

JAMES A. GRAASKAMP COLLECTION OF TEACHING MATERIALS

X. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT - CITY, STATE, AND NATION

A. Examples of Correspondence and Articles

2. Letter from Rabbi Roseman, March 14, 1985:
Solicitation for advice on religious
institutions' real estate holdings

Temple Beth El 2702 ARBOR DRIVE 238-3123 MADISON, WISCONSIN 53711

March 14, 1985

Prof. James Graaskamp
School of Business
University of Wisconsin
1155 Observatory Dr.
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Prof. Graaskamp:

First, thank you for a marvelous presentation to Downtown Rotary on March 13. I was particularly pleased with your emphasis on the ethical implications of business, in general, and real estate in particular.

Second, I appreciated the "one-liners" and other humor which you injected into the talk. Sometimes, the talks after lunch are pretty deadly. Yours was certainly not.

Finally, and much more to the point, I spent a good half-hour after the talk with one of my colleagues, Father William Wiedrich of the Grace Episcopal Church on the square. Both Bill and I were lamenting our almost-complete ignorance of the issues concerning the management of religious buildings, particularly in the larger context, as you suggested in your talk. We also agreed that most of the members of our boards of trustees are equally unprepared to make good decisions about our facilities. Brainstorming with Bill, I thought that it might be a possibility to hold a seminar for a day next fall for clergy and lay leadership of large congregations, with the idea of helping them develop a model for decision-making with regard to religious facilities. I am sure that the criteria would be different from those applied to wilderness areas, small towns and agricultural areas, and even other facilities within an urban environment, especially those which are operated on a "for profit" basis.

I do not know whether this proposal has any interest for you, but I would be glad to hear your thoughts and to spend some time with you, if you thought it appropriate in ascertaining whether there is a future in the idea. We operate multi-million dollar physical plants but on a very unsophisticated basis. Perhaps you and your colleagues can help us become more skilled.

With very best regards and, again, appreciation for an enlightening and enjoyable presentation, I am,

Sincerely yours,



Kenneth D. Roseman, Rabbi

