hugh E. Unger, Pastor
SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:30 & 11 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
Grades K-5
Wayne C. Berntsen Principal
474-2458

Orchard United Methodist
30450 FARMINGTON ROAD
Between 12 and 14 Mile Road
626-3620
WORSHIP 9:30 & 11 AM
CHURCH SCHOOL
9:30-11:00
11:00-12:00 2nd Grade
Robert L. S. Brown
Nancy A. Woycik

BEVERLY HILLS UNITED METHODIST
20000 W. 13 Mile at Evergreen
• 648-0777
WORSHIP: 10 AM
CHURCH SCHOOL: 10 AM
(Nursery thru High School)
Minister: John W. Gray

FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CHURCH
508-5608
WORSHIP 9:30 & 11:00 AM
CHURCH SCHOOL & NURSERY
Dr. Samuel F. Stout, Pastor
United Methodist in Affiliation
Ecumenical in Spirit

UNIVERSITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1385 S. Adams Road
375-0400
WORSHIP 9:00 & 11:15
Nursery Provided
CHURCH SCHOOL: 10:15
All Ages & Adult Education
11:15 thru 6th Grade
Barter-Free Access

SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
33424 Oakley
Farmington Hills • 474-2480
WORSHIP 10:15
CHURCH SCHOOL 9 AM
Barter Free Sanctuary
Nursery Provided
Rev. Lee W. Tyler
Pastor
Rev. Carl H. Schultz
Pastor Emeritus
PARSONAGE — 477-6478
"YOU ARE WELCOME"

EVANGELICAL FREE
Grace Evangelical Church
22200 Oak Road
Birmingham Community House
Birmingham • 333-1111
9:30 am Sunday School for All Ages
10:30 am Worship Service
Pastor: Rev. Robert L. Smith
334-0186 - Nursery Provided

HOPE LUTHERAN
39200 W. 12 Mile Road
Farmington Hills
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15
WORSHIP 10:30
V.H. Messenbrink
Pastor

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
32112 Grand River
Farmington Hills • 474-6573
WORSHIP SUNDAY
9:30 AM
Nursery Provided
Rev. Arthur L. Spafford

The Congregational Church of Birmingham U.C.C.
Woodward at Cranbrook
Bloomfield Hills
Family Church
Worship: 9:30 AM
Church School and
Worship: 11:00 AM
Nursery Care Both Hours
Barter-Free
MINISTERS
The Rev. Charles O. Erickson
Carol D. Gilm

SALVATION ARMY
27600 Glenview
at Inquirer Road
SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Sunday School: 10 AM
Morning Worship: 11 AM
Evening Worship: 8 PM
Prayer Meeting Thurs: 8 PM
Captain John Crumpton

CLARENCEVILLE UNITED METHODIST
20000 Woodchase, Livonia • 474-3444
Pastor Gerald Flaher
6:45 AM First Worship Service
10:00 AM Church School
11:15 AM Second Worship
Nursery Provided At All Services
5:45 pm Youth Meetings
7 pm Sun Eve Service
7 pm Wed. Wednesday Service

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BIRMINGHAM
1669 West Maple Road
Ministers:
F. Morgan Roberts
Charles A. Sommers
D. William Melvor
Darryl L. Baker
Stuart D. Broberg
Gerald S. Crawford
Morning Worship and Church School 9:30 & 11:15 AM. Nursery Provided

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN ALC - FARMINGTON
22200 Oak Road
3 Blocks S. of Farmington Rd.
WORSHIP 9:30 & 11 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:40
Pastor
C. Fox, J. Hockley

ST. ANDREW
Lutheran Church, L.C.A.
6255 Telegraph - North Maple
BIRMINGHAM
9:15 Sunday Church School
10:30 Sunday Worship
The Rev. C.W. Richter, Pastor
646-5277 • 646-8178

