

Orlan Mitchell (1977-1984)

Rev. Orlan Mitchell was the Board of Trustees selection for Yankton College's 11th president. Mitchell was a graduate of Grinnell College and eventually earned his doctor of divinity degree from San Francisco Seminary. He was the Yankton UCC church and college chaplain for eight years. The trustees believed that Mitchell would strengthen the bond between the college and UCC.

In January 1984, President Mitchell informed the Board of Trustees that he would be leaving the college for an associate conference minister position with the Iowa conference of the UCC. He remained the college president until the end of the academic year. Like many before him, President Mitchell faced continuing financial difficulties that contributed to his departure. There were some who felt Mitchell "saw the handwriting on the wall." When Rev. Mitchell left, the Trustees selected Don C. Peterson to be the acting president.