

Kathryn Wentzell, Editor

Celebrating more than six decades of Christian ministry on campus

*Lutheran Campus Ministry  
- Waterloo 1947-2011*



“Campus ministry has been undertaken in a wide variety of ways over the past 100 years. Much of it has been shaped by the realities and demands of the changing university and the world. It has not been monolithic; it has been adaptable. In all cases it has tried to focus on the spiritual health and well-being of students and faculty, equipping them with durable values for their life’s work. It has focused on the individual needs of the people on campus, but also has recognized the important ways that universities are custodians of the knowledge and culture that shape our communities, our country and God’s world. We stand today at another important juncture when what we have done in the past may be helpful in discerning the changing nature of our ministry on campus and in our society. It is a moment to give thanks for the faithful who have served with such distinction and to consider the next chapter of what our witness needs to be.”

*Rev. Dr. David Pfrimmer*

*Principal-Dean*

*Waterloo Lutheran Seminary*

“This history of Lutheran Campus Ministry in Waterloo over the past six decades or more is timely, informative and thought-provoking. It is a wonderful collection of personal stories and essays by and about local students, faculty, lay leaders and campus chaplains. In this anniversary year, celebrating 100 years of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary and 150 years of the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the book is both a gift of remembrance and a call to discern how God is leading Lutheran Campus Ministry in Waterloo into the future.”

*Rev. Peter Kuhnert, M.D.*

*Members, LCM Council – Waterloo*

*Pastor – Maranatha Lutheran Church,*

*Waterloo, Ontario*

“I am so grateful for all that the extended campus ministry network – both past and present – does to advance God’s mission through the life of our church. May this volume serve as an inspiration to us all and may our shared remembrances help us embrace the new and creative opportunities for faithful discipleship that God is presenting to us today and in the days to come.”

*Rev. Dr. Michael J. Pryse*  
*Bishop, Eastern Synod, ELICIC*

*Lutheran Campus Ministry - Waterloo*  
1947 - 2011

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*This book is dedicated to all the workers  
 in Lutheran Campus Ministry  
 and those who support them in their mission.  
 May God bless the fruits of their labours.*

## *Acknowledgements*

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The archives at Wilfrid Laurier University were a great source of information for recounting the early years of campus ministry in Waterloo. Thanks to Cindy Preece for producing the requested documents from the archives.

Pastor Robert Langen was very generous in sharing his files from the 1940s and 1950s, which helped illuminate the beginnings of Lutheran in Waterloo.

Emily Dolber, widow of Rev. Dr. Martin Dolber, contributed many details of the era when her husband was a Lutheran chaplain at Waterloo College and the developing Waterloo Lutheran University in the 1960s and early 1970s.

Norman Stromberg was on the local Campus Ministry Council for many years. He and his wife, Ruth, willingly shared files that provided information concerning the ministry as it was carried out in the 1980s and 1990s and well into the new millennium.

Dr. David Pfrimmer, current principal-dean of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary (WLS) and past-chair of the Eastern Canada Synod Campus Ministry Regional Board in the 1980s, contributed a chapter for the "Afterword." He presents a good overview of campus ministry in the past and present and offers a vision for the future.

Thanks to Dr. Harold Remus, former director of Wilfrid Laurier University Press, for sharing his expertise in editing books and journals and for taking time from his busy schedule to work his way through the book several times. Also, thanks for his many years as chair of the local Campus Ministry Council and for contributing a chapter on those years.

Rev. Karen Kuhnert did considerable research in the archives of Wilfrid Laurier University and at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary (WLS) to create a visual history of WLS and the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) for the celebration of their 100<sup>th</sup> and 150<sup>th</sup> anniversaries, respectively. In the course of that research, she produced many items of interest for the history of Lutheran Campus Ministry in Waterloo.

Thank you to Rev. Dr. Eduard Riegert for his careful scrutiny of the book in one of the latest versions.

Rev. Dr. Michael Pryse, Eastern Synod Bishop since 1998, has generously supported campus ministry which he expresses in his letter in the "Foreword."

Rev. Patricia Jackson and Rev. Peter Kuhnert were sources of information and inspiration at crucial times along the way.

