

Boston-Area Universities Battle Aggressive On-Campus Religious Recruiters

Boston University

Marsh Chapel
735 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts 02215
617/353-3560

Robert Watts Thornburg
Dean of the Chapel



August 19, 1987

Dr. Albert W. Baird, Elder
The Boston Church of Christ
P.O. Box 313
Boston, MA 02117

Dear Dr. Baird:

After careful consideration and extensive discussion, we have reason to believe that certain members and leaders of the Boston Church of Christ, acting for and on behalf of that organization, have repeatedly engaged in actions which interfere with the privacy of Boston University students and the policies of the University regarding solicitation and proselytizing on campus, particularly in the residence halls. Accordingly, we must inform you that pending review of these allegations by the University's Religious Life Council, the leaders from your church assigned to this campus, Mr. Steve Brand, and others will not be authorized or permitted to enter any of the residence halls of the University. In addition, the concerns regarding the activities of your organization on campus will be subject to review by the Student Activities Office in order to determine whether the student affiliated organization will be permitted to register as a student organization and thus enjoy the use of the facilities of the University.

This action is very grave because we consider the situation with our students to be most serious. Long discussions between the University chaplain and leaders of the Boston Church have sought to emphasize that the continued pressure and harassment of students to attend meetings, to leave other faith traditions and join the extensive activities of the Boston Church of Christ will not be tolerated. These actions have been carried out both by Boston University students and other persons who are not students at Boston University, many of whom have entered the Residence Halls by means considered illegal. These harassments come by means of repeated and insistent solicitation in residence halls and campus dining facilities as well as by direct telephone calls to students in their rooms. The allegations we have received from many students are that Mr. Brand and others have repeatedly crossed over the line separating legitimate efforts to communicate and persuade and harassing efforts which fail to honor or respect the student's right to say "no" and be left alone. The allegations include repeated incidents in which individuals associated with the Boston Church of Christ abused the privileges they had been granted to enter a residence hall as a guest of a resident and then proceeded to make door-to-door solicitations in violation of the residence hall policy and their status as guests of a particular resident.

The Boston University letter banning members of The Boston Church of Christ from B.U.'s dormitories. It is signed by Ronald L. Carter, dean of Marsh Chapel.