

The following document was posted on the MNS District website. Key statements have been highlighted by ULC. See the following page for commentary on these sections.

A Memorandum Concerning the Report of the Campus Ministry Task Force From the Minnesota South District Office - April 20, 2011

In 2008, the Board of Directors established a Campus Property Task Force (the “Property Task Force”). The Property Task Force included representatives from the Mission Committee, the Finance Committee, the University Lutheran Chapel (Minneapolis), the Campus Lutheran Chapel (Mankato), and the Board of Directors. When the Property Task Force presented its report to the Board of Directors in May 2009 the report contained two recommendations:

1. The campus ministry properties at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis and at Minnesota State University, Mankato should not be sold at this time.
2. The Minnesota South District through its Board and its Missions and Finance Committees should develop a comprehensive plan for the conduct of campus ministry within the District for the next decade. The current models in use and other models for campus ministry should be analyzed to determine the most cost-efficient and most effective way to share the Gospel on the campuses of Minnesota colleges and universities, not only in Minneapolis and Mankato, but also throughout the District.

Based on the report, the Board of Directors, at its September 2010 meeting, authorized the formation of a Campus Ministry Planning Task Force (the “Campus Ministry Task Force”). The Campus Ministry Task Force was asked “to develop a comprehensive plan for the conduct of campus ministry in the future as proposed by the Campus Ministry [Property] Task Force.”

The Campus Ministry Task Force completed its assignment, developing a comprehensive plan *for expansion of campus ministry to the colleges and universities located within the District, while exercising responsible stewardship of limited resources.*

Having completed their study, the Campus Ministry Task Force presented their report (the “Campus Ministry Report”) to a joint meeting of the Missions and Finance Committees on April 19, 2011. In the interest of open communication and transparency, representatives from Campus Lutheran Chapel (Mankato) and University Lutheran Chapel (Minneapolis) were invited to attend and respond to the Campus Ministry Report. Those invited to the meeting received, in advance, confidential copies of the documents presented at the meeting. Prior to the meeting, a representative of ULC shared certain inaccurate information about the Campus Ministry Report via social media.

The intent of the Campus Ministry Task Force is to present its final report to the Board of Directors at its regular May meeting. Because Board members will have no opportunity to see or hear the presentation before the May meeting, all participants in the April 19th meeting were asked to keep the documents comprising the Campus Ministry Report confidential until the May Board meeting. At the April 19 meeting, ULC participants stated their refusal to honor this request of President Seitz and the Campus Ministry Task Force.

As a result of the premature dissemination of the Campus Ministry Report, the materials comprising such report have now been sent to the members of the Board of Directors. In an effort to provide complete and accurate information and correct misinformation to the church-at-large, these materials have also been posted on the District website. The Board of Directors will consider the Campus Ministry Report and the recommendations of the Campus Ministry Task Force at its May meeting.

The Campus Ministry Report outlines a vision for multiplication of campus ministry throughout the District, including ministry by University Lutheran Chapel (Minneapolis) and campus ministry at Minnesota State University (Mankato) while being responsible stewards of the limited resources available to the District.

The statement that there has been open communication and transparency is laughable.

ULC, according to the Ministry Understandings and Agreements document which established how the District and ULC would work with one another, was to have been included in any discussions pertaining to issues that would affect ULC or the campus ministry property at the U of M. ULC was not informed of the creation of the Task Force and was never invited to participate. Only when the Task Force had completed its work was ULC informed. Information about the Task Force's work and recommendations were provided to ULC only 3 days prior to the meeting and then was stamped "confidential". How is this by any stretch of the imagination open and transparent?

Participants were asked to keep the information presented at the April 19th meeting confidential. ULC participants rightly refused to do so. President Seitz then claimed that according to St. Paul we had to keep things confidential for the sake of "good order" (I Cor 14). Pastor Kind rebuffed this statement saying that good order never means doing things under the cover of darkness. He also reminded President Seitz that the District had not lived up to its agreements with ULC and had not consulted either of the District's campus pastors in preparing the Task Force's plan. **We will not keep silent and will not repent of having made these issues public.**

The claim is made that this is an issue of responsible stewardship. Is it responsible stewardship to sell a church that is completely paid for, that houses a thriving congregation and virtually self-sustaining campus ministry, that is located right on campus, that is in a neighborhood where five to six new apartment complexes have been and are being constructed, when there is no other LC-MS congregation anywhere nearby? **How could anyone claim this is a stewardship issue?!!**