Beverley Cunningham, editor of *The Eastern Synod Lutheran*, is owed much gratitude for applying her editorial skills to the book and for the design and layout of the interior pages. Thank you also to graphic designer Margarete Volpe for designing the cover.

A sincere thanks to all who contributed in any way to this history of Lutheran Campus Ministry in Waterloo.

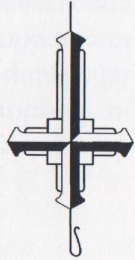
Unless otherwise indicated, the editor has supplied the narrative and commentaries and bears responsibility for any errors.

*Kathryn Wentzell*  
*Editor*

*Foreword*

**EASTERN SYNOD**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada**  
74 Weber Street West  
Kitchener, Ontario N2H 3Z3



June 14, 2011

It is my very great pleasure to commend this volume of reflections detailing the history of Lutheran Campus Ministry in Waterloo, Ontario. Publications of this kind provide important opportunities for us to affirm our shared life and ministry as God's people.

I consider myself to be blessed and privileged to experience the fruits of this special ministry in a variety of settings and circumstances. The Holy Spirit has certainly bestowed bounteous gifts upon Lutheran Campus Ministry and I am deeply thankful for the opportunity to participate in the wonderful work you do!

I am so grateful for all that the extended campus ministry network – both past and present – does to advance God's mission through the life of our church. May this volume serve as an inspiration to us all and may our shared remembrances help us embrace the new and creative opportunities for faithful discipleship that God is presenting to us today and in the days to come!

With all best wishes,

+ *Dr. Michael J. Pryse*

Rev. Dr. Michael J. Pryse, Bishop

## *Introduction*

As a student at the University of Western Ontario (Western), in London, Ontario, in the late 1950s, I appreciated the fellowship with Lutheran students on campus, as well as the interaction of Christians of all traditions. We were encouraged to develop our leadership skills in the Lutheran Student Association with students of many faith backgrounds and nationalities who met at the Lutheran Student Centre on Richmond St. It was then that I came to understand the importance of campus ministry and the Christian witness to the students and faculty and staff by the chaplains as well as the lay members of the campus ministry board and the local congregations.

This history begins at the time when the Lutheran Student Association (LSA) in Waterloo was organized in the 1940s. At that time, the LSA in Waterloo was part of the Ohio Valley Region of the Lutheran Student Association of America (LSAA) and met in convention with the LSAA of the Ohio Synod and the United Lutheran Church in America. In 1947, Robert Langen, a student at Waterloo College, was active in helping to organize the LSA on campus, following the groundwork laid by Roy Grosz, then a student at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary.

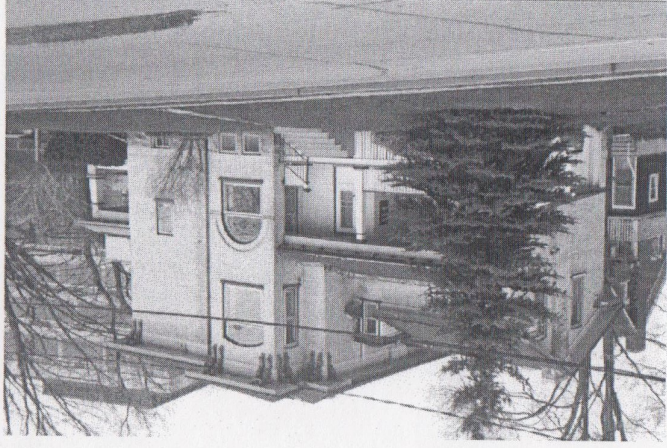
In the 1950s, discussions took place in an effort to develop a more Canadian version of a Lutheran Student Association. Thus, the LSAA Eastern Canada Region was established under the Division of Student Services of the Canadian Lutheran Council (CLC). The Division appointed advisors as well as contact pastors for the Lutheran students on each of the university and college campuses. In 1955, Rev. Arnold Conrad was appointed as contact pastor at Waterloo College, and in 1956 Rev. Robert Langen became Pastoral Advisor at the University of Toronto and chair of the Division of Student Services. He was granted a



students, peer ministers, synod committees, local church volunteers and members of the Campus Ministry Council in Waterloo – and its relationship to both universities.

