MEMO February 6, 1968

To: The Annual Congregational Meeting, University Lutheran Church, February 6, 1968

From: Pastor Santmire

Re: The Lutheran Ministry at Harvard (and Radcliffe) during the next decade

I. The Present Situation

We have committed ourselves, rightly, I believe, to enter into the university community, in mission and in service, as well as to nourish the relatively few Harvard students and faculty of Lutheran background who normally find their way to University Lutheran Church and participate in our worship and in our programs.

A. The Lutheran Ministry at Harvard must therefore be distinguishable from the ministry, worship, and programs of University Lutheran Church. The Lutheran Ministry at Harvard must have a visible "on-campus" focus and must be able to distinguish itself in the eyes of the university community from the work of the "parish church" at 66 Winthrop Street.

This is being accomplished, in part, by:

1. Whole-hearted participation in the United Ministry at Harvard and in its cooperative programs, such as seminars, forums, worship, and formal or informal moral leadership;
2. Use of distinguishable names, i.e. "The Lutheran Ministry at Harvard" rather than "University Lutheran Church," "The Lutheran Chaplain at Harvard" rather than "Assistant Pastor";
3. Use of a university telephone;
4. The anticipated use of a distinguishable stationery;
5. The formation of an official undergraduate organization, the Harvard Undergraduate Lutheran Committee, with its own program, e.g. the "Cross Question Series" at Lowell House, which drew some 600 for four forums this fall; the experimental Bread and Jam Vespers, which attracts a number of non-Lutherans and has averaged over twenty in attendance (this year a series of six talks by Harvard-based chaplains is planned);
6. The publication of a newsletter especially for Lutherans at Harvard and for other interested persons in the Harvard community; most recently this newsletter presented an in-depth discussion of the Dow Protest at Harvard; it is being read with interest by a number of non-Lutherans in the Harvard Community;
7. The encouragement of Lutheran students to participate in social action projects through Harvard's excellent Phillips Brooks House and to seek positions of leadership in the Harvard community generally as ways of giving expression to their Christian commitment;
8. The formation of a Harvard Lutheran Advisory Committee, composed of Harvard faculty and others associated with the Harvard community, which will advise the Chaplain, particularly by reading and criticizing his reports in detail.

B. Nevertheless, both geography and prudence dictate that the Lutheran Ministry at Harvard should not be separated from the work and worship of University Lutheran Church.

1. The Lutheran Chaplain at Harvard has found the regular work of preaching and leadership in worship to be indispensable for his ministry on-campus.

2. University Lutheran Church is uniquely endowed for the presentation of special art and musical programs, etc. which have been and can continue to be of central importance for the Lutheran Ministry at Harvard.

3. Harvard students and faculty desperately need contact and communion with a wide variety of people, young and old, hawk and dove, academic and non-academic, man and woman, which University Lutheran Church uniquely affords. The Harvard community is much too in-grown already; it needs more and more openings to non-Rarvard reality.

4. Harvard Christians need the contact with and commitment to the institutional Church, which a relationship to University Lutheran Church affords.

5. Our ministry to graduate students and faculty would be seriously inhibited if we could not offer them our excellent Church School, Adult Forum, and contacts and friendships through "Dust and Rib", Sojourners, and the 11 a.m. Coffee Hour.

6. Lutherans still have a special witness to make through our lively liturgical worship with a preaching which is directed to the contemporary situation; a vibrant liturgy with sensitive preaching is essential for the Lutheran Ministry at Harvard.

WE MIGHT THEREFORE THINK OF THE LUTHERAN MINISTRY AT HARVARD, IF THE PROSAIC IMAGE BE PERMITTED, AS (HOPEFULLY) A "LIGHT TO THE WORLD" ON-CAMPUS; BUT ONE WHICH IS BATTERY-DRIVEN, AS IT WERE, AND WHICH CAN ONLY REALLY EXIST BY BEING RECHARGED AT UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHURCH ON A REGULAR BASIS.

Note; Present budgetary procedures with respect to the Lutheran Ministry at Harvard seem to be satisfactory. A separate budget does not seem to be called for at this time.

Also, the present parish responsibilities of the Staff Person assigned to Harvard such as the work with the Committee on the Arts, the Committee on Social Concerns, the Board of Property, counseling, calling, and above all, work on-campus at Wellesley and on the home base with the Student Council, seem to be a satisfactory work load and also make for a creative interchange between the poles of campus ministry and parish ministry (in keeping with items 1-6 in paragraph I, B above).

II. The Next Decade

It will be evident from what has been said in paragraph I, B above that continued investment in the work of University Lutheran Church will be essential for the Lutheran Ministry at Harvard, particularly investment in such facilities as a usable organ and certain architectural renovations especially in the chancel and nave.

