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CONWELL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

ON THE CAMPUS OF TEMPLE UNIVERSITY  
PARK AVENUE AND NORRIS STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19122

July 26, 1966

Dr. Raymond B. Hoxeng, President  
Inter American University  
San German, Puerto Rico

Dear Ray:

I have spent two full days in Duncan Findley's office since we last met. I was there on the 11th and 18th. Today I have been going over the material and I plan to go back on Monday August 1. Both Duncan and Mrs. De Martino have been most helpful. I am sending Wayne Wasson a copy of this letter.

I have gone through the IAU file carefully. The most important items are the duplicate set of files for churches and presbyteries which Duncan Findley continues to use to list contributions, and the master file which contains the individual contributions as well as the contributions from churches and presbyteries.

We reorganized and checked the active file and divided it into two sets, one for paid up pledges and the other for outstanding pledges. We also checked the outstanding pledges against the balance sheet that Duncan Findley gave us when we were there. There are a few changes and modifications which we made. The files are accurate and Mrs. De Martino and I have gone over filing and reporting procedures. It is interesting to note that most of the unpaid pledges are from churches which have not contributed since 1963.

I am enclosing a list of the "Memorial Opportunities" and the letters related to this aspect of the fund raising program. There is little indication that gifts were made for specific memorials. It rather seems that the memorial gift idea was used as a further means to encourage a church to give to the program. I will study this further next week, however, I feel that memorial giving provides a good opportunity for a further appeal to churches and individuals. (Subject of course to the thinking of the IAU Synod Committee.)

I feel that the most important work done so far has been to list the amounts of pledges both paid and unpaid in the 1966 Statistical Journal of the Presbyterian Church. The journal lists all of the 879 churches in the Synod. The ministers name and address is included as well as membership etc. When I have checked this through again, I will send this to you. We should be able to have the Synod office run off a set of our envelopes on their addressograph plates for the entire Synod. They could

then be sorted quickly for the two or three letters to be sent to churches of the Synod. We should check our addressograph files,,as 3 or 4 years ago I had a set made for the churches of the Synod. Ricardo might know about this.

One thing struck me as I recorded the amounts pledged and paid by the churches of the Synod, that was the number of churches which pledged more than \$1,000.00 to the Chapel Fund. I would think that these churches might respond again to a personal letter from you for memorial gifts, etc. A hurried count indicates that 54 churches gave one thousand dollars or more to the campaign. For the most part, these are large and affluent churches. The right approach to Church and minister could possibly duplicate the gift.

It is my understanding that you want me to be involved with the IAU Synod Committee. I will be on vacation from August 8-31. I have a faculty meeting on Sept. 8. Registration is from Sept. 14-16. Classes begin for me on Tues. Sept. 19. My classes meet on Tuesday and Thursday and Friday. Thus Monday and Wednesday are my available days. Monday is a good day for ministers to meet. It is my hope that arrangements can be made to meet with the Synod committee at a time that I can be present.

At some point I plan to visit Merle Irwin and discuss the whole situation with him.

Items for Synod Committee consideration:

1. what to do about churches which have not paid pledge in full.
2. the mailing of letters, progress reports and follow up requests for additional gifts, to presbyteries, churches and individuals.
3. memorial gifts as a means of increasing the total fund.

All is well, clear and promising. I believe that Merle, the IAU Synod Committee and Duncan Findley have all made a significant contribution to the successful campaign.

When either you or Mr. Wasson are in NYC, I would like to talk with you about the Chapel Fund situation. It is difficult to try to discuss all aspects of the matter by letter.

Sincerely,

*Stuart  
Chapel file*

Watson S. Custer

cc. Wayne Wasson