

**Given by Rev. Dr. Karl A. Weber
Regent at CUSP
Elected by Synod**

On Thursday, May 12, 2011, Rev. Dr. Bob Holst, CUSP President, to be retired on June 1, 2011 was at the CUSP BOR Mtg. From 3:15 – 4:00 PM Rev. Holst gave his closing thoughts and reminisced on 20 years of his Presidency at CUSP and 40 + years as a Pastor. This was said to the entire BOR and not behind closed doors or in executive session.

Among other things Rev. Holst said that too long had he thought of the church as the people, and just the people. But over time his thoughts have evolved or become refined.

The impetus for this “refinement” came over a course of years as people asked him if CUSP was going to leave the city of St. Paul. Was CUSP going to move to the suburbs following the lead of Northwestern and Bethel, to Roseville, and Arden Hills, respectively?

Rev. Holst stated that in addition to the people being the church, the building is also the church. The building also speaks of the Triune God; a God of peace, truth, and mercy. Holst said, “The Word always becomes incarnate,” and by that he was meaning the brick and mortar of the building and its location. In this case the location happened to be in an ethnic, immigrant, minority setting.

There is an incarnation in the Word – brick and mortar. Holst went on to say that with a church building, “... there is a safety on these grounds, no gang colors, the church offers something different, noble, heavenly.” And the people look to this. And it is for these reasons that CUSP has not moved under Host’s presidency. The people know that this building speaks of Jesus Christ – the brick and mortar says something, it says a lot.

When Holst initially said this I took notes. Then, during time for Q & A I asked Holst if he could expound on his saying that he has come to view the church as more than people. I asked him to focus on his statement that the brick and mortar and location was a powerful statement to the life-saving Gospel that we are here for you, we have not left you. When I asked Rev. Holst to expound, I added how his statement brought back memories of my college days when I attend Fordham University in the South Bronx. And Rev. Holst did repeat himself.

Hearing these words grew my appreciation for my alma mater, Fordham University, as well as my respect and appreciation for President Holst. Rev. Lane Seitz was in the room when Rev. Holst spoke.