In 1982, a house was purchased, at the corner of Seagram Drive and Albert Street in Waterloo, through the Lutheran Campus Foundation of Ontario, Eastern Canada Synod, with the express intent that the house would provide both student accommodation and a meeting place for students of all denominations.

Students belonging to the Lutheran Student Movement gathered at the house to discuss topics chosen by the students in consultation with the chaplain. The house became a centre that fostered good friendships based on Christian principles, as set out in the mission and purpose of campus ministry as expressed in the following chapter.



*Lutheran Student House, 177 Albert Street,  
as seen from Seagram Drive, Waterloo*

one-week leave to supervise a summer school for Christian workers at Waterloo College.

In that same year, Pastor Don Voigts was called as the first ordained chaplain to Lutheran students in Western Canada. The following year, Rev. John Vedell was called as chaplain for the Eastern Region. He began work at the University of Toronto in co-operation with the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. Later, in July 1958, he was called as Lutheran Campus Chaplain to London, Ontario, where he was an effective leader in helping to establish a Lutheran Student Centre on Richmond Street, near Western.

During those years, the Lutheran Student Association was developing ways for effecting Canadian separation from the ISA. The ISA met in convention in May 1958, in Kenora, Ontario, and voted to establish a Lutheran Student Movement in Canada and to set up the Lutheran Campus Foundation of Ontario.

The constituting convention of the Lutheran Student Movement Canada was held at Waterloo Lutheran University, Waterloo, Ontario, in September 1961. The contact pastors in Waterloo were Pastor Norman Lange, at the University of Waterloo, and Rev. Dr. Martin Dolbeer, who was Lutheran Campus Chaplain from 1960 to 1971, at Waterloo Lutheran University.

The Lutheran Student Movement continued to flourish in Waterloo under the chaplaincy of Dr. Dolbeer and, later, Pastor Richard Urdahl (1967-1977), who was also employed by Waterloo Lutheran University, which became Wilfrid Laurier University in 1973.

In 1974, Rev. Barton Beglo was called by the Eastern Canada Synod of the Lutheran Church in America, as an additional chaplain, to minister to the students, faculty and staff at Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo. From that time forward, the chaplains worked under the Eastern Canada Synod umbrella.

This history endeavours to describe the work of Lutheran Campus Ministry – from the perspectives of the chaplains,

Kathryn Wentzell  
Editor

*Celebrating more than six decades  
of Christian ministry on campus*

*Lutheran Campus  
Ministry - Waterloo  
1947-2011*



*Lutheran Campus Ministry:  
The Why and the What*

## *Mission and Purpose of Campus Ministry*

1

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*The mission and purpose of campus ministry as expressed in a document compiled by the Regional Board of Campus Ministry of the Eastern Canada Synod, in 1986, outlines the basic tenets for campus ministry as follows.*

The purpose of Lutheran Campus Ministry is to conduct, support and interpret a Lutheran ministry in higher education on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Eastern Synod.

The mission of campus ministry is to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ as both Saviour and Lord to people in academic settings. Lutheran Campus Ministry seeks to fulfill this mission in a variety of ways by emphasizing the following aspects of ministry.

- a) A Ministry of Worship – gathering students, faculty and staff together around the Word and Sacrament as members of the body of Christ.
- b) A Ministry of Outreach – training and encouraging participants in the ministry to witness to others of their faith in Christ and to provide a welcome to strangers and others looking for a place of hospitality.
- c) A Ministry of Service – equipping students for Christian Service in the course of their academic training.

*Lutheran Campus Ministry  
in Waterloo: The Wbenice*

- d) A Ministry of Counselling – sharing the burden of students struggling with questions of faith, meaning of life, career decisions, broken relationships; seeking to promote reconciliation and healing through a caring community of students.
- e) A Ministry of Fellowship – providing moments of Christian community within the sometimes impersonal and oppressive maze of the university.
- f) A Ministry of Teaching and Learning – providing opportunities for study of the scripture for daily life, helping students to wrestle with value questions and ethical decisions, providing encouragement for reflection on the place of religion in history and culture and the meaning of the Christian faith in a pluralistic world.
- g) A Ministry of Prophetic Challenges – seeking to participate as Christians in conversations and decisions about the purpose of higher education and to raise questions of value in the university community, seeking to address the needs and concerns of the oppressed.
- h) A Ministry of Partnership – co-operating with all Lutherans in Eastern Canada to provide presence on university campuses in this region; assisting and receiving assistance from other Christian groups also engaged in this ministry.
- i) Ecumenical Relations – To encourage and support the ministries of other Christian denominations on campus, and to work together in sponsoring mutually beneficial programs.
- j) Multifaith Relations – To encourage and support ministries of other faiths on campus, and to work together in sponsoring mutually helpful activities.

