

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

IOWA CITY, IOWA 52242



Office of the President

January 4, 1973

Members of Congregation
c/o Mr. Kenneth Donnelson, Clerk of Session
First Presbyterian Church
26 East Market Street
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Dear Members of Congregation:

It was brought to our attention on December 26, 1973 that an offer has been made to purchase the site of the First Presbyterian Church and that the offer will be submitted to the congregation on January 6, 1974 for your action. It is also our understanding that the congregation, at the same meeting, will consider any other offers that have been received.

The University of Iowa's interest in the First Presbyterian Church was set forth in a letter dated September 15, 1971, which I wrote to Mr. Lyse Duncan. It stated in part that:

- 1) From the University's standpoint, we would prefer to have the First Presbyterian Church remain on its present location because we feel that the use of that location as a Church has proved through the years to be highly compatible with the University.
- 2) If the First Presbyterian Church should decide that it does not wish to continue on the present site, then we would urge the Church to sell to another congregation which would utilize the Church.
- 3) If neither of the foregoing alternatives is pursued, we would hope that the First Presbyterian Church would sell the Church to any organization dedicated to the preservation of historical landmarks.
- 4) If none of the foregoing alternatives are pursued by the Church, then the University reluctantly must face the question of whether it can stand aside if this site is to be utilized for some purpose other than a Church or historical landmark.

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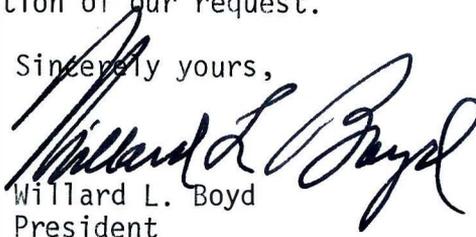
Since a condition of the offer that has been received by you is that the name of the offeror, the purchase price, and the use for which the property is being purchased be held in confidence until the congregation meeting, it is impossible for the University to assess the impact of the offer being made.

Since no conditions under which the property may be purchased have been prescribed by the Church, it is impossible for the University to submit an offer that reflects a price it could pay under the same terms and conditions that are contained in the offer that has been received. In addition, it is impossible for any other interested purchaser to submit an offer based on the same set of specifications.

In view of this circumstance, we urge the congregation not to accept any offers at this time and to direct the appropriate body within the Church to prepare a set of specifications under which the property will be sold and then to invite offers from all interested purchasers. This will permit all offers to be considered under the same terms and conditions. If this suggestion is accepted, then by January 14, 1974, the University will be able to respond within the constraints directed by the State Board of Regents including: "The University would not be in a position to maintain the Church sanctuary as an historical monument because it would be a questionable policy for the Board of Regents to use State funds to acquire and preserve a local historical landmark."

We will appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely yours,



Willard L. Boyd
President

cc: Mr. Robert Sierk
Mr. Ray Mossman
Campus Planning Committee
Members State Board of Regents