

(Chapreport 5a)

University Chaplain's Report 1964

There are three new developments, or new spreading up of old developments, to be reported this year.

The Rev. Keith Clifford, B.D., Phd, a United Church minister from Winnipeg, has now served one term as General Secretary for the Student Christian Movement. Dr. Clifford became caught up into campus activities, both curricular and extra curricular, in a very short time. He was invited to lecture in classes and at symposia on several occasions. The fact that this happened so quickly after his arrival was partly due to the fact that, during the period between secretaries, there was a continuity of religious ministry in the persons of the Chaplains and the professors of the Religious Studies Department.

While the official stand of the University administration towards chaplains remains ambiguous, the surprising new fact is the attitude of the Alma Mater Society and other student groups. Chaplains and Religious Studies' professors are warmly welcomed at a variety of student conferences and symposia. At these, the theological dialogue arises often and spontaneously. It engages a much wider variety of students and faculty than would attend programmes sponsored by religious organizations.

The other matter concerning which the relationship between the student council and the chaplains has been remarkably good is the housing of chaplains. The University made it clear it would make no commitments regarding offices for chaplains and religious workers. However it was discovered that the committee in charge of planning the new Student Union Building was very open to the suggestion of having a Chapel and Chaplains' offices integrated into the building, so long as these could be underwritten by private subscription. In fact the Council offered to take the risk of including some of these facilities in the planning even before the funds could be guaranteed by the Religious Council of the University.

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I can hardly call the following observation "New", but I am compelled to say that I am even more convinced than ever that the Campus needs a Ministry. As the years go by I discover how deep is the loneliness of lonely campus person. Whenever any of these are finally reached I am overcome with the enormity of the burdens these people bear in their loneliness.

Chaplain's Report 1964, Cont'd.

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It is also getting through to me how much the modern campus needs a ministry in the matter of sex. It will take a long time for me to know just what that ministry is. But an enormous number of students are sick of sex and fearful that it can never be redeemed for them. They ache that it comes to be something creative and beautiful but are pretty convinced that it won't. They are asking for more than information.... that they have. At the same time most of what is said to them in the name of a ministry, is almost completely rejected.

I think it is worth reporting, although I had nothing to do with it, that there appears to be a significant trend developing in the coming forward of candidates for the ministry out of the High School University age group. There is a large enough number of likely young people in this group for it to become a community with its own creative possibilities.

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