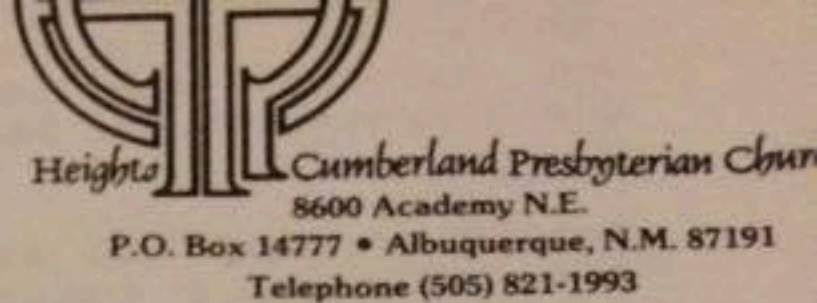


Family Therapy Of Albuquerque
A Ministry Of



September 3, 1991

Dear Orv and Hesston College Board Members;

I write this letter with a sense of sadness and regret for it was with great enthusiasm and commitment that I accepted appointment to the Hesston College Board of Overseers. I have long been an outspoken advocate of Mennonite education and I look back on my years as a student at Hesston College as having been very significant and positive in my personal and professional development.

As you know, I have been very uneasy about the continued employment of David Rhodes at Hesston College. His behaviors are indicative of a sexually addictive attraction to young boys. Even though he has made repeated and "sincere" promises to control his behavior, there is no evidence that he has acknowledged a fundamental psychosocial problem (beyond having been "caught" and "reported" and having caused the college embarrassment and the president extra work trying to deal with constituent reactions).

Even if his fear of being fired might be great enough to keep his overt behavior within acceptable limits (and, based upon what is known of sexual addictions and deviant arousal patterns, I question if this is a realistic expectation over the long haul), I believe David's unresolved and untreated sexuality issues make him an inappropriate role model and teacher for impressionable, formative young people.

In the field of addictions we speak of "dry drunks"---people who aren't currently drinking but who have not undergone the intensive/long term therapy needed to understand and resolve their addiction. These people exhibit most of the unhealthy personality and relational patterns of the active alcoholic. Untreated sex addicts display similar patterns even when they are abstaining from inappropriate sexual contacts.

I believe Hesston has done David, students and parents who entrust their youth to us a great injustice by continuing David's employment and contact with students without requiring

the intense, long term therapy that is needed to understand and heal such abusive patterns as he has exhibited and without requiring professional documentation that his behavior and deviant sexual arousal patterns have changed before bringing him back into contact with students.

I can no longer be a sincere advocate for Hesston College when I feel the administration has taken a cavalier and irresponsible attitude toward the vulnerability of our students. While I respect the administration's wisdom and effectiveness in many areas, I believe long standing friendships and relationships with David have made it difficult for them to respond appropriately and objectively to this situation.

I can imagine no issue which might arise during my tenure as a board member on which I would be more experienced and qualified to speak. If my concerns and counsel are disregarded on this matter, I have little expectation that they would be seriously considered on other issues.

I don't believe I can continue with integrity to be an advocate within the Mennonite Church for sexual abuse victims' needs and for healthy sexuality and also an advocate and defender of Hesston College. Therefore, effective immediately, I resign my position on the Hesston College Board of Overseers.

I have appreciated learning to know you all and having had the opportunity to work with you during the past year and a half on the Board. I wish you all (and Hesston College!) God's richest blessing.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Heggen, Ph.D.

cc: Kirk Alliman
Albert Meyer
David Rhodes

CH:sa