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Deane W. Ferm to resign effective June 30

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FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, JUNE 14

Dr. Deane W. Ferm will resign, effective June 30, as director of the affiliated School of Religion at Montana State University to accept the position of Dean of the Chapel at Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Mass., according to Dr. Gordon B. Castle, acting president of MSU.

Dr. Ferm's duties in his new post will include preaching at Sunday and Thursday services and general supervision of the religious life of the college. The college is now non-denominational but it is Protestant in heritage, Dr. Ferm said. The student body numbers over 1,300 women.

During the five years that Dr. Ferm directed the affiliated school at MSU, class enrollments in religion increased over 500 per cent, the staff increased from one to four ordained ministers, and the school received Danforth Foundation grants amounting to $15,000. About one in every six students at the University took a course in religion this year.

Dr. Ferm has been active in church and other service organizations throughout Montana. He was the Missoula Junior Chamber of Commerce choice for "Man of the Year" in 1956. During winter term of 1958 he was on leave from the University to serve as an assistant director of the Danforth Foundation. Mrs. Ferm was adviser to Tanan-of-Spur sophomore women's honorary and worked with other University and community organizations.

In his letter of resignation to Dr. Castle, Dr. Ferm said, "I wish to make it perfectly clear that the only reason we are leaving Montana is that I have been offered an opportunity that I cannot, in good conscience, turn down. Montana State University is a great institution of higher learning. We have been deeply impressed (more)
during our five years here by the quality and dedication of the faculty and the overall, high character of both faculty and students. The citizens of Montana should be justly proud of their University, for any student of good purpose will be richly rewarded by his attendance at Montana State University. I would be proud to have my own children attend MSU some day."

In a letter to the Rev. Richard A. Jones of Missoula, president of the board of trustees of the School of Religion, Dr. Ferm thanked the board and other friends of the school for their fine cooperation. He also expressed a hope that "the support of the School of Religion will continue to increase as it seeks to fulfill a vital function in its ministry to university students."

Dr. Ferm came to MSU in 1954 after earning B. D., M. A., and Ph. D. degrees at Yale University. The Ferms and their three children plan to spend part of the summer at their cabin on Flathead Lake before leaving for Massachusetts. His duties at Mount Holyoke will begin September 1.

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