

March 31, 1971

Mr. Ned Yoder  
Chairman of the Strategy Committee  
Southeast Iowa Presbytery of the United Presbyterian  
Church in the United States of America  
c/o Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Keokuk, Iowa 52632

Dear Mr. Yoder:

Those who sign this letter are only a few of a large group of members of the First Presbyterian Church of Iowa City who feel that the session of our church is proceeding to the tearing down of our church building without sufficient planning and consideration of what is involved. We believe:

1. That the Presbytery should have been consulted before at least most of the steps of the last five years towards relocation and tearing down the church were taken. Each new step has added to our distress. How unnecessary if in the end Presbytery disapproves of the whole thing!

2. That the primary mission of our church is to the students of the University of Iowa and that that mission can best be served by staying where we are, in the midst of the university campus; that we have a moral obligation to Presbyterians throughout the state to continue in our present location.

3. That the time has come for a cooling off period and a cessation of activities leading toward the destruction of the church building and relocation before the congregation is torn more asunder than it already is today.

We respectfully request that your committee give us and other concerned persons a hearing and afford us the opportunity to present evidence on the above and any pertinent related matters.

Your reply may be directed to Emil G. Trott, 9 South Linn Street, Iowa City, Iowa 52240.

Respectfully submitted,

cc: Richard J. Tinklenberg  
Reuben J. Tjaden  
Jack L. Zerwas  
Kenneth Donelson

William Cozine  
Mr. E. H. Nagel  
Elmer E. Hemingway  
N. Kay Callaghan  
Emil G. Trott  
Donny B. Stout  
Jeffrey Laren