There may come a time when some or even all of the support of our Staff Person at Harvard will be provided by Harvard University. But that time is far, far away; we will not see it in the next ten years in all likelihood. So we should anticipate paying the cost for the Harvard Ministry ourselves.

Expenses for program at Harvard will probably not develop geometrically, although we can anticipate a gradual climb. We should look forward, particularly, to contributing, say, $250.00 to the work of the United Ministry rather than $75.00.

The only inhibiting factor in the Lutheran Ministry at Harvard, as far as the present Chaplain is concerned, is the lack of a housing allowance of sufficient size to allow him to live in the immediate proximity of the campus and to have a house or apartment which permits entertaining on a regular and substantial basis.

One may think here, for example, of the campus Pastor at New York University who lives on-campus at a cost of $280.00 per month; a substantial cost, but worth it in the long run. One may also think here of the very effective use Harvard's Preacher to the University has made of his home at 21 Kirkland Street; the Episcopal Chaplain at 2 Garden Street has done likewise.

The most significant development in the next ten years for the Lutheran Ministry at Harvard will probably be the construction of an extensive Ecumenical Center. This is already in the planning stages, although the final authorization and design have yet to be completed. We should, however, consider what our role in that Center will be if it does materialize.

The chief partners of the Center will be the Roman Catholics, the Jews, and Harvard-Epworth Methodist Church. The United Ministry will also be a partner and will seek foundation support to be so involved. A multi-million dollar development of a block of choice property next to Harvard's Quincy House and behind St. Paul parish is envisioned. The Center will surely include parish facilities for Harvard-Epworth Methodist Church, two Synagogues, and certain parish facilities for St. Paul Church. The Center will, also, in all likelihood, include a drama-workshop space, an auditorium, a library, small dining rooms, seminar rooms, and offices for the United Ministry. And the Center will include at least one high-rise apartment to help defer initial and upkeeping costs.

Given our strategic location at 66 Winthrop Street and our pressing financial needs for a variety of urgent, worthy projects, I do not think that we would want to consider being a major partner in the project along with the above-mentioned four. Also, it seems to me that for the immediate future we will want to keep the Harvard Staff Person's office at 66 Winthrop Street for reasoms implied in paragraph I, B above. Though, I would think, in keeping with the logic of paragraph I, A, it would be advisable for the Harvard Staff Person to be able to share an office part-time in the Center and, of course, to have full access to the facilities of the Center through the United Ministry.

In the long run, however, it would seem advisable to consider seriously one substantial financial investment in the Center: An apartment for the Harvard Staff Person and his family. This presumably could be acquired on a condominium basis.

The advantages of such an apartment are clear: First, the usual ones of being able to attract the kind of person the position requires by offering him attractive living quarters without the fuss of having to find living space in Cambridge – a fuss which will increase in the next decade. Second, the advantages of convenience to the Harvard community and to University Lutheran Church. The Staff Person would be living, for all intents and purposes, on-campus and would be able to do a good deal more entertaining and counseling than is now possible. Third, the less tangible but no less real advantages of having a visible investment in a Harvard (or quasi-Harvard) property and thereby having a visible presence in the community, analogous to that of House Masters and Senior Tutors. In status-conscious Harvard that kind of presence could be decisive.

Should there come a time when a Harvard Staff Person should not want to live in the Center, the apartment could be rented with little difficulty, perhaps giving preference to some visiting professor on sabbatical who could contribute to the life of University Lutheran Church and to the work of the Lutheran Ministry at Harvard.

To finance such an investment, as well as to finance other increasing costs for the Lutheran Ministry at Harvard, I think we could turn with good conscience and with some anticipation to Harvard Lutheran Alumni and to other friends.

III. Recommendations

A. That the Annual Meeting of the Congregation refer this memo to the Church Council and/or to a Long-Range Planning Committee for further consideration.

B. That the Annual Meeting of the Congregation refer this memo to the Finance Committee for its information.

C. That the Annual Meeting of the Congregation specifically ask the Church Council and/or a Long-Range Planning Committee:

1. To investigate the feasibility of an appeal to Harvard Lutheran Alumni for funds for the Lutheran Ministry at Harvard, and to make recommendations in this regard to the next Annual Meeting of the Congregation;

2. To consider the need for a substantially increased housing allowance for the Harvard Staff Person which would allow him to live in a house or apartment suitable for entertaining, in the immediate proximity of the campus, and to make recommendations in this regard to the next Annual Meeting of the Congregation;

3. To investigate fully the possibilities for Lutheran involvement in the planned Ecumenical Center and, pending further materialization of the project, to make recommendations in this regard to the next Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

ev