#### DR. MARK PHILIP CURCHACK

7306 Emlen Street, Philadelphia, PA 19119

College was nice, so nice I have never left it. I attribute to Yale much of what I have become. From anthropology graduate school at Berkeley (which in 1969 was a long way from New Haven), to teaching positions across the country, to my present career in educational administration, I have never been away from a college or university. It was an exceptional privilege to have studied social science analysis in the atmosphere which was the Yale Culture and Behavior program. I have seen very little research in the past twenty-five years which could pass safely through the grilling we learned to deliver. The demise of that program is a real loss.

I have been married since a year after graduation to Peggy Lehman (Vas- sar ’70), the woman whom I dated from sophomore year forward. It still feels like a date. We occupy a large house in Philadelphia, filled with items gathered in visits to uncustomary places. Through Yale singing I learned to travel, and travel I have done ever since, chiefly in Africa and Asia. I cannot hear a male chorus without a tug at my heart. I take joy at the resurgent popularity of male a capella singing.

But I cannot read a newspaper without sorrow and anger. I am aghast at the career of our nation, its lurch to the radical right, the abandonment, for a time at least, of the drive to equality which meant so much to many of us. The persistence of vicious attitudes is easy to comprehend but impossible to accept. What is wrong with America is too deeply rooted to be fixed by any quick political solution, but the longer we ignore ignorance, the greater becomes the need to overcome it. Yet I remain hopeful and committed: ends of millennia usually feel apocalyptic, but never are.