

# **An Open Letter to Gordon- Conwell Theological Seminary Administration and Board of Directors**

**March 1, 2009**

Enough is Enough (EiE) is a local citizen's group who has been working for fiscal responsibility in Hamilton's town government. One long-standing misappropriation has been the seminary's refusal to pay the town a "Payment In Lieu Of Taxes" (PILOT) that adequately covers the educational and other costs\* with which you burden our community. We are therefore writing this letter to again ask not only that you meet your written agreement with the town, but your moral obligation to support the community in which you conduct your business and fulfill your mission.

The residents and government of the town have been extremely generous to the college from the start -- from granting special permits and variances for the building of your "married housing" to supporting your students as members of our community through an excellent education for their children, scholarships, public services, even our food pantry. We find it disingenuous that, as part of your mission, your students are asked to serve communities all over the world as missionaries, yet you refuse to support the community in which this mission is cultivated and nurtured. In stark contrast, on the fertile ground in which these seeds are sown, you continue to operate in a way that has a direct, negative impact not only on our government, town services and school system, but on each and every citizen who does pay taxes.

Enough is Enough is well versed in terms of the legalities and rights regarding this issue, as well as past efforts to negotiate with you. We have heard your arguments as to how you cannot pay or how you otherwise contribute to our community. We find these "contributions" in no way commensurate with what is appropriated. We feel you have broken your word to, and taken advantage of, the town and the citizens that have given you so much.

While we do not negotiate on behalf of the town, we will be actively pursuing this issue. We are therefore, once again, asking that the Seminary be a contributing and sincere part of the Hamilton community and to do its part.

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

*\*See Hamilton Board of Appeals' 1975 "Decision Granting Special Permit, Variance and Approval of Site Plan – No. 1975 – 2" approving construction of the Seminary's married student housing complex and other information on our website, [www.enoughisenoughhw.org](http://www.enoughisenoughhw.org).*