



Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church

Mark W. Martin, Pastor

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Louise From; Mayor, University Heights
207 Monroe Street
Iowa City, IA 52246

February 20, 2009

Dear Madame Mayor;

It has come to the attention of Saint Andrew Presbyterian church that members of the University Heights community may believe that the church's decision to stay or leave 1300 Melrose Avenue is directly linked to the success or failure of the Jeff Maxwell development proposal, soon to be before the UH city zoning commission. In response, the church's governing body, the Session, would like to clarify its position with the following statement:

"Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church is actively pursuing a building project on property we have recently purchased. Regarding our current property at 1300 Melrose Avenue, we have entered into a purchase agreement with Jeff Maxwell. Whereas the Maxwell deal is important to St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, our decision to move will be based upon a congregational vote and will happen, or not happen, on its own merits and with, or without, approval of the Maxwell project.

The property on which the church's rear parking lot exists is owned by the University of Iowa and the church leases this land for its use. At the time it was granted permission to pave the rear parking lot, Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church informally agreed to notify the University of Iowa of any proposed sale of the church. At the time of the Maxwell offer, the church inquired as to whether the University of Iowa had any interest in matching the Maxwell offer. Although the UI declined to do so, note that this decision predates the acquisition by UI of the University Athletic Club property and the floods of June, 2008. If the Maxwell offer was terminated for any reason, Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church would expect that, prior to the property being placed on the market, further conversations would be conducted with the University of Iowa."

Sincerely,

Toni Van Voorhis

President, Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church

TVV/jre