LSA Convention, 1948, Willison Hall, Waterloo College  
 Back Row (l-r): R. Langen, R. Rock, E. Schultz, R. Daber, R. Mostig, K.  
 Berler, Dr. U. Leopold Middle Row (l-r): A. Bald, D. Stewart, F. Mosher  
 Front Row (l-r): J. Schultz, M. Weithausler, J. Nabert and G. RIVERS



Lutheran Campus Ministry started at Waterloo College in the 1940s and was known as the Lutheran Student Association (LSA) at that time. Dr. Helmut Lehmann, President of Waterloo College and Seminary, invited Roy Grosz, a seminary student, to plan the organization of the Lutheran student group at Waterloo College.

In anticipation of this organization, several students attended a Lutheran Student Association of America (LSAA) meeting at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1947. Jack Zimmerman and Delton Glebe, the only students in the group who owned automobiles, drove participants to the meeting.

## *Beginnings*

addressed the students on the topic, "Christian Ethics in Big Business."<sup>3</sup>

The ISAA, Eastern Canada Region, reminded "the Canadian Lutheran Council of the urgency of accepting its responsibility to students ... who will become the intellectual leaders of our country. The question is whether or not their leadership is to be grounded in the Christian faith and whether or not they will become the intellectual leaders in the service of Christ's church. It is unlikely that they will become Christian leaders, if the church fails in its ministry to them.

"Therefore, the members of the Eastern Canada Region of the ISAA urge the Council to move immediately into this field, providing whatever assistance it can in obtaining counsellors, pastors, and student centres for student work in the Eastern Canada Region at UWOC, U of T, McGill, Queens and Waterloo."<sup>4</sup>

At that same convention, the following motions were passed:

- That the ISA present a token of appreciation to Dr. Helmut Lehmann for his service to the ISA;
- That each ISA group send a monthly report to Bill Huras, c/o Waterloo College, Waterloo, for distribution to each college;
- That a recommendation be sent to CLC to emphasize the need for work among Lutheran students in Canada and to aid them in making suitable provisions for same in future.
- New officers: President, Lillian Sommerfeldt, London; V.P., Helen Behling, Toronto; Secretary, Wolf Heick, Waterloo; Treasurer, John Haberer, London; Stewardship, Bill Kuruschinski, Waterloo; Pastoral Advisor, Rev. R. Langen, Waterloo; Retiring President, Marilyn Krueger, Stratford.

They were accompanied by the Dean of Arts, Professor C. Klinck, and on their return, a chapter of ISAA was formed and Robert Langen was elected first chairman of the group. Subsequently, several meetings were arranged with the assistance of a Lutheran chaplain, Rev. Henry Yoder, of the University of Michigan. From this beginning, conventions were held with students from other universities participating in the broader Eastern Canada organization which, in 1953, was a chapter of the ISAA Ohio Valley Region.



ISA, 1953

*Standing in centre, Dr. Helmut Lehmann, President of Waterloo College and Dean of the Evangelical Lutheran Seminary of Canada, 1944-1954*

In 1953, the ISA Regional Convention met at Waterloo College. The theme was "Do your best to win full approval in God's sight, as a worker who is not ashamed of his work, one who correctly teaches the message of God's truth." (II Timothy 2:15) Mr. Ira Needles, President of B.F. Goodrich,

workable program of cooperation can be worked out. Fraternalistically yours, Rev. W.A. Mehlenbacher, Hamilton.”<sup>6</sup>

