

Personal Statement from Fay Quanstrom

Sensing the precarious and fragile state of Northern Seminary, I chose to visit campus and listen to faculty, students and staff. I went as a concerned alumna and pastor, not as a Board representative. People spoke freely. I did not bait them in any way, nor did I promote any agenda.

Having by default been pushed into service as Acting Chair, I worked tirelessly, spending a week on location in an effort to bridge the considerable gap between the campus and the Board. After listening and speaking with as much prudence and honesty as I could in light of the confidentiality and legal restraints imposed by agreements, I see now my efforts being destroyed along with the future of Northern Seminary by disrespect and condescension.

My intent in serving on Northern Board has been to promote the Seminary and support its faculty, staff and students, which I have done, lauding faculty teaching and writing and literally recruiting students.

Those on campus cannot comprehend the official silence of the Board to their distress and personal pain at the loss of so many colleagues who have withdrawn or resigned. Frankly, as a result of this inaction the campus has no confidence or trust in the Board. The Board's silence is interpreted variously as approval of the treatment they have received or indifference to it.

The Board owes students, faculty and staff an apology.

The statement I crafted defames no one, only accepts responsibility for what is the Board's responsibility as governing body. The fact that the Board, charged with seeing the best interests of the Seminary, failed to discern those interests has harmed individuals and the institution. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "the letter [of the law] kills, but the Spirit gives life," has been borne out repeatedly in recent weeks. Appeal to the law has come at every juncture.

The way the women of the Board have been consistently treated with bullying, talking over, and interrupting, echoes the experience of the letter writers. To be disrespected and disregarded for my heartfelt efforts signals the end to my contributions as a Board member and necessitates my resignation, effective immediately.

Regretfully,

Fay Quanstrom