

COPY

May 13, 1925.

Dear Mr. Wriston:

We are corresponding with committees of trustees on selection of President for half a dozen colleges, including Allegheny College, Pa., Illinois Woman's College, Ill., Lawrence College, Wisconsin, Knox College, Illinois, Fisk University, Tennessee, etc.

Some of the trustees of Lawrence College and Allegheny College have had you in mind as a possibility. I should be glad to have you as a candidate for a college presidency if you are open to consideration of such a position, with the understanding that this would place you under no obligation to the agency for service unless it were clearly understood in advance, in any case that you authorized our nomination of you for the position, in which case, if you accepted, you would be expected to meet the usual requirement of the agency of 5% of one year's salary.

Doubtless other college presidencies will become vacant in the near future. Bishop Nicholson writes me what I have already come to realize, that there is a distressing dearth of available Methodist men fitted for university presidencies.

Be assured I shall be glad to serve you if opportunity offers. On the other hand, I should heartily congratulate you as the son of your father if you accept a position entirely independent of us.

Sincerely yours,

( Signed )      Everett O. Fisk.

Mr. Everett O. Fisk,  
120 Boylston St.,  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Fisk:

I have your letter of May 13th with reference to college presidencies which are now vacant. I have known for some little time that inquiries were being made with reference to my character, habits, and general availability in one or two quarters, - in fact in three.

I recognize the very great assistance you could be in this matter if I were in any sense of the word a candidate for such an appointment. There is no one to whom I would turn sooner. The fact is that I like my present work so much and I am so much attached to Wesleyan that I do not feel eager to make a change. I have not made any move, feeling that in all likelihood I would not be called upon to make the decision as to whether I should stay here or go elsewhere and whether I should abandon teaching and writing for administrative work. It would be, I confess, a hard decision to make, for I enjoy administrative work very much when I can do it under proper conditions.

Under these circumstances you will readily understand that I do not want to be an applicant for a position anywhere. If the invitation should come, without my seeking it, I should then set about the task of balancing the opportunities for service here with the new proposal. My decision would be in favor of the post which seemed to offer the best hope of effective work.

I very much appreciate your interest and your kind words. I hope you are going to be able to come to the installation of President McConaughy and to commencement.

Very sincerely yours,

# METHODIST MINISTERS RELIEF

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WESLEYAN BUILDING

June 26, 1925

Dear Henry:

Glad to get your letter. Your decision is what we felt was inevitable. I have talked with no person who saw any other path except to take up the task that has been offered you. It is a great opportunity and those who know you believe you are equal to it.

Your mother and I are very sorry to have you so much farther from our home, but we hope you can plan to spend your summers in New England and we shall make a greater effort to be with you as much of the time as possible.

It is a great satisfaction to learn that the doctors have been unable to locate any physical impairment.

When are you coming down to New York? Our address will be 1895 University Avenue, Apartment #2 A. We have our reservation on the Canal Route for Thursday evening, July 2.

Lots of love to all the family,

*Your affectionate  
Father.*

Letter from Dr. O.L. Fisk to Dr. H.L. Wriston

Copy

Newagen, Maine,  
July 8, 1925.

Dear Doctor Wriston:

I wish you would write me a recommendation of Earl E. Harper as a man likely to do fine service as an assistant to a college president and as a campaigner for college funds. I am sure you know what a fine success he has made at Auburndale and very likely you know also of the idea of Bishop Anderson to place him in the Epworth Church, Cambridge, as the best man in New England Conference for a college center. His acquaintance which is already wide, with his energy and enthusiasm, would rapidly be extended in any section of the country to which he should appeal. It is only fair to say that one of the places I have in mind is in Lawrence College, another in Willamette University, Salem, Oregon. Dean Naylor of Lawrence and Prof. Farley I think favor having such a man employed for that work and as the right hand man for the President.

I note the election of your son as president of Lawrence College. While I have no personal acquaintance with him, I am sure from the reputation he has made at Middletown he will be a first rate man for the place. Personally I have not felt like urging any particular man for that place in view of Dean Naylor's immediate availability and my personal acquaintance with him and especially as Professor Farley who was on the committee to select a president was friendly to Naylor. But I am sure your son will be received graciously and he will find Naylor a helpful and loyal associate. He has been connected with the institution twenty years or thereabouts and possibly the trustees are wise to keep him in a position where they know his success rather than take chances on promoting him. Naylor was the man who was associated with Dr. Helms about thirty-five years ago in starting his community service work in the north end and I canvassed the field with them for the right location. R. H. Walker of Ohio Wesleyan and a Mr. Fisher also made up a quartet of workers who stayed together for some years but all of them scattered to other appointments except Dr. Helms when Helms came to Morgan Memorial. not

In recommending Mr. Harper you may prefer to make any reference either to Lawrence College or Willamette University, but make your recommendation general. I have know Lawrence College almost from its beginning, several of its presidents having been Wesleyan graduates. Dr. Cook was my principal at Wilbraham and ~~whose~~ Dr. Steele who later became principal of Wilbraham and whose niece became my first wife. Dr. Gallagher who was my fellow student at Middletown, Dr. Raymond who resigned Lawrence to accept the presidency of Middletown, and Dr. Plantz who has been president a quarter of a century or more, I think the longest record of any man in the history of the college. Prof. Henry Lummis one of the great scholars of New England left Massachusetts for Lawrence perhaps forty years ago and spent twenty

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July 8, 1925.

years or more as head of the classical department.

Excuse me for sending you so long a letter. I presume you are in New York but I send this to 581 Boylston Street feeling sure this will reach you with very little delay.

With love,

Sincerely yours,

(signed)

Everett O. Fisk.