

Donald B. Ward (1962-1970)

The Board of Trustees selected Rev. Donald B. Ward in 1962. Rev. Ward had close connections with Yankton College. His grandfather was college-founder Joseph Ward and he also attended Yankton College from 1937 to 1939. In 1959, he received his bachelor of divinity degree from Chicago Theological Seminary. From there he was the minister of the First Congregation Church of Ravenswood in Chicago until 1960. Rev. Ward then went to the Kirk of Bonnie Brae-United Church of Christ in Denver, Colorado.

Ward was selected because of his ministerial background and that it would be “good to restore the custom of the clergyman at the helm of this church-related school.” Ward labeled Yankton College the Harvard of the West. One of his highlights was the unveiling of a statue of his grandfather, Joseph Ward, in Washington, D.C. Ward family members were there with other dignitaries for the inspirational ceremony in 1963, two months before President J.F. Kennedy was shot.