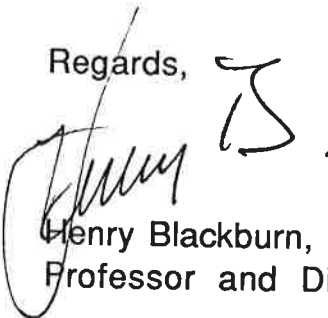July 5, 1990

Lorraine Howard, Diaconal Minister ⁄ 7/6
United Methodist Church
871 South Cleveland, Apt. P-4
St. Paul, MN 55116

Dear Howard Friends:

My letter from Dean Fontaine, the same date as yours was even less forthcoming. I've decided to drop the matter. He is clearly incorrigible and the "system" is backing him. It's their problem!

Regards,

Henry Blackburn, MD
Professor and Director

Enclosure

The Cathedral Church of St. Mark   519 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403

Telephone: (612) 870-7800

Office of the Dean, The Very Reverend H. Douglas Fontaine

June 14, 1990

Dr. Henry Blackburn, MD
1525 Kaltern Lane
Minneapolis, MN 55416

Dear Dr. Blackburn:

Some time has passed since the funeral Dr. Sullivan, and I
apologize for not having responded to your letter sooner. I
must admit it came as somewhat a surprise to me. In the
abstract, I am aware of differences within the various cultures
in our society. Your letter makes them much more personal.

In the past I've had the pleasure of attending memorial
convocations within the University. The last was for one of
your colleagues, Dr. John Brantner. Always I am struck by the
way death is handled, and I feel that my understanding has been
broadened when I attend such occasions. I hope that was the
case for you and the church service for Dr. Sullivan.
Certainly, your participation in our service helped to bring
the two points of view into focus.

I am sorry that your feelings were not positive, and I trust
and hope that the memorial for Dr. Sullivan at the University
was more to your liking.

Your letter makes me realize that, in many cases, the theology
and the approach to both life and death within the Episcopal
Church are not generally understood by people outside of our
tradition. Once more I am reminded of the various experiences
of the human soul and that there are, and should be,
opportunities for a variety of human emotions.

I will not try to respond to your specific comments as I
believe we start from entirely different perspectives.
Certainly, I respect and try to listen to your comments.

Sincerely,

Douglas Fontaine

HDF:sb