

The following memorial to the 2012 MNS District Convention was passed by the Rochester Circuit Forum. On Sunday, February 12.

Times have changed. Of course they have. The Gospel and the means Christ has given to deliver it have not and never will change.

There may also be more colleges and universities within the boundaries of the District. However, most of the colleges and universities the District's Plan to "Expand" Campus Ministry addresses have been in existence for decades. The MNS District at one time had at least nine other campus ministries which were of the town-gown model proposed in the District's new "Plan". Only the campus ministries with buildings and paid staffing have survived to this day. Shall we really sacrifice a thriving, self-supporting ministry at the state's largest school, the 4th largest university in the United States, to pursue a plan that has been proven a failure?

The District has concentrated virtually all of its campus ministry financial resources on one campus: Mankato. ULC costs the district around \$5K-10K per year in actual money spent. The campus ministry at Mankato costs around \$150K per year.

ULC has reached thousands, not dozens, of students over the years. We've sent dozens of men and women out as seminary students, missionaries, teachers, etc. Let's not get these numbers confused.

We've also had students from Northwestern, Concordia, Hamline, Augsburg, St. Olaf, St. Catherines, Macalester, St. Thomas, MCTC, Metro State, and other colleges attending our chapel over the past several years.

The District has not engaged in several years of study to come up with this plan. It was conceived of in only a few months and with very little study.

ULC is about the most cost-efficient full-time campus ministry that one could imagine. If the District would allow ULC to own the chapel, it would be completely self-sufficient. As it stands it costs the District next to nothing each year.

Thanks be to God for the supporters of ULC! We are quite willing to support the District's efforts to start new campus outreach efforts, but not at the cost of ULC's thriving campus ministry and chapel facilities.

If the sale of ULC's chapel goes through, is it not right that proceeds from that sale go to the campus ministry and congregation for which the chapel was built, and for whom the money was originally raised? This would not be subsidy, but reparation.

To Affirm Plan to Expand Campus Ministry

WHEREAS throughout the years many have been blessed by the District's traditional campus ministries at Mankato and Minneapolis (as well as the unique ministry of Concordia University); and

WHEREAS times have changed a great deal since these ministries were started (there are now many more colleges and universities within our District boundaries); and

WHEREAS in recent years we have concentrated virtually all of our District's campus ministry financial resources upon these two campuses, reaching dozens of students each year, and done little to serve the thousands of students at the other campuses; and

WHEREAS after several years of study, the District Board of Directors has begun to put in place a plan which would broaden the scope of our outreach; and

WHEREAS this would require the two existing ministries to modify their ministries to be more cost-efficient for the sake of a broader outreach; and

WHEREAS it would seem that the ministry in Mankato is willing to make such modifications and move forward; and

WHEREAS supporters of the ministry in Minneapolis have mounted an intensive nationwide lobbying campaign seeking to stop any change; and

WHEREAS there are proposals to have the District heavily subsidize University Lutheran Chapel, which could have the impact of severely hampering efforts at many other locations; therefore be it

Resolved that the dedicated supporters of University Lutheran Chapel in Minneapolis be encouraged in their continued efforts to raise extra funds from alumni and friends across the country as additional support for their unique ministry; and be it further

Resolved that the District in convention affirm the plan to broaden campus ministry efforts and resources throughout the District by the sale of the existing campus ministry properties.

The MNS District ought to engage in a fundraising campaign to raise money to start the proposed campus ministry sites, rather than cannibalize a flag-ship campus ministry like University Lutheran Chapel.

This memorial was written by Rev. James Heining, a member of the MNS Board of Directors, and Chairman of the Missions Committee that first proposed selling ULC's chapel.

The Rochester Circuit also includes BOD member Rev. William Otte, the District Secretary.

Circuit Counselor

Circuit Secretary

Rochester Circuit Forum
February 12, 2012