In 1955, during an ISAA Ashram [corporate spiritual quest] in Banff, Alberta, Rev. W.A. Mehlenbacher, executive secretary of the Lutheran National Council, announced that two appointments had been made by the Council: first, Robert Langen was appointed as Eastern Secretary of Student Services for Eastern Canada and, second, James Hendrickson was appointed to the same position for Western Canada. Additionally, Robert Langen, who was attending graduate school at the University of Toronto, was named Lutheran chaplain there. That same year, an LSA room was established at the Student Christian Movement house, 143 Bloor St. West, in Toronto.<sup>7</sup>

Also, in 1955, the Division of Student Services appointed contact pastors for the campuses across Canada. Rev. Arnold Conrad was named as the contact pastor in Waterloo. The students involved in local LSA groups numbered: London, 40; Waterloo, 90; Guelph, 40; Toronto, 350; Kingston, 40; and Montreal, 150.

A Christian Workers School was established in 1956 at Waterloo College and a motion was made by the Division of Student Service, CLC, Saskatoon: “That we grant Pastor Langen leave to supervise the Christian Workers School at Waterloo College, in conjunction with Dr. Ulrich Leupold. Pastor Langen is working in multi-capacity as Student Services Secretary, part-time lecturer at Waterloo College and Lutheran chaplain to students at the University of Toronto.”<sup>8</sup>

At a meeting of the Division of Student Services, CLC, in Saskatoon, in March 1957, Rev. Delton Glebe reported on work in the East and stated that a motion was made “that Rev. Franklin L. Jensen, of Waterloo, be nominated to the council as Student Chaplain for the East. His work to begin Aug. 1, 1957.”<sup>9</sup>

In 1958, the Lutheran Campus Foundation of Ontario was established with the purpose of raising funds to purchase a house for campus ministry in London – and at a later date



LSA Executive, Eastern Canada Region, Waterloo, 1953  
L-R: John Haberer, Helen Behling, Welf Heick, Bill Kurschbinski

The Lutheran Student Association Executive, Eastern Canada Region, met in Waterloo, August 8, 1954, with Rev. Robert Langen as pastoral advisor, to plan the Fall Conference to be held at Waterloo College. In that same year, Rev. W.A. Mehlenbacher, of Hamilton, wrote a letter to Mr. Gerald Hagey, President of Waterloo College, stating, “In light of your organizational development at Waterloo, the procedure would seem to be in harmony with what has been done at some campuses of our Lutheran colleges in the U.S. It would appear, however, that since Waterloo is the only fully accredited arts school within the framework of the Lutheran Church in Canada, that a strong Lutheran Students Association would be a natural expectation. I am hoping that your plans will leave ample room for a local church-centred program through Canadian Lutheran Students Association. Should that momentum be lost in Waterloo, its overall effect on LSA student work in the Eastern Region of Canada could be something less than satisfactory. Let us hope that a



in Waterloo. The Foundation Chair was Robert Langen and the contact pastor in Waterloo was Rev. Jack Zimmerman. During the late 1950s and early 1960s, the stage was being set for a change in relationship to the LSAA. A joint meeting of Eastern Canada Region and Maple Leaf Region delegates was held in Kenora, Ontario, May 10-11, 1958, to study ways and means for effecting Canadian separation from the LSAA.<sup>10</sup> In September 1961, the Lutheran Student Movement held its Constituting Convention at Waterloo Lutheran University. Elected as officers were: President, Al Christiansen, Saskatoon; Secretary, Magdalene Kumm, Waterloo; Treasurer, Fred Leutkeholter, Kitchener; Editor, Nancy Phillips, Waterloo; Advisor, Don Morgenson, Waterloo.<sup>11</sup>



*Members of the initial 1958 planning group that met in Waterloo to discuss organization of a new Lutheran Student Movement in Canada; the LSM held its constituting convention at WLU, September 8-11, 1961*  
 L-R: Paul Ruppel, Armin Mohr, Calvin Diegel  
 and Kabbyn (Klopp) Wentzell

3

*First Lutheran Chaplains in Waterloo*  
 1960-1982

Rev. Dr. Martin Dolbeer was appointed Lutheran chaplain at Waterloo Lutheran University in 1960, and Rev. Norman Lange was contact pastor for the University of Waterloo (UW).<sup>12</sup> Dr. Dolbeer obtained a BA from Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in 1943, and a Master of Divinity degree from Hamaa Divinity School, of Wittenburg University, Springfield, Ohio, in 1945. He completed his Doctor of Theology degree at Hartford Seminary Foundation, in Hartford, Connecticut, in 1957. In 1959, he came to Waterloo University College which became Waterloo Lutheran University and then Willfrid Laurier University (WLU). As well as teaching religious studies, he served as Lutheran chaplain until 1971 and remained interested in student work until his death in 2003.

