

March 1, 2009

Dear Gordon-Conwell Resident:

As a Gordon-Conwell (GCTS) student, you are a welcome and integral part of the community of Hamilton. And as parents, we know and share your concern regarding our children's education and welfare. That is why we write to you today – not only as a GCTS student, but as a parent and member of the Hamilton community.

It recently came to our attention that many Gordon-Conwell residents are unaware of the significant financial liability incurred by the town on behalf of the seminary. These costs not only include the educational costs for GCTS children in the public school system, but also fire, police and water. When made aware of these costs, some of you reacted with shock, even shame.

We do not hold the students of Gordon-Conwell responsible for this long-standing financial misappropriation. But we do hold the administration responsible. Despite the written promise to pay an annual PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes), a per student tuition and reimbursement of special education costs, GCTS' administration has, for decades, not done so and only recently starting "gifting" sums to the town annually. Unfortunately, these amounts do not even come close to covering the yearly costs incurred.

These are tough times – for the town and the seminary. If it were just an issue of not being able to meet this obligation temporarily and/or "working together" during a rough patch, this may not be such an emotional issue for our townspeople. But the unilateral rejection of the college to be a supportive, contributing citizen of Hamilton has been cause for long-standing contention, even anger, in the community.

Enough is Enough is a grassroots community organization promoting fiscal responsibility in the towns of Hamilton and Wenham. As part of our effort, we will soon begin a vocal effort directed at GCTS' administration regarding this issue. We encourage you to read the brief synopsis enclosed. All supporting and more detailed information regarding this situation is located on our website, www.enoughisenoughhw.org.

We hope that Gordon-Conwell's administration will choose to fulfill its promises made to the town of Hamilton in exchange for our long-standing support for its growth and mission. We know there is little legal obligation to do so on behalf of the seminary, other than the written agreement given to us in 1975. (See "Decision Granting Special Permit, Variance and Approval of Site Plan – No. 1975-2" which approved the construction of the seminary's married student housing complex.)

We hope that you feel as we do; that although it may not have a legal obligation to support its community, the seminary most definitely has a moral obligation to do so.

On Behalf of Enough is Enough...

Robert Sica
James Kent
Warren Gray
George Lamontagne

Bruce Wadleigh
Elizabeth Dunbar
Jay Burnham
Arthur Towne

Edwin Howard
Margo Killoran
Jeffrey Hubbard