

April 11, 1962

The Reverend Milton Wyatt
Executive Secretary of the Board of Education
P. O. Box 78
Lakeland, Florida

Dear Friend Wyatt:

Since the student conference I have been giving quite a bit of thought to the work of the Wesley Foundation as it represents the Methodist Church on the Florida State Campus at Tallahassee. I know that you, as an executive secretary, are quite conscious of the increasing demands being made upon the board, especially in the area of higher education. I consider that no phase of the higher education program of Methodism has a greater need than the Wesley Foundation movement, which is a part of the higher education responsibilities of the church.

You have found that somewhere in the materials piled away in your office when you assumed the present responsibility of executive secretary of the board there was an evaluation or survey committee report which was made after considerable time was given visiting the various Wesley Foundations in the state. There were in this report some suggestions with reference to the present developing program at Florida State at Tallahassee. I remember one of the suggestions was the necessity of the board taking into consideration the decentralizing of the present facilities in order to meet the needs of that rapidly growing campus community. It is my understanding also that the present staff and board are considering a decentralization of facilities and bases of operation which may make it possible for a more effective campus ministry under the auspices of the Methodist Church.

I think it is generally felt that the present Wesley Foundation site with a chapel and some work on the buildings there are necessities, and, taking into account the direction in which the campus is going, it might be worth some serious consideration by the board of directors and the leadership in Florida to think in terms of one or two other centers of operation under the direction of a unified staff. At any rate, when the campus reaches the point of having 3,500 students, in which the Methodist Church will have a definite equity, it will be necessary to consider seriously a multiple staff.

I had enough time to see the plans that had been worked out while on a brief visit to the campus before the convening of the student conference at Leesburg, and also as a member of a committee during the session of the Leesburg conference. I can see that what is developing now is very much in accord with what was suggested several years ago in the committee's study. We feel that there is real merit in the Foundation's making these plans so that it can take care of a changed housing situation on the campus by 1970 with the increased number of students.

I also feel that in connection with the multiple staff plan that serious consideration should be given to well qualified leadership academically trained for the work. In addition to full-time staff personnel, there is certainly always the possibility of an intern program which can be taken care of from year to year and will bring very great assistance to the present staff as they face enlarged responsibility. Our office this year has given careful consideration to cooperation with the intern program in a number of respects, including financially and making plans which I believe will help relieve some of the staff needs in many situations.

I pass this along just as a special interest that I have in your developing plans in connection with your program and the board, and I hope that under your administration there may be a chance for the student movement, with its program of work under the direction of the Foundation, to increase its service to the potential leadership of Methodism that we have on the campuses of Florida.

It was good to see you and be with you recently in Florida, and I trust that you will come our way as often as you can.

With best wishes, I am

Very sincerely,
(signed)
Harvey C. Brown

HEB:FM