

1706 Orchard Drive  
Brookings, SD 57006  
September 29, 1983

Mr. Merrill D. Hunter  
903 North Egan  
Madison, SD 57042

Dear Mr. Hunter:

I have made arrangements for a substitute at the Clear Lake church for Sunday, October 23. This means I will be able to join your congregation for an 11 a.m. Holy Communion service at Madison on that day. This date is different from the October 16 date originally discussed. Unless I hear otherwise, I will assume you want me to conduct services on October 23.

I have given serious thought relative to expanding a ministry with your congregation. In order to determine what our strategies should be, I would need to do the following:

1. Review your parochial reports and/or vestry minutes for the past three years, with particular emphasis on programmatic planning and fiscal support.
2. Peruse a list of active, somewhat active, and inactive members. This list should also identify people in the community who might be expected to ask the church for burial services, even though they have no other affiliation or relationship to the congregation. This list should indicate the approximate ages and occupations of the persons named.
3. Study the demographic profile of Madison and the surrounding communities. I would prepare this demographic study on my own computer, but I believe it should be shared and discussed thoroughly with members of your vestry.
4. Begin some initial parish calling in order to become acquainted with the church members and also let them become better acquainted with me.
5. Begin some preliminary sessions with the vestry regarding goals and missions for Grace church. I anticipate that such planning would answer the following questions:
  - a. What is the theological basis for our presence in Madison?
  - b. What is it that the congregation wants to accomplish here?
  - c. Who will do the work to attain these accomplishments?
  - d. What is the time frame under which we hope to achieve these goals?

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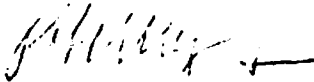
- e. What resources will be needed in order to accomplish these things?
- f. What kinds of indicators will be used to help us identify whether we are achieving these goals?

In order to accomplish these things, I would suggest that the vestry contract not only for occasional Sunday services during October and November, but also for three or four evenings of pastoral ministry. This would include meeting with certain members of the congregation, reviewing the minutes, parochial reports and other church records, and holding discussion sessions with the vestry and other organizational leadership within the parish. I anticipate that the offshoot of this effort would be to ascertain what opportunities for shared ministry exist and determine the dimensions such a ministry may take.

If you are interested in pursuing such a plan further, please discuss it with your vestry and contact me as to a date for having our first meeting together.

Needless to say, I thoroughly enjoyed my visit with you and your congregation on Labor Day Sunday. I look forward to sharing in the ministry of your congregation even further.

Faithfully,



The Rev. Dr. Robert T. Wagner

cc: The Venerable Paul Davis  
The Rev. John Barkley  
The Rev. Stephen Hall