For a time, there were two chaplains working simultaneously. Dr. Dolbeer was part-time and Rev. Richard Urdahl was appointed full-time chaplain by Waterloo Lutheran University in 1967, a position he held until 1977 shortly after the school became Willfrid Laurier University, a publicly funded university. At that time, the university ceased to fund the Lutheran chaplaincy, so the Eastern Canada Synod of the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) established a regional board to oversee and fund the position of chaplain. In 1971, Rev. Phil Heinze was appointed contact pastor for campus ministry at UW and Rev. Eric Weber as contact pastor at Conestoga College.<sup>13</sup> An Interprovincial Board of campus ministry, LCA, was appointed in 1972. Members were Rev. Matti Terho, Quebec;

Rev. Richard Crossman, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, Waterloo, Ontario; Rev. Norman Berner, Kitchener, Ontario; Dr. Ernest Zinck, Nova Scotia; Rev. W. Riekert, ELCIC, Ottawa, Ontario; Rev. Karl Riehl, Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, Toronto, Ontario. A letter from Don Voigts to the new board stated, "The organizing meeting of the new Interprovincial Board for Campus Ministry in Eastern Canada Lutheran Educational Services of Eastern Canada" will be held December 4, 1972 at Waterloo Lutheran University in Waterloo."<sup>14</sup>

The Eastern Canada Synod was determined to continue Lutheran chaplaincy in Waterloo Region and a search for a chaplain began. In 1974, Rev. Barton Beglo was called as chaplain at Waterloo and another period of co-chaplaincy with Rev. Richard Urdahl began. While Rev. Urdahl was mainly at WLU, Rev. Beglo's mandate was to serve both WLU and UW. This formidable task required much lay help, as well as contact pastors - so at that time, a local council was formed.

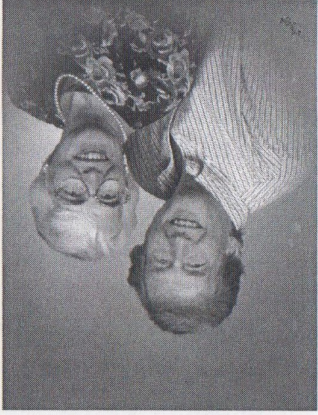
This council consisted of Richard Crossman, Dennis Eaton, Charlotte Granskou, Agnes Hall, Jim Harris, Wilma Pierson, Bob Shantz, Lloyd Schaus, Donna Teigen, Richard Urdahl and Roy Wentzell.

Rev. Bart Beglo served as chaplain until 1982. During those years, he established an energetic Lutheran Student Movement at WLU. Sunday worship was maintained at WLU and initiated at UW student villages. A regular visitation schedule to UW residences was established and a Lutheran community at both universities was created through a Lutheran faculty web.

During Bart Beglo's chaplaincy, the idea of having a Campus Centre House was initiated. A committee was set up to search for a suitable location and a house that could serve as a student residence and gathering place. The Lutheran Student House, as it was named, was purchased in 1982. It housed 10 students and was a centre of activity and a focal point for the Lutheran Student Movement.

4

*Chaplain Paul Bosch  
1982 - 1988*



*Paul and Kathy Bosch*

In August 1982, Pastor Paul Bosch and his wife, Kathy, moved from Amherst, Massachusetts, to Waterloo, Ontario to take the position of full-time Lutheran pastor at Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo. They lived at 157 Albert Street, down the street from the Lutheran Student House, at 177 Albert Street, a residence for 10 students (a full house) who lived together quite amicably.

A subcommittee screened applicants for residency, while other council members worked long and hard remodelling and furnishing the house. Congratulations and many thanks were extended for an enormous job well done.

The first house meeting sketched out fire and safety features of the house, determined expectations of the