

PASTOR ENDS 17-YEAR STAY IN ONE CITY

Quits Boston Church for Louisville

By C. ELLIOTT FREEMAN JR.
Staff Correspondent

Boston, Mass., Oct. 14.—Dr. Benjamin Wilson Swain, D.D., who established a precedent in the A. M. E. Zion connection by his 17 years and four months services as pastor of the Columbus Ave. A. M. E. Zion church, has accepted a transfer by Bishop W. J. Walls, bishop of the New England A. M. E. Zion conference, to the Broadway tabernacle at Louisville, Ky.

The transfer is in the Kentucky conference, which is presided over by Bishop E. D. W. Jones, and became effective Oct. 1.

He was appointed pastor of the Columbus Ave. A. M. E. church by the late Bishop Alexander Walters. At that time the church was mortgaged for \$41,000. Through the untiring efforts of Dr. Swain the debts have been reduced to \$13,000. During this time several thousand dollars of improvements have been made and a parsonage valued at \$9,000 purchased.

Dr. Swain's leaving will mean a great loss to the community and to New England as well as he was recognized as one of the ablest ministers of New England.

A Real Leader

He was recognized as a leader in religious and civic affairs in Greater Boston and in the state. Dr. Swain was vice president of the local branch of the N. A. A. C. P., a position he has held for over 15 years. He is treasurer of the Boston branch of the Equal Rights League, a member of the executive committee of the Boston Urban League and trustee of Rest Haven, a home for aged people.

In religious circles he is the recording secretary of the New England annual conference, treasurer of the New England annual conference, ex-vice president of the Massachusetts Federated Churches (white), a position he held for five years, an unprecedented length of time; he was the only member of the Race to receive this honor. He is an ex-vice president of the Boston Federated Church and a member of the Race relationship committee.

But establishing precedents in New England was a part of Dr. Swain. He was characterized by this writer nine years ago as being the marrying parson of Greater Boston and lived up to that reputation by uniting 1,847 couples during his stay here. Dr. Swain has the distinction of having united 318 white couples. He celebrated his 1,782d marriage by giving a banquet in honor of the couple.

Honored at Banquet

A farewell testimonial attended by several thousands was given at the Columbus Ave. A. M. E. Zion church in his honor Monday evening. He was the recipient of a large purse. The testimonial was under the di-

rection of Dr. Walter O. Taylor, chairman of the board of trustees.

Among some of the many speakers present were Mayor Quinn of Cambridge, ex-Mayor James M. Curley, Attorneys Charles W. M. Williams, Matthew Bullock, Rev. E. Talmadge Root, ex-secretary of the Massachusetts Federated Churches; Rev. David S. Klugh, representing the Ministers Interdenominational alliance; Attorney Butler R. Wilson, president of the N. A. A. C. P.; Rev. H. R. Jackson, presiding elder of the New England A. M. E. Zion conference, Rev. I. B. Turner of Worcester, Mass., and Rev. W. B. Jones of Providence, R. I.