FIRST UNITED METHODIST
1589 West Maple at Pleasant
Ministers Robert P. Ward • Douglas W. Vernon
• Ronald K. Fulton • Charles H. Beynon
WORSHIP
9:30 - 11:00
Child Care All Services
Church School 9:30 - 11 AM

BAPTIST CHURCH
Bates and Wilks
Birmingham
Interim Pastor:
Rev. D. Douglas
Marston
CHURCH SCHOOL
11:00
WORSHIP
11:00
644-0550

CENTRAL WOODWARD CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(Disciples of Christ)
3000 E. 9th Avenue, Troy
"CHURCH SCHOOL:
9:30 AM
WORSHIP: 11:00 AM
Minister:
Robert H. Boyte
644-0512

Stark in the Hills PRESBYTERIAN
1340 W. Long Lake
MINISTERS:
James P. Anderson
Robert L. Lindsey
Steven J. Hamilton
WORSHIP SERVICE & CHURCH SCHOOL
9:30 and 11:30

Cross of Christ LUTHERAN
Corner Love and Telegraph
Bloomfield Hills
WORSHIP:
8:15 • 9:45 • 11:15
EDUCATIONAL
HOUR: 9:45
Nursery - 6th Grade
Junior/Senior High and
Adult Bible Classes

Northbrook Presbyterian
14 Mile & Lehigh Road
Lakewood
Worship
9:30 & 11:00 AM
- Nursery Provided -
Pastors:
M.L. Dunkelberger
Peter Moore
642-0200

THE COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH
1800 N. West Dr. at Birmingham Hwy. 474-3115
9:45 a.m.: CHURCH SCHOOL • 11:00 a.m.:
WORSHIP SERVICE
6:30 p.m.: EVENING SERVICE
WEDNESDAY
7 PM Prayer & Bible Study
8 PM Adult Choir

FIRST APOSTOLIC LUTHERAN
26325 Halstead Road
at Eleven Mile
FARMINGTON HILLS
SERVICES
11 AM: September-May
10 AM: June-August
7 PM: 1st and 3rd Sunday
Each Month
SUNDAY SCHOOL
9:30 AM: September-June
Tues. 7:45 P.M. Bible Class
September-May
Palm Services September-May
Last Sunday Each Month

GRACE CHAPEL
an outreach Church
of Ward Presbyterian
Services begin
October 2
9:30 A.M. Sunday School & 10:45 Worship
at William Tyndale College
Twelve Mile and Drake Roads
Farmington Hills
Rev. Douglas L. Kleis, Pastor • 422-1150

CHRIST CHURCH
EPISCOPAL
LONE PINE at CRANBROOK
THE REV. ALMUS M. THORP, JR., RECTOR
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
Morning Worship 9:15 & 11:15
Church School & Nursery 9:15
(Morning Prayer 2nd and 4th Sundays)
Weekday Eucharist
Tuesday 10:00 AM
Wednesday 7:00 AM
CHRIST CHURCH

NARDIN PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
29887 West Eleven Mile Road
Farmington Hills • 478-8860
WORSHIP SERVICES 8:15 & 11:00 AM
"THE INTIMACIES OF GOD"
II. "Watch Me"
Dr. William A. Ritter, Pastor
Rev. Jeffrey Driner, Assoc. Min.
Judy May, Director of C.E.
Mr. Melvin Rookus, Dir. Music

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN
Missouri Synod
12 Mile and Farmington Roads
Behind Crowley's
Worship 8:15 and 10:45
Sunday School & Bible Class 9:30
Pastor: Rev. T. Richard Mardo
Church Phone: 653-3380

NORTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
26275 Northwestern Highway near Lahser
Southfield, MI PHONE: 356-1660
United for the worship of God
and service to Humanity
Rev. Mark P. Jones, Senior Minister
Rev. E. Neil Hunt, Minister of Education
Dr. Harry Langford, Dir. of Music
WORSHIP SERVICE AND
CHURCH SCHOOL: 11 AM
No Stairs Nursery
CIVIC CENTER DR.

CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
36500 West Dawn Mills
Farmington Hills • 477-5333
BIBLE SCHOOL 10 AM
WORSHIP 11 AM and 7 PM
WED. BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM
Nursery Provided at All Services

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL
3611 N. Adams Pt. of Big Beaver
Bloomfield Hills • 424-2090
Sunday School 9:45 AM
Worship 11:00 AM
Barter Free
H.F. (Jack) Brown, Pastor

Brightmoor Tabernacle
26555 Franklin Rd. • Southfield MI
4786 • Telephone - Just West of Holiday Inn
Sunday School 9:45 AM - Morning Worship: 11:00 AM
Worship 9:45 AM - Praise - Youth Service 7:30 PM
Celebration of Praise: 6:30 PM
"WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT RUSSIA?"
1st in Series: "WHAT IS OUR WORLD COMING TO?"
Nursery Provided at All Services
A Charismatic Church where people of many denominations worship together
Thomas E. Trask, Pastor

FAITH COVENANT CHURCH
35415 W. 14 Mile Road
at Drake
661-9191
9:30 & 11:00 AM: MORNING WORSHIP
AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

WARD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LIVONIA
Farmington and Six Mile Roads
422-1150
Worship and Sunday School 8:30, 10:00 & 11:30 AM
"HOW GOD GUIDES"
Dr. Bartlett L. Hess
7:00 PM
Sermon Series on The Apostle's Creed Begins
"I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER"
Dr. Robert O. Woodburn
Wednesday 7:00 PM: School of Christian Education
(Activities for All Ages)
Sunday Service Broadcast
9:30 AM • WMUZ-FM 103.5
Nursery Provided
at all Services

DETROIT LAESTADIAN CONGREGATION
290 Fairground at Arbor
Arbor Trail - Plymouth
Donald W. Lantz, Pastor
671-1318
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM
WORSHIP: 11:00 AM
Tues. Bible Class
7:30 PM
All scheduled services in English.
Finnish language services scheduled
monthly, first Sunday at 11 AM.
Also available at any time.

THE LORD'S HOUSE
A Full Gospel Church
38824 Ann Arbor Trail
Newburgh
622-8463
Pastor Carl J. Forsyth
Sunday School 10:00 am
Morning Worship 11:00 am
Evening Service 7:00 pm
Wednesday Service 7:00 pm
Open Every Day 9:00 am
Until 11:00 pm
Children's Ministry at
Every Service
24 Hour Prayer Line 622-8410

"Daddy, is God real?"
Children want to know
that He is - that He's
here and that He loves
them.
There's a new Bible
Lesson every week at
the Christian Science
Sunday School. Your
children will be warmly
welcomed.
FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST
BIRMINGHAM
181 Chester at Wilks
Sunday Service and Sunday School
Wednesday Testimony Meeting
Reading Room at 355 E. Maple
Opens Daily at 9:30 AM • 644-7633
FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST
FRANKLIN-MEADOWLAKE
Maple Road at Inquirer
Sunday Service and Sunday School
Wednesday Testimony Meeting
Reading Room at 4261 Orchard Lake Road in Pine Lake Mall
Opens Daily at 10:00 AM • 851-7440

SKI PATROLLER — Cross country skiers are needed by Waterford Oaks County Park for patrolling trails in five-hour shifts during snow months. Volunteers would work one or two shifts per weekend. People age 15 and up with Red Cross Advanced first aid certificates are preferred.

FUND RAISER — Honest, dependable people, 15 and up, are needed by Oakland County Sheriff's Department to work in a booth during Lions, Panthers and Express games.

HANDYPERSON — Man or woman, 18 and up, who is handy with tools is needed to do general household maintenance chores in an adult foster care home by Voice for the Mentally Handicapped. Hours can be arranged to suit volunteer.

GROUP LEADER — If you have a genuine love and caring attitude towards the elderly and are at least 18 years of age, you're needed by Williamsburg Convalescent Center in Farmington, to work with residents in small groups. Time commitment would be at volunteer's request.