



Harding University
Scholar Works at Harding

John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

9-11-1967

From/To: William C. Martin (Chalk's reply filed first)

William C. Martin

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.harding.edu/hst-chalk-personal>

Recommended Citation

Martin, W. C. (1967). From/To: William C. Martin (Chalk's reply filed first). Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.harding.edu/hst-chalk-personal/4058>

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by the John Allen Chalk at Scholar Works at Harding. It has been accepted for inclusion in John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Scholar Works at Harding. For more information, please contact scholarworks@harding.edu.



P.

September 11, 1967

Mr. William C. Martin
Church of Christ
416 Washington Street
Brookline, Massachusetts

Dear Bill:

I would like nothing better than the opportunity to be associated with you and other members of the Brookline congregation on a personal and full-time basis. I know my family and I would profit immeasurably from such a relationship. However, my responsibilities and involvements are of such a confused and burdensome nature here now that I can see no way even by January 1 of making a change. Therefore, I don't think it to your advantage to pursue the discussions further.

As with so many "brotherhood positions," I can never be sure from one day to the next what my responsibilities here will be, and therefore, whether I shall continue to work with the program. Therefore, I have ~~tom~~ in some kind of sublimatic way, consider other possibilities. In case of a change, I would want to go back to school, preferably on a full-time basis. This would be one of my motivations in coming to Brookline. I do feel strongly about the value of working with a local church, especially with a free one; therefore I would have the double motivation in coming to Brookline for the local church's challenge as well as attending Harvard Divinity School. I would definitely want to enroll as a student working toward the S.T.B., but at the same time would have to provide for my family.

Would it be possible for you to keep your arrangement with Leslie Kline as planned through this school year, with the possibility left open for our moving to Boston in the fall of 1968? Many things, of course, could change even this vague plan. Your own local situation could change so that someone would be found who could move in and work full-time prior to fall, 1968. My work here could mature to the point that I would have to stay with it.

I would appreciate hearing from you, however, regarding this possibility. Thank you so much for the opportunity to be considered. I know the Brookline congregation would be a tremendous challenge.

Fraternally yours,

John Allen Chalk
Radio Speaker

JAC:hm

COPY



HOUSE of the CARPENTER

c/o Church of Christ • 416 Washington Street • Brookline, Massachusetts 02146

Dana Hall School
Wellesley, Mass.

August 21, 1967

Mr. John Allen Chalk
c/o Highland Church of Christ
5th and Highland
Abilene, Texas

Dear John Allen:

Bob Randolph called me Friday night and reported that you had shown interest in the possibility of working with the Brookline church and of coming to school at Harvard. I am delighted at the prospect because I think you would have much to offer to this church and I think your own usefulness to the church would be enhanced by time spent in the Northeast and in seminary. I sincerely hope something can be worked out.

I expect that your plans are somewhat up in the air just now, as are ours, but let me try to indicate a plan for pursuit. Several of the members of the "Board of Guidance"--the ruling body of the Brookline church--are out of town and we have not had a formal meeting, but I talked with all those who are here and was authorized to begin conversation with you on their behalf.

We decided in a recent meeting to hire Leslie Kline to preach on Sunday mornings for the coming year. This was to be his only duty, with the members of the board assuming responsibility for the other aspects of the church's life. We are prepared to continue through the year without a preacher, but are looking all the while for a fulltime man, so if you were to be able to come--Bob mentioned January 1, I believe--this would not upset our plans and arrangements would be made with regard to Leslie. As Bob probably mentioned, preachers here have traditionally preached only once on Sunday and in the past, two preachers have alternated the A.M. and P.M. spots. But that is of small import. Incidentally, Abe Malherbe will be teaching the College and Adult class--the auditorium class--so we will have a pretty solid one-two punch in any event.

If you could come, I am sure there would be no objection to your taking some school work. In fact, it has been the prevailing attitude that a preacher at Brookline should be required to do some work. I understand that this would be one of your primary motivations for coming. It would be necessary, I think, for you to spell out just how much school work you intended to do. If you are planning to go full time, or nearly full time, in the Fall, then I expect the church would not be willing to pay a full-time salary, as you can appreciate.

As for salary, we have been paying Dent n Crews \$8,000 (after a raise) plus a large house, which will have a great deal of needed work done within the next few months. It is a good house in a very nice section of Brookline. It would rent for about \$250.00 per month in that neighborhood. Joseph Kennedy, who lived in the same block, used to rent the garage, I am told. I thought that would impress you.

Our financial situation is somewhat uncertain just now, but not in any serious danger. We lost about half our members in June, as happens from time to time when a number graduate from various schools at once, but we are starting to pick up others and I feel sure we will be able to get through the year without declaring bankruptcy. The people will respond quite well in terms of money and time when motivated properly and made to feel they are spending their time in a worthwhile way. It has been my experience that there is very little sense of guilt felt over not doing things they do not feel are worthwhile in the first place. When they like the offering at Wednesday night service, for example, the attendance is proportionate to that at other churches of Christ. When the class is bad, as it has been this summer, the attendance falls off to eight or ten. And people will tell you why they will not come. I am not sure how I feel about that, but I sometimes think they are people more nearly come of age than those who operate rather blindly out of a sense of guilt.

I think one key is that many of us feel that what we are doing outside the church building is a part of our Christian commitment, whether it be serving as chaplain at a girls' school or looking for a new use for vitamin B12. For this reason, many do not feel they are neglecting the Lord's work simply because they are in the laboratory rather than passing out leaflets. A balance needs to be struck, but all in all, I think it is a reasonably healthy attitude.

There is an abundance of talent present, and potential for being, as it is from time to time, a really fine small church. I just do not know what the possibilities are for winning Brookline or Boston for the Church of Christ, but I am sure we can make an impact on a number of people, not least of which are those who stay here for three years and then return to Tennessee or Texas to start leavening, as well as taking, their lumps.

As soon as you have opportunity, will you write to me (or call) about what you are thinking. Cover as many points and questions as you think are relevant and we can begin to fill out the picture. If it seems desirable, I am sure we could arrange to have you come up for a few days, if your schedule would allow it.

John Allen, I really hope the Lord will lead you here. I believe you can provide a needed ingredient in our lives. (Who knows but that you are leaving the Kingdom for just such a time as this?)

*cordially yours,
Bill Martin*